ALAN RHODES, of Middlesex.
the new Sussex "open" champion

SPECIAL FEATURE by

IVOR EYLES ON SELECTION
LIVE WIRE SELECTORS

A PAT on the back for the new English selection committee, ably led by chairman Ivor Eyles and secretary Peter Northcott. They have shown they mean business with a realistic approach to a job that makes them the “Aunt Sallies” of all.

Their new policy to search the country out and see that no talent is allowed to slip through their fingers is fully evident in the drawing up of a Junior Ranking List. It has let the youngsters see that they are not forgotten.

This, of course is a break with tradition, for I do not recall any previous ranking of juniors.

First fruits has been the discovery of Eddie Taylor, of Sunderland, who although nationally unknown came out top among the boys. Would he have had the same chance of making himself known so early in the season had it not been for area and final trials?

Apart from the junior trails there was the Lilleshall course for established internationals and those on the fringe. These were not trials as in the case of the juniors, but planned training, which opened the eyes of many. As one international remarked, “The training on this course has done me a lot of good. I could do with more of them. Moreover they have given me a system of training which I can carry on at home.”

GETTING AROUND

Then there is the issue of log books, whereby leading players will record their match results and forward them to Northcott so that selectors will have the known form of all players before them.

But this does not mean that selectors will sit back and go by paper work alone. Arrangements have already been made for at least one selector or representative to attend every tournament—restricted and unrestricted.

They will certainly be on the ball. It is good to find such a live committee instead of one that merely exists and is never heard of except for the issue of teams.

Why this sudden lease of life? Have the criticisms of the past at last struck home? As much as anyone I feel we can thank the newcomer, Northcott, whose election has been like a blood transfusion.

Northcott, secretary of Dorset, one of the least fashionable counties, has tried for years to get a seat on the National Executive Committee and has eventually succeeded, following the retirement of Harry Amery, whose place he has also taken as secretary of the selectors.

It makes you wonder if other go ahead administrators are also being kept in the cold.

Incidentally, Eyles and Northcott were originally selectors for the seniors with the juniors being handled by a separate committee. It was later decided that it would be better for everyone concerned for Eyles and Northcott to double up on both committees.

WHAT NEXT?

Just how ridiculous can this “freak bat” menace become. Latest invention is the “balloon bat” from Germany.

This is an inflatable plastic bag on a bat frame which can be blown up to any required degree. It can be made so limp that it would not return the ball, or so tight that it would rebound the ball with tremendous force. I suppose the idea is to control the pressure according to the shot to be played. What will they think of next—a ball under remote control?

Of course it is a farce. It is intended to be, to bring home to the World Congress the ridiculous position that can arise while they allow the non-standardisation of a bat to continue.

This never ending search for new material has got to stop before some crank discovers something which will make it absolutely impossible to return a ball, and kills the game stone-dead.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Three
Official News:

Lord Aberdare, G.B.E.

It is with great regret that we report the death of Lord Aberdare, G.B.E., whilst on holiday in Yugoslavia recently. Lord Aberdare will be remembered by many of our members for he had attended the English Open Championships on many occasions, and had presented the prizes at Wembley on Finals night. His funeral took place in North Wales, and a memorial service was held at St. Michael’s, Chester Square, London, S.W.I., at which the Association was represented by the President, The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.

Standardisation of the Racket

It is thought desirable to again inform our members of the experimental rule now in operation in this country for the year commencing 1st July, 1957. This rule reads as follows:

"The racket, though it may still be of any size, shape or weight, must be dark coloured, and its blade must be continuously and evenly rigid. If any covering be applied to the surface, this must be of ordinary pimpled-studded rubber not more than 2mm. in total thickness. Only the necessary quantity of adhesive may be used."

Ordinary pimpled studded rubber will be defined as follows:

A single covering with pimpls outwards, evenly distributed, not fewer than 50 nor more than 350 to the square inch, of rubber which, whether natural or synthetic, is non-cellular, and of which the total thickness, includes not only the height of the pimpls but also the thin textile backing, if any, to the rubber sheet.

Note for general guidance: A measurement of 2 millimetres is for practical purposes equivalent to one-twelfth of an inch, and is almost identically the thickness of the rim of a newly-minted penny.

County Membership

From time to time questions arise as to whether it is imperative for a League to belong to a County Association or not. E.T.T.A. Rules 21 (a) (i) and (b) cover the point:

21 (a) (i) "Where a majority of affiliated local Leagues or local Associations in any County agree, a by-law shall be set up for the purpose of administration in the County."

21 (b). "Membership of such County body to be compulsory on all affiliated leagues and local Associations, directly affiliated Clubs, and individuals in the County, except that any League, Association Club or individual has the right to appeal to the National Executive Committee to contract out."

Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Competitions

There were 90 entries received for the Wilmott Cup competition and 63 for the J.M. Rose Bowl. The draw took place at the E.T.T.A. Office on October 2, 1957, in the presence of Mrs. K. Pegg-Lewis, Messrs. C. J. Clemett, G. James, D. P. Lowen and C. Corti Woodcock. Zones 8 (a) and 8 (b) of both competitions are being played on a Zone one day basis, the arrangements being made by Mr. J. White and Mr. J. C. Eyles respectively. Full details of the draw are now with those taking part.

C.C.P.R. Coaching Holiday

The Central Council of Physical Recreation are arranging a Table Tennis Coaching Holiday in cooperation with the E.T.T.A.'s Hon. Director of Coaching, Mr. J. Carrington, from Saturday, December 28, 1957, to Thursday, January 2, 1958. This holiday is for both men and women aged 17 and over, and the fee payable is £6. Any of our members who are interested in attending should write to: The General Secretary, C.C.P.R., 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, for fuller particulars.

Publications

The following publications can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office for those members who desire literature regarding table tennis:

(i) Laws of the Game in Cardboard, size approx. 14½in. x 2½in. with hanging cord attached suitable for club rooms 1/6 each.

(ii) Know the Game Table Tennis. Modern Table Tennis, J. Carrington 7/6d. each.

(iii) Table Tennis Tips, J. Carrington 9/6d. each.

(iv) Table Tennis My Way, J. Leach 5/- and 2/6d. each.

(v) Table Tennis My Way, J. Leach at 5/- and 2/6d. each.

(vi) Table Tennis Tips, J. Carrington 1/6d. each.

(vii) Table Tennis Quiz, A. D. Brook 1/6d. each.

(viii) The Twins on Table Tennis, D. and R. Rowe 8/6d. each.

(ix) Laws of the Game in Booklet form, 4/6d. each.

Badges

Have you bought your official pin badge? We have them at the reasonable price of 2/3d. each or 24/- per dozen. The badge is very neatly made, and with the letters E.T.T.A. on a blue background.

Ties

Many of our members have already purchased the Association's official tie. Have you bought one yet? This attractive tie which bears the Association's crest in gold on a blue background is available to only the Association's members and is priced at 12/6d. each. Orders to the E.T.T.A. Office, at 214 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Triangles

For the lady members of the Association we have triangles for sale at 17/6d. each. The triangle bears the Association's crest in gold on a blue background and is, like the Men's tie, only available to Association members. Orders to be sent to the E.T.T.A. office please.

Club Competitions

We have already had requests for information about the Club competitions, which are again being run in the coming season in aid of the Travelling Expenses Fund for Future World Championships. Official literature will soon be available and will be circulated to our members, but, if you have any enquiry to make please write to the E.T.T.A. office for information now.

The competitions can take any form you wish, singles, doubles, or handicaps. The National Association are again giving specially designed plaques, incorporating the English badge, to winners. The entry fees are simple and do not vary with the number of competitions. All we ask is 24/- for each singles and 32/- for each doubles competition held. The scheme, as well as helping the Fund, gives players in your Club experience of Tournament conditions.

Germany D.B.R.

The German Junior players are taking part in the Kent (Unrestricted) Championships at Ramsgate on Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 1957. Arrangements are in hand for a Junior International Match with the Germans to be staged at the Astor Theatre, Deal, Kent, on Monday, November 11, 1957. Full details from Mr. J. W. Martin, “Coonahs,” Herschell Road, Walmer, Kent.

Team Selections

v Germany D.B.R. (Juniors), at Deal, November 11, 1957. E. Taylor (Sunderland), C. Gosling (Mdx.), Miss J. Harrower (Mdx.), Miss S. Hession (Essex). Non-playing Captain, L. Thompson (Bucks.).

Four
SHIRLEY COMES TO TOWN
By BRIAN CUTRESS

LOOK out Birmingham! Your hold on the Rose Bowl is being threatened.

Shirley Jones, the 21-year-old bespectacled little bombshell from Port Talbot has moved to London to seek her fortune—and more table tennis practice against top class opposition.

She is working for Ultra Radio where a colleague is Margaret Fry, and joined by Peggy Piper they form a formidable all-international trio to represent London Business Houses.

Shirley and Margaret, who represent Ultra in the North Acton League, plan a regular doubles partnership around the tournament circuit this season, so it looks as though a few titles may well come their way.

Incidentally, Shirley's move to London looks like raising the ban on her, as a Welsh girl, competing in the restricted tournaments. Asked about her position, E.T.T.A. secretary Peter Lowen said, "She is now affiliated to the E.T.T.A. so she should have the full privileges of affiliation. That is my personal opinion, but it will be for the N.E.C. to decide."

JILL ENGAGED

Congratulations to Corbillon Cup player Jill Rook, of Surrey, on her recent engagement to Lancashire's Alan Mills of lawn tennis fame. This is a romance inspired by lawn tennis and not table tennis, for they first met on the grass courts of Surbiton some 18 months ago.

They have formed a regular mixed doubles partnership in the past summer, collecting six "open" titles. This mixed "two-some" may also be seen around some of the table tennis tournaments this season, for Mills, whose home is at Formby, has played in the Lancashire League.

