EUROPE CHALLENGES FOR ENGLISH OPEN

AFTER years of patient waiting, we sense a resurgence of interest in Table Tennis. Not only have bright young prospects like Chester Barnes, Mary Shannon, David Creamer and Lesley Bell shot into the limelight, but, largely through their influence, a new spirit of attack has appeared. This in itself will give an impetus to larger attendances at tournaments and matches and make the game the enjoyable recreation it was always meant to be.

While paying tribute to the youngsters, let us not forget such stalwarts as Diane Rowe, Ian Harrison, Bryan Merrett, Alan Rhodes and Jeff Ingber, who have struggled so hard in the intervening years to keep the game to the fore.

The big break through came at the English Closed. There Barnes hit his way through many of England's top ranked players to take the title; and Mary Shannon out-hit Diane Rowe to become women's champion. Their spirited play had the crowd in raptures.

GOOD Omen

It is a sign of greater things to come and a good omen for the English Open Championships at Brighton from February 28 to March 2.

It is play like this that is needed to bring the crowds back and it is perhaps coincidental that at Brighton the finals will move into the Dome which can accommodate a much bigger crowd.

Brighton awakened a new interest in audience value last year at the Corn Exchange when several hundreds had to be turned away. We have returned to Brighton once again to give those who missed out last time a chance to see what a great spectacle top-class table tennis can be.

This time the English Open Championships promises to be the best for several years with a large contingent of European players. No doubt they see the English Open as a chance to warm up against top-class competitors for the World Championships in Prague in April.

Countries expected to challenge the home talent at Brighton are Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, West Germany, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It must be many years since Rumania took part in the English Open and they will send in their world doubles champions Maria Alexandru and Georgeta Pitica.

It would indeed be a fine attraction to see them up against Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon, the English champions, who also hold the European title.

Hungary may well send Zoltan Berczik, while Yugoslavia have the European men's doubles champions in Vojislav Markovic and Janez Teran.

As an innovation there is to be a national teams competition, which will take place on the Thursday. This is for men and women's teams of two and will certainly be a big attraction.

The names of individuals are not yet known, but it appears likely to be almost an unofficial European championships.

It will be interesting to see how Barnes, who has shown the way home to all the best home players, fares in international competition of this kind. And that is the experience he needs to fulfil the great promise he has already shown.

WORLD'S TEAM

Barnes and Miss Shannon are to be members of England's world championships team along with Ian Harrison, Diane Rowe, David Creamer, and, providing sufficient funds are available, Bryan Merrett and Lesley Bell.

A championship like this will be a great forerunner to the European Championships, which come to England next season and are to be played at the L.C.C. National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace.

All enquiries for tickets for the English Open must be made to the Dome Box Office, New Road, Brighton.
English Open Championships. The English Open Championships will be played at The Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton. Play will commence on Thursday, 28th February, at 10 a.m., and will continue all day Thursday, Friday, 1st March and Saturday, 2nd March. The Finals of all the Senior events will be played in the evening of Saturday, 2nd March, and will commence at 7 p.m.

Prices of admission for the Finals at The Dome will be 12s. 6d., 10s., 6s. 6d., 4s., and 3s. (all seats numbered and reserved) and bookings should be made direct to The Dome Box Office, New Road, Brighton.

Prices of admission to all other sessions will be 2s. 6d.—the session being timed from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.-10.30 p.m.—with the exception of the Saturday afternoon session which will be priced at 3s.

This season, for the first time ever, an International Team Championship for both Men's and Women's teams will be played. This will be staged on Thursday, 28th February, in the Corn Exchange and in view of the expected large and strong entry from abroad (see this month's Editorial) some very exciting matches should result. The matches will be played between 2 players a side (4 singles and 1 doubles) or in other words on the Corbillon Cup system.

With regard to accommodation for those who wish to spend a few days at Brighton, the office of the Association has copies of the official Brighton Corporation Accommodation List and any member desirous of receiving a copy should write to the E.T.T.A. office. All entrants will automatically receive a copy.

The Draw for the Championships has been arranged by the E.T.T.A. office as follows: ­

E.T.T.A. Ties 14 0


TEAM SELECTIONS

Germany D.T.T.B. Junior Tour of England. A team of three boys and two girls, together with two non-playing captains from the Germany D.T.T.B. Association will be coming to England to take part in the English Open Championships and also to make a short tour. They will arrive on 27th February and will stay until 5th March. The following Junior International matches will be played:

28th February, 1963, at Bexhill Athletic Club, Bexhill, 7 p.m.

4th March, 1963, at Y.M.C.A., Leicester, 7 p.m.


The Junior England teams will be selected on the 3rd February.

Australian T.T.A. Tour of England. A team consisting of four men and two non-playing captains will arrive in London from Australia on the 16th February. They have intimated in correspondence that they wish to take part in three or four tournaments. Their itinerary has been arranged by the E.T.T.A. office as follows:

February
16th—Arrive in London.
22nd/23rd—East of Ireland Championships.
28th/March 2nd—English Open Championships.

March
7th—versus Bedfordshire.
9th/10th—Bucks. Open Championships.
13th—versus Oxfordshire.
17th—versus Warwickshire.
21st—versus Middlesex.
22nd/24th—Stevenage Open Championships.
25th—versus Hertfordshire.
27th—versus Surrey.
29th/31st—Scottish Open Championships.
Soccer Players Take Up Table Tennis

A FOOTBALLER in a table tennis magazine? No, we have not mixed our pictures or sports (writes Harrison Edwards), be found with a table tennis bat in his hand.

It is his second game. For Ray plays regularly for Packhorse Mews Rovers in the Huddersfield and District Fourth Division.

And a closer look at this unusually named team reveals it is in fact Huddersfield Town F.C. in another guise. Wilson lines up with his footballing colleagues, Les Massie, John McCann and Ken Taylor, who is also an England and Yorkshire cricketer.

Yet another of their footballing colleagues, Chris Balderstone, who is also a Yorkshire cricketer, plays table tennis for Huddersfield Y.M.C.A.

Why this enthusiasm for table tennis as Huddersfield Town? “We have our own table at the club,” explains Wilson. “Most of the players are of a good standard and all are keen. In fact, they are so keen on the game that the trainer often has a job to break us away for football training.”

If ever the day should come when professional footballers have a table tennis championship as they do in golf, then it looks as though Huddersfield Town will be well to the fore.

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Page Five
SURREY NOTES

A WORTHWHILE CAUSE

The aim of most leagues is 'To spread, develop or advance, the game.' How often do we really work on this aspect?

With a New Year this is an opportunity to put forward to the ordinary player, who subscribes to these beliefs, a way of carrying them out.

Some time ago the Surrey Executive received a letter from the Cheshire Home for Paraplegics, requesting coaching or practice play. I have been there on several occasions and can state that any one hour per week, fortnight or even once a month, would be most welcome.

So why not do your good turn in this way. Just contact Miss Joan Adcock, Athol House, 138, College Road, Upper Norwood, London, S.E.19 and she will be able to make the necessary arrangements.

Congratulations to Dicky Clode, ex-Surrey junior, who won the R.A.F. singles title, captains Wiltshire and so we understand, is in line to be one of the R.A.F. team which will play in Malta. Cheam "A" lost their first match in 14 seasons in the Sutton League, to Nithsdale, who provided the Rosé Bowl winning team last year. Cheam were represented by Emil Emecz, Dennis Rivett, and Zenon Schram, so had no excuse of being below strength. The Nithsdale winning trio was Mary Shannon, Jean Head and Trevor Webster.

Surrey still struggling from the playing point of view. Bad news is the resignation of Joe Sumner. Joe has never quite fulfilled his overseas class in this country but one is sure that he would, had the hope been fulfilled when he had started with our junior team. As a member of the English team, he had a grand love of hitting in full play with a full time job.

The shortage of girls among the juniors is becoming chronic. Janet Harrison is keen on so many sports to develop fully her talent with the little white ball. Jim Forrest.

HERTSFORDSHIRE are intent on developing their younger talent in a bid to produce players of the calibre of Chester Barnes. Older players like Brian Barr, David Seaholme, John Hunt, can be of great help in developing the tactical sense of the County's promising youngsters.

A great wave of enthusiasm is spreading throughout Hertfordshire, which augers a bright future for table tennis. The Cheshunt League are holding a Coaching Rally in February 3, under the auspices of the E.T.T.A., and another Rally at Offley Place, Hitchin, East Herts, for youngsters. Details of this are available from Gordon Steggall, 7, Lucks Hill, Chaulden, Hemel Hempstead (Boxmoor 3826).

This contagious enthusiasm for bringing up the younger element is a necessary "must" if England is to recover her former dominance of the international scene.

C. Foster.

Harrogate After Yorks. Title

There are high hopes at Harrogate. No spa team has won a Yorkshire inter-club title since the war, but the young men of Wanderers aim to change that.

Having hurled over Hull Y.P.I.'s first team they made no mistake against the second team and an 8-1 onslaught took Eric Hall, Mick Conhey and David Shaw into the youths' final.

Their success is especially heartening for that active veteran Norman Lusher, a Harrogate stalwart since 1935. He was behind the formation of the independent Wanderers club and now sees the youngsters preparing to succeed the town's experienced Lusher-Mitchelmore-Long-Adams line-up.

For Eric Hall, 1962 was a year studded with success. He won the Harrogate senior, junior and handicap events, which had never been done before, and the Knaresborough senior and junior. He was in the Harrogate team promoted from Division Three of the inter-league series and shared the section's individual merit award; and he was in the Yorkshire junior team which won the northern championship.

The year ended with this 17-year-old the only unbeaten player in the Harrogate League.

On the inter-league front, Leeds languish at the foot of Division One, but Huddersfield, champions nine times in the last 11 seasons, must feel uncomfortable with only one more point. Sheffield "B" and Hull will also be concerned in the dog-fight to dodge the drop.

The stars were out for Huddersfield's table top tussle. Stuart Dyson played his second match for R.A.F.A. and David Stanley made a rare appearance for Y.M.C.A. Juniors.

Malcolm Mead beat Dyson and Trevor Cockcroft but lost to Brian Pennington. Hirst and Stanley won two each, though neither could topple Dyson, so Y.M.C.A. consolidated their lead with a 6-4 verdict.

R.A.F.A. have lost John Beaumont, who has started a chiropodist's business in Lincolnshire, where he was stationed in the R.A.F.

Howard Birch, Yorkshire champion in 1946, is playing for Kirkheaton Co-op, along with Philip and Donald Earnshaw and they have a good lead in Division Two.

In the Division One individual handicap final at Hull, Dave Bartlett beat Eddie Beedle. Paul Canham, the Yorkshire junior, had little difficulty winning the Hull schoolboys' title. Irena Allon took the senior girls' event to maintain the record of Ainthorpe High School, who have supplied the winner every year since the start in 1956.

Yorkshire's first team, relegated last season from the Premier Division for the first time, are not finding Division Two North easy going, though they have every hope of qualifying for the play-offs.

In contrast the second team are proving far too strong in the Midland Division and in three matches have yielded only two sets. Rod Ogleby, who moved up to No. 1 against Worcester, has not yet dropped a game.

The juniors, after lapsing against Lancs., are putting up a spirited fight in defence of their northern crown and outshine Durham 5-3.

Malcolm Hartley.

SAD LEEDS LOSS

Jack Summerscales, the veteran Leeds enthusiast, has died at the age of 62. When he retired from Bramley Liberals' team last year he was the league's oldest player.

Mr. Summerscales, chairman of an electrical engineering company, started playing for Asby in 1930 when the league was formed.

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Warwickshire Have Arrived

WARWICKSHIRE have at last arrived! After fighting for years to get into the Premier Division, and then last season fighting to stay there, they have now reached a position where they could quite easily challenge for runners-up to Middlesex.

With two great wins against Cheshire, 8-1 and Surrey 6-3, they have put themselves in a safe position this season.

In the match against Cheshire, Gunnion had an amazing win over the Cheshire No. 2, Crossley, when he was leading 20-love in the first game, and afterwards won 21-2.

