JOHNNY LEACH welcomes the Hungarians SIDO, EVA KOCZIAN and FOLDI at the Ocean Hotel, Brighton where they were the guests of Mr. Billy Butlin.
SPOONGE TO BE BANNED

THE death-knell of the sponge bat was sounded at the January meeting of the National Executive Committee. They were unanimous in their agreement to propose:

(1) to the I.T.T.F. a standardisation of the racket calculated to eliminate sponge and other "freak" materials. (2) to recommend to the Annual General Meeting of the E.T.T.A. measures to effect this result so far as this country is concerned next season, irrespective of the decision of the I.T.T.F.

The way paved by Gloucestershire last month, backed up by Yorkshire and also a petition of the players has thus made itself felt.

Although the final decision rests with the A.G.M., it is pretty certain that sponge is finished.

Meanwhile, the Welsh Association are also forwarding proposals to the I.T.T.F., which coupled with those of the E.T.T.A., should help persuade the rest of the world to erase sponge.

However, controversy will no doubt continue to rage for a long time to come on this vital question.

For the first time in the history of Table Tennis, the sport has been recognised in the New Year's Honours List. Treasurer Bill Vint has been awarded the Order of the British Empire.

It has been given for his services to Table Tennis.

In congratulating Bill on his award players everywhere will be quick to see that although one man has been singled out, it is the sport as a whole that has been honoured.

Her Majesty the Queen is of course the Patron of the E.T.T.A., as was her father before her.

Few men have done so much as Bill Vint in helping the growth in popularity of Table Tennis, and it was indeed a great day for the sport when some 26 years ago, as an almost unknown young enthusiast from Hastings, he was appointed Honorary Treasurer, a post he still holds.

Taking over when the finances were in a shaky position, his tight hold on the purse strings has helped to build up a substantial balance.

But he has not only been the bookkeeper. On the death of Bill Pope in 1951, Bill Vint was called to an even more dominant office, that of Honorary Secretary. He married the two jobs and did sterling work until handing over the secretariaship to Peter Lowen last year.

Some concern has been expressed by leading officials at recent criticism in Table Tennis. They feel that as the official magazine these will be taken as the Association's views.

Such is not the case and all articles express the view of the writer without any official endorsement.

This is not an attempt to suppress criticism. Table Tennis is your magazine. Let it be your Forum, a place where your views can, within reason, be expressed publicly and brought to general notice.

The E.T.T.A. will welcome criticism, for it is no good merely moaning among yourselves about some pet subject and leaving it there. Write to Table Tennis and make your points known.

But don't criticise merely for the sake of it. Do try and be constructive.

A sign of the times is new names in England's team for the World Championships in Stockholm in March. Ian Harrison, last year's junior champion, has been picked for the Swaythling Cup; will Jill Rook and Joyce Fielder win places in the Corbillon Cup side? The full teams are:

**Swaythling Cup:** R. BERGMANN (Middx.), J. LEACH (Essex), B. KENNEDY (Yorks.), I. HARRISON (Gloou.). Reserves: M. THORNHILL (Middx.), B. MERRETT (Gloou.). Non-playing captain, G. V. BARN (Middx.).

**Corbillon Cup:** A. HAYDON (Warw.), D. ROWE (Middx.), J. ROOK (Surrey), J. FIELDER (Kent). Reserve: M. FRY (Middx.). Non-playing captain: T. SEARS (Middx.).

HARRISON EDWARDS.
Official Notes

Visit of Hungarian Players

A party of Hungarian players, namely Miss E. Keczian, F. Sido, and L. Foldi, accompanied by Mrs. Sido, arrived in this country on December 10, 1956, the E.T.T.A. officials in aid of the Hungarian Relief Fund specially arranged for them whilst awaiting their return to Hungary. The matches were held at:

December 28, Putney Club, London.
December 29, Leamington Spa.
January 1, Tottonham Town Hall, London.
January 2, Hastings.
January 3, Bristol.
January 4, W. Staffordshire.

From December 10 to 19, 1956, they were entertained at the Ocean Hotel, Saltdean, Brighton, by Mr. Billy Butlin; whom we thank most sincerely for his hospitality. Our sincere thanks are also due to all of our members who have made the Hungarians stay in this country so pleasant and entertaining.

English Open Championships 1957

The Entry Forms will be available very shortly. Applications should be made to the E.T.T.A. office if any player wishes to receive one.

The allocation of tickets for the Finals applied for by Leagues is being dealt with after January 14, 1957. There are special rates for orders of 12 or more tickets (this number can be made up of any price) as follows:

- 21/- for 17/6d.
- 15/- for 12/6d.
- 10/- for 8/6d.
- 6/6d. for 4/6d.

Official Badges

A reminder is given that the official badges of the Association are available for sale and can be obtained at 2/6d. or 24/6d. per dozen from the E.T.T.A. office. It is of attractive design, affixed to a pin.

International Contacts

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

English Players outside England

I. Players duly affiliated to the E.T.T.A. may take part in the Open National Championships of other Associations only by permission of the E.T.T.A.

We would point out that the above Regulation applies to players taking part in the Open Championships of the Home Countries, i.e., Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as to other Associations in the International Table Tennis Federation.

Television

It would be as well to remind members once more about the position in connection with television—either B.B.C. or Independent. The regulation reads as follows:

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

Registered Players

In addition to the list of Registered Members published on Page 2 of the October, 1956 issue, the following members have now been registered:

- S. R. Basden (Kent), Miss C. K. Best (York), D. C. Burridge (Modx.), L. M. Bromfield (Sussex), R. E. Etheridge (Kent), L. F. Landry (Modx.), A. R. Miller (Sussex), Mrs. A. Pettifer (Lancs.), Miss D. Rowe (Modx.), J. F. Shead (Sussex), J. H. Tagenor (Kent), A. Thompson (York), M. Thornhill (Modx.).

Club Competitions

The total number of Competitions now arranged to be run and duly permitted is 94. We are most gratified by this response from our members. It is hoped, however, that more Clubs will return the BLUE Card to the E.T.T.A. office, 214 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2, asking permission to stage one, two or more Club Competitions.

The Competitions can take one of 15 different types, singles and doubles, details of which are as follows:
- Men's singles,
- Men's handicap singles,
- Women's singles,
- Women's handicap singles,
- Mixed singles.
Mixed handicap singles, Junior singles, Junior handicap singles, Men's doubles, Men's handicap doubles, Women's doubles, Women's handicap doubles, Mixed doubles, Extraordinary doubles (two men or two women in partnership competing in one event).

If your Club has not run a Competition then ask your Secretary to organise one. Alternatively, if your Secretary does not know certain of the details of how the Competitions work then please ask him or her to write to the E.T.T.A. office without delay.

Each Competition helps to gather further finance in the World Championships travelling Expenses Fund, which will doubtless be needed when our players next have to travel to Asia to compete in the World Championships. Also, and this is a main factor in running the Competitions, it gives you and your Club members experience of competitive play in your own Club room and at the same time the E.T.T.A. will present to the winner(s) of each Singles/Doubles Competition, specially designed plaques suitably engraved and with the E.T.T.A. crest as a centre piece.

BILL VINT
O.B.E.

We take great pleasure in reporting the award of the O.B.E. to Mr. A. K. Vint, Honorary Treasurer of the Association, in the New Year's Honours List published on the 1st January, 1957.

HUNGARIANS
WIN

"VICTOR BANA was too big a handicap for Barna's team." Thus said Victor after his side were narrowly beaten 4-3 by the Hungarian touring side at Tottenham on January 2.

Victor, making his first competitive appearance since 1954, lost both his doubles matches, first with Di Rowe against Ferenc Sido and Eva Koczian, then with Johnny Leach against Sido and Lazlo Foldi.

The match could not have been closer. It went to an advantage final game in the last event, Sido just beating Leach 21-15, 11-21, 23-21.

The highlights were Alan Rhodes' win over Sido, after saving a match point, and Michael Thornhill's defeat of Foldi, when he fought back from 5-10 down in the final game to win 21-18, 14-21, 21-19.

Detailed Results (Barna's team first):


Miss D. Rowe bt Miss E. Koczian 14-21, 23-21, 21-17.


We styled by specialist designers together with Victor Barna and Fred Perry.

Tested by champions from all over the world. Each garment meets every practical requirement before released to the public.

That's why it's "Once Victor Barna Table Tennis Sportswear, always Victor Barna Table Tennis Sportswear," for players the world over.

Our very latest novelty are royal-blue cushion socks that last longer than any sock you ever wore.

Have you ever seen Barna play? If so, you must have noticed that he always plays with sweatlet, to get rid of the perspiration on his face and to keep the palm of his playing hand dry. Why not try the same?

MEN'S WEAR

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WOMEN'S WEAR

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<td>Skirts, Rayon Repp, Grey only</td>
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FRED PERRY SPORTSWEAR, LTD
13, Golden Square, W.1. Tel: GER 4600/8222
LOOK FOR THE TABLE TENNIS BAT MOTIF

Three
The scene was a Premier Division County Match; the time, the fourth event, Ladies' Doubles. The ladies knocked up, the umpire was announced and after a few moments asked if the players were ready. They were, but as one of them pointed out, there was no doubles line. Panic! Nobody had any chalk and string! The M.C. announced that he was sorry for the delay, but the table had been delivered without a doubles line!

Eventually, a stately procession of three officials made its way across the hall. One carried a piece of chalk; one carried a six inch ruler; and one carried a broom. The broom handle was laid along the centre of the table and chalked along but as this fell about 15 inches short of the net, the six inch ruler then came into its own for the finishing touches. We could really have done with a T-square too, as the broom handle was warped and the completed doubles line had a gentle curve.

The Swervis Line?

Di Engaged

Congratulations to Diane Rowe on her recent engagement to Desmond Collins, of Gosport. The wedding is expected to take place this year, but not before the World Championships.

Once again it was left to the ladies to provide the most entertaining table tennis in the Central London Finals. The "spongy" and silent men's singles events hardly raised a clap. Indeed, I think the gum-chewing of one of the players produced the most noise. (What a horrible habit it is—we saw it again in the junior boys' final. Maybe it was the same packer?)

RECOGNISE THEM?

The best table tennis tables at any price

Tournament table as illustrated - £33 12s.

Club Model similar to above except it has top - £21

Hire Purchase and Rental Terms available.

JOHN G. TOMS
18 Norbett Road, Arnold, Nottingham. Tel.: 268912

Lost Car and Title

It was altogether a bad day for the Haydons. Ann lost her title and her father had his car stolen. Ann had the Ladies' Doubles title (which she won with Diane) to console her and Adrian's car was recovered later by the police—with all petrol intact!

