"I WISH SOMEONE HAD BOUGHT ME LOUIS HOFFMAN CLOTHING FOR CHRISTMAS."

Ask your local sports store to show you the new illustrated catalogue of the LOUIS HOFFMAN clothing range with the symbol. In case of difficulty write to:

LOUIS HOFFMAN (CLOTHING) LTD.
180 BRICK LANE, LONDON, E1.
After the Development Commission — What?

There is little doubt that the report of the Development Commission has been read with interest by many in this country, players and non-players alike. We also know that it has also had its share of readers abroad. One aspect is of significance: that table tennis was the first and so far the only sport to submit itself to this searching analysis. Indeed many outsiders have congratulated the English Table Tennis Association on its courage and foresight in so doing. But after the Development Commission — what?

On January 18 a special General Meeting will consider proposals by the National Executive Committee, based on recommendations in the Commission’s report, for a revised constitution for the Association. Included in those proposals are some aimed to simplify and make more equitable the payment of fees by affiliated bodies. Embodied in the new finance clauses are proposals which provide a little more income for county bodies and a marginal net increase for the Association itself.

But it is transparently obvious that this small extra income will be almost swallowed up within the next season or two in rising costs alone, over which the Association has no control. Virtually nothing will remain to finance the implementation of the many recommendations of the Development Commission. How then will it be possible “to increase and improve provision of facilities for play” : who will finance “national action to interest schools” : from whence the additional money necessary “to build up a good public image of the game” : what source will provide funds to set up “several training units to develop nominated players in different sectors of the country” and so on.

From first to last the key is finance. One of the changes which has taken place in recent years has been the pattern of administration of sport in this country. Let there be no mistake, today sport is big business. The change has brought about not only by the fact of the contribution of present day sport to national prestige but also that so many now have the time and money to participate. And this state has been, in a sense, exploited by television and by commercial interest in one way or another. In addition, recently there has been a substantial increase in Government subsidy of recognised sports. Nowadays, therefore, to remain in the running, let alone to vie with the leaders, any national sporting body must continually strive to project and improve itself. But no organisation can do so without a solid and adequate financial backing.

It is surely high time, therefore, that the E.T.T.A. should examine its own position. Is the present (or proposed) income sufficient to do all one should and would wish to do? Is it satisfactory that nearly one quarter of the Association’s income is derived from sources which might disappear overnight? No one who has the future of the game at heart or who has any pretence at being an administrator could fail to answer with a resounding ‘No.’ The time for managing the English Table Tennis Association and its national and international interests on sixpenny levies, raffles and tuppenny football tickets has passed. Now is the time to plan on the recommendations of the Development Commission, accept their cost and as the report itself says “explain the financial needs of the Association clearly and fully to the membership.”

What, one might ask would be the reaction of
the membership? There are some (we believe only a few) who say that the majority of the E.T.T.A.'s members are interested only in their weekly club game or in their local league, or at most in the activities of and within their county. But this is not so in other sports. Why should it be true of table tennis? In fact this is a specious argument manufactured by so-called administrators who cannot look outside or outside the confines of their parishes. Indeed, is there a table tennis player in this country who in some small way did not bask in the reflected glory of our world champions, Johnny Leach and the "Twins"? And will there be one table tennis player (indeed there will be few Englishmen at all) who will not revel in success that English players will have in the future—as a result, we hope, of the opportunities which will be afforded them.

There is every reason to believe that the majority opinion in the country will back a go ahead administration and provide it with the funds it needs. And lest the critics and cynics see here an opening let it be clear that the sum involved is modest enough in all conscience, say £10,000 a year or 2s. 6d. per player or one halfpenny per player per week.

It is for the membership to decide. If the Association is to grind to stagnation its present income will not only be adequate but will assist in the process. If the Association is to continue a useful life and to maintain table tennis (against present day opposition from other sports) as a sport rather than as a parlour pastime then it must increase and expand its activities and sooner rather than later the membership will have to be asked for the money to do so. The Development Commission has given the lead: it is now up to the governing body, whether it be National Executive Committee or National Council, to widen its thought and vision, increase and expand its activities and so place table tennis amongst the front runners of English sporting activity and success.

WINNING DEBUT

DENIS NEALE made a successful international debut when England once again swept all before them in the Quadrangular matches in Dublin on December 13-14. He won each of his once again swept all before them in the quadrangular matches in Dublin on December 13-14. He won each of his singles against Scotland, Wales and E.T.T.A.'s members are interested only in their TABLE TENNIS

December 13-14. He won each of his doubles with Chester Barnes against Wales and with Bobby Stevens against Ireland. England beat Scotland and Wales 10-0 and Ireland 9-1, the loss being suffered by Stevens against Tommy Caffrey.

England with wins over both Wales and Scotland were runners-up,


LATCHWORTH DIAMOND JUBILEE INVITATION TOURNAMENT


INSURANCE

It has become obvious from the occasional enquiries the Association has in the past received from Club Officials and individuals on the question of insurance, both in connection with various events and for personal requirements, that the benefit of expert advice should be available.

A very satisfactory arrangement has now been made under which matters of this nature can receive specialised attention, so that not only can enquirers be satisfied that their requirements are dealt with on a personal basis with the most economical terms compatible with security, but any financial benefit accruing to the Association as a result of business transacted will be applied to further the welfare of the game as a whole.

From time to time informative articles will be published on the various aspects of this service to members but, in the meantime, any particular enquiries addressed to the Office of the Association at 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2 will be given immediate attention.

HOW IS THIS FOR CO-OPERATION

D. HARMER of Leighton Buzzard, a member of the Church of England, faced with two matches in the one evening was given a lift by a member of the Salvation Army to play in a Baptist Hall against the Methodist.
**Barnes Excels, but England Lose to Sweden**

**ENGLAND** just failed to secure a win over Sweden in an exciting international at the Duke of York’s Barracks, Sloane Square, London, on December 7. That the margin of defeat was only 4-5 was due mainly to Chester Barnes.

The young Essex player, making a fairy story return to the England team, defeated both Kjell Johansson and Tony Larsson. He exceeded all expectations, and was accorded a terrific ovation after his second victory.

Against Johansson, Chester was tremendous. The Swede, fresh from his triumphs in Hungary, where he

not only won the men’s singles and doubles, but had been undefeated in the team event, was completely crushed.

The measure of Barnes’ success can be judged by the failure of Ian Harrison to beat either Johansson or Carl Johan Bernhardt, and the poor showing of David Creamer. David made no impression against either Larsson or Bernhardt, and his loss of form may mean his disappearance from the England team for some time to come.

Harrison, who won the opening game of both his matches then fell away, hardly seemed match tight, but possibly further play in Sweden will enable him to perform with distinction at the English Open later in the season.

Diane Rowe had little difficulty in beating Mrs. Birgitta Larsson, and Mary Shannon had an easy doubles win over Mrs. Larsson and Marija Carlson.

The stage was set for a sensational victory in the English Open last season. Kjell Johansson had beaten Chester on every other occasion they had met, but in the international there was no doubt about Chester’s brilliance as he came through 21-12, 21-16. He also beat Tage Larsson over three, although he was to lose to both Swedes in the Middlesex Open the next day.

Lesley Bell also played well in the Middlesex Open to beat Sweden’s Marija Carlson, who had beaten Mary Shannon in the International.

Next on the list comes Stuart Gibbs, who gave Bobby Stevens a tremendous fight in the Middlesex men’s singles, and held a game and 18-16 lead over Barnes in the boys’ event. Unfortunately he could not keep up the pressure and fell away as he did against Barnes in the Kent Junior, where he had led 17-13 in the third.

Mike Johns, No. 3 on the Junior list, came across Lou Laza and Ron Allcock, both internationals of not too long ago for Australia and England respectively, and did not drop a game to either of them.

David Brown, of Essex, is not yet in the ranking list but staked his claims with wins over three ranked players, Glenn Warwick, at Birmingham, and Mike Johns and Tony Robinson, at Newbury.

Brown’s wins occurred after Robinson had tried to put us into perspective with straight games wins over both Gibbs and Brown.

Lastly, John Beasley showed us what he is capable of with a win over his county No. 1, Roger Chandler, by as narrow a margin as possible.

**SPOTLIGHT ON JUNIORS by LAURIE LANDRY**

**SENIORS BEWARE**

Our present crop of juniors are playing so well that they must put fear into the hearts of any senior who takes them on.

Starting at the top, Chester Barnes came up with two wins in the England-Sweden match and many say that it’s the best he’s ever played, including his victory in the English Closed last season.

Kjell Johansson had beaten Chester on every other occasion they had met, but in the international there was no doubt about Chester’s brilliance as he came through 21-12, 21-16. He also beat Tage Larsson over three, although he was to lose to both Swedes in the Middlesex Open the next day.

Lesley Bell also played well in the Middlesex Open to beat Sweden’s Marija Carlson, who had beaten Mary Shannon in the International.

Next on the list comes Stuart Gibbs, who gave Bobby Stevens a tremendous fight in the Middlesex men’s singles, and held a game and 18-16 lead over Barnes in the boys’ event. Unfortunately he could not keep up the pressure and fell away as he did against Barnes in the Kent Junior, where he had led 17-13 in the third.

Mike Johns, No. 3 on the Junior list, came across Lou Laza and Ron Allcock, both internationals of not too long ago for Australia and England respectively, and did not drop a game to either of them.

David Brown, of Essex, is not yet in the ranking list but staked his claims with wins over three ranked players, Glenn Warwick, at Birmingham, and Mike Johns and Tony Robinson, at Newbury.

Brown’s wins occurred after Robinson had tried to put us into perspective with straight games wins over both Gibbs and Brown.

Lastly, John Beasley showed us what he is capable of with a win over his county No. 1, Roger Chandler, by as narrow a margin as possible.

**CHESTER BARNES FAN CLUB**

Valerie Fisher, who lives at Shortlands, Kent, would like to start a Chester Barnes Fan Club.

