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Second Test

ENGLAND

VERSUS

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Featuring

ROSALIND and DIANE ROWE



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The Rowe Twins



ROSALIND (left) and DIANE (right) (Photo: Auckland Star)

In every sport are found names which for one reason or another capture the popular imagination, even though the reader may not be particularly interested in the sport concerned. For a sportsman to command popularity of that kind usually takes years, although it is occasionally done by some big achievement in the field of international sport. In Table Tennis, Rosalind and Diane Rowe are already on the "famous" list.

One might think that the fact that they are twins has a good deal to do with their popularity, but it is not so. Rosalind and Diane are popular because they have talent, fighting spirit, personality and charm.

They were born in London on April 14, 1933, Rosalind being the elder by twenty minutes. There are three other sisters in the Rowe family—Jean (29), Pauline (27), and Yvonne (24), all are married.

Rosalind (right-handed) and Diane (left-handed) began playing table tennis at the age of fourteen at a youth club, they then joined the strong West Ealing Table Tennis Club and immediately began making headlines. The sisters soon attracted the attention of Victor Barna, who took over their coaching when they joined him as members of the Middlesex team. They have been Middlesex County champions since 1947-48.

The twins have travelled extensively with tours of Sweden, France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Roumania and India. Between them they have represented England about thirty times. They have appeared on radio and television, and are in constant demand for exhibition matches.

At present Rosalind is No. 1 English ranked women player, and No. 4 world; Diane, No. 2 English, and No. 9 world. Rosalind has had victories against ex-world champions Farkas (Hungary), Pritzi (Austria); English open title-holder, Werthl (Austria) and Elliott Chapman, of Scotland. Diane, among other top-ranking players, has beaten Pritzi and Werthl. Up to this season Rosalind has had a slight edge on her sister, but there is now little to choose between them.

In doubles, for which the twins are better known, they won the world's women's title in 1951, and were runners-up to the Japanese pair last year. They have held the English open doubles title ever since their capture of it in 1950; won the French two years running; the Dutch in 1952, and this year have taken both the Austrian and Yugoslav open championships, and were runners-up in the world title.

In mixed championships, Rosalind won the French twice, with Aubrey Simons (1951), and Brian Kennedy (1952). With Victor Barna she was a semi-finalist in the world's title at Bombay and in the English at Wembley, where Diane won the final partnered by Johnny Leach. Diane and Leach were mixed doubles winners this year in the Austrian and Yugoslav championships, were world's semi-finalists in Vienna in 1951, and finalists at Bombay in 1952. Diane and Rene Roothoof (France) won the Dutch title last year.

Technically there is not a great deal of similarity in the game they play, except that they both prefer forehand to backhand shots. Both girls have a hard chop, but whereas Rosalind does not like to move far away from the table, Diane shows a liking for deep defence.

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Event
No.

Programme

1. ROSALIND ROWE (Capt.) v. J. M. WILLIAMSON

Winner Scores
(Umpire: W. J. Backhouse)

2. DIANE ROWE v. M. M. HOAR (Capt.)

Winner Scores
(Umpire: K. C. Duns)

3. ROSALIND and DIANE ROWE v.
M. M. HOAR and J. M. WILLIAMSON

Winner Scores
(Umpire: R. C. Hulston)

4. ROSALIND ROWE v. M. M. HOAR

Winner Scores
(Umpire: L. J. Anderson)

5. DIANE ROWE v. J. M. WILLIAMSON

Winner Scores
(Umpire: A. B. McCallum)

6. EXHIBITION—
ROSALIND ROWE v. DIANE ROWE

Winner Scores
(Umpire: V. N. Brightwell)

ALL MATCHES WILL BE THE BEST OF THREE GAMES
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CONTEST MANAGER: A. B. McCALLUM

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Margaret Hoar (AUCKLAND)

The 1948 New Zealand Championships at Dunedin saw a little-known Masterton girl, Margaret Hoar, emerge as a national figure in table tennis, for her steady defensive play earned for her both the Girls' Singles (under 18), and the Women's Singles titles. Evidence that she has maintained the high standard of play she revealed at that tournament is the fact that she again captured the New Zealand singles title in 1949, 1950 and 1952, while in 1951 she was runner-up to her team-mate in tonight's test match, Joyce Williamson.

As a doubles player, too, Margaret has proved to be in the top flight, for she has won the New Zealand Women's Doubles and

Mixed Doubles Championships on four and three occasions respectively. Her record of eleven open national titles in five seasons will be difficult to surpass. She has already represented Wairarapa, Wellington and Auckland, but yesterday's test match at Dunedin was the first occasion she has had the opportunity of representing New Zealand.

The foundation of Margaret's success is her adherence to a policy of a patient, accurate defence—coupled with correct footwork, remarkable anticipation and an exceptional match temperament.



Joyce Williamson (CANTERBURY)

In the Canterbury Table Tennis Association's competitions of 1948 a 13-year-old girl, Joyce Williamson, attracted the attention of critics by her aggressive play, and a bright future in the game was predicted for her. Her success was, however, more immediate than could reasonably be anticipated, for in the following year at the age of 14 she won the Canterbury Women's Singles Championship. Developing her game to a remarkable degree, Joyce secured her greatest success in 1951 when she won the New Zealand singles and doubles titles at the age of 16. Her successes in open, grade and handicap tournaments are too numerous to mention, but so far



she has won only the above two national titles.

Forsaking the New Zealand Championships last season in favour of the Australian Championships at Hobart, Joyce confirmed the high standard of her play by going down only narrowly in the third game in the final of the women's singles to Dora Beregi, a former world doubles champion.

Now 18 years of age, Joyce is still a young player, but she has had a wealth of experience and is probably the most promising woman player New Zealand has produced. A close student of the game, she spends long hours in serious practice. Although naturally an attacking player, she is fully equipped with all the orthodox strokes, but a large measure of her success can be attributed to her nimble footwork and her remarkable sense of anticipation.

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Did You Know ?

The highly developed modern game of table tennis that spectators will enjoy tonight bears only a token resemblance to the parlour game that had its origin about 72 years ago and was played with make-shift equipment, such as cigar-box lids for bats, champagne corks for balls, and a row of books for a net. With the logical introduction of wooden bats and celluloid balls, the game after the turn of the century became the craze of England and the Continent, but—as with all passing fashions—it was short-lived. The end of World War I saw a revival of table tennis, accompanied by the development of strokes along scientific lines as a consequence of the introduction of rubber-covered bats, and the emergence of the game as a thrilling spectator sport.

Although the fundamentals of table tennis are obvious to everyone, the following facts may assist the uninitiated spectator in a greater appreciation of the game:

- (1) The table measures 9ft. by 5ft. and its surface is 2ft. 6ins. from the floor.
- (2) The net is 6ins. high and projects 6ins. beyond the sides of the table.
- (3) In service the ball must first touch the server's end of the table.
- (4) Only one service is allowed—not two as in lawn tennis.
- (5) Service alternates every five points until a score of twenty-all is reached, when it starts alternating after every point.
- (6) A game is won by the player who first wins 21 points, but if both players have scored 20 points the game is won by the player who first scores two points more than the opposing player. (The term "set" is not used in table tennis.)
- (7) The players change ends after each game and, in the case of the deciding game of a match, at the score of 10.
- (8) The umpire first calls the score of the server.
- (9) The best of three or five games between two players or pairs constitutes a match. The matches in tonight's test match (or, more strictly, "contest") will be the best of three games.

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