JILL ROOK

JOYCE FIELDER

IAN HARRISON

England's trio of newcomers for the World Championships

VICTOR BARNA on the County Championships

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
ICHIRO OGIMURA, the 24-year-old sponge-playing world table tennis champion, will be a marked man when he defends his title in Stockholm next month.

At least half of Europe’s top stars will be out to make him eat his words, for he is reported as saying, “Table tennis is a sport for youngsters and not 30-year-old and 40-year-old men.”

Ogimura, usually so polite, has apparently “blown his top” at the E.T.T.A.’s proposal for a standardised racket as a means to ban sponge. He makes a slashing attack on England’s two leading players, Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach, and Sam Leitch, writing in the Daily Herald reports the champion as saying, “The move in Europe to outlaw sponge bats is led by people who want to slow down the game and by professionals who sell THEIR PERSONALLY ENDORSED BATS...”

“I hope to stay champion but I know I cannot. If I am still champion when I am 30 it means something is wrong with the youngsters...”

“Such stars as Bergmann and Leach are TOO old...”

“I have not lost to Bergmann or Leach since last year...”

Leach laughed when I asked him how he felt about this attack, then said, “I am surprised Ogimura should make such a ridiculous statement for I forecast that if he doesn’t successfully defend his title he will go out to what he calls an old man.”

“It sounds as though he is frightened that if sponge is banned he will be finished as a player.”

IN JAPAN MAYBE

“Over 30’s in Japan may be finished because of their style of game (penholder) requires abnormal fitness,” continued Leach, “but it is not too old in Europe.”

Examine the Ogimura statements closely and he would appear to be right off the beam.

If 30 is too old, then the new world seeding/ ranking list is ridiculous. Five of the first nine are 30 or over.

He talks of professionals. They do not exist in table tennis. All are players. And as for their selling of their bats, he apparently does not realise that they also have personally endorsed sponge and sandwich bats.

Why suggest that Leach and Bergmann are behind the proposed sponge ban. It’s main supporters are officials and spectators who feel that sponge is ruining the spectacle. And it is not because it gives the youngsters superior speed, but rather that it gives so-called old men a new lease of life. Take Sweden’s Tage Flisberg, for example. Some considered he was as good as finished until he took to sponge. Now he could upset anyone in the world.

And as for saying he has not lost to Leach and Bergmann in the past year, the answer to that one is easy. He hasn’t played them. But I wonder if he cares to remember last time he was world champion and what happened when he toured Europe and failed to win a tournament. Or when Leach and Bergmann visited Japan?

ASIAN BLOCK

Meanwhile, the E.T.T.A. are not going to find it easy to steer their proposal through the world congress. Opposition is mounting. Sweden are not in favour—they feel that sponge has improved the game. But the biggest obstacle is likely to come from the East. T. D. Ranga Ramanjan, Secretary of the Asian Federation, has advised all their affiliated countries to protest strongly.

An Asian block will go a long way towards preventing the proposal getting the necessary 75 per cent. majority vote to win the day.

Passing shot. Ogimura and Tomi Okawa, the reigning champions, are No. 1 seeds for the world championships, but they have slipped down the scale in Japanese ranking. Ogimura to No. 3 and Okawa to No. 4.
Official Notes

The National Committee held two meetings in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society, London, on Saturday and Sunday the 5th and 6th January, 1957, the first meeting lasting for just over six hours and the second three and a quarter hours. There was a full Agenda for discussion, certain items of which were necessarily postponed until the next meeting, and some of the matters discussed were:

Standardisation of the Racket

Arising from the resolution submitted to the National Executive Committee by the Gloucestershire Association for discussion, the following recommendation was agreed to be put before the Annual General Meeting of the Association which will be held in London on the 27th April, 1957:

"The National Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association has unanimously decided to propose to the International Table Tennis Federation a standardisation of the racket calculated to eliminate sponge and other 'freak' materials, and to recommend to the Annual General Meeting of the English Table Tennis Association measures to effect the result so far as this country next season is concerned irrespective of the decision of the International Table Tennis Federation."

It was further agreed that a Sub-Committee be appointed to prepare instructions on this subject for our delegates at the forthcoming International Table Tennis Federation Congress. This Sub-Committee to consist of G. V. Barna, J. Carrington, I. C. Eyles, G. James and I. Montagu with the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary ex-officio.

European Championships

A meeting to discuss these Championships has been arranged to take place during the French Open Championships which are to be held on the 16th to 19th February, 1957. It was agreed that the Association be represented and that I. Montagu be the Association's representative. Should the Chairman be unable to attend, Mr. G. James to attend in his stead.

Hungarian Immigrants

It was agreed that members know of any Hungarian immigrants in this country wishing to join affiliated Clubs, they should instruct them to write to the Hon. Secretary of the Association explaining their position as to whether they now intended to reside in this country.

International Table Tennis Federation Congress

It was agreed that the Association's delegates to the International Table Tennis Federation's Congress to be held in Stockholm in March, 1957 should be I. Montagu and A. K. Vint. It was further agreed that if any other member of the Association be present at the time of the Congress the request will be made to the Congress to admit them as observers.

Welsh Open Championships 1956-57

It was reported that this Open Tournament had been cancelled and that it would be organised later in the season. It was agreed that a block of admission tickets be given to all members of the Association who wished to take part in this event who were not receiving expenses from the Organisers. For those members receiving expenses permission must be obtained from the Association in the usual manner.

Development Committee

The findings of this sub-committee were discussed at length and it was agreed that (a) the matter of making matches attractive, proposed tours, match presentation, etc., be referred to the Open Tournaments Committee and (b) the improvement of top-class play to the Selection Committee.

The question of improving the machinery of the National Body and its liaison with the members was referred to the next meeting of the National Executive Committee as time did not permit full discussion.

Election of Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee 1957-58

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was fixed for Saturday, 27th April, 1957 and it was agreed that the dates for the National Executive Committee should be as follows:

Nomination Papers to be dispatched on or before 15th February, 1957.
Nomination Papers to be returned on or before 31st March, 1957.

Voting papers to be dispatched on or before 15th March, 1957.
Nomination papers to be returned on or before 29th March, 1957.

Note: Only those Leagues whose Affiliation Fees are fully paid are entitled to nominess and vott.

The Proportional Representation Society will conduct the Elections and Messrs. G. W. Decker and D. Pougard have kindly agreed to act as Scrutineers. Nomination papers and ballot papers will be sent to the appointed County and League E.T.T.A. Representatives or any Representative does not receive his papers by the dates in question he should notify the Administrative Secretary of the Association immediately.

Wilmot Cup Competition

The South London Table Tennis League have agreed to stage the semi-finals and Final of the Wilmot Cup on Saturday the 23rd February, 1957.

J. M. Rose Bowl Competition

The Acton and District Table Tennis League undertook to organise the Semi-finals and Final of the J. M. Rose Bowl Competition on Saturday the 23rd February, 1957 at Sperry's Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex. Applications for tickets should be made to Mr. R. W. Boorer at 50, Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, W. 7. Price of tickets 1s. (afternoon session), 2s. 6d. ALL ONE PRICE (evening).

"Eagle"-"Girl" Clubs Tournaments

The Finals of the "Eagle" Club Tournaments and "Girl" Club Tournaments for under 15's and under 13's will take place on Saturday the 23rd February, 1957 at the Friends House Hall, Euston, N.W. 1. The members of the club and their parents are being invited to apply for admission tickets to the Finals.

Club Competitions

The total number of Competitions now arranged to be run and duly permitted is 97. We are most gratified by this response from our members.

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

Team Selections

Team selections and nominations have been made as follows:

World Championships, Stockholm, Sweden, 7th to 15th March, 1957.

Swaythling Cup: R. Bergmann (Middlesex), J. Harrison (G.'s), B. Kennedy (York's). J. A. Leach (Essex), A. Rhodes (Middlesex). Non-playing Captain: G. V. Barna (Middlesex).
Corbillon Cup: Miss J. Fielder (Kent), Miss A. S. Haydon (Warwickshire), Miss J. Rook (Surrey), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex), Non-playing Captain: T. E. Sears (Middlesex).


Belgium Open Championships, 2nd and 3rd February, 1957, at Brussels: J. A. Leach (Essex), A. Rhodes (Middlesex), Miss J. Fielder (Kent), Miss A. S. Haydon (Warwicks), Miss J. Rook (Surrey), Non-playing Captain: G. V. Barna (Middlesex).

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Victor Barna proposes

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP CUT

The Editor recently drew attention to the growing threat to the County Championships and reviewed some of the problems. He dealt mainly with the length of the matches and suggested that ten ties are probably too many.

I'd go further and say that late finishes are only a minor worry. I use the word "minor" because, as it seems to me, the remedy is comparatively simple. I'll come back to it presently.

I am persuaded that the County Championship problem—on which threatens the whole structure and very existence of the Championships—is caused by the combination of dwindling attendances and consequent financial strain on most of the County Associations.

Middlesex May Withdraw

It is widely known, I think, that my own county, Middlesex, is seriously considering the idea of leaving the Championship altogether; and who could blame us?

In spite of being champion County eight times out of a possible nine, we cannot make a profit from our home matches. More often than not, the hiring of halls and other costs exceed the gate-money. And as for away matches, there's no escape from heavy travelling expenses.

Everybody is up against this problem. What are we all to do? How can we possibly carry on like this?

Don't run away with the idea that I am opposed to Table Tennis. On the contrary, I strongly believe that it would do much good for the game; and it certainly did. The game was taken far into the country; the public and the press, both national and provincial, became deeply interested, and hundreds of players, senior and junior alike, were suddenly presented with a brand-new ambition—to earn a County badge!

Without doubt, all this did table tennis a power of good.