Baby with a famous mother, christened on December 2nd, has equally famous god-parents. The baby, Martin John; the mother, Rosalind (Rowe) Cornett; the god-parents, Diane Rowe and Victor Barna.

Early But Late

My tournament card stated that I was due to play on Saturday morning at 11.45. It also stated that players who were not ready to play at the time stated would be scratched. I arrived at the hall at 11 a.m., having travelled 5 miles and was requested to hand in my card at the door, which I did. Then, having three quarters of an hour before I was due to play, I was chatted with a few people and was in the throes of changing when at 11.20 a voice announced reproachfully over the mike, "we are waiting for Mrs. Carrington on Table 4." Twenty-five minutes before time! So what's a poor girl to do? I arrived early so that I would have time for a chat, a leisurely change, and a knock-up, but because I am punctual these are denied me. And I have gained nothing by being early. Another time I will have that extra half hour in bed.

Answer to Picture Problem:

Elsie Carrington and Peggy Piper provide a variety turn.
CLEAN UP SCRUFFINESS
by TIBBY WEGNOR

I READ with interest Sam Kirkwood's article, "Eight Years Later" in the October issue, and fully agree with all he says. I would like to assist him with the following article, which I hope will not be taken as an advertisement for me as a sportswear manufacturer, but as a matter-of-fact report which, I believe, should be of interest.

I used to be an active sportsman many years ago, and played for a small football club in Austria. Our finances were such that we could not afford really first-class equipment and sportswear and, when I look back at some of my pictures, I must say we looked like a bunch of hoodlums.

Then came the day when we played against the Junior Teams of a First League Club and, during the match, I could not help but compare their smart turn-out to our own. Although I later joined the First League club, that first match made a lasting impression. It all came back to me when, about six years ago, I went to see the Wimbledon Tennis championships. I was shocked to see all these great players dressed in all kinds and all shapes of rags they could possibly find.

As a result of seeing players at Wimbledon bothered by perspiration to such an extent that many of them lost important points, if not whole matches, I designed the Swetlet.

When this was placed with one of the biggest sports goods manufacturers in this country, I made the acquaintance of Fred Perry, and went to one of the foremost tennis clubs in this country to play tennis with him.

Walking down the stairs of this very exclusive club, I again noticed that most of these people were dressed as if they were doing some dirty, unimportant job in the back garden. I remarked to Fred that this was something that I just couldn't understand. He answered, "The reason for this is two-fold: first of all, people don't care; secondly, there are only very few firms who make sports clothing, and most of the sports clothing produced is of a very low standard."

Then and there, Fred Perry decided to go into the sports clothing business in order to clean up lawn tennis.

Whoever goes to Wimbledon these days will probably admire the first-class type of shirts and shorts that these players are now wearing. This applies not only to the male players, but also to the female players. I believe that Fred and I can claim a large share of this improvement.

What Mr. Sam Kirkwood started eight years ago for table tennis, when he embarked upon a campaign to "get rid of table tennis tramps," we have done for lawn tennis. Following a discussion with Victor Barna three years ago, we attempted to clean up the "table tennis tramps."

ORGANISERS HAVE REMEDY

I have recently been to a few table tennis tournaments, and I must say that the improvement in the appearance of the players is very slight indeed, and I believe that the organisers of tournaments are largely to blame.

There is no need to-day, with all the sportswear that is on the market, for players to be shabbily dressed. The organisers should insist on players wearing clean and properly fitting clothing.

It may also help if you, as the leading paper in Table Tennis, would have a few articles on sports clothing, and if you were to comment on certain tournaments at which competitors played in first-class attire.

POOR FACILITIES

One has to acknowledge the fact that most of the tournaments are played in halls where there are hardly anything like modern and up-to-date dressing rooms, and there are only a very few places where players can have showers, or even a wash afterwards. To my mind, this is bad organisation, which compares very unfavourably with tournaments on the Continent.

I believe that a general clean-up is most desirable, and that many players will agree.

JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN PLAYERS
REQUIRED FOR
The Vth MACCABIAH GAMES
WORLD JEWISH SPORTS FESTIVAL
ISRAEL, Sept. 15th-24th, 1957

TRIALS TO BE HELD AT VARIOUS CENTRES AT THE END OF MARCH

Application Forms can be obtained from
THE SECRETARY,
357, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1
IN LIGHTER VEIN

SECRET WEAPONS

by MALCOLM HARTLEY

My team prefers playing at home. We are just three average players playing in an average league against other average players. But experience has taught us to look out for above-average handicaps.

Every team, we have found, has its own Secret Weapon.

And we, for instance, they stoke up the boilers until the thermometer registers 90 deg. The home team usually comprises two West Indians and a Zulu.

Some go to the other extreme. Their standard equipment includes hot water bottles. We, the unsuspecting visitors, find there is no heating at all and icicles are hanging from the table. We freeze to defeat.

One club played on a ballroom floor. I’m not sure whether they had spikes in their shoes but the way we floundered we might as well have been on roller skates. Smearing under a heavy defeat we left talking angrily about an appeal to the league. Then we found that if the appeal failed we had to forfeit 7s. 6d. There was no appeal.

Another Secret Weapon we have met is the home captain’s dog. He is unleashed at depths of the third game, gets tangled with our legs and causes a nasty fall. Sometimes the poor, dumb animal sinks his teeth into our ankle and we trap them all when they move back to return a smash. As soon as we move back to return a smash we trip over the platform and twist a knee.

The most potent Secret Weapon we have encountered is that of a works team who brought as spectators six of the most beautiful private secretaries in the north. They sat at our end of the table and showed a lot of shapely leg. When we were losing 0–5 they left for a dance. Is it a coincidence that we drew 5–5?

The most popular Secret Weapon is The Inaccessible Place for table tennis balls. We have spent hours grovelling on hands and knees, searching under chairs, poking under pipes, moving massive, heavy bookcases, delving behind cupboards, to retrieve balls. The most remarkable instance was a club with a kind of loft over the table. The ball became lodged up there and we had to climb 20 ft up a ladder before we could resume the game.

But we trap them all when they come to our club for the return fixture. Our Secret Weapon is the piano. It stands just to the right of one end of the table and years of practice has enabled us to crack forehand drives that bounce straight for it. Our opponents, with misguided enthusiasm, go for a return and smash their hand into the piano. After that it’s a walk-over.

Mind you, I am not suggesting there is any poor sportsmanship in table tennis. After all we have yet to come across the Superior Secret Weapon, such as The Table on Wheels—or The Crack in the Floor—guaranteed to sprain at least six visitors’ ankles a season.

But we still prefer to play at home.

“NORTH SEA” CUP

AFTER the World championships at Wembley in 1954 the Norwegian team stayed on Tyneside for a few days and had such an enjoyable time that they arranged an annual series of matches between the Heros Club, Bergen and a Newcastle side.

The first of these matches was played a few weeks ago when a Newcastle party went to Bergen to compete for the “North Sea Cup” presented by the Bergen Shipping Line for annual competition between the two teams.

Newcastle men were unfortunately soundly beaten 5–0 possibly due to the match taking place shortly after a rough crossing—but the women gave a far more impressive display, losing narrowly at 4–5.

In the Heros Jubilee Tournament, Newcastle gave a much better account of themselves. Mrs. Robson won the women’s singles. S. Lawson and R. Patterson reached the semi-finals of the men’s singles, and H. Dignan and A. Morpeth just failed to reach the final of the men’s doubles.

Mr. Robson, one of the party of nine, said “We were all living in private homes and the hospitality had to be experienced to be believed. On the last evening the Heros gave us a farewell party which lasted until the early hours of the morning and later when we embarked on the homeward journey about 40 people went to the quay to wave us goodbye.”

The next series of matches will be played at Newcastle in either November 1957 or February 1958. Let us hope that the Heros will receive as much hospitality as the Newcastle party and leave with as many pleasant memories.

The Newcastle Team: R. Patterson, Miss D. Bell, Mrs. E. Robson, Mrs. Y. Patterson, H. Dignan, A. Morpeth. Front Row: H. Lawson, D. Robson, F. Hannay.
England Again Too Strong

ALTHOUGH Scotland were convincingly beaten 8-2 by England at Barnehurst on November 29, they undoubtedly provided the star of the evening in Helen Elliott (writes Bryan Cutress).

She was concerned in both their wins, beating Diane Rowe 21-15, 21-11 in the singles, then partnering Helen Houliston to beat Miss Rowe and Joyce Fielder 21-14, 19-21, 21-14 in the women’s doubles.

Complete with a "sandwich" bat, Miss Elliot revealed great penetration of shot and her powerful forehand smashes repeatedly had Miss Rowe well beaten.

The scores speak for themselves, particularly in that second game.

The best match of the evening however, was the other women’s singles in which Joyce Fielder, making her senior international debut on her home table beat Helen Houliston 21-15, 21-19.

There was never much between these two and so well did the young Scot fight back that the result was in doubt until the last point.

Miss Houliston played a strong attacking game throughout, but the Kent girl just had the edge with her strong back-hand and more subtle play.

More matches like this and table tennis would have fewer worries about dwindling "gates."

Unfortunately Scotland men were much inferior to their women and Johnny Leach, Micky Thornhill and young Ian Harrison were never fully extended by the Scottish trio of Eddie Still, Monty McMillan and Bert Kerr.

Both Kerr and McMillan might have taken a game off Leach and Thornhill respectively, but the English pair always looked to have matters well in hand.

A special word of praise for Harrison, last season’s English junior champion. He was obviously being "blooded" for the future, and came through the test with flying colours, beating both Still and McMillan comfortably. Many of the Kent crowd seeing him for the first time went away most impressed.

What a pity an overlong interval spoil t an otherwise well-organised evening. Many people were forced to leave before the final match between Leach and Kerr in order to catch their last train.

ENGLAND 10, IRELAND 0

Results (England names first):


Miss Rowe and Miss Fielder lost to Miss Elliot and Miss Houliston 14-21, 21-19, 14-21.

———

New . . . Sensational . . . Different

Our entirely new 'Swivel Trophy' will revolutionise Sports prizes. We are inundated with orders from all Sports associations for this new idea. Show it to your committee. Write for our illustrated list showing this entirely different trophy . . . at 15/-. Our prices are the most competitive as we are now manufacturing ourselves.

BADGES. We supply the R.A.F., British Railways, and the Olympic Games. Send a sketch for quotation. Embroidered, metal or plastic.

