

Table

The OFFICIAL ORGAN of the E.T.T.A.

Tennis

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FEBRUARY, 1936.

ONE PENNY.

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

His Majesty and the E.T.T.A.

Table Tennis followers will be interested in the text of telegrams exchanged between His Majesty King Edward VIII and the English Table Tennis Association.

**H.M. The King,
Buckingham Palace.**

The General Council and 40,000 members of the English Table Tennis Association respectfully desire to convey an expression of profound sympathy on the passing of His Late Majesty, whose example as Gentleman and Sportsman has for ever been an inspiration. The Table Tennis community shares deeply in the universal sorrow.

**Woodcock,
Chairman, E.T.T.A.**

* * *

Chairman, E.T.T.A.,

The King is touched by your kind message of sympathy, and will be glad if you will express his sincere thanks to all who joined in it.

Private Secretary.

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It is also desired to place on record the receipt of messages of condolence from our friends of the French and Belgian Table Tennis Associations.

'National' Reflections.

SEASON by season, table tennis builds new records. Last February, the World Championships, played at the Imperial Institute and at Wembley, set a hundred-thousand tongues a-wagging. The great crowds of spectators were electrified, the national press treated it, and rightly, as a sporting occasion of outstanding importance. Now we are on the point of deciding the English Championship, a title which ranks second only to the World's. This event will see yet another record established, for in addition to those who will wish to see the preliminary rounds at Paddington, there is no question that the Empress Stadium will have its very walls bulging on finals night, February 8th. Playing conditions will be of the very best and every one of the 7,000 spectators is guaranteed not only a comfortable seat in a very beautiful, easily reached building, but a perfect view of the ball. A microphone is to be installed under the table (so that he who sits may hear as well as see): and for him who sits at home, it is expected that the B.B.C. will arrange to provide a running commentary.

With an abnormal entry from the cracks of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, Austria and France, foreign opposition is stronger than ever. Though a compliment to London, the blessing is a rather mixed one, for since Percy Bromfield wore the crown in 1924, no Englishman has won the National Championship. Perry, Bull, Haydon, Jones—all have tried over and over again, and failed. This year certainly, our own people will make a great effort to hold off this very powerful Continental challenge. But Barna is known to have a special regard for his English title and it must be admitted that Miss Osborne will need all the help she can get to send such as Kettnerova and Krebsbach empty away.

It may be news to some of our readers that the English Table Tennis Association refuses to flirt with the "professional" question. It states, simply and clearly, that it recognises only the term "player." In table tennis, there are no such figures as amateurs and professionals, and all players, whether they are paid or not, are treated alike, just as they treat each other alike—as sportsmen, playing for the love of the game. The ruling is a new one, but we think, a wise and broad-minded one: and it cannot but redound not only to the credit of organised table tennis, but to the unrestrained pleasure of the vast army of players who comprise it.

During the last few weeks, England has met her neighbours, Wales and the Irish Free State, the former in London, the I.F.S. at Dublin. Wales surprised us at Cardiff last year, so it became necessary to roll our sleeves well up this time. The avenging score turned out to be 8—1, but though the win looks clear-cut enough, it meant hard play, for our friends from beyond the Severn never let up from the first point to the last. The Irish match gave us our usual comfortable win, to say nothing of the usual delightful week-end of our team at the hands of richly hospitable hosts. The result in this case was 10—1, but it is now increasingly evident that with growing experience, Ireland will soon be a force to be reckoned with in international table tennis.

Although the "Barna Tour," covering 17 towns and over 2,000 miles, finished as recently as December 19th, already there is an outcry for more. So another tour will be commenced immediately after the National Championships, and once again will many centres throughout the country have the opportunity of seeing the "Three (Hungarian) Musketeers" in action.

(Continued overleaf.)

From the Secretary's Chair.

Featherstone House,
64, High Holborn,
London, W.C. 1.
Phone: Holborn 9544.

New Affiliations.

Since the last circular, three new Leagues have affiliated to the Association. I am particularly pleased to see that one is at Willesden—a "black-spot" in London so far as table tennis is concerned. The others are the N.A.L.G.O. (Metropolitan District) and the Evesham and District.

The General Council Meeting.

In an organisation such as ours, it is essential that the Executive Committee should get into touch with the members of affiliated Leagues as often as possible, not only to hear the views of the various districts, but also to explain the difficulties at Headquarters. The meeting on January 18th, was of particular value and there was an exchange of views which cannot help but be beneficial to all concerned in the Association's welfare. Delegates attended from so far away as Blackpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Hull in the North, Salisbury, Swindon and Bath in the West, Northampton and Birmingham from the Midlands, Brighton Hastings, Sittingbourne, Chelmsford, Southend and many of the London Leagues. The general question of future organisation, the Magazine, the National and World Championships and the future of the game was exhaustively discussed and, whilst the resolutions will be circulated in due course, it can be said here that the new importance of the game following the success of the World Championships, was the chief theme and that all delegates accepted the point of view that a new forward move depends upon the success of the work of the E.T.T.A. which, in turn, depends upon the support given by each League to the National Body.

(Continued in column 2.)

'National' Reflections—(cont. from p. 1).

In London, too, popular interest continues to be enterprisingly catered for by the great dailies. The *Star* tournament for the Home Counties has got its 5,000 entries down to more manageable proportions and the Finals will probably be played in March. On January 3rd, the *Daily Express* organised a special demonstration of table tennis in their own theatre, and Barna, Haydon, Sears and Findon performed to the manifest delight of an overcrowded audience. Now the *News Chronicle* have announced the publication of a series of 12 lessons by Haydon, commencing on 30th January, and we hear that the *Daily Mail* is likely to follow suit—Barna's name is mentioned.

We have always felt that the sporting community wish to play table tennis, to watch it, to read about it: and no one can say it is neglected now, having regard to the E.T.T.A. programme and to the very welcome co-operation of the national press.

The National Championships.

Particulars of the National Championships will be found in other columns of the Magazine. From the "Secretary's Chair" in this column, however, I want to appeal to all our membership to take part in the effort to make the events a great success. First—the distribution and selling of tickets. We have no highly financed organisation to sell tickets. Every "fan" must do his or her share in this direction. Secondly—we have posters and leaflets for distribution and depend upon our members to handle these. If you have a site for a poster, ring up Holborn 9544—if you can profitably distribute leaflets they are available, as many as you like. Next, we want umpires at Paddington Baths. Every experienced umpire should write to me at 64, High Holborn, W.C. 1, giving definite times. We want stewards for Paddington and Earl's Court. "A volunteer is worth two pressed men," and it is our pride that table tennis is run by enthusiasts, keen on the sport. Send your name and address immediately.