However, circumstances have changed. Who would have thought, even a few short years ago, that, whatever the reason—televising, sponsorship, lack of personalities—County matches and Open tournaments would take place before rows of empty seats?

Somewhere has got to be made and I am sure that neither the E.T.T.A. nor the County bodies will shirk their responsibilities.

I am proud to belong to the Association which was the first to tackle the amateur/professional question courageously and practically (so setting an example to other sports organisations); which introduced the Law against finger-spin in service, and which had the pluck first to allow sponge to be used, and then—even more pluckily—set about banning it.

Before going any further, let me make it quite plain that in spite of present difficulties, I believe as firmly as ever I did in the future of table tennis. One of the main reasons for my confidence is that, even today, when the number of spectators is diminishing, there are more players than ever before.

This is the healthiest of signs: and if we work now, as pioneering officials worked 25 years ago, I am positive that the big audiences will slowly but surely return.

Well what is to be done to solve the County Championship problem? The general complaint is that matches finish far too late and that spectators have to leave long before the end if they want to catch their last buses and trains.

Cut Time Waste

The Middlesex answer to this is: to begin the proceedings on time, to cut down the interval to the absolute minimum, and to instruct the umpires to allow only a brief knock-up.

Why a man who has already played one or more matches, strenuous ones maybe, wants still more practice, is something I just don't understand—and never will.

Another thing: there is often far too much time wasted between matches. It is a bad habit, which affects tournaments as well.

Those are ways in which time can be saved during a match.

However, in the prevailing circumstances, it is no longer a matter of staging County matches in small places, in order to create local interest and to stimulate the Press, for even the big towns produce flop after flop. It goes much deeper.

The main objective today is to make these matches, and the game itself, more attractive to the public—to make people want to go and see table tennis, knowing they'll spend an enjoyable evening watching keenly competitive play of the top class—and get home and to bed at a reasonable hour.

I therefore propose that instead of three men and two women, teams consist of two men and one woman only. Instead of 10 matches, there would be seven—for men's singles, one women's singles, one men's doubles, and one mixed doubles.

This plan would show three great advantages:

(a) Quality before quantity, as only the very best County players would be on view.
(b) With the weaker players eliminated, contests would be likely to become tougher and more spectacular.
(c) There would be substantial saving in expenses, for both teams.

A number of high-ranking players would doubtless be disappointed at being unable to make their County side. On the other hand, the right types would regard it as an extra incentive to improve just that little bit more.

In any case, if audiences start rolling up once again, expenses will be less important, and teams could then be expanded. Then once more we could revert to our present system, and present the public more variety of players.

Five
IT seems that Umpires have joined in the war on the slovenly dress problem. I hear that some of the Essex Umpires are contemplating refusing to start the game until the players have taken off at least the bottom half of their track-suits.

This reaction came after a wearing day at the Essex Junior Closed Championships, where the boys knocked up and played in a variety of bedraggled track suits, not to mention the towel tied like a muffler in the neck.

Track suits are for wearing between matches to keep the muscles warm and to prevent the wearer from catching cold. They are not the correct dress for our sport—nor indeed for any sport. They are only a cover-up.

IN TRACK SUIT

Hard upon the heels of this Junior Closed, came a Premier Division County match, during which one international player played in her track suit the whole time, although the hall was exceptionally warm. The match itself was very well presented and attended by the Lord Mayor. What a pity to spoil the occasion by such a careless attitude to the game.

Players should be proud to wear their county colours and should be impeccably dressed on the table at all times, and most certainly when playing in a County match.

Girls, if you wear a little trilly skirt for table tennis, do see that the panties underneath match. I saw a most horrible sight recently, of a girl wearing a royal blue pleated skirt, with pale green silk panties underneath. You can get the undergarments to match you know—or failing that, you can make a perfectly good pair out of an old T.T. shirt.

NEAT OUTFIT

Lorna Bown had rather a nice outfit for the Kent Junior Open. She wore a grey circular skirt, edged and lined with red satin. I noticed Joy Fielder wore a similar type of outfit at Barnehurst. He’s was a short dress, navy blue, the skirt being lined with pale blue.

Incidentally, I hear that Rosalind Cornett is coming back into the game and is playing doubles with Diane in the English Open. Nice to see the twins together again.

Another table tennis mother to start playing again is Pam Mortimer. She has been practising hard and plans to make the Midland Open her first tournament.

Congratulations to Jill Rook and Joy Fielder on their first selection for the Corbillon Cup. Good luck in Sweden girls!

Congratulations too to Betty Isaacs on her recent engagement to Mr. Ronald Bird of South London. The wedding will take place on March 30.

Did anybody pick up the wrong royal blue shirt by mistake at the N.W. Kent Open at Barnehurst? Shelagh Hession lost her royal blue shirt with its Junior International badge, there. If anybody did find it, Shelagh’s address is: 71, Elmhurst Drive, Hornchurch, Essex.

Latest casualty in table tennis is Jean Page, the Essex No. 3, with a dislocated thumb. And how did she do this? Fishing!

No Leg Pull

Joan Walker tells me that when petrol rationing prevented Derbyshire travelling by car for their away match with Warwickshire their captain wrote asking if the venue could be changed to “ somewhere near a station.”

No wonder Derby thought their legs were being pulled when they received their match directions reading: “Match will be played at No. 1 Platform, New Street Station!”

But it was no leg-pull; full marks to Warwickshire for being so “accommodating.”
EMPHASIS ON FITNESS

by JOHNNY LEACH

TO many English players training for table tennis goes no further than the table. They just play, play and play with little thought given to the physical fitness side.

Yet a long succession of matches such as successful players have to face in the world championships calls for supreme fitness.

An occasional run is not good enough. You have to prepare like an Olympic athlete.

The Hungarians have realised this and so have the Swedes, while anyone who was at Tokyo last year could not help but be impressed by the superb fitness of the Japanese. And this undoubtedly went a long way towards helping their preparation, having spent two weeks at Linkoping, coaching their world championships team.

Training Camp

Hungary's top ten men started training at the beginning of August, when they spent four weeks in a training camp. Their programme consisted of gymnastics, running and football.

"We never went near a table in the whole of that period," said Sido, "and when we did get down to practice, the emphasis was on strokes and not points gathering.

"It was not until October that we started match play, and although our team has been split up in different parts of Europe, we are all keeping to our practice routine.

Hungary of course missed the last world meeting, so they will be more than ever determined to bring back some of those titles to Europe. Their key-man, however, is still to our practice routine.

The Swedes are so fit and playing so well that they may well spring a few surprises at Stockholm. They could easily be among the top challengers for the Swedish Open, Bing Boselberg, Björn Bolström, 21, their present champion, who has remained faithful to the rubber bat, is improving all the time, while teenager Tony Borg, a great stylist with sponge, revealed some of his potentialities when he defeated Harangozo in the recent Yugoslav "Open."

Their key-man, however, is still the veteran Tage Flisberg, who is playing just as well as when he was runner-up for the singles at Wembley in 1954.

ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(April 2nd to 6th, 1957)

The entry form for the English Open Championships is now available to players wishing to obtain a copy may do so by writing to the Administrative Secretary of the Association at 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

The opening rounds will be played at Manor Place Baths, Walworth, S.E.17, on the 2nd and 4th April, 1957, with the concluding rounds and finals of all events at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, Middlesex on the 5th and 6th April, 1957.

JAP'S CHALLENGE

The best news we have had this month is the decision of the Japanese Table Tennis Association to send their Men's and Women's Teams to the Championships.

Hungary, Czechoslovakia, France, Scotland and Wales are sending players also, and it is expected to be trainer-manager of their team.

For 90 minutes he put us through exercises that were suitable only for the very fit.

We then turned to the tables to loosen up with four players playing with two balls on each table, before devoting the rest of the morning to stroke practice according to individual needs.

After a shower, change of clothes, lunch and a short rest, we were ready for serious match-play and every afternoon held an all-play-all tournament.

By the time it was over it was a relief to spend thirty minutes in a steam bath, followed by a cold shower.

Then came dinner, a brief game of cards and so to bed.

The best news we have had this month is the decision of the Japanese Table Tennis Association to send their Men's and Women's Teams to the Championships.
ENGLAND AGAIN TOO STRONG
by H. ROY EVANS

The twenty-ninth annual clash between Wales and England ended the same as have so many others — with a resounding 9-1 victory for the latter, and the three isolated wins which stand to Welsh credit fade further into history. Yet, game for game, this was no walk over, and the fact that an encouragingly large crowd stayed at least until half way through the last game was sufficient indication of sustained interest.

No-one could blame them for going out during the dreadful anti-climax of Merrett’s last match against John Simonson. The Gloucester lad must surely be the arch “pusher” in English table tennis now, a real ally to those who say that sponge eliminates much to expect Bryan to open up struggle hard enough to win at 20 all in the first game against fellow

sponger John Simonson, whilst he actually dropped a game to Alan Thomas, who defended extremely well against Brian and against Rhodes.

The latter scored only 5 in the first game, but then “got his head down,” and was unlucky to lose at 20 all! Shirley provided the solo Welsh success, and produced her best game for Wales in so doing. Too often in the past Shirley, fresh from tournament triumphs, has slumped badly for Wales, but this time she made no mistake. Jill Rook had a lead most of the way through the first game, but Shirley’s attack got going at the right time, and she just didn’t fail to take.

There were few long rallies in the Audrey B/bes Ann Haydon game, which was to be expected, for the Welsh girl’s game was to break up Merrett, hardly an ideal pairing, nevertheless had little real trouble with Bernard Dimascio and Stan Jones, the latter playing his first international.

Jill and Ann similarly won the women’s doubles after a scrappy game with Shirley and Betty Gray.

