



Friday Photos 89: Margaret Fry

Author: [Jamie Gordon](#)

Posted On: [November 04, 2016](#)

It must always be with great excitement that a player receives notification from the selectors that they have been called up to get their first England cap. In the days of letters and telegrams there is more material evidence to remember the occasion by and for Margaret Fry, (now Mrs Hiorns) this happened in 1951.

Margaret was an excellent female player who had achieved success in her home city of Bristol winning county honours. It was here she received her England letter when she was 23 years old. The following year Margaret moved to Middlesex and later played for that county too, quite an achievement considering the depth of talent there at the time.

As well as success in that first international where England defeated Scotland 9-0, Margret winning her singles 21-16, 21-16 and doubles with Diane Rowe 21-11, 21-14, she went on to play in two World Championships and several English Open and Closed Tournaments as well as the French Open in 1952.

However, Margaret was not only interested in the playing side of table tennis, she became a Member of the National Executive Committee, was National County Championships Secretary, a Junior and Senior Selection Committee Member and at county level became Middlesex CTTA County Umpires Secretary. At Local league level Margaret was a London Business Houses Table Tennis League Committee Member.

It was with much pleasure that, through Doreen Stannard, I have had Margaret's cuttings book passed on to me and I hope you enjoy the photographs and other material as much as I have done.

If anyone can add to the list of unknown players in the photographs then please contact me on DianeK1414@hotmail.co.uk



Margaret, left, with two other young players.



Margaret playing at the Metropolitan Open Table Tennis Championships, 7th January 1950.



Margaret, centre, with Diane and Rosalind Rowe taking a break at the West Ealing Club in London.



With
love - as ever
Diana

Margaret, centre, with Diane and Roslaine Rowe. Taken on 28th July 1951 in West Ealing and signed "With love – as ever, Diane".



Margaret at the English Open Championships, Wembley.



Margaret, left, with Diane Rowe.



An action shot of Margaret.



A happy bunch with Margaret second left, back row. Fourth from the left is Laurie Landry and Lesley Bell is on the

right at the front.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

(AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION)

PATRON: HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

INTERNATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE.

President :
H. OLDROYD, Esq.
"Wellyn," Carr Brow,
High Lane, nr. Stockport

Chairman :
HON. IVOR MONTAGU,
"Knowle," Bucks Hill,
Kings Langley, Herts.



Hon Treasurer :
A. K. VINT,
69a, St. Helens Park Road,
Hastings.

Hon. General Secretary :

214, Grand Buildings,
Trafalgar Square,
London, W.C.2
Phone: Trafalgar 2165
Telegraphic Address :
ETABTENNIS, RAND.

68, Gloucester Road,
New Barnet, Herts.
7th. December 1951.

Miss M. Fry,
83, Belmont Road,
Bristol 6.

Dear Margaret,

Confirming our talks on Tuesday last :-

1. You have been selected to play for England against Scotland, match to be played at the St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on Monday, 17th. December, 1951.
2. You are invited to play in the International trials, at the Prince of Wales Baths, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, London, N.W.5, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 15th. December, 1951.
3. You have been entered in all events at the Central London Open Championships, and will be playing on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and (maybe!) evening.

In connection with all those, Mrs. Pegg is purchasing a round ticket for you, Bristol/London/Glasgow/Bristol, and this will be sent to you Monday, together with International Badge, and shirt if that has arrived. I have arranged accommodation for you on Friday and Saturday night at The Central House Hotel, 44, Cartwright Gardens, London, W.C.1. (Peggy Allen's) and also booked a sleeper on the Night Scot on Sunday evening, arriving in Glasgow early Monday morning.

Perhaps you will confirm that this is all in order with you,

Congratulating you upon your selection,

Yours sincerely,

(Hon. Secretary)

Letter from the Selection Committee dated 7th December 1951.

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Hon. General Secretary :

214, Grand Buildings,
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London, W.C.2
'Phone: Trafalgar 2165
Telegraphic Address :
ETABTENNIS, RAND.

10th December, 1951.

Dear Margaret,

Scotland v England - Glasgow.
17th December. 1951.

I understand that you have been selected to take part in the above match, and would like to offer my sincere congratulations.