The Tour of Foreign Players.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee a further tour by Barna, Szabados and Bellak was sanctioned—to follow the National Championships on February 8th. Many Leagues were disappointed at not being able to book them in December and, now that the players have agreed to stay, they can be accommodated. Portsmouth, Swindon, Blackpool, Dublin, Stockport, Grimsby, Hanley and Barking have already fixed up, and at the time of writing it seems likely that Norwich, Middlesbrough, Hendon, Ealing, and perhaps Leicester and Sheffield, will be included.

The Wilmott Cup.

For a variety of reasons, but chiefly the re-organisation of the Rules which were found last season to be unsatisfactory, there has been considerable delay in starting this National Inter-League Competition. At the General Meeting, the question was raised as to whether it should not be allowed to lapse this season in view of the heavy programme, but after discussion, instructions were given to the Executive Committee to proceed at once. Particulars will be in the hands of League Secretaries very shortly and it is hoped that all Leagues will take part.

The Official Handbook.

Sales of the current handbook are disappointing. Its use is not generally appreciated—it is the only publication which contains the Constitution and Rules of the Association. It is the only publication which contains the records of the Winners of all Championships, and the Fixture List for 1935-36. It contains a list of all Clubs throughout the country, with the names and addresses of the Secretaries and should be on sale at every Tournament, League and Representative match. To those who are faced with friends who still talk about "Ping-Pong" it is the convincing reply. Show them our Handbook with details of the 130 Leagues and membership of over 30,000 individuals. Price 1s. 3d., post free. Send at once. Leagues can have supplies "on sale or return."

England Win International in Dublin 10-1.

By A. J. WILMOTT.

Before an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 500, at the Catholic Commercial Club, Dublin, on 18th January, England defeated the Irish Free State by 10 matches to 1. For the first time in Ireland, the accommodation was insufficient, nearly 200 being turned away from the doors. Those more fortunate witnessed a good match, for six of the eleven events went to three games and England only scored 90 points more than their opponents in 28 games and a wide variety of styles well exhibited the possibilities of the game.

In the opening match, Drum astonished his compatriots by attacking throughout, instead of playing his usual defensive game, and though his hitting was not severe, his unusual side spin troubled Wilmott, who failed to produce his normal game against it, and having lost the first game continued to play cautiously to win the next two. Miss Newey's fine attacking shots were much applauded, but Miss Healy's steady L volley defence, ultimately produced overhitting and a close match was just lost in the fluctuating third game.

Some uncontrolled hitting lost Silto and Wilmott their second game, but they took care to win the third. In the fourth match playing order produced an easy game to each side, but Miss Newey and Mrs. Booker went from 10 all to 20—11 in the third and then gave the audience a thrill by losing the next five points.

Davies followed Drum's example and attacked throughout, playing exhibition table tennis in the most confident style, his severe backhand kills particularly delighting the crowd.

The hopes aroused by their early success faded away into a result which does not reflect the closeness of several of the matches.

The popular Lord Mayor of Dublin put in an appearance early in the match, and witnessed the only Free State victory.

Details:—

SINGLES.

A. J. Wilmott (E.) beat J. Drum (F.S.), 18—21, 21—18, 21—14.

C. W. Davies (E.) beat J. Hussey (F.S.), 21—12, 21—11.

J. Silto (E.) beat C. A. Kemp (F.S.), 21—8, 21—15.

N. Litten (E.) beat D. J. S. Bonyne (F.S.), 21—15, 22—20.

Miss D. Newey (E.) lost to Miss R. Healy (F.S.), 22—24, 22—20, 18—21.

Mrs. F. Booker (E.) beat Miss E. Yeates (F.S.), 21—10, 21—11.

DOUBLES.

Silto and Wilmott (E.) beat Hussey and Bonyne (F.S.), 21—14, 18—21, 21—16.

Davies and Litten (E.) beat Drum and Kemp (F.S.), 21—15, 21—18.

Miss Newey and Mrs. Booker (E.) beat Misses Healy and Yeates (F.S.), 13—21, 21—12, 21—16.

Davies and Miss Newey (E.) beat Hussey and Miss Yeates (F.S.), 13—21, 21—18, 21—19.

Silto and Mrs. Booker (E.) beat Kemp and Miss Healy (F.S.), 21—19, 19—21, 22—20.

Wales Beaten 8-1.

By "Roving Reporter."

Nearly 500 people, amongst whom was a large and enthusiastic Welsh contingent, watched the strong English team thoroughly trounce Wales' best by 8 matches to 1 in the fourteenth annual International Table Tennis match between the two countries, held at the Young Wales Club, on the evening of Saturday, January 11th.

Ken Hyde (Liverpool) opened the match for England against D. J. Thomas (Ogmore Vale). The Liverpool player's forehand hitting to all parts of the table was much appreciated by the spectators, and despite all Thomas's energetic retrieving, England drew first blood, Hyde winning by 21-15, 21-12.

The second match, T. E. Sears (London) v. T. Lisle (now of Birmingham), was a much more even affair and Lisle should have put Wales level as he won the first game 21-16 and led 19-16 in the second. However, he faltered when within reach of victory. Sears recovered and won the game 21-19. Again in the third game, Lisle had his opponent "groggy," and led 8-2, but Sears fought back valiantly and found something of his best form in the later stages of the match, to run out a good winner 21-15.

A well-known Manchester Doubles combination (H. Lurie and F. Cromwell) recorded a "two straight" victory for England, against R. Baglow (Newport) and H. Needles (Giffach), although Lurie's mistakes on Baglow's clever spin services made the second game go to 20 all before England's fourth successive victory was recorded.

The remarkable half-volleying ability of A. Lewis (Aberdare), coupled with an occasional "penholder" smash to his opponent's forehand side of the table, enabled him to record Wales's first victory. Marshall's usual spectacular smashes were quite excluded from this game and seldom has the big American been so tied up.

A Doubles match next. K. Hyde and Profitt v. R. Samuel and D. Thomas. England's pair were far superior all round, and won by 21-18, 21-16.