Since he has been promoted to County No. 1 Gunnion has been playing extremely well. The only game he has lost being against Finger, which was revenge in the third. He was presented with his County badge after the match, and a player can scarcely deserve one more, as he has been the architect of our three victories this season, winning both his singles in all these matches.

The Surrey match saw an amazing start when we took the first three men's singles. After we had lost the men's doubles, Pam Mortimer went on to beat Mary Shannon in two straight games, the shock of the match. Pam, since getting to the semi-final of the men's singles, has been playing terrific attacking table tennis and if she continues like this, no one in the country can go on the table expecting to win.

Certainly this should improve her position in the ranking list, as there seems to be certain anomalies in the current list.

Billington then clinched the match for us and Gunnion held on to beat Ireland to make the score 6-3. Maurice Billington was leading 20-love in the first game, and in this match he really stuck his ground, for the first time winning two matches in the Premier Division.

I have the feeling that now this feat is accomplished, it will be quite a regular thing for him.

A good entry is expected for the Midland Open and we shall now be expecting some of our improved County players to be taking some more titles and perhaps for Gunnion to keep his. Certainly it will be interesting to see if Pam Mortimer can now regain the title she lost a couple of years ago.

Incidentally, a wonderful crowd turned up at Coventry Closed. Over 200 people braved the blizzard for this memorable match.

THE FAMOUS SWEDISH STIGA TABLE TENNIS BATS AND EQUIPMENT

Ehrlich, Berzick, Melstrom, etc. Bats at 35s. 6d. each.
Clipper Nets and Posts. Flisan ★ ★ ★ Table Tennis Balls.

THE NEW JAQUES TABLE TENNIS BATS

Jap Rubber Bats at 25s. 6d. each and Table Tennis Equipment.

THE TRIANGLE SPORTS AND HOBBIES SHOP,
111, COMMERCIAL ROAD,
BOURNEMOUTH, (Tel. 20932) HANTS.

LEICESTERSHIRE LEAGUES GOING WELL

ALL Leicestershire's four affiliated leagues are enjoying a successful season. The largest. Leicestershire and District, have thirteen divisions with Hinckley Y.M.C.A. currently top of the first division. The only individual with a 100 per cent record is Bentley's Charlie Jacques. Only George Webster (Post Office) has taken him to three.

George is always a problem for the top players and he was the first player to beat Johnny Barrasson this season. In 2A Hinckley Y.M.C.A. II look likely to top the division, having a sound trio of Arthur Cross, Alan Hydon and R. Jenkins, Wild/Mellor Bromley are doing well enough in 2B to gain promotion. Jim Alvey, Gordon Pell and Mick Hibbert are all playing well.

Melvin Matts leads the 4B leaders. Leicestershire Y.M.C.A. VI, and is supported by newcomers Tony Willimin and Peter Church. Almost certain to top 5A are Viaduct I with T. Taylor, Paul Richards (ex-British Railways) and George Kolotennowski, from Polish Orkhan, in the team.

Perhaps the keenest player in the whole league is Tom Whileman, whose team, Soccer Pools, look certain of promotion in 5B. Tom is also a student of the National Coaching Scheme.

In the Loughborough League, G. Greenley and J. Grimley are playing well, and they can expect to take the top division in 3A Leicestershire. In the Loughborough League, G. Greenley and J. Grimley are playing well, and the team, Soccer Pools, look certain of promotion in 5B. Tom is also a student of the National Coaching Scheme.

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V.I.P.'s for NORWICH

HISTORY will be made when E.T.T.A. Chairman Ivor Eyles; Secretary, Peter Lowen; and Region 7's Elected Member, Harry Walker, visit Norwich on February 16th to meet Norfolk administrators. They will be guests of honour at Norfolk's first Annual Dinner at the Grosvenor Rooms in the evening.

Next day, Norwich will hold their Championships at the Central Youth Hall, Duke Street, and will include the Consolation Singles.

Norfolk began to buy its thousand copies a season of Table Tennis, local interest in our "international" table tennis in East Anglia was moribund, they will not think so now. Norwich Secretary, Harold Betts, reports growing numbers and hints at a new division for various coaching groups, particularly head, now suggests matches between the ship team.

Div. II: Norwich 'B' 4, Lowestoft 'B' 0, Lowestoft 0, Div. II: Norwich 'B' 4, Lowestoft 'B' 0, Lowestoft 0, Div. II: Norwich 'B' and Yarmouth 'B' will have decided the issue in this division on Friday, January 11th, Norwich 'A' beat Yarmouth 6-4 and Lowestoft 7-3.

The County match at Wymondham Secondary Modern School was a great success. Although Norfolk lost to Berkshire in the new venue, new faces, and a greatly increased number of spectators, more than compensated. Keith Shaw, Derek Heaton, Tony Reeves, Miss Merrill Upton and Mrs. D. Burdett gave us a most enjoyable evening on that cold night. We thank the school catering staff and Mr. and Mrs. W. Kerisson for their warm hospitality.

Wymondham S.M. have an excellent sports master in Mr. G. H. Dye, and are noted for their record entries in the Eagle/Girl tournament. It was one of the surprises of the season to receive a telephone call later asking for 62 copies of Table Tennis by return before the school broke up for Christmas. Let us hope that other schools, particularly girls' schools, will follow this example.

Please write, if interested, to me, Norfolk C.T.T.A. will also arrange to coach children of eleven plus, if desired, as is already being done at Wymondham, at their request.

The Y.M.C.A. Schoolboys' Tournament results were: "Tennis of 3": City of Norwich School beat Henderson 'A'; Over 14's: Terry Rymer (C.N.S.) best Keith Fairweather: Under 14's: Neville Graver (C.N.S.) beat Lewis Betts (Yarmouth). The C.N.S. team was T. Rymer, S. Hemsted and P. Alden. There were 128 entries and the finals were of a much higher standard this season. Neville Graver is a coming player.

J. S. PENNY

SUFFOLK NOTES

The second event of the Suffolk "Leading Ladies" tournament was prominent for a welcome return to the competition by Pam Rogers. She was on her best form and had little difficulty in winning all her sets two-straight in Group A of the singles. Brenda Brown won Group B in a similar fashion. The inter-group final began well with both players attacking hard. Pam won the first game 24-22 and the second 21-11 after her opponent had somewhat fallen away.

The doubles tied gave more examples of exciting play and Brenda Brown, partnered by Linda Barrett, went through unbeaten. However, all their sets went to the best of three so they could muster only six points compared to the seven, by Mrs. Rogers and Catherine Cleary, who had two straight games wins to their credit.

At the close, Mrs. Rogers was winner on the day with 17 points, and now shared second place with Doris Fox. Other near rivals are Hazel Hawkes and Linda Barrett on 15 points and 15 points respectively.

News from junior spheres makes very interesting reading. Both divisions of the Stowmarket League are headed by East City leading the way with an unbeaten record. Unfortunately in the Ladies' Section Cambridge City are near the bottom, having suffered heavy defeats at the hands of Kettenring (who head the Table) and Bedford.

Coaching still goes on in Cambs and Junior sessions at the Y.M.C.A. Cambridge must bear fruit in the near future. Junior sessions are also held at Chesterton Youth Centre and at Milton Village as well as Swavesey Village College. John Cornwell and Leslie Constance are in charge of these classes.

Y.M.C.A. top the Cambridgeshire League, closely followed by New Chesterston Institute. Also in the hunt are the University Press and Pest Control but I feel that Y.M.C.A. and New Chesterston Institute will have the last say. Of course, Y.M.C.A. II and Impington Village College are all in the top half.

Players who have served their Club well in these first four teams in Division I are John Loker, Albert Jackson and R. R. Hsu (Y.M.C.A. I), Alan Ponder and John Cornwell (Y.M.C.A. II), John Thurston (New Chesterston Institute), and Ron Nunn and Keith Chapman (University Press).

The Cambridgeshire Closed Championships, which are being held in March, promise to be great success and already players are getting "tuned up" for this big event in Cambridgeshire table tennis. The Radius Events usually bring in their quota of excellent players from the outlying districts and I know that they enjoy participating in this popular event.

Leslie Constance

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A R O U N D  E A S T  A N G L I A

T A B L E  T E N N I S

F E B R U A R Y  - 1 9 6 3

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

BAD START

THE record of the Cambridgeshire teams in the Senior and Junior Divisions of the National County Championships do not make very pleasant reading. In fact at the time of writing these notes they have not succeeded in winning a single game in either Junior or Senior Sections.

In the only match they have played in the Championships the Seniors lost to Hampshire by ten games to nil and as usual losses begin could not have been anticipated.

Now that John Cornwell is on the brink of retiring from competitive table tennis the Cambridgeshire team will take on a new look and we may see some Juniors next season taking on the roll of Seniors in the county team.

The new Junior at the moment is young Alan Ponder who is quite a steady player, but lacks a consistent attack.

The Juniors suffered two defeats at the hands of Middlesex and Herts. respectively and did not succeed in winning a game in either match.

It is a happier picture in the South-East Midlands League with Cambridge City leading the way with an unbeaten record. Unfortunately in the Ladies' Section Cambridge City are near the bottom, having suffered heavy defeats at the hands of Kettenring (who head the Table) and Bedford.

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Leslie Constance

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U.S.S.R. PREPARES FOR PRAGUE

By Victor Kollegorsky
(Executive Secretary of the U.S.S.R. Table Tennis Federation)

SOVIET table tennis players are training vigorously for the 27th world championships in Prague next April. This will be their second appearance in a world tournament.

The composition of the Soviet women's and men's teams is likely to be changed considerably compared with the 1961 line-up in Peking. Several dozen young players have since come to the fore with a modern aggressive style of play. Mastery of this style enabled Soviet players to win the Bucharest Cup in the European juniors matches in Bad Blankenburg in 1961 and Bled in 1962 and a number of first prizes in girls' competitions.

Selection of candidates for the Prague team was greatly helped by the tenth U.S.S.R. team championship held in November in Berezniki, a small town in the Urals.

The Federation Challenge Cups were contested by 23 women's and 23 men's teams of urban and rural clubs.

Spartak, winners in all previous team competitions, suffered a resounding defeat in Berezniki, failing to get a place among the prize-winners.

The women's title was won by the Labour Reserves team headed by 22-year-old Signe Paisiarv, recognised after the Peking championship as one of the best women players in Europe. They beat Stormy Petrel 5-2 in the final.

Locomotive headed by Nikolai Novikov, a 17-year-old member of the national team, defeated Trud with the same score in the men's final.

Valentin Ivanov, veteran coach of the national team and author of many books on table tennis, coached the team.

One of the most likely members of the national team is Anatoly Amelin, a 16-year-old schoolboy from Moscow. He first attracted attention in Bled, where he made a sensational ascent to the finals and finished as Europe's second-best junior.

A bold and energetic player, Amelin is in his element in attack and at the slightest opportunity pounds his opponent with powerful strokes. His attack is well prepared by good top-spins and vertical shots.

Mikhail Nasypaiko, of Odessa, is a year older than Amelin and is his equal in strength and aggressiveness. In Berezniki he overpowered Amelin 25-23 in the deciding set of a thrilling game.

Moscow schoolboy David Brodsky, who put up a spectacular performance in Berezniki, also has a good chance of qualifying for Prague. With an excellent technique, he succeeded in beating many-times champion Algimantas Saunoris, a surgeon from Vilnius, who captains the Soviet national team. The "iron doctor," as he is called, is rarely beaten even by older players. Another defeat suffered by Saunoris in the Urals was inflicted by Shlyapochnikov, a 20-year-old Muscovite, who top-spins beautifully and scores killing aces.

A good showing was also made by 20-year-old Boris Kholodovsky from Moscow, who has wins over Novikov and Brodsky to his credit.

Among the women players, excellent skill was demonstrated by 16-year-old Moscow schoolgirl Zoya Rudnova, 1961 European girls' champion. In the final game with Signe Paisiarv she defeated her experienced opponent with a run of powerful strokes.

Along with Rudnova and Paisiarv, there is a good chance of qualifying for Laima Balaisite, a talented 14-year-old from Vilnius, who won the national title in February, 1962, and the European girls' title in July.