She thinks that Pop Stars get far too much attention and that talented teenagers in other fields should get some support. Anyone wanting details should write to Valerie at: “Cheskey,” Kingswood Road, Shortlands, Kent, enclosing a stamped-addressed envelope.

by GEOFF HARROWER
whose articles appear regularly in 

**"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH"**
TABLE TENNIS

JANUARY - 1964

SOME TABLE TENNIS MEMORIES

By Charles E. Davies

I HAVE been over the years in the table tennis world like the narrator in Damon Runyon stories. On table tennis occasions I have been around...there in the background...an observer. This look at some of my table tennis memories I think bear this out.

Table tennis cast its spell over me as a schoolboy, and I proceeded from the dining table via the Church Hall to my very first tournament. This was the Surrey Open in 1948 (or was it '49?) I played in the junior section with my good friend Michael Twohill, now secretary of the Sutton Sy. League. We used borrowed names because we were not members of a club and therefore unregistered.

It was an exciting experience. The spacious Epsom Baths hall and the many wonderful players awed me. But with a fast service and one hit I won two rounds.

I recall seeing Keith Hurlock, who had enhanced his reputation with a spectacular world game with Bo VanA. I watched him with schoolboy fascination and was intrigued to see him fining his bat down with a large file.

Some weeks ago (after a lapse of 15 years) I met Keith at the Surrey Closed tournament. He had lopped half an inch off the top of his bat "to improve the balance," thus proving that old habits die hard.

CORRECT FORECAST

It was at this tournament that I saw my first top class table tennis. The men's final was between Ron Crayden and Ron Sharman. As I entered the baths hall the man on the door asked, "Who do you think will win?" I could only remember one name and answered with easy schoolboy assurance, "Sharman, of course!" And he did—at 19 in the fifth of a magnificent final.

The first book I read on table tennis was by Sol Schiff, the American master of finger spin services. I was therefore delighted to find him in Prague at the last World Championships. A lot of players were staying at the Hotel Palace, among them the English and U.S.A. contingents. We dined in an oak timbered baronial hall, lit with soft lights and were serenaded by a gypsy orchestra. During one evening meal a poker game was being arranged. Having heard that Sol was a poker player I sent an invitation across to him asking if he would care to join in and show us whether he could deal as well as he could serve. Fortunately, perhaps, he had a previous engagement.

COOL CUSTOMER

Prague recalls the cheekiest piece of cool customership I have observed in many years. On finals day admission to the actual playing arena was vigilantly supervised. Only a sprinkling of people—coaches, officials and press—were allowed into the arena proper to sit on benches behind the backboards. There were about fifty privileged persons in all and prominent among them, sitting next to the Chinese team manager, was that eager London League performer, Len George. He had donned his immaculate nylon track suit, pinned on his badge and sauntered past the entrance custodians with the assurance of one about to actually play in the World Singles Final.

Some minutes later that great sports commentator, Peter Wilson, of the Daily Mirror, was having extreme difficulty in gaining admittance and there was considerable argument before common sense prevailed and he was allowed through.

My early table tennis hero was Richard Bergmann. For me he is still the greatest—a great player, a great personality and a gentleman. In 1955 I played in the World Championships in Utrecht and one bleak day was walking through the town with some friends when Richard Bergmann went past. He spotted the championships badges in the lapels of our overcoats and greeted us with a cheery "Hello, boys," and a comment on the grey skies. A small incident, but for me a warm memory still.

I was bumming about Europe in 1957 and had been living in Stockholm for six weeks when the Scandinavian Open was staged. Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann were representing England and of course I went along to the stadium to give them a cheer. Bergmann was as ever in the headlines. He was drawn to play against that champion Rumanian pusher Toma Reiter. Time limit games were inevitable. To assist him, Richard Bergmann took along not one, but two alarm clocks. But on this occasion the bells tolled for Richard and he lost.

INSTALMENT PLAN

My admiration for Richard Bergmann is such that I must confess that my reading of his absorbing book '21 Up' brought no profit to him. For I read it on the instalment plan. This no doubt requires some explanation for the uninitiated. It was thus. I was a lowly paid junior audit clerk at the time—perpetually broke. When working in the vicinity of Charing Cross Road it was my habit to browse around the bookshops there. Here I discovered '21 Up' and for the next fortnight I read avidly an instalment each lunch time. In this way I completed the book for free.

The first time I saw Diane Rowe was as a cheekily smiling chubby young girl playing with her twin sister Rosalind in the South of England tournament, quite some years ago. From that time I have always been one of her keenest fans, admiring her as a person and a player.

I have seen her play in Utrecht, Stockholm, Dortmund and Prague, and have come to know her quite well. I think the only person to have played her for money. I blush to tell that I accepted 5 start for a shilling a game, and blush still deeper to reveal that I lost.

I am pleased to say, however, that time has enabled me to get over this tragedy. It has now become like other experiences related here, one of many happy table tennis memories.

If they prove anything at all, it is this. That you do not necessarily have to be a highly skilled player to enjoy table tennis. Being around, being there, observing, is great fun too!
A NEW look came to the Erikshaldshallen from November 30 to December 3 where the Scandinavian Open was played to the enjoyment of the sports fans of Stockholm.

What was this new look?

IT WAS MODERN TABLE TENNIS, FRESH AND EXCITING, WITH THE ACCENT ON SPEED AND ATTACK. SCINTILLATING SHOTS FLOWED FROM COLOURFUL SANDWICH BAT; SHOTS LACED WITH TOPSPIN, SHOTS MADE ON THE TURN, SHOTS FROM AND TO ACUTE ANGLES AND SHOTS THAT WERE BREATH-TAKING IN THEIR FEROCITY. AT LAST THE CHAINS OF RUBBER BAT CHOP HAD BEEN SEVERED AND THE NEW HORIZONS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED.

For long I have been puzzled why most European players with new sandwich bats have persisted in pushing, prodding, looping a little and hitting occasionally when the Asian stars have clearly illustrated that the most successful form of defence, with such a bat, is to attack.

The lesson has at last been learned.

MEN'S EVENTS

The flashing Swedes proved beyond doubt that they are the finest men's team in Europe. But not on their heels come the speed merchants of the U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia. It was heartening to see so many teenagers with a sense of purpose and great talent, and yet it was perhaps a little sad to see the old guard being roughed up so irreverently.

The one unbeatable Berczik was most dispirited. He was beaten by Alser in the team event then cut to shreds in the singles by the long-legged Bernhardt.

When geared for the occasion, the most destructive hitter this side of the Orient must now be the lofty young Swede, Kjell Johansson. His play in the team events was tremendous being full of determination, relentless courage and staggering speed.

Bubus (France) Creamer (England), Novikov (U.S.S.R.) and Korpinas (Hungary) all willed before his attack.

His next sortie carried him through to the semi-finals, where in the final he won a classic against the talented Amelin from Russia.

In the senior events the crowds flocked to see him batten down Nilsson (Sweden), Billing (conqueror of Creamer), Markovic (Yugoslavia) and Novikov. Only the artistic play of Korpa (Yugoslavia) prevented him reaching the final.

The match between these two had everything, the cut and thrust of a fencing duel and the blood and thunder of a championship fight. But one had to lose and this time it was Johansson.

The final between Korpa and Alser was equally thrilling, with the athletic Swede coming through with a burst in the fifth and deciding game.

TWO SMART GIRLS

Although Harrison and Creamer were eliminated early in all events, the English flag was kept flying by our two smart girls, Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon.

At the table the Misses Rowe and Shannon were outstandingly eye-catching with their trim appearance, and yet outstandingly dominant and purposeful in their doubles play, executing all their opponents in quick time. They proved conclusively they are the No. 1 combination in Europe. Their marked superiority can be gauged from the way Eva Foldy and Erzbi Heirits, of Hungary, were mauled 21-14, 21-15, 21-13 in the final. Well done Di and Mary and long may you reign.

In the women's singles Mary Shannon was drawn against the talented Russian girl S. Grinberg and found her bang on form. Bang was the operative word, for Miss Grinberg hit like a man from both wings and Mary made a quick exit.

Diane Rowe produced her best form, made amends for her partner's defeat and reached the semi-final with the lose of but a single game. In the semi-final she put up another of her impressive and determined performances to beat the formidable German star, Buchholz.

The final found Diane once more in opposition to her eternal rival Eva Foldy and although a fine tussle ensued it was the Hungarian who took the honours and the title.


Final: JOHANSSON bt Amelin -16, 15, 18.

MEN'S TEAM: Semi-Finals: SWEDEN bt USSR 3-1. HUNGARY bt W. Germany 3-0. Semi-Finals: Sweden (Swedish names first) Johansson (Sweden) 10, 9, -9. Elling (Sweden) 19, 11, -13, 8. Alser (Sweden) 9, -20, 16, 5. JOHANSSON (Sweden) bt Markovic/Hrad (Yugos.) -18, 16, 15, 18. ROWE/SHANNON bt Foldy/Heirits 14, 15, 13.

ENGLISH RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: D. Creamer lost to N. Billing (Sweden) -12, -19, -18. 1. Harrison bt G. Osterholm (Sweden) 10, 18, 15; lost to Z. Hrad (Yugos.) -15, -17, 9, -9.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: D. Rowe bt 1. Kriegerstein (Germany) 10, 9, -18, 16. W. Harrison bn Richter (Germany) 0-0; bt Buchholz (Germany) -16, 19, -13; bt Foldy (Hungary) (final) -19, -35, 15, 15. M. Shannon lost to 8. Grinberg (U.S.S.R.) -18, -10, -17.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Rowe/Shannon bt Lambe (Sweden)/Lukina (U.S.S.R.) 8, 14, 9; bt Havel/Buchholz (Germany) 15, 12, 15; bt Foldy/Heirits (Hungary) (final) 14, 15, 13.

MIXED DOUBLES: Harrison/Creamer lost to Amelin/Rudnova (U.S.S.R) -18, -17, -14, 15.

