

Table

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

Tennis

Vol. II. No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1936

ONE PENNY

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS HALL

£ s. d. of the Association

By A. K. VINT, Hon. Treasurer, E.T.T.A.

WHEN attempting to assess the success or failure of any organisation, it is usual to inquire as to its financial status. What can we say of the E.T.T.A. in this respect? It is an undeniable fact that the progress of the Association during the past few years has been on the upward trend and an examination of our accounts will more than justify this statement. One can safely say that in no way has finance contributed to our phenomenal progress during the last six years. It has been the lack of finance which has made us work the harder. We have been forced to economise and try and get a £'s value for every £ received.

The accounts to the 30th June, 1936, will appear in the Official Handbook. They reveal a remarkable story and will more than justify the progressive policy adopted some eighteen months ago. Let us examine them in detail. Six years ago our total income was £281. To-day it is £2,181. Expenditure was £278 and is now about £1,800. The Association up to last season relied on affiliation fees for its main source of income and it is interesting to note the general increase in this direction:—

Year to June.	Affiliation Fees.	No. of Leagues.
1931	86	32
1932	142	38
1933	169	55
1934	233	71
1935	303	99
1936	446	121

Every year the Association approves certain makes of Ball and in return we are paid what is known as a "ball rebate." This produced last year a sum of £110, which means that players purchased 633,000 "official" balls. Six years ago we received £26 and only 150,000 balls were sold. On each Tournament which is officially sanctioned we claim a royalty of 12½ per cent. on entry fees charged to competitors. This year we received £64. If we assume an average entry fee of 2s. per player it means that over 5,000 players competed in Open Tournaments as against just over 1,000 in 1930-31.

The two tours by Barna, Szabados and Bellak were a great success and an excellent source of revenue for the Association. The amounts received from bodies organising the exhibitions in which the foreigners appeared came to £566, and as our expenses were £375, we were able to show a surplus

of £191 on this account. As a matter of striking contrast, the figures in the 1930-31 accounts are very illuminating. A tour of Hungarian players involved the Association in an expenditure of £48 and we received in return the sum of £23, giving a deficiency of £25!

The English Championships held at Paddington Baths with the finals at the Empress Stadium are now past history, but it is gratifying to find that as a result of the courageous policy of running the Championships on a large and more attractive scale a profit of nearly £300 accrued to the exchequer of the Association.

Now what do we get for our money?

The administration side during the past year cost £435. This covers rent of our offices in Holborn, salaries, telephone, printing, stationery and a sum of £126 on postages. This means something like 30,000 communications, circulars and reports sent out by our Secretary to League Clubs, players and other individuals in a year! The Handbook, after allowing for advertisement revenue and sales is published at a loss of £64, and the travelling expenses of members of the Executive Committee accounts for £75. On the playing side we sent a team to Prague to compete in the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup Competitions at a cost of £102, the match against the

Irish Free State in Dublin involved us in a charge of £17 and a loss of £24 was incurred in the U.S.A. match.

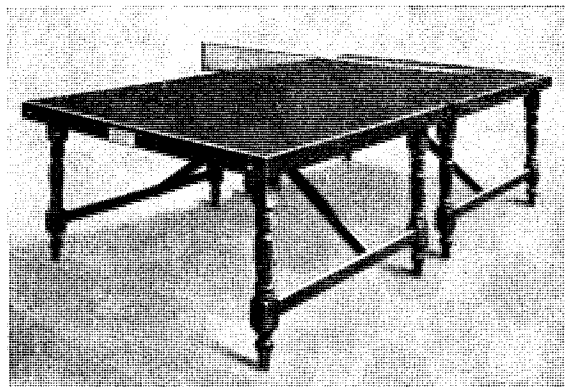
A very heavy liability we have to meet is the deficiency on the World Championships held in 1935. It will be remembered that the loss was over £500 but, without question, the expenditure has been worth an untold amount to the progress of the game. In our opinion the holding of the Championships in England helped to make the public "table tennis conscious" and has helped us to develop in a more rapid stride than if we had continued the policy of confining the activities of the game as a spectacle to Club members only. We can write this sum off as propaganda but nevertheless we have to meet it each year until it is paid off. This year we have repaid a sum of £250.

Leagues sometimes complain that the amount they pay in affiliation fees is too heavy, but if it is borne in mind that the amount they contribute (£372 last year) as against an expenditure of £1,812, it will be seen that the amount of service they get from the E.T.T.A. for their 3s. 6d. per club is equivalent to 17s. 6d. worth of expenditure by the Association.

What sports organisation in England can provide for this ridiculous fee of 3s. 6d., the facilities which are covered in the 17s. 6d. worth of expenditure?

We have resisted attempts to raise the affiliation fee because we feel that we can raise the extra revenue by asking members to support our various publications and our other activities.

TELEVISION



JOHN JAQUES

on Thursday evening, Nov. 12th, the B.B.C. and the E.T.T.A. televised an Exhibition of T.T. by Barna and Szabados

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MY FAVOURITE STROKES (2)

G. V. BARNÁ "My Backhand"

I BELIEVE any player can learn the "Barna flick," if he will carefully study the essentials set out here and practice assiduously.

The "flick" consists of two distinct strokes. The principal shot, however, is the one where the ball is hit "flat." That is, straight down from the top of its bounce; no lift, no topspin. Some sidespin is imparted by the path of the racquet which is sideways across the ball. In making the stroke, I commence to move my racquet-arm the moment the ball hits the table, and the movement continues until the racquet meets the ball at the very top of its bounce.

When close to the table I use only the wrist. As I move further from the table the stroke requires the wrist and fore-arm, and so on until the whole arm is required. This shot only applies to balls received without "chop."

The backhand shot, which I play for a "chopped" ball, whilst similar in many respects to the one already described, differs in that the ball is returned with topspin. For this shot the racquet is tilted forward at an angle of about 45 degrees. It commences low, and travels in an upward-forward curve finishing with the racquet turned almost right over. As the racquet is tilted forward, contact is made below the centre of the ball with the racquet as already described—travelling upwards. This stroke is a "waiting" stroke; it is not intended as a "kill." It is a slow stroke, compared to the plain hit which is quick and fast.