SPONGE

Sandwich bats—Leach—15/-

Adams—14/-11.

Mikado—13/6

Mikado sponge bats—12/6 each. Mikado rubber—1/10d. per piece. Green sponge—1/7d. per piece.

Pimpled Rubber—Slow, Medium, Continental, Top Spin and Fast—1/3 per piece.

Bat Recover—Sponge—5/-

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Pimpled—4/-

A.D.B. International Table Tennis Table—£39 15. 0.

Club Match jin. Model—£25 0 0

Generous allowance on old tables always taken in part exchange.

CLOTHING.

Official T.T. shirts—19/6 each. Royal, Maroon, Green and Navy.


Long Zip Track Suit tops—28/6. Track Suits, all colours—48/6

200 Questions and Answers in the Alec Brook Quiz Book. Facts, rules, everything of interest to the T.T. player—1/- each.

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85 DUKE STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

Telephone: MAYFAIR 3113/5775
DOUBLE LOSS FOR BIRMINGHAM

By ALAN LAKE

(MORNING DESPATCH T.T. CORRESPONDENT)

MAURICE KRISS and Bobby MacKay, for many moons the mainstays of the Warwickshire and Birmingham sides, have both decided to retire from competitive table tennis.

Their reasons? Taking Maurice first... "I didn't want to fizzle out," says the 32-year-old estate agent who made his debut in the Birmingham senior side at the tender age of 13.

"I promised myself years ago that when I began to slip from the top grade, I'd retire. I'd no intention of becoming a table tennis 'punch drunk.'"

"I've finished with competitive playing completely but, a bit later on, I intend to build a games room on to my new house and do a little coaching."

Then Bobby's case... "I've been pestered with leg trouble for a long time. I haven't played much during the past year yet my leg is swelling up again now."

"I may be able to play the odd game for the Central Club in the Birmingham League and perhaps coach some of the youngsters, but you'll never see the real MacKay again," says Bobby, whose doubles partnership with his sister, Jean, was one of the best in the business.

So it's farewell to two near-great players - Bobby the attacker and Maurice the defender.


Yet international honours still eluded him though he did get the reserve place against France once.

Bobby, too, missed the game's highest honours, but Richard Bergmann once said of him, "He could become England's No. 1 overnight if only he would keep his impatient temperament under control."

Let's wish Bobby and Maurice the best of luck with their coaching.

Optician Tommy Farmer has a novel way of testing his table tennis-minded customers' eyes—he gives them a game in a spare room above his shop. Apart from being a useful player, Tommy is secretary of Ridgemere, the South Birmingham League club.

Where are the Jewish T.T. Players?

By LOUIS HOFFMAN

WHAT has happened to all the Jewish players in Table Tennis? Before the war they dominated the game, providing at least ten of the 20 best players in the country.

Such has been the swing of the pendulum, that it is doubtful if there is one Jew among the top twenty today.

This has been my discovery as I look around to find players to represent Britain in the International Tournament held in connection with the Fifth Maccabiah (World Jewish Sports Festival) in Israel next September.

The game still thrives among the Jewish Youth Clubs, but they do not appear to be producing players of sufficiently high standard. I can only hope that there is hidden talent, still to come to light, and for this purpose a series of trials will be held at various centres a little later in the season.

Jewish players are therefore requested to apply for the necessary entry forms to the Maccabiah Organising Committee, 357, Euston Road, London, N.W.1. Trials will be arranged when the entry is known, and successful candidates can look forward to a trip of around two weeks to Israel.

The plan is for Britain to send three men and three women.

Looking back to the talent available in 1939 we find such players as Ernie Bubley, Hymie Lurie, Leo Baron, Benny Casofsky, Harry Rosen, Benny Marcus, Stanley Rosenberg, Leslie Cohen, Marry Phillips, and Jack Glickman. What memories they bring back. Between them they appeared in many "Open" finals, and also filled places in the international team. Bubley and Lurie were in Cairo in 1939 as members of the Swaythling Cup side.

It was easy in those days to find players for the Maccabiah. The resumption of the Games in 1950 found Bubley, Lurie and Casofsky chosen for the trip, but in 1953, only two players were sent, Ron Baker and Alan Sherwood.

Now the Games are round again, with places for a larger team, but we must find the players.

Let us hope this appeal will show that the game is still alive among the Jewish Fraternity.
SOMOGYI, one of Hungary’s top
\[\text{ten players}, was at the time of
domination in the country.

He never heard of Somogyi? In the
1955 World Series at Utrecht he
reached the quarter-finals of the
filling single, and one of his victims was
the title-holder, Ogimura, whom he
defeated in three straight.

Josef Koczian, another top Hun-
\[\text{garian, also succeeded in escaping}
from Budapest, and the last news of
him was that he was in the vicinity
of Frankfurt, Germany. Josef, of
course, needs little introduction. Pos-
sibly his greatest feat was reaching
the single finals of the Bombay
World meeting in 1952, when he
\[\text{he} \text{m} \text{t} \text{u} \text{c} \text{u} \\
\text{became domiciled in this country.}

\[\text{Barna’s Nieces}
\]
Also numbered amongst the Hun-
garian refugees are two little nieces of Victor Barna. The girls are in
London and their famous uncle is
doing all he can to help them.

Victor, by the way, is still hoping
that he will be able to accept the
invitation to go on a three-month
coaching tour of India to help
Swaythling and Corbillon players and,
just as important, promising young-
sters. Pressure of business, however,
may make it impossible for him to
go.

If he cannot find the time for the
\[\text{joust abroad, Ivan Andreadis may be}
asked to go in his place.

From Sweden comes a report that
to date 27 nations have entered for
the World Championships in Stock-
holm next March.

\[\text{To coin a cliche, some people have}
all the luck. Burmese table tennis
officials accompanied their country’s
\[\text{Olympic team as official representa-
\text{tives. For the record, and as a matter}
of interest, Burma sent nine competi-
tors—and 13 officials of various sports,
including T.T.}^{\text{1}} \text{And if that doesn’t}
warrant an exclamation mark, I don’t
\text{know what does.}

\[\text{After many years in the interna-
tional wilderness, due to the two-
\text{ruling-bodies set-up in their country
and through no fault of their own,}
South Africa’s coloured players are
now eligible for the World Series,
mid-February. The Austrians, how-
ever, have let it be known that they
have a crowded playing programme
and may be unable to accept the trip.

\[\text{Japanese players may not be the}
\text{only Far East exponents to pay a visit to
England. Malaya, India, Com-
munist China, Korea and Singapore
are likely Stockholm contestants and}
\text{several have intimated that they’d like
to show a racket here either before
or after the Stockholm rally. And
we, for our part, would be far from
adverse at entertaining them.}

Final entries for Stockholm, by the
way, must be received by February 1,
with the draw taking place on Feb-
uary 9. Which means that the
\[\text{English teams will be selected any
day now.}

In the Swiss ranking Urchetti has
\[\text{been named top man and Jaquet top
woman. The Swiss Association also}
announce that Chesaux Gabriel has
\text{been suspended from September 7}
until further notice.

In an international versus Austria,
Germany’s men won 5—2, but her
\text{girls lost 0—3. Against Sweden, Ger-
\text{many’s men won 5—0 and the girls
3—1. Sweden did better against Den-
mark, her men winning 5—1 and
women 3—0.}

\[\text{Corbi III}
\]
Corbi-Woodcock unfortunately had
\text{a spell in hospital with heart trouble.
At the time of writing it was reported
that he was progressing well. Let’s
\text{hope that by now he is home and
fully recovered.}

\[\text{The following item was published}
in the Daily Express during the Prime
\text{Minister’s holiday in Jamaica. “Sir
\text{Anthony lay in a deck-chair and took
\text{in the headlines . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .}

None brought any comment from
\text{him. Then he noted an item in the
\text{society column . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .}

Sir Anthony rose without a word,}
\text{strode into Goldeneye, the house
\text{loaned to him by author Ian Fleming.
And he was heard to say sharply to
a police security officer: ‘. . . . and
I don’t play it, anyway.’}

\text{The reader is at liberty to draw
\text{his own conclusion from this tropical
titbit.}

\[\text{Ranking list of the South African
T.T. Union. MEN: Edwards, Paitaki,
Riggier, Phitidis, Fry, Wall, Zeidel,
\text{Mennis, WOMEN: Chiat, Wilmot,
Lilltulder, Bass, Rademan, van Jaars-
veld, Mullen, Roberts.}

Top players of China, as deter-
\text{mined by the Chinese National Cham-
\text{pionships: MEN: Wang Chuan Yao,
Chiang Yung-ning, Chuang Chin-fu,
Hu Ping-chuan, Wang Hsi-tien, Liang
Chik-tao, Lin Chung-juan, Liu Ku-
chang. WOMEN: Sun Mei-ying, Yeh
Pei-chun, Chin Chung-Lui, Chang
Pao-ti, Yang Chi-wen, Wang Chi.

Eleven
DON'T WASTE SERVICE

by JOHNNY LEACH

Do you pay sufficient attention to the service? Answer that question honestly and I think many of you will find you just treat the service as a means of putting the ball into play.

At least that has been my impression after studying various players. Generally speaking serving lacks imagination, even among some of the best players, who often sacrifice an advantage by playing the shot carelessly. Yet, in these days of intense competition no one can afford to throw points away.

For an example of service used to best advantage we have only to turn to the Japanese. Played with a fast top spin it rarely fails to open up the play for their hard attacking game.

Now, I don't recommend you to try to win the point outright with service, but I do advise you to use services which are most likely to produce the kind of return you want in order to gain the initiative.

For example, a speedy top spin service, or a short heavy backspin will invariably produce a return which will enable you to get on the attack. On the other hand, a medium length backspin service, or a slow topspin service is likely to entice your opponent to become aggressive without leaving him an easy "kill."

Don't use the same service all the time. This only makes things easy for your opponent and is apt to make you careless. Develop a variety of services by varying the speed, the direction and the amount of spin you apply.

Two very important points to remember:

(a) Before serving make sure that you are settled and composed, and that your opponent is ready.

(b) Don't serve haphazardly. Think before you put the ball into play.

Your Problem, Too?

Problem that has been worrying several top players is that they are unable to reproduce practice form in actual match play. Len Adams, the Middlesex international, although playing with more confidence since he adopted the "sandwich" bat, tells me he has been experiencing this, and Surrey's Jackie Head is in a similar plight.

Both put it down to the nervous tension which big championships seem to create.