MEN'S TEAM: bt Finland 3-0 (Harrison bt Tuominen 17, 15, 13. Harrison/Creamer bt Tuominen/Yalasti 17, 17). lost to Sweden 0-3 (Harrison lost to Alser -17, -17, Creamer lost to Johansson -9, -15). Creamer/Harrison bt Johansson -8, -12, -18.
WILTSHIRE WANDERINGS

Plans For County Juniors

WILTSHIRE SCORED their first ever win over Devon in the Second Section of the National County Championships with a 7-3 away victory, their male trio of Alexander, Clode and Hollywood sweeping the board. Devon were successful only in the mixed doubles and women's events.

Plans for the first ever County Coaching Rally at R.A.F. Lyneham on February 6-8 are now finalised, while this month Jack Carrington is scheduled to address a gathering of would-be coaches at Towbridge.

Hopes are running high that Wiltshire will be able to run a junior side in the County championship next season, and to give the youngsters a run-out against other opposition, fixture matches have been arranged with Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Monmouthshire and Hampshire.

Among the available talent are Williams, Silton—son of former international Joe—Tony Wolf junior, and Dave Collis.

COUNTY LEADERS

Swindon, with 100 per cent. records, are divisional leaders at the halfway stage in three sections of the County League, Salisbury, however, head the First Division and maintained an unbeaten record when they beat Swindon 7-3. Unranked Terry Cash gained a fine win over Tony Wolf senior, the Wiltshire No.4.

The Salisbury League's First Division finds Hospital's B just ahead of their A team while first and second teams of the West Wiltshire League, with J. and T. Clarks B making the pace in the Second Division and newcomers topping the Third Division.

Wiltshire entertain Cornwall at Sandford Y.C., Swindon, on January 31. The last three encounters have been drawn.

The County Executive have expressed superstitious reluctance by fixing Friday March 13 for the annual dinner. V.I.P.s include The Hon. I. G. S. Montagu, President of the E.T.T.A., and Jack Carrington: the Director of Coaching, and his wife Elise.

WESSEX COUNTIES BULLETIN

Clode Wins All Three

WEST Wiltshire did well to beat Weston in their home match by the narrow margin of 5-4. Mrs. Clode won all three of his rubbers, while the remainder went to Weston. Miss Pearson, however, swept through with none asked.

Weston suffered another 4-5 defeat in their home match with Plymouth. At one stage they were 6-4 down, but were brought back into the picture with three successive wins by R. Philpott, A. Russe and T. Kinsey.

T. Anson, who was unbeaten for Plymouth, stopped the Weston revival and clinched victory when he beat Russe.

FIRST DEFEAT

Plymouth also proved too strong for Weston in the women's section, winning 6-3, in an exciting match, in which Mrs. Pettifer, Weston's leading player, suffered her first town defeat when she was beaten by Miss Pearson over three games.

Mick Alexander, 15—younger brother of Wiltshire champion Alan—beat teammates Derek Yates, 15, in the Devizes and District League handicap final, while the Cricket Club pair Chris Fades and Michael Bevan won the doubles title.

Unbeaten Unicorn A have a five points lead over nearest challengers, R.A.F., Yatesbury, in the Premier Division of the Devon County League, while Cricket Club B head the Second Division.

Dairies A and B are respectively leaders of the Premier and First Divisions of the West Wiltshire League, with J. and T. Clarks B making the pace in the Second Division and newcomers topping the Third Division.

Wiltshire entertain Cornwall at Sandford Y.C., Swindon, on January 31. The last three encounters have been drawn.

The County Executive have expressed superstition aside by fixing Friday March 13 for the annual dinner. V.I.P.s include The Hon. I. G. S. Montagu, President of the E.T.T.A., and Jack Carrington, the Director of Coaching, and his wife Elise.

(Written by DON HILLIER)

Laurie Landry, of Middlesex, must be one of the most courageous players in the game. He refuses to let injuries stop him playing. A year or so ago he suffered a serious car accident and came back almost from death's door to play again. Now this season he has been playing around the tournaments with his leg heavily encased in plaster.

As he stumps around with the aid of a stick he has been the subject of much leg pulling so he has decided to tell what really led up to this latest handicap.

DECLINE AND... JUMP

WHEN I was at Butlin's, Bognor Regis, getting very much fitter as the weeks went by, I did not realise that this was the start of my decline... decline of self-preservation!

As I became fitter, I started to jump higher and further, just from sheer exuberance until, standing at the top of a flight of twelve steps and suggesting to a group of players the possibility of my clearing the whole flight in a single leap, I decided indirectly to injure myself. I remember the actual comment that brought about the jump, one which would not be unusual for me in my younger days. One of the coaches suggested that I would be unable to do it and I decided to prove him wrong.

Regardless of what actually happened, I did prove I could make it. But oh, the agony of that moment. I knew I had broken or cracked a bone.

So that's the story... no sympathy given and none asked.

To sum up, Chekhov tells us in one of his plays that in life there are three roads, of which we may take only one. There are no others.

If one takes the road to the right, one will be eaten by the wolves. If one takes the road to the left one will eat up the wolves. And if one takes the middle road one will eat up oneself.

It seems obvious that I chose the middle road.
**FIVE NEW CLUB MASTERS**

Due to the Christmas holidays, I have to write this article very shortly after the December issue appeared in print, thus there is not a lot extra to report.

However, there are five new Club Masters, in order of registration, Jackie Canham, Howard Collins, Vic Ireland, Bobby Stevens and Mary Shannon.

Proof that you don't have to be a leading International player to become a Club Master at an early stage is evident from the success of Howard Collins. The Wembley League player has scored consistently in Open Tournaments throughout the country, and by dint of reaching later rounds in seven events, passed the 250 mark.

John Woodford has found a way to add interest to the Scheme in Eastbourne. He is publishing league tables showing the "top ten" in that town in the race to be the first Club Master in the district. After less than one-third of the season has passed, the leading player has gained 96 points, and even the tenth player has 45. In similar vein, Letchworth tell me that Tony Pidduck (not to be confused with the popular Kent international) has scored 99 points, by the beginning of December. Fifteen of these are from Club Competitions run by the Resilia Club.

It will be seen, therefore, that during the next quarter that it will take years for ordinary players to become Club Masters can hardly be substantiated. If this progress can be made in two medium sized leagues like Eastbourne and Letchworth, it can be made elsewhere.

**REQUESTS TO REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY**

From as far apart as Durham and Sussex have come suggestions that players should be allowed to register individually if their leagues will not join the Scheme. Whilst appreciating the frustration that players must feel at being left out, I must counsel them to be patient.

Every experienced official in the country would give you the same answer to the question, "Which one man has done more for table tennis than any other?" There can be no doubt that that man is Ivor Montagu. It does not surprise me, therefore, that Ivor has come up with a new slant on the problem of whether or not to include doubles in the Scheme.

Mr. Montagu points out that the art of doubles play in this country appears to be declining. If, therefore, doubles are excluded from the M.P.S., they may decline still further in importance. Now, this is a very serious argument which merits every consideration. The inclusion of doubles in ordinary league play would present no great difficulty. But what about Open Tournaments? Think of the extra work! Perhaps someone could come up with the answer in the shape of a workable arrangement. I hope so.

One matter which I did not touch upon last month concerns the possible alteration in Master Points values. When the M.P.S. Committee meets again in February, they will make any necessary decisions as to points alterations for next season. This will enable every county and league in the country to know them before their next A.G.M.

It has already been decided that Restricted Open Tournaments with strong entries can apply to be treated as an Open Tournament, as far as points are concerned. Thus, if agreed, they would award points at six times the basic scale, instead of four.

**CASE FOR EXTRA AWARDS**

With large numbers of points available at the English Open, due to the very strong entry, there seems a good case for an extra award in big Open Tournaments where the entry is also strong.

The National Ranking List, and the new Masters Tournaments, might form the basis for increased awards. Tournaments which had more than certain percentages of players from these sources could be given extra points. What do readers think of this idea?

Finally, a suggestion that some Open Tournaments are "under pointed." Certainly, when East London beat West London in the second round, with Chester Barnes, Bobby Stevens and Bobbie Raybould appearing for the winners, and Stan Jacobson, Alan Lindsay and Connie Warren for West London, far more points would have been fair. On the other hand, how do you differentiate between a match like this and another second round match between two very much weaker leagues. Here again, there might be a solution which one of our readers may hit upon. Don't keep it to yourself, please, but send it to me at 11, Lyneham Road, Luton, Beds.

**THE FAMOUS STIGA TABLE TENNIS BATS SWEDISH AND EQUIPMENT**

**EHRIC - BERCZIK - FLISAN MELLIS 35s. 6d. Each**

**ACE RUBBER and THE NEW YASAKA 2 mm. -1 mm.**

**TRIANGLE SPORTS & HOBBIES**

111 Commercial Road, Bournemouth

Telephone: 2093
WHERE DO WE STAND?

T is time something was done about the “Shiny bats and light clothing” regulations. As a player I am frequently baffled and perplexed by officialsdom’s interpretation of the rules.

Numerous examples spring to mind. The time when Chester Barnes was not allowed to play with his “shiny bat” in a match against Germany. Yet the whole German team were permitted to use their equally shiny bats. Diplomatic perhaps, but is it British justice?

Then there was the time when officials at a major tournament told me, “Your bat really is too shiny, but it would ruin our tournament if we scratched you, so we will let you play on.”

And, most ludicrous of all, the occasion at the English Open when a player was told to change his shiny bat because it was “a technical point.” By the time the player had knocked up the bat had returned to its previous shiny state.

Finally, why was it that my Swedish club shirt (a light grey) which has been approved by the Swedish T.T.A. was considered too light for me to wear in the recent Middlesex Open?

Please, Mr. Officialsdom, do tell us where we stand.

IAN HARRISON
(Mariestad, Sweden).

Contravention of Rules

A MONG the platitudes, Mr. Grant in the December Postbag calls a shiny bat a “minor technical point.”

It is in fact a contravention of the rules, and raises the question of why Brian Wright was permitted to carry his shiny bat through to the final of the Portsmouth Open without objection from any official.

You must know how difficult it is to get the rules properly applied, especially at town league level. Are you not afraid that the absence of editorial comment on letters such as these will be taken to imply sympathy with the writer’s opinions?