I strongly advise everyone wishing to learn these backhand strokes to commence with the slow lifting stroke, and to continue to practice this movement until they can play it consistently. It will be difficult to resist the impulse to play the "kill" shot, but this must be resisted if the shot is to be acquired. The "kill" stroke will come automatically to the player who persistently practices the slow lifting topspin flick.

For either shot the body must be sideways to the table, one foot behind the other in an almost straight line. From this position it is easy to bring the racquet across the front of the body by the fore-arm alone, straight on to the ball. It is, in my opinion, almost waste of time trying to cultivate a backhand flick with the feet and body square to the table. Sometimes it will work, but mostly it will fail. The position of the body, as I have described it, is the first essential. Secondly, practice the slow lifting return, and the quick "kill" will come almost without conscious effort,

Around the Tournaments By TOMMY SEARS

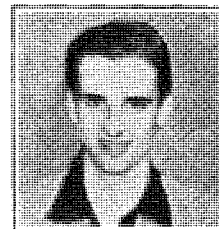
THE Home Counties proved a great success and all the well-known Southern players participated. The play of Szabados inspired all our players to produce their best, and the first real thrill occurred when Bubleby took the popular Hungarian to three games and only just lost. Then Hales took a game from him, but lost fairly easy in the third. Seaman, of Brighton, provided the next surprise by beating Gilbert Marshall and by taking Proffitt to three games. Bergl, after losing the first game to Proffitt 5—21, won the next two after a grim struggle. In the final Szabados beat Bergl in three straight, but there was much spectacular and enterprising play by both players. Bergl, two games down was making a great effort in the third, when he sustained a heavy fall at a critical moment, but I felt that he would have lost anyway. The Women's Singles was fiercely contested and the eventual winner, Mrs. L. Booker, played a fine game to beat Wendy Woodhead. Wendy, I am afraid, is rather over-anxious at the moment, and is finishing rather loosely, but a little more Tournament play should see her back in her best form. Two of our most promising players, Filby and Rogers, put up a sparkling game to beat Bergl and Hales in the Men's final after being two games down; in fact the play in all the Doubles games was the best I have seen for some years. Proffitt and Miss Jordan won the Mixed from Rosen and Miss Wood, but Miss Wood had some consolation when she won the Women's Doubles with Miss D. L. Emdin.

In the Lancashire Open, Lurie won the Singles, beating Andy Milar in the final three games to one. The scores were always

close and plenty of good all-round play was seen, but Lurie had just that little extra finish which Andy sometimes seems to lack. Lurie and Cromwell once more presented their claims to be the best English Doubles players when they won quite comfortably from Stanley and Barraclough. Miss Rubens beat Miss Norrish in the Singles, and both players took part in the other finals, Miss Norrish winning the Women's Doubles with Miss Doolan, and Miss Rubens, playing with Cohen, lost to Miss Stott and Rosenberg, of Leeds, in the Mixed.

The Hull Open, revived after six years, broke all county records. It was also the first clash of the season between Northern and Southern players. Proffitt, who made the trip from London, won the Singles by beating G. Phillips in the final 3—1, after a hard struggle and after he had beaten Lurie two straight in the semi-final. In the other semi Phillips beat Stennett, one of the most improved London players. Lurie, without his regular partner, played with Phillips and both gained revenge for their defeat in the Singles by beating Proffitt and Stennett after a tense fight, as the score 21—18, 19—21, 22—20, 20—22, 22—20 will show. Miss Stott, of Leeds, won the Women's Singles, beating Miss McBride. Miss Stott, with Rosenberg, won the Mixed, and Miss McBride and Miss Marshall, the Newcastle pair, won the Women's.

The Bournemouth Open, held at the Glen Roy Hotel, proved a good day for London players. The Men's Singles was won by A. D. Brook, who beat Filby in the final. The Women's Singles was won by Mrs. Hutchings from Wendy Woodhead. Brook and Filby



E. J. FILBY

won the Men's. Mrs. Hutchings and Brook won the Mixed; and Mrs. Hutchings and Wendy Woodhead the Women's Doubles. A personal triumph for Brook and Mrs. Hutchings, who each won all three events.

My opinion, based upon a close watch of the players, and the results, is that Haydon, Bergl, and Proffitt are our best three players, in that order. But why haven't we got any promising new players? These three are "old stagers."

By **IVOR MONTAGU**
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ERIC FINDON in *Table Tennis*

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Payment to Players

As was announced in the last issue, the Executive Committee have passed new Regulations dealing with the question of payment of expenses, payment for playing, and to regulate the giving of prizes, betting, etc. It is generally known that the position last season was far from satisfactory, and the Committee have decided rigorously to apply the Rules, which have been adopted after the most careful consideration. The co-operation of players is required in order that the experiment, quite new in the annals of sport in this country, should be a success, and it will be seen that the regulations are drawn up so that there can be no ambiguity about the responsibility of every member.

1. EXPENSES.—Application for permission for players to receive expenses at home or abroad shall be made, in writing, before the event, to the E.T.T.A. and the Association of the country governing the players concerned. If such expenses, including return fare and reasonable meals be not more than £1 per day as a maximum, these may be paid or received for playing in any event of an invitation or exhibition character without the players being registered (provided always that the event itself is authorised). Permission for this payment of expenses will be automatic for home players here and abroad, and home players abroad, when the appropriate foreign Association has no objection, unless there is a specific reason rendering the payment undesirable.

2. PAYMENT TO PLAYERS.—(a) Application for permission to receive payment for giving lessons, or playing (in other than competitive events), or in any other way connected with the game, shall be made in writing to the E.T.T.A.

(b) Applications shall be considered according to the playing standard of the applicant.

(c) In the event of the applicant being considered suitable, he or she will be registered on payment of an annual fee of £1.

(d) The register of players shall be made annually.

(e) Registered players may allow their names to be used on articles written, and goods designed or supervised and approved by them.

(f) Players shall not allow their names to be associated with goods, materials, or written articles with which they have no connection as inventor.

(g) Players may not enter into any contract to provide for the exclusive use of certain goods or materials, or exclusive

play on premises controlled by a firm, in any circumstances.