Bergl's combination of well-placed defensive strokes and sudden bursts of hard-hitting, completely upset Baglow's flow of top spins and England easily took the first game at 21-14. Bergl started a little over-confidently in the second game and although he drew level at 13 all, his concentration seemed disturbed by a wasp flitting round the lights and Baglow levelled matters at 21-16. Bergl took the third game and the match, at 21-17, without very much difficulty.

S. Profitt had a rather easy win over J. Plaister, a new Welsh "badge," although the score reached 19 all in the second game.

Sears and Haydon (one of England's best attacking pairs) defeated T. Lisle and Ivor Thomas (Rhondda), after an exciting opening game, by 24-22, 21-16.

The last match was interesting as providing many Londoners with their first view of the 1935/36 Lurie. Lurie, more than ever, deserves the title of "the English Barna," his formidable backhand flick completely subduing L. Samuel (Aberdare), the Englishman winning by 21-18, 21-9.



Famous Players Interviewed.

No. 3: M. W. B. BERGL.

Maurice Bergl, England's No. 3 ranked player, already winner of three Open Tournaments this season, finalist in the English Championship in 1934 and ex Junior Lawn Tennis Champion of Middlesex, was interviewed by our "Roving Reporter" at the England v. Wales match.

Some of Bergl's replies to questions on controversial table tennis points, may give readers much food for thought:—

R.R.: "How long have you been playing serious table tennis?"

Bergl: "Six years."

R.R.: "What is the secret of your success?"

Bergl: "(1) Playing in a lot of tournaments. (2) Good defence."

R.R.: "What is your advice to a beginner anxious to become a good player?"

Bergl: "Don't get discouraged by defeats. Cultivate good defence."

R.R.: "What was your greatest table-tennis thrill?"

Bergl: "Reaching the final of the Middlesex Doubles Championships in 1929."

R.R.: "Should players train for table tennis?"

Bergl: "Do not train unless you enjoy it!"

R.R.: "What are your views on the 'paid player' idea?"

Bergl: "Players should definitely be paid for playing in exhibition matches."

R.R.: "How does table tennis compare with lawn tennis, as a game?"

Bergl: "It is difficult to compare the two, as table tennis is only seriously played on winter evenings, whereas lawn tennis is played during the summer. The main theory and strokes are the same in both games."

R.R.: "What is the way to cure dull play in tournament finals?"

Bergl: "Allow volleying."

THE SUSSEX CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Owing to the original date clashing with that approved for the Surrey Championship, it has now been decided to postpone the Sussex Open until 4th and 5th April. It is hoped that last year's record entry will be exceeded this season, for Hastings is steadily building for itself a big reputation among the leading players, with its friendly atmosphere and "slick" organisation. All communications and entries should be sent to the Tournament Secretary, Mr. D. V. Hills, 39, Havelock Road, Hastings.

THE LADIES' COLUMN.

By Mrs. H. M. BUNBURY.

Since the publication of the second number of the Official Magazine, we have received some very interesting correspondence from women players and those interested in the women's side of the game. We are always delighted to hear from correspondents expressing their own view-point—the more the merrier.

Mr. Bennett, of Grimsby, tells us that Miss Piercey, playing in the Grimsby League, played in twenty league matches without defeat—eighty rubbers—and won the Ladies' Individual Championship, and the Y.M.C.A. Ladies' Championship. Her unbeaten League record came to an end this season in her twenty-ninth successive match. I wonder if this is a record?

Another correspondent has written expressing rather strong views regarding the sports clothes worn by women table tennis players in our tournaments. Now I would like to say a few words on the subject of women's dress. I wonder how often rule 22 in the E.T.T.A. Handbook is broken, as it is, quite frequently, in my own experience of tournaments. The reason for this rule is quite obvious and should be known by all players. Pale or dazzling colours form a background which tends to unsight your opponent. Apart from colour there is far too much diversity of style. At a big tournament I attended some time ago, the women's dress resembled a fashion parade, rather than a sports meeting. Short skirts, long skirts, shorts and divided skirts were all on view, to say nothing of a multiplicity of jumpers, pull-overs and blouses of all the colours of the rainbow. And even the rainbow couldn't boast of some of the checks, tartans and what-not that appeared on the scene. The Referee should have had a busy time dealing with complaints. It is the duty of opponents to complain under such circumstances. Rule 22 was not drafted to be winked at. The men looked much more sportsmanlike in dress, although it must be admitted they have an easier task. There is no necessity to become uniform, but I think it is high time that the women in our tournaments adopted a more or less regulation style. Long enough ago the E.T.T.A. insisted on a regulation dress for the men players in the Swaythling Cup matches. The International Competition for the Corbillon Cup which, as you know, is the women's counterpart of the Swaythling Cup, gave rise to similar questions of dress, and the E.T.T.A. have now made regulation dress for this International event compulsory. Whilst not suggesting that women table tennis players throughout the country should look like so many peas in a pod, the lead given by the English authorities should be followed as nearly as possible.

I am sure it will be of interest to women to know that in the new Robert Donat film "The Ghost Goes West," showing at the Leicester Square Theatre, there is a charming little scene of Jean Parker playing table tennis on board ship. Her sports costume will be greatly admired, although hardly suitable for some of our club rooms in winter!

Now that the English Championships are nearly upon us, I should like, on behalf of the English women table tennis players, to extend a very hearty welcome to our women visitors from abroad.

Table BADMINTON.

By E. E. NATALI.

[We publish this article from the pen of the inventor of table badminton in consideration of the fact that this new game is not unrelated to table tennis. A prominent E.T.T.A. official has given it a trial and finds that shuttlecock manipulation does offer certain scope. The game is by no means without merits of its own as regards speed and skill; and those who have versatile tendencies are recommended to investigate for themselves the possibilities of table badminton. Additional particulars appear elsewhere in this issue.—EDITOR.]

For many years table tennis has occupied a unique position as being the only game of its type—the only really strenuous indoor game, one is always tempted to say: but since badminton and squash are essentially indoor games, this description is hardly accurate. However, these two games require special and rather large-sized courts, and so one might perhaps be permitted to describe table tennis as the only strenuous indoor game for indoors.

Monopolies, we are told, are to be regarded as the enemies of progress, and it speaks volumes for the energy and enthusiasm of both the organizers and the players of table tennis that the game, while occupying such an exceptional position, has made such tremendous headway, and developed as it has into a national and international sport.