The opening sentence of the report of the Portsmouth Open, in the same issue, seems to imply blame not of Brian Wright but of Chester Barnes for the fact that the final was not played. Was there something that made this other than a straightforward case of one player using equipment not conforming to the rules? If so, we should have been told — but if not the report is unfair to Barnes.

JACK LYDDON
(Harlow).

Rules Must be Observed from the Start

W ITHOUT detracting one bit from the valuable work Mr. Dobbins and his colleagues are doing in stimulating interest in table tennis in schools I was perturbed to read his statement that, “In the main, we follow the E.T.T.A. rules, but not too rigorously on dress and services.”

I assume he refers to Laws of the game and cannot share such a tolerant outlook. It is my view that the prevalent “slap-happy” attitude to Laws of table tennis and rules of various competitions will always keep our game in the category of second-rate sports.

After all, if we do not take it seriously ourselves, how can we expect the general public to.

Why is table tennis picked out for this easy-going approach? In schools soccer leagues one does not find the boys allowed to ignore the laws — the matches are refereed strictly as any senior matches. Similarly in cricket — you bowl properly, field properly and have to observe cricket laws while batting. How else can we encourage players to cultivate observance of laws?

The habits formed by young players, especially in serving, stick all through their career unless stopped early on. Services in international matches illustrate this — there often seems to be more served from outside the side line than inside.

Whilst I sympathise with players, especially of school age, who have financial problems over proper dress, my experience is that more often this is not the reason for non-conformity. The less well-off often take great pains to comply.

One problem which this flouting of rules and laws raises has never been answered by anyone I’ve argued with. This is, who decides which particular provisions may be ignored? If, for instance, one allows slack serving, from the fingers or outside the line, what right has a player to object to the other side try to serve lawn-tennis fashion or volley the ball? One can hardly pick and choose which laws one wants to observe.

There is only one stage of a player’s career that he should learn to comply with laws and rules and that is when he starts. If we don’t like the rules let’s alter them, but until that time nobody should advocate any departure from them.

KEITH WATTS
(Kentton).

Expedite Rule

P L E A S E let me know, When the Expedite Rule is applied, must the counting of the 12 strokes by the server be done loudly?

Also can table tennis bats with one side Sandwich and the other side pimpled rubber be used?

K. SAHADAVAN
(Alleppey, India).

As long as the twelfth stroke is called loud enough for the umpire to hear this is all right.

Regarding the bat covering: Both sides must be of the same material.

World’s Venue

M ELBOURNE’s Olympic Swimming Stadium will be converted to an indoor arena when Australia stage the 1967 World Championships. They are expecting more than a thousand overseas competitors.

IAN HARRISON, England’s No. 1, enters the “Shiny Bat and Light Clothing” controversy, pinpoints diplomatic interpretations and asks
WARWICKSHIRE

GUNNION COLLECTS THE POINTS

WARWICKSHIRE collected their first points with a thrilling win against Yorkshire at Leamington. Star of the match was undoubtedly Ralph Gunnion, who was back to his brilliant best with wins over Peter Duncan and in the last game of the night with the score 4–0, over David Bevan.

This feat was accomplished even though Ralph had an injured back and some eye trouble.

Warwickshire still have an uphill battle to maintain their place in the Premier Division, but the continued good form of both Ralph and Doreen Griffiths should help matters a great deal.

The County second team have consolidated their position at the top of the Second Division with a 6–4 win over Staffs. Skipper Bill Gallagher and Keith Jones won both their games and the second team are now praying that the Premier Division side will indeed stay up as relegation could face the second team even if they should win their division.

The County junior team had a 9–1 win against Leicestershire.

The Birmingham Association are running their second course this season at Lilleshall Hall, on February 23rd to 25th. They are sponsoring a number of promising players who will be juniors for the next couple of years.

Players interested in a course at Lilleshall should get in touch with Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, as soon as possible. The Association are willing to take players from any particular county, providing they apply in time.

STRONGER THAN EVER

THE Midland League is stronger than ever this year. A welcome addition to the league has been the teams from Oxford. However, the main clash of the season will again be between Gloucester and Birmingham Men, and should decide the Division. Gloucester, who can call on Merritt, Morley, Bevan and Holland are a formidable side.

The Women’s Division are dominated by the teams from Birmingham and West Bromwich but the Junior Division is much more open, being won by teams from different towns for the last four years.

Walsall Juniors appear to have the strongest team this season.

The most hotly contested divisions however, are the Veterans’ A and B. In these two divisions, no quarter is asked or given and the only times smiles are seen are at the bar following the match.

The Midland League which is now very well established over 20 towns from 10 counties, not only produces many good players, but is an extremely fine social and sporting league as well as providing experience for the younger players for the various County teams.

More Points for the New Season

★ Look smart—be smart with an Alec Brook Table Tennis Shirt. Navy, Royal, Black, Grey, Green, Scarlet, and Tan. All sizes. Value 25s. 6d.—price to you, 15s. 6d.

★ The All-Purpose Trolley. The tiny trolley which carries your table. A finger-tip touch moves your table anywhere. Price 59s. 6d.

★ JAP RUBBER. The factory manufacturing the finest rubber in Tokyo have agreed to supply us under the name of PEGASUS. Best quality — reversed or normal; C.A and D.13. Price 7s. 6d. a piece. NOW ARRIVED.

★ A Tournament Table FREE. Write for full details.

★ Swedish, Jap, Stiga, Cor du Buy Bats. Ehrlich, Melstrom, Alser, Berz, etc. Reversed or normal, now 36s. 6d. each.

★ A.D.B. International Tournament Table Tennis Table. £37 19s. 6d.

Write now for the latest list and details of the above offers

ALEC BROOK (SPORTS EQUIPMENT) LTD.
124 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1.
EUSTON 3772/3/4

Page Thirteen
JOHNNY LEACH pinpoints

THREE WHO ARE OVERLOOKED

WHAT must a player do to achieve international honours?

Selectors are notoriously inconsistent in their ways, thrusting golden opportunity in the path of some youngsters who have yet to prove their promise, and ignoring others who for years have been knocking on their door.

Three players whom I consider to have been particularly unlucky in the game of selectors' roulette, as practised in England, are Alan Lindsay, Tony Miller and Jack Clayton.

At 26, Alan is the youngest of this trio, but he has figured in the rankings for the past five years and, during that time, beaten just about everybody at least once. Seven Open titles have fallen to his clever and consistent bat and, in 1961, he was runner-up to Ian Harrison for the English Closed.

Ranked No. 12 this season, Alan has beaten Chester Barnes (3), David Creamer (4), Alan Rhodes (5), Bobby Stevens (6), Michael Symonds (9), and Brian Hill (11). And only last month he beat Kjell Johansson of Sweden, one of the top three players in Europe.

Yet not once has Alan heard the England call.

AN OVERSIGHT?

One wonders if this is merely an unintentional oversight, or whether Alan's unorthodox style somehow offends the selectors' eyes. True his short jabbing strokes and liking for the half-volley do not make him the most pleasing player to watch, while some consider the grunts and groans with which he punctuates his game to be undignified. However, such considerations cannot seriously be taken as a reason for not picking him.

Alan's methods get good results. In my opinion Alan has the best ball control of any player in the British Isles. He is dedicated, determined and charged with fighting spirit. As a full-time professional coach he desperately needs that England badge, and to my mind he has richly deserved it.

Let us hope that Alan's case will have a happier outcome than Tony Miller's. Now 37, Tony is now in his sixteenth season as a stalwart of Surrey's Premier team. Few players can match his record of consistent success over the years, and over those who already possess the international badges that Tony has had to do without.

Up to last season, 31-year-old Jack Clayton was an opponent feared by every player in the country, and not without good reason. He had the habit of making even the best look like novices.

Eighteen months ago Jack won three Open Singles Championships in succession. Yet even then he failed to gain international recognition.

Can you blame Jack if today he has lost some of his enthusiasm for the game? Both he and Tony Miller are now past their best, yet either could still hold his own if called upon for the Home Quadrangular International Tournament. I have long held the opinion that when opposing foreign countries England should always select her strongest available team of the moment irrespective of any other consideration. Also that international honours should never be awarded lightly; any player should regard his achievement as the pinnacle of his playing career.

However, when England opposes the obviously weaker home countries, there is an argument for using these occasions to blood youngsters or reward mature players who have consistently been on the brink of recognition. It may be that these matches should rank as "B" Internationals, as in Association Football.

NO CLEAR POLICY

As I have said, it is impossible to detect any clear and consistent policy about the selectors' methods but somehow or other they have managed to "cap" a great many players over the last few years. The fact that so many have been honoured makes the omissions even more glaring, but none more so than those of Miller, Clayton and Lindsay.

In 1964, I would like to see these neglected players honoured. After that I feel that every player would welcome a clear statement of policy from the selectors so that we all know exactly where we are. Nothing kills enthusiasm quicker than official indifference.

Page Fourteen
This Modern Game

by IAN HARRISON

IT is not long ago that Sweden were considered "easy meat" for any of the top table tennis nations, but now all that is changed. Unbeaten by any European country for almost two years, they rank third in the world behind China and Japan.

Why, then, this sudden change? It is a question I am often asked and, having lived in Sweden for the past couple of months, I have been able to make a closer study of their progress.

First and foremost I believe the credit must go to the Swedish Association. They were quick to realise that when the standard improves at the top of the ranking list, it reflects all the way down. So they set out to give the leading players every encouragement. Money was raised and used to send the Swedish team to all the international tournaments. At home leading coaches engaged—our own Johnny Leach was the first—and special training camps were organised.

Moreover, Sweden realised that the introduction of sponge by the Asians, spelt the death of the old game. They were quick to adopt the Japanese bat. They persuaded Ichirio Ogimura, the Japanese former world champion, to visit Sweden and give them first hand knowledge of the Japanese game. He has spent ten months there over the past two years.

Fitness has played a big part and it is little wonder that standards have improved when players are fit enough to run seven miles before breakfast and think nothing of making over a thousand consecutive counter-hits.