(h) Players shall not receive any remuneration other than bare expenses for playing in a competitive event in any circumstances. A competitive event is defined as a Representative Match or an Open Tournament.

3. PRIZES.—No single prize or reward of more than £3 in value, shall be given or received without the sanction of the E.T.T.A. Prizes up to this amount may be given for Invitation or Open Competition without specific permission, provided the event itself is authorised.

4. BETTING.—Betting in any shape or form on players or matches is strictly prohibited.

5. PENALTY.—Any infringement of these regulations will render the players and/or organisers of events at which players appear liable to suspension.



Miss R. SMITS (London)

Who has been co-opted to the Executive Committee. Southern Lady players and officials are asked to write to her.

National League Notes

By JACK BATTY (Secretary).

The League programme opened at Blackpool on 21st November, when Liverpool triumphed by 9 sets to 0. It was interesting to see that whilst the Liverpool Team included three internationals—K. Hyde, D. Foulis and F. Bamford—the doubles event was entrusted to the Rumjahn Brothers. The Blackpool side has shown a big improvement during the past two seasons, and it is expected that with the tremendous enthusiasm in the Fylde district, Blackpool will soon be a force to be reckoned with by the major leagues. The following matches will be played before Christmas, and a full report will appear in next month's issue:—

Dec. 5—Birmingham v. Stockport.

„ 19—Liverpool v. Stockport.

„ 19—Birmingham v. Manchester.

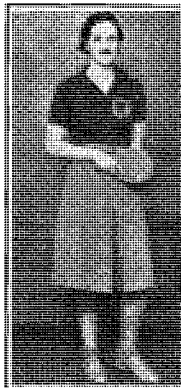
The Doubles Game ^{By A. STEVENS}

The object of the Table Tennis Rules is to give opponents equal opportunity—change of service every five points, change of ends each game, and change at score ten in the deciding game, being examples. In Doubles it is more difficult, but it is not generally realised that the position of the *striker-out* is the most vital factor. Where one player is very strong, or in Mixed Doubles where the man has a particularly heavy chop, an ingenious service, or a devastating “kill,” it must be remembered that it is the position of the opponent as “receiver” that is conclusive. Therefore, we see in Doubles players trying to place so that one is in the most advantageous position. The Rules have been framed to deal with this but their wording is not clear. Most of the Doubles rules are the same as Singles, and the following represents, I think, the exact position:—

1. The pair who win the toss have the right to serve or be strikers-out. The pair who serve shall decide which partner shall do so and the opposing pair shall then decide which of their pair shall be striker-out.
2. The pair who served first in the first game shall be strikers-out first in the immediately subsequent game and so on until the end of the match. The players who started at one end shall start at the other end in the immediately subsequent game. In the deciding game where the match consists of more than one game, or where the match is only one game, the players shall change ends at the score 10, and the pair who served the first five services (in the first game) have the right to alter their order of striking out or that of their opponents.
3. The pair who have the right to serve the first five services in any game shall decide which partner shall do so and the opposing pair shall then decide similarly which shall be the striker-out.

It would seem that the Rules were designed to give opportunity for initiative, as it is possible to arrange your order of play, but there seems to be a mistaken idea that automatically in the second game the order of play is reversed whereas it is only the right to service and ends that are reversed.

It has always puzzled me why the “experts,” when winning the toss, usually give away service. It seems to me more advantageous to take service, giving your opponents the right to place the *striker-out* in the first game, as, should you lose badly in this game you would have the opportunity of changing the order of play in the second game. If, on the other hand, you give the service in the first game to your opponents and they win with a good margin they will have the choice and will naturally choose to play in the same order in the second game, and in a three game match the chances are they will win in two straight games. Should you manage to win the second game under these conditions you will be faced with the same difficulty at the score 10 in the third game when your opponents will have the right to change the order of play (because they were servers in the first game) for the final ten points. Every player entering a Doubles Tournament should understand these Rules, as so much depends on arranging the order of receiving.



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The Foreign Tour

By W. J. POPE

Hungary's 6-3 win at Bristol

Szabados thrice beaten before record crowd; Lurie's great victory.

SZABADOS, arch-apostle of attack, driven to a solid half-volley defence, and thrice beaten! This—a sensation in itself—was the scene at Bristol, where, with the cheers of 2,000 delighted and enthusiastic "fans" ringing in their ears, the English trio of Proffitt, Lurie and Ken Hyde put up a magnificent performance against Hungary at the Drill Hall in the first of this season's five international matches.

Hungary won by 6 matches to 3, after the Englishmen had put up a gallant fight.

In a match packed with thrills, first Proffitt, then Hyde, and finally Lurie, vanquished Szabados in turn, while Hyde and Lurie took "deuce" games off Bellak.

All the anxieties that, from the standpoint of the Bristol League, had beset the match were forgotten in a night of Table Tennis history for the West. The Drill Hall, specially tiered for the occasion, was packed with eager "fans," whose enthusiasm was royally rewarded.

The visitors led 4-2, and twice in the game that followed—between Szabados and Lurie—the Hungarian required only two points for game, set and match to Hungary.

It was an inspired Lurie who gave battle. What Proffitt and Hyde had done, he could do, and did.

All through the second and third games it was Lurie's attack versus Szabados' defence—"flick" against half-volley defence—and time after time the "flick," perfectly executed, snaked its way through.

Szabados led 21-16, 19-17. Two points for match. Winning four points in a row brought Lurie a thunder of applause.

The last game was tense with excitement.

Szabados led 17-13, and again at 19-17.

Once more Lurie made a supreme effort. Breathlessly, Lurie led 20-19. Then a winner, and pandemonium

Hungary led 4-3.

Ken Hyde's defeat of Szabados was a great performance by the Liverpool man, and provided some of the best rallies of the evening. He took the first game 21-16, and, having "tasted blood," went all out, forcing Szabados to resort to a long defence, interspersed with quick dashes to the net by both men. Hyde's forehand was working beautifully, and, amid great enthusiasm, he went to 20-17.

Amid complete silence—and after one tremendous rally—Szabados saved two match points, and then a storm of applause. Hyde had won.

Barna was Barna at his near-best. His backhand "flick" was working beautifully, and although once or twice he was caught out of position, he was never seriously extended.