Still, it was surely to be regarded as inevitable and probably by no means undesirable also, that sooner or later something else would come along qualified to take its place alongside table tennis as another strenuous and exacting indoor sport. This companion has now made its appearance in the form of table badminton.

It is a big claim to make, and certainly a big claim to make to the devotees of table tennis—that here is something worthy to rank with the game of which they think so much. But that the claim is justified is upheld, not only by the sports writers, but by members of the sporting world in general.

That table badminton should be regarded as a rival to table tennis no one would wish or suggest. In an age when sport and physical fitness are at a premium, there is surely ample room for both games. Clifford Webb, writing on the subject in the *Daily Herald*, summed up this aspect of the matter excellently when he said, "There is no question of any rivalry between the two games. Each has something the other hasn't got."

Table badminton is played on the same nine by five table as table tennis, though since the shuttlecock is hit in flight and not allowed to bounce, the table is used as a court rather than as an actual playing surface. As the shuttle is "out" when once it has passed the boundaries of the table, the playing space required is less than for table tennis, and that is definitely a point to be remembered in those places where the available space won't allow you that extra bit of run-back.

Just as in badminton compared with tennis, the shuttlecock in table badminton needs to be hit harder than does the ball in table tennis, even though the shuttlecock actually travels more slowly. This slower flight, however, by no means indicates a slower

game, because whereas the table tennis ball frequently travels twenty-five feet or more between successive strokes, the table badminton shuttlecock never travels more than nine to ten feet. In fact this much shorter flight makes the sequence of strokes in table badminton more rapid than the sequence of strokes in table tennis.

The necessity for a player to be able to reach right up to the net for the close drop-shots, makes a long racket necessary for table badminton and it is to some extent this long handled racket, coupled with the fast sequence of strokes, which creates for the game a technique of its own. A change from forehand to backhand for instance, calls for a very quick action, particularly as if properly done, it necessitates not only the arm movement, but a change of feet also. Footwork is constantly called into play, too, to keep the player from the primary fault of getting too close to the shuttle, and altogether there is obviously plenty of scope for the development of technique and of individual styles of play.

Is table badminton going to spoil my table tennis? is the very natural question asked by some table tennis players. Having expended a good deal of time, energy and patience in getting their hand in at table tennis, they quite rightly feel reluctant to spend a good deal more time, energy and patience in putting it out again, in order, mixing up the metaphors a little, to fall between two stools. Now, while one cannot guarantee that there will not be individual cases where one's play is affected, it is perfectly safe to say that the two games are, in actual practice, sufficiently dissimilar not to affect each other in this way. We have gone to some lengths to verify this, both by playing table tennis after a long spell of table badminton, and also by playing the two games alternatively in quick succession. In both cases we were able to bear out the contention of non-interference. Indeed, there seems to be no reason whatever to think that the table tennis enthusiast need look upon table badminton with any more apprehension than he looks upon tennis or cricket or football and it does not seem unreasonable to think that one's table tennis may very well benefit from a game that calls for judgment, quickness of hand and eye, and suppleness of wrist.

You are perhaps aware that every fond mother thinks the baby she herself has brought into the world to be exceptionally fine and deserving of universal attention and approval. Perhaps I, as the proud father of table badminton, will be accused of feeling the same way about my offspring, but at the risk of this, I do assert that the game is worthy of your notice and consideration. Make a point of seeing it and above all of trying it, and then judge it on its merits.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I shall esteem it a favour if you will make a correction in your next issue of TABLE TENNIS.

On page five of Vol. 1, No. 1, it is stated that Exeter defeated Swindon for the first time in their history, on November 16th last, this is incorrect, the only time that Swindon have beaten us was in the first encounter at Swindon three years ago, it now stands four matches to one in our favour. Incidentally this is the only inter-town match that Exeter have lost during the last ten years, the only other teams to have defeated them, being the Comity Club, Bristol, and the London team comprising of Internationals. Considering that we play approximately twelve inter-town matches per season, this record is one to be proud of, at least we think so?

Many thanks in anticipation of correction.

Yours faithfully,

Exeter.

A. S. KING.

They Have Been Warned.

The Disciplinary Committee is keeping its eyes and ears open and has been in session three times during the last month. One important enquiry was in regard to affiliated players participating in an unauthorised tournament in London early in the season. Certain mitigating circumstances were taken into account, and letters of apology and explanation were received from the offenders, all of whom are well-known International Players. In the result the Committee decided to rest content with the administration of a sharp rebuke. It appears that the matter arose partly through a misunderstanding and that a sports company involved, subsequently dismissed one of their employees

Another case was that of an International who was charged with "behaviour inimical to the interests of table tennis," and he duly appeared before the Committee. Although in this instance, the verdict was a unanimous "guilty," a spirit of clemency once more prevailed. But the gentleman concerned now knows that any further reproaches as to his conduct, off the court as well as on it, will entail not suspension merely, but expulsion.

Southend Notes by A. Allen Rowlandson.

The Inter-League Match, Southend v. Chelmsford was played at the Alexandra Table Tennis Club on Friday, 3rd January, when the League of Southend was well represented. Southend were just able to obtain a victory by 9 games to 7, which was a good improvement on the Kursaal Table Tennis Exhibition on 14th December, when London beat Southend by 9 games to nil.

Southend had two Essex County Cricketers playing against them, namely, Mr. Reg. Taylor and Mr. Peter Smith, both members of the Chelmsford Table Tennis League.

Leeds Notes by A. S. Carr.

At the Yorkshire Championships held at Sheffield last Saturday, B. Hassan (Leeds and Yorkshire), the holder, again won the Men's Singles Event, defeating W. Atkinson (Leeds and Yorkshire), former holder, in the Final by 2 games to 0. Miss Stott (Leeds) lost in the Ladies' Final to Miss Croft, the Sheffield Champion, who won by 2 games to 0.

The Leeds League entered two teams in the Yorkshire T.T.A. Inter-League Competition, and both of these have reached the Semi-Final.

The Division leaders in the League are First Division, Oxford Place, No. 1, and Second Division the Cumberland Club, who are 4 points in front of the St. Clement's Club.

Exeter and District Notes by H. Kerslake.

Exeter and District Table Tennis League gained their sixth Inter-Town Tournament victory of the season against Swindon at the Y.M.C.A., Exeter, by 13 games to 12, the same score as Exeter beat their opponents at Swindon.