Other possibilities include Niole Ramenauskaite and Aldona Kondrataite, young Lithuanians who made their debut at the Peking championship, Alexandra Kosyakina and Svetlana Grinberg from Kiev, and Moscow University student Sofya Belotserkovskaya.
MY TOUR OF WEST AFRICA

By DAVID CREAMER

I HAD, in the past, travelled a little to such countries as Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland, but a trip to West Africa was beyond my wildest dreams. So when Victor Barna invited me to accompany him on this trip I had no hesitation in accepting.

We left London Airport early on the morning of October 15 and arrived at Lagos the same evening. Our hotel was a short drive from the Airport and we were thankful to be able to climb into our air-conditioned bedrooms.

A practice with the Nigerian National team the next day was followed by exhibitions at the King's and Queen's Colleges, both attended by large and enthusiastic audiences.

The following Friday we left Lagos for Ibadan, a car journey of 90 miles on a very bumpy and winding road, breaking off to play at a school at Umaha. Green Springs Rest House was our headquarters for the next four days. We played an exhibition before some 750 spectators on the stage of the local cinema, and two more at the university and a school.

A 400 miles flight to Enugu came next and here we appeared on television and also played two more exhibitions, before moving on to Port Harcourt, a journey of 200 miles by car to show our skill to yet another enthusiastic crowd.

We then flew back to Lagos for further exhibitions, and where we attended a cocktail party at the residence of the Governor-General. Next we played at Kaduna after a flight of 600 miles, then flew on to Kano, where I left Victor and caught the plane back to London.

Overall the trip appeared to be a great success. This was particularly evident by the size of the crowds and their enthusiasm on each occasion.

The hospitality was excellent; nothing was too much for us, including a visit to the Trade Fair, and appearances on television.

I would like to thank Victor Barna, the Nigerian Daily Times, and the E.T.T.A. for making this trip possible. It was a great experience and I am sure that I have learned a lot from playing with Victor, which will show in my play later.

A 400 miles flight to Enugu came next and here we appeared on television and also played two more exhibitions, before moving on to Port Harcourt, a journey of 200 miles by car to show our skill to yet another enthusiastic crowd.

We then flew back to Lagos for further exhibitions, and where we attended a cocktail party at the residence of the Governor-General. Next we played at Kaduna after a flight of 600 miles, then flew on to Kano, where I left Victor and caught the plane back to London.

Overall the trip appeared to be a great success. This was particularly evident by the size of the crowds and their enthusiasm on each occasion.

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CLAYTON COMES THROUGH

EARLY shocks in the Lancashire Open, staged by the Bolton SSS League in conjunction with the County Association in the cocon that was the De Havilland Aircraft Company’s Lostock factory on icy January 12, were not confined to the tables, for top seed Jeff Inger, a flu victim, and fourth seed Bertie Kerr, snow-bound in Edinburgh, had to be scratched.

Rising from the dust of his demoted county ranking, Jack Clayton finally “landed” men’s singles title holder Mike Symonds, proving too experienced an angler to let his younger opponent off the hook as had others before him.

Mounting a desperate offensive in the second game, again from a trailing position, Symonds failed to break Clayton’s iron curtain defence despite hurting everything into the attack.

Symonds had walked the tightrope from the third round onwards coming from behind to steal the thunder of David Bevan 21-19, 15-21, 26-24, George Livesey 16-21, 21-19, 23-21, and then Peter Duncombe and Denis Neale in two further pulsating sets.

New holder Clayton was never in any such difficulties in brief encounters with Cheshire junior Roger Hampson, Fred Kershaw, Cleve Judson and Brian Starkie Ron Allcock was the only player to take the new champion to three games; Ralph Gunnion conceded the semi in two straight.

Coming through from Inger’s allotted place in the first quarter, Gunnion never dropped a game, similarly Neale took over Kerr’s appointed rôle with equal success, Liverpool’s Wally Allanson running him the closest.

Strewn in the wake of the forward marchers were Derek Schofield, out at Manchester’s E. Ford in the first round, Cheshire county team-mate Peter Walsmeing being axed by Douglas McGarry, Maurice Pitts going under to Duncombe. Ivy Kershaw’s utter capitulation to

CHANGED

THE GWENT OPEN, originally scheduled for February 3 at Newport, Monmouthshire, has become so popular outside of Wales, that the date has now been changed at the request of English players to avoid clash with National County Championships. The new date is April 6. Entries close on March 23 to Grove Motlow at 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Monmouthshire.

Connie Moore in the second game of the women’s singles final was quite inexplicable but fortunately followed by the men’s doubles in which George Livesey and Bryn Farnworth excelled in opposition to Barnsley’s Mike Dainty and McGarry.

Livesey claimed a second doubles title in the mixed with Linda Gordon and in the women’s doubles the all-Yorkshire pairing of Lesley Proudluck and Cynthia Blackshaw got the better of Lancashire’s Diane Fitzgerald and Miss Moore.

It is perhaps unfair to criticise Burnley’s other successful candidate Brian Marsden, who brought about the downfall of David Stanley, but the boys’ final was nonetheless uninspiring. All credit to Marsden though for this win was certainly a feather in his cap.

As expected Jackie Canham shed none of the glitter attaching to her similar national ranking to Stanley in the girls’ singles against Pat Dainty.

Alone of the holders Harrogate’s Norman Lusher retained his veteran’s title but how unexpected was his opponent in the final, Mrs. Marjorie Wade, of Blackpool.
UMPIRES’ CORNER
by COLIN CLEMETT

The Qualities Required

AFTER a break, such as this feature has had this season, it is often a good idea to think again about first principles, and I should like this month to discuss the main qualities that are required of a good umpire. It seems to me that these qualities come under three headings, knowledge, control and presentation. Although it is always difficult to say which is the most important, I think that the most basic quality is knowledge.

Without a sound, and accurate, knowledge of the Laws an umpire cannot hope to establish the confidence in his authority that is essential to his being able to control and present a match in the best possible manner. This is why the first test that we ask a prospective umpire to take is the written paper. We do not try to assess a candidate’s practical ability until we are satisfied that he is sufficiently familiar with the Laws. For those who have never seen this Test Paper, it is designed so that, to pass it, a candidate must know not only the wording of the Laws, but how their provisions are applied in practice.

BOOKS ALLOWED

To answer the questions, he is allowed, in fact encouraged, to use any reference books he chooses, and it is really a part of the qualifying process to make the prospective umpire look up and interpret any Laws that he does not already know. Of course, no method of examination is perfect but from a number of seasons’ experience we feel satisfied that a successful candidate has sufficient knowledge to deal with the large majority of situations he may meet while umpiring.

Having acquired this knowledge his next task is so to familiarise himself with it that he can call on the relevant points of view. This sound theoretical background generally leads directly to the umpire being able to assume firm, but not overbearing, control of a match, his confidence in his knowledge helping to build up the players’ confidence in his decisions.

It is more true of umpiring than of many other activities that almost any decision is better than indecision, and the more sound his basic knowledge the more easily will an umpire be able to keep to this rule.

Once again, practice is the essential, and although few of us are born schoolmasters, there are not many who cannot eventually attain that air of assurance that engenders respect without resentment, authority without domination.

My third category, presentation, becomes more important as the umpire progresses from controlling local matches with few or no spectators to officiating at events staged before larger and probably more critical audiences. It is in a sense a refinement rather than a fundamental quality, but it is, nevertheless, an important one.

As part of the process of acquiring proper control the umpire will have to learn to present the value of good timing and of clearly audible speaking. These are two characteristics that he must develop so that he can contribute fully to the matches he controls, from both the players’ and the spectators’ points of view.

He must remember as his scope increases that his audiences will include many people who did not know the game well, and his aim should be to “manage” every match in such a way that everyone is sufficiently aware of what is happening. By learning to do his job well he can contribute greatly to the success of any match, and enable both players and spectators to enjoy the game more from it.

I am reminded of a question that George White has often asked N.U. candidates, “What,” asks George, “do you think of that umpire?” I didn’t think much of the game, but I certainly noticed what a good umpire the was.”

Well, what do you think?

WOORESTERSHIRE CLOSED

(Malvern, January 20)


**MARJORIE’S PRIZE BAT**

“**TABLE TENNIS**” (the magazine) not the game has helped to give a new lease of life to that stalwart among Yorkshire women players, Marjorie Lightfoot (writes Malcolm Hartley).

Last April she was one of the winners of our forecasting competition and her prize was a new sandwich bat.

Never having used sponge she was not altogether impressed but decided to give it a trial. Now she says: “It takes less out of me and the ball goes away harder.”

Marjorie must have played for Leeds well over 100 times since her first match for the city in 1938. She represented Yorkshire 51 times and holds a record number of 16 wins in the Yorkshire Closed. She is a county umpire; holds a special badge for services to Yorkshire; and has helped Leeds to the women’s inter-league title 12 times in the last 17 years.

She remembers with some pride a win over Di Rowe, then a teenager, in the semi-final of the North-East of England. Rosalind then took revenge in the final!

Although a rubber loyalist for so many years, Marjorie says her style has become more orthodox. She explains: “I have double-jointed wrists. I used to play the ball on the normal backhand and then swing my wrist over and play from the same side of the bat on the forehand with my wrist the wrong way round.”

No wonder she bewildered her opponents!

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**HAMPShIRE LOOK FOR JUNIORS**

BOURNEMOUTH hold a dominating position in Hampshire table tennis this season heading the First, Second and Junior Divisions of the Inter-Towns League. In the two senior divisions their sides have dropped only one point each, while their juniors have a hundred per cent record from their four matches so far with the fine games average of 34-6.

With the Holes twins soon making their exit from the junior scene, Hampshire must look for replacements in the county junior side. One promising recruit is Angeline Mills from the Bitterne Park Club, Southampton. Recently this lively 15 year-old won the Eagle/Girl preliminary round at Havant and competes further in London.

Hampshire’s most promising boy is Derek Holman, who still has another season as a junior.

Southampton are making plans to stage their first ever international at a local school.

T. W. Grant.

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**Four Unbeaten Sides in Western Counties League**

NEWPORT will not forget their visit to Swindon in a hurry. They not only braved some shocking weather conditions to save disappointing their hosts, but were held up by a train derailment on the return journey and did not arrive home until 4.30 a.m. But it was all worthwhile for they won the match 6-3 to preserve a 100 per cent record in the Western Counties League.

Newport had a shock start when international Brian Everson was beaten by an exciting 24-22, 24-22, in the opening match by Ernie Howell. However, Newport took hold of the match running to a 5-4 lead.

Three other sides are so far unbeaten, Cheltenham, who head the table with four wins, Cardiff, who are in third place behind Newport with two wins, and Bristol.

Little Johnny Mansfield, the Welsh junior international, won all his matches in helping Abercynonn to a 5-4 win over Weston, who sadly missed Ray Philpott. The result was in doubt right to the end before Pat Arkell beat A. Kensey to decide the issue.

Weston were back at full strength for their home match against newcomers Swindon, but once again they suffered a 5-4 defeat. Weston had booked set for victory when they led 4-3, but E. Howells and Tony Wolfe with respective wins over Kensey and Philpott snatched the match out of the fire with a grandstand finish.

Kensey, who is only 16, created a good impression and given a little more experience should prove a valuable asset for Weston.

West Wiltshire are finding it hard going in their first season of the Western Counties League, and are still without a win, their defeat being at the hands of Bristol Seconds by 7-2.

Grove Motlow.
YOUTH BREAKS THROUGH

**SENSATIONAL WIN FOR BARNES**

by HARRISON EDWARDS

YOUTH made its big break through in the English Closed Championships at Manor Place Baths, London, on January 2-5, when 15-year-old CHESTER BARNES, of Forest Gate, and 18-year-old Mary Shannon, of Worcester Park, carried off the singles titles.

With the emphasis on attack, they herald an exciting new change in the game. It was almost a revolution as that boring defensive, which has been so prevalent in the English game, was firmly pushed into the background...and we hope finally so.