However, he has no intention of taking up table tennis seriously. His first love is lawn tennis and, now considered among the top half-dozen players in the country, his ambition is to win a place in Britain's Davis Cup team.

Jill tells me there are no immediate plans for the wedding. "We shall have to wait until Alan completes his national service with the R.A.F. in a year's time," she said.

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ABOUT FACE . . . by Fred Beadle

FRED LETT is not a member of the Swathting Cup team—nor is he likely to be. For one thing, he is short, tubby, flat-footed and shortsighted. He is also by way of being a very excerable performer—which is, perhaps, to be expected. Such things often go together.

For many years now, Fred has toiled at Number Four in the Hackenslash Social Club 'B'; a position precariously shared with Mrs. Scourge, the caretaker's wife; a gaunt, pinched, woman with a bun, a lisp and a penholder grip in that order. Alas, even then, Fred only plays when the good lady's fibrositis is troublesome.

But, for even the humblest of dogs, there are days—and Fred's particular day is just around the corner . . .

Our story begins—and ends—in an ill-lit side street, down which lies the clubroom, a dingy, unpainted building containing two tables, several indifferent nets and a decrepit tea urn. It is practice night, and members are hacking busily away at cracked, inferior balls—amongst them, a certain Rupert Cringe, the club Number One. Cringe is a man whose rapid rise to fame has coincided with his adoption of this dreaded, noiseless terror.

A tall, lean, sallow-faced figure clad in a heliotrope sweater and a patient pair of crepe-soled figures rushes him. Nevertheless, as befits a gentleman of such rotundity, he puts up a stout fight. He wields his only weapon—his case-aid. "Nay," he says. "Ah'm saying nowt. " And nowt he says. Soon, the very cry that Cringe has been dreading goes up . . .

"Give him a game, Rupert!"

"Go on, Fred—have a go!"

FORCED CHALLENGE

But Cringe is not at all keen on the idea: anyone who can dispose of the reducible Floggs with such ease is not to be taken lightly. However, public opinion prevails and in a matter of minutes the reluctant Number One is facing Fred across the polished surface of the match table. The atmosphere is tense. Which will triumph, the dreaded red sponge—or the honeycombed green?


The rallies grow shorter and less sweet. The sweating Cringe tries everything he knows, but it is no use. So the heads of the spectators become noisy—a blood-thirsty, baying sound. Cringe loses his head completely and begins to chisel. Too late. The ball writhes and twists through the room. No need for a best shot 21-4. A long pent up sigh echoes around for possible clues, and the beam of glowing cigarette ends in a doorway. Out come the group of youths in the velvet-collared jackets and drainpipe trousers of a by-gone age. At the club that night Fred is in excellent form, Cringe suffering rather more severely than usual at his hands. But this time, his good-humoured smile is a genuine one. He is the first to leave, wishing everyone—particularly Fred—a cordial goodnight. Stepping out into the darkness he moves furtively over to the other side of the street, where a number of glowing lights betray the presence of the Edwardsian. At long last, the door of the clubroom opens and a tubby, squat figure is seen silhouetted against the light.

Fred is still blinking in the darkness when four, crepe-soled figures rush him. Nevertheless, as befits a gentleman of such rotundity, he puts up a stout fight. He wields his only weapon—his case-aid with telling effect. But the case, not being designed as an offensive weapon and also being of the open and shut variety, flies open under the impact on nose and chin and scatters its contents all over the pavement. Fred himself, stoops—a myriad stars explode in his head, and he knows no more.

SECRET REVEALED

A moment later a large bobby pounds on the door. This is the prostrate Fred, and he stoops to examine him. Out comes a tube like a bump like a small egg on the back of his head. The bobby torches around for possible clues, and the beam comes to rest on two circular pieces of green, honeycombed material lying in the gutter. They have fallen off the face of Fred's bat—but of this the bobby is unaware.

He retrieves them, and as anyone else would do in similar circumstances—takes a tentative sniff, holding them gingerly between thumb and forefinger. He sniffs again, and scratches away a flake or two of green paint with his nails. Now, the bobby is a Lancashire man—he knows that familiar, pungent smell. Yes, you'd probably know it too, because it's TRIPLE . . . Just like the rest of this little tale!
THE KNIGHTHOOD OF TABLE TENNIS
The First "Honours List"

By LESLIE WOOLLARD, Chairman of the E.T.T.A.,
Life Members' Trust

The highest distinction which the E.T.T.A. can bestow is Honorary Life Membership. This Award can be considered as the "Knighthood" of the game.

The Award is governed by Rule 11 (page 18, E.T.T.A., Handbook, 1956-57). Nominations for the distinction are made by a three-man Trust: Ivor Eyles, Leslie Forrest and Leslie Woollard (Chairman), whose recommendations must be confirmed by both the National Executive and by the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

The first 8 recommendations for Honorary Life Membership made by this Trust were approved by the A.G.M., held in April, 1956. They were:

The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.
Austin F. Carris.
Godfrey W. Decker.
Arthur K. (Bill) Vint, C.B.E.
P. E. Warden.
C. Corti Woodcock.
Leslie E. Forrest.

Each of these has served the game for an average of 35 years apiece. Pen pictures of each of these will appear in this and following issues of "Table Tennis."

All candidates will be selected by us with the same honesty, impartiality and certainty as these. The criterion is Personal Performance of exceptional merit (in a national sense).

Opinions alone are not enough. Sheer length of service is not a yardstick. Nor will a person necessarily be disqualified because he/she has had at some time some advantageous interest in the game. Nor because his/her enthusiasms may have involved him/her in occasional "upsets."

We, of the Trust, intend to consider the WHOLE record in every single case, with all merits and dismerits. In this, we need your confidence and help, because—for some of our "candidates"—there is too little factual information. We are selecting not for a single match but for a lifetime.

Your comments, suggestions and evidence will ever be welcome in our difficult but proud task of selecting those to be awarded England's highest table tennis honour.

The Dowager Lady Swaythling

For over 45 years, Lady Swaythling has given more to the game than anyone will ever know.

The Swaythling Cup was her endowment. She surrendered her house for the very first Congress of the International Federation, thus in a sense, Kensington Court was the "maternity home" of the I.T.T.F. She has been our President since 1954.

In the more rip-roaring, propagandising days of the '20's, she wrote articles on the game for the popular press and herself played exhibition matches. The classic of the latter was her match against Joe Beckett, England's popular boxing champion of the day. And what were the headlines when she beat him?

Yes, indeed, she is the First Lady of world table tennis.

P. E. Warden

Warden, dear "PEW," a golden thread linking the entire history of the game. Warden was a young man when T.T. emerged. He was a champion, a pioneer of chop defence and dress reform before Montagu was born! He was there when the five Bromfields (including great Percy) arrived. In the Revival of 1921, Warden was the ONLY continuing link between those cauldrons of turmoil—the several formative Executives out of which the Association painfully emerged.

He was one of the best players of this era, twice reserve for England. In 1923 he was a founder member of the Civil Service League with Sir Noel Curtis Bennett, Captain Hey, Sturt and Fox. He was (with Montagu and Popo) one of the Referees or Chief Stewards of all those first English Opens, and the First World Championships.

When the E.T.T.A. Constitution was hammered out, the three men who did the job were Montagu, Warden and his great friend, the English Olympics athlete, George Ross.

Warden was above average in a dozen sports. In Lawn Tennis, he could give such as Lacoste, Doust, Brugnon and Bousers a hard game. At 43, he was semi-finalist in the All-England Badminton Championships.

But, as he has said, "I think I got more FUN out of table tennis than any other game."

This remarkable man was still playing table tennis reasonably at the age of 80. That was five years ago. And it was not Anno Domini that beat his unconquerable spirit: it was failing sight.

Austin F. Carris

Young, sport-loving journalist Carris came to learn and love table tennis in the Manchester of the 1900's. He came upon London in 1921 and took ping-pong out of its poky backrooms and put it on Main Street. Debonair, dapper, and dynamic, he recruited the celebrities of the day to his cause. He would go anywhere, anytime, without fee, to play exhibitions or otherwise promote the game. One of his 24-hour tours covered Leicester (playing with England's great cricket captain, the late Lord Tennyson) and on to Coventry and Birmingham, with half-a-dozen games at each, "full of pep and unconventional antics."

Carris arranged the first International match v. Wales in 1922, and, as runner-up English Champion to Donaldson, was also one of the team. He organised several big Junior Championships. In fact, the first England Junior Championships, in 1922, was won by his eldest son, Harold.

Carris secured the first table tennis "broadcast" and many National newspaper write-ups. He was the prime inspiration of the first great "Daily Mirror" United Kingdom Championships of 1923 with nearly 40,000 entries and which, for the first time, really got isolated groups into contact and had them playing under one set of rules. He re-introduced his beloved "doubles"—the "Manchester Doubles" they called it—the style we know today.

Today Carris lives on the South Coast, a short distance from his old friend Jack Hobbs (who was a member of the first Executive), but his benevolent patronage and enthusiasm of many sports has never waned. The greater perpetuation of this interest now reposes on the world-famous Carris Trophies for junior golf.

HARRY VENNER
Class Coaching
7/6d. per three hour session.
Saturday mornings and afternoons.
66. Tavistock Crescent, MITCHAM, Surrey. Phone Pollards 0263.
What constitutes the duties of a League Match Secretary? Chasing players, who apparently cannot write letters, arranging travelling, booking halls—all these are among his chores.

But burly George Mortimore of Bristol and District takes on even more than that.

At the recent E.T.T.A. Coaching Rally held in Bristol, he not only organised the venue and set up the tables, but also organised the food for 20 people as well!

Around lunchtime, he could be seen busily stirring pots on the stove and carving up meat. When tea time came, there he was again buttering bread, opening cans, and making tea.