Mild attacks of nerves are not unusual, and will normally disappear through regular match play as the season progresses. But sometimes nerves get out of hand. Then a player begins to get really worried.

Harry Venner, for several years one of our top players, in going through this ordeal. He confesses he is going through a particularly bad spell of nerves.

Nothing Right

No one practices harder, and no one pays more attention to physical fitness than Harry, yet he does not seem able to produce his true form this season. In an all-out effort to stop the bad run he has stepped up his practice and training still further, but still nothing goes right for him.

Many players have no doubt experienced these symptoms. They indicate you are over-tense, over-anxious or over-played.

What then is the answer? In Harry's case, I would suggest he is suffering from an excess of determination, causing match-play nerves. In his efforts to overcome this he is playing too much table tennis. Being a top class player, however, it is possible for Harry to get out of his rut by continuing his present match-play programme. Sooner or later he is bound to have a good win which will give him the confidence to relax in his play once more. This in turn will solve his psychological worries and his over-anxiety.

However, my advice to most players in a similar plight would be: give the game a rest for two or three weeks. A break will enable you to get over your obvious staleness, and you will return to the game fresh, keen and free from mental strain, which is the only way to play successful table tennis.

Relax

Meanwhile to overcome nervousness, which causes your playing arm and your legs to feel as heavy as lead, you must force yourself to relax when playing. You can only do this by giving up all ideas of winning for a time. Simply try to enjoy the game and ignore the scores.

Set yourself the task of playing a few tournaments during which you treat every ball on its merits, win or lose. In this way you can gradually key yourself up to win points without getting over-tense, or over-anxious.
CHARLIE WHEELER

At the end of last season a short note in the Area News section of Table-Tennis* recorded a remarkable achievement. It stated that Charlie Wheeler, of the Marconi Club, Chelmsford, had a record which is probably unequalled throughout the country—being undefeated in Chelmsford League matches since the war, having played nearly 450 games.

The story behind that record—the Charlie Wheeler story—will interest most table-tennis players.

Born in Chelmsford in 1912, he moved to Scarborough at a very early age and first took up the game at 16. The following season, he won a local tournament and before moving to Brighton in 1935, this promising young player had won five open tournaments, four Scarborough singles titles and several team awards.

In 1933 Charlie took the Yorkshire title and two years later reaped the best ever performance. This record does not include the minor victories in India.

During his long career, Charlie has won seventy-six championships and thirty team awards, not to mention being runner-up on eleven occasions. This record does not include the minor victories in India.

What does this veteran, who has played with Barns, Leach and Filby, think of the sponge bat? His views are very emphatic. "It should be banned," says Charlie, "as it spoils the game for both players and spectators."

The Chelmsford singles title was his property for eight consecutive seasons, until he retired undefeated from the competition to let someone else have a chance of winning. Fourteen other Chelmsford titles have fallen to this amazing player and since his arrival in Essex the former county player has taken thirty-seven singles and doubles titles.

This, then, is the Charlie Wheeler story. If he had been an actor, he would have been called a great troupier. He never quite hit the heights, but with Charlie and many others like him, table-tennis would be much poorer.

Who knows—that record number of unbeaten games may reach five-hundred before he's finished.

THE NATIONAL CUPS

WILMOTT CUP
Third Round Results

ZONE 1 (A)
Leeds 3, Huddersfield 5.
Manchester 9, Chester 6.
ZONE 3 (A)
Coventry 5, Leicester 2.
Norwich v Wisbech (Extension), ZONE 4 (A)
Leighton v St. Albans (Extension), ZONE 4 (B)
East London 5, Ilford 3.
ZONE 5 (A)
South London 0, London Civ. Ser. 5.
ZONE 5 (B)
North Middx. 6, Wembley 4.

Zone Finals Draw
(on or before January 20th, 1957)
ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)
Sheffield v Huddersfield
ZONE 2 (A) and 2 (B)
Burnley v Manchester
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)
Coventry v Norwich or Wisbech
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)
East London v Leighton or St. Albans
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)
North Middx v London Civil Service
ZONE 6
Croydon v Staines

ROSE BOWL
Third Round Results

ZONE 4 (A)
Watford 6, St. Albans 2.
ZONE 5 (A)
London Bank v South London 0.
ZONE 5 (B)
East London 0, Wembley 5.
ZONE 6 (A)
Croydon 4, Leatherhead 5.
ZONE 6 (B)
N.W. Kent v Maidstone (Extension).

Zone Finals Draw
(on or before January 20th, 1957)
ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)
Leeds v Grimsby
ZONE 2
Liverpool v Manchester (already played)
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)
Birmingham v Boston (birmingham walk over)
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)
Ilford v Watford
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)
East London v South London
ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B)
N.W. Kent or Maidstone v Leatherhead

Thirteen
SHINING BRASS
by KENNETH WHEELER

DECEMBER 15 was “bairns’ day” at The Pleasance in Edinburgh, and a large gathering of table tennis personalities, parents and supporters saw a gusty “family double” by the Brass brothers in the EAGLE events, and a champagne-class exhibition by Helen Elliot and Johnny Leach.

Twice Eagle Junior champion of Britain, Ronnie Brass swept to a further success in his first year as a Senior, and left the way clear for his 11-year-old brother Gary to annex the Junior title.

The brothers were opposed in the finals by players whose talent was at least the equal of their own, but in both cases their supreme confidence gave them the edge. That same confidence is going to give them a decided advantage when they appear in London next month for the Grand Finals.

Althouigh eighteen months older than Ronnie Brass, Alan Chalmers was clearly burdened by the responsibility of defending the title he won last year. He was failing to follow-through with his drives—a sure sign of “nerves”—and this cost him his vital points.

Ronnie, on the other hand, hardly made a mistake and, though he complains that he is unable to get sufficient match practice at home in Glasgow, has still managed to improve quite a bit since we last saw him. He won the first game 21-11 and, after trailing 15-10 in the second, turned on the heat at the right moment to take the match by 21-18.

Opposing wee Gary in the under-thirteen final was 11-year-old Colin Hepburn, a very promising, all-round stroke player from the Gambit club. Now Gary, a left-hander, either pushes or hits on the forehand wing, and when he hits (which is as often as possible) he is usually on target. Using this simple, but very effective technique he ran out a surprisingly easy winner by 11 and 18.

It was good to have nearly fifty entrants for the girls’ events, and one had to admire the courage of the ten- and eleven-year-olds for “having a go” when many of them had only a rudimentary knowledge of the game. The main thing was that they did come along, and this gave Johnny Leach the opportunity to give them some elementary coaching and encouragement for the future.

The best of the girls’ matches was the Senior Final, in which reigning champion Pat Mackenzie defeated former Girl British Junior champion Jean Darling, 21-13, 21-15. With a little more spirit in her play Pat, who is another Gambit club member, could reach top-class.

In the Junior event, red-headed Elizabeth Huggins, who was runner-up last year to Jean Darling, deservedly qualified for the London Finals. In the Edinburgh final she beat 11-year-old Eileen Johnston by 14 and 16.

The Cardiff winners met the Bristol winners at Bristol on December 8, and as a result the four finalists from the Western Region are Paul Racey (Bristol), Ian Gibson (Cardiff), Susan Sharp (Bristol), and Elizabeth Osmond (Cardiff).

Hat-Trick
The ever-improving Paul Racey, from Swindon, won his third trophy in Eagle Area Championship play after a game of very high standard against little Kerry Cutler from the Rhondda.

At the start Cutler did well by concentrating on long-range defence with an occasional counter-hit: then he grew impatient and changed his tactics to all-out attack which failed to come off against his steady, and more experienced opponent. Nevertheless, scores of 13 and 8 against him scarcely did justice to the Cardiff champion who is definitely one to watch for the future.

In the under-thirteen event the irresistible Ian Gibson, making his third (and final) appearance in this age group, packed far too many punches for 12-year-old David Weale the Bristol winner, and there was never any doubt about the result.

Girls Disappointing
The standard in the girls’ events at both Bristol and Cardiff was disappointingly low, but what the young ladies lacked in ability they made up for in fight and determination. Susan Sharp from Weymouth, the former under-thirteen champion, came through successfully in her first year as a senior, though she allowed plucky Bridget Ashton from Newport to make the final much closer than one would have expected, remembering that Bridget is an absolute beginner so far as tournament play is concerned.

After a ding-dong battle Elizabeth Osmond from Llanduff beat Jennifer Williams to become the new Junior champion.

So, with the Nottingham and Liverpool tournaments still to take place,
and to provide us with one more finalist for each event, here is the lineup for the Grand Finals in London on February 23 next:—

**BOYS SENIOR**: Alan Holden (Manchester), Chris Gosling (South London), David White (North London), William Cox (Birmingham), George Livesey (Leeds), Paul Racy (Cardiff/Bristol), Ronnie Brass (Edinburgh).

**BOYS JUNIOR**: David Stanley (Manchester), Roger Storer (South London), Nigel Ives (North London), Derek Allen (Birmingham), Martin Wilson (Leeds), Ian Gibson (Bristol/Cardiff), Gary Brass (Edinburgh).

**GIRLS SENIOR**: Jean Shallcross (Manchester), Mary Shannon (South London), Carol Bagshaw (North London), Ann Charmian (Birmingham), Betty Kinsey (Leeds), Susan Sharp (Cardiff/Bristol), Pat Mackenzie (Edinburgh).

**GIRLS JUNIOR**: Lynda Gordon (Manchester), Pauline Martin (South London), Hilde Braugam (North London), Janet Roberts (Birmingham), Elizabeth Huggins (Edinburgh).

### AREA RESULTS

**Cardiff** (Nov. 24).
- Boys Senior: KERRY CUTLER bt Geoffrey Bloomer 21–11, 21–12.
- Bristol (Dec. 8).
- Boys Junior: DAVID WEALE bt Alan Miles 21–7, 21–16.
- Western Region Finals (Dec. 8).
- Edinburgh (Dec. 15).

### WHEELCHAIR TABLE TENNIS

by BRYAN CUTRESS

It is a strange but wonderful fact that the majority of those unfortunate people inflicted with terrible illnesses or injuries which deprive them of the use of certain limbs, manage to lead as near to a normal life as humanly possible.

This is particularly in evidence at a little place called Lyme Green Paraplegic Settlement.

Few people living outside Cheshire will have heard of this home and yet, at any time of the year, can be seen the type of courage that evokes a heartfelt admiration: the courage of paralysed men seeking, among other things, to take part in competitive sports.

Many have already taught themselves a variety of sports ranging from leisurely billiards to . . . yes, even TABLE TENNIS.