Bellak, star of a previous visit to Bristol, was at his best, and, like Barna, won all three matches in two straight games.

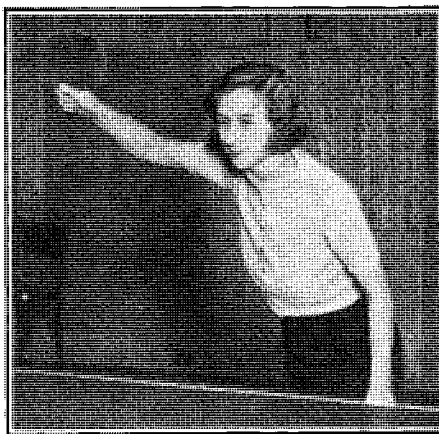
CHAMPIONSHIP DATES, 1937

Jan. 2.....	ENGLAND AND WALES.
" 9.....	Leeds.
" 5-16....	Middlesex.
" 15-16...	Midland.
" 18-22...	Essex.

HOW is the tour going? readers are asking. Well, here is a brief résumé from the various reports we have received up to the time of going to Press. At the moment of writing they are in Yorkshire, during a week of almost unprecedented fog, and it is possible that Miss Lancaster is using bad language, no less than the organisers who have struck such a bad week.

MAIDSTONE.—550 local "fans" spell-bound at the Jubilee Hall. To most of them the game as played by these "stars" was quite new and judged by the magnificent reception everyone highly delighted. Barna brilliant, especially in his match with Szabados. When the audience was not cheering Bellak's forehand, they were roaring at his tricks. "A great night," says Secretary Sleight, to whose enterprise and enthusiasm the visit is due.

PLYMOUTH.—1,500 spectators—a little less than the number last December. The three Hungarians enhanced their reputations by their willingness and general demeanour and the city is bound to feel the benefit. Proffitt and Bergl worthily upheld England's reputation, the latter beating Barna. All local players and officials now agree "pen-holder" hopeless.



Miss N. BRIGHT

The North Middlesex League Singles Champion.

DARLINGTON.—500 spectators. Players welcomed by Mr. C. M. Peat, M.P. All thrilled by the marvellous exhibitions. Edgar Reay and Tommy Ewbank received a warm welcome from the Darlington "fans" with whom they are very popular. Miss Kay and Miss Young of Sunderland, gave a splendid example of the best women's game. Barna and Bellak gave an exhibition of "half-volleying," the ball passing to and fro at amazing speed. Mr. Hunman an

Continued on page 5.

ESSEX OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

EAST HAM

January 18th to 22nd, 1937

ALL EVENTS

Closing Date for Entries, 4th January, 1937

Entry forms from R. H. PRATT, Cartref, Malford Grove, South Woodford, Essex

The Hungarian Flood

England swamped again in Second International of the Tour

By C. CORTI WOODCOCK

MORE than one thousand optimists invaded the Memorial Hall, on 19th November, in the hope of witnessing a close and exciting fight. The great majority didn't know, of course, that in dozens of tries we have only beaten Hungary once—in Stockholm way back in 1927, when the team consisted of Perry, Bull and Haydon. Just on ten long years; and unless a miracle happens, we haven't the remotest chance of repeating the dose inside the next ten.

On performance, Haydon—Bergl—Proffitt is almost unquestionably the best 3-man team in the country to-day. They share between them many virtues, much technical excellence, determination and considerable experience. But they were never in the hunt. "Class" told heavily, as it always will; bloodstock on one side of the net, "selling-platers" on the other, barring Haydon. From beginning to end, each member of the Hungarian team gave the impression that he was "pulling his punches" just sufficiently to excite the crowd over an occasional close game. Fortunately, the crowd was largely a non-expert one and it certainly went away home well satisfied with its money's-worth.

As to the actual run of the play, there was little to call for special comment. Haydon was in form and was perhaps a shade unlucky to lose the second 'vantage game to both Bellak and Barna. Going down 23-25 to Barna was a pity, especially as this match was being broadcast. One game all and a close third might have given much-needed inspiration to the official B.B.C. commentator. But Haydon did beat Szabados to notch a solitary point for England, to the manifest delight of everyone. Bergl and Proffitt tried hard, and in patches—far apart—were very good; but they lacked bite—devil. Still, each man took two opponents to the third game, and in such company, that's something, I suppose.

Personally, I enjoyed spending an hour or two in harness once again and the opportunity of meeting and greeting many an old pal and colleague. Bill Pope's organisation was, naturally, perfect, and Mr. Treasurer Vint came up from Hastings hot on the trail of the pouring pennies. Apart from an excusable slip early in the first game, the umpiring by Jones, Sears and Stubbs was faultless.

The hall was very hot; but before dashing for the corkscrew, the Hungarians treated the company to a spirited rendering of their famous war-cry to bring the proceedings to an agreeable, if somewhat hilarious, close.

STOP PRESS

OPEN MERSEYSIDE CHAMPIONSHIP.

MEN'S SINGLES: J. K. Hyde (Liverpool) beat S. Proffitt (London) 21-16, 24-22.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Miss M. Osborne (Birmingham) beat Mrs. Booker (London) 21-9, 16-21, 23-21.

MEN'S DOUBLES: S. Proffitt and E. J. Filby (London) beat C. W. Davies and L. Cohen (Manchester) 21-13, 21-14.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Misses N. Norrish and R. Doolan (Liverpool) beat Misses M. Osborne and D. Newey (Birmingham) 21-12, 20-22, 21-13.

The Foreign Tour—continued from page 4, excellent referee and we appreciate the way he stuck at his job. On the Sunday the foreign players were "at home" to 20 local players who obtained valuable practice.

BURNLEY.—600 spectators. An Invitation Tournament staged in which Lurie, Cromwell, and three local players, Alston, Astin, and Blakey took part. Alston put up a great performance against Barna—20—all in the second game. Szabados beat Bellak in the semi-final and Barna beat Lurie. Then the great final between these two thrilled the crowds who continually held up the game with their applause. Tom Alston was the "General" of the arrangements, and it was marvellous to see him, in addition, taking part and playing a great game.