And what was George doing when we left at 9 p.m.? Why, washing up!

Many of the girls who play table tennis also pursue some other sport. Some play tennis, some badminton; some like netball and some hockey. But how many ladies can boast of being footballers?

Sixteen-year-old Diane Wright of Stockport is the proud owner of a badge presented in Portugal for football.

She toured there in the summer, with Oldham Ladies F.C., playing Exhibition Matches in aid of the Portuguese Red Cross Society.

Diane says she finds that football is good training for her table tennis—and she is certainly fast on the table. In recent area junior trials she lost only one set.

* * *

The Secretary of the National Selection Committee, has sent me (and a few dozen others too) a most delightful little book headed “Players Record Book.”

This is to record one’s own personal record of County and tournament matches and the sheets are to be torn out and sent every month to the Secretary so that records of every ranked player are kept up to date.

Now there is not a chance of one’s best wins being ignored, nor, incidentally, of one’s worst losses. Even if we “forgot” to record our loss, our opponent would certainly have recorded her win.

The sheet is marked off into columns headed, Date, Event, Opponent, Scores, and the last column is for “Remarks.”

What a heaven-sent opportunity for recording just how unlucky we were, and giving all those excusey! “The conditions were very poor” (thereby implying that they were not the same for your opponent!), “the match was already won by then,” (of course, we wouldn’t have lost the set otherwise).

There is the wonderful opportunity to give oneself a real boost. Having recorded the fact that you beat Miss X by 21-9, 21-10, you can say “Miss X played brilliantly throughout.”

Eagle/Girl Tournament

Who says no personalities asks Kenneth Wheeler

Ask any sporting giant of a bygone era: “What’s wrong with big-time sport today?” and he will answer: “There aren’t the personalities that there were in my day.”

It’s true of most sports, I find. But in table tennis at least the outlook is bright, for amongst the crop of talented youngsters the Eagle/Girl Tournament is helping to raise are enough “characters” to fill the stage of the London Palladium and keep it buzzing with entertainment.

I am thinking of the irrepressible little bundle of energy and good humour Ian Gibson, built like a rugby hooker (which he is, by the way) yet as agile as a cat on a red-hot rooftop. Ian is our reigning under-thirteen champion, and has his Welsh eyes set on the under-fifteen title this season.

Of plump, jolly Pauline Martin, whom every point is a death-or-glory struggle, and of cocky, wee Gary Brass, looking as if he needs taking down a peg but proving in the event the gamest and most gracious of losers. And of many others.

There’s a feather in the cap of fifteen past competitors already, for they figured amongst the 31 under-seventeens selected for the final England Junior International trials at Wolverhampton last month.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Butcher, Ann Charman, Jean Harrower, Mary Hicks, Betty Kinley and Mary Shannon; and to Michael Dainty, Chris Gosling, Derek Grant, Brian Hamill, George Livesey, Mark White, Howard Jacobson, G. Robbins and David Stanley. At 12 years of age, David Stanley must surely be the youngest boy ever to achieve this honour.

What fresh talent will come to light as a result of this season’s championship? Prospects are exciting, for our final entry figure was not less than 5,501, which shatters all previous records.

Eighty-six decentralised qualifying rounds have been authorised in schools and clubs throughout Great Britain, and play in many of these has already started to decide the regional finalists. Northern Ireland are represented in our tournament for the first time by Waterside Boys’ Club of Derry City.

So large is the London entry, that three tournaments will now take place at St. Bride’s Institute, off Fleet Street, with Qualifying Rounds on February 1 and February 8, and the London Regional Finals on February 15.

At the Regional Finals survivors of the London Qualifying rounds will meet winners of events in 42 decentralised competitions held in the South of England.
LOOKING FOR SCAPEGOATS

Rumania Blames Trainer

The Rumanians, still smarting over their lack of success in last season's World Series in Sweden, have started the new season looking round for scapegoats on whom to pin the blame. Angle they've thought up and are stressing is that their three trainers—Nico Naumesco, Angelica Rozeanu and Toma Reiter—are devotees of the defence cult, the inference here being that the trio instilled the wrong tactical notions into the country's Stockholm representatives.

Yet not so many moons back, when Rumania was doing nicely in the picking up of honours, thank you, everyone was apparently most happy about the work being done by the same trainers. And the coaching methods they used then were precisely the same as they were for the 1957 rally.

The French magazine, "Tennis de Table," reports at length on the Russians' hatred of sponge bats. It seems the semi-final match between Hungarian Josef Berczik and Czech Ivan Andreidis, in the Third Youth Festival Games tournament at Moscow last summer, when both used sponge in their interest-shattering set-to, was responsible in no small measure for the "anti" feeling existing behind the Iron Curtain.

A three-man American team of Bill Gunn, Bernard Bukiet and Fields has been touring India, where it played a series of matches with a measure of success.

Currently in India, under the aegis of the Rajkumati Sports Coaching Scheme, is Victor Barna, performing another tutoring stint on behalf of the country's senior and junior stars. Victor returns to England next month (December). His wife, Suzie, is with him.

The boys' individual singles final of the international youth championships in Germany, between a Yugo-Slav and a Swede, both "spongers," was a dreary "no-hit" affair in which the ultimate game went to the time limit. It is reported that the match was boring in the extreme, and there is little doubt that it helped to get sponge banned in Germany.

In the tournament, incidentally, home girls dominated and annexed all titles. Surprising feature was the eclipse of the Hungarian boys and girls, who normally win most of the honours.

Japanese twosome of Ichiro Ogimura and "Tosh" Tanaka, touring New Zealand and Australia, played six "Tests" without dropping a match, winning every one of them 5-0. Four matches were against New Zealand, the others against Australia.

The death has been announced of Jan Schouweron, a stalwart of the Netherlands T.T. Association.

Arden Robinson, recent winner of the Australian national singles, has recently taken to wearing spectacles. "I don't know what's going to happen now," he says a little apprehensively. At the moment, however, he heads the Aussie ranking list, which reads: MEN: Arden Robinson, Geoff Jennings, Bill Hodge, Alec Cassavetis, John Klesman. WOMEN: Jean Mulconry, Pat Hill, Arlene Jennings, Sherry Irwin, Aldona Snaarskis, Maisie Keating.

Commenting on the standardisation of the bat to the maximum thickness of 5mm. "down under," Arden says sponge would almost certainly have been banned if some officials hadn't seen the Japanese in action.

Top men and women in the German ranking list are: MEN: Freundorfer, Arndt, Seiz, Holusek, Kohler, Seifert; and WOMEN: Schlaf, Fiedler, Brell, Thole, Graf, Mielenhausen.

Konnie Freundorfer, incidentally, was suspended for going to Russia to compete in the Youth Games tournament without permission to do so.

Nikolau won the men's title and Cebeci the women's title in the Turkish national championships.

Finally, on a topical note and with the crazy sponge set-up in mind, it is to be hoped that the Russian "bleep-bleep" satellite doesn't give any scientifically-minded nation with T.T. ambitions the idea of a "loaded" ball which can be controlled by a manager to behave in favour of his players. . .

Eleven
SELECTORS BREAK WITH TRADITION

Junior Rank
For First Time

UNKNOWN HEADS LIST

ALMOST unknown 16-year-old Eddie Taylor, a product of the T.L.F. Club, Sunderland, was the surprise packet in the England Final Junior Trials at Wolverhampton. An apprentice electrician, Taylor suffered one defeat, at the hands of News of the World “boy of the year” George Livesey, but beat each of the other fancied candidates in turn.

He showed great courage and determination when under pressure, and employed a match-winning counter-attack to good purpose.

The selectors had no hesitation in deciding that Taylor had earned top ranking and he makes his international debut against German Junior at Deal on November 11.

Chris Gosling (Middx.), Jean Harrower (Middx.) and Shelagh Hession (Essex) complete the side.

[ALL-ROUNDER]

Taylor has modelled his play on Edgar Reay, an international of yesterday, noted for his rapid counter-attack.

Incidentally, Reay, now 52, plays second string to Taylor for T.L.F. in the Sunderland League.

George Livesey, though only 14 years old, was the most complete all-round player on view, and the selectors thought highly of his future prospects. Indeed, he might have attained a much higher ranking than the No. 5, had he reproduced the form he showed on Saturday, (when he beat Taylor) on the following morning. However, Sunday saw Livesey lose to Hamill and Gosling.

Chris Gosling played well throughout, losing only to Taylor, and fighting back miraculously when hopelessly down by 13-19 in the third to Livesey. Still inclined to put the ball back rather high, Chris showed considerable improvement compared with last year.

Let us hope, though, he soon gets out of the habit of constantly talking to himself when under pressure.

It is most disconcerting to his opponents, and surely not a great help to himself either!

Brian Hamill lost two matches out of eight, and the other ranked boys each lost three. On their performances, there was very little between Nos. 3 to 7.

[FAMOUS NAMES]

Among the boys who failed to get a ranking, 12-year-old David Stanley (Burnley) the youngest competitor, impressed by his very mature game, though only winning two out of six matches.

David is the son of former England international Ken Stanley.

Graham Lynch (Sheffield) 16, was not far behind the ranked boys, and 15-year-old Stephen Bubley—nephew of famous Ernie Bubley — showed himself the possessor of a educated backhand attack. Although winning only three out of six matches Bubley will surely be heard of in the not too distant future.

Fourteen-year-old Jean Harrower came out on top of the girls as expected, and was the only unbeaten competitor in the Trials.

[JUNIOR STARS]

Shelagh Hession and Ann Jacobs each lost two matches, and there was very little to choose between them.

Diane Wright, who packs a terrific wallop on her forehand, could with a little luck have achieved even better than No. 4. Like Jean, Diane has time on her side, and must surely be a future junior international.

The same can be said of Mary Shannon, who at 13 is the youngest ranked player.