Two ex-servicemen, Bob Murrell and George Swindlehurst, both paralysed from the waist downwards and confined to wheelchairs, have shown that guts and determination can overcome any barrier.

With the aid of John Sutton, Lewi Buxton and Melynn Davies they have formed the Lyme Green Table Tennis Club and entered the third division of the Macclesfield and District League.

These two wheelchair specialists proved that their displays could not, by any means, be called "ping pong" when Lyme Green met and drew 6–6 with Liberal Club "E" in their first league match. Murrell and "Ginger" Swindlehurst showed surprising skill, producing some powerful forehand smashes and backhand flicks to win two games each.

They certainly do not want sympathy from their opponents who quickly discover they are not to be treated lightly.

One big difficulty for these two remarkable players is, of course, the retrieving of balls that go off the table. Consequently, they often stop the ball that is going "dead" with their bat.

This is not strictly according to the letter of the law, but the Liberal Club set a fine example, which it is hoped other opponents of Lyme Green will follow, by not claiming points on these occasions.

There are many clubs who could take a lesson from Lyme Green not merely for their spirit and enthusiasm but from their immaculate uniforms turn-out of red shirt with white collars and club badge. It rather shows up those players who think that any old rags are good enough for league matches.

**NEW VARSITY DATE**

Date of the inter-varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge has been altered to March 2 at Oxford. It was previously arranged for February 27.

Form pointer: London University beat Oxford 6–4, and Cambridge 10–0.

_Fifteen_
**Area News:**

**Yorkshire Notes**

Yorkshire have been quick to join the anti-sponge campaign pioneered by Gloucestershire. The feeling against sponge, reported in last month's issue, crystallised at the December meeting of the county association. The Y.T.T.A. agreed unanimously to support Gloucestershire "in seeking to abolish sponge and other 'freak bats' and they urge the E.T.T.A. "to take steps to implement this request immediately."

The association have thus reaffirmed a decision to press for standard rackets made by their executive committee at a special meeting in October last year.

Yorkshire also suggest that the E.T.T.A. Player the feeling of all affiliated Leagues in the country by a referendum.

**Consider** the remarkable case of Maurice Simpson. He is a Rotherham sponge-man who has beaten in six county singles—yet still to qualify for a county badge.

His story begins in October. He has two wins against Durham in the Second Division and follows this with another "double" against Warwickshire. One more Second Division appearance gives him a badge.

But Gloucestershires' rapid promotion to the Premier Division for the match at Gloucester.

Next season's player would not quail at the thoughts of meeting, in only his third county match, Aubrey Simons and Bob Griffin, a certainty to be unanswerable. But Gloucestershire are not only in the running for the championship, but also in Division I.

Yorks lost to Middlesex. They were 8-2 winners over G.P.O. Phil Sheader, who won every set he played. But then comes rapid promotion to the Second Division, and a sandwich server!

**Jack's Bag**

Jack Carrington's carrier-bag was the talk of the Hull Open. Every time he went to the table he looked as if he was on a shopping spree.

Jack's next move was to see what kind of bat his opponent was using. Then he delved into his bag and chose his weapon—rubber to play against rubber, sponge against sponge, and so on.

If Jack's idea is developed I foresee the time when players will be playing before every serve and, like golfers, deliberating over a bag of bats held by a caddy before choosing between a No. 5 sponge and a sandwich server

**Gloucestershire Snippets**

The experiment of playing all Zone 8 matches in the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl Competitions on the same date and at one venue was largely defeated by the withdrawal of Slough, Newbury, Reading, Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

Had the criticisms which took place been brought forward earlier, they could probably have been prevented from the experiment made worth-while.

The chief objection raised was the original date and venue (December 29 at Bristol). Although all the West Country Leagues offered to play the Wrocław, no effort was made by any other Leagues to find a venue.

It is interesting to note that Plymouth, who have by far the longest journey, wrote "Whatever time we have to play in the morning, we shall be there, if need be travelling all night."

Underwood's report was that Newbury and Reading who are only 80 miles away.

Gloucestershire have once again found themselves to decide to enter the Cup Competition. They were all at sea against the "sponsors" of Yorkshire and were decisively beaten 7-3. The only player to emerge with honours was Bryan Merrett, who beat Kennedy and Hinchliff, and with Simons won the men's doubles.

The only credit on the home side is that the two sets of players were able to play anywhere, no one on the road.

Gloucester must beat Middlesex at Bristol on January 12 if they hope to remain in the hunt for the Division title. The changes for this match see Ian Harrison making his debut for the county, with Bob Griffin again dropping out in the singles. Shirley Davis pairs up with Bob in the Mixed Doubles and in the Women's Doubles Molly Jones partners Terry Spokes. Merrett and Simons complete the team.

The Bristol Association have already made preparations for their annual dance and presentation of awards. Many well known people have accepted invitations, among them the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort.

Efforts of Bristol and Gloucester to stage another E.T.T.A. World Championships' travelling fund for the usual plaques. The date, February 14, 1957. The club is approximately 4 miles outside Gloucester, and runs three teams in the Gloucester League. The events are Men's Open Singles, Men's Handicap Singles, Men's Doubles and Junior Handicap Singles. Added attraction is an exhibition by those Swawhich players Aubrey Simons and Bryan Merrett.

---

**Sixteen**

Malcolm Hartley
DERBY NOTES

Derbyshire have not yet been troubled by the sponge bat mainly because our leading players do not use it. The former county champion Tony Hunt is a "sandwich batsman" but his team has been strengthened by B. Squire, the former student at U.C.D., who has appeared in the finals with Mrs. Caughey.

The men's "B" and Intermediate teams also lost to Birmingham in 2-8 and 2-5 respectively. The ladies team is still going strong in defence of their title, and Mrs. Webster, who has appeared in the finals with Mrs. Caughey, is a sure bet to win.

Webster for several years. Mrs. Webster, however, has won over 50 caps for Ireland and was one of our outstanding representatives for many years. Her return must indeed gladden the hearts of the Ulster selectors, for he was the mainstay of their teams against some really strong Leinster sides, and following their near defeat in this season's inter-provincial championship they will be delighted indeed to have his services to call upon should he recapture any of his former brilliance.

Ireland suffered yet another resounding defeat by England at Stoke last month. It could not have been averted even had O'Prey and Clarkin been available. This emphasizes the long way that Irish table tennis has to travel before it can reach the English standard.

We had a glimpse during the last few weeks of what world standard is like when the star Hungarian trio of Sido, Foldi, and Eva Kaczian paid us a visit, playing a series of exhibitions in aid of Hungarian Relief. At the National Stadium they defeated an Irish selection comprised of Clarkin, Pappin, Miss Owens and Miss Feron. The following night they recorded a similar victory in Belfast against a Northern selection.

Highlights of these nights were the exhibitions between Sido and Foldi, Sido won, but not without a very close struggle. He also won a special Invitation tournament in Dublin, again defeating Foldi in the process.

It is interesting to record that Sean Clarkin defeated Foldi in a later country exhibition and that Miss Koczian had wins over both Clarkin and Pappin to her credit.

The Anglesea club scored a notable double in the Leinster Team Championships winning the Men's and Women's Division I titles.

A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it." A saying often sweetly told; "You cannot eat your cake, and have it."
The Original
JAQUES - LEN ADAMS

'Sandwich' Bat

The 'SANDWICH' bat, pimpled rubber on top of sponge, was first used by that well known International player LEN ADAMS. JAQUES developed the idea and produced this, the first, sandwich bat, which became a sensation overnight. Gaining in popularity every month, thousands have been sold already. JAQUES again lead in T.T. bat design.

The success of LEN ADAMS bat is shown by the number of imitations. The only genuine LEN ADAMS 'sandwich' bat has the name JAQUES stamped on the handle. All good sports shops stock them. Price 14/11 incl. P.T.

Here is another winner

ANN HAYDON SPONGE

(Illustrated left) Made from a sponge of unique hardness of texture EXCLUSIVE to this bat.
PRICE INCL. P.T. 12/10,
IN DOUBLE RUBBER 10/2 INCL. P.T.

Higher production—Lower prices

JAQUES TABLES

Club tournament 1" nom. £45. 10. 0
Lightweight (1/2") .... £24. 0. 0

Prices include P.T. and carriage.

JAQUES make fifteen other autographed bats, to suit every taste and style. For complete range of T.T. Equipment see illustrated Catalogue free from

JOHN JAQUES & SON LTD
THORNTON HEATH, SURREY

by JAQUES that's good!
PETROL rationing has taken its toll of the withdrawal of Letchworth from the County Junior Inter-League Championship. One of the richest areas for junior talent, they feel that the financial strain of using public transport would be too great.

It is hoped Letchworth will be back next year for their absence leaves North Herts without a representative in the Junior Championship.

Meanwhile Wes Herts have gained a new league in the Bushey Youth who registered the withdrawal of Letchworth at Lilleshall over the Easter holidays.

St Albans and Watford are also getting into the swing of things after a hot pace in the County Senior Inter-League Championship and are the only teams left standing in the Second Division (South) table. and have beaten Kent II for junior talent, they feel that the setting of the Group winners.

Quarter-finalists in the Inter-Club Championship (Seniors) are Dental Board, Eastbourne v. N.A.L.G.O. Hastings: Regency, Brighton v. Polegate "Knaves" County Oak, Crawley v. Hove; "AA" v. Eastbourne Y.M.C.A., Alpha. In the junior competition, Longfords of Crawley have reached the final by beating Hastings Tigers "A" and will oppose the winners of Hastings Tigers "A" and Shoreham.

The annual tournament, the Sussex Closed Championships, will be held at the Corn Exchange, Brighton, on February 17th, 19 tables being used. All events are played, and this tournament is indeed the survival of the fittest. Peter Moore, Fred Gillan, and Ian Alexander were in the third game. The Sussex No. 2s defeated Jean Harrower to win the Hastings Tigers "A" and Shoreham.

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

LEG injuries helped to put a premium on the Wilmot Cup men's national team competition.

Both John Thurston and John Cornwall were forced to withdraw from the team for this reason and a much-weakened side were surprisingly eliminated 3-5 by Wisbech.

The Cambs junior champion, Keith Chapman, missed his initial appearance in this competition, but, although far from disgracing himself, he obviously found the occasion rather too much for him.

Cambs also faced badly against Buckinghamshire when they met earlier in the National County championships at Impington. Leo Thompson with his sponge bat proved to be the Cambs stumbling block, disposing of Ron Nunn and John Cornwall in straight games.