Their seventh victory of the season was gained at Bristol, on Saturday last, when they defeated the Bristol League at the Mardon Evening Club, by 16 games to 9.

Swindon Notes by D. A. Kethero.

Things are going with a swing here. We have just fixed up Barna, Szabados and Bellak, for February 11th, and are all looking forward to a big event. We are naturally "terribly bucked" at J. Silto being selected as England's Captain at Dublin, and feel that this honour is richly deserved.

Latest Tournament Results.

Record Entries Received for Edmonton and Essex "Opens."

SILTO BEATS PROFFITT 3-0 in Kent Championship Final.

The Kent Open Championships held at the Paget Halls, Gillingham, attracted a large entry from London and South of England players. J. Silto of Swindon was in brilliant form throughout the tournament and caused some surprise by his easy victory over Stanley Proffitt in the Men's Singles Final. The Swindon player won by 21-13, 22-20, 21-16.

J. Joyce reached the Semi-Final, but then succumbed to S. Proffitt, while Silto disposed of H. Jones in the other Semi-Final. T. E. Sears, the holder, after completely outgeneralling G. W. Marshall, was surprisingly beaten by H. Jones, a fine "pen-holder" attacking player.

S. Proffitt, assisted by L. J. Roberts, of Watford, won the Men's Doubles Championships. They beat a Swindon pair in J. Silto and C. Workman, by 3 games to 2, after a very exciting match. In the Mixed Doubles, Proffitt was again to the fore, winning with Miss D. Roberts, against the St. Alban's pair, K. Sewell and Miss G. Sewell, by 21-17, 19-21, 21-14.

Miss Dora Emdin won the Women's Singles title, easily accounting for Mrs. Sutton (better known as Miss Berry) in the Final.

Miss Hodgkinson (Lensbury), put up a good performance in taking Miss Emdin to 21-19, 21-19, in the Semi-Final.

MARSHALL SMASHES HIS WAY TO VICTORY IN EDMONTON TOURNAMENT.

The huge ball-room of the Regal Cinema, Edmonton, made an excellent Tournament Hall for the second annual Edmonton Championships, and 740 entries were secured for the nine events—surely a record for any District Table Tennis Tournament.

Naturally, even the resources of the Regal Cinema were taxed to the uttermost by the unexpectedly large number of entries for the various events and some of the competitors who travelled from outlying districts learned something about train and bus services in the North London area.

A knock-out tournament in all the "Open" events, with each match best of five games, was a welcome change from the group system in vogue at other London tournaments.

The Men's Singles title was won by G. W. Marshall, who proved to be in wonderful form, beating A. D. Brook (W. Ealing) by 21-12, 21-8, 18-21, 21-12, in the Semi-Final and M. Ayub by 20-22, 21-12, 21-14, 21-18 in the Final. The spectators were loud in their appreciation of Marshall's lusty hitting against two of the finest defensive players in the country. Seldom has Brook been made to look so ineffective as he was in the Semi-Final, when he was floundering vainly from side to side of the table trying to stun Marshall's engulfing flood of "winners." Ayub had a terrifically long match with Stanley Proffitt in the other Semi-Final before winning 22-20 in the fifth game.

The Men's Doubles was a triumph for G. J. Symons and H. Jones, both of the

Clapham Club, easily beating E. Reeve and R. Moreton (Croydon) by 3 games to 1.

The well-known Mixed Doubles partnership—N. K. Contractor and Miss D. M. Emdin—won the Mixed Doubles, but only just managed to defeat M. Ayub and Miss D. L. Emdin in a really sparkling final, by 14-21, 21-15, 24-22. C. E. Richards and Mrs. Hutchings played well to reach the Semi-Final and lost 21-19 in the third game to Ayub and Miss D. L. Emdin.

The sisters Emdin were again in opposition in the Women's Singles Final, and again Miss Dora Emdin was successful in two straight games this time.

Mrs. Brooker put up a fine fight in the Semi-Final, but lost a sternly contested third game to Miss Dora Emdin.

The tournament was indeed a personal triumph for the St. Alban's girl who also annexed the Women's Doubles event, in partnership with Miss V. Bromfield. They beat Mrs. Hutchings and Mrs. Law in the final by 22-20, 18-21, 21-18.

Mr. R. G. Hewitt, popular Chairman of the East London League, was a very capable Referee, although the magnitude of his task rendered his office by no means a sinecure.

The local Singles and the Novices events have not yet been decided.

HAYDON'S TRIUMPH IN ESSEX CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Thrilling Matches under perfect playing conditions.

Arthur Haydon, foremost English player, added yet another Championship Cup to his collection by winning the Essex "Open" at the East Ham Town Hall, London, last Saturday.

Haydon's path to victory was beset by E. Bubley, M. Ayub, T. E. Sears and finally G. W. Marshall.

Ernest Bubley, confidently expected by his friends to win the "Star" Singles Championship, found Haydon's shots altogether too speedy in the first game of their match which he lost 21-15, but the East Londoner, then began to trouble England's No. 1 player and in the second game, Bubley's angled half volleys coupled with his severely cut forehand chop stroke, caused many Haydon errors and Bubley won it 21-16.

Haydon celebrated his narrow escape from defeat in the first round by a most emphatic victory over M. Ayub (who beat him in a Swaythling Cup match last season) and then opposed T. E. Sears in the Semi-Final. This match was played at a tremendous speed. Haydon's hitting to all parts of the table was bewildering to his opponent at first and Sears was soon 16-9 down. Haydon reached 20-14. Hereabouts he tried to finish off the game spectacularly, but Sears quickly took advantage of his opponent's lapses and, amidst thunderous applause, drew up to 20 all. Haydon finished off the game 22-20. The second game saw Sears at his sparkling best, and he counter-attacked Haydon's top spins so effectively, that he won it 21-11. In the third and deciding game, Haydon was once more the master, smashing shots past Sears almost at will; 4-1, 8-4, 14-8, 16-9, 18-12 in Haydon's favour and was very

quickly shown on the electric score board, 20-12. Eight match points for Haydon. Again Sears fought back and reached 17-20, but the effort was too much for him and eventually a long distance attempt at counter hitting failed and England's No. 1 won at 21-17.

G. W. Marshall (Kingsway) reached his third successive Tournament Final by beating R. C. Dawson, L. Coward, H. J. Hales and J. Rogers. His path to the final was made easier by the failure of M. Bergl against the much improved S. Coles (Beckenham), who claims recent London League victories over Hales, Ayub and Proffitt, and the fact that Hales and Proffitt were drawn against one another. This time Hales turned the tables on his North London Tournament conqueror—21-19, in the third game.