PUBLIC INTEREST

It is not only at the top that Swedish table tennis has improved. The good results of the national team have brought a terrific amount of public interest and the clubs are filled to overflowing with youngsters eager to become Tony Larssons or Hans Alsters.

Today, table tennis in Sweden is a modern sport—and therein lies the answer to their success. People do not mind going out on a miserable winter evening if they know that they are going to watch or play in a cheerful modern hall, which is above all warm and provides showers for when they have finished playing. It is unheard of to have a club or sports hall without central heating and modern showers.

Finally a word about the clubs. All league matches in Sweden are organised for the clubs. They have no town or county matches as we know them in England. Consequently the clubs are the focus of table tennis life in Sweden and they have done a great deal in raising the general standards.

BINGO HELPS

If money is needed it is raised by one means or another. My own club, for example, runs weekly bingo sessions, and this money is ploughed straight back into helping the club. When a member wants to play in a tournament on the other side of Sweden, his club will pay all expenses and most clubs send four or five players to the Swedish championships each year. Coaches are also engaged by the clubs to help and encourage the younger players.

Contrast this with two youngsters I know in England who, because they are still at school and have very little money, have to hitch hike to tournaments, sleep on station benches and have never been coached since they spent a week at a holiday camp.

So there you have it. In a nutshell, the association and the clubs help the players and the players, in turn, bring honour and respect to the association and create and promote interest in the game.

It works in Sweden! It could work in England—or could it?

Meet and make new friends at the

TABLE TENNIS CENTRE
EVERYONE WELCOME

WEEKDAYS: 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.
SATURDAYS: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
SUNDAYS: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
2s. 6d. per table per 30-minute session.

NINE TABLES — CENTRAL HEATING — SHOWERS — SNACK BAR

International Star available.
Coaching by appointment.
Housewives:
FREE COACHING ADVICE Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

497-505, GALE STREET, DAGENHAM.
DOMinion 8311
Opposite Becontree District Line Tube. Buses 145 and 62 pass door.
CHEERS for Bobby Stevens. The Essex star came back into his own to hold off the strong Swedish challenge and win the men's singles at the Middlesex Open at Hanwell Community Centre on December 7-8.

It was the thrill of the season and his scoring of the final point to beat Carl Bernhardt 21-17, 21-17 thoroughly deserved the tumultuous applause from the large crowd that packed the hall.

Swedish, having beaten England in the international the previous day, had been strong favourites to sweep the board, at least in the men's events. Instead they had to be content with the men's doubles won by Bernhardt and Kjell Johansson and the mixed doubles which went to Johansson and Marita Carlsson.

Stevens, dashing in and out, retrieving and hitting at every opportunity, was much too fast for Bernhardt, a world class player. His speed had also been the telling factor in his semi-final win over Alan Lindsay, who had half-volleyed Stevens' hit, in great style. The Essex player won at 18 and 19 with little to spare in a match that had everyone on their toes with the fast exchanges.

Stevens never found the way to the final easy. He had to fight off two match points against Brian Wright in the quarter-final and was also taken to three by Stuart Gibbs, the rapidly improving Essex junior. The match with Wright was one of the best of the tournament, with fast and furious hitting. Stevens eventually got out of trouble by hitting two magnificent forehands to make it 20-all, then edged home at 21-22.

Stevens had previously beaten Mike and David Creamer.

Lindsay takes a big share in the vanquishing of the Swedes for he accounted for Johansson, winner of the recent Hungarian Open.

The Swede did not appear to be worried about Lindsay's unusual antics, joining in the fun in the opening game, then really getting going in the second to level at game-all. But in the third he played right into Lindsay's hands and was beaten at 18.

Bernhardt and Tage Larsson came through the other half of the draw to provide an all-Swedish semi-final. Larsson avenged his international defeat over Chester Barnes in the quarters at 16 and 16, after having earlier dropped a set to Robert Northall, our newest international.

Mary Shannon further strengthened her claims for the No. 1 ranking with yet another win over Diane Rowe in the final of the women's singles, this time at 21-16, 21-11. Mary kept hitting up against Diane, who did not have much success with her own hitting.

The two Swedish girls were beaten in the first round, Birgitta Larsson by Alma Tuft, and Marita Carlsson by Lesley Bell.

Diane and Mary continued their irresistible way in the women's doubles beating the Swedish pair at 17 and 18 in the final. Mrs. Larsson and Miss Carlsson had earlier just scraped through at 24-22 in the third against twins Beverly and Svetlana Sayer.

Harrison was odd man out in the semi-final by beating Ian Harrison and David Davies, a little-known Southampton player, it is a dream that came true in the Middlesex Open.

Beverley and Gloria Sayer.
JANUARY - 1964

TABLE TENNIS

Photo coverage by:
MICHAEL MACLAREN, PETER MADGE and DENIS OFFER

Top: Vic Ireland, winner of the West of England Open; Bobby Stevens, Middlesex Open winner; Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon in action against Sweden. Second row: V.I.P.s at the Middlesex Open, Philip Mulcahy and Bill Vint; David Davies and Christine Holes, conquerers of Ian Harrison and Diane Rowe in the Middlesex mixed doubles; Tage Larsson in play against Chester Barnes in the international; and the Swedish girls Marita Carlsson and Birgitta Larsson. Third row: Mrs. Larsson and Miss Carlsson relax at the Middlesex Open; Carl Bernhardt enjoys a cup of tea; Kjell Johansson finishes a heavy smash against Ian Harrison. Bottom: Chester Barnes prepares to smash against Larsson; Ian Harrison in action against Johansson.
WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN

by LAURIE LANDRY

TWO MORE TITLES FOR IRELAND

VIC IRELAND, the Surrey County player, followed up his Aberdare success by winning two titles in the West of England Championships at Carlyon Bay on November 23. This was the first "Open" to be held in Cornwall, and proved a big success, being run to a smooth, efficient time table.

Ireland won the men's singles, without beating Howard Collins (Middlesex) in the final 16 and 14. His closest match was against his doubles partner, Gerry Cookin, of Wales, who took him to 18 and 19 in the quarters.

Collins gained a good win over Tony Piddock in the semi-final, while another good performance was that of G. Whalley, who beat his Sussex team-mate, Peter Shead, 16 and 16 in the quarters, before losing to Ireland.

Ireland's second success was in the mixed doubles with Betty Cassell, for whom it was also a second title.

Mrs. Cassell met with plenty of resistance before capturing the women's singles. She had to survive two match points against Miss S. Rapsy, of Cornwall, in an early round and was also taken to three by the Devon player, Mrs. L. Milliere, in the final.

Piddock gained some measure of consolation for his singles defeat by teaming with Collins to win the men's doubles, beating Whalley and Shead in the final by 14 and 13.

Piddock also reached the mixed doubles final with Miss B. Hatter, of Cornwall, but went down over three games to Ireland and Mrs. Cassell.

Sisters Doreen Spooner and Mrs. Beryl Smith provided a Devon success in the women's doubles, beating the Plymouth pair Mrs. W. Wakeley and Mrs. M. Hockaday 21-12, 21-14.

LINDSAY STOPS BARNES

ALAN LINDSAY once again proved that his awkward style of half-volley and chop can upset the best players in the country when he won the men's singles in the Newbury Open. This time it was Chester Barnes who was to fall to the Middlesex man. In an exciting semi-final, which had a large crowd stamping and cheering, Lindsay came through at 19-21, 21-6, 23-21.

Barnes, having beaten Lindsay in the county match the previous day was hot favourite to repeat his victory and indeed looked all set to do so by winning the first set. But at the end of that set Lindsay, after trailing 15-20, recovered so well that it was obvious Barnes would not have things all his own way.

And the writing was on the wall when Lindsay, grimly determined and refusing to be pushed back from the table, began to pile up the points and took it at 21-6 to level, set-all.

Maybe Barnes took it a little too easy in that set for he appeared to have the match in his pocket when he led 14-6 in the decider, only for the indomitable Lindsay to gradually edge his way back to 20-all. Barnes, instead of consolidating his lead, had tried to force the issue, and in the end paid the penalty.

Lindsay was above himself with joy, and full of confidence went on to beat George Muranyi in the final 18-21, 21-9, 21-18.

Muranyi's semi-final victim was Tony Piddock, while he also had a good win over Stan Jacobson.

Lindsay collected a second title in the men's doubles with Jacobson when they scored a straight games win over Bobby Stevens and Ray Hockaday.

Barnes had to be content with two junior titles, the boys' singles, in which he beat David Brown 19 and 19, and the junior mixed doubles where he partnered Beverley Sayer to beat Ransome and Linda Henwood.

The Barnes-Sayer partnership also reached the senior mixed doubles final, but here they found Ray Morley and Lesley Bell just a little too strong and lost over three games.

Jean McCree came back into her own to win the women's singles and did not drop a game until the final where she beat Alma Taft 13-21, 22-20, 22-20, thus proving herself the championship defeat by the same player the previous day.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: A. LINDSAY/Middlesex bt A. BARNES (Devon) 15-21, 21-9, 21-12. G. MURANYI (Bury) bt A. Piddock (Kent) 21-12, 21-14.

Final: LINDSAY bt Muranyi 21-18, 19-21, 21-18.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: J. McCREE/Middlesex bt S. Ellis (Essex) 21-10, 21-14. A. TAPT (Hert.) bt J. Ellis (Kent) 14-21, 21-17, 21-16.

Final: McCREE bt TAPT 21-12, 22-20, 22-20.


Final: LINDSAY/J. BACON bt Stevens/Rayhoud 21-17, 21-15, 21-19.


Final: HICKS/BELL bt Holes/Holes 21-12, 21-9, 21-17.


Final: TRUSCOTT bt Ross 19-21, 21-12, 21-11.


Junior Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: BARNES/Mrs R. BAYTE bt M. Johns (Cheshire)/Mrs G. Sayer 21-12, 21-12.

Final: BARNES/SAYER bt Ransome/Heinwood 21-12, 21-10, 21-17.


Junior Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: BARNES/Mrs R. BAYTE bt M. Johns (Cheshire)/Mrs G. Sayer 21-12, 21-12.