The excitement of the bold play of Barnes and Miss Shannon could be keenly felt in the electrified atmosphere of the crowd. It was not merely that they were witnessing unexpected upsets, but that they were seeing a type of play that has for so long been missing. This was the type of play that can bring back crowd-appeal to table tennis, and perhaps one day pack Wembley with a ten thousand crowd as in those boom years of the immediate post-war period.

Moreover it was not Barnes and Miss Shannon alone who provided all the excitement. For these finals of the fourth English closed will go down as the best yet. There were thrills and excitement as Bobby Stevens and Bobbie Raybould retained their men's doubles against an intense challenge from Stan Jacobson and Alan Lindsay, and again when Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon won the women's doubles. The only disappointment was perhaps in the mixed doubles, which was somewhat of an anti-climax when Brian Wright and Mary Shannon easily won the final against Barnes, possibly suffering from a reaction from his singles win in the preceding event, and Lesley Bell.

**THE CHAMPIONS RECEIVE THEIR TROPHIES**

But the general verdict of those who saw the finals was “If this is table tennis then we'll come again.” Throughout the season we have seen the great promise of Barnes, but not even the most optimistic could have foreseen him maintaining such consistent form throughout the six rounds to become the youngest ever holder of the title.

There was no question of a fluke about his success, with others clearing the established players from his path. He did that himself and indeed accounted for three of the top four ranked players to land the title—Jeff Ingber, David Creamer and Alan Rhodes.

Barnes opened his challenge on the Thursday night by beating first Brian Hill, the English junior champion, 17-20, 11, 18, then Terry Densham, the former international, 17, —11, 22, 18.

The match against Densham was a thriller all the way and revealed his courageous fighting spirit, for he trailed 12-18 and 18-20 in the third game and in the fourth he came back from 4-11 down, opening the game up with a fine two wing attack and good use of the top spin loop.

**High Praise**

He earned high praise from Densham, who said “He is a great prospect. I like the courageous way he goes for his shots.”

Certainly there are no half measures about Barnes for he hits his drives cleanly.

Having beaten Densham, Barnes came up against Jeff Ingber, of Manchester, England's No. 2, on the Friday night. It looked as though this would be the end of the road for him, but young Barnes has no respect for reputations and it was typical of his confidence that when I asked what he thought of his prospects he should reply, “I have not played him before, so I guess my chances are as good as his.”

And indeed it was Ingber who faltered against this eager youngster, determined no one should stand in his way.

Ingber started as though he would
cut Barnes down to size when he won the first two games at 16 and 19 but the match took a dramatic turn leaving Barnes to sweep through the next three games at 10, 16 and 10.

 Ingber made the mistake of being lured into complacency when he led 19-8 in the second game.

 It looked all over bar the shouting but we had reckoned without that Barnes' fighting spirit. He won eight successive points to get right into the battle.

 Although Ingber won that game he admitted afterwards, "I was given such a fright that it shook my confidence and I lost my edge. It is all very well to be wise afterwards but I know now I should have forced the issue when I had that long lead, instead of relaxing."

 This gave Barnes just the confidence he needed to face Michael Thornhill for a place in the semi-final and apart from the loss of the second game, he was well in control to win 14, -21, 10, 14.

 So he moved into the semi-final against that other bright new hope, 19-year-old David Creamer, the only one of the top six ranked players whom he had not beaten this season.

 But there was no stopping Barnes now and after losing the opening game he swept Creamer aside at -14, 17, 10, 19, to take his appointed place in the final against Alan Rhodes.

 And what a great final it proved to be—hit and counter-hit with no quarter asked and none given. They were well matched, with the ever so confidence Barnes just having the edge to win 10, -15, 19, 22.

 Those last two games were packed with thrills. In the third Rhodes had fought back from 7-13 to 17-all but just failed to get in front, while in the fourth the lead see-sawed.

 Barnes led 13-8 only for Rhodes to go ahead at 16-15. Back came Barnes to 19-17, but Rhodes won the next three points to reach game point, then hit off. It was a lucky break for Barnes and there was a nail-biting tussle over the next six points before Barnes finally clinched the issue.

 Rhodes, obviously smarting at being passed over for the world championship trial had tackled these championships with a grim determination to hit back at the selectors and had the satisfaction of well beating Ian Harrison, England's No. 1, in the semi-final with a score of 14, 20, 19.

 Rhodes had also beaten Derek Boodlely, of Warwickshire, England's No. 12, in straight games in an earlier round, but surprisingly dropped games to both Bob McCree and Alan Cornish.

 The defending champion, Bobby Stevens, lost his crown in the quarter-finals when he was well beaten by Harrison, who appeared to have found his form after an indifferent start to the championships when he was hard pressed to beat Derek Burridge, making one of his rare recent appearances, 16, -17, -16, 13, 9.

 David Creamer had a good run, until he met Barnes, sweeping aside Tony Miller, Johnny Leach, George Muranyi and Stan Jacobson, all in straight games.

 The unluckiest player of the championships was former champion Bryan Merrett. He was knocked out by the arctic weather conditions which so delayed his journey that although he had left Gloucester at 9 a.m. he failed to arrive by 10.30 p.m. and was scratched. Merrett had phoned to say he was on the way and his match was held back for over an hour—indeed until the last match went on. But the weather had failed to give him without striking a ball.

 Mary Shannon's win over Diane Rowe in the women's singles final must go down as the biggest upset of the meeting. Miss Rowe had won this title since its inception four years ago and holds such a dominating position among our girls that the continuation of her reign, especially as she is also English Open champion, was regarded as a foregone conclusion. Yet Miss Shannon beat her in straight games, 16, 16, 18.

 This was a new Miss Shannon, a Miss Shannon who gambled on all out attack and won, but could hardly believe her good fortune at the finish.

 "I had nothing to lose so went to the table with a plan to attack. I knew I never had a chance of defending against Diane," said the fair-haired Mary afterwards.

 Never have I seen Mary hit over the table so consistently hard. She just never let up and gave Diane no chance to settle into any rhythm. She was like a tornado.

 So unexpected was this turn of events that when Mary had won the first game, no one was unduly worried. Indeed, it looked to be a flash in the pan, particularly when Diane went to a 7-2 lead in the second, but she saw it steadily whittled away and it was Mary who took the game to be two up.

 Even at this stage there were few who would have suggested there was to be a new champion. After all it looked impossible that Mary could keep up her attack with such consistency.

 Diane appeared to be getting nicely on top when she forged ahead to 12-8 but she was caught at 13-11 and from that stage slowly and gracefully slipped to defeat.

 Mary's win was all the more remarkable in view of earlier struggles. She dropped a game to Barbara Andrews, then came near to being beaten in the quarter-final before eventually overcoming Jackie Redfern at -18, 10, -19, 12, 18.
ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

was a little too close for comfort. She then had a tight semi-final with Pam Mortimer before getting home at 18, 17, —12, 17.

Miss Mortimer—in private life Mrs. Alan Lake and mother of two—staged a great come-back this year for she beat Lesley Bell in the second round, and Joyce Fielder in the third—a great performance.

Miss Bell is England's joint No. 2 with Miss Shannon, and it was indeed a big blow to her growing prestige to be eliminated in her first match.

Another player making a welcome re-appearance was Jean Head, who came near to upsetting one of the new brigade when she won the first two games against Judy Williams. However, because of lack of match practice and stamina, she failed to keep it up and was beaten —25, —19, 16, 18, 15. Miss Williams then went on to beat Alma Taft, England's No. 4, before going down to Miss Rowe in the semi-final.

Miss Bell, making some amends for her early singles exit, partnered Pauline Martin, another Essex youngster, to provide a seeding upset in the women's doubles when they beat Alma Taft and Judy Williams. They went on to reach the final, where they found the experience of Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon just too much for them and were beaten 15, 15, —12, 8.

Miss Bell was again on the losing end in the final of the mixed doubles with Chester Barnes, after gaining some fine wins over Brian Brumwell and Alma Taft, Ian Harrison and Irene Ogus, and Stan Jacobson and Elsie Carrington.

They were beaten in the final by Brian Wright and Mary Shannon at 16, 18, 10. It was Mary's third title and in the semi-final they scored their greatest win when they beat the seeded Bobby Stevens and Jean McCre—16, 19, —16, 22, 18—a match of sustained excitement and fluctuating fortunes.

The biggest upset of the mixed was the quarter-final defeat of the defending champions Johnny Leach and Diane Rowe by Jacobson and Mrs. Carrington at —14, 15, 17, —12, 13. Leach and Miss Rowe certainly found the going tough for in their opening game they just survived over five games against Roger Chandler and Peggy Piper.

The first shock of the men's doubles was the defeat in the opening match of seeded Ian Harrison and Brian Wright by Ralph Gunnion and Laurie Ghosh (Middx.). Then in the next round the other seeds in the bottom half, Henry Buist and Tony Piddock crashed to Jeff Ingber and Kevin Forsshaw. This left the way clear for Stan Jacobson and Alan Lindsay to go through to the final where they gave a great display before narrowly losing to the defending champions Raybould and Stevens, who in their semi-final had accounted for the other seeds, Johnny Leach and David Creamer.

Looking back. This was a championships to remember and should be the start of a new era for table tennis, one in which youth leads the way and raises optimism for the future.

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FEBRUARY - 1963
SHOTS FROM ENGLISH CLOSED

THE DOUBLES CHAMPIONS and... RUNNERS-UP

by PETER MADGE

Page Nineteen
ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

Quarter-Finals: Barnes bt Thornhill 14, -23, 10, 14; Cresmer bt Jacobson 14, 16, 10.
Rhodes bt Cornish —12, 19, 5; Harrison bt Stevens 13, 18, 17.
Semi-Finals: BARNES bt Creamer -14, 17, 10; ROHDES bt Harrison 14, 20, 16.
Final: BARNES bt Rhodes 10, -15, 19, 22.

WOMEN’S SINGLES

First Round: D. Rowe (Middlesex) bye; Mrs. J. Carrington (Essex) bt M. Hicks (Middlesex); D. Spooner (Middlesex) bt Mrs. Lamper (Surrey) —9, 20, 15; M. Piper (Surrey) bye; Mrs. J. Head (Surrey) bt W. Groves (Warwicks.) 9, 15, 9; J. Williams (Herts) bt M. Beglan (Surrey) 9, 16, 16; H. Heasman (Essex) bt J. Williams (Bucks.) 13, 15, -15, 16; A. Taft (Middlesex) bye.
M. Shannon (Surrey) bye; Mrs. Andrews (Hertfordshire) bt P. Venus (Middlesex) 13, 18, -11, -10, 12; Mrs. L. Redfern (Middlesex) bt P. Martin (Essex) 8, 20, 15; J. Smith (Kent) w.o.; P. Holmes (Hants) acct.; C. Carter (Kent) bt Mrs. Mohan (Devon) 14, 12, 7; 2; Fielder (Kent) w.o.; G. Holmes (Hants) acct.; P. Mortimer (Warwicks.) bt I. Oga (Middlesex) 14, 15, 13; L. Bell (Essex) bye.

Second Round: Rowe bt Carrington 13, 18, 17; Spooner (Middlesex) bye; Creamer bt Heasman —25, 19, 16, 15; Taft bt Heasman 15, 20, 18. Shannon (Essex) bt Andrews 9, 8, -15, 19; Redfern bt Smith 8, 9, 17; Fielder bt Carter 16, 14, 13; Mortimer bt Bell 15, 10, 9, 16.

Quarter-Finals: Rowe bt Piper —19, 15, 16; Williams bt Taft 16, 17, 20; Shannon bt Redfern —18, 19, 10, 13; Mortimer bt Fielder 14, 7, 17.
Semi-Finals: ROWE bt Williams 12, 15; SHANNON bt Mortimer 18, 17, 12, 17.
Final: SHANNON bt Rowe 16, 18, 16.