An International badge is enclosed herewith and a shirt is being sent direct to you, and I trust will reach you safely. I understand that the players will be staying at the Beresford Hotel, and the match takes place at the St. Andrews Hall. I understand that you will be travelling to Glasgow via London, and I enclose herewith your ticket together with ticket for the sleeper. The train leaves muston at 9.25.p.m. Sunday night 16th December, arriving Glasgow 7.20a.m. 17th December. It would appear that it would be better for you to come back to Bristol direct from Glasgow as follows:- Glasgow Central 9.30.a.m. 18th December arrives Birmingham New Street Station 4.50.p.m. depart Birmingham 6.9.p.m. arrive Bristol 8.27.p.m. you will realise of course that you must not give up your ticket when you reach London from Bristol.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Egg
Administrative Secretary.

Miss M. Fry,
83, Belmont Road,
Bristol. 6.

10 am - 6 pm custom

Letter from the ETTA giving information and details of travel arrangements, an overnight sleeper!

ESSEX COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

(AFFILIATED TO THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION)

President and Chairman :

C. CORTI WOODCOCK, Esq., Theydon Croft, Epping, Essex.

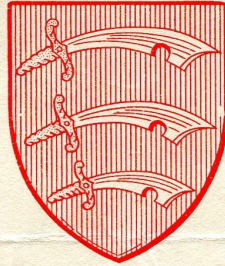
Hon. Treasurer :

ARTHUR W. PICKFORD,
126 Lansdowne Road,
Seven Kings, Essex.

Hon. Match Secretary :

Miss E. AINSWORTH,
36 New Street,
Chelmsford, Essex.

Chelmsford 2331



Vice-Chairman :

ALAN C. MURPHY,
35 Belmont Road,
Grays, Essex.

Hon. General Secretary :

HARRY WALKER,
80 Derham Gardens,
Upminster, Essex.

Upminster 4031



Miss M. G. Fry,
83, Belmont Road,
Bristol.6.

December 6th. 1951.

Dear Margaret,

Almost simultaneously with the official notification from E.T.T.A. Headquarters, I spotted a paragraph in "The Evening Standard" this afternoon (cutting attached) announcing the team to play Scotland - with the glad tidings that you are now an international player.

Knowing you, and how hard you have worked and practised, I hasten to tell you how delighted I am that this honour has come your way: and that I am sure you will justify your selection up to the hilt, and beyond.

With my warmest congratulations and best wishes for a highly successful international career,

Very sincerely yours,

Corti Woodcock
Corti Woodcock.

A delightful letter of congratulation from Corti Woodcock, President and Chairman of Essex County TTA and former ETТА Chairman.



A 'Good Luck' telegram from Mum and Dad.

Charges to pay

s. d.

RECEIVED

BF ST



OFFICE

No. 747
OFFICE STAMP

TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

At 6:37 p.m.

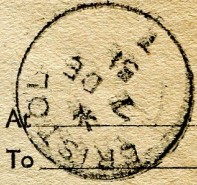
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From

BF A 6286 6:27 BEDFORD 31

By

To
By



MARGARET FRY 83 BELMONT ROAD BRISTOL - 6

MY BOUQUET FADED BY WAITING. SINCERE

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS AND VERY BEST WISHES

ON WELL MERITED HONOUR. STOP. THE PEERAGE

F. BRIGHTER FOR YOUR COMPANY = LESLIE WOOLLARD + or C
at office or agent possible, the envelope. C

+ + ~~83 6~~ LESLIE WOOLLARD

G.N.P. Co. Ltd. 51-7829 200 M Pads. 3/47

A congratulatory telegram from Leslie Woollard, a member of the Executive Committee and ETTA Archivist.

My notes

[Handwritten signature]

Scottish Table Tennis Association

PROGRAMME

SCOTLAND

versus

ENGLAND

International Table Tennis Match

ST. ANDREW'S HALLS, GLASGOW

MONDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 1951

at 7 p.m.

Ronald Stoman

Walter Galt

Quincy Brown

Ken Stanley

Mina Josephson

Alan Elliott

Ken Baker

Monty and Emlen

Jackie Board

Chairman—R. W. STEWART

Price - Sixpence

8

5

7

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A signed programme from the match between England and Scotland, 17th December 1951.