Marshall soon beat Dawson and Coward and then gave a fine exhibition of attack to defeat Hales 2-0. This brought him to the Semi-Final, where he opposed J. Rogers, of his own Club. Rogers, who had beaten Coles 2-1, found Marshall just too fast for him and the American entered the final by winning 21-10, 23-25, 23-21.

An exciting Men's Singles Final was expected, but Haydon's attack was far too good for his opponent. Haydon won by 21-15, 21-5, 21-13.

A rather disappointing entry was received for the Women's Singles, Mrs. Booker was too steady in defence and too consistent with her forehand drive to allow Miss D. L. Emdin, her opponent in the Final much chance of victory, and she won by 21-14, 11-21, 21-9, 21-19.

In the Men's Doubles, Haydon and Sears met Proffitt and Ayub—very successful this season—in the Final.

In a match featured by much spectacular hitting and retrieving, Haydon and Sears triumphed by 21-11, 21-18, 19-21, 21-10.

The final of the Mixed Doubles, between H. J. Hales and Miss D. L. Emdin and S. Proffitt and Mrs. Booker, produced a very exciting match. The former pair had two match points in the fourth game, but lost it. They eventually won in the fifth at 21-18.

Mrs. Booker had some consolation for her Mixed Doubles defeat when she and Mrs. Law beat Miss Hodgkinson and Miss D. L. Emdin in the Women's Doubles Final.

The Men's Minor Singles was won by E. Bubley, who defeated E. Freer in the final with great ease, 21-6, 21-15.

The Tournament was staged in excellent fashion in the magnificent Winter Hall. Six tables were in use for the earlier rounds with more than ample run back and side room. The lighting and general arrangements for running the Tournament might well be taken as a model for other Tournament Executives to copy.

The Semi-Finals and Finals were played off on a 'Jaques' in the centre of the hall, and with the stop canvas right round the huge playing space, the ball boys waiting expectantly at each corner and the electric score board at the end of the hall, one was reminded of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Centre Court.

Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, E.T.T.A. Chairman, in his speech welcoming the Mayor of East Ham (who presented the cups and prizes), paid a glowing tribute to the fine work of the Tournament Committee and especially to Mr. Reginald Pratt, the Organiser.

News from the Provinces.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Ashton could not win one match against Manchester in the Inter-League. In the superior technique of the Manchester players lies the secret of this overwhelming defeat; the only bright spot being the fighting spirit of Beaumont, of Thornfield, who, in two matches, forced his opponent to the third game.

With more representative matches Ashton will undoubtedly improve, as the keenness is there.

Carlton are the only unbeaten League side at the completion of the first half of the programme.

BATH.

Since the great success of the Hungarians' visit the game at Bath is "looking up," and a record entry is expected for the Closed Singles and Doubles.

BOURNEMOUTH.

St. Michael's head the First Division of the Bournemouth League. In the Second, Christchurch Y.M.C.A. (promoted only last season) have jumped to the top of this table. In the Third, Boscombe St. Andrews have an unbeaten record and have won all seven matches.

In the Ladies' Division, Bournemouth Corinthians and the Ace of Clubs "B" are bracketed together, and there will be a proper "needle" match when these two opponents meet.

Gilbert, of the Y.M.C.A., has the best individual record, having won 27, lost 3, with Tucker a good second, won 29, lost 4.

BURNLEY.

Burnley beat Blackburn in the first Inter-League match between the two towns at Burnley. The score was 23-3. Alston, the Burnley captain, T. Smith and S. Astin won their five games; Chadwick, Betts and McNamee scored the games for the homesters.

Burnley will visit Blackpool for the next representative match and the team victorious at Blackburn has again been selected.

CHELMSFORD.

Tindal Sports top the Chelmsford League, having won 10 and lost 2 matches in the first half of the season. E.C.C. are close on their heels and there will be some interesting tussles before the end.

Marconi lead the Second Division, having played through without defeat.

DORSET.

Through the enterprise of the "fans" at the Dorchester Y.M.C.A., the first Dorset Open Championships will be held this season. Already entries have been received from London, Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Bournemouth and Bridport. The venue is the Drill Hall, Dorchester, and first-class conditions will be provided. Dorset is not a very strong table tennis county, and if an "Open" can be run there, it is an example to other counties to go and do likewise.

ILFORD.

A list showing percentages of wins in League matches has been issued. Harry Wearing, of Cranbrook Castle, is first (the only 100 per cent.), J. Pickard, of the same club, and S. Riches, of Brookside, tie for second place with 93.3 per cent. All the strongest clubs in the area have entered for the King George Hospital Competition and the entries have been closed with a total of 20 teams. Allenbury's Club are the holders and there will be some great matches, with their rivals, Faircross, Northbridge, Valentine's and Eton Manor hot on their track.

LIVERPOOL.

The usual activity characterises the opening of the second half of the season. Ennismore remain supreme in the First Division, and it is almost a certainty that this club will carry off the Championship.

By winning six successive matches Royal Liver now occupy second place, which Young Israel have held from the commencement of the season. Breckside Co-op. retain the leadership in Division II, and along with Falkland in second place, these clubs remain unbeaten.

Of forty-six regional teams only two retain unbeaten certificates, they are: Young Israel "A" and Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. "A," East and West leaders respectively. The third round matches in connection with the Readman Challenge Cup are now in progress. Oakhill's 6-4 sets win over Wembley (last season's runners-up) represents a Second Division gain over First. The inter-regional competition will be commenced this month. The North won last season, but it is expected that the West will triumph this season. Mr. G. B. Hyde, a Vice-President of the League, has presented a Cup for a knock-out competition confined to regional clubs.

NORTH STAFFS.

There is greater Table Tennis activity in the North Staffordshire district than ever before. The visit of the Hungarians to Leek gave the game a great fillip and it is rumoured that on their next tour they will call in on Hanley. The Leek League appear to have the players with the highest standard and in young Stanyer, they have a junior who will probably go far. His performance in reaching the final of the Junior Event at the Merseyside Open was a very fine one, and the League are showing enterprise in officially entering him for the National Open in London. The Leek League have defeated Macclesfield and the Leek Ladies also succeeding; they scored a "double" at the expense of their neighbours.