MEN’S DOUBLES

First Round: R. Raybould/R. Stevens (Essex) bye; D. Baddeley (Warwicks.)/E. Hill (Lincoln) bt A. Chapman/L. Kerekes (Devon) —13, 19, 18, 17; L. Cooper/R. Etheridge (Kent) bt A. Clarke (Hertfordshire) bt P. Leckie/Miss J. Williams (Bucks.) 10, 8, 10; K. Craigie (Middlesex) bt P. Meisel (Kent)/P. Mohan (Devon) 12, 13, 10.
H. Venner/D. Wall (Surrey) w.o.; D. Hoope (Berkshire)/E. Lloyd (Oxford) acct.; C. Barnes (Essex) bt K. Edwards (Gloucestershire) bt D. Lowe/G. Muranyi (Surrey) —19, 15, 13, 11; N. Brabrook (Surrey)/L. Greenwell (Middlesex) w.o.; B. Gosh/A. Maidment (Middlesex) bt C. Creamer/J. Leach (Essex) bt R. Thorin/D. Whittaker (Middlesex) 10, 7, 16.
H. Brabrook/A. Pidcock (Kent w.o.; D. Schofield/C. Cheshire (Cheshire) acct.; A. Rhodes/M. Thornhill (Middlesex) w.o.; C. Edwards/D. Davies (Hants) acct.; D. Burton/P. Fenwick (Essex) w.o.; B. Hamill (Devon)/K. Hurlock (Surrey) acct.; K. Forsmann/L. Inger (Lancashire) bt D. Blay/A. Cornish (Kent) —17, 15, 15, 15; S. McCree (Essex) bt A. Taft (Middlesex) 10, 8, 10; K. McCree (Essex) bye; L. Landry/Mrs. J. Williams (Bucks.) w.o.; D. Basden/Miss C. Carter (Kent) 12, 13, 10.
H. Venner/D. Wall (Surrey) w.o.; D. Meisel (Kent)/P. Mohan (Devon) 12, 13, 10.
H. Venner/D. Wall (Surrey) w.o.; D. Meisel (Kent)/P. Mohan (Devon) w.o.; J. Redfearn (Middlesex) bt P. Andrews (Essex) —19, 15, 13; J. Williams (Herts) bt D. Spooner (Devon) bt M. Beglan (Surrey)/P. Venus (Middlesex) 10, 12, 6; S. Hession (Essex)/I. Oga (Middlesex) bt C. Carter (Kent) J. Williams (Bucks.) 19, 15, 17, 15; D. Rowe (Middlesex)/M. Shannon (Surrey) w.o.
Quarter-Finals: Bell/Martin bt Taft/Williams 15, 16, —14, —15, 12; McCree/Piper bt Austin/Lambert 10, 15, 10; Mortimer/Mohan bt Carrington/Spooner 16, 15, —11, 17; Rowe/Shannon bt Heasman/Ogus 13, 20, 14.
Semi-Finals: BELL/MARTIN bt McCree/Piper 9, 8, —19, 17; ROWE/SHANNON bt Mortimer/Mohan 12, 19, —14, 12.
Final: ROWE/SHANNON bt Bell/Martin 15, 12, 15, 8.

WOMEN’S DOUBLES

First Round: A. Taft (Middlesex) J. Williams (Herts) bye; L. Bell/P. Martin (Essex) bt M. Fry/A. Venus (Middlesex) 10, 19, 19, 19; M. Austin/H. Lambert (Bury) bt M. Hicks/J. Redfern (Middlesex) 17, —16, —19, 15; J. McCree (Essex)/M. Piper (Surrey) acct.; P. Mortimer (Warwicks.)/J. Williams (Middlesex) bye; K. Carrington (Essex)/D. Spooner (Devon) bt M. Beglan (Surrey)/P. Venus (Middlesex) 10, 12, 6; S. Hession (Essex)/I. Oga (Middlesex) bt C. Carter (Kent) J. Williams (Bucks.) 19, 15, 17, 15; D. Rowe (Middlesex)/M. Shannon (Surrey) w.o.
Quarter-Finals: Bell/Martin bt Taft/Williams 15, 16, —14, —15, 12; McCree/Piper bt Austin/Lambert 10, 15, 10; Mortimer/Mohan bt Carrington/Spooner 16, 15, —11, 17; Rowe/Shannon bt Heasman/Ogus 13, 20, 14.
Semi-Finals: BELL/MARTIN bt McCree/Piper 9, 8, —19, 17; ROWE/SHANNON bt Mortimer/Mohan 12, 19, —14, 12.
Final: ROWE/SHANNON bt Bell/Martin 15, 12, 15, 8.

MIXED DOUBLES

First Round: R. Stevens/Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) bye; L. Landry/Mrs. J. Redfearn (Middlesex) bt G. Chapman (Surrey)/Miss M. Hicks (Middlesex) 9, —12, —14, 17; P. Leckie/Miss J. Williams (Bucks.) w.o.; D. Basden/Miss C. Carter (Kent) bye; N. Brabrook (Surrey)/Miss P. Venus (Middlesex) bye; J. Ireland (Surrey)/Miss J. Williams (Herts) w.o.; R. Edwards (Kent) J. Williams (Bucks.) 19, 15, 17, 15; D. Rowe (Middlesex)/M. Shannon (Surrey) w.o.
Quarter-Finals: Bell/Martin bt Taft/Williams 15, 16, —14, —15, 12; McCree/Piper bt Austin/Lambert 10, 15, 10; Mortimer/Mohan bt Carrington/Spooner 16, 15, —11, 17; Rowe/Shannon bt Heasman/Ogus 13, 20, 14.
Semi-Finals: BELL/MARTIN bt McCree/Piper 9, 8, —19, 17; ROWE/SHANNON bt Mortimer/Mohan 12, 19, —14, 12.
Final: ROWE/SHANNON bt Bell/Martin 15, 12, 15, 8.

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ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

(Glos.)/Miss B. Hewison (Essex) bt F. Moore/Mrs. Mohan (Devon) 16, 12, 13; E. Wright/Mrs. (Middlesex)/Miss M. Shannon (Brentford) by.

C. Barnes/Miss L. Bell (Essex) by; B. Brumwell (Essex)/Miss A. Tait (Middlesex) bt B. Abiss (Essex)/Miss J. Williamson (Middlesex) 16, 13, 18; J. Harrison/Miss J. Ogus (Middlesex) bt A. N. Other/Miss H. Lambert (Brentford) 10, 12, 22; D. Haddiley/Miss P. Mortimer (Warwick) by.

B. Jacobson (Middlesex)/Mrs. K. Carrington (Essex) by; C. Warren (Surrey)/Miss D. Spooner (Devon) bt L. Blackwell/Miss M. Begins (Brentford) 14, 12, 11; R. Chandler (Sussex)/Miss M. Piper (Surrey) bt B. Hill (Lincoln)/Miss P. Martin (Essex) 17, 9, 17, 17; L. Leach (Essex)/Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex) by.

Second Round: Stevens/McCree bt Landry/Bedford 15, 18, 18; Leckie/Williams bt Basden/Carter -17, 14, 17; Ireland/Williams bt Brook/Kennedy 14, 11, 4; Wright/Shannon bt Edwards/Heath 17, 20, 21.

Barnes/Bell bt Brumwell/Taft 17, 18, 11, 18; Harrison/Ogus bt Baddeley/Mortimer -16, 19, 18, 16, 11; Jacobson/Carrington bt Warren/Spooner 18, 14, 18; Leach/Rowe bt Chandler/Pipes -21, 14, 18, 18.

Quarter-Finals: Stevens/McCree bt Leckie/Williams 17, 12, 8, 20; Wright/Shannon bt Ireland/Williams 10, 19, 13; Barnes/Bell bt Harrison/Ogus 16, 13, 14; Jacobson/Carrington bt Leach/Rowe 15, 17, 12, 18.

Semi-Finals: WRIGHT/Shannon bt Steven/McCree 16, 19, 18, 22, 18; BARNES/BELL bt Jacobson/Carrington 16, 17, 18, 10.

Final: WRIGHT/Shannon bt Barnes/Bell 18, 19, 18.

ESSEX NOTES

Best Season Ever

CONGRATULATIONS to Chester Barnes and Lesley Bell on being selected to represent England in the World Championships in Prague.

Essex county teams have been having their best season ever. The East London League has a team equal second in the Premier Division—with high hopes of eventually finishing second; the "seconds" top the Southern Division and the juniors hold a similar place in the Junior East. The Bernard Crouch Trophy team had their table.

Bobby Stevens and Lesley Bell won two titles each in the East London League championships. Stevens beat Tony Condon in the men's singles final, and won the junior doubles with Brian Brunnschke, while Miss Bell took the women's singles and the mixed doubles with Chester Barnes.

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS Conducted by LAURIE LANDRY

A REAL HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?

Not surprisingly, the talking point of the month has been the phenomenal success of 16-year-old Essex star Chester Barnes. Unlike some of our big hopes of the past and present, he has actually had wins over our top players. Within five weeks from Newbury to the English Closed, his scalps included the Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 12 ranked players—a record that anyone would be proud of. Not surprisingly, he has now been ranked in the National Senior Ranking List at No. 3 and been selected for the World Championships at Prague from April 5th-14th.

Another discussion point that has already been dealt with firmly by Alan Lindsay in his letter last month, was the suggestion that Vic Ireland of Norfolk could hardly be classed as a Premier Division player. Vic Ireland knocked his critic for a good deal more than six when he won the Cardiff Open at the end of last November.

In the Welsh Open, more recently, he reached the semi-final and was the only player to take a game from the winner, David Creamer, who won in good company. Ireland's victim included Chester Barnes the new English Closed champion, and Bobby Stevens, the immediate past champion. In a county match, earlier this season, he beat Bobbie Raybould and has thus been the whole of the Essex team.

Are Essex Premier Division standard? This will be shown in the final table.

Again, this year, the Yorkshire, Newbury and Middlesex Opens have been a great success. The venues are so situated that most players in the country can benefit by entering one of them. The temperature of the lower half in the Middlesex Open was the one big complaint but this is surely the case with any really large hall and this includes the Empire Pool.

The English Closed Championships were, as usual, a complete success. The checking of bat surfaces was receiving with mixed feelings. In general players doubt whether the surface makes any difference and some tend to treat the inspection as a bit of a joke.

Now to the unfortunate Welsh Open: despite efforts on the part of the organisers, things just did not go right. A power failure upset the arranging for the best part of the tournament and a dance which had been held earlier in the week made the floor quite slippery. In spite of these technical hitchs and the bitterly cold weather, the organisers and players did a great job in getting this tournament through at a reasonable time.
WELSH OPEN

IRELAND SHOCKS BARNES

COULD Chester Barnes repeat Bobby Stevens’ feat? This was the talking point before the Welsh Open started. Last season, Bobby set the English Closed record by beating Chester in the Cardiff Open, and the former Open Champion made an undignified exit in Round 3.

This was not a “flash in the pan” for Ireland was positively brilliant in the quarters against holder Bobby Stevens, and all the latter tried he knew. Ireland literally blasted him off the table.

This was a tournament of good table tennis all through, and although an unkind power cut reduced the Driffield Hall to an arctic temperature, it served to inspire the players to do better.

Certainly the finals were better than we had seen for some time, with the exception of the English Closed semi-final, when both David Creamer and Vic Ireland seemed obviously too tired of each other for either make much attempt to open the game up.

David more than made amends for this, and not only was his final with Ian Harrison a tremendously interesting battle of wits, but in the second game David regained much of the form that Ian was almost demonised. Young Creamer was a worthy winner indeed, although one must admire Ian for his courage in going for so many points when 19/16 down, it would seem that he is far too defensive these days, and frankly, should never have been in that state against the much improved Tomlinson.

Nor was Ian’s only fall from grace, for he dropped a game to young Dennis Holland, once again, it seemed, through being too passive.

The following list was issued. MEN:

1, Dennis Holland (Glos.); 2, Martin Davies (Cardiff); 3, John Harrison (Newport); 4, Brian Eversen (Newport); 5, Donald Norris (Chepstow); 6, Alan Morris (Swansea) and Philip Bevan (Cardiff); 7, Roy Fowler (Cardiff) and Tony Hulsh (Newport); 8, Roy Fowler (Cardiff) and Tony Hulsh (Newport); 9, John Mantle (Swansea).