Detailed scores (English names first):

Kennedy bt Simonson 21-13, 21-12, bt

Thomas 20-22, 21-17, 21-12; Rhodes bt Thomas 21-15, 21-18, bt Parker

21-5, 22-20; Merrett bt Parker 18-21, 21-6, 21-9; Jill Rook lost to Shirley

Jones 20-22, 13-21; Ann Haydon bt

Andry Bates 21-16, 21-16; Rhodes/ Merrett bt Dimascio/Jones 21/17, 21/14; Haydon/Rook bt Jones/Gray 21-14, 21-16.

The Semi-finals and Finals: at the Camberwell Baths, Camberwell Green, London, S.E. 5, on February 23rd.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

ZONE FINALS RESULTS

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)
Sheffield 3, Huddersfield 5.
Burnley 3, Manchester 2.
ZONE 2 (A) and 2 (B)
Croydon v Norwich (extension).
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)
Bognor v Brighton (extension).
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)
Coventry v Norwich City, Nier. 7.
ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B)
Worthing 0, Brighton 9.
Huddersfield 5, Manchester 3.
Birmingham w. 0., Boston scr.
Ilford 1, Watford 9.
East London 2, South London 5.
North West Kent v Leatherhead (extension).
ZONE 7
Worthing 0, Brighton 9.
ZONE 8
Bristol 5, Plymouth 3.

QUARTER FINALS DRAW

Huddersfield v Manchester, Gloucester v Bognor or Brighton, Croydon or Staines v East London, Coventry or Norwich v London Civil Service.

The Semi-finals and Finals: at the Sperry’s Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford, on February 23rd.

Ken Stanley

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World Champions Slip

REIGNING World singles champions, I. Ogimura and T. Okawa, may head the globe lists by virtue of their titles, but in the Japanese rankings they take several places back. Ogimura rates nowhere better than third place, while Miss Okawa fares even worse, being fourth.

No. 1 man is T. Tanaka, 1954/55 world kingpin, while Miss Eguchi is top girl.

The listing follow the Japanese championships, which were played in Tokyo in December.

In the men's final Tanaka beat Tsunoda three straight, 19, 18, 11, having first beaten Ogimura—22, 19, 10,—16, 18 in the semis, in which round Tsunoda defeated Narita —14, 13, 19,—16, 14.

Eguchi beat Watanabe in the women's final,—14, 19, 15, 20; Semis: Watanabe beat Sidara 14, 11, 21, and Eguchi beat Namba 21, 18, 18.

Rankings are as follows: MEN—Tanaka, Tsunoda, Ogimura, Narita, Komiya, Sakai, Tsuno, Tomita, Amatake, Kawai, Kobayashi, Yamada.

WOMEN—Eguchi, Watanabe, Namba, Okawa, Tanaka, Shidara, Yamaizumi, Narae and Naka. Notice how Tomita, that little bundle of energy, has slipped to No. 8? I'm told that Tanaka, Tsunoda, Ogimura, Eguchi and Watanabe are almost certain to appear at Stockholm—and in the English Open.

White Hope

Who's the Big White Hope for Sweden—Andreadis, Sido, Flisberg, Namba? According to the Continentals, none of them.

Man they're banking on is J. Bercek, the Hungarian who has been in devastating form all season and has established himself as the European No. 1.

Bercek has now added the Hungarian Open Singles to the Yugoslav title, in which he caned Andreadis in three straight games, and the Austrian title, where he handed out a similar beating to Stepek.

In the Romanian final Bercek beat his fellow countryman Peterfi.

Bercek uses a soft-rubber bat and his forte is defence.

The Hungarian Swaythling Cup team will be chosen from Bercek, Sido, Gyetvai, Peterfi, Foldi, and Kubony.

On the girls' side Eva Koczian is in a certain starter, but there appears to be a question mark against the availability of Gizi Farkas, who won the Yugoslav singles, beating Angelica Rozeanu 3–2 in the final.

OGIMURA OKAWA

News of another Hungarian, Kalman Szepesi is in Sweden and hopes to live there permanently.

The 3rd Friendly International Games for Youth in Moscow are being held from July 29 to August 10, and will include table tennis.

Fine performance by the Rumanians, who beat Czechoslovakia 5–2. The young Rumanians used rubber bats in the orthodox style and their win was called "great" by observers. The Czechs, although without Andreadis, fielded a strong side.

The Yugoslav Association has requested Dolinar to play again and my information is that the burly player with the peaked cap and outsize bat is competing in Stockholm.

The Yugoslavs, incidentally, have been invited to play in Russia prior to the world rally, but no decision has yet been made. Dolinar and Co. are, however, lined up to meet the Czechs. It is also possible that they may take on Hungary, who are also scheduled to face Rumania and Bulgaria.

Communist Red China are definitely sending a team to Sweden. A team from Red China has never before been to Europe. In a pre-championships tour they are to play Rumania and Hungary, among other sides, but are disappointed that we cannot accommodate them in this country.

Two New Zealand girls are to compete in the "world's" for the first time. One is June Wilkinson, but the name of the other has somehow escaped getting abroad.

The Indian Championships were held in Saharanpur, Northern India. It may come as a surprise to those who imagine it's always sunny in India, that the tournament was held in bitterly cold weather.

The Men's singles was won by Divan, and Pirandhi emerged as ladies champion.

Jayant and Bhandari took the men's doubles, Pirandhi and Nunes the ladies' doubles, and Sampat and Nunes the mixed event, while the Junior boys' was won, for the second successive year, by Vora, and the boys' doubles by Shrinit and Ghosa.

Bombay won the team championship, and Delhi the junior title.

Thackersey, Nagara, Divan and Vora, and the girls, Indira and Usha Ivycen—they're cousins—represented India in the All-Asia championships played at Manila at the end of January.

Barna's Deputy

Andreadis attended the Indian tournament, then went to Delhi to coach youngsters. Ivan was in India for a month, deputising for Victor Barna, who was unable to accept the invitation.

Max Marinko, Canada's "closed" champion, recently married Canada's top T.T. girl, who hails from Toronto. The bride's name has not been supplied.

Following New York team trials, Marty Reisman is expected to make the U.S. Swaythling team. Marty, by all accounts, played brilliantly. Cartland also made the N.Y. team, but Bob Guskoff and Harry Hershkowitz failed to qualify.

Dick Miles beat Sol Schiff in a tournament final in New York City, while in the Western Championships final in Chicago, Bukiet beat Prager. Erwin Klein, No. 1 man, has made no effort to gain a team place.

Experts feel that the team of Miles, Reisman, Klein and Bukiet could make a bold bid for the Swaythling trophy, but it seems unlikely that the quartet will take the field. On the contrary, I hear that several top men and women have, for various reasons, declined invitations to go to Sweden.
Captains Should Keep Their Place

BEFORE next month's Table Tennis is out, I hope to be on my way once more to the smiling land of Sweden, to savour again the magic atmosphere of "the World's."

Maybe the entry will not exceed our own Wembley record (1954) of 33 Swaythling and 25 Corbillon Cup teams. But each "World's" develops its own atmosphere, and this year's will have an exceptionally keen "edge" to it because it will be two years before the next world meeting.

The limelight of a good performance will last longer—and so will the shadow of a poor one. A rising contender, disappointed at the post, will have to nurse his hopes for two long years.

In this atmosphere one may, perhaps, expect a little more than the usual determination. This is a good thing, but there is one aspect which I hope will not be over-done this year.

I refer to the growing tendency of the "non-playing" captains to take part in the play.

We have all seen them, hanging over the barriers, pleading, threatening, or willing their protégés to victory. No harm in that; hundreds of spectators are doing the same, exhorting their favourites to "get stuck into it" in fifty different languages. I remember in Budapest, when Soos led Bergmann by two games to one and about 10-3, a mighty "NO!" burst from 5,000 throats every time Soos chanced his arm with his (admittedly chance-y) hit.

I also recall, with a shudder, the habit of Czech crowds of letting out a deep growl of triumph whenever their own man reached, not 21 if you please, but 20! These things are occupational risks—they add to the fun. What I want to see cut out is this business of "advice" to players during matches.

Naturally when a player leaves the court for a permitted break such as after the 3rd game, advice will be given. It may even be requested. Apart from that, play is supposed to be continuous, and in my view, the assistance of a coach or adviser should finish when his player trots into the ring.

Yet what do we see? Captains and coaches rushing out to pick balls up; lengthy towelings in mid-match; frantic semaphore between rallies, etc.

And what good is all this advice? For remember, these pearls of wisdom (typical examples I have over heard: "play low", "keep it on the right side", and, of course "don't attack") are available to both sides, and so on average the results can hardly be affected.

Some captains lose all sense of proportion. I remember one non-player falling flat on his face in his rush to give some advice to his No. 5 who had just grace­fully lost the first game to Andreadis by 5–21.

In one famous team the star man, respected by players the world over, sits just behind and above the "captain" (appointed no doubt for many worthy qualities). Thus when a lesser player, having lost a point or two, looks dutifully towards the official oracle, he is really giving "over his captain's head!"

Junior players go nearly cross-eyed, trying to decipher messages from Dad on one side, the home-town coach on the other, and the team captain hovering around, not to mention scoring machines, clocks, and interpreters. Probably the only advice they could use at such a time is "keep your eye on the ball!"

This slavish leaning on the captain—and others—leads to plenty of wrong advice too. I know I have in my time lost matches for players by feeling compelled to say something to them, when it would have been better to leave matters to their natural guts and gumption. If they still lose, they should have learned something in the process.

What kind of players are we breeding if they have not the capacity to keep a certain basic plan, and a few simple alternatives in their heads for the space of a match?

The captain has plenty to do, preparing the team mentally, physically and technically in advance, seeing to their travel, comfort and discipline, arranging match procedures and tournaments, representing his national Association, selecting the teams for particular matches and making reports. When the match has started, can't the players play the games?