Among the unranked girls, 15-year-old Betty Kinsley (Hull) and 14-year-old Ann Charman (Birmingham) also did well, while 12 year old Susan Thomas (Orpington) is an obvious future prospect. Betty and Susan each got two wins out of five, while Ann got three.

The arrangements for the Trials were excellent in every respect, with Wolverhampton League president Malcolm Scott doing all the running around to make everyone happy, leaving his co-selectors on the junior panel to concentrate on the play.

The facilities at the Good Year Club could not be faulted, and ex-Staffs county secretary J. Hesford weighed in with an excellent lunch at the Woodfield Club before departure on Sunday.
The staging of this Trials weekend marked a definite step forward in the development of the junior game. The selectors’ policy is to “catch them young” and to help promising juniors with all the resources available.

I feel that the selectors’ decision to rank juniors—a break with tradition—is excellent, providing extra incentive to the players concerned, and to those who want to catch them.

Junior rankings:

**Boys**

1. Leigh Harrower (New Barnet) 14 years.
2. Chris Gosling (New Barnet) 16 years.
3. Ann Jacobs (Sittingbourne) 16 years.
4. Derek Grant (Venron) 16 years.
5. George Livesey (Burnley) 14 years.
6. Bill Northcott (Torpoint) 16 years.
7. David White (Leighton Buzzard) 15 years.
8. Brian Hamill (Chatham) 15 years.
9. Diane Wrigley (Stockport) 15 years.

**Girls**

1. Eddie Taylor (Sunderland) 16 years.
2. Shelagh Hession (New Barnet) 14 years.
3. Jean Harrower (New Barnet) 14 years.
4. Ann Jacobs (Sittingbourne) 16 years.
5. Diane Wright (Stockport) 15 years.
6. Mary Shannon (Worcester Park) 13 years.
7. Jackie Butcher (London) 16 years.
8. Mary Hicks (London) 17 years.
9. Mary Hitchin (Middlesbrough) 16 years.

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**Why Don’t We Wake Up?**

By R. G. N. Bacon (National Umpire and Glos. County Umpires Secretary)

FOR a long time I have felt that there has been little consideration given to easing the difficult task of umpiring. I know that many readers feel that there is little in this umpiring “lark”—just sit on a chair, count up to 21 and that’s that! But is it really so?

A conscientious umpire is the sole judge of a game in progress, has to be impartial, and where there are spectators, has to ensure that the game is presented in such a way as to bring credit to the game. Yet during Internationals and Major Tournaments very little has been done in the past to assist Umpires in carrying out these obligations particularly during doubles play.

**BUSY BEE**

Is it fully appreciated exactly how much is expected of an Umpire during a doubles match? Let us examine his obligations when a service is about to take place, and immediately after.

1. Ensure correct player is serving.
2. Ensure correct player is receiving.
3. Ensure the serve is a good one (flat hand, etc.)
4. Ensure that the Law regarding serving between an imaginary continuation of the side lines is observed.
5. Ensure Ball is served from behind end lines.
6. Ensure Ball bounces in server’s half court.
7. Ensure Ball does not touch net or end lines.
8. Ensure Ball bounces in receiver’s half court.
9. Satisfy himself that no violation of the Laws takes place by any player (such as hand on table or volley).

So before play really gets under way, and in a matter of seconds, an Umpire has to decide on at least nine conditions of play!

In view of the recent drive for more Umpires, I am wondering if it would not be a good idea for the Umpires Committee to examine the whole structure of the Umpires Scheme with a view to readjusting the responsibilities. By doing this I feel sure that many recruits could be obtained.

Many must have seen the recent Wembley and last summer’s Wimbledon Tennis Championships, either in person or on T.V., and I am convinced of the efficiency of the Umpires and their team of officials was apparent to all.

With all this in mind, I recommend to the National Umpires Committee that the following proposals:

"That the appointments of Net Judges and Side Line Judges should be obligatory in doubles matches during Internationals and Major Events."

The Net Judge would be responsible for net serves and ball striking the edge nearest to him, and the Side Line Judges for the ball being served within the imaginary continuation of the side line (it is probable that this Law is contravened more than any other). This would leave the Umpire to judge on the service being otherwise good, ball bouncing in correct half courts and, of course, general play.

**REFEREE’S DISCRETION**

Apart from the Net Judge (who in effect is an Edge Ball Judge with additional duty) the proposal is not new and in fact it is covered in the Rules relating to Umpires and other Match Officials, but the position at the moment is that the appointment of such Judges is at the discretion of a Referee, who has the added responsibility of deciding whether such appointments interfere with the view of the spectators.

I am not unaware of the importance of the financial reward gained by admission charges, and the general responsibility by Tournament Organisers to give the best possible view to all spectators. Nevertheless, I maintain, emphatically, that the first duty is to those actually concerned with the match, the Players and Officials.

The inconvenience of extra Officials from a viewing angle would be more balanced by the fact that the match would be controlled more efficiently. Furthermore, the obligation of presenting Table Tennis creditably would be better achieved.

In addition to the above points, I feel that the recommendation for an Umpire to stand for doubles, whilst necessary under the present system, is not very desirable and surely Tournament Organisers could arrange for the Umpire’s Chair and Table to be raised by 12 inches. This would enable the Umpire to follow the movement of the ball much better. The ideal of course would be a modified chair similar, but not as high as that used by the Lawn Tennis Association.
WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

By IVOR C. EYLES, Chairman of the National Selection Committee

Can England regain her former greatness in world table tennis?

If so, how can this be achieved?

These two serious questions have been poised before the England selectors ever since our teams took those beatings at Stockholm last spring.

The problem is not quite so difficult where the girls are concerned, because among them we have a wealth of young talent in Ann Haydon, the second best player in the world, Di Collins (Rowe), Jill Rook and Joyce Fielder, who were by no means disgraced at Stockholm, and time is on their side.

The picture is much less rosy amongst the men. The next world championships at Dortmund (Germany) in 1959, will see an England side from which the famous Bergmann/Leach/Simons trio which won the 1952/53 Swaythling Cup maybe missing.

Father time must catch up on them and leave that burly Yorkshireman, Brian Kennedy, our only young player with worldwide experience. Thus it may well be that a completely new team will have to be built and trained.

The selectors are very conscious of their task, and their problem falls into two categories:

(1) To obtain the cash that will enable us to coach and train young players, and

(2) To find the right type of player, who is eager to take advantage of any facilities provided, and who is prepared to get down to some really hard work, without which the money spent on players is completely wasted.

The National Executive have shown much understanding of these problems and although rapidly rising costs make for a bleak financial outlook, they have made an immediate grant of £200 for the training of players.

In the long-term planning, which includes our own premises for offices and a playing Hall, the National Executive have set up a committee to explore means of raising cash.

Following area trials, from which I sincerely trust all promising youngsters were brought to the notice of selectors, some 30 boys and girls took part in final trials at Wolverhampton. Thus we have a picture of all our junior talent from the age of 13 upwards.

So much for the juniors. What of the seniors? Some twenty of them, either established internationals or players on the fringe, were recently put through a very stiff week-end course at Lilleshall, under the guidance of Victor Barna and Adrian Haydon (who deputised for Jack Carrington).

This course included loosening up exercises, and plenty of ball practice, with the coaches trying to iron out weaknesses, under the stress of competitive match play all results were noted and listed. In due time, a team of world size will be selected, to receive individual coaching from Victor Barna and Adrian Haydon.

The selectors are convinced that such courses are vital to the raising of our playing standard. I was therefore, pleased to hear several players express their appreciation, and their willingness to contribute something towards the cost of any further courses they may be asked to attend. This is the spirit we must have.

The selector's lot is never a happy one. Has any team in any sport been published without some sort of criticism? So the encouraging remarks made by players on this course were most heartening.

If I may take you into the selection committee's confidence, in plain straightforward words; we expect 100% co-operation from the players. All must learn that England comes first, and that team spirit is more important than individual ambition.

Today's players can learn a great

World's No. 1 woman lawn tennis player meets world's No. 2 table tennis player at table tennis. Shock result: Wimbledon champion Althea Gibson beat Ann Haydon. It happened in a "friendly" when Ann visited America for the Wightman Cup.

Trainees and coaches at the Lilleshall course

Photo: Edward D. Arden
DEATH OF KARL ECKARDT

Big International Loss

The untimely death of Karl Eckardt, President of the Deutscher Tischtennis Bund, the Table Tennis Association of the German Federal Republic, announced on October 21st, 1957, is not only a grave loss to our sport, but has saddened all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

As D.T.T.B. President he must be honoured for three great achievements.

First, he took the initiative in the post-war revival of Table Tennis in West Germany, whose Association is now one of the largest and most efficiently organised in the world. It pays especial attention to juniors and the standard of play is as high as, or higher than, it has ever been in that country.

Second, his guidance and patience succeeded in maintaining good relations, despite all strains, and an organisational co-operation, with the East German body, of the Democratic Republic, on a basis that has subsequently become a model for many other German sports. Third, his tact and common-sense succeeded in gradually restoring the German Table Tennis voice to a position of respect in the international field, no easy task after the stresses of the Second World War.

GREATLY RESPECTED

It is, however, in the International Table Tennis Federation that his loss will be most keenly felt. He had made a great mark during the few years that he was able to participate in its work. Few had gained, in so short a time, so great a measure of respect. While never forgetting the proper interest of his own players and association, he approached questions with due regard to wider considerations and the necessity for fair conciliation of differing points of view. His integrity was widely recognised and last year, after service for several seasons on two of the most difficult I.T.T.F. committees — Equipment and Standing Orders — he was unanimously elected as the Vice-President for Europe.

It was largely due to the confidence he enjoyed that the responsible task of organising the next World Championships (1959) was accorded to the Arbeitsausschuss Deutscher Tischtennis Sport (the Joint Board for German Table Tennis, east and west).