Champion not ranked

THE Welsh Champion not ranked! This was the shock when the Selection Committee of the Table Tennis Association of Wales issued their ranking lists in December.

Reason? Insufficient evidence as to his actual present playing ability, and truth to tell, Bernard Dimasic’s appearance in 1st class play these days do not provide enough of a guide to the selectors in their task. So they decided against his inclusion, putting Stan Jones (Swansea), Emiel Emocz (London), Colin Thomas (North Wales—but now in London) and Norman Parker (now playing for Bedfordshire) in the same category.

Careful examination was made of tournament results and of the individual percentages gain by those who play in the Welsh League, and the following list was issued. MEN: 1 Alan Thomas (Cardiff); 2, George Evans (Barry); 3, Ron Davies (Ponypriod); 4, Brian Eversen (Newport); 5, Donald Norris (Chepstow); 6, Alan Morris (Swansea) and Philip Bevan (Cardiff); 7, Roy Fowler (Cardiff) and Tony Hulsh (Newport); 8, Roy Fowler (Cardiff) and Tony Hulsh (Newport); 9, John Mantle (Swansea).

After being dominated for some years by the Aberavon boys, the junior list takes on a new look. John Mansfield (Aberavon) is still strong, but he is followed by John Buck (Eastern Valleys) and at No. 3 Geoff Trenchard (Eastern Valleys). At No. 4 is Brian Lloyd (Tredegav), then come three Aberdare boys—No. 5 Dennis Samuel, son of the veteran Welsh International Len Samuel, No. 6 Martin Davies, and No. 7 Bill Bird.

Rowlands of Newport comes 8, and Geoff Skinner (Eastern Valleys) is not ranked because of insufficient evidence.

The women’s doubles gave Diane a second title, when she partnered Mary Shannon to win the title, having a much harder task to eliminate Alan Rhodes and Michael Thornhill, who had earlier disposed of Barnes and Jacobson.

The women’s doubles gave Diane a second title, when she partnered Mary Shannon to win the title, having a much harder task to eliminate Alan Rhodes and Michael Thornhill, who had earlier disposed of Barnes and Jacobson.

Chester, as expected, took the boys’ final without much trouble, against Dennis Holland, who failed to reach the semi-finals.

Men’s Singles: Semi - Finals: 1. J. HARRISON (Glos.) bt M. Creedha (Middx) 21-12, 21-12, 21-17. 2. D. CREAMER (Middx.) bt V. Ireland (Burry) 16-21, 21-9, 21-13.

Final: CREAMER bt Harrison 21-17, 21-9.

Women’s Singles: Semi - Finals: 1. J. HARRISON (Glos.) bt M. Creedha (Middx) 21-12, 21-17. 2. V. Ireland (Burry) 16-21, 21-9, 21-13.

Final: CREAME bt Williams/Hunt 21-7, 21-11, 21-11.


Final: BOWE bt Shannon 21-15, 18-21, 21-16.

Women’s Doubles: Final: W. ROWE/M. BAYBOYD (Brom) bt M. Creedha/D. Ceamer (Middx), 21-15, 18-21, 21-14.

Final: BOWE bt Shannon 21-15, 18-21, 21-16.


Boys’ Singles: Final: G. BARNES (Essex) bt D. Holland (Glos.) 21-19, 21-16.
TEENAGERS STEAL THE LIMELIGHT

OF the five titles, three were won by young players, with the ladies' doubles shared. As the report of this championship is elsewhere in the magazine I shall give only the highlights.

Pride of place belongs equally to Chester Barnes and Mary Shannon, the two youngest ever winners of the "Closed" singles titles.

Chester played through in masterly fashion, beating Brian Hill, Lincolnshire, three games to one. Terry Dennis, Herefordshire, three games to one, Jeff Ingham, Lancashire, three games to two after losing the first two games, Michael Thornhill, Middlesex, 3-1, David Creamer, Middlesex, 3-1 and in the final Alan Rhodes, three games to one. Even this did not overshadow the three titles won by eighteen-year-old Mary Shannon: the three straight defeats of Diane Rowe in the Women's Singles final was probably the shock of the whole tournament. It was Miss Rowe's heaviest defeat for years by a home player. By and large, it must have been the first national tournament that was absolutely dominated by youth and partly due to this the finals turned out to be excellent.

YORKSHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

The Yorkshire Junior Open had many shock results. With Chester Barnes and Lesley Bell the two top juniors competing in the English Closed, the Junior under seventeen events were wide open. The winner of the Boys' Singles was Alan Ransome, Yorkshire, the only junior to beat Chester Barnes this season. In an exciting final he beat Eric Marsden 20-19 to win his first junior title. Of the four seeds in this event, only Les Gresswell Middlesex reached his appointed place in the semi-final, losing to the winner in straight games.

Number one seed, Dave Stanley, also lost to Ransome in the quarter final. Ranked players Tony Robertson, who was number two seed and Peter Williams, were both defeated by little known M. Hampson, Stockport, whose fine run was ended by Marston. The fourth seed, Stuart Seabrook, lost in the first round to J. Warwick of Watford, —19, 17, 15.

The Girls' Singles title was also kept in Yorkshire by "News of the World" girl of the year, Pat Dalnty, who beat top seeded Jacky Canham 22-20, 22-20 in the final.

A promising performance in the under fifteen event was the appearance in the Girles' final of Maureen Huckle. To reach this stage she beat the second seeded Irene Allom, 23-11, 17. Maureen, who hails from Northumberland, is only thirteen years old and has been playing table tennis for six months. In fact this was her first open tournament. Quite an achievement to reach the semi-final in such a short playing career.

GERMAN JUNIOR TOUR

The German Junior team will be coming to England for a short tour from February 27th to March 6th. Their fixtures are: February 27th versus England at Bexhill; March 1st and 2nd English Open; March 3rd a rest day; March 4th versus England at Leicester; March 5th versus England at St. Luke's, Canning Town. March 6th return to Germany.

The team of three boys and two girls will include Willy Große, who won the Kent junior in November. It will be interesting to see how he fares against the new Chester Barnes whom he beat in the final of the Kent junior.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The team for the World Championship includes four youngsters in David Creamer, Chester Barnes, Mary Shannon and Lesley Bell and must be one of the youngest ever to represent England in the Swathling and Corbillion Cups. These four players earned selection by consistently good results throughout the present season and not as part of a deliberate youth policy.

“A TELLY FOR A TANNER”

MR. R. A. BONE, of 5, Durban Road West, Watford, a member of G.E.C. Stanmore, receiving the 21 inch Ultra Bermuda Television with V.H.F. Radio combined, which he won in the competition in aid of the European Championships Fund. MRS. L. R. PHILLIPS who did such sterling work in organising the competition, made the presentation.
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by FRANK BATEMAN

THE best county side of the lot.” That was the opinion of a Gloucestershire official after seeing Essex defeat the home county 6-3. The Bristolians appreciated the way the visitors prefer to win the points themselves and not have them given to them.

Ian Harrison was at his best, winning both his singles for Gloucestershire, but Kevin Edwards was right off form.

Kent again went down 5-4—this time to Lancashire. At one stage they trailed 2-4 but levelled at 4-all. Tony Piddock made a great effort against Jeff Inger in the final set, but the Mancunian was just a little too steady. Joyce Fielder had a very convincing win on a net cord 24-22 in the close match against Diane Fitzgerald, third.

Ian Harrison was at his best, winning both his singles for Gloucestershire, but Kevin Edwards was right off form.

ICIAL DIVISION (SOUTH)
February 23 Cambridgeshire v Sussex
February 23 Middlesex v Cheshire, Finchley Youth Hall, 142 High Road, N.3, Finchley. 7.15 p.m.
February 23 Surrey v Kent, Romon Canteen, Leatherhead. 7 p.m.
February 23 Lancashire v Gloucestershire, Osmam Lamp Works, Shaw, Nr. Oldham. 7 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)
February 23 Wiltshire v Devonshire
February 23 Somerset v Cornwall, Y.M.C.A., High Street, Weston-Super-Mare. 7.15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)
February 23 Monmouthshire v Oxfordshire, Emmanuel Congregational Church Hall, London Street, Newport. 7 p.m.
February 16 Warwickshire v Monmouthshire, Michelle & Butlers Ltd., Portland Road, Edgbaston. 7 p.m.
February 23 Worcestershire v Bedfordshire, Shirehall, Worcester. 7 p.m.
SOUTHERN DIVISION
February 23 Buckinghamshire v Berkshire, Bloxham Community Centre. 7.30 p.m.
MIDLAND DIVISION
February 23 Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
February 23 Worcestershire v Derbyshire, Athletic Club, Evesham. 7 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)
February 23 Lancashire v Durham, Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. 7 p.m.
February 23 Cheshire v Durham
JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)
February 9 Kent v Sussex
February 23 Berkshire v Hampshire, Y.M.C.A., Parkside Road, Reading. 3.30 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)
February 23 Cambridgeshire v Essex
JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)
February 22 Lancashire v Monmouthshire, Michelle & Butlers Ltd., Portland Road, Kidsgrove. 2.30 p.m.

February 23 Lancashire v Surrey, Metropolitan Methodist Hall, Grizedale Road, Marton, Blackburn. 7 p.m.
February 22 Surrey v Cheshire
February 23 Gloucestershire, Y.M.C.A., Parkside Road, Reading 3.30 p.m.
February 23 Worcestershire v Derbyshire, Athletic Club, Evesham 7 p.m.

Warwickshire keep themselves well up the table with a 6-3 win over Surrey. Pam Mortimer had a shock two-straight win over Mary Shannon.

February is an important month for Surrey for they not only play Lancashire, but relegation rivals Cheshire and Kent as well.

Lincolnshire decisively beat Northumberland 9-1 in the Second Division North. Apart from the women's singles, in which Philemena Clark beat Wendy Eanor in a close game, Northumberland were only impressive in the men's and women's doubles and Colin Archibald's singles against Brian Hill. This was probably the best match of the evening, but Hill's experience and unreturnable service at the vital stages gave him victory. Stewart Lennie showed promise when partnering Dignam in the men's doubles.

Bucks. had the misfortune to be three players short at the start of their Southern Division match with Hertfordshire due to the blizzard. Fortunately Leo Thompson was at the venue and was coaxed into playing. When he went to change he found he had only one shoe. He managed to borrow another shoe and played with one snow white and the other dirty. Leo's odd appearance did not put off his opponents for he lost two straight to Derek Grant and Brian Sykes. A word of praise for Jean Williams, who had a fine win over Jackie Canham. Jim Healy maintained his unbeaten record with wins over Grant and Smith.

Huntingdon were snow bound on their way to Witham and their match against Essex had to be postponed.

After crashing 10-0 to Middlesex in the Junior Division East, the Suffolk boys and girls put up a much better show the following week before losing 7-3 to Hertfordshire.

This was a fighting Suffolk team, putting up one of the best displays from that county for several seasons. David Mann played well in an excellent boys' doubles and in both singles matches, though Peter Williams was much too good for him. Linda Barrett played a consistently sound singles and with a little more experience would have given Suffolk the girls' doubles.

Dorset and Somerset had a very entertaining game just before Christmas, the report of which came just too late for the January issue. I am told the match composed of everything... orthodox and unorthodox play, top spin, side spin, close-up play, vicious driving and even a backhand kill was introduced by one player.

The players themselves ranged from the very young to the not so young, experienced and inexperienced.

Dorset were at the winning end (8-2). Somerset fought hard but were perhaps prepared to lose in order to allow youth to gain county experience.