Final: BARNES/SAYER bt Ransome/Heinwood 21-13, 21-20, 21-17.


NEWBURY OPEN

MRS. CASSELL and MRS. Le MILLIERE Picture by Mike MacIntyre
AROUND EAST ANGLIA

Norfolk Foster the Juniors

Norfolk now has its own Table Tennis motto. We give it once again: "FIT SURCULUS ARBOR," or, "THE YOUNG CUTTING BECOMES THE BIG TREE." It might quite easily be translated: "Look after the Juniors, and the Senior team will take care of itself." There is room for real progress in Norfolk if the average league player can catch the enthusiasm of County and League coaches.

Consider County coach, Maurice Ewles, who took a party of 20 youngsters to Stevenage on December 15 for Jack Carrington's official Coaching Scheme, only a day after Norfolk Juniors had travelled to Middlesex in the Junior Championship. It is 111 miles by road from Norwich to London, and travelling expenses average at least £8 for each long trip. Luckily, we can recover most of this outlay from sales of this magazine. But further help is needed.

We ask for a volunteer from Norwich to act as Assistant Norfolk Magazine Secretary. Norwich is our biggest League, with 90 teams and seven divisions, and over 500 players. It is probably the league with the longest-serving team of administrators anywhere in England. They have already staged three international matches, The Rest of England v Rumania (1955), England v Yugoslavia (1958) and England v Sweden last year.

Norwich contains the studios of Thurston and Cornwell from competitive play has been televising for over four years, and soon, we hope to entertain us with their locally-famous home-brewed cider!

Betty Cassell has continued a fine Bedfordshire player, strove valiantly to fill a big gap which Cambridge City will find hard to fill. This was emphasised by her two successes against Spalding. Cambridge also made a second-round exit from the Rose Bowl when their ladies, without Margaret Cornwell, narrowly lost 4-5 to Great Yarmouth. Valerie Gillan won all three of her games.

Norfolk coaches have paid three visits to Denton School, near Bungay, with encouraging results. Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, whose girls monopolised the Norfolk girls' titles for some years, gave us a further proof of excellence by winning the semi-finals.

John and Ron Munn, who competed the Cambridge side, failed to win a game.

Thurston and Cornwall missed

The retirement of John Thurston and John Cornwell from competitive play has left a big gap which Cambridge City will find hard to fill. This was emphasised when they were well beaten by Spalding in the second round of the Wilmott Cup. Thurston and Cornwell have dominated the team for some 15 years, and now their mantle has shifted to Alan Ponder. He is still a junior and scored Cambridge's two successes against Spalding.

Cambridge also made a second-round exit from the Rose Bowl when their ladies, without Margaret Cornwell, narrowly lost 4-5 to Great Yarmouth. Valerie Gillan won all three of her games.

Miss Gillan, a comparative newcomer, has suffered only one defeat this season—by Jackie Canham in the county match with Hertfordshire, which Cambridge without both Ponder and Munn lost 2-8. Dean in the singles and Keith Chapman and Miss Cornwell in the mixed doubles scored the Cambridgeshire wins.

Cambridge City lead both the men's and junior sections of the South East Midlands League, and they hold second place to Kettering in the women's division.

Y.M.C.A. I am enjoying a good season in the Cambridgeshire League, with its chief challenge coming from Press and Impington. New Chesterton, last year's champions, are being left behind.

Torchbearers, who include Valerie Gillan, Martin Brown and John Constable, look the main threat in the Second Division, where quite a tense battle is developing with G.O.R.B., and St. George's, whose team includes veterans Jackie Bzahn and Frank Jeffery.

Coaching for youngsters between the ages of 10 and 14 are now being held on Saturday afternoons at the Y.M.C.A.
LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

THREE LANGUAGE UMPIRE

SHOULD any German or Polish teams enter play in Leicestershire they could be made to feel at home by having the scores called in their own language. The man to provide this ability is STANISLAW ORZECHOWSKI, who has just attained County Umpire Status.

A Dinington Hall boy, Orzechowski has the distinction of being the first person outside the City of Leicester to qualify in the county.

A good entry is expected for the Leicestershire Closed Championships arranged for February 22nd at Cottons Canteen, Loughborough. The Rose Johnson Bowl has attracted a record entry of 75 teams, 13 of them from the Loughborough League.

Leicester are virtually out of it for most divisons in the Midland League. Despite encouraging form from 17-year-old Steven White, who has won three of his four matches, the men's first team have dropped three points in three matches and only something exceptional could give them a chance of top honours.

The men's second team have thrown their division wide open following a 9-1 win at Nottingham and Leicester, Nottingham and Waissall are all level on points.

The women's team are doing better than expected, with Jose Rogers and Pat Kirkby showing good form, but the juniors, following defeat at Nottingham lack, possible wooden-spoonists. This is a disappointment after the successful junior sides of the past few years.

The intermediates were also beaten at Nottingham and the best they can hope for is second place. The team could have been strengthened by the inclusion of White, but in my opinion the selectors did the right thing in keeping the regular side together rather than bringing in special players for special matches.

Leicester have a much brighter outlook in the Leicestershire Towns League where their "A" side are the only team with maximum points. Nick Smith is unbeaten as is John Gesche in the "B" team.

Ron Joyner tops the Loughborough averages in this league, which Dennis Smith has suffered only one defeat for Melton. Mowbray, Malcolm White is the leading player for Coalville.

There is tremendous interest in the lower divisions of the Leicester and District League, N.A.B., closely followed by St. Margaret's, for whom R. Henderson is in peak form, lead Division 5A; Post Office led by John Huggett are setting a hot pace in Division 6B, while Hin Coope are 7A leaders. The surprise team of 8A are the young St. Chads, who have left the opposition standing.

Slack and Parr, for whom Tony Pickard is playing well, are the pace makers in the Loughborough second division.

Philip Reid

Page Twenty

TABLE TENNIS JANUARY - 1964

FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.O. and X.D. in every case. Tournaments marked (R) are Restricted. 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>Organising Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 10-11</td>
<td>WELSH OPEN</td>
<td>Drill Hall, Glamis Place, Cardiff.</td>
<td>Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cardiff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>GERMANY (EAST) OPEN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Gloucester Junior Open</td>
<td>(Jan. 11th)</td>
<td>J. R. C. Chalkeley, 17, Woods Orchard Road, Gloucester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>KENT OPEN</td>
<td>Marine Pavilion, Folkestone.</td>
<td>F. G. Mannoch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1-2</td>
<td>Hythe Invitation</td>
<td>Hythe Institute, Hythe, Kent.</td>
<td>R. J. Weaver, 68a, High Street, Hythe, Kent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Midland Open</td>
<td>Friends Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.</td>
<td>M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>South of England Open (R)</td>
<td>I.C.T. Ltd., Croydon.</td>
<td>S. H. Buchanan, 124, Portmals Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Leicestershie Open</td>
<td>Cottons Canteen, Loughborough.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>Staines Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sussex Closed</td>
<td>Brighton.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>PONTEFRACT OPEN</td>
<td>Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Pontefract, Yorks.</td>
<td>T. Horrocks, 4, Bondgate, Pontefract, Yorks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Grimsby Open</td>
<td>Augusta Street Barracks, Grimsby.</td>
<td>A. Black, 25, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby, Lincs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>GERMANY (WEST) OPEN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>Welsh Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 7-8</td>
<td>Bucks Open</td>
<td>Slough Community Centre, Barnham Road, Slough.</td>
<td>L. Thompson, &quot;Auchmead,&quot; The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraybury, Bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sussex Junior Open</td>
<td>Assembly Hall, Worthing.</td>
<td>Miss J. Williams, 27, Belkendale Road, Worthing, Sussex.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neale Revitalises Harrogate

DENIS NEALE has not only made Yorkshire a force but has brought inter-league power to Harrogate. Ken Mitchelmore and Norman Lusher, for years the stars of the town team, now take a supporting rôle to the dynamic 18-year-olds Neale and Eric Hall.

Harrogate hope to return to the top section for the first time since 1953, when Mitchelmore and Lusher were backed by Max Dodd, still playing for the town's third team, the J. Elvin, now retired.

Shamrock, new name in the York League, played their first six matches without winning or losing. After six draws George Elmer, the York veterans' champion, and Johnny Redhead gave them a winning margin against Heworth "C." in Division Three.

The Bagshaw memorial handicap tournament attracted the excellent entry of 102 and this time the best players found their handicaps too formidable.

The winner was David Lockwood (New Enswick C.Y.C.), who overcame Alan Postlethwaite (Bootham) in the final and also accounted for David Lamb, winner for the last two years.

Promoted York pulled off an inter-league shock in their first ever Division One fixture by holding powerful Doncaster. Stalwart Jack Senescall won two, David Lyon and Francis Gregoire had narrow victories over Dainty and John Lyon beat Cynthia Blackshaw.

In the Doncaster team was Brian Edlington, the Lincolnshire player, who has joined Martin Adamson and Joe Bennett at the Y.M.C.A.

Hull, where chairman Harry Flinton is this year's holder of the Forrest memorial rose bowl for his services to the county, stage the Yorkshire Junior Open on January 4.

Their own youths are again sweeping all before them. With three of Yorkshire's top five and a steady supply of talented teenagers coming off Rea Balmford's production line they are confident of retaining the youths' championship.

YORKSHIRE CLOSED

FEATURE of the Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.

Neale won the first game before Bevan settled. Bevan tightened up and gave him no chance in the second.

In the decider, Neale attacked with a powerful defence and went from 5-9 to 14-10. But after "Bev" had missed a sitter to go 17-11 from 6-9 and retained his title.

Against Duncombe, Bevan did not find full concentration until the third game when he built a winning margin of 17-11 to 5-21, 21-16.

The Yorkshire Closed at Bradford was a pulsating, punishing semi-final between David Bevan and Derek "Mitch." After being No. 1 since 1947, he is now No. 3.
THE qualities which have enabled Middlesex to dominate the Premier Division for so many years—team spirit and ability to fight back when the chips are down—were fully emphasised when they beat Essex 5-4 at Rotary Hoes at the end of November.