Such men are hard to find, still harder to replace.

He was a great friend of Table Tennis players in his country, and had become a regular and favourite guest together with his young team, both junior and junior, at our big championships. His immediate colleagues — I know I speak for my brother officers — will miss him especially for his personal qualities.

Herr Eckardt had been in difficult health for several years. His unquenchable and energetic efforts for Table Tennis were given despite bouts of severe illness. The last World Championships at Stockholm were followed by pneumonia. Scarcely had he recovered when, this summer, he was escorting Mr. and Mrs. Roy Evans round the accommodation planned for the 1959 World Championships, his fond dream.

His integrity was widely recognised. Immediately after, he was in hospital again, with internal trouble.

Eckardt was 48. He married only a year ago. Sympathy will go out to his widow and all his family.

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President I.T.T.F.
Chairman E.T.T.A.

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Fifteen
Letters to the Editor

WEST HAM EXPLAIN

May I be allowed to correct any misleading impressions which may have been created by the brief announcement of this League’s dis-affiliation from the Essex County T.T.A. in the area News section of the October issue of TABLE TENNIS?

Unfortunately, Mr. Bateman, has quoted parts of my remarks out of context and I feel the result is unpalatable to our League. I should explain that the West Ham Y.O.C. Table Tennis League is a section of a larger body which organises the sporting activities of members of youth clubs within the Borough of West Ham. It is not composed of single-activity table tennis clubs and the players are mainly in the 15-19 age group.

All our players play table tennis as one of a number of sports and their interest in it is purely one of recreation and enjoyment. Our objection to the new E.T.T.A. rule was simply one of principle.

We feel that how a player enjoys himself is a matter of individual taste and if a boy can find greater inner satisfaction from playing with a sponge bat than he can with a rubber one, nobody has the right to tell him he cannot use it. For this reason alone, we felt the only logical way to reconcile our convictions with the new E.T.T.A. rule was to dis-affiliate, and this decision was taken in exactly the same manner as was the decision to introduce the new rule — by a democratic vote.

Ron Nego,
(Hon. Secretary, West Ham Y.O.C. Table Tennis League)

WASTED JOURNEY

With reference to the county fixtures in the October issue.

I noted the following in the South Junior Division: Surrey v. Hertfordshire, October 19th, Putney T.T. Club, Upper Richmond Road, S.W.15.

On my arrival at 2.55 p.m., I found the place deserted. After waiting around until about 3.15 p.m., there were still no signs of life, so I left.

I appreciate that matches could be cancelled or postponed after Table Tennis goes to press, but this match was advertised in the News Chronicle on October 13th, so came under it. I could assume it would be played as scheduled.

It would help if “organisers” could notify the press if matches are not going to take place, instead of allowing advertisements to be printed.

I most certainly will be dubious about going along to Putney T.T. club in future to see an advertised match, as I prefer to see some table tennis not an empty hall.

G. R. Green,
(Hanwell, W.7)

Note: The match was postponed to 6 p.m. and the Press duly notified. — Editor.

WHICH RECORD?

In the October issue of “Table Tennis” (page 23, column 3), Frank Bateman refers to Shelagh Hession meeting only three more appearances in N.C.C. matches to equal the junior record of 19 at present held by Sheila Pickard.

Perhaps Mr. Bateman was referring to the girls or, perhaps, Essex players but he did not make this clear. If he was referring to juniors generally in N.C.C. matches, then he has probably forgotten that Peter Cole played for Suffolk Juniors 24 times over four seasons.

Although I am not sure, I believe this is the record but, with young players such as Jean Harrower of Middlesex and Robert Riccliff of Herts, truly established in their respective teams, Peter’s 24 will, doubtless, be passed in due course.

Arthur E. Durrant,
(Lowestoft)

Note: Mr. Bateman was referring only to Essex.

REALITIES OF THE SPONGE QUESTION

Any hope in the foreseeable future of sponge being abolished at international level is now dead. We have banned it in England and our lead has been followed by Austria, France, Germany, Wales, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and South Africa, but we should need the support of between 50 and 60, to get the ban through the I.T.T.F.

Moreover the big names of Europe—Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Sweden and Yugoslavia—are not supporting us.

Any type of racket will be allowed in the 1958 European championships in Hungary and the same applies to the World championships in Germany in 1959 so it is obvious that those countries where sponge is still permissible will not make any change before then.

By banning sponge completely, England has lost a golden opportunity of making her voice heard in any international discussions on standardisation by thickness. In fairness we could give no advice on the matter.

If we allowed some maximum thickness of sponge this season we could obtain valuable information to put the I.T.T.F., but we can learn nothing by a complete ban. We have had the experience of pimpled rubber play so surely we have nothing more to learn in this direction.

On the night of the brilliant sponge play in the quarter-finals of the English Open I observed an N.E.C. member that we should be committing suicide if we banned sponge in comparative isolation and I see no reason to change that view.

Some of our top players appear to be playing nearly as well with rubber which shows that sponge itself was not the reason for their successes last season, but it does not indicate they will be allowed to play as well against foreign sponge players.

For one reason they will not be able to obtain the necessary experience against sponge.

What should we do now? The N.E.C. have made the gesture. Now I suggest the N.E.C. reconsider the position in the light of present harsh realities and call a special general meeting at which they would sponsor the allowing of sponge to some maximum thickness for the remainder of the season. The N.E.C. should bear in mind the small majority at the last A.G.M. in favour of complete ban, and the number of abstaining votes.

By doing this they would only be anticipating what appears to me to be inevitable at next year’s A.G.M. and would allow our top players to gain the necessary experience against sponge.

Dennis Offer.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

The season has opened with mixed fortunes. From the playing viewpoint the news is not too good because Eunice Beech, Brenda Nugent, Simon Pearson and Alan Hawkes are no longer available.

Two 8-2 defeats opened the programme — one taken by the juniors from Herts at St. Albans and the other by the seniors also from Herts at Lowestoft. Both matches were played in the very best traditions of sportsmanship and the officials who took the juniors to St. Albans are especially to be thanked for the wonderful hospitality and the excellent playing conditions at the E.A.C., St. Albans. Thank you, Herts.

Although the self-inflicted suspension of the Bury St. Edmonds League for 1957/58 is a blow, the affiliation of two new leagues, the Sudbury and the Peasenhall, and a Directly Affiliated Club, the Ipswich Convent, gives those behind the scenes great encouragement.

Sudbury League, formed only last season, has two divisions and a membership of 13 clubs and 18 teams. Peasenhall League embraces seven towns and villages somewhat widely scattered, and has seven clubs and eleven teams in two divisions.

It is hoped that Ipswich Convent will later prove a source of supply for junior girls in much the same way as Lowestoft’s Briar Cliff School supplies junior boys.

The membership of the Suffolk Association has increased from last season’s figures of: 6 leagues, 100 clubs and 186 teams and 1 Directly Affiliated Club.

The Suffolk Association has just published its first Handbook for several years. It has 64 pages and a photographic supplement.

The Suffolk Inter Town League is functioning again with Sudbury taking Bury’s place. A new post of S.I.T.L. Secretary has been taken over by Michael Rogers of Ipswich. Ipswich, incidentally, are also participating in the East Anglian League of Leagues to which they were elected recently.

A. E. D.

Seventeen
WILMOTT CUP
First Round Results

Northumberland 5, Leeds 0.
Sunderland 4, Castleford 0.

Northumberland 3, (B)
Chesterfield 2, Sheffield 7.

Sheffield 3, (A)
Southport 8, Chester 1.

Barnes v Wembley.

Wembley 5, Barnets 0.

Leighton Buzzard 0, Barnets 9.

Barnet 5, Lansdown 1.

Leatherhead 5, Luton 0.

Leatherhead 5, Mansfield 0.

Leatherhead 5, Carshalton 0.

Leatherhead 5, Luton 0.

Wembley 5, Barnets 0.

Leatherhead 5, Wembley 0.

Leatherhead 5, Luton 0.

Leatherhead 5, Carshalton 0.

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IRISH SCENE

A PAT on the back for the Angles ea who, for 20 long years have dominated all senior events. They have split up their team of the past few seasons. Number one, Sean Clarkin will combine with brothers L. and S. Quinn to form one team, while his old teammates Don Maloney and Michael Behan will be joined by Miss Desirée Feethan.

This is indeed a sporting, and a no doubt wise move from Desirée Fearon's point of view. It will give her an opportunity to play against the top-ranking men in the province, and her game is bound to improve with this kind of play.

This move is particularly significant as Ireland's No. 1 woman player Joy Owens has emigrated to Canada during the close season. Micro Fearon is obviously being groomed to take her place and withstand the strong challenge from the Northern Ladies.

The loss of Joy Owen is a big blow to Irish table tennis. To mark her work from the home scene the Irish Association arranged a party, and presented her with a gold bracelet.

The fact that sponge has been banned across the channel does not seem to have affected matters here. The Association has not yet issued any statement on their attitude to its use in this country. I feel, however, that sooner than later they will decide to conform with the English ruling on the matter.

S. Dignam.

CAMBRIDGE NOTES

A merican challenges in the Cambridge League this season are the U.S.A.F. team from Lakenheath. Judging by their keenness they should give a good account of themselves. The league has a record number of teams, so that new secretary Alan Spilman can expect a busy time. Meanwhile another "knee" casualty is ex-junior champion Keith Chapman.

From time to time players of first class calibre are resident in Cambridge and I am glad to see that they are able to join local clubs and provide keen competition. Ely and District have opened their league programme and it is expected that Wilberforce and Littleport will be among the top clubs. Wilberforce beat the Army 10-0 in the opening game.

John Cromwell and Ron Nunn both represented Cambridge in the Minor Counties cricket championship in the summer. Both did justice to themselves. Cromwell as a batsman and Nunn as wicket-keeper.