Avis Pauley and Margaret Cowell gained a good doubles win and partnered her husband, John, Margaret was also on the winning side in the mixed doubles.

Incidently, all praise to Avis Pauley who, owing to the indisposition of her husband, played against Bucks while her husband, at equally short notice played "mother," getting the children bathed and into bed.

The junior team is having a rough time, and has lost all three matches played to date.

One name to watch this season's junior section of the Cambs Championships will be that of K. C. Warren of Reach, who has a useful two-wing attack.

Wesley, New Chesterton, Institute and Telephones are having a tussle in Division I for the league honours while Shire Hall are struggling at the bottom.

All the new teams in the league are adapting themselves well to conditions.

Leslie Constable.

ESSEX NOTES

Essex recovered well after losing the first two games to beat Hertford 2-1 in the Premier Division of the County Championships at Romford. Y.M.C.A. It was a close fought match which produced much entertaining table tennis, and deserved a larger crowd than the 150 spectators present.

The match was given excellent publicity by the local Press and was supported by players throughout the county, but it is doubtful whether the posters which were displayed prominently throughout the town, attracted more than half-a-dozen spectators from the general public.

On the other hand nearly a hundred turned up at Chelmsford Y.M.C.A. to see Essex Juniors draw 5-5 with Suffolk. It was the first county match to be staged by the Chelmsford League for many years and the arrangements were excellent.

Essex Squads were beaten 7-2 by Surrey in a Bernard Crouch Competition match. Several games went the full distance, but the only Essex players to win were Ray Dorking and Jean Latty.

The latest model in "fancy" bats is designed by Ivor Jones -"sandwich" one side and ordinary rubber the other. Although he failed to win a game against Surrey II, it seems to have brought him several good wins in Open tournaments.

More Essex Juniors are supporting open tournaments than ever before. In the Central London Open Shelagh Hesdon defeated Jean Harrison to win the Girls' singles. Alastair Molloy was runner-up in the boys' singles.

Two of the most likely travelled juniors are Mickey Hutton and Ann Stevens and it is hoped that their keenness will soon be rewarded. After her display at Croydon against Barbara Peasley, Ann's chances in the "Daily Mirror" tournament look particularly bright.

PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE (at as December 15th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Draws</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walthamstow</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romford</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southend</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barking</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romford</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results to date: East London 6; Walthamstow 2; Romford 2; Southend 2; Barking 1; Romford 3.

Frank Bateman

Nineteen
DURHAM NEWS FARE

Once again Durham find themselves pointless at the foot of the Second Division (North) in the National County Championship, following heavy defeats by Northumberland, Yorkshire II, and Warwickshire.

Keith Holland, of Hartlepool, who marked up our sole win against Warwickshire, is generally agreed Durham's No. 1, but some people are wondering when 18-years-old Peter Tucknott of Sunderland will get his big chance. His best performance so far was reaching last season's county singles semi-final, with wins over Alan Carter, Leslie Tolchard, and Joe Whittingham, all county players.

Only a leg injury has prevented another Wearside, Gordon Lumsden, former junior international and 1953 "Daily Mirror" boys singles winner, playing in the last two matches. Both Lumsden and Tucknott should command regular places in next season's team.

Incidentally Mrs. Holland (formerly Olive Thaxton) is sadly missed from the county side. She is expecting a happy event.

Durham players did not fare too well in the senior events of the Hartlepool "Open" but it was a different story in the under 18 singles, where A. W. Warren, Durham junior champion, Eddie Taylor and Wilf Barker—all from Sunderland—reached the semi-finals. However, the tide went to the odd man out, Northumberland's Jimmy Tindale, who beat first Warren, then Taylor.

The Northumberland Durham Area junior trials saw Taylor, Barker, and Tindale, with another Sunderland lad, Frank dale, with another Sunderland lad, Frank

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

**Western Counties Bulletin**

**MIDDLESEX NOTES**

Under this season's nonplaying captainship of Victor Barlow—the Middlesex team have made a great start to their campaign to regain the champion county title. It would indeed be a sad sight if the Middlesex wagers against their chances. The only unbeaten team in the Premier Division, Middlesex have already defeated boisterous teams from Yorkshire by a 9-1 margin, and now boast an average of 24 sets to 6.

The second team have not been so successful in the Bernard Crouch Trophy Competition, having lost their first two matches against Essex and Surrey by the same margin of 7-2. In each match, however, their opponents were much more experienced players. Despite lack of years and experience the Middlesex boys and girls put up good performances and it is intended to continue playing our young team in this competition. It is particularly pleasing to remember that it was Bernard Crouch himself who was so interested in the progress of young people in the game.

The even younger players, the junior team, have been giving a good account of themselves in their Division with two decisive wins and an exciting draw against Kent. The second half of the season's programme gives meetings with Suffolk, Essex and Staines, and the Middlesex youngsters have their sights set on the top target.

Middlesex players continue to do well individually, and particularly Alan Rhodes and Barry Donnelly.

Alan has won the singles in the South of England, Central and Harga tournaments, while Barry has already won two junior titles and continues to improve at every appearance.

The Inter League Championships are well under way, North Acton having caused surprises in the Premier Division by beating both Acton and Staines, and later causing a surprise reversing in their recent defeat at the hands of Wembley.

In the Second and Third Divisions Barnet and South Western respectively lead the way, while in the Junior Division Willesden "A" already look to be good winners to retain the Junior Championship title.

The Middlesex Closed Tournament takes place on 2nd and 3rd February at the Ultra Electric Canteen, Western Avenue. Entries should be sent to Geoffrey James not later than January 23rd.

The Executive have been giving much thought to the question of affiliating to the County Association and the E.T.A., the hundreds of people who are playing under the auspices of the Middlesex Council Youth Organisation. It is felt that these players should be affiliated via their clubs and leagues by means of a block fee and the National Executive will consider the matter in January.

The action will be of interest to every county since what is happening in Middlesex is happening in every other area.
WELSH CORNER

Wales is back in the anti-sponge fight once more! That is the news following a recent meeting of the National Executive when it was decided that a proposal to submit an amendment that the bat should be put before Congress at Stockholm in March.

In 1954, the Welsh Association proposed the banning of sponge at the Annual Meeting in London, but the English Association led a successful move which defeated the proposition.

Again in Utrecht, in the following year, Wales seconded a similar motion, but the banning of sponge at the semi-final stage, and Shirley Jones by straight games in the final.

Thomas and Devereux won the doubles from David House and Eddie Still, Miss Gray and Miss Jones beat Audrey Bates and Greta Holden, and Glyn Morgan and Shirley Jones beat House and Audrey Bates.

The Junior was an all-Abergavenny affair, in which David Parry beat Clive Arkwell.

At Milford Haven, on December 20th, in a friendly match hurriedly arranged by Joe Ackroyd and his colleagues, John Simonson, Alan Morris and Shirley Jones lost 9—0 to the Hungarians Sido, Foldi and Eva Koczian. Simonson took a game from Foldi and Alan and Shirley won a game in the mixed.

SCOTLAND SPEAKING

Heartening feature of the international match against England was the victory scored by Helen Elliot against Diane Rowe. Thereafter her success in the doubles with Helen Houliston made the final score smaller than it has been in past seasons.

Outstanding result in the Scottish Inter-League Championships to date was the 5-4 win over Elgin by which Aberdonians from a shock defeat. Aberdonians from a shock defeat. Aberdonians from a shock defeat. Aberdonians from a shock defeat.

The East of Scotland Open Championships were again staged in Murrayfield’s spacious but freezing precincts.

Only eight couples thought fit to enter the women’s doubles event, presumably because of a widespread fear that Misses Elliott and Houliston would be playing together. Miss Elliott, however, was an absentee and Miss Houliston in partnership with Mrs. Candlin defeated Miss Black and Miss Dunbar of Dundee in an uninspiring final.

The only unexpected entrant to the semi-final stage of the Men’s Singles was Alex Laidlaw, of Edinburgh, who did extremely well to stop Bertie Kerr in the “Quarters.” Garland and Miller were respectively too good for their opponents and we had the promise of an interesting final which regrettably did not materialise. Miller had little difficulty in taking the title.

In the Men’s Doubles Kerr and Barclay, of Edinburgh, happened to hit more drives on the table than off and so scored a narrow victory over Hamilton’s Braithwaite and Baxter.

In a closing word we ask the small favour of audibility from umpires in general and those officiating in the final stages in particular.

FINAL RESULTS


Men’s Doubles: Kerr and Barclay beat Braithwaite and Baxter 21-12, 21-12.

Women’s Singles: Miss Houliston beat Mrs. Graigen 21-13, 21-17.

Women’s Doubles: Miss Houliston and Mrs. Candlin beat Miss Black and Miss Dunbar 21-12, 21-15.


Gordon Walker

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CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Wembley wore “Umbro” Shirts

Twenty-one
FOUR COUNTIES are locked together at the top of the Premier Division table, with six points each, as a result of December's matches. Middlesex, however, have gone to the top on games average, and are well placed to recapture the championship.

In the away match against Lancashire, at Bolton, Micky Thornhill lost two singles, a very unusual occurrence. Non-playing captain Victor Barns is not unduly worried, particularly as the sparkling form shown by Alan Rhodes has added still greater strength to the side.

Gloucestershire's lead was short-lived. They crashed to Yorkshire, at Gloucester. Newcomer Maurice Simpson was the big success of the Yorks.