JACK CARRINGTON ON "SPONGE"

I had intended to air my personal views on "sponge" technical effects in this column, but ever since the December issue of "Table Tennis," the whole matter is being examined at E.T.T.A. and I.T.T.F. levels, so I do not propose to labour the topic here.

I will, however, send an extract of my ideas to any reader who cares to apply direct to me (with stamped envelope, please).

The following sub-committee have been instructed to prepare detailed proposals for the standardisation of the bat: Geoff James (Middx), Chairman; Jack Carrington (Essex), Hon. Secretary; Victor Barna (Middx), Ivor Eyles (Gloster), Ivor Montagu, Chairman E.T.T.A.
England's World Hopes

by Bryan Cutress

After any National team selection in any sport a post mortem quickly follows, apparently by necessity of custom, with criticism of the team and abuse to the selectors.

It is, therefore, no surprise that the selectors of England's Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams are, in many quarters, regarded as having been rather rash.

But have they? With the World's championships now to take place bi-annually it will probably be the last appearance of the "Old Brigade" of Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann. Therefore, it is necessary to look to the future; a policy obviously adopted and reflected primarily in the choice of 18-year-old Ian Harrison of Cheltenham.

Harrison began playing only four years ago when a Christmas present of a table tennis set sparked off his fiery enthusiasm.

Last season he won the English Junior championship and gained both junior and senior international badges. Curiously enough he did not make his County debut for Gloucester until after news of his Swaythling Cup selection.

He has worked his way successfully through the junior ranks and made a lasting early impression in the seniors. What other youngster is more entitled to grooming into the shoes of Leach or Bergmann?

Two more newcomers are Jill Rook, of Surrey, and Joyce Fielder, of Kent.

Both are also young but are ranked Nos. 3 and 4 respectively and so their right for inclusion cannot be disputed.

Miss Rook, a 20-year-old secretary at Spaldings, was introduced to table tennis through lawn tennis, accompanying her parents to their club. While they were on court she was at the table and soon showed unusual skill. At 13 she entered tournament play and within two years was the National junior champion and played for England juniors. A senior badge followed a year later.

Meanwhile, her lawn tennis ability was also increasing and in 1954 she reached the semi-final of the British Junior championship—losing to Ann Haydon.

Of the two sports which does she prefer? "Table tennis in the winter and lawn tennis in the summer," was her non-committal reply.

FAMOUS UNCLE

In contrast, 19-year-old Miss Fielder is a one-sport girl, table tennis filling most of her leisure time.

In Kent's sporting circles the name Fielder was well known before Joyce was born. Her great uncle, the late Arthur Fielder, was the famous Kent and England cricketer.

Joyce started her table tennis six years ago in the Pavilion of the Eltham Sports Club, where her father is groundsman.

Until last summer, however, she was only an average player, with little or no knowledge of the defensive art. When Victor Barna came on the scene and offered to coach her; an offer eagerly accepted. Her entire game altered in the space of six months as did her status. She is now ranked the fourth best woman in England.

Joyce adheres rigidly to a keep-fit programme which includes a long run every morning before work—a lesson to all.

Completing the Corbillon Cup team are Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe.

Miss Haydon, 18, can be compared with Miss Rook inasmuch as she is adept at both table tennis and lawn tennis.

Ann — full name Adrienne — might well be said to have been born into the game. Her father is Adrian Haydon, one of England's most "capped" players, while her mother, as Doris Jordan, was a pre-war international. Little wonder, Ann began playing as soon as she was big enough to hold a bat. At 12 she was launched into competition and at 15 became the youngest ever senior international, an honour she took from her father.

Ann has experienced three world championship meetings, and was runner-up in both the women's doubles (with Kathie Best) at Wembley in 1954, and the mixed doubles (with Andreadis) in Tokyo last year. In Stockholm she could become the first English girl to win the women's singles.

At lawn tennis Ann is among the best in the country. Twice British Junior champion, she is now being coached as a Wightman Cup prospect.

Diane Rowe, the 23-year-old left-hander also has a wealth of experience, having twice held the world doubles title with twin sister Rosalind. Their famous partnership which did so much for the English game broke up shortly after Ros was married in 1955. It is however being renewed again shortly.

Diane is a world ranking player in singles and on her day can upset anyone, as she proved in Utrecht, when she beat Angelica Rozeanu in the team championship.

So much for the Corbillon Cup team. The selectors surely cannot be criticised for that. They are however being put into the witness box over their choice of Richard Bergmann.

The prosecutor argues that Bergmann does little or nothing for the English game, spending most of the year touring the world with the Harlem Globe Trotters. But the defence produces the unquestionable fact that Bergmann is the country's best player.

JOHNNY LEACH
and we can ill-afford to waste his services, however infrequently they may be offered.

Bergmann, a naturalised British subject also has the added experience of being four times the world singles champion, and feared by the world’s best.

Johnny Leach is another of the team with world experience. The only English born player ever to have won the world singles championship twice, he hopes coincidence will play a part in this season’s championships.

The last time they took place in Stockholm, Leach returned with the singles trophy.

Alan Rhodes was a member of our team at Utrecht in 1955, but subsequently fell out of form and slipped into the doldrums, while undergoing a change of grip at the suggestion of Victor Barna. He used to hold the blade of the bat which, although giving him added power, made him prone to erratic phases.

Now he holds the handle and has returned to top form and must be regarded as one of the chief challengers for the top ranking position.

Left-handed Brian Kennedy, the 25-year-old tussle-haired Yorkshireman completes the team.

He is a most fluent stroke player with a devastating forehand and a most accomplished defence. He made his first appearance in the World championships at the age of 16 and has since reached the final of the English Open and won the majority of this country’s tournaments.

Kennedy took up sponge last season and has had tremendous success with this surface.

On the whole, then, I think the selectors have done a good job this time.

They have left us with a good chance of winning honours through the experienced members of the team, and at the same time look to the future by “blooding” youngsters.

Letters to the Editor

SPONGE - A RETROGRADE MOVE?

I WISH to submit the following comments regarding the N.E.C.’s recent proposal to standardise the racket in order to abolish sponge and other freak surfaces.

Let us consider a few prevalent misconceptions. It is said that unlike table tennis other racket-bat-ball games specify the material of the striking implement. This is not so.

It is said that the action produced on the ball by sponge is other than that to be expected by the arm action of the striker. I am of the opinion that no evidence can be produced that this is so.

Sponge, like pimpled rubber or any other surface, will impart to the ball a definite speed and spin, but with wide ranges. Therefore, a player used to playing against pimpled rubber only is likely to be upset by this change of tempo. But surely this should be overcome by practice against sponge.

Blind curdling stories of the effects produced by two and even three decker “sandwiches,” should be discounted. They all produce actions on the ball falling within the above discussion and can be considered mainly as psychological weapons.

The answer to sponge is indicated by its properties. Because it gives more spin it is more vulnerable to heavy backspin or topspin than pimpled rubber. A surface giving a lot of spin will also “take,” a lot of spin.

Again it is difficult for an attacking “sponger,” with his speedier surface, to perform close-to-the-table defensive shots against continuous two wing attack.

Where the sponge has gained the advantage is against the mainly retrieving player with light or medium backspin. Such players, while often producing brilliant spectacles when opposed to bold attacking players, invariably produce dreary time-limit matches between themselves.

Three of our five 1957 Swaythling Cup team and one of the four Corbillon Cup girls are playing with sponge of one kind or another.

What happens over sponge? It cannot be because clubs, league and tournaments are cluttered up with a large number of inexperienced sponge players.

I play in more than one league and attend most tournaments. The number of “spongers” I have come across (apart from the top class players) is practically negligible. The pattern was much the same at the English Junior Championships, with no spongers at all among the top players. The trouble probably arises on two counts.

Some County Associations and tournament Committees are complaining that falling gates are due to unspectacular play by sponge players. Gates have of course been falling for years in the entertainment world for a variety of reasons.

Unspectacular play is probably in isolated cases and due to inexperience of sponge v sponge, which would not be overcome, with more practice.

Matches between Japanese players are spectacular enough and sponge has certainly not killed the game in their country, which has the largest number of players and the largest proportion of sponge players in the world.

Then some coaches are complaining that players have actually approached them asking to be coached in the use of sponge. What blasphemy?

Jack Carrington in the November issue of “Table Tennis” states “sponge is an evil not to be encouraged and that the proper reaction at this stage is to shake up the laws of the game rather than coaching methods.”

This sounds like defeatism.

He goes on to say “but give us a chance to think,” and refers to “such unexplored territory.”

It is of course over four years since Japan first put forward the T.T. world at Bombay.

Then Victor Barna in the December issue says: “My point is that to bash a ball you don’t need to learn how to chop, to acquire fighting spirit and so on.”

Is Victor seriously suggesting that to successfully “bash” the ball with sponge does not require control and that top class sponge players of the world lack fighting spirit?

I do not think that either of the above counts justifies imposing a standardised racket on senior players. The position is not quite the same with juniors.

They should be restricted to the use of pimpled rubber because (a) it is easier to control than sponge and (b) it takes some time before a youngster develops mainly defensive or mainly attacking characteristics. Sponge of course is an attacking weapon.

This could easily be defeated by restricting entries for Junior tournaments to orthodox bat players.

Summing up, I think, with the above reservation, the sub-committee of the E.T.T.A. who had collected the answers from a country-wide questionnaire, were justified in recommending no change in the racket rule. And this was published only last November.

I would suggest that the I.T.T.F. defer a decision on the proposals from the E.T.T.A. and Welsh T.T.A. for rackets to be standardised until the end of the Stockholm World Championships. They will then have further opportunity of studying sponge.

Incidentally Wales astonish me. For years they made their own players play with plain wooden bats when the rest of the world were using pimpled rubber.

It maybe that the proposal will be rejected. If so the further N.E.C. proposal for the racket to be standardised in England does not appear to be wise.