NORTHAMPTON.—Town Hall filled to capacity. Crowd kept on tip-toe of excitement. Civic welcome, and Colonel Sir John Brown, K.C.B., D.S.O., expressed pleasure of the town. Special feature was the attendance of Britain's Shoe Trade Queen (Miss Winifred Butt), who supported the President of the Boot and Shoe Trade Association, Mr. W. Parker. She presented, on behalf of the Association, Barna, Bellak, Szabados and Proffitt, also Miss Lancaster, with a pair of shoes each as a souvenir of their visit to the town of boots and shoes. Back-hand flicks of Barna and the forehead of Szabados made the crowd gasp in astonishment. Bellak did his "tricks" and the crowd were delighted. Keen interest shown in the form of Proffitt and his career will now be watched with great interest by Miss Osborne and Miss Newey showed that the women's game can also be spectacular and in a Mixed Doubles, Miss Newey and Szabados beat Miss Osborne and Barna 2 games to 1. After the exhibition Celebration Dance was held and all the visitors attended together with the Shoe Trade Queen.

That is the position to date. Huddersfield, Halifax, Leeds, Sunderland, Dewsbury, Grimsby and Chester are having their exhibitions at the time this record is being put into the hands of the Printer. For the benefit of readers inquiring about the programme, this is what they are doing in December: On the 1st, Southport, at the Cambridge Hall, particulars from Worsley, 89, Shakespeare Street; the 2nd, Mansfield, at the Drill Hall, Bath Street, particulars from Moss, 6, White Hart Street; 3rd, New Market Hall, Leek, Lees, 20, Crawford Street; 4th, Uttoxeter Town Hall, A. A. Bates, "Cranmere," Ashbourne Road; **Blackpool** (England v. Hungary) at the Tower, Worsley, 20, Banbury Avenue; 7th, at Rossendale, Gray, 580, Burnley Road; 8th, **Birmingham** (England v. Hungary) at Central Hall, Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road; 9th, Shrewsbury, at The Music Hall, The Square, Bridgwood, 23a, Princess Street; 10th, **Rhyl** (Wales v. Hungary) at The Pavilion, Edwards, "Seacroft," Highfield Park; 11th, Clitheroe at the Parish Church Club, Peters, Woodlands Drive, Whalley, Lancs.; 12th, Liverpool, at Picton Hall, Griffiths, "Windy Ridge," Kirkstone Road South; 13th (Sunday), London (Streatham Ice Rink) (see advert.); 14th, Woolwich, at Greenwich Baths, Evans, 33, Woodbrook Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.; 15th, Dartford, Evans, 44, Herbert Road, Bexley Heath; 16th, Southampton, at Central Hall, Fulton, 29, Darwin Road; 17th, Exeter, at The Civic Hall, King, "Teofani," Lower Avenue; 18th, London, at Paddington Baths, Tassell, Piggotshill Lane, Harpenden.

What a programme—and what a tribute to the popularity of the game and these three exponents! Everywhere good fare for the "fan." The Civil Service are bringing over the English Champion, Ehrlich, from Poland, and Liebster from Vienna to add to the attraction. No less enterprising is the South London who have taken Streatham Ice Rink, a miniature Wembley holding 3,000 people for a Sunday night treat. We have lost the rubber in the Internationals but this will not detract from the spectacles at Blackpool and Birmingham.

Every report received pays tribute to the services of Miss Lancaster, our Manager, Adviser, Friend, Chauffeuse, and ever ready to help in time of trouble.

BUDAPEST v. SOUTH LONDON
BARNA, SZABADOS, BELLAK
versus
BERGL, MARSHALL, FILBY
At the Ice Rink, Streatham
(Phone: Streatham 1432)
On Sunday, December 13th at 8 p.m.
Reserved Seats 2/6 3/6 5/- Standing 1/3

WHAT THE PRESS SAY

PETER WILSON in *The Daily Mirror*.—"What a good game this is to watch, almost as good as to play. And what a great showman is Victor Barna. Picture the scene. The lights dimmed save for those blazing down on the centre, and not a murmur from the 'fans' huddled in so closely that they almost had to clap their hands up and down, instead of sideways. Haydon is too wild. He loses the first game, and they reach 20-20 in the second. The two figures almost like dolls in their blue and scarlet vests, pause for a moment. Barna fans himself with his racquet, for the first time he looks a little nervous. Neck and neck they go up, neither man being able to get the lead of two clear points. 'Twenty-three all,' the umpire announces dispassionately. A back-hand flick from Barna to Haydon's weak spot, and the Hungarian holds match point. One final flashing drive from the Englishman—but it goes an inch too far. The match is finished. So are most of the spectators. It's a great game!"

The Daily Sketch.—"Outside hundreds were turned away, while ticket touts were asking as much as £5 for 5s. seats. The crowd had its money's worth. Proffitt, grand old man of International matches, although only in his twenties, tried all his wiles against Barna, but the 'D'Artaann of the Hungarian Musketeers' was irresistible."

STANLEY DOUST in *The Daily Mail*.—"Many waited in vain in the street for vacant seats, and hundreds had to go away disappointed. Although Hungary won the match, the rubbers were so close that there was little in skill between the teams. Bergl, leading 17-13 in the final game, practically threw away the game. He re-acted as if surprised to find himself in a winning position. Bellak, whom I consider a more versatile player than Barna, merely played steadily and allowed Bergl to beat himself. The show match of the evening, which was broadcast, was between the two captains. Barna won by 21-16, 25-23, and all through the second game only a point separated them. The crowd was hysterical with excitement."

Northampton Independent.—"They played not merely table tennis but TABLE TENNIS, until at times the audience could hardly believe their eyes that a celluloid ball and a rubber faced bat could be combined to offer such wizardry of motion. Never had Northampton seen such play as this."

England v. Hungary

**THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL MATCH
AT BELLE VUE, MANCHESTER.**

Over 2,000 people braved the perils of the fog to see England soundly beaten, on 21st November. The actual result, 9-0 in favour of Hungary, reveals in startling clarity, the immense gap which has yet to be bridged by the English players before they can hope to attain success against the foreign masters.