Big problem for Cambridge at the moment is finding suitable venues for the county matches.

Leslie Constable.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

TWO YORKS, LEAGUES FOLD

The two tiny leagues of Yorkshire have disbanded. Out go four-year-old Goole (five clubs) and eight-year-old Ripon (six clubs). And on to the scrapheap with them go Whitby (eight clubs) and Mexborough (13).

Cause of the collapse: no officials and, it seems, insufficient determination by those left. Goole crashed when secretary Mr. G. J. Bennfield left for South Africa and of the others only Mexborough can foresee reorganisation.

Into the gap marches the Rotherham and District League, a new and separate body from the works league, which was formed in the town seven years back. Weakened by Thu, Brian Kennedy and Kathie Best withdrew from the Yorkshire team to play Gloucester, and in the consequent reshuffle, both Premier and Second Division sides lost.

Slender Stuart Dyson, Slaitowaite's skipper of the second team, stepped up to the premier people and stole the show against Gloucester. After an exhilarating display of all-out attack—which beat Harrison, took Simons to three and helped win the mixed—this rubber loyalist was a must for the next match against Lancashire.

Stuart was a Premier Division regular in 1955-56 before losing his place.

Promoted with bin was his wife, Mavis. They were the first husband and wife to play in the same Premier Division team—and it was Mavis's first county appearance at any level.

Yet she already had a county badge. Maurice Pitts was top board man in the second team against Northumber deland. But despite his two singles and mixed wins the team lost 4-6. Hull's Kath Whinham reached the side at 16 without having represented the juniors.

The junior Roses match gave opportunities to two new boys of 15, Michael Daincy, whose father is a keen worker for juniors in Doncaster, and Dave McGee, a Hull boy who qualified as a county umpire at the end of last season.

Malcolm Hartley.

ESSEX NOTES

Bobby Steven's victory in the men's singles at the Portsmouth Championships was the first "Open" singles win by an Essex player in England since Brian Brumwell won the Kent title in January 1956.

Bobby, whose knee was badly swollen in the County trials, also won the men's doubles with Ken Beamish.

Johnny Leach was unable to take part in the trials and Ivor Jones and David Wiggins could not complete their matches because of "Thu. However, neither did very well and so were not included in the ranking list which has been made as follows:

MEN: 1, J. Leach; 2, R. Raybould; 3, L. Sawyer; 4, R. Brumwell; 5, R. Dorking; 6, P. Punston; 7, G. Stovessen; 8, J. McTee; 9, F. Curran; 10, A. Condon.

WOMEN: 1, B. Milbank; 2, Y. Baker; 3, E. Carrington; 4, J. Page; 5, S. Pickard; 6, S. Beamish; 7, N. Hesson.

BARBARA MILBANK BACK

It was good to see Barbara Milbank, who was out of the game for most of last season, back to international form.

Mark Sweeting, conveniently born on July 2, giving him another two seasons as a junior, is the first Chelsford boy to play for the county.

Frank Bateman.

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Nineteen
**AMBITIONS BIRMINGHAM**

**PLAN TO BUY OWN H.Q.**

**BIRMINGHAM T.T.A.** are planning to buy their own head-quarters to house a full-time staff and playing centre—but at the moment it's not much more than a wonderful dream.

The obvious snag is—CASH. The association's funds are not increasing rapidly enough through the usual table tennis events, so now they are organizing a numbers raffle.

Football sweeps and totes have proved a "life saver" to football and cricket clubs up and down the country and as the Birmingham Association has over 7,000 members they seem to be on a good thing.

Perhaps it's not such a dream after all.

The sponge ban doesn't seem to have stopped any of Birmingham's top-liners from playing table tennis—but it has caused one or two shock results.

Ann Haydon, the 19-year-old England No. 1, turned out for South Birmingham against Tall Green Y.M.C.A. in a League game and lost two of her three matches. First, she lost to up-and-coming Brian Robinson and then crashed to another defeat against Pete Turner. There is little doubt she would have beaten both players last year.

At the moment, the switch from sponge to rubber seems to have knocked the edge off Ann's game.

"Ann is going to play with rubber for three months or so—then, if she finds she's slipping, she will turn back to sponge and just play on the Continent," says Ann's mother, Mrs. Doris Haydon.

With victories over Durham and Yorkshire II, Warwickshire have taken two smart steps towards the Premier Division—but there was quite a lot of foot-slogging attached to the second county game.

Two cars containing the Warwickshire team and a few supporters left Sheffield after the match—but only one reached home that night.

It was a nightmare journey for secretary Maurice Goldstein, his son, David, Pam Mortimer, Arthur Hasfield and Roger Morris.

First they got lost somewhere outside Sheffield. Then after they had hit the right route, the car broke down!

Boeing stranded miles from home in the early hours of the morning is no joke as the Warwickshire crew soon found out. They walked about six or seven miles before they managed to thumb a lift and eventually arrived home just in time for breakfast.

**QUICK HITS...**

Geoff Alderton, the chappie with the Jimmy Edwards moustache, had intended to retire but, with the banning of sponge, and the City Club so desperately short of players, he has decided to have another season.

Nomads, rescued from disbandment by Gordon Rawley and Pam Mortimer, are now fielding three young schoolboys—Derek Allen, Bill Cox and Colin Cadwallader—in their Five-a-side League team.

Bill Gallagher, the young Leamington player who is Warwickshire's No. 2, has joined the Birmingham Central Club. He now plays in three different Leagues—Birmingham, Leamington and Coventry.

**WOOLWICH LOSE STARS**

WOOLWICH League have suffered a double loss through the retirement of Ray Syndercombe, Kent's No. 2 at the end of last season, and the transfer of Dennis Whitaker, current county No. 3, to N.W. Kent.

Undaunted by these losses, Woolwich, who defeated the strong Folkestone side in their opening Kent First Division match, will be attempting to win the title for the fifth successive year.

They can expect tough opposition from N.W. Kent, who, incidentally are hoping to complete a "hat-trick" of wins in the ladies' division.

Youngest recruit to the N.W. Kent side is 12-year-old Susan Thomas, of Orpington. She will be played in some of the easier matches for experience.

Although entries for the N.W. Kent...
NO SPONGE SULKS

THE sponge ban has had little or no effect on West Country clubs because most "ex-spongers" have spent the summer either suitably "educated" to, or sent on "refresher courses" for, pimpled rubber.

Even the "daddy of 'em all," Charlie Dawes, has continued in the First Division of the mammoth Bristol club and is, according to reports, giving a good account of himself with the standard surface.

Already over 1,100 players have registered as an league. No sign of sponge sulks here!

The Bristol "Classes for Coaches" scheme is still going strong and a recent visit by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carrington was greatly enjoyed by the Bristol coaches and their guests from all parts of the county. Elsie and Jack did not spare themselves and the candidates were full of praise for their instructive efforts.

At a recent county trial for Juniors, a good crowd of enthusiastic youngsters bided for places in the English trials which were held at Wolverhampton.

Four lads and two girls claimed this honour. They were: "Snowy" Philpott and George Mitchell of Gloucester, Maurice White and Adrienne Cox of Cheltenham, and Mary Eves (daughter of the County Secretary) and Bob Nichols, of Bristol.

Gloucestershire players and officials who attended the match against Yorkshire came back with glowing reports on the organisation at Bradford. Take a bow Tykes.

Gloucestershire are also trying some new ideas. As an incentive for Leagues to stage county matches, a novel arrangement governing the gate receipts is being tried.

A reasonable target figure has been set for profit on each home match and, any profit above that figure will be divided equally between the league staging the match and the county. The latter will be responsible for any loss.

Once again a county match will be staged at Stonehouse by the progressive Stroud League. The match will be against Lancashire on November 16 and the visitors can be assured of ideal conditions in the large works canteen.

Congratulations to Ian Harrison on his recent open tournament successes. Bob Griffin, whom he has recently displaced in the County side, has had a grand season for Gloucestershire at lawn tennis.

How many table tennis fans can claim to have spent their honeymoon in Moscow? Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Merrett had this unusual, but enjoyable, start to married life when they joined the recent table tennis tour of Russia.

Incidentally, I understand that the world pair they brought home was not a Russian secret table tennis weapon but merely a balaika souvenir purchased by Shirley.

D. N. Andrews.

WELSH CORNER

GLAMORGAN CRASH

Glamorgan’s defeat by Sussex in their opening County match of the season was a severe setback to hopes of remaining in the Premier Division.

To be honest, however, the results of our Invitation American tournament at Port Talbot gave little reason to be overly optimistic about beating Sussex.

John Simonson, showed he is not the power he was now that sponge is denied him, and if he hopes to return to his old position he must improve his defence. Alan Thomas, Alan Morris, Donald Norris, Glyn Morgan and Betty Gray were also well below form.

On the credit side were Shirley Jones, far too good for any one else in the women’s section, and Norman Parker.

Parker, who eventually won the men’s section, gave a steady and accurate performance to beat Ron Davies (Ponypridd) in the final after the latter had beaten Simonson.

Davies, promising as a junior but disappointing when he came out of the...
FOR the first time since 1949, Yorkshire lost the "Battle of the Roses," going down 3-7 to Lancashire at Oldham. Brian Kennedy, now forced to revert to pimpled rubber, was well below his best, losing to both Ron Allcock and Geoff Pullar. Whether this was due to the change of surface or the fact that he was recovering from 'flu is open to speculation. Yorkshire, last year's runners-up, have made an almost disastrous start to the season for they also lost their opening match being beaten 7-3 by Gloucestershire at Bradford. On this occasion they were without Kennedy and Kathie Best, both 'flu victims. Start and Davis seem depopulated. Meanwhile, Gloucestershire, after this encouraging start crashed to Surrey, the margin again being 7-3. Ken Craigie was outstanding in the Surrey success, scoring wins over both Ian Harrison and Aubrey Simons. Bryan Merrett, who had beaten both Ray Hinchliff and Maurice Simpson in the tie with Yorkshire, accounted for both Harry Venner and Tony Miller, the latter match being a time limit affair with the scores 15-13, 6-5. Champions Middlesex started with a runaway 9-1 win over Sussex, but the secondaries brought home two important points when they pipped Glamorgan 6-4 at Worthing. Two close wins by N. Parker, and a singles and doubles win by Shirley Jones, failed to save the Welsh side, for whom the outlook is now bleak.