Bassett and Champion were in fine form for Dorset, and made a formidable doubles combination. In the women's singles Pat Frampton successfully prevented 15-year-old Daphne Bonner from attacking, by carrying the attack herself. Given a little more experience Miss Bonner should make quite a name for herself.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION
February 2 Essex v Warwickshire, London Schools, Laindon 7 p.m.
February 2 Lancashire v Surrey, Metaphone Methodist Hall, Grizedale Road, Marton, Blackburn. 7 p.m.
February 22 Surrey v Cheshire
February 23 Staffordshire v Warwickshire, Manchester YMCA, Merrifield, Nr. Manchester. 7 p.m.
February 23 Worcestershire v Derbyshire, Athletic Club, Evesham. 7 p.m.
February 23 Cheshire v Durham
February 23 Middlesex v Cheshire. 7.15 p.m.
February 23 Lancashire v Gloucestershire, Osmam Lamp Works, Shaw, Nr. Oldham. 7 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)
February 23 Wiltshire v Devonshire
February 23 Somerset v Cornwall, Y.M.C.A., High Street, Weston-Super-Mare. 7.15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)
February 23 Monmouthshire v Oxfordshire, Emmanuel Congregational Church Hall, London Street, Newport. 7 p.m.
February 16 Warwickshire v Monmouthshire, Michelle & Butlers Ltd., Portland Road, Edgbaston. 7 p.m.
February 23 Worcestershire v Bedfordshire, Shirehall, Worcester. 7 p.m.
SOUTHERN DIVISION
February 23 Buckinghamshire v Berkshire, Bloxham Community Centre. 7.30 p.m.
MIDLAND DIVISION
February 23 Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
February 23 Worcestershire v Derbyshire, Athletic Club, Evesham. 7 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)
February 23 Lancashire v Durham, Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. 7 p.m.
February 23 Cheshire v Durham
JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)
February 9 Kent v Sussex
February 23 Berkshire v Hampshire, Y.M.C.A., Parkside Road, Reading. 3.30 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)
February 23 Cambridgeshire v Essex
JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)
February 22 Lancashire v Monmouthshire, Michelle & Butlers Ltd., Portland Road, Kidsgrove. 2.30 p.m.
**TABLE TENNIS**

**DETAILED**

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Gloucestershire 3, Essex 1

**RESULTS**

**GREAT WILMOT CUP CLASH**

**LANCS. AND CHESHIRE**

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Gloucestershire 3, Essex 1

**SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)**

Cambridgeshire 1, Berkshire 2

**SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)**

Hertfordshire 3, Essex 2

**SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)**

Worcestershire 2, Oxfordshire 1

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Essex 4, Buckinghamshire 2

**MIDLAND DIVISION**

Yorkshire 4, Staffordshire 4

**JUNIOR DIVISION (WEST)**

Middlesex 0, Suffolk 0

**JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)**

Sussex 3, Middlesex 0

**JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)**

Kent 1, Hampshire 1

**JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)**

Sussex 3, Middlesex 0

**SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)**

Northumberland 3, Cheshire 1

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Gloucestershire 3, Essex 1

**SECOND DIVISION (WEST)**

Yorkshire 3, Devonshire 1

**MIDLAND DIVISION**

Yorkshire 3, Staffordshire 3

**JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)**

Suffolk 0, Hampshire 0

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Essex 4, Buckinghamshire 2

**MIDLAND DIVISION**

Yorkshire 4, Staffordshire 4

**JUNIOR DIVISION (WEST)**

Middlesex 0, Suffolk 0

**JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)**

Sussex 3, Middlesex 0

**JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)**

Kent 1, Hampshire 1

**JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)**

Sussex 3, Middlesex 0

**SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)**

Northumberland 3, Cheshire 1

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Gloucestershire 3, Essex 1

**SECOND DIVISION (WEST)**

Yorkshire 3, Devonshire 1

**MIDLAND DIVISION**

Yorkshire 3, Staffordshire 3

**JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)**

Suffolk 0, Hampshire 0

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Essex 4, Buckinghamshire 2

**MIDLAND DIVISION**

Yorkshire 4, Staffordshire 4

**JUNIOR DIVISION (WEST)**

Middlesex 0, Suffolk 0

**JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)**

Sussex 3, Middlesex 0

**JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)**

Kent 1, Hampshire 1

**JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)**

Sussex 3, Middlesex 0

No. 1 player Derek Cartwright has not lost a league set in three seasons, having a background of many inter-league appearances on behalf of Manchester and a representative game for the county.

Most promising junior is Bill Rouse, 16, a member of St. Paul’s Youth Club. Rodney Wilks is another teenager catching the eye, as is Melvin Waite, son of Arthur Waite, the former England international.

Present ladies’ secretary is Mr. G. Thomas, who was a founder member and the League’s first secretary, up to 1952. Chairman in 1958/60, G.T. again took over the secretarial reins in 1960, still being in office today and just qualified as a veteran.

Lancashire II’s third repetitive 7-3 victory in Division 2 (North) of the National County Championships leaves Northumberland as the only stumbling block to a team that has thus far been unchanged, viz: Roy Crumlish, George Livesey, Bryn Farnworth, Connie Moore and Ivy Kershaw.

Could be Crumlish will figure in Lancashire’s premier team opposed to Surrey at Blackpool on February 2 as partner to Di Fitzgerald in the mixed.

**BUCKS. CLOSED**

**FINAL RESULTS**

**MEN’S SINGLES**:

Men’s Singles: J. HUSBANDS (Slough) bt D. Jones (Chalfont) 21-19, 22-20.

Women’s Singles: J. WILLIAMS (Slough) bt Miss J. Dalton (Bletchley) 21-14, 21-16.

**MEN’S DOUBLES**:


**BOYS’ SINGLES**:

Boys’ Singles: J. WOODING (Bletchley) bt L. Woolsey (Slough) 21-17, 21-14, 21-11.

**BOYS’ DOUBLES**:

Boys’ Doubles: L. WOODING (Aylesbury)/Miss J. WOODING (Bletchley) bt Miss J. Dalton (Bletchley) 21-12, 21-17, 21-11.

**RESTRICTED SINGLES**:

Restricted Singles: F. EARIS (Slough) bt R. Cull (Slough) 21-16, 21-15.
REFLECTING RACKETS

REFERRING to the racket, Law 4 of Table Tennis states: "its surface shall be dark coloured and non-reflecting." Scientifically, this law cannot be enforced. An object (including a racket) can be seen by the eyes only through the light which it reflects.

What then was the reason for the law as it stands?

I am citing by Ivor Montagu, President of IT.T.F. and E.T.T.A., in his excellent book "Table Tennis," that the law arose in order to stop the use of a racket in the form of a mirror, by which an opponent saw two balls, the real one "coming," and the image one "going," which could be disturbing.

This, of course, is not so far fetched as one might now think, for light which it reflects.

Ivor, however, does not state that a possible objection to the mirror racket was that it produced shine by reflection and I think for very good reasons as I shall try to show.

Assuming that, with the size of the playing area as it is, the racket, the players’ eyes and a light above the table can be regarded substantially as occupying very small regions, then the laws of optics show that of all the myriad of angular positions that a racket can assume in the movable hand of a player positioned in any one location, there will be one angular position of the racket in which mirror reflection from the light by the racket can be seen by the opponent. In most cases this position will be one that cannot possibly be assumed by the racket in the player’s action. Of course, with two separate lights above the table there will be two positions and so on.

If a number of officials were to position themselves around a playing arena the odds on one of them noticing a mirror reflection would be increased, though both the players could report truly that they have not seen any mirror reflection during play. This is a case where reports by official observations should not supersede reports by the players themselves.

I have not yet come across a player who objected to the use by his opponent of a reversed sandwich racket on the ground of a disturbing shine from his opponent’s racket. Even if mirror reflection were seen occasionally, they would not be disturbing with the use of dark coloured rackets as required by the law.

I have samples of pre-war and present day pimpled rubber in which the covering between the pimples (a far greater area than the pimples themselves) is far shinier than the covering of reversed sandwich rackets. No objection was raised pre-war (the present law then applied) and I do not think that pimpled rubber rackets are now inspected for possible shine. Nor was any objection raised against the polished wooden rackets of old.

Those who dislike the reversed sandwich racket because it is eliminating the purely defensive player by means of the loop drive, etc., must not fall into the uncomfortable position of attacking it by means of a law which does not make sense.

Table tennis officials have to interpret the law as it stands. I think that in this case they are interpreting the law, as far as it can be interpreted, in an unnecessary manner. The crucial test should be whether players are disturbed by shine.

My own opinion is that the words "and non-reflecting" should be deleted from Law 4 leaving it to read "its surface shall be dark coloured." This wording alone will eliminate the "mirror" racket.

DENIS OFFER
(London).

RACKETS AND CLOTHING

A warning notice is being circulated to all Associations reminding them that an inspection of rackets and clothing will be conducted prior to each match in Prague.

Associations who do not take immediate notice of this warning will be doing a grave dis-service to both themselves and their players.

TRIBUTE TO VENNER

In offering congratulations to Chester Barnes on his magnificent victory in the English closed, I would like to pay tribute to the achievements of Harry Venner in coaching not only Chester from an early age, but also the new lady champion Mary Shannon. A great double for a great coach.

Here’s hoping Harry will soon find new quarters for his Rainey International Club, and continue this good work of finding and coaching future England stars.

P. A. VENUS (Mr.)
(Fulham).

BROKEN TIME

In view of the publicity given to the question of broken time payment to Alan Rhodes and the possibility of further correspondence on the matter, I feel it is only right that your readers should know the full facts.

I want to represent any opinion but correspondence in the press and in the Magazine makes it clear that there is some misunderstanding which can easily be cleared.

1. The expenses were paid by the National County Championships and not the E.T.T.A.
2. The N.C.C. is not part of the E.T.T.A. but is a separate body.
3. Therefore there is no question of the E.T.T.A. breaking its own rules.
4. The delay in taking the matter up with Rhodes was due to the official making the payment being under the impression that it was an allowable expense and thus grouped the item with other expenses.
5. The matter came to light when subsequent claims were made by a player and the payment to Rhodes was used as a precedent.
6. The rule says that a player must not be ‘paid or receive any reward or remuneration other than expenses (return fare, hotel accommodation, meals) for playing in a representative match or Open Tournament. A representa.
7. There is no question of the amount involved having any bearing on the matter; it is a player is playing for his club, league, county or country against any other team, league, county or country. Proper trial matches organised by clubs, leagues, counties or the National Association for the purpose of selecting representative teams shall rank as participation in representative matches.” The E.T.T.A. can legislate for their Registered Members but not for any non-affiliated member who may wish to reward a player.
8. Alan Rhodes has contended that he does not agree with the rule but never denied he received the payment and therefore admits to breaking the rule.
9. No decision was ever taken by the N.E.C. with regard to suspension. The question of suspension was mentioned to Rhodes in an effort to make him fully aware of the possible consequences if he did not put himself in the clear by repaying the money.
10. The money repaid prior to the N.E.C. meeting so that the matter was not down for discussion but was noted for information.
question of adhering to the
rule.
11. The problem of broken time affects not only players but
officials and administrators, who in many instances do not receive
their full expenses.
12. The E.T.T.A. (and the N.C.C.) are not profit making bodies but
keep what they consider to be a safe working capital and every­
thing else goes back into the
game.
13. The surplus on a TV match is allocated to subsequent expenses
for International matches from which the top players benefit.
14. It is anticipated that the N.C.C. will allocate £30 to the E.T.T.A.
from the surplus on the match in question which will be used
for the benefit of senior inter­national players.
15. The E.T.T.A. Secretary has had
had talks with some top players and will be reporting to the next
N.E.C.

I hope these facts will assist your
readers to assess the position fairly and
draw their own
conclusion.

T. BLUNN.
Hon. Treasurer E.T.T.A.

PLAYERS MAKE
THE GAME

It has often been said in this magazine,
and to quote from January's Post­
bag in a letter from M. Jones, that
"... there are a multitude of lesser
players who are the backbone of table
f tenis."
I would like to say, if I may be permitted, that this multitude, and
I hope Jones means that there is only
one—is no more the backbone of the
game than is my great-uncle Gabriel
Nussbaum, of the East Mudworthy
and District League. And he has not lost
to anyone for 39 seasons, even though
he smokes a pipe during play and keeps
a pint of bitter under the table and has
brought up what he and possibly other
players, feel to be a genuine grievance.