Our top-class players would be handicapped in international fixtures through lack of practice against sponge. Then our own tournaments would lack foreign sponge players and players too if their own rules forbade their entry to events not governed by the I.T.T.F. rules.

Dennis Offer.

Thirteen
THE NEAR MISSES
by KENNETH WHEELER

SALUTE six gallant losers—six youngsters who played well enough to deserve places amongst the 32 national finalists in the Eagle Girl Junior Championships, but who had to make way for others who, on the day at least, were even better.

First 13-year-old Roger Cardwell, from Cheltenham. Last year, you may remember, he lost the Area under-13 title by a whisker to Peter Keating. This time, in his Cheltenham qualifying final against Brian Hill, he again looked as if he would sweep to victory, but then he lost five vital points in a row and the deciding game.

Brian also joined the ranks of the gallant losers when his good eye and dogged 'straight-bat' defence eventually broke down before the devastating attack of Liverpool champion, Johnny Ball, of Bootle.

Gallant losers Nos 3 and 4 were James Mangham and Jackie Keogh, two of Ken Stanley's protégés from Burnley. Mangham, after beating the very promising Edward Hughes 16-20, in the 3rd round of the Boys' Senior event, lost 'the tie of the day' in a quarter final battle against his friend, and 'bogey' opponent, Keogh. Keogh went on to win the Liverpool Area title from Peter Keating, and in the semi-finals, beat Roy Norton, of Louth, and, unfortunately for Keogh, the reigning champion was in such sparkling form that he was not to be denied another trip to London.

Last of the youngsters who did well only to fail at the last hurdle was Neil Truman, a 12-year-old girl from Essex who was visiting relatives in the Liverpool area. She fell before the onslaught of Carol Reeves' sandwich bat in the Regional Final.

So far, Miss Truman's only experience has been gained in play at home, whereas Carol Reeves, the Liverpool champion, is at 13 a comparatively 'hardened' campaigner who must be one of the favourites for the national junior title. Even so Neil Truman, whose elder sister Christine is famous in the world of lawn tennis, has now won a little fame in her own right, and according to Johnny Leach and other experts present shows great promise for the future.

In the Girls' Senior event Patricia Spencer, who changed the wooden bat, with which she won at Nottingham, for a rubber one, beat Liverpool champion Beryl Cummins with rather surprising ease.

MORE LETTERS

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COACHING NEEDS

Much is written about the lack of promising juniors and the terrific beating by Germany. The coaching facilities offered to German youth are far greater than in England.

Linda Gordon, one of the "Girl" finalists has had only a few days coaching at Skegness by courtesy of Hulton Press. Her mother told me that she had tried in vain to get her daughter coached.

I had similar trouble with my own daughter Carol Bagshaw and in despair took her to Di Rowe. After only one lesson at the "News of the World" course she was transformed. North London section of the "Eagle-Girl" tournament, without dropping a game.

A great little junior not yet 13 is Mary Shannon, of Worcester Park, winner of the under 13 singles and doubles at Herne Bay. She is coached by Harry Venner, who appears to be the only coach around Surrey or Greater London.

Top coaches must be recruited for our juniors. I would also like to comment on the shocking state of publicity for table tennis. There are few means of telling when matches are on, and there are only microscopic results in the press.

A line or two in advertising in county papers or in London "evenings" would gain far bigger crowds.

W. J. BAGSHAW
(Chesington)

CROUCH REMEMBERED

You may remember that just over a year ago Table Tennis and sportsmen in general were aghast when Bernard Crouch was so tragically killed in the Barnes Railway accident.

Middlesex, Surrey and Essex have already dedicated a trophy to his name. A great little junior not yet 13 is Mary Shannon, of Worcester Park, winner of the under 13 singles and doubles at Herne Bay. She is coached by Harry Venner, who appears to be the only coach around Surrey or Greater London.

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Michael Thornhill
on behalf of Staines League.

HARRY VENNER
England and Surrey
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Area News:

MERSEYSIDE MEMO

The "old hands" still have plenty of kick in their stocking by the results of the Liverpool "closed" championships, which were held in January, instead of at the end of the season, to avoid a clash with the Easter Holidays.

Mrs. K. Casselman, formerly one of the Mayo sisters, and the author of two children won the women's singles which she previously held in 1947, and with her sister, who is married to Ron Rumjahn, is also mother, won the doubles.

Then Ted Rumjahn, winner in 1947 and 1950, once again carried off the men's singles.

Sponge being a topical subject these days I am passing over the rest of these notes to J. D. Loughrey, the Liverpool match secretary, who is a sponge bat player, and I quote his article in full.

I would like to point out that I do not agree with his point of view, except in relation to the heightening of the net.

I also seem wrong to me that the Executives are out to bring their proposal into force into this country, no matter what the I.T.T.F. decide.

Unless worldwide agreement is reached, no change should be made under any circumstance.

There are those who have used the argument that no other sport allows the use of different materials in their equipment.

They would have presumably then to deny that an English player could play in two international tournaments, and in one be allowed to make of bat and in the other be forbidden to do so, a very poor advert for uniformity and consistency in the game.

Bill Stamp.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

The Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl experiment can now be fully assessed in as much as both the financial statement and the reactions for the Leagues taking part, are to hand.

In the division, the Rose Bowl Cup was £22 13s. 4d. and the Rose Bowl £18 Os. 6d. This works out at £2 16s. 6d. per person throughout the eight leagues and the £3 Os. 1d. to the six in the Rose Bowl.

This I claim is cheaper than any League could have staged a first round match, and speaks well for what Gloucestershire have always contended that Zones should be confined to eight teams, giving the finalists three matches.

Bristol can be congratulated in having had the Middlesex v. Gloucestershire match so soon after the announcement that they had been selected for the Swytling Cup team.

Ian making his county debut, certainly upheld the selectors decision to "blood" him, beating first Alan Rhodes, another member of the Swytling Cup team, in two straight games, and then Derrick Burridge.

In the county league Cirencester surprisingly beat Bristol by 6-4 (B. Archer, D. Green and M. Taylor each winning two) and now look certain to wrest the title from Cheltenham.

Gloucestershire have applied for permission to organise annually a West of England Tournament.

Congratulations to Ron Bacon, Dennis Collins and Mike Baynham who have all passed the trials to become fully fledged County Umpires.

The efforts of George Mortimer to step up the supply of couches, should be applauded. Classes are in progress under E.T.T.A. Coach, B. Jeffrey, formerly of Hunts who is now residing in Bristol.

SURREY NOTES

Hearty congratulations to young Jill Reek on her selection for Cirencester unseen Cup team.

We are far from being down-hearted at our bad spell in the Premier Division but we confess to a little disappointment at a narrow missing beating the Rest of England at our first opportunity and now drawing with what we almost certainly be the next Champion County—Middlesex.

We are nearly home in the Second Division having beaten what are generally regarded as the strongest sides and have won our matches in the Bernard Crouch Trophy. We are also holding our own in the Junior Division.

The Thames Valley League, which, it may surprise some to learn, is the largest in the County, is proud of K. Sheldon (former Walton Crusaders) who has done very well in his first full season as a County second team player.

Sheldon, who hails from Walton Crusaders, has been six times League Champion and is the present triple holder, having won the Men's Doubles with Peter Jemmett and Mixed with Barbara Hewett.

The Surrey County Closed will be held once again under the League's auspices at the palatial Surbiton Assembly Rooms towards the end of March. The League's Closed will be held at Teddington in the last two weeks of March and the first week of April.

The South London League, having changed the venue of their "Open" from Manor Place Baths to Bermondsey Baths and they are awaiting reactions to their new choice of venue with interest. They hope that Leach, Somogyi, the Hungarian star, Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe will be competing in addition to Venner who makes a habit of winning the title.

The Wandsworth League continues to be dominated by the Putney T.T. Club's first team who with their strong reserves are once again very well placed to retain the championship for the fifth year and the President's Cup.

Sutton and Wandsworth, the Eastern and Middlesex Leagues present a different picture. Sutton, having missed out in the English, have not received much support in their Closed. On the other hand the Middlesex League, having a good choice of players, seems to be doing all right.
**DERBY NOTES**

Derby women have managed to chalk up their first win of the season in the Midland League, beating Wolverhampton by 7-3.

**FINALS RESULTS**

**Boys' Singles:** R. Sheldon beat H. Motley 21–16, 21–10.

**Girls' Singles:** R. Hession beat A. Stevens 21–17, 21–15.


**Girls' Doubles:** Hession and Stevens beat V. Lambourne and A. Sutton 21–16, 22–20.

**Mixed Doubles:** Leakey and Hession beat Baker and Stevens 21–8, 21–13.

**East London** defeated **St. Albans** by 7–2 to become Zone winners in the Wilmott Cup. In the Rose Bowl, however, both East London and Ilford were knocked out in their respective zone finals.

**Frank Bateman.**

**KENT NOTES**

Congratulations on behalf of the whole of England's team for the World Championships. We are proud of you, Joyce. The Kent League is now beginning to indicate the possible winners of the various divisions. In the First Division **Bromwich** and **N.W. Kent** "B" have unbeaten records with Bromley "A" running close with only one loss. Bromwich "B" lead the Second Division with seven out of a possible ten points, followed by Bromley "C" with five out of eight points. However, Beckenham "B" are so far unbeaten.

**Kent League**

**Men's 1st Division**

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**YORKSHIRE NOTES**

No one can accuse Yorkshire of not being progressive. Last October I reported that county match attendances had dropped by nearly 20 per cent. In 1955-6, Yorkshire are now going all out to make the game a crowd-puller again.

First they joined Gloucester in the crusade against sponge. Now comes another move to alter the pattern of county matches.

Yorkshire want the third man dropped from each team to cut the number of events from ten to eight. They will put this new proposal to the National County Championship annual meeting.