Without Diane Rowe and David Creamer, both on international duty, they appeared heading for certain defeat when they lost the first three matches. It looked all over bar the shouting. Then came a remarkable transformation. They won the next five in a row to secure the winning margin.

The tightly packed crowd could not begrudge them their victory for it was indeed an amazing recovery.

The decision matches were the men's doubles and women's singles, for Essex were hot favourites to win both.

GREAT DEBUT

If any one player is to be singled out it must surely be Alma Taft for her great win over Jean McCree. The Middlesex girl was making her Premier Division debut, yet showed no nerves at the responsibility of her task and with good attacking play hit her way through at 18 and 15.

She also partnered Brian Wright to beat Bobby Stevens and Mrs. McCree in the mixed doubles.

Wright, although losing to Bobbie Raybould in his first singles, played his part in the Middlesex victory with a shock win over Stevens.

Essex broke up their normal doubles pairing, bringing in Chester Barnes for Stevens to partner Raybould, but after winning the first game they lost the next two to Alan Rhodes and Alan Lindsay.

Barnes won both his singles, although he was hard pressed by Lindsay.

The Warwickshire-Yorkshire encounter was another thriller, with Ralph Gunnion clinching a 5-4 win for the Midlanders when he beat David Bevans two straight in the final match. Lesley Proudlock was beaten at 19 in the third by Warwickshire's tenacious Dorreen Griffiths.

Both doubles went to Yorkshire in advantage third games, despite Gunnion and Badderley having led 20-17 against Bevans and Dainty in the men's doubles.

Lancashire continue to lead the Second Division North with an impressive 9-1 win over Northumberland, who had previously crashed 3-7 to Cheshire. Yorkshire had a good 6-4 win over Lincoln who, after trailing 2-5 won the next two. Brian Hill failed to level the match when he lost 18-21 in the third to Bartlett.

Essex fielded a weak side against Sussex in the Second Division South and went down 4-6. Sussex are claiming two extra sets from an ineligible player.

Shelah Hession was the only member of the "international" side Essex put out against Suffolk the previous month, and did well in beating Ann Woodford in the singles and winning the doubles with Pauline Martin.

Fielding a strong side one match and a weak one in another may well have an important bearing on promotion and relegation. Perhaps this is something the N.C.C. Committee should look into.

Warwickshire are top of Second Division Midland, but made heavy work of beating Staffordshire after having been 4-0 up. Alf Davies, after 19 consecutive appearances, was omitted from Oxford's team against Monmouthshire. Oxford, however, were easy winners at 8-2, Stan Hahn showing brilliant form to demoralise Brian Everson in the final game.

Wiltshire climb into second place in Second Division West following a 7-3 win over Devon. Worcestershire are somewhat in the doldrums and feel they were worth at least two events in their 0-10 defeat by Nottinghamshire in the Midland Division. They hope for better things in the New Year.

NOT THE SAME

Cambridge are not the same side without Cornwell and Thurston and lost 1-9 to Norfolk in the Southern Division. Young Alan Ponder scored their only success. Buckinghamshire lead this division, having beaten Hertfordshire 6-4.

There was plenty of activity in the Junior Division North with six matches being played. It is nice to see Northumberland at the top, but they have yet to play the powerful Yorkshire side.

Yet another Heppell — Maureen this time—appears to be making a name for herself in the North. In her afternoon match against Lancashire she won 21-3, 21-4, and later in the day beat her Cheshire opponent 21-14, 21-12.

Northumberland beat Lancashire 6-2, the best match being the boys' doubles which the border county won 21-19 in the third after trailing 16-19.

Highlight of the 5-3 win over Cheshire was Mike John's 28-26 in the third win over Brian Burn. It was a match of hit and counter-hit.

Surrey juniors notched their first win for two years when they beat Berkshire 9-1 in the Junior Division South, losing only the mixed doubles to Jenkins and Miss Shengold.

There is no stopping Essex in the

TABLE TENNIS

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

January 25 Lancashire v Warwickshire
January 31 Wiltshire v Cornwall
January 25 Warwickshire v Monmouthshire, St. Gilbert's School, Warminster, 7 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION
January 11 Norfolk v Hertfordshire
January 25 Lancashire v Cheshire
LANCASHIRE and CHERISH by GEORGE R. YATES

A TELEVISION BOOST

WHATSOEVER inspired Granada TV to televise table tennis from 3.30 to 5 p.m. on Friday, December 20, is not for me to say, but their action certainly provided the highlight in the North-west and gave a further boost to the sport which, despite the advent of sports such as squash, bowling and climbing, is losing its Cinderella mantle. Only Booth is still active in table tennis, and Bolton, the two foremost Lancashire players, were both defeated in their remaining fixtures. Derbyshire scored Wellington's only win. The absence of Chester Barnes and Lesley Ball crushed Buckinghamshire 10-0. Leicester lost 1-9 to Warwickshire in the Junior Division Midland but can take heart from the fact that they will probably not have such tough opponents in their remaining fixtures. Derbyshire scored Leicester's only win. "Despite the advent of sports such as squash, bowling and climbing, is losing its Cinderella mantle. Only Booth is still active in table tennis, and Bolton, the two foremost Lancashire players, were both defeated in their remaining fixtures. Derbyshire scored Wellington's only win. The absence of Chester Barnes and Lesley Ball crushed Buckinghamshire 10-0. Leicester lost 1-9 to Warwickshire in the Junior Division Midland but can take heart from the fact that they will probably not have such tough opponents in their remaining fixtures. Derbyshire scored Leicester's only win."

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)

Surrey 9, Berkshire 1

JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)

Cheshire 3, Northumberland 6
Berkshire 1, Northumberland 2

JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)

Buckinghamshire 0, Essex 10

JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH-WEST)

Glanmorgan 7, Gloucestershire 3

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH-WEST)

Glamorgan 10, Worcestershire 0

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

Cheshire 5, Northumberland 6
Yorkshire 6, Lincolnshire 4

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

Sussex 6, Essex 4
Suffolk 0, Kent 10

SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Gloucester 10, Worcestershire 0
Oxfordshire 8, Monmouthshire 4
Warwickshire 6, Staffordshire 4

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

Devon 3, Wiltshire 7

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Worcestershire 6, Nottinghamshire 10
Staffordshire 6, Derbyshire 6

MIDLAND DIVISION

Worcestershire 6, Nottinghamshire 10
Staffordshire 6, Derbyshire 6

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Buckinghamshire 10, Berkshire 1

MIDLAND DIVISION

Leicestershire 1, Warwickshire 9
Nottinghamshire 6, Staffordshire 10

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH-WEST)

Glamorgan 10, Worcestershire 0

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH-WEST)

Glamorgan 7, Gloucestershire 3

JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Leicestershire 1, Warwickshire 9
Nottinghamshire 6, Staffordshire 10

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH-WEST)

Glamorgan 7, Gloucestershire 3

JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Leicestershire 1, Warwickshire 9
Nottinghamshire 6, Staffordshire 10
Successful Start for Glamorgan Open

SINCE the last issue two important events have taken place in relation to Welsh table tennis. The one, a new championship, the other a disappointing feature.

At the beginning of December the newly formed Glamorgan County Association held its first ever Glamorgan Championships at The Llandaff North Drill Hall, Cardiff, and proved an outstanding success.

As ever with Welsh tournaments, the foreign "invaders" did reasonably well, and Vic Ireland, who has so often taken titles out of Wales, lived up to his reputation. On this occasion, however, his path was not an easy one, and from his first round against Bryn Bowden and then Jeff Spencer, George Davies and Graham Geir, Vic found strengthening opposition.

His semi-final victim was Alan Thomas who, although retired from representative play, is still playing well enough to extend the best.

In the other half it was a hard hitting Roy Morley who came through, albeit with some difficulty, against Bristolian Barry Brady in the quarter final. His semi-final opponent, Ron Davies, offered little opposition although the latter had beaten Philip Bevan. The final was something of a disappointment, with Morley not making the battle expected.

The women's singles was the first major triumph for Sandra Morgan, who played well to beat first of all Joyce Lloyd, Joan Collier, and then, after a very exciting final, Joan Wooding, of Bucks, who had previously ousted her. In the men's doubles, the Welsh players resisted the outside challenge, and the final provided victory for Alan Thomas and Philip Bevan over Brian Everson and John Mansfield.

Similarly, the women's doubles saw a Glamorgan success when Audrey Bates and Shivley Stringer teamed up to beat Pat Taylor (Gloucester) and Joan Maidment (Penarth) in the final.

The West Country had its revenge when Morley and Pat Taylor defeated Glyn Morgan and Audrey Bates, the favourites, in the semi-final, and then Brian Everson and Elizabeth Gray in the final.

The tournament was chiefly significant for the large number of boys and girls in the junior event. Dennis Samuel (Aberdare) won the boys' singles from David McGary (Bristol) who usually takes titles in this area, while Joan Wooding won the girls'. Pat Smith did reasonably well against her after an excellent win over Denise Smith of Gloucester.

Mid-December saw the Welsh team flying to Dublin for the Quadragular Internationals. Having experienced the Welsh selectors could scarcely have anticipated much success, but it was the newcomers who did well and the established players who bitterly disappointed.

John Mansfield, who has promised for so many years but rarely produces top results, came in at No. 3 and after splendid games against Ireland on the Friday, was promoted to No. 1, where he continued his success. Against Ireland he beat McBrine and with a little more experience should have beaten the Irish young star Langham. Against England he played splendidly to take a game from Barnes, and in the Scottish match beat Reilly, losing narrowly to Sugden.

Phil Bevan played as well as he was expected to, beating Caffrey in the Irish match and Kerrie in the Scottish match. In the doubles, with George Evans, he was the dominant partner and certainly played his part in gaining Welsh success.

George Evans was a great disappointment throughout, never doing as well as he can do, and repeatedly being shown up as a player with no resources when his opponent plays slowly.

Margaret Phillips and Sandra Morgan played poorly and took only one event in the series. They were certainly expected to take at least two events from each of the Scottish and Irish matiches, but were unimpressive in doubles, and, except for a last minute effort, Sandra Morgan against Scotland, quite out of touch in singles.