The E.T.T.A. Secretary has had
had talks with some top players and will be reporting to the next
N.E.C.

I hope these facts will assist your
readers to assess the position fairly and
draw their own conclusion. I would
like to add that Alan Rhodes has been
straightforward throughout and has
brought up what he and possibly other
players, feel to be a genuine grievance.

T. BLUNN.
Hon. Treasurer E.T.T.A.

FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title of Venue</th>
<th>Extra Events</th>
<th>Organizing Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>SOUTH YORKSHIRE OPEN</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td>A. Head, 1st Poplar Avenue, Belgravia, Nr. Sheffield, Yorks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>MIDLAND OPEN (Jan. 30)</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td>M. Goldstein, 415, Mostley Road, Birmingham 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Scottish Midlands Closed</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16-17</td>
<td>South of England (A) (Jan. 30)</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>Cheshire Junior Open (Feb. 9)</td>
<td>J.G.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 23-24</td>
<td>GERMAN DTTB OPEN</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Welsh Closed</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td>A. Black,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 9-10</td>
<td>Bucks. Open (Feb. 16)</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td>S. H. Buchan, 124, Portnells Road, Coulson, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>Sussex Junior Open (Feb. 16)</td>
<td>J.B.S.</td>
<td>R. A. Bisell, 75, Southdale Road, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead. Cheshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>GWENT OPEN (Mar. 23)</td>
<td>J.G.S.</td>
<td>Mrs. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I, as a player, am quite prepared to
admit that if I gave up today, it would
make not the slightest bit of difference
to anybody. I have not made
an enemy of M. Jones (Prittwelw) for
pointing on a single phrase in his
letter, but this very phrase may prove a
pointer to his reasoning in the rest of
what he had to say. I feel my tirade
is in vain, for the so-called backbone
of table tennis very rarely buys this
magazine anyway.

Michael Macalren
(West Mudworthy).

Grove Motlow,
29, Caerisbrook Road,
Newport, Mon.

Page Twenty-seven
BIG ENTRY FOR LIMERICK

DESPITE the very severe weather conditions a big entry was received for the Munster Open Championship on January 12. The quality, which one usually associates with this event, however, was filling but when one looks the weather, Foley of Cork was full value for his excellent performance in the men’s singles.

Boyle Harris was great potential, had to battle very hard to overcome former International player Tom Sacy, also of Cork.

Another centre on the performance of Dublin’s youthful starlet Jimmy Langan, who it will be remembered almost toppled the eventual winner, New Zealand’s Alan Tomlinson in the Munster Open last November. Langan had the misfortune however to come up against Foley in the semi-final, and even though he cruised easily through the first game, and led for much of the second, it was the Corkman’s ability to play close to the table that eventually tipped the scales against him.

Another former International player, David Marnell, took on Sacy with a hectic encounter in the other semi-final. These players have in the past taken time to get used to each other and this occasion was no exception. The final was also a gripping affair and left little to be desired.

Langan won the ladies’ singles without ever being seriously troubled, and so made it a Cork double in the singles events.


Cork will have another very attractive fixture on February 15/16. This time it is the Goughing Invitation Tournament, and that very enterprising club have gone to much trouble to ensure the success of the venture. Already they have secured the services of England’s Ian Harrison, and his presence alone should give the tournament that much needed boost.

There is no doubt that Harrison will be the big drawing card, and couple his name with that of Irish Champion Tommy Caffrey, and it is easy to visualise a capacity house for the tournament.

The Club are still negotiating with another English player and it is quite probable that their efforts will be successful. Ulster will be well represented with players like Victor Mercor, one of the all-time greats of Irish Table Tennis, Ernie Allen, Elizabeth Reid, Carroll McBride and Clifford Thompson, while besides Caffrey, Leinster will have Violet Lambert, Ann Mahony Jimmy Langan, and Wesley Pappin to represent them.

The championships are being held at the Gregg Hall, Cork, and late entries should be sent to Mr. John Coughlan, c/o Gouldings, Centre Park Road, Cork, phone Cork: 21463.

TWO MAN TEAM

IRELAND will send a two man team to the English Open, Brighton on February 28, March 1 and 2. As well as participating in the “open” the players will also take part in the International team event which is being run in conjunction with the championships. The team has not yet been selected, but it is likely that Tommy Caffrey will be included.

YOUTHS INTER-PROVINCIAL

LEINSTER, the holders take on Munster in a Youths’ Inter-Provincial contest in Cork, on February 17. In the corresponding match last season in Dublin, the Leinster boys proved too strong, and there is every reason to believe that it will follow the same pattern this year. The event, however, is serving its purpose as far as Munster is concerned, by providing first class opposition for its boys who would not normally have such good opposition.

That Quiz in December

PETER MADGE’S “Find Out About You” quiz brought in a response from reader Norman Isbell, of Kenton, Mid- middlesex. He writes:

Dear Mr. Madge, I regret that your current quiz has posed a problem. Having completed the questions I find myself in the 0-17 category. Although I enjoy my game, could this be the reason I never get a doubles partner?

Peter Madge replies: Most interesting.

Frankly, you’ve got no right to enjoy our game if you scored that low. I didn’t feel qualified to answer your query in detail because of its delicate nature. I therefore consulted one of Clapham High Street’s leading psychiatrists who gave me this opinion:

“Since Mr. Isbell enjoys his game, even though he throws the majority of his matches, he obviously has strong masochistic tendencies coupled with inverted wish-fulfilment motives. That is to say, he actually likes unfortunate things to happen to him during a match and this sense of satisfaction compensates for his guilt-feelings at not being the sort of person who could score 25 or over in the quiz.

Mr. Isbell might well have difficulty in finding a doubles partner because he needs one in his own psychological category, and very few players have got themselves into the state of mind in which they actually prefer to lose rather than win.

Even if Mr. Isbell finds such a person I cannot predict success for the partnership since fighting would inevitably break out between them before the end of the first game.

My advice to Mr. Isbell is that in every game he plays he should try not to get a single point. This way, if he loses 0-21 he will get as much, or more, satisfaction from the game than his opponent.”

Thank you, Doctor X. In accordance with normal practice I cannot reveal the doctor’s name, he is Wanted in five counties.

Should any other reader have psychological problems connected with his or her game, please write in and the discredited quick, Doctor X, will be pleased to give a worthless opinion.
Marinko and Shahian win in North American Team Events

By NORMAN L. KILPATRICK

Canada's Max Marinko was the outstanding player of the North American Men's Team Championships in November. Marinko won 17, and lost one, although his Canadian team was placed only sixth in an 11-team field. The only defeat suffered by the pen-holder from Toronto was at the hands of Erwin Klein 21-17, 21-15. Klein lost only one match out of 15 during the event, when 22-year-old German born Martin Doss out-counter-hit him in a sensational match 12-21, 21-13, 21-14.

A new player to the American scene is Elias Solomon, who has played in India and Israel. His retrieving defensive game defeated American defensive stars Charles Burns and Richard Hicks, although he was unable to turn back the attacking play of the top U.S. hitters.

Ralph Childs, 14-year-old star from Detroit, Michigan, won 12 out of 16. New York defended its team title by defeating Illinois 5-3 in the final play-off.

Top individual records: Max Marinko (Canada) 17-1; Erwin Klein (Chicago) 14-1; Martin Doss (New York) 14-1; Robert Fields (New Jersey) 20-2; Jerry Kruskie (New York) 10-1; Bernard Bukiet (New York) 13-2; Laszlo Varenyi (Illinois) 14-4; Ralph Childs (Michigan) 12-4.

United States women's champion Miss Mildred Shahian was undefeated at the women's section. However, the Maryland team, led by former Lithuanian player Julia Rutelionis, defeated Miss Shahian's Illinois team 5-4 and took the team title by defeating California 7-2 in the final.

Individual records include Mildred Shahian (Illinois) 15-0; Barbara Kaminsky (Maryland) 12-3; Jenny Marinko (Canada) 12-3; Connie Stace (California) 12-3; Julia Rutelionis (Maryland) 12-3; Pauline Somael (California) 11-4.

Coaching Motion

The U.S.T.T.A. secretary, Mr. J. Rufford Harrison, who is a former F.T.T.A. member, will present to the I.T.T.F. a motion that an international coaching committee be formed, to keep the nations of the four corners of the world up-to-date on new techniques of play, so that advances such as the "loop drive" can be understood by nations who do not have constant contact with the centres of world table tennis. The recent team tourneys provided good opportunity for our officials to observe if players from widely different areas were distracted by the reversed rubber rackets used by a few of our players. In no case did a player complain about reflection.

Table Tennis was represented by Diane Rowe, Victor Barna and Johnny Leach, seen here with Billy Buitin and Danny Blanchflower, the Spurs captain, at the Variety Club of Great Britain's Celebrities Luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, London, on January 8. Giving their predictions for 1963, Barna prophesied that China and Japan would scoop all the titles at the World Championships in Prague next April and that Diane, despite her defeat in the English Closed, would win the more important English Open title. Leach gave his view that young players would come more and more to the fore in the coming months and score international successes.
The clamour of Northern boys for a place in the national junior ranking lists became louder at this tournament than in their own territory at the Yorkshire Junior Open at Makedown Street Baths, Hull, on January 5. The loudest and most persistent knocker was Mike Harrison (Chesterfield), who put the boys’ doubles, with seeded Seaholme defeated, this time by Mike Williams (Hastings) to take his expected eight. Marsden, who cleared Warren in the semi, went on to take the title with a tight three set win over another unranked finalist, Brian Wilds (Hastings), was runner-up for the girls’ doubles with Evelyn Wyles (Hastings). The mixed provided a consolation for Miss Wyles, who, with J. Dawson-Bishop (Hastings) was runner-up for the mixed doubles, and figured in the biggest upset of the tournament with her last year’s girls under 17 singles title with a semi-final defeat at the hand of 13 years old Jacqueline Baynard, of Brandon.

Miss Baynard was in turn beaten by S. Franklin (Hastings) in the final, but she won the girls under 15 singles, and was also a semi-finalist in the mixed under 13 singles.

RESULTS

UNDER 15:
Boys’ Singles: Semi-Finals: M. JOHNS (Chester) bt B. Burn (Newcastle) 21-18, 21-17; P. CANHAM (Hull) bt R. Todd (Bognor) 21-6, 21-10; Final: JOHNS bt CANHAM 21-14, 21-15.
Girls’ Singles: Semi-Finals: L. HENWOOD (Essex) bt L. Foyles (Ponterfrac) 21-4, 21-3; M. HEPPELL (Newcastle) bt S. Peg (Chesterfield) 19-21, 21-10, 21-15.
Final: HENWOOD bt HEPPELL 21-12, 21-10.
UNDER 17:
Boys’ Singles: Semi-Finals: A. RANSOME (Middlebrough) bt L. Gresswell (Middlesbrough) 21-28, 21-7; R. MARSDEN (Bolton) bt R. Hampon (Stockport) 21-8, 21-37; Final: RANSOME bt MARSDEN 22-20, 18-21.
Girls’ Singles: Semi-Finals: P. DAINTRY (Bognor) bt M. Rose (Middlebrough) 21-9, 21-14; J. Canham (Herts.) bt L. Henwood (Essex) 21-17, 21-21; Final: DAINTRY bt Canham 22-20, 22-20.

SUSSEX CLOSED

TRIPLE FOR BEASLEY

JUNIOR table tennis is on the up and up in Sussex. This is obvious from the County junior closed championships held at Bexhill on January 13. No less than 97 boys and girls took part with the boys under 17 and girls under 15 singles winning the doubles with Green, and the mixed doubles with Evelyn Wyles (Hastings). Miss Baynard was in turn beaten by S. Franklin (Hastings) in the final, but she won the girls under 15 singles, and was also a semi-finalist in the mixed under 13 singles.

UNDER 17:
UNDER 17:
Boys: Semi-Finals: Final: M. GREEN (Crawley) bt M. Misslebrook (Bognor) 21-11, 21-14.
Boys: Semi-Finals: Final: M. GREEN (Crawley) bt M. Misslebrook (Bognor) 21-11, 21-14.