Haydon had bad luck in the first match, when he had set point at the end of the second game with Szabados. He lost 24-26, and Szabados went on to win the third game comfortably, and after this England never looked like winning a set. Millar, although he took a game from Szabados, played like a tired man, and showed quite plainly that he will never become a world-beater unless he can conquer his temperament. Lurie played quite well, but he was seconds slower than the Hungarian players, and his "flick" was sent back without difficulty by good half-volley defence. He must angle his shots more acutely.

Haydon played a good game against Barna, and the crowd rose to its feet when Barna crashed back with even greater force one of Haydon's hardest smashes.

Altogether, it was a disappointing evening from the playing aspect. The crowd, mostly in the more expensive seats, appreciated best the exhibition game between Barna and Szabados, which concluded the evening's programme. **England MUST do better than this in the next two matches!**

Sheffield Table Tennis Hall

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, the position of the Table Tennis Hall, Charles Street, Sheffield, was considered. It was decided that the application from the Hall for affiliation to the Association should not be accepted. Registered players should note that it is contrary to the Rules to play in matches or exhibitions at this club without permission from the E.T.T.A., and if they do so they will be liable to suspension in accordance with the Rules. The question of the standing of the Hall is under further consideration.

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Superior 1/2" " £4/17/6 Ordinary 9m/m " £3/15/0

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"L. M. Bromfield" - 2/9 "Swaythling Cup" 2/6
"New Tournament" - 3/- "Imperial Ace" 2/6

BALLS

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(E.T.T.A. Official 1936-7)
Championship Club - - - " 2/3

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The Women's Game By L. E. FORREST

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Executive endeavouring to form Women's Section. Mrs. A. A. Lowe and Miss Hall are playing regularly in men's teams. The former was a semi-finalist in the Manchester "Evening Chronicle" Tournament, winning 8 out of her 10 games against her Manchester Business Houses opponent. Miss Hall has also achieved remarkable success. Carlton Ladies' Team won all their matches against Reddish in a recent encounter. Miss Muriel Wood is the go-ahead Secretary of this combination. Reports to hand indicate that one of our 13-year-old girls is displaying great promise. The Baptists have had a fair sex team for two years.

BIRMINGHAM.

In common with all Birmingham Leagues the Women's League has made progress. Numbers have increased considerably and there are three divisions with ten teams in each. There is every likelihood of the City "A" Team winning the Shield for the fourth year in succession.

Miss Osborne, as the Secretary of the Club, is the most prominent member, and Miss Vaughan, Miss Potter and Miss Steventon, three members of Birmingham inter-city team, have helped greatly in building up the side.

BLACKPOOL.

Women's Section now in its third season, with two divisions. Great hopes are entertained that this famous resort will produce a T.T. star player. The women's teams regularly meet their male opponents on common ground, and they are capable of holding their own with the best of them.

In a recent match Blackpool's ladies defeated Preston 22-3, and in another they drew with Liverpool, 5-5. Nine of our ladies have entered for the Merseyside Open.

EXETER.

Ladies' T.T.C. started modestly in 1935 with 19 members, and now reports good progress in every direction—social, financial and standard of play. The Club's strength

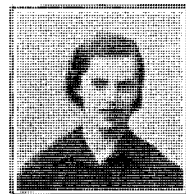
is 32, and there is a long waiting list of prospective members.

The hard-working Committee organised a dance which proved an enormous success. Efforts are being made to enable the Club to purchase two tables and to provide a room available for play on every night of the week. Exeter is doing everything possible to meet the demand for better facilities.

NORTH MIDDLESEX.

Reports indicate a very satisfactory improvement in the standard of play—especially in the Women's Section. Miss N. Bright, the Singles Champion, has considerably improved her attack. Mrs. Montgomery is also playing remarkably well and has had the distinction of taking a game from Miss D. L. Ermdin in a recent match with the Civil Service. Miss D. Herbst continues to play a sound game and is as reliable as ever. Miss V. E. Weavers, who shares with Miss Bright in holding an unbeaten record in the League, is often brilliant. Miss A. Slight is playing very well.

NORTH STAFFS.



Miss M. LEEK

As with the men, Leek ladies have shown the most progressive spirit and several having taken part in open tournaments. Among the most prominent players Staffordshire has produced is Miss M. Leek, Captain of the Leek League ladies' team, which has not yet suffered a defeat. Table Tennis for ladies is also advancing in Stoke, where there is an enthusiastic League. The founder of both the men's and women's Leagues is Mr. J. C. Baker, who presented a cup to Stoke ladies for a knock-out competition to stimulate interest. The donor of their Championship Shield is Mr. A. T. Finney, a pioneer of the game locally.

It is hoped to get the ladies on a strong footing in North Staffs. within the next

year or two. Macclesfield is proud of its strong League of ladies and, in Mrs. A. V. Boddis, they have perhaps the strongest lady player in the North Midlands. Miss Boddis is also effective and, last season, won the Manchester "Evening Chronicle" ladies' competition.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

It is to be regretted that the number of Women's Clubs in Northumberland has not increased during the last few years. The standard of play has progressed to some extent, and it is only lack of competitive experience that retards further progress. This is largely due to the isolated position of the county and the difficulty in sending players to distant open championships, etc. Even with the improvement recently made, however, the same players as formerly retain their prestige, and this again is confined to members of one particular club (the L.N.E.R.).

Recently two members of this club (Miss McBride and Miss Marshall) entered the Hull Open Championships and were successful in carrying off the Women's Doubles, and Miss McBride reached the final of the Singles, being beaten in that event by a much more experienced player—Miss Stott, of Leeds.

Each year two Inter-County Matches with Durham are played, the results of which, so far, are slightly in our favour.

At Darlington, on the Hungarian Tour, the County Champion (Miss M. Kay) and Miss Young—a former County Champion—participated in the exhibition games, and were partnered in the Doubles by Bellak and Szabados. Afterwards they were told that the Hungarians had "played with much worse partners," which greatly cheered them.

The style of play in this area is fairly spectacular, inasmuch as it consists of "attack" rather than "defence."

There is only one Division for Women in this County, the number of clubs playing being nine. The Championship is not an Open event, and only confined to the County.

SWINDON.



Miss G. BEAZLEY

The Ladies' Division was formed in 1934, when Christ Church finished as champions. Since then the trophy has been held by the Garrards Club, who, judging from recent results, are confidently expected to complete the "hat trick" this season.