In Div. II (North), Warwickshire got off to a cracking start with a 9-1 win over Durham and a 6-4 success over Yorks II.

Lincolnshire, for whom both P. Skerratt and M. Sheard were unbeaten in singles and doubles, just got home by 6-4 against Northumberland after trailing 3-4.

Since Northumberland had already beaten Yorks II by the same margin, the Lincolnshire victory looks good.

When Linca and Warwickshire meet on December 7 we shall know a little more about the fate of this usually closely-fought division, but not until January II when Warwicks meet Cheshire will there be a clear indication of who is likely to win it. Before that, Cheshire only have one match, against Durham, which looks easy for them.

In Div. II (South), Suffolk went a lot closer against Herts than the score of 2-8 suggests. Herts were without their No. 1 John Hunt.

**COUNTY DIARY**

**PREMIER DIVISION**

November 13 Surrey v Essex, Coronation Hall, Kingston-on-Thames 7 p.m.
November 16 Yorkshire v Glamorgan, Mechanics Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford 7 p.m.
November 23 Surrey v Lancashire, Y.M.C.A., Wimbledon Common, Surrey 7 p.m.
December 7 Essex v Yorkshire, Standard Telephone Co., Harlow 7 p.m.

**SECOND DIVISION NORTH**

November 16 Warwickshire v Northumberland, POSTPONED.
November 27 Lancashire v Durham, Vickers Sports Club, Ashton-under-Lyne 7 p.m.
December 7 Sussex v Surrey, Edwards Hall, Manor Royal, Crawley 7 p.m.

**SECOND DIVISION SOUTH**

November 16 Hampshire v Berkshire, Meers, Johnson Ltd., Southampton Road, Cosham, nr. Portsmouth 7 p.m.
December 7 Berkshire v Kent, Oxhey Hall Community Centre, Lane, Oxhey, Watford 7 p.m.

**SECOND DIVISION WEST**

November 16 Somerset v Devon, St. Peter's Hall, Dorchester Road, Bath 7.15 p.m.
December 7 Dorset v Wiltshire, Portland Red Triangle, Reforme, Easton, Bath 7.15 p.m.

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**

December 7 Herfordshire v Kent, The Greenhills Club, Aylesford, Medem Hempstead 7 p.m.

**MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION**

November 16 Staffordshire v Warwickshire, Central Fire Station, Walsall 7.15 p.m.

**NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION**

November 14 Cheshire v Durham, Central Fire Station, Walsall 7 p.m.
December 7 Lancashire v Durham, Ashton-under-Lyne 7 p.m.

**SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION**

November 16 Sussex v Surrey, Christchurch Parish Room, London Road, Hastings 4 p.m.
December 7 Kent v Sussex, Bowaters Club House, Remembrance Avenue, Sittingbourne 6 p.m.
season play all their premier home matches at one venue, the Mechanics Institute, at Bradford.

They have issued season tickets at 15s., and 10s., for the series, and match secretary Leslie Forrest tells me the 15s. ones are sold out! How's that in this era of falling gates!

I have been taken to task over the remark I made last month's issue when I called Devcon the "form" team in Division II West.

Mr. D. J. Moss, match secretary of Worcestershire, points out that his county finished runners-up last season, beating Devon which they mean to do again this year.

We shall have to wait and see.

**DETAILED RESULTS**

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Yorkshire 7, Gloucestershire 0.

Sussex 1, Middlesex 0.

Lancashire 7, Yorkshire 1.

Sussex 6, Glamorgan 4.

Lancashire 7, Yorkshire 3.

Derbyshire 9, Northamptonshire 1.

Middlesex 10, Sussex 0.

Sussex 1, Middlesex 9.

Hampshire 5, Lancashire 2.

Middlesex 7, Sussex 3.

Middlesex 7, Sussex 3.

Middlesex 7, Worcestershire 3.

Middlesex 7, Gloucestershire 2.

Middlesex 7, Berkshire 1.

**DIVISION II (NORTHERN)**

Warwickshire 9, Durham 1.

Northumberland 9, Yorkshire 2.

Lincolnshire 6, Northumberland 4.

Yorkshire 1, Warwickshire 6.

**DIVISION II (NORTH)**

Suffolk 2, Herefordshire 8.

Buckinghamshire 6, Hampshire 10.

Kent 0, Berkshire 4.

**DIVISION II (WESI)**

Devon 4, Cornwall 6.

Wiltshire 6, Cornwall 4.

Worcester 3, Dorset 5.

**MINOR DIVISION**

Derbyshire 9, Northamptonshire 1.

Middlesex 7, Worcestershire 1.

**SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION**

Middlesex 10, Sussex 0.

Hampshire 6, Suffolks 2.

Kent 0, Middlesex 10.

Suffolk 3, Essex 8.

**University Commentary**

**OXFORD CHALLENGE DURHAM**

By P. CHAPLIN

Oxford University have thrown down the gauntlet to Durham. They dispute the Northerner's claim to be top table tennis university after winning the U.A.U. knockout tournament last season.

The Dark Blues, like Cambridge and London, did not compete in this event, but they went through the season unbeaten, winning with their first win over Cambridge since 1952.

Durham have taken up the challenge and tentative arrangements have been made for the match to be played at Oxford in February. In the meantime, Oxford have given some indication of their strength with a 8-2 win over Loughborough.

Big surprise in the Midland Division of the U.A.U. championship has been the defeat of Leicester by Nottingham. Last year's finalists found that, man for man, Nottingham, who quickly rushed to a 5-0 lead, and with good games. Only Phillips and Babcock saved Leicester from complete rout, the final score being 10-8.

Valentiyk, the Nottingham No. 1, went through without defeat and on this form stakes a strong claim for a place in the U.A.U. team against the R.A.F. in March.

In an earlier friendly at Sheffield, Nottingham lost 7-8, but only two first team men appeared.

Players are afoot for women's inter-varsity matches. Margaret Nevins, the Leicester student, is most keen, and with a few more like her such a scheme is assured of success.

**MIDDLESEX HOLD REST**

**BRIAN KENNEDY and Johnny Leach,** England's two top ranking players, must bear the brunt of the Rest being held to a four-all draw by Middlesex in the annual challenge match at Tottenham on October 24, writes Harrison Edwards. They failed to win a match between them.

Kennedy, just reverting from 'ifs and in the throes of switching from sponge to rubber, lost to both Michael Thornhill and Derek Burridge. Leach went down to Alan Rhodes in the all important last match on the programme, and in the doubles Kennedy and Leach succumbed to Burridge and Len Adams.

Kennedy was well below his best, lacking the ability to consolidate even when in front. He led Thornhill 14-7 in the first game only to lose 15-21, 16-21, while he was 9-2 ahead in the second game against Burridge yet lost 23-25, 18-21.

It was the same in the doubles. Leach and Kennedy should have won in straight games. They let the first slip through their fingers after taking a 9-2 lead.

Leach was never allowed to take the initiative against Rhodes, who combined
tack and defence brilliantly to win 21-14, 21-16.

This match provided some of the best play of the evening, and there can be no excuse that Leach has had to change his bat, for Rhodes was the outstanding player last season.

Ann Haydon appeared to have conquered the change of bat judging by her display when beating Diane (Rowe) Collins 21-13, 14-21, 14-21. She is due to lawn tennis in the summer, looked speedier in moving into the shots. She had one critical period in the second game, but for the main part was supremely confident.

Jill Rook, making her first appearance of the season, also gave a solid display in beating Margaret Fry 21-16, 21-11.

So every match was the two teams that at no time did more than one side separate them. A draw was a fitting result.

Detailed scores (Rest names first):

B. Kennedy (Yorks) lost to M. Thornhill 15-21, 16-21.
 disc 2, M. Venner 15-21, 16-21.
 disc 2, J. Leach (Surrey) lost to A. Rhodes 14-21, 14-21.
 disc 2, Miss A. Haydon (Warw.) beat Mrs. D. Collins 21-14, 21-14, 21-16.
 disc 2, Miss J. Rook (Surrey) beat Miss M. Fry 21-16, 21-13.
 disc 2, Mrs. B. Merrett and Miss M. Hayden beat Thornhill and Mrs. Collins 21-15, 13-21, 21-14.
In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.O., and X.D., in every case. Tournaments not marked with an “R” are unrestricted. 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>England v Germany (Juniors)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. J. W. Martin, “Coonohas,” Herchell Road, Walmer, Kent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Hartlepool Open (Nov. 6)</td>
<td>J.S.</td>
<td>Mr. E. Laughton, 1a, The Green, Seaton Carew, West Hartlepool.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Peterborough Open (Nov. 11)</td>
<td>J.S.B.</td>
<td>Mr. E. Kent, 14, High Street, Eye, Nr. Peterborough.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Bournemouth Open (R) Nov. 11</td>
<td>J.S.</td>
<td>Mr. C. B. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Scandinavian Open</td>
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<td>Dec. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29-30</td>
<td>Birmingham Open (Nov. 18)</td>
<td>J.S.B.</td>
<td>Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>North West Kent Open (Dec. 3)</td>
<td>J.S.B.</td>
<td>Mr. I. J. Pickering, 187, Bedonwell Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>Barnhurst Residents’ Association Club, 152a Parkside Avenue, Barnhurst, Kent.</td>
<td>J.S.G.</td>
<td>Mr. K. W. James, 25, Halffield Road, Bradford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>Yorkshire Junior Open</td>
<td>Under 15 S.</td>
<td>Mr. K. W. James, 25, Halffield Road, Bradford.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>Flintshire Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 25-26</td>
<td>Kent Open (Jan. 6)</td>
<td>Y.S.</td>
<td>Mr. F. Betts, Elmsmycde, 88, Surrenden Road, Folkstone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Gloucestershire Junior Open (Jan. 10)</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Mr. I. C. Evles, 26, Allison Road, Brislington, Bristol, 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Gloucester Open</td>
<td>J.S.G.</td>
<td>Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Belgium Open</td>
<td>J.S.B.</td>
<td>Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
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Twenty-four
SUSSEX “OPEN”

THE switch from “sandwich” to rubber does not appear to have worried Alan Rhodes. If anything it has added more power and control to his game, judging by his performance in the Sussex “Open” at Hastings on October 26-27.