This is the idea. Each team will comprise two men and two women and there will be four men's singles sets instead of six.

These are the benefits: Matches will not go on so late that many spectators have to leave before the end to catch the last bus home. A smaller team will reduce travelling and accommodation expenses (particularly in view of the petrol outlook). The crowd will see only the cream of county talent. The Yorkshire counties championship sub-committee considered that without the No.3, matches will be more of a spectacle.

They feel it would be unfair to cut down the number of ladies' events as it would virtually eliminate the ladies' game.

Leeds women averaged the men's defeat by trouncing Huddersfield 10–0, to put them well on the way to their third successive title and ninth since the war.

Bradford men won their first match this season when they beat Castleford 7–3.

Brian Kennedy became the first Yorkshireman to make 50 county appearances when he went through unbeaten against Essex.

Huddersfield men have scored a double over Leeds winning their Wilmott Cup tie 5–3, and the inter-Leagues match 7–2. Huddersfield have gone on to reach the last eight of the Wilmott Cup with a 5–3 win over Sheffield.

**Malcolm Hartley**

**Seventeen**
The Hertfordshire News

The Hertford and District League, as a result of petrol rationing, withdrawn from the County Inter-League Tournament and their record deleted from the table.

In an effort to avoid further withdrawals the leagues have been asked to co-operate with each other in arranging matches out of period and thus completing the fixture list by mutual agreement.

Watford and St. Albans jointly head the table, each with eight points and an equal number of games played. These two sides clash during February in a match which will virtually decide this season's championship.

County Inter-League Championship

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In contrast, the Boys' Division may be a one-horse race since Sunderland and Hartlepool appear to be well in the running for the championship with Sunderland and Middlesex close behind.

Duran News Fare

Durham lost one of her keesten players when Ronald Graham was killed in a motor-cycle accident in January.

Ronnie, who played for T.L.F. in the Sunderland and District League, will always be remembered for his modesty and great sportsmanship. Londoners may recollect how he hitch-hiked to the English Open, just after the war, although it took him two days to get back to Sunderland.

In the Men's Division of the Durham Senior League, most of the teams are behind in their fixtures, but Stockton and Hartlepool appear to be well in the running with Sunderland and Middlesex close behind.

In contrast, the Boys' Division may well be a one-horse race since Sunderland seem to have an extremely strong side.

A widely controversial topic of the moment is the scarcity of tournaments in this area. Other than the Hartlepool Open we have to wait until the end of the season's play for the Durham "closed" — the next tournament. Surely one town can stage another tournament in mid-season.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alan Duncun on the birth of their daughter, and also the Hollands, Olive and Keith, whose son, Michael, was born while the County were struggling in the 2nd Division North.

Western Counties Bulletin

Cardiff, who last year finished third from the bottom of the Western Counties First Division table, appear determined to come so close to relegation this season.

In fact they have played so well that at the halfway stage they lead the Division having won all their matches strangely enough by the same score of 6-4.

Bristol, who were only saved from relegation by one place, have also made good headway this season and are, at present, lying second with Birmingham, last year's runners-up, third.

Cardiff recently entertained Birmingham and were hard pressed before gaining maximum points.

At one stage in the match Cardiff were leading 5-1 but were pulled back 5-4 before B. Dimascio beat D. Baddeley after an exciting match, in which the score stood at 19 all in the final game, to give Cardiff the winning margin.

In the Second Division, Bristol 2nds visited Taunton and although at one period they were 1-4 down they produced a brilliant recovery to capture the following five games to win the match by 6-4.

Brisol 2nds are now lying immediately below Weston, who, by virtue of some substantial victories, lead the Second Division.

The Irish Scene

In last month's issue I announced that Victor Mercer had decided to come back out of retirement and once again play the game which gave him over fifty international caps. What a triumphant return it turned out to be.

After a thrilling five games battle in the final of the County Antrim Championship at Ballymena, Victor showed once again that leaving the old skill by defeating Ulster inter-provincial Colin McBride.

This was a really astonishing performance, for McBride looked odds-on to take the title when he won the fourth game after Mercer had led 2-1. But Mercer, showing all his old-time fighting ability and most of the skill that had kept him at the top of the tree for so many years, was not to be denied.

McBride fought for every point but could not substute the tall Belfastman whose win will certainly bring added spice to the competitions in the second half of the season.

Partnered by the improving Jean Lynn, Mercer added the mixed doubles to his prize list.

Mrs. M. Dowd had a surprisingly easy win over Miss Lynn in the Women's singles final, and then, partnered by Miss Lynn, won the Women's doubles, defeating Mrs. R. Buick and Miss F. Mercer in the final.

Ireland followed up last season's defeat of Scotland by beating the dose at Dunoon, winning 6-4. Best performance of the night was given by Miss Deirdre Fearon, who surprisingly defeated Helen Houstink, 18-21, 21-18, 21-15.

Petrol rationing has made its presence felt over here. Several of our leading provincial championships have had to be postponed. In fact, it is doubtful if they will be held at all this season.

S. Dignam.

Jack CArrington's Holiday Training Weeks

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Eights
WELSH CORNER

GLAMORGAN continue their winning ways in the Second Division West, but victory over Somerset at Bath didn’t come without a struggle.

David House beat both Simonson and Alan Thomas to record Somerset’s only victories. Alan took him to three, but in the last match against Simonson, House won two straight. It is difficult to say whether the result would have been different had there been more time.

Parker had two victories to his credit, but in both he looked at first to be an easy winner, then had long struggles with both Hebdon and Smith. Alan Thomas also beat Hebdon, with Parker and teamed up to beat House and Goldsack.

Bernard Dimascio, Norman Parker, and Barrie were stationed at St. Athan, and an entry form for the Gwent Open is now available, otherwise Mumbles, too, can turn out Graham James and George Parker and teamed up to beat House and Goldsack.

The East of Scotland Open Championship were reported in these columns last month, and through an error in our records the result of the Women’s Doubles Title was given as a victory for Miss Houlston and Mrs. Candin of Edinburgh. In actual fact the winners were Misses Black and Dunbar of Dundee, who thus became the first all-women title winners.

In the Welsh League, Newport, despite being beaten by Cardif, Ebbw Vale, Aberavon and Barry, nevertheless threw a spanner in the First Division works by thrashing Swansea to the tune of 8-1, a shock which has set unbeaten Cardiff more firmly at the top of affairs.

STRONG TEAM

Eddie Still, the Scottish international stationed at St. Athan, is now assisting Barry in the Welsh League, and if they can turn out Graham James and George Evans as well, they will be formidable combinations. Mumbles have both Simonson and Glyn Morgan “on their books,” but these two are not always available, otherwise Mumbles, too, would be a strong side.

Aberavon, with their ever-improving Parry and Arkell, are holding their own. Ebbw Vale, without Dymond and Liddiard, are falling far behind, although they have hopes of their side will win the Southern Section. Unbeaten up to now, Davies and Davies, yet provide the piquant situation of winning promotion to the division their “better winners” will drop out of?

Cardiff Seconds are running second in this section, followed by Rhondda, with Cardiff Public Services, an improved side, close on their heels, and Barry Seconds and Bridgend bringing up the rear.

Eastern valleys are unbeaten in the Northern Section, and are making a strong bid to regain First Division status. Tredegar are just behind, then Brecon, Aberavon, Llandrindod, and Merthyr.

Until the second Cardiff — Swansea clash in the women’s section, the latter are likely to remain on top, whilst in the Junior Section, honours look like going to Aberavon or Newport, both of whom are unbeaten.

Interest is gradually rising in the Junior Section, at present held by Cardiff, but there is no reason to think that the Mumbles team will not be strong enough to challenge the Welsh team in the future.

SCOTLAND

The success of Tommy McMichael was the feature of the international in which Ireland beat Scotland 6-4 at Dunoon. The young Edinburgh player fully justified his selection with a great win over Harry O’Prey and he was unfortunate not to mark up a second victory against E. Allan, losing an advantage third game. He also shared in a doubles win with Kerr.

It is to be hoped that this successful departure from the old faces will encourage selectors to further experiment.

Braithwaite once again failed to produce tournament form in an international, and temperamentally superior Miller, of Edinburgh, should get his chance at the first opportunity. This, however, may not be until next season owing to difficulties being experienced with the Welsh matches for which no date has yet been agreed.

Kerr was unlucky not to beat Senior, losing in two straight sets. He also lost narrowly to O’Prey.

Results (Scottish names first): Braithwaite (Hamilton) lost to Allan (Ulster) — 15, 9, lost to Senior (Ulster) — 8, 16. Kerr (Edinburgh) lost to Senior — 26, 24, lost to O’Prey (Ulster) — 19, 17. McMichael lost to Allan 16, — 14, — 20, bt O’Prey — 19, 17, 13. Miss Elliot (Edinburgh) bt Miss Owen (Leinster) 12, 13. Miss Houlston (Edinburgh) lost to Miss D. Pearson (Leinster) 16, — 19, — 15. McMichael and Kerr bt. O’Prey and Senior 16, 13.

Miss Elliot and Miss Houlston bt Miss Owen and Miss Pearson 26, 16, 13, 9.

Gordon Walker

Nineteen
SURREY SHAKE THE LEADERS

JANUARY has seen a determined come-back by Surrey the reigning premier division champions. Without points in their first three matches, they swamped luckless Cheshire by 10–0, and then caused a shock by taking a point off undefeated Middlesex.

Surrey's successes coincided with the return of Harry Venner to the No. 1 position, after his short rest. Now playing with a sandwich bat, Venner was the hero of the drawn match, defeating Thornhill and Burridge, and successfully pairing with Craigie in the men's doubles against Adams and Burridge.