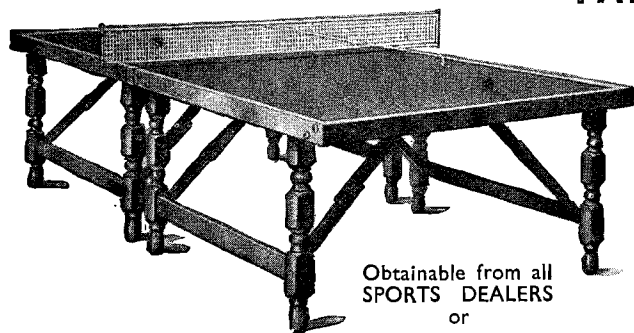
The general standard of play developed rapidly and now several players possess formidable forehand and backhand drives, and can deal effectively with spin and chop.

Miss G. Beazley is the reigning champion, having beaten Miss C. Jones in three straight games last March. She is master (or should it be mistress?) of that deadly shot of Erhlich's—the diagonal forehand drive from the backhand side of the table.

Miss C. Jones won both the Singles and Mixed Doubles titles at the Bournemouth "Open" last year, and was finalist in the Ladies' Doubles. In the West of England "Open" she reached the final of the Ladies' and Mixed Doubles. At Bournemouth recently she was Ladies' Doubles finalist.

A match versus a Bristol team, resulted in a comfortable victory for Swindon by 18 games to 7. On 21st November, Miss G. Beazley and Miss C. Jones visited Bath to play exhibition games. Vive la Femme!

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EDINBURGH - 3 S. Charlotte St. | BELFAST - 15 Lombard Street

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

A keen fight for championship honours is being waged between Carlton, last season's undefeated champions, and Stalybridge Holy Trinity, both clubs having unbeaten certificates. In a Jacques Shield match, Portland House, a Third Division club, sprang a surprise on St. Peter's (Division 2), by inflicting a 14-11 games win.

BOURNEMOUTH.

League matches now in full swing and keen competition exists. The recently-formed North Bournemouth Club has strong teams in Divisions 1 and 2, and in the Ladies' Section. Longfleet St. Mary's, North Bournemouth "B," Wesley Rovers, and St. Clement's, are chief contestants in a thrilling fight for Division 2 honours.

Local players gave a good account of themselves at the Bournemouth Open, when E. Gilbert and G. Platt succeeded in reaching the semi-final stage of the Men's Singles.

BRISTOL.

The season has marked a new era in the history of the League, now in its 18th season. Twelve new clubs bring the total strength up to 60 teams competing in five singles divisions with a small doubles section.

The inter-League team was defeated at Swindon 14-11 games, despite a fine performance by C. Dawes, with five games to his credit. A 15-year-old Grammar School boy, A. Simons, played well to defeat A. Richens.

Home and away matches are being arranged with Bath, Birmingham, Exeter, and Salisbury Leagues. In addition a team will compete in the Wilmott, and Sir Edgar Plummer Cup competitions.

C. Dawes, the Bristol champion, reiterated his claim to higher honours by a decisive defeat of L. Cann, the Cardiff Open Champion and Welsh Doubles International, when Bristol met Cardiff at Bristol, on Saturday, 21st November. Cardiff, with three Internationals, won by 8 events to 2.

CHESTER.

Y.M.C.A. and City clubs continue to hold sway in Division 1, while the undefeated clubs in Division 2 are Reliance Works and Christ Church.

Two inter-League matches have been played, the "A" Team lost to Liverpool "A," 8-2 sets, but at Rhyl we triumphed to the tune of 7-3 sets.

The surprisingly good form revealed by G. Mealar, an 18 year old player, making his debut in representative games, was a feature of the match.

GRIMSBY.

The record season last year has been followed by another, and there are now 67 teams entered in the Association, four men's leagues and one ladies'.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

The following alterations have been made in the dates of championships, and the list published in last month's issue should be altered accordingly:—

SUSSEX—FEBRUARY 20th and 21st.
LONDON—FEBRUARY 15th to 27th,

In Div. I, Y.M.C.A. "A" have maximum points after seven matches, and while showing excellent form have some stiff matches ahead as the standard has so much improved. They have twice defeated Harlequins "A," champions of last season, and their "star," Albert Hall, is at present unbeaten and promises great things. Holiday Fellowship Ladies "A" head the Ladies' League, winners of every match; three of their players did extremely well in the Hull championships—Miss Muriel Piercey and Miss Rita Bamber reaching the semi-finals of the individual, and Miss Piercey and Mrs. B. Langrick the final of the doubles.

The isolated geographical position prevents players from reaching many open tournaments and bettering standard, but the Lincolnshire League for the Haigh Coronation Cup is a step in the right direction. No matches have yet been played, but Spalding are due to be met soon and there is much interest. Entrance, too, has been made into the Wilmott Challenge Cup.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.

L. Cohen (Three Courts) is the most improved player this year. He has in league matches defeated F. Cromwell, C. W. Davies, and A. G. Millar, and it is certain that the Selection Committee will have to give serious consideration to his inclusion in representative teams.

Y.M.C.A. and Grove House continue undefeated at the head of the First Division. They meet early in December, in a match which may well decide the League Championship. Neither team is otherwise likely to be seriously challenged.

In the Second Division Birchfield hold a clear lead. They are the only team to win maximum points in their section. St. Lukes, Weaste, after a brilliant start, were held to a draw by both Manchester Jewish "A," and Grosvenor Square, and unless they can beat the leaders, their chance of promotion is not too good. Derby, Walkden "A," and Kings continue at the head of their respective regions of the Third Division, and have not yet been defeated.

The draw for the preliminary rounds of the team knock-out competition—the Richardson Challenge Cup—has not produced any surprises. Leading teams are expected to win their matches. Manchester, as holders, eagerly await the Wilmott Cup draw. Proffitts's defeat of Lurie at Hull has provided food for serious reflection.

RIBBLESDALE.

All six Leagues are in full swing. Clitheroe Catholics, and Whalley Reading Room retain unbeaten records. Six shields are competed for. The singles, and doubles championships have attracted a larger entry than was the case last season, but the first round has produced no real surprises. The visit of the Hungarians on 11th December will be a Red Letter day.