J. C. Baker, the Leek Secretary, also one of the League's best players, in conjunction with the enterprise of Mr. Blore, the Chairman, is very largely responsible for Leek's local domination.

MACCLESFIELD.

The League officials were very disappointed with the result of the match with Leek when they were defeated by 9 sets to 4 in an incompleting game. They are very anxious to put the League on the map, but are handicapped by the slow tables in use at the majority of clubs. They appreciate the handicap, and that with players of the ability of Heaps, Weaver and Mackie, they should do better. In Mrs. Boddies, the Macclesfield champion, they have a "top class" player, and against Leek, she won all her matches without being extended, although her side was defeated 8-17.

Hovis top the League table—played 12, won 12, and in the Second Division, St. John's and St. Andrew's are bracketed with 20 points each.

MANCHESTER.

The long-awaited needle match in the Manchester League between Grove House and the Y.M.C.A. resulted in the defeat of the latter by 6 sets to 4. Lurie, for the winners, was the star, beating Millar and C. W. Davies, whilst for the losers A. Waite, who must now be looked upon as a veteran, won both his matches and Davies beat Cromwell. These opponents will not meet again until the last match of the season.

Grove House now top the First Division; Waterpark, the Second; Maccabean, the Third (North); Birchfields, the Third (South-East), and St. Luke's, The Third (West).

Manchester beat Birmingham by 9 matches to 1, Norman Davies, of the Y.M.C.A., being the only Manchester player to lose. The knock-out for the "Richardson" Challenge Cup is now being played at Birmingham.

NORTH MIDDLESEX.

Individual averages in League matches make very interesting reading, and the list just prepared by the active and enterprising Secretary of this League, Mr. P. Rowland, reveals that the English Internationals, playing locally do not have everything their own way. G. F. Boulwood's record is best—won 28, lost 2; Brook, bracketed with Shalson, comes second, both having won 26, lost 4. Joyce has won 21 and lost 4.

In the Women's Division, Miss Bright Orchard, tops the list—won 39, lost 19, remarkable record in such a keenly contested League.

In the Women's match with London Business Houses, North Middlesex lost 4 events to 6.

STOCKPORT.

Stockport League are having a record season and if they have the visit of the foreign tourists, which is now under consideration, they should have a record crowd. They are playing inter-League matches with North Derbyshire and Bolton and are awarding inter-League badges in future to selected players. They have one player who wears a cap when playing! What about awarding "caps" instead of badges? The League Tables up to January 11th show Alexandra "A" is heading the Ladies' Division, being unbeaten; Hans Renold "A" top the First Division (H. Jones and W. Smith, have something to do with this) and are unbeaten; and George Lane Congs top the Second. In the selected town team, Heaton Mersey S.S. have two players, H. Airey and H. K. Newton and the non-playing Captain is H. Welton of that club.

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NOTTINGHAM.

Birmingham visited Nottingham in an Inter-League match and just managed to defeat the home side by 5 events to 4. About 200 spectators attended. Sketchley, in beating Goldstein, the Birmingham captain, 21—9, 21—15, and Warrington, in beating Leadbetter, showed great promise, and in beating the same players in the Doubles Events proved that the standard at Nottingham will soon have to be taken seriously. There appears to have been trouble over the ball in this match which is a pity now that there are so many types passed by the I.T.T.F., to select from.

PORTSMOUTH.

Portsmouth received a visit from the Bournemouth League and after a great struggle, succeeded narrowly by 14 games to 11. For the homesters, Freeman had the best record—won 4, lost 1, and for Bournemouth, both Gilbert and Whiffen did their part by winning 4. The decisive factor was the unexpectedly poor form of Cashell.

Southsea "A" top the First Division of the Portsmouth League at the half-season, and Highbury "B" top the Second. Both unbeaten.

HELENS.

Over 100 entries in the first closed individual Championships shows that St. Helens is waking up and they had a marvellous day—from 2.30 p.m. until after midnight with three tables going continuously. It is obvious that the standard is improving and before long we shall be having an international representative from this League. Tom Asson, the holder of the Singles, had a great struggle with young Ronnie Grayson, who is only 13 years of age, pulled up from 16—20 in the final game and was only defeated 26—24 after the spectators having "heart attacks" with excitement. This boy should go far and it is understood that the League officials are going to "look-after" him. In the Doubles, Asson and McComb and W. R. Grayson and R. Grayson reached the semi-final (the final to be played later). Asson and Miss Taylor won the Mixed, Grayson won the Junior and Miss "Dot" Mulligan won the Ladies' Singles.

WEST BROMWICH.

M.C.A. started well in the new year by taking over the league leadership from Charlemont, whom they defeated 4—1. The game was very close and some thrilling individual struggles took place 25—23 in the fifth game was one result, and 21—19's was the usual score. They have five divisions in this league as well as a Ladies' League, and as they play cup matches on the knock-out system as well, T.T. "fans" are well catered for in West Bromwich. Ebenezer are top of the Ladies' League—played 9, won 9; 73 games to 8.

WALES.

The defeat of Wales in London was not, of course, unexpected. It was closer than the score of 1—8 suggests, and Aneurin Lewis must be congratulated upon his great half-volleying which subdued the mighty hitter, Marshall. Since this match, Marshall has won an Open Tournament in which all the best English and Indian players took part, and this illuminates the value of the Welshman's win.

Lisle should have beaten Sears but made up for his lapse by his brilliant play in the Doubles.

SOUTH DEVON.

It is a rather remarkable performance on the part of Mr. T. Ralph Rossiter, the energetic Secretary of the South Devon League, to head the individual League averages. Ralph Rossiter, as well as his secretarial duties, edits a "Multigraph" magazine, dealing with the game, and he also organised the recent visit of the Hungarians. His responsibilities did not prevent him playing himself in the exhibition, and now his record—won 34 games, lost 2, shows him to be the first ranked player in the competition. Is there any other League where the Secretary is also the best player?

Newton Abbot Y.M.C.A. is top of the First Division; Paignton (East) and Torquay, are bracketed together at the top of the Second, and Dartmouth Y.M.R.C. have an overwhelming lead in the Third.

Leek Notes by J. C. Baker.

Leek Table Tennis League avenged two defeats by North Derbyshire last season, when they visited Buxton on January 2nd and gained their third success of the season by 9 events to 5. J. C. Baker and R. Stanyer (both No. 1 players) took four sets from R. E. Hindle and F. Moody (home side's leading players). Leek had already beaten Macclesfield away, and Uttoxeter, but lost to Stoke-on-Trent.