The Middlesex international and England’s current No. 3 carried off the triple crown, beating Johnny Leach in the men’s doubles, then taking the mixed with Mrs. Jean Head, and Miss Collins proving much too steady for the Welsh girl’s erratic attack to win 21-16, 21-16.

Rhodes’ cleverly angled driving proved most effective as he went on to win 21-11, 14-21, 21-11, thus proving that his victory over Leach in the Champion County v. Rest challenge match a few days earlier was no “flash in the pan.”

If Rhodes can keep up this form he will be bidding strongly for top ranking before the season is out.

Mickey Thornhill, last year’s winner, crashed in the first round to Peter Shead, of Sussex, in a tense duel lasting an hour.

Ian Harrison, the Gloucester international had a good tournament, but appeared nervous in his semi-final against Rhodes and faded in the third game.

The shock of the meeting was provided by Shirley Jones, the diminutive Welsh international, who is now resident in London. She summarily dismissed Ann Haydon at 13 and 13 in the semi-final.

Shirley had earlier disposed of Margaret Fry, Peggy Piper and Joyce Fielder, and after such a great run looked all set for the women’s title. It was not to be. She lost her touch in the final, Mrs. Diane (Rowe) Collins proving much too steady for the Welsh girl’s erratic attack to win 21-16, 21-16.

Miss Jones had some measure of revenge when she partnered Miss Haydon to beat Mrs. Collins and Jill Rook in the doubles final.

Ironical cheers greeted Miss Haydon’s appearance in this event. She was missing when it was originally to have been played and the slow handclap was in evidence while the other three girls knocked-up for ten minutes. The match was then put back on the programme while a search was made for Miss Haydon.

When the final eventually got underway Miss Haydon and Miss Jones looked well below their best, but salvaged the match with a great fighting recovery to take seven points in a row after trailing 14-18 in the final game.

The mixed doubles also went to three games and if Lynn Whithams had shown more confidence in support of Harry Venner they might well have snatched the title from Rhodes and Mrs. Head, who eventually won 21-11, 18-21, 21-17.

The most entertaining of the finals was the men’s doubles with Rhodes and Thornhill beating Len Adams and Derek Burridge 21-15, 21-14.

RESULTS


Final: RHODES bt Leach 21-11, 14-21, 21-11.

Women’s Singles: Final: Mrs. D. COLLINS bt S. Jones 21-16, 21-16.


Women’s Doubles Final: A. HAYDON/JONES bt Mrs. Collins-J. Rook 12-21, 21-12, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles Final: RHODES/Mrs. J. HEAD bt H. Venner/L. Whithams 21-11, 18-21, 21-17.

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

All titles changed hands in the North of England championships at Manchester on October 10-12, when David House and Joyce Fielder carried off the respective singles. For Joyce it was her first major singles title and indicates she will be making a bold bid to climb higher than her fourth place in the national ranking.

‘Flu prevented Brian Kennedy defending the men’s singles, while Scotland’s Helen Elliot was barred from defending the women’s singles as she refuses to change from her “sandwich” bat which is still allowed in Scotland.

Ray Hinchliff, top seed for the men’s singles crashed to Peter Skerratt, who went on to reach the semi-finals where he found Ian Harrison too strong, losing 21-23, 13-21. House, meanwhile, easily beat D. Whitlow in the other semi-final.

Dashing through the first game of the final with the loss of only seven points, Harrison looked well set to add the North to the East of England title he had won the previous month. However, House revealed wonderful powers of recovery and went on to win 21-9.

Highlight of the tournament was Joyce Fielder’s semi-final victory over Shirley Jones. It was the first time she had beaten the Welsh international, and she did so handsomely, winning 21-14, 21-14.

After such a fine performance it was not surprising that she went on to beat Margaret Fry in the final by 21-13, 21-19.

Miss Fielder collected a second title when she won the mixed doubles with Colin Deaton, last year’s junior international.

RESULTS

Men’s Singles: Semi-finals: D. HOUSE (Som.) bt D. Whitlow (Cheshire); I. HARRISON (Glos.) bt P. Skerratt (Cheshire).

Final: HOUSE bt Harrison 7-21, 21-18, 21-9.

Women’s Singles: Final: J. FIELDER (Kent) bt M. Fry (Middx.) 21-13, 21-19.


Women’s Doubles: Final: S. JONES (Wales)/M. FRY bt P. Mortimer (Warw.)/J. Walker (Derby) 23-21, 21-12.


Twenty-five
THE interest shown in the Staffs T.T.A. new restricted tournament exceeded all expectations. Over 150 entries were received from all parts of the county so the organiser, faced with the problem of completing the tournament in one day, decided to stage two separate competitions. The first was held on October 13 and the second will take place on November 17.

At the first of these (played on the group system, ensuring all players at least three games) the honours were shared by Wolverhampton and the Potteries, nineteen-year-old V. Dereza (Potteries) put up a fine show to take the Men's Singles title in a thrilling final against the experienced F. Owen (Wolves) by 14-21, 22-20, 22-20. It was a welcome return to the limelight by this Potteries' boy who showed great promise as a Junior.

DOUR FINAL

The Women's Singles developed into a dour all-Wolverhampton final in which Miss P. Harness beat Miss J. Waterhouse by 20-22, 21-11, 21-18. There seems great possibilities for this type of tournament, everyone agreeing that it was well worth travelling a distance if they could be assured of at least 3 games.

At the conclusion of a successful day, former County player, Mrs. Joyce Hayward (who donated the trophies) made the presentations to the winners.

Determined not to let her older sister Christine take all the limelight 13-year-old Ann Charman brought further honour to the County by winning a place in the final England Junior Trials at Wolverhampton. The father of these promising girls, J. Chairman, also yields a useful bat being a member of the West Bromwich Veteran team.

The Staffs closed tournament breaks new territory this season. By kind permission of the Commanding Officer, the excellent facilities of the R.A.F. Camp, Cosford have been put at the disposal of the County who will certainly have no worries now about having sufficient room.

Missing from the Wolverhampton scene this season will be those colourful boys from the Malayan Teachers College, who in their two seasons of competition carried all before them. The "A" team were 100% in both seasons. They return to their native country in November and all who knew and played with them will join me in wishing them "bon voyage."

In conclusion, congratulations to Rhoda Haden, former County No. 1 player, on the birth of a son.

Alec Backhouse

## NEW TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

**PORTSMOUTH “OPEN”**

MARGARET FRY, the Middlesex international, caused the surprise downfall of Mrs. Diane (Rowe) Collins on her way to winning the women's singles title in the Portsmouth "Open" Championship last month.

Playing on top of her form, she met Mrs. Collins in the semi-finals and after losing the first set fought back strongly to win 12-21, 21-17, 21-14.

In the final it was Miss Fry's turn to receive a shock. After winning the first game against the Hampshire No. 1, Miss D. Wightman, who had previously accounted for Peggy Piper, she was confronted with a suddenly more determined opponent who won the second game by 21-18. In the deciding game, however, Miss Fry's greater experience began to tell and she quickly overcame the spirited Hampshire player.

Miss Fry was involved in yet another three game encounter in the final of the women's doubles when partnering Miss Piper to beat Mrs. Collins and Jill Rook 21-18, 16-21, 21-19.

Bobby Stevens (Essex) had two most creditable wins in the later stages of the men's singles before taking the title and becoming the first Essex player to win an "Open" men's singles event since Johnny Leach way back at the beginning of 1956.

In the semi-finals he beat the North of England champion, David House (Surrey) in straight games 21-18, 21-17 and in the final, after recovering from a first game deficit, he defeated Laurie Landry (Middlesex) 9-21, 21-10, 21-19.


**RESULTS**

**Men's Singles:** Final: R. STEVENS (Essex) bt L. Landry (Middx.) 9-21, 21-10, 21-19.

**Women's Singles:** Final: M. FRY (Essex) bt D. Wightman (Hants.) 21-15, 18-21, 21-13.

**Men's Doubles:** Final: STEVENS/K. BEMAISH (Essex) bt L. Sawyer (Essex)/D. House (Som.) 21-16, 21-13.

**Women's Doubles:** Final: M. PIPER (Surrey)/M. FRY bt Mrs. D. Collins (Middx.)/J. Rook (Surrey) 21-18, 16-21, 21-19.

**Mixed Doubles:** Final: R. DORKING (Essex) bt Mrs. COLLINS (Middx.) bt Landry/Miss Fry 22-20, 21-23, 21-16.

**Boys' Singles:** Final: B. HAMIL (Middx.) bt S. Bubley (Sussex) 21-13, 21-8.

**STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES**

**NEW ELLIMAN'S RUB**

**NEW ELLIMAN ATHLETIC RUB**

2/8 per bottle from chemists and sports shops