The match started well enough for Middlesex, who led 2–0 and then 3–1, but after dropping the men's doubles, they unexpectedly conceded the women's singles. Jean Head pulling off a great victory over Jackie Head, and Middlesex took the mixed match, defeating Thornhill and Burridge, and successfully pairing with Craigie in the men's doubles against Adams and Burridge.

Middlesex were on top in the ladies singles and all three doubles.

Yorkshire kept hard on Middlesex' heels, by their 8–2 win over Essex at Bradford. Essex fielded a weakened side, but missing out on the promotion play-off.

Watching by a good sized crowd at Tottenham, this had all the makings of a thriller, yet the crowd were strangely subdued. Once again, I must blame the preponderance of freak bats (three on each side), which robbeds the match of interesting rallies, a fact remarked upon by several spectators.

Gloucestershire shot their bolt losing 4–6 to Middlesex, in a first-class encounter. Young Ian Harrison making his county debut, after having gained two senior international badges, gave Gloucester a great start by beating Rhodes, and showed that this was no fluke by also defeating Burridge.

It was an unhappy match for these two Middlesex players, for Rhodes also lost to Simons and Burridge to Merritt.

However, Thornhill was on the target to beat Simons and Merritt. Middlesex were on top in the ladies singles and all three doubles.

Yorkshire kept hard on Middlesex' heels, by their 8–2 win over Essex at Bradford. Essex fielded a weakened side, but made a great start when Fred Kershaw inflicted the first defeat of the season on Yorks' Maurice Simpson, and after Brian Kennedy had accounted for Ray Dorking, Essex again forged ahead when Bobby Stevens defeated Ray Hinchliff. That, however, was Essex's lot, and Yorkshire ran out easy winners.

One can but speculate what would happen if Yorkshire had to meet Middlesex now, instead of at the start of the season, before the northerners had found their touch! However, such speculation is idle, and now Essex are the only side who could deprive Middlesex of their ninth title in 10 attempts (taking it that Middlesex will have taken the points off Cheshire by the time these notes appear!). It appears that Yorks will once again be the gallant runners-up.

There have been no matches in Division II (North). In Division II (West) Glamorgan have drawn further ahead, and appear booked for the promotion play-off.

A sporting gesture on the part of Staffordshire gives Somerset their first point after all. Last month I reported that Somerset had forfeited the point from their draw with Staffs because they fielded an unregistered player. However, Staffs were satisfied with the reasons for his inclusion, and have asked for the result to stand. Mr. Eyles has agreed, and the tables have been amended accordingly. Must be the season of goodwill!

Div. II (South) is shaping as I anticipated in previous notes. Sussex have now moved into second place, with Herts hard on their heels. Kent and Bucks have dropped back, and the promotion issue now rests clearly between Herts and Sussex, while Surrey will surely get sufficient points from their matches against Kent and Suffolk to run out easy winners of the division.

A sporting gesture on the part of Staffordshire gives Somerset their first point after all. Last month I reported that Somerset had forfeited the point from their draw with Staffs because they fielded an unregistered player. However, Staffs were satisfied with the reasons for his inclusion, and have asked for the result to stand. Mr. Eyles has agreed, and the tables have been amended accordingly. Must be the season of goodwill!

In the Midland Division, Warwickshire need one point from their match with Worcestershire to make sure of the title, while in the Southern Division, Buckinghamshire, who have completed their programme, must now await the outcome of Norfolk v Bedfordshire and Norfolk v Wiltshire, before knowing their fate. Either Norfolk or Beds could overtake them, but going on past results, I should not be unduly surprised if Norfolk and Beds draw, leaving Beds on top. Still, it's still wide open between Beds and Bucks, while Norfolk would need large margins to win the title on games average.

In this division, of course, the counties do not play each other, and there is really very little in it between them, except for Cambridgeshire who are having a disappointing season. Leslie Constable tells me they have not been able to call on their strongest side.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION
February 16 Lancashire v Cheshire, Hartford Youth Centre, Oldham 7.15 p.m.
March 9 Kent v Lancashire, Marina, Folkstone 7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)
February 15 Yorkshire v Northumberland, Knaresborough 7 p.m.
February 16 Yorkshire v Lincolnshire, Fitzwilliam Ltd. Canteen, Cramlington 8 p.m.
February 18 Lancashire v Cheshire, Ken Stanley's T.T. Academy, Burnley 3 p.m.
February 23 Lancashire v Yorkshire, N.W.E. Sports Centre, Didsbury Road, Manchester 2.30 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)
February 16 Hampshire v Suffolk, Grosvenor Club, Taswell Road, Southsea 7 p.m.
February 16 Dorset v Staffordshire, The Drill Hall, Dorset Depot Barracks, Dorchester 7 p.m.
February 23 Dorset v Staffordshire, The Drill Hall, Dorset Depot Barracks, Dorchester 7 p.m.
March 2 Kent v Surrey, Trinity Hall, Sittingbourne 7.30 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)
February 16 Dorset v Staffordshire, The Drill Hall, Dorset Depot Barracks, Dorcester 7 p.m.
February 16 Devon v Worcestershire, Rhydypenau, Newport 7 p.m.
February 18 Hampshire v Suffolk, Grosvenor Club, Taswell Road, Southsea 7 p.m.
February 19 Devon v Worcestershire, Pits Memorial Hall, Gibbon Street, Plymouth 7 p.m.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION
February 19 Lancashire v Cheshire, Ken Stanley's T.T. Academy, Burnley 3 p.m.
February 23 Lancashire v Yorkshire, N.W.E. Sports Centre, Didsbury Road, Manchester 2.30 p.m.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION
February 23 Kent v Essex, Petrow, Sandwich 3.30 p.m.
March 9 Hampshire v Essex, Oakley 3 p.m.

Twenty
**The position in the Junior Division (South) is intriguing. Suffolk practically beat Essex out of the running when they beat them 6–4, but went down to Kent by the same margin, despite the great display of Peter Cole. We expect the fact that this is a very poor season for juniors, and while Kent have a workmanlike side, it is not one normally expected to have a chance of the championship. Tony Pidcock is the only player of international class in the team.**

The position, however, now that Middlesex have beaten Essex (with Chris Gosling winning all his matches on his first appearance) Kent remain the only unbeaten side. I cannot see them doing as well against Surrey on Herts, and they only need one point from their match with Essex to make sure of the title. If Kent slip, then it is 'Pamby' title but I feel it is long odds on Kent repeating their 1951–52 success in taking the championship from the holders, Middlesex.

In the North Junior Division, the 4–4 draw between Cheshire and Lancashire indicates that Yorks are well ahead of their rivals, and should confirm their superiority in the remaining matches (home or away basis). In the Midland Junior, only one match remains, Northants and Staffs having postponed their championship deciders so far.

While there have been a few postponements, it is pleasing to see how well counties have co-operated to ensure that most matches have been played on time despite the petrol shortage.

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**DIVISIONAL TABLES**

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**PREMIER DIVISION**

- **Cheshire**: 10 matches, 7 wins, 2 draws, 1 loss, 15 points.
- **Suffolk**: 10 matches, 5 wins, 4 draws, 1 loss, 14 points.
- **Kent**: 10 matches, 4 wins, 5 draws, 1 loss, 13 points.
- **Middlesex**: 10 matches, 3 wins, 2 draws, 5 losses, 10 points.
- **Bedfordshire**: 10 matches, 2 wins, 1 draw, 7 losses, 5 points.
- **Northamptonshire**: 10 matches, 1 win, 1 draw, 8 losses, 2 points.

**SUFFOLK NEWSREEL**

Peter Cole's repeat of last year's feat by winning four titles in the Suffolk championships, a dramatic women's singles final in which Pam Garrett beat Eva Hope, 10, 6, 0, Suffolk's first junior defeat for 14 months at the hands of Kent, were the highlights of January.

For those who talk about the hammy-painly play of the fair sex, the women's final was a great opening this year. Both showed real "devil" in their play.

Prior to their defeat by Kent, the juniors beat Middlesex 4–4. Cole again won all his matches and remains unbeaten by an English junior this season.

**SUFFOLK CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winning Player</th>
<th>Losing Player</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Singles</td>
<td>P. Cole</td>
<td>J. Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Singles</td>
<td>Miss P. Garrett</td>
<td>Miss V. Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ladies Doubles</td>
<td>Miss P. Garrett</td>
<td>Miss V. Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Doubles</td>
<td>Miss P. Garrett</td>
<td>Miss V. Martin</td>
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**CAMBRIDGESHIRE NIPPET**

The Cambridgeshire League shows enticing readings at the close of the first half of the season with six divisions in a state of intense competition. Wesley, Telephones and New Chesterians Initiates are all basking in the glow of their first division with one defeat apiece, although Wesley were unlucky to lose to N.C.I. as they had a depleted team. With a full team they beat Telephones by seven games to two and kept well in the running.

The other divisions are going well and United Hospitals, promoted from the Third Division, now head the Second Division with a clean sheet.

The Camb. Closed Championships which are being held next month promise to attract a record entry and the Cambridge Corn Exchange will once again be the main venue. The ever popular Raddus Events will be held and we shall again see members of the Variety in evidence. A new Junior champion will be heralded as Keith Chapman, now pasted sweet seventeen.