This event, so admirably organised by the LTA, was a great disappointment to us, and the selectors will need to think very carefully indeed about plans for the future rather to larger in the bottom of the home international table.

SUSSEX NOTES

Popular Centre for

THE policy of playing inter-town matches on a home-and-away basis over six months of the year seems to be winning. An excellent new venue, the Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club, is now becoming established for men's, women's and juniors' inter-league events and for other small tournaments needing up to five tables.

Large sums of money and a great deal of precious time at week-ends are being saved by centralising these events. Any county finding difficulties staging large inter-league programmes is recommended to try a central venue, providing of course, a suitable "base" can be found.

Division I of the Sussex men's inter-league event produced two finalists on November 24th at Bexhill, Brighton and Crawley. Division II was decided on the following Sunday when 12 matches were played with Brighton and Worthing successful. In one group, Brighton, Crawley and Hastings triple-tied with two wins apiece and the elimination of Hastings and Crawley was made by counting games. No less than four finals will take place at Bexhill on January 12th, when both men's finals plus the women's and juniors' events will be played-off.

The Sussex junior team is having an excellent season with the maturing of successful start for Glamorgan Open

this area, while Joan Wooding won the girls'. Pat Smith did reasonably well against her after an excellent win over Denise Smith of Gloucester.

Mid-December saw the Welsh team flying to Dublin for the Quadragular Internationals. Having experienced the Welsh selectors could scarcely have anticipated much success, but it was the newcomers who did well and the established players who bitterly disappointed.

John Mansfield, who has promised for so many years but rarely produces top results, came in at No. 3 and after splendid games against Ireland on the Friday, was promoted to No. 1, where he continued his success. Against Ireland he beat McBrine and with a little more experience should have beaten the Irish young star Langham. Against England he played splendidly to take a game from Barnes, and in the Scot-

Inter-town Matches

when he beat Sussex champion Roger Chandler 21-7, 21-12, 21-12. He is however, still losing to players lower on the Sussex ranking list such as John Dobell, the Hastings No. 1.

PADDHAM IN FOUR FINALS

G. PADGHAM won the No. 1 spot in the Hastings and District Junior Closed Championships at the Market Hall, Hastings, on December 9, winning two titles and reaching two more finals.

UNDER 17s.


UNDER 15s.


UNDER 14s.


Final: FENNELL at G. Gain 21-11, 21-11.
THE END OF AN ERA?

For many seasons the names on Scottish table tennis has been confined to players who have long left the youth class. Now that is altering. Results from the first three tournaments have shown a marked swing of successes towards younger players. Only one old timer, relatively speaking — Ally Laidlaw — has been the exception.

Does this mean then the end of an era and the beginning of a new one in which youth will be the fore? There is no doubt that the older players should still have a great deal of fight left in them.

As can be seen from the six players featured here they are a blend of experience and youth.

Bertie Kerr, for so long the backbone of Scottish table tennis and an excellent ambassador of the game outside his home country, has appeared to be out of the running for honours, if this season’s tournaments are to be the yardstick. Bert seems to lack the fire and determination of old. His attacking game and ability of seizing the initiative seems to lack the fire and determination of old. His attacking game and ability of seizing the initiative seems to lack the ability required to bring about success in tournament play.

His tournament successes are confined to the doubles events where, partnered by Sugden in the men’s and Mrs. Olive Hawkins in the women’s, he is joint holder of a number of titles.

Apart from the six players above, mention must be given to Ian Barclay, No. 1 and present playing in London. Ian is, at the moment, much of an unknown quantity, having made the journey North only once this season to compete in the Midlands Open at Dundee. Success did not come his way there, finalist Reilly bettering him in the quarter finals by two straight games.

The stage is set for the Scottish Closed Championships, where all the above players are seeded.

Ian Barclay is the holder, but no holder of any title has retained it this season and different players have won each tournament.

Could it be that Ian will be the first to retain the title he won by beating Sugden last season. The stage is indeed set!

FOR many seasons the names on Scottish table tennis has been confined to players who have long left the youth class. Now that is altering. Results from the first three tournaments have shown a marked swing of successes towards younger players. Only one old timer, relatively speaking — Ally Laidlaw — has been the exception.

Does this mean then the end of an era and the beginning of a new one in which youth will be the fore? There is no doubt that the older players should still have a great deal of fight left in them.

As can be seen from the six players featured here they are a blend of experience and youth.

Bertie Kerr, for so long the backbone of Scottish table tennis and an excellent ambassador of the game outside his home country, has appeared to be out of the running for honours, if this season’s tournaments are to be the yardstick. Bert seems to lack the fire and determination of old. His attacking game and ability of seizing the initiative seems to lack the ability required to bring about success in tournament play.

His tournament successes are confined to the doubles events where, partnered by Sugden in the men’s and Mrs. Olive Hawkins in the women’s, he is joint holder of a number of titles.

Apart from the six players above, mention must be given to Ian Barclay, No. 1 and present playing in London. Ian is, at the moment, much of an unknown quantity, having made the journey North only once this season to compete in the Midlands Open at Dundee. Success did not come his way there, finalist Reilly bettering him in the quarter finals by two straight games.

The stage is set for the Scottish Closed Championships, where all the above players are seeded.

Ian Barclay is the holder, but no holder of any title has retained it this season and different players have won each tournament.

Could it be that Ian will be the first to retain the title he won by beating Sugden last season. The stage is indeed set!

FOR many seasons the names on Scottish table tennis has been confined to players who have long left the youth class. Now that is altering. Results from the first three tournaments have shown a marked swing of successes towards younger players. Only one old timer, relatively speaking — Ally Laidlaw — has been the exception.

Does this mean then the end of an era and the beginning of a new one in which youth will be the fore? There is no doubt that the older players should still have a great deal of fight left in them.

As can be seen from the six players featured here they are a blend of experience and youth.

Bertie Kerr, for so long the backbone of Scottish table tennis and an excellent ambassador of the game outside his home country, has appeared to be out of the running for honours, if this season’s tournaments are to be the yardstick. Bert seems to lack the fire and determination of old. His attacking game and ability of seizing the initiative seems to lack the ability required to bring about success in tournament play.

His tournament successes are confined to the doubles events where, partnered by Sugden in the men’s and Mrs. Olive Hawkins in the women’s, he is joint holder of a number of titles.

Apart from the six players above, mention must be given to Ian Barclay, No. 1 and present playing in London. Ian is, at the moment, much of an unknown quantity, having made the journey North only once this season to compete in the Midlands Open at Dundee. Success did not come his way there, finalist Reilly bettering him in the quarter finals by two straight games.

The stage is set for the Scottish Closed Championships, where all the above players are seeded.

Ian Barclay is the holder, but no holder of any title has retained it this season and different players have won each tournament.

Could it be that Ian will be the first to retain the title he won by beating Sugden last season. The stage is indeed set!

FOR many seasons the names on Scottish table tennis has been confined to players who have long left the youth class. Now that is altering. Results from the first three tournaments have shown a marked swing of successes towards younger players. Only one old timer, relatively speaking — Ally Laidlaw — has been the exception.

Does this mean then the end of an era and the beginning of a new one in which youth will be the fore? There is no doubt that the older players should still have a great deal of fight left in them.

As can be seen from the six players featured here they are a blend of experience and youth.

Bertie Kerr, for so long the backbone of Scottish table tennis and an excellent ambassador of the game outside his home country, has appeared to be out of the running for honours, if this season’s tournaments are to be the yardstick. Bert seems to lack the fire and determination of old. His attacking game and ability of seizing the initiative seems to lack the ability required to bring about success in tournament play.

His tournament successes are confined to the doubles events where, partnered by Sugden in the men’s and Mrs. Olive Hawkins in the women’s, he is joint holder of a number of titles.

Apart from the six players above, mention must be given to Ian Barclay, No. 1 and present playing in London. Ian is, at the moment, much of an unknown quantity, having made the journey North only once this season to compete in the Midlands Open at Dundee. Success did not come his way there, finalist Reilly bettering him in the quarter finals by two straight games.

The stage is set for the Scottish Closed Championships, where all the above players are seeded.

Ian Barclay is the holder, but no holder of any title has retained it this season and different players have won each tournament.

Could it be that Ian will be the first to retain the title he won by beating Sugden last season. The stage is indeed set!
At the recent Middlesex Open I was discussing with the Editor, and Louis Hoffman, the Circulation Manager, new ideas for Table Tennis when the suggestion was made to run a monthly feature of the glamour that now graces the tournaments.

No sooner said than done and in a few minutes we had spotted the first subject for our new series.

**Judy Crafter**  
*by MICHAEL MACLAREN*

There are lots of young ladies adding glamour to table tennis these days and I hope you will agree that Judy Crafter, who hails from Childwell, Liverpool, is a good choice for No. 1 in our new series.

Standing an interesting 67 inches, with her remaining charming proportion falling into a cunningly arranged 37 in., 24 in., 37 in., Judy, neatly dressed in skirt and shirt, presents an eye-catching figure.

Table tennis runs in her family for her mother, father and brother all play a useful game, while Judy's own game is good enough to assist the Lancashire County second team. She is improving steadily and plans to quicken this progress by moving to London in about a year's time for more intensive practice.

Her other favourite sports include swimming and lawn tennis. She also enjoys dancing and pop music, which is to be expected from someone hailing from the land of the Mersey-beat.

Like most young ladies, Judy likes to handle money, and works in a bank as a machinist. That is the same as a bank clerk only more so.

I asked Judy if she had any comment to make on today's tournament conditions and her laughing reply was:

"I wish rubber could be banned."

She has a point there. The modern game is so different to the old classic style so why not hasten progress?

I also enquired if she had been photographed often and she tells me she has modelled for amateur photographers. I think readers will agree that whoever photographs her Judy is bound to look charming.

Well there's our No. 1. My roving camera will be around the tournaments. Will you be next on the list?

Footnote: While I cannot accept pleas from keen boy-friends or proud fathers,—the choice of subject is entirely my own—readers comments, good or bad will be welcome.