The *Evening Sentinel*, of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, has just organised a Men's Team Championship in North Staffordshire and the management committee has been chosen by the newly-formed North Staffordshire and District Association. The competition will be played off in sections and teams from a wide area will take part.

Marshall Retains South London League Singles Title.

G. W. Marshall successfully defended his title of "South London League Champion" at the Lucania Hall, Draper Street, S.E. last Sunday.

Semi-Finalists were: J. Rogers v. G. Marshall and M. Guha v. E. J. Filby.

Filby (who is the well-known junior lawn tennis star) opposed Marshall in the Final, but although he played well in the first two games, could not extend the champion in the third. Marshall won by 21—18, 21—17, 21—9.

Coventry Notes by G. Huxham.

Coventry beat Leicester 5—4 in the Midland Counties League at Leicester. For Coventry, B. Joy and I. Jones won both their matches in straight games, the latter, a newcomer to the city, has proved a great find.

Surrey League Notes by C. G. Milton.

A match between the Surrey League and the Indian Students' Union was played at the Addiscombe Club.

Messrs. Maxwell, Wilmott, Piper and Mancherjee represented the Indian Students; and Swetman, Ransome, O'Heffernan, Moreton and Boorman, the Surrey League, the result being in favour of the Indian Students by 11 games to 9.

Some very fine play was rendered in the course of the games and the individual results showed how well the ability of the players was matched.

This match is a prelude of inter-club and inter-league matches between local clubs and leagues.

The Surrey Table Tennis League gained a convincing victory over the Woolwich and District League at Croydon, by 7 events to 1; Rogers being the only Woolwich winner.

A return match will be played at Welling, Kent, on March 5th. Details:—

Swetman (Surrey) beat Rogers (Woolwich) 21—18, 21—18; beat Green (Woolwich) 21—9, 21—15.

Moreton (Surrey) beat Sangster (Woolwich) 21—17, 21—17; beat Druitt (Woolwich) 19—21, 21—12, 21—18.

King (Surrey) beat Sangster 21—18, 19—21, 21—15; beat Druitt 15—21, 21—19, 21—20.

Reeve (Surrey) beat Green 21—17, 21—16; lost to Rogers, 16—21, 21—15, 14—21.

HASTINGS.

London Business Houses sent two Internationals with their team to play in a representative match with Hastings. The result was 13—3 in favour of the visitors.

Hales and Joyce won their games fairly comfortably, but Peter Williams was beaten by Russell, Wallis and Jones.

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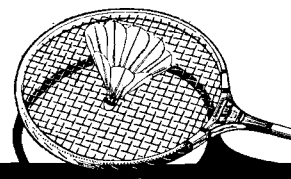
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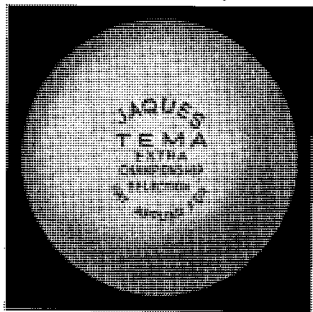
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BOSCOMBE BOURNEMOUTH.

Yorkshire Hard Pressed by Durham.

Yorkshire narrowly beat Durham by 6 matches to 4 in an inter-County fixture, played at the Parochial Hall, Saltburn.

Perhaps the brightest match of the evening was between W. Bedford and J. Machin, the opening pair. Both men attacked and defended with equal facility, but Bedford's forehand, in the end, proved the dominating factor.

Ewbank and Reay proved to be a devastating pair in their doubles match with Hassan and Rosenberg and won in two whirlwind games. Ewbank's beautifully placed forehand and Reay's crashing shots on both sides were more than the Yorkshire pair could tackle.

Reay was perhaps unfortunate in having to play in one evening two opponents whose strong feature is defence. The wearing-down process was bound to leave its mark in the end.

In his second match, although Hassan proved the winner, Reay rose to great heights and in the second game left Hassan helpless with well-placed and terrific drives on both sides of the table.

Mr. S. H. Rapp, and his colleagues of Saltburn Ideal Club, are to be congratulated on providing first-class conditions.

Scores in the match, were:—

B. Hassan (Leeds) beat E. Reay (Sunderland) 21—17, 7—21, 21—13; beat J. Swales (Sunderland) 21—19, 21—18.

W. Atkinson (Leeds) beat E. Reay (Sunderland) 21—17, 21—15; lost to J. Swales 21—7, 20—22, 17—21.

S. Rosenberg (Leeds) beat J. Machin (Grangetown) 21—15, 21—16; lost to T. F. Ewbank (Sunderland) 16—21, 13—21.

W. Bedford (Huddersfield) beat J. Machin (Grangetown) 21—17, 19—21, 21—13; lost to T. F. Ewbank (Sunderland) 12—21, 15—21.

Atkinson and Bedford beat Swales and Machin 21—14, 21—13.

Hassan and Rosenberg lost to Ewbank and Reay 9—21, 11—21.

LATE RESULTS.

The following brief details reach us at the moment of going to press and we regret that pressure of time and space makes it impossible for us to deal with them as extensively as we would wish. **North of England Championships**, Manchester, 23rd to 25th January.—A newcomer, Phillips, put out two internationals, Waite, and in the fourth round Cromwell, 21—13, 21—9. Shalson also lost to an unknown. In the semis, Hyde beat Phillips 21—11, 14 and Lurie beat Davies 21—13, 14. The final saw the holder, Lurie beat Hyde over the full distance, 16—21, 21—13, 11—21, 21—12, 21—16. Miss Newey of Birmingham, won the Women's Singles against Miss Rubens, 11—21, 21—19, 21—14. The Men's Doubles winners were Lurie and Cromwell, who beat Bamford and Whitby 21—8, 21—13; and the Women's Doubles went to Miss Norrish and Miss Bartholomew, Mrs. Scott-Hall and Mrs. Murray going down 21—19, 21—17. The Mixed Doubles had to be abandoned.

First Hants Open, Bournemouth, 25th January.—Winners: Men's Singles, A. D. Brook; Women's Singles, Miss Dora Emdin; Men's Doubles, J. Joyce and N. Contractor; Mixed Doubles, Miss Emdin and Contractor.

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