**Twenty-one**
## 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>16-17</td>
<td>French Open Rouen.</td>
<td>J.S.G.</td>
<td>Mr. R. D. Weeks, 111b, Ditchling Road, Brighton, Sussex.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>J.M. Rose Bowl Semi-finals and Final Sperry’s Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford.</td>
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<td>23-24</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Championships Skegness.</td>
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<td>23-24</td>
<td>Hertfordshire Championships de Havilland Propellers Ltd., Hatfield.</td>
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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>West Middlesex 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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<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>Griffin Open (Feb. 18) Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd., Newport, Mon.</td>
<td>J.S.G.</td>
<td>Mr. G. E. Modlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-15</td>
<td>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Stockholm.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>England v Wales (Juniors) Sutton Adult School, Sutton.</td>
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<td>Mr. J. J. Ledwich, 6, Kings Road, Belmont, Sutton.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Cheshire Junior Open (Mar. 2) Under 15’s. Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead, Wirral, Cheshire.</td>
<td>B.S., G.S.</td>
<td>Mr. W. H. Gawne, 9, Eric Road, Wallasey, Wirral, Cheshire.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Grimsby Open B.S.</td>
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<td>Mr. J. Browne, 245, Yarborough Road, Grimsby.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Women) Waltham Abbey Town Hall, Waltham Abbey, Essex.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Daily Mirror National Tournament Finals</td>
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<td>20-22</td>
<td>North East England Open (April 10) Burniston Barracks, Scarborough and Westborough, Concert Hall, Scarborough.</td>
<td>J.S.B.</td>
<td>Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street, Scarborough.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burniston Barracks, Scarborough and Westborough, Concert Hall, Scarborough.</td>
<td>J.S.G.</td>
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Twenty-two
IRISH “OPEN”

ENGLISH players swept the board in the senior titles at the Irish “Open” in Belfast on January 25th-26th, with Jill Rook providing the major upset by defeating Diane Rowe in the women’s singles final.

This was a real thriller with Miss Rook, playing exceptionally well to save two match points and win at 22-20 in the third.

Miss Rowe was well on top in the opening game, and after ridiculously losing the second, looked set for victory at 20-18 only to lose the next four points.

There was an even greater recovery by Micky Thornhill when he took the men’s singles from Derek Burreidge last year’s winner. Burreidge was leading two games to one and 18-11, when Thornhill by a superhuman effort captured ten points in a row to make it 2-0.

With such a set back it was perhaps not surprising that Burreidge faded in the final game leaving Thornhill the winner after narrowly losing the second, looking set for victory at 20-18, just to lose the next four points.

It was a match of changing fortunes. Thornhill took the first game after trailing 11-14, and lost the second after leading 19-16.

Thornhill had previously beaten two Irish internationals, E. Allen in the semi-final, and V. Mercer in the “quarters.”

Burreidge’s semifinal victim was D. Smith, of Somerset, who sprane a surprise by defeating the Irish international O’Prey.

Burreidge and Thornhill had no difficulty in winning the men’s doubles, beating G. Collins and Mercer in straight games, but Miss Rowe and Miss Row were well in the women’s doubles final. They dropped the third game to Mrs. M. Dowd and Joy Owen, and trailed 11-14 in the final game before recovering to win 14-21, 21-14, 21-18.

Burreidge and Miss Rowe had some measure of revenge for their singles defeat when they paired up to beat Thornhill and Miss Rook in the mixed final 10-21, 21-15, 21-17.

That Saffrey, who is only 13, showed remarkable promise when he won the boys’ singles beating G. Kelly 21-18, 21-23, 21-16. He has good temperament and a style that lends itself to improvement.

RESULTS

Men’s Singles Semi-finals: D. BURREIDGE bt D. Smith 21-17, 21-16; M. THORNHILL bt E. Allen 21-16, 21-19, 21-17.

Final: THORNHILL bt Burreidge 21-16, 19-21, 10-21, 21-18, 21-11.

Women’s Singles: Semi-finals: DIANE ROWE bt Joy Owen; JILL ROOK bt Jean Lynn.

Final: JILL ROOK bt Jean Lynn.


Women’s Doubles: Final: Miss ROOK and Miss ROWE bt Mrs. M. Dowd and Joy Owen 14-21, 21-14, 21-18.


Lancashire “OPEN”

All titles changed hands in the Lancashire “Open” at Bolton on January 26. Ray Hitchin, of Huddersfield, showiing much more aggressiveness, won the men’s title to beat Ken Stanley in the final 21-19, 18-21, 21-16, while Audrey Bates captured the women’s singles for Wales.

Miss Bates, who has been showing grand form this season, landed a triple crown when she also won the women’s doubles with Mrs. Vera Rowe and the mixed with W. Devine.

One of the best finals was the junior singles in which Colin Deaton, the Chesterfield junior international, beat F. G. Lynch, of Sheffield, 21-16, 21-15.

RESULTS


Women’s Doubles: Final: A. BATES and Mrs. V. ROWE bt W. Swift and M. Rhodes 21-18, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles: Final: W. DEVINE and Miss BATES bt S. Dyson and Miss Rhodes 21-11, 21-6.


Women’s Singles: Final: Miss A. BATES bt Mrs. B. Cassell 21-14, 21-11.

Yorkshire Junior “OPEN”

THE Yorkshire Junior “Open” at Madeley-street Baths, Hull, on January 5, attracted only 77 entries compared with 108 at Leeds last year. Petrol rationing was part of the reason, but support was lacking from several of the larger Yorkshire Leagues.

Star of the day from Yorkshire’s viewpoint was 14-year-old M. Dainty, of the newly formed Doncaster Youth League. He won the Under 15 singles and also reached the last four of the Junior singles before losing to Clive Arkell, who went on to beat David Parry 21-19, 21-14 in an all-Welsh final.

Perry’s semi-final victim was Colin Deaton, the Chesterfield junior international, who won the Youth’s singles.

The Youth’s singles was full of surprises. Arkell went out in the first round to J. Lyon, of York, and Parry was beaten by P. Shilcock (Notts.), who went on to reach the semi-final where he fell to J. Spencer (Leeds). A third Welsh challenger, Pat Crowley, lost to Deaton in the other semi-final. Deaton then beat Spencer 21-11, 21-19.

International Flo Wright (Barnsley) won the girls singles, beating 14-year-old Betty Kinsley (Hull) 21-15, 21-13. She gained a second title in the mixed doubles with Spencer. This was the best final of the evening, with Clive Pollard and Irene Allsopp of Hull coming near to creating an upset when they came from behind to take the lead at 20-18 in the final game, but they were eventually beaten 21-19, 21-10, 23-21.

RESULTS

Youth’s Singles: Semi-finals: C. T. DEATON (Chesterfield) bt P. Crowley (Cardiff) 21-11, 21-15; J. SPENCER (Leeds) bt P. Shilcock (Nottingham) 21-12, 21-16.

Final: DEATON bt Spencer 21-11, 21-19.


Under 15 Singles: Final: M. DAINTY (Doncaster) bt J. Mangham (Bury) 21-18, 21-18.

Youths’ Doubles: Final: D. N. BARTLETT and C. POLLARD (Hull) bt J. Stoddart (Wirral) and J. R. Moirhouse (Scarborough) 24-22, 15-21, 21-12.


Twenty-three
KENT “OPEN”

by Conrad Jascbke

THE Kent “open” lived up to its reputation, at Folkstone on January 26th-27th, with fancied players tumbling like ninepins in the men’s singles, won by Ken Craigie, of Surrey.

None of the six ranked England players (including three of the Swaythling Cup team), two Australian Swaithling Cup side, nor Hungarian star Joszef Somogyi, reached the final.

Biggest shock was the defeat of top seed Brian Kennedy in the third round, by Dennis Whitmacker, the Kent No. 3.

Playing the game of his life, Whitmacker neutralised Kennedy’s sponge bat attack with exceptionally heavy chop, but the stroke that won him the match at 17, 8, 14, was his backhand flick, which repeatedly left the Yorkshireman standing, particularly when delivered from the forehand court.

Whitmacker eventually found his match in Len Adams, who won their quarter-final tie 15, 19, 13.

Adams, who previously had accounted for Alan Lindsey, then had a great win over Harry Venner for a place in the final, where Craigie was always on top and won 21-16, 23-21.

Craigie did not have things all his own way in the earlier rounds. He easily beat Somogyi 16 and 11, in the third round, but was in sight of defeat in the “quarters” before overcoming Brian Brunwell, the holder—19, 26, 19. Then he had another narrow escape in the semi-final where he beat Alan Rhodes 22-20 in the third.

The Australians Phil Anderson and Arden Robinson, playing in their first tournament, lost to Somogyi and Bobby Raybould respectively.

In contrast, all four “seeds” reached decided to interrupt the match and play the next event.

When the match was resumed later, Stevens with his knee heavily bandaged, kept his end going but the handicap was too much and the Middlesex youngsters ran out winners.

Tony Piddock provided a local success, when at his third and last attempt he won the boys’ singles beating David Parry of Wales.


Women’s Singles: Semi-finals: Miss A HAYDON bt Miss J. Fielder 21-5, 21-18; Miss H. ELLIOT bt Miss S. Jones 21-8, 21-8.

Final: Miss HAYDON bt Miss Elliot 21-14, 21-18.


Final: HODSON and LANDRY bt Jones and Stevens 19-21, 21-14, 22-20.

Women’s Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss HAYDON and Miss JONES bt Miss V. Baker and Miss B. Isaacs 19-21, 21-11, 21-11; Miss ELLIOT and Miss FIELDER bt Mrs. J. Head and Miss M. Piper 21-11, 21-19.

Final: Miss HAYDON and Miss JONES bt Miss Elliot and Miss Fielder 21-9, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: KENNEDY and Miss HAYDON bt J. Head and Miss Piper 21-11, 21-18; VENNER and Miss ISAACS bt Jones and Miss Jones 16-21, 21-10, 21-17.

Final: KENNEDY and Miss HAYDON bt Venner and Miss Isaacs 21-14, 19-21, 21-17.

Junior Singles: Final: A. PIDDOCK bt D. Parry 21-17, 21-17.

YORKSHIRE “OPEN”

Men’s Singles: P. SKERRATI bt A. Shepherd 21-14, 21-17.


Women’s Doubles: Mrs. BRADDOCK and Mrs. CASELL bt Mrs. P. Chadwick and Miss F. Wright 11-21, 16-21, 21-12.


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

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