COUNTRY DIARY
PREMIER DIVISION
January 12 Cheshire v Surrey, Towneley St, Sunday School, Macclesfield 7.15 p.m.
Yorkshire v Essex, Y.M.C.A., Little Horton Lane, Bradford 7 p.m.
Gloucester v Middlesex, Old Boys' Club, Oldfield Road, Hertford, Bristol 7 p.m.
January 22 Middlesex v Surrey, Municipal Hall, High Road, Tottenhand 7.30 p.m.
February 2 Middlesex v Cheltenham, Otten Avenue, Park Royal, London, W.6 7 p.m.
Gloucester v Essex, Cheltenham 7 p.m.
Lancashire v Surrey, St. Luke's Parish Hall, Blackpool 7 p.m.
Yorkshire v Kent, Eiland Cricket Club Pavilion, Eiland, Wythe 7 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)
February 2 Lincolnshire v Yorkshire, The Memorial Hall, Wormgate, Boston 7.15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)
January 12 Kent v Berkshire, Townley St. Sunday School, Macclesfield 7.15 p.m.
February 2 Hampshire v Berkshire, Edwards Ltd. Canteen, Manor Royal, S. Albans 7.15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION (WEST)
January 12 Somerset v Glamorgan, St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Lower Bristol Road, Bath 7.15 p.m.
January 18 Warrington v Staffordshire, Brintons Factory Canteen, Kidderminster 7.30 p.m.
February 2 Staffordshire v Devon somerset v Dorset, Y.M.C.A., Bath 7.15 p.m.
MIDLAND DIVISION
January 12 Derbyshire v Worcestershire, Y.M.C.A., Holywell Cross, Chesterfield 7 p.m.
January 26 Warwickshire v Derbyshire 7 p.m.
February 2 Worcestershire v Warwickshire, Beergworth Club, Kvesham 7.30 p.m.
SOUTHERN DIVISION
January 12 Buckinghamshire v Wiltshire, Village Hall, Farnham Royal 7 p.m.
January 18 Norfolk v Bedfordshire, C.E.Y.M.S. Rooms, Norwich 7 p.m.
February 2 Wiltshire v Norfolk 7 p.m.
NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION
January 19 Cheshire v Lancashire, Livingstone St. Bath, Birkenhead 7.30 p.m.
February 2 Lancashire v Cheshire, Ken Stanley's T.T. Academy, Burnley 7 p.m.
SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION
January 12 Hertfordshire v Essex, E.A.C. Canteen, New Barnes Avenue, St. Albans 7 p.m.
January 19 Kent v Sussex, Martin's Kro, Leyton, E.10 7 p.m.
January 26 Essex v Middlesex, Cleveland Road School, Hendon 6 p.m.
February 2 Surrey v Kent, Putney T.T.C., Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15 3 p.m.
Sussex v Middlesex, Lads Club, Inswich 7 p.m.

Twenty-two
just got home against Kent's Ray Syndercombe and Dennis Whittaker. He was also on the winning side in the men's doubles.

Kent, as expected won all the women's events. Although Mrs.

DIVISIONAL TABLES
(at 31.12.56)
F. W. L. D. F. A. P.
PREMIER DIVISION
Keswick 3 0 0 27 13 6
Gloscestershire 4 3 1 0 23 17 6
Yorkshire 3 3 0 1 25 16 6
Leics 4 1 3 0 14 16 2
Kent 3 3 1 2 8 22 2
Suffolk 2 0 3 0 3 26 0

DIV. II (NORTH)
Yorkshire 2 2 1 0 16 4 4
Lincolnshire 2 1 0 1 10 5 5
Warwicks 3 2 1 0 18 12 4
Northumberland 3 1 2 0 16 14 2
Durham 4 0 4 0 5 5 0

DIV. II (SOUTH)
Suffolk 2 0 0 2 20 10 4
Kent 3 1 2 0 8 22 2
NorthUMB 2 2 0 0 16 4 4
Norfolk 3 0 0 0 11 11 2
Sussex 2 1 0 1 9 11 2

SOUTHERN DIVISION
Gloucestershire 3 1 0 2 18 12 4
Witshire 2 1 0 1 12 8 3
Bedfordshire 2 1 0 1 11 9 3
Norfolk 2 0 0 2 10 9 2
Hertfordshire 2 0 1 0 11 11 2

NEWMUND DIVISION
Warwicks 2 2 0 0 16 4 4
Staffs 3 2 1 0 19 11 6
Derbyshire 2 1 0 1 11 9 2
Leics 3 0 0 0 8 8 0
Norfolk 3 0 0 0 3 3 0

SOMERSET DIVISION
Keswick 1 1 0 0 27 13 6
Devon 3 2 1 0 20 10 4
Staffordshire 1 1 0 0 7 3 0
Northumberland 2 0 0 2 5 5 0

SUFFOLK DIVISION
Keswick 1 1 0 0 27 13 6
Warwicks 2 2 1 0 16 4 4
Staffs 3 2 1 0 19 11 6

JUNIOR SOUTH
Northants 3 0 0 0 26 0 0
Hampshire 3 0 0 0 11 9 2
Kent 2 2 0 0 16 4 4

ACTUALLY, Kent's position here flatters them as they have played extra matches. Sussex and Hertfordshire should make a strong challenge, while Berkshire are playing better this season than in the past.

There have been no matches in the Midland Division, but in the Southern Division the issue becomes more complicated with every match that is played.

Yet another draw, this time between Bucks and Norfolk, means that four out of seven matches in this division have been drawn.

INTERESTING POSITION
The Northants and Staffs match will have decided the Midland Junior division by the time these notes appear, but in the Junior North only one match has been played so far.

The Junior South division presents a very interesting situation, and at the risk of being accused of partiality, I think that leaders Middlesex have most to fear from Kent, now joint fourth. These two sides drew early on, and their all-round strength should see them triumph over Suffolk and Essex, despite the individual brilliance of Peter Cole and Shellei Hession respectively.

To show their strength, Middlesex have so far been unable to find a place for Chris Gosling, while Kent rank new Middlesex Open boys' champion Douglas Bloy at No. 4.

DetaileD RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION
Gloucestershire 7, Yorkshire 3

Simpson and Simons beat Hinchliff and Simpson 14, 14.
Miss B. Davis lost Miss C. K. Best -17, -18, -20.
Miss J. Coller and Mrs. E. Spokes lost Miss B. and Miss F. Wright -9, -13, -15.
R. Morley and Mrs. Spokes lost Kennedy and Miss West -15, -16, -10.

Cheshire 3, Kent 7
R. Johnson lost D. Whitaker -14, -12, lost R. Etheridge -19, -20, A. Shepherd lost Etheridge 21, -22 (T), 10, -11 (T), lost R. Syndercombe -14, -18, D. Schofield beat Syndercombe 18, -12, -17, beat Whitaker -17, -19, Johnson and Schofield beat Etheridge and Whitaker -15, -14, -19.
Mrs. J. Hown lost Miss J. Fielder -11, -11, -11, Miss E. Grimstone and Mrs. M. Young lost Miss Fielder and Miss L. Selway -17, -20, A. Shepherd and Miss Hown lost Syndercombe and Miss Selway -14, -15, -13, -18.

Essex 6, Surrey 4
R. Stevens lost K. Craige -18, -16, lost J. Head 16, 16, J. Leach lost Head -14, -16, beat A. Miller 19, 12, B. Kerrwood lost Miller 18, -19, 17, lost Craige -14, -22, -27.

HARRY VENNER

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...And Now For Stockholm

by CHARLES E. DAVIES

With the World Table Tennis Championships not too far away table tennis enthusiasts are perhaps toying with the idea of making the trip to Stockholm.

To many the thought of actually playing in the world tournament is but a blissful pipe-dream. I made my dream come true in 1955 when the championships were held in Utrecht, Holland. My experiences may prove helpful to those who have decided to go to Stockholm and perhaps stimulating to those as yet undecided.

A friend and I completed the entrance formalities with the assistance of the E.T.T.A. and their able administrative secretary Mrs. Kathleen Pegg. We qualified for entry by possessing the necessary 10/- entrance fee, and limitless cheek. We required also of course funds necessary to get to Utrecht and subsist there for ten days.

The total cost of our trip was approximately £35 each. This covered the luxury of a return air trip and the comparative frugality of ten days at a Youth Hostel.

Two friends accompanied us in a non-playing capacity. Non-playing because originally they thought we had little chance of having our entries accepted.

We as players enjoyed many privileges. These included free bus rides to the playing arena, free entry for the duration of the championships and a free daily supply of chewing gum.

Our less forceful friends were somewhat peeved at all this and were truly annoyed when we introduced them to our Dutch friends as our manager and trainer. Much to their chagrin also we were besieged by boy and girl autograph hunters, who not knowing one player from the next were highly delighted with their captures. And after all were not our names in the official programme listed under the grand but misleading heading “Competing Countries and Their Players.” Thus the list read—England—Bergmann, Kennedy, Leach etc., Davies, Dolan etc., etc.

As players we mingled freely with the stars, and even on occasion practised with them—that is if you class the Danish Coronillon Cup Girls as stars!

We had occasion to visit a Kapper—Dutch for barber. His English was unusually limited, but he knew all the top names of the English sporting world—Billy Wright, Denis Compton, etc. When we explained why we were in Utrecht he asked us for our autographs and took careful note of our names. No doubt further English visitors to his establishment are somewhat mystified to hear the names of Davies and Dolan bracketed with Wright, Compton and Co.

The championship results are now history and of little news value, but for the record here are details of my performance. In the qualifying rounds I had a first round victory, a second round walk-over and a third round defeat. In the consolation singles I also reached the third round with a first round bye, a second round bye and a third round good-bye.

But results apart, the thrill of rubbing shoulders with the table-tennis greats, the glamour of the big sporting occasion and the wonderful hospitality of the Dutch people added up to an unforgettable experience, the memory of which prompts my title... And Now for Stockholm?

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Twenty-four
## FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details and Venue</th>
<th>Extra Events</th>
<th>Organising Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>WALES v. ENGLAND (Mixed Seniors)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Gleadless, Sheffield, 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>South Yorkshire Open (Jan. 11) Somme Barracks, Glossop Road, Sheffield 10.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. D. Sheppard, 721, Portswood Road, Portsmouth, Southhampton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Southampton Open (Jan. 6) Royal Pier Pavilion, Southampton.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>Irish Open Belfast.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lancashire Open De Havilland Works Canteen, Lostock, Bolton.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>G.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Midland Open Friends' Institute 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>South London Open (Jan. 19) Grange Road Baths, Grange Road, Bermondsey, S.E.1.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pontefract Open (Jan. 28) Town Hall Pontefract.</td>
<td>Y.X.S.</td>
<td>Mr. E. B. Crofts, 2, Ashwood Villas, Banks Avenue, Pontefract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Belgium Open</td>
<td>V.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-16</td>
<td>Surrey Open (Jan. 26) Public Baths, London Road, Mitcham.</td>
<td>J.S.B.</td>
<td>Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>French Open Rouen.</td>
<td>J.S.G.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sussex “Closed,” Corn Exchange, Brighton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24</td>
<td>Swiss Open</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 23-</td>
<td>West Middlessex Open (Feb. 9) West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, Ealing, W.13.</td>
<td>J.S.B.</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Riddick, 29, Thorney Hedge Road, Chiswick, W.4.</td>
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<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>German Open</td>
<td>J.S.G.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>West Middlessex Open (Feb. 9) West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, Ealing, W.13.</td>
<td>Y.S.(B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>Grimsby Open Pier Pavilion and Town Hall, Cleethorpes.</td>
<td>Y.S.(G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-15</td>
<td>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Stockholm.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. J. Browne, 245, Yarborough Road, Grimsby.</td>
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Twenty-five
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Twenty-six
CENTRAL LONDON

“OPEN”

TOP ranking players were toppled from their pedestals in the Central London Open, revived after a ten year break at Manor Place Baths on December 1. All titles changed hands, with Alan Rhodes and Diane Rowe carrying off the singles crowns.