SALISBURY.

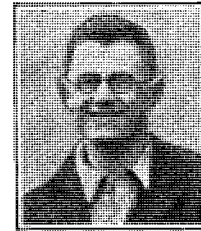
The League programme is now in full swing. The 27 teams comprising of three Divisions are fighting hard for points. In Division I, Y.M.C.A. "A" are likely to challenge St. Marks "A" for the cham-

pionship. In addition to all last year's players, the Y.M.C.A. have secured the signatures of W. J. Galliver, champion in 1933-34, from St. Marks, L. Roper, present Junior Champion, promoted from Y.M.C.A. "B" and H. C. W. Clarke, semi-finalist in 1932-33 and 1933-34 from "Amesbury." Roper has yet to be beaten in League games this season. Local enthusiasts are looking forward to the visit of the famous Hungarians to Southampton on 16th December. Inter town matches are being arranged with Bath, Bournemouth, Southampton, Swindon, and possibly Portsmouth.

WEST BROMWICH.

Y.M.C.A., last season's champions, have but two wins to their credit, and are eighth in the table. Two promoted clubs—Wellington Tube "A" and Great Bridge, together with Camp Street "A" newcomers, and Walsall champions—lead the first division. Wellington Tube "B," and Churchfield "A" share the leadership in Division II, White in Division III, Triplex, a new club along with Charlemont "B" remain unbeaten. In the Midland Counties League, we defeated Walsall by 7-2 sets. Holmes and Tolley each won their two events.

NORTH WALES.



F. BAMFORD
(Liverpool) New Welsh
International

The game is going ahead by leaps and bounds. At the commencement of last season the Llandudno Local and District Leagues were the only Leagues in existence. Last December saw the formation of the Rhyl League which now boasts 25 teams, and within three months of its inauguration had organised a successful "Open," namely, the "Flintshire," and will, on 10th December, stage the Wales v. Hungary international match.

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From all Quarters

We have heard from Bert Bridge, who has arrived safely at Abadan Island, Persia. He says weather is just getting wintry, the temperature having fallen to 95 in the shade. The first moment he arrived he was addressed by a chap named Phillips, of Finchley, who was at the "Star" Finals, and they have already started the "natives" with some real Table Tennis. Exhibitions have been arranged. He wishes to be remembered to all his friends.

Czecho-Slovakia (Kolar and Vana) beat Germany (Mauritz and Deisler) 4-1 at Munich. Mauritz beat the World Champion by playing continually to his backhand. Vana will be remembered by English "fans" as the little boy in a cap who played such astounding games on the Centre Court in the World Championships in London in 1935.

The World Championships at Vienna are now becoming news, although they do not take place until February. The Austrian Railways are reducing fares by 50 per cent. to competitors. Tema Extra will be used and also Jaques Tables. The floor at Baden is of stone, giving a very fast game, but the Austrian T.T.A. are taking all possible precautions and providing foot powder. The Jury are to be empowered, if any players show sign of "chiselling," to remove them to a small room, there to finish their matches. Any players interested in the proposal to accompany the team should write in at once.

Funny story. Hero, A. S. King, Exeter, new E.T.T.A. Executive member. Scene—Bristol. Time—12-20 a.m. after International match. Leaves match for his car parked at (so they say) hotel garage. Asks porter to open said garage. Informed it is closed for night but it doesn't belong to them anyway, but to "So and So Company." Pessimists everywhere, even policeman, who said nothing could be done till morning. However, a trip of three miles by taxi to knock up Caretaker, and alls well. Arrived home 4-30 a.m. but being an E.C. member, and a gentleman, says: "Who the Hull cares; we had a d— good time." Moral: "Don't put your car in wrong garage."

Warning to Table Tennis officials: "Don't try to teach the Hungarians any card games. The E.T.T.A. Secretary once tried to teach 'em the English game of "Nap." He lost 15s. 4d.!"

We were glad to see Mr. Corti Woodcock back in his old form at the Memorial Hall. He said he had almost recovered from the breakdown in his health which forced him to cancel engagements and resign from the Chairmanship last spring. We look forward to seeing him again active in the administration of the Association's affairs.

I had the privilege of visiting the Press Room at Broadcasting House, on the night when Exhibition Games were televised from Alexandra Palace, writes L. E. Forrest. For the first time in history, a picture of Table Tennis stars at play was thrown on a small screen.

It was a thrilling experience to watch for 10 min. our Hungarian friends engaged in games played with all their accustomed skill.

Television—perhaps the most marvellous of modern achievements—is destined to play an important part in the further development of Table Tennis.

Its possibilities appear to be boundless. One can foresee the day when "needle" matches will be televised from the studio, when those who are unable to take a long journey to witness a Table Tennis encounter may switch on their television wireless sets at home, hear the tip-tap of bat and ball, and see the players in action.

On this night, Barna was seen flicking with that unerring skill of his, and delighting us with his graceful movements. Barna who has captured the imagination of the British public—in his game with Szabados, the stylist; with Bellak, the inimitable; and with Mr. W. J. Pope, the referee—all appeared on the screen, as if in life.

Wilmott Cup

The undermentioned 37 entries have been received for the Wilmott Cup Competition. The draw will be made in the course of the next few days, and Secretaries may expect to receive a communication shortly: Ashton-under-Lyne, Barking, Bacup, Bath, Bedford, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Chelmsford, Eastbourne, Farnham, Film Renters, Grimsby, Huddersfield Y.M.C.A., Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, North Middlesex, Reddish, Ribblesdale, Sheffield, Slough, Stockport, Swindon, Surrey, South London, Sunderland, Salisbury, Southport, Uxbridge, Wembley, Woolwich.

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Middlesex Open Championships

HERGA CLUB, HARROW

Commencing Tuesday, January 5th, 1937
Finals day, January 16th

Closing date for entries January 1st, 1937

Entry forms from:
B. J. WALDRON, Herga Club, Courtfield Av., Harrow
Telephone: Harrow 1400

Midland Open Championships

KENT ST. BATHS, BIRMINGHAM

January 15th and 16th, 1937

All events, including Veterans' and Juniors' Singles
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