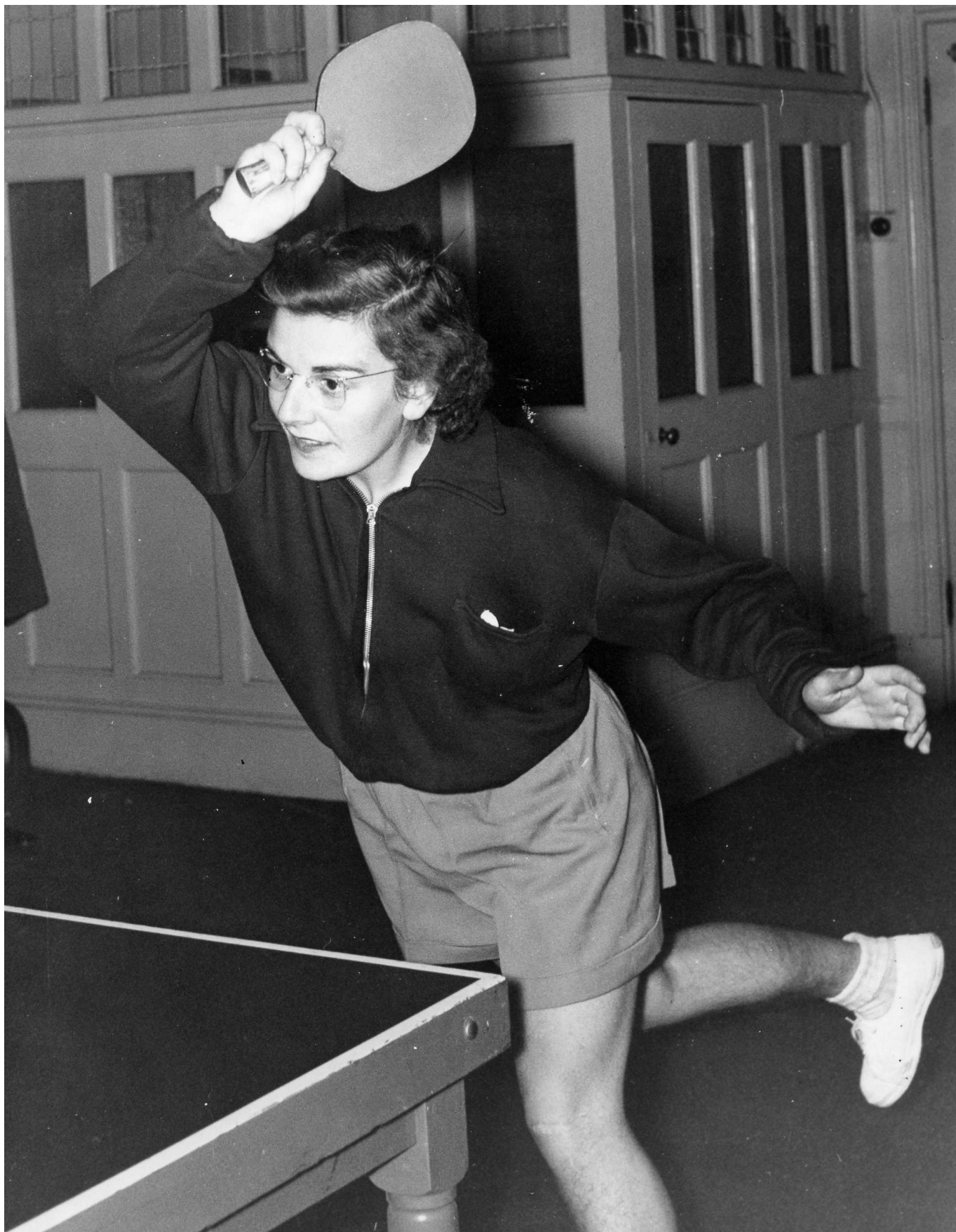


Margaret Fry, Diane Rowe, Brian Kennedy, Rosalind Rowe in Paris for the French Open Championships, 8th
January 1952.

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Margaret with an array of trophies won in one season in the North Acton League.



A further action shot.



A group photo with Margaret on the third row, second right. Also in the picture are Lesley Bell, Christine Holes, Beverley Sayer, Brian Hill, Laurie Landry, Denis Neale, Mike Symonds and David Stanley who have all signed the photograph on the back. It is marked on the back Malente, January 1962.



Margaret on the National Executive Committee.

Look out for the next feature on 2nd December the first Friday of that month.

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