The first big shock was provided in the men’s singles where Johnny Leach, making his first tournament appearance of the season, crashed to Alan Rhodes. Leach, using his new “sandwich bat” took the first game and from that point was completely overwhelmed, Rhodes running out the winner by 16–21, 21–9, 21–12.

Rhodes went on to beat L. Wise 13 and 14, then Tony Cornell 16 and 14 in the semi-final, and Ivor Jones at 13 and 12 in the final.

Rhodes, who was seen experimenting with his grip, showed a welcome return to form and if he can keep up this, will once again be knocking at the door for international honours.

Meanwhile Jones reached the final with wins over Harry Venner, Jackie Head and Ken Craigie. Craigie had earlier eliminated Len Adams.

Cornell, former junior international, reached the semi-final, via Bobbie Stevens, who in turn had accounted for Derek Burridge. First round shock was the defeat of Surrey’s Tony Miller by Fred Kershaw.

The main upset of the women’s singles was reserved for the final where Ann Haydon lost her title to Diane Rowe. This was the highlight of the finals evening with Miss Rowe showing scintillating form to win in straight games 21–14, 21–15.

In the semi-final Miss Rowe had beaten the Scottish champ Helen Elliot 21–23, 21–16, 21–19. Miss Haydon’s semi-final victim was Joyce Fielder, who could only offer token resistance after earlier having beaten Jean Head.

Unbeaten Run Ends

Yet another upset came in the girls’ final where Jean Harrower, with her hand heavily bandaged following a finger sprain, suffered her first defeat by a home player for a year. She went down to Shelagh Hession, who won 10–21, 22–20, 25–23. Miss Harrower contributed to her own defeat with overdriving errors when twice holding match point. She appeared too anxious to try and force the issue.

Leach and Venner made a surprisingly early exit in the doubles to Craigie and Rhodes who won in turn narrowly lost to Brian Bruinell and Ray Dorking. The title eventually went to Len Adams and Derek Burridge. Leach, however, did not go away empty handed. He partnered Diane Rowe to beat Venner and Miss Elliot 21–13, 19–21; 21–14 in the mixed doubles final.

Miss Rowe landed the treble by also winning the women’s doubles with Miss Haydon. They beat Miss Elliot and Margaret Fry in a keenly contested final by 17–21, 25–23, 21–19.

RESULTS


Final: RHODES bt Jones 21–13, 21–12.

Women’s Singles: Semi-finals: Miss A. HAYDON (Warwickshire) bt Miss J. Fielder (Kent) 21–9, 21–5; Miss D. ROWE (Middlesex) bt Miss H. Elliot (Scotland) 21–23, 21–16, 21–19.

Final: Miss ROWE bt Miss Haydon 21–14, 21–15.


Women’s Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss HAYDON and Miss ROWE bt Miss J. Head and Miss M. Papper 21–19, 21–10; Miss ELLIOT and Miss M. FRY bt Miss Y. Baker and Miss B. Isaac 15–21, 21–13, 21–19.

Final: Miss HAYDON and Miss ROWE bt Miss Elliot and Miss Fry 17–21, 25–23, 21–19.


Final: LEACH and Miss ROWE bt Venner and Miss Elliot 21–13, 19–21, 21–14.


MIDDLESEX (HERGA)

“OPEN”

By LEN ADAMS

BARNA tables and a ten per cent. increased entry were the main features of this season’s Middlesex (Herga) “Open.” Peter France, ably assisted by willing helpers, stood the strain of a fortnight’s organising very well and had the satisfaction of seeing two local league players contest the men’s singles final.

Alan Rhodes playing superbly when necessary, swept all before him to win his third open singles title in succession and incidentally won the Herga for the third time.

A subdued Michael Thornhill lost his chance of a hat-trick of singles wins when after beating Ken Craigie he succumbed to the improving Laurie Landry who was, however, no match for Rhodes. Other victims falling to Rhodes included Len Adams (21–10, 21–11) and Tony Miller (21–9, 12–21, 21–6).

On the last month’s play Rhodes is now undoubtedly the best player in the country. Selectors please note it.

Ray Dorking shone as a doubles player and was a somewhat unexpected winner in both finals. A further surprise came in the boys’ singles final when after a tough fight B. Donnelly was beaten 19–21, 21–15, 16–21 by D. Bloy.

RESULTS


Final: Miss ROWE bt Miss Rook 21–18, 21–16.


Final: STEVENS and DORKING bt Craigie and Rhodes 18–21, 21–17, 23–21.

Women’s Doubles: Final: Miss ROWE and Miss ROOK bt Miss Fry and Miss Fielder 21–17, 22–20.


Final: DORKING and Miss ROWE bt Thornhill and Miss Rook 21–16, 19–21, 21–16.


Twenty-seven
N.W. Kent “Open”  
By CONRAD JASCHKE

THE last minute entry of the touring Hungarian players added further colour to an already strong entry in the North West Kent Open Championships at Barnehurst Residents’ Club. What a pity that, for once, the finals gate flopped, and the world class table tennis served up was watched by around 100 paying spectators, as compared with the 500 capacity gate achieved in each of the previous 3 years!

In the men’s singles, Ferenc Sido stood head and shoulders above his opponents, and at no time was he troubled. Both Tony Miller (Surrey) and Derek Burridge (Middlesex) played well against him, but he got home comfortably by 21—17, 21—12, 21—16 respectively. In the quarter-final Sido defeated John Hunt (Kent) 17—21, 21—10, 21—18, 21—16, but went down to the Hungarian 8—21, 14—21, 21—15. Laszlo Foldi, the other Hungarian player, had a much more eventful passage to the semi-final. He did not have things all his own way against up-and-coming Henry Burridge (Kent), whom he beat 21—17, 21—18, and against Ray Dorking (Essex) he dropped a game, but pulled through 22—24, 21—19, 21—15. In the quarter-final, Alan Rhodes (Middlesex) played a storming game against the Hungarian, whose strong defence at one time looked like withering in the face of the young Middlesex left-hander’s accurate hitting. However, Foldi recovered, and after a lucky break at 21—22 down in the third — when Rhodes must have lost his concentration to play the worst shot I have seen from him this season — the Hungarian just made it 10—21, 21—16, 24—22. Harry Venner (Surrey) had an easy quarter, reaching the semi-final via John Dawson (Kent) and Tony Piddock (Kent), the Kent junior No. 1 doing well to reach the quarter-final after defeating Jack Carrington (Essex).

Bobby Stevens (Essex) became the fourth semi-finalist, beating Ken Beamish (Essex), Ian Redfearn (Middlesex), H. E. B. Maclean (Surrey) and Eddie Hodson (Middlesex). In the semi-finals, Foldi beat Venner and Sido defeated Stevens, and in this game the former world champion treated us repeatedly to the most delicate of drop-shots which even the quick-footed young Essex player could not often get back. The final was not very dramatic, as it was always obvious that Foldi stood no chance against his opponent, but Sido’s skill, and devastating hitting on both wings, were well worth seeing.

Home Success

In the women’s singles, Miss Haydon (Warwicks) struck a blow for England with a clear cut semi-final win over Eva Koczian (Hungary), who was never in it once Ann got into her stride. Previously Miss Koczian had defeated Shirley Jones (Wales) 21—14, 21—10, and beaten Joyce Fielder (Kent) — whom she had disposed of Barbara Milbank (Essex) 21—15, 21—19 by 21—11, 21—14. Joyce Fielder (Essex) received an easy passage into the semi-finals when Jean Head scratched, but Yvonne Baker (Essex) surpassed herself by beating Diane Rowe (Middlesex). Earlier Elsie Carrington (Essex) produced another sterling performance — the kind that has earned her no. 1 Essex ranking for the first time ever — in beating Betty Isaacs (Surrey) 21—15, 21—12, but she went down to Miss Baker 15—21, 10—21.

Hungarians Beaten

Honours in the men’s doubles belonged to the Middlesex pair Adams/Burridge long before the final . . . when they knocked out the Hungarian pair Sido/Foldi 16—21, 21—15, 21—15! Thereafter they never considered any idea of defeat, and romped home against E. Hodo/ L. Landry (Middlesex) and A. Miller/H. Venner (Surrey), who had defeated Ken Craigie (Surrey)/A. Rhodes.

In the women’s doubles, Ann Haydon/D. Rowe had a shock in the first round, where they met Eva Koczian who had been paired with England and Kent junior Ann Jacobs. The scratch combination caused many a flutter before the English No. 1 pair scraped through 10—21, 21—19, 26—24! In the other half, Joyce Fielder/Shirley Jones had a good win over Yvonne Baker/Betty Isaacs 21—15, 21—17, but were no match for the England pair in the final.

Shirley Jones was again on the losing side in the mixed doubles, partnered by Ivor Jones (Essex). They were no match for Sido/Miss Koczian, who had scraped through 21—19, 20—22, 23—21 against Burridge/Miss Haydon. Despite losing, though, the Jones/Jones pair were good value for entertainment, as they invariably are.

Tony Piddock took the boys’ singles without loss of a game, while Shelagh Hessian carried off the girls’ title.

RESULTS


Women’s Singles: Semi-finals: Miss A. Haydon (Warwicks.) bt Miss E. Koczian (Hungary) 21—13, 21—15; Miss V. Baker (Essex) bt Miss J. Page (Essex) 21—18, 14—21, 21—10.

Final: Miss J. Page (Essex) bt Miss A. Haydon 21—8, 21—12.


Women’s Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss J. Fielder (Kent) and Miss S. Jones (Wales) bt Miss C. Freville (France) and Miss L. Whitlam (Surrey) 21—8, 21—15; Miss Hunt (Warwicks) and Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex) bt Mrs. S. Beamish and Miss J. Page (Essex) 21—13, 21—15.

Final: Miss Haydon and Miss Rowe 21—12.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: Sido and Miss Koczian bt Burridge and Miss Haydon 21—19, 20—22, 23—21; I. W. Jones (Essex) and Miss S. Jones (Essex) 21—13.

BATH “OPEN” RESULTS


Women’s Singles: Final: Miss A. Bates bt Miss S. Jones 21—12, 21—14.


Women’s Doubles: Final: Miss Jones and Miss B. Gray 21—8, 21—17.