

# TABLE TENNIS



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ENGLISH  
TENNIS



TABLE  
ASSOCIATION

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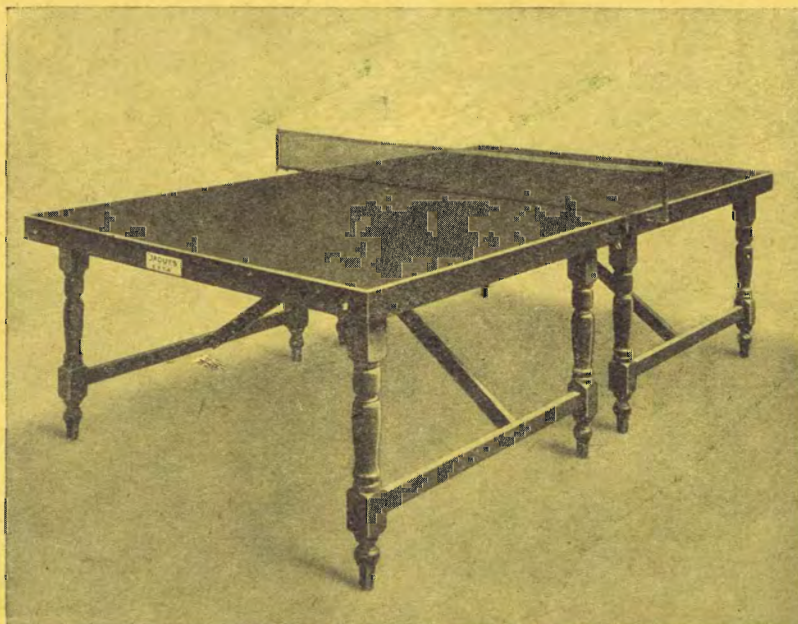


Vol. III

No. 7

APRIL, 1938

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# TABLE TENNIS

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VOLUME III. No. 7

APRIL, 1938

THREE PENCE

## GREATEST TOUR OF ALL

### Foreign Visitors Pack Hall: Visit 40 Centres: Civic Receptions: Grand Missionary Work: Results Next Year

By **J. W. A. CONNOLLY**

**T**HE missionary work of the present tour is such that it cannot possibly be calculated or even judged in value of cold figures. The 1938 tour is the biggest thing ever attempted by the English Table Tennis Association.

Now, two months after the conclusion of the world championships, we can sit back and reflect on the tremendous interest and enthusiasm which these newcomers to this country have created in a game in which England has long been foremost collectively.

Throughout the British Isles huge crowds have been seeing what we know table tennis can be for the first time. These foreigners have blazed a trail that will not easily be forgotten. It has been magnificent. **Table tennis has been put on the map in every little hamlet in the British Isles.** It is a feat of which all of us who have participated can be justly proud.

**I**SAY don't judge on figures for good enough reasons. In London the people never tire of the artistry of our guest tourists. They can play to capacity houses of 5,000, 6,000 and even 10,000 people. The smaller townships were equally enthusiastic and packed to perhaps 700 because that was absolute capacity.

Had the facilities and accommodation been there they too could have staged the event before thousands of enthralled fans. The value of this tour will be felt in the increased memberships of clubs, and the new clubs and associations formed next season.

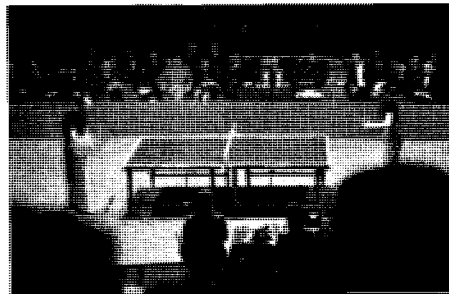
Take Manchester for instance. Five thousand people sat for eight hours through the grand international tournament. Manchester, like London, is well used to internationals, and their high standards of play; nevertheless the King's Hall, the biggest arena in that city, was packed as in the past only local boxing champions had been able to pack it.

**H**UGE crowds saw Barna, Bellak, Vana, Leibster and Bergmann in Acton, Wimbledon, Dartford, Tottenham, Hendon and Southend, all in the London area, and every time it was a sell-out.

Now is the time to say that the new stars Bergmann and Vana have come to stay. They can fight out a repetition of their world championship final at Wembley, and still draw the

*crowds in, because they are playing the best stuff we have ever seen in this country.*

It is with the smaller towns that we are most interested. Coventry catered for 500



spectators, and the tickets were all sold a fortnight before the exhibition at the Coventry Gauge and Tool Company's recreation hall. Players also had the opportunity of visiting the Standard Motor Works.

**A**T Cardiff the players were given a civic reception, and again the tickets for the matches at the City Hall were sold long before the date. They were given silver souvenir spoons, with the city coat of arms embossed as a memento.

*And then away to Lydney in Gloucester. The only regret that the officials had after the tournament that they could not get a larger hall with bigger accommodation than 400. This in a district where the sport had been always considered a drawing-room game. The exhibition will be the means of giving a fillip to the game.*

In Peterborough our troupe showed almost unbelievable artistry. The boys

went away with another memento carrying the coat of arms, but left behind them the impression that this is table tennis as it can and will be played in the future.

**S**HREWSBURY officials can give themselves a pat on the back for the way they put it over. They, too, are hoping that the wonderful capabilities of Barna, Bergmann and Bellak have awakened inspirations in local players.

I could go on for pages and pages describing the civic receptions and the wonderful impressions which have been left on the trail of glory of the 1938 tour.

**L**AZLO BELLAK, comedian of the Hungarians, amused the crowd at Ashington with his one-man game, "à la the tortoise and the hare." If they did not turn up in their thousands at Ashington, the local committee can congratulate themselves on a job well done, and rest in the knowledge that the game has benefited as a result.

The troupe were given a civic reception by the Mayoress of Oldham (Mrs. Howcroft), and later presented with pewter tankards. Miss Vera Greenwood, British Cotton Queen, was there. Bellak again was the favourite with his endless tricks.

Three thousand spectators, absolute capacity, gathered in the St. James' Hall, Newcastle, for one of the earliest tour engagements. Arthur Haydon was a great success. Two thousand seats were sold in advance. The players and officials were entertained in the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and afterwards presented with small mementoes.

Every available seat was disposed of for the games at Tottenham. The deputy Mayor (Councillor A. Reed), and deputy Mayoress (Mrs. P. Baldwin), received the players in the Mayor's Parlour. Each player was presented with a petrol lighter.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

# SOME "GOOD OLD DAYS" IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE

## Amazing Growth of Sheffield's Activities

By "TYKE"

**S**SIX years ago, on October 7, 1931, to be precise, six representatives of various clubs—works' sports clubs, social clubs, church institutes, &c.—met to consider the possibility of forming a Table Tennis League in Sheffield.

After prolonged discussion it was decided to form a league, and after further discussion it was decided, with some trepidation, to affiliate to the E.T.T.A.

Although two of the original clubs had to withdraw, by the time match play commenced in mid-November, club membership had increased to 13 clubs (did someone say 13 was unlucky?), with 16 teams divided into two divisions of eight teams each.

*It is not too much to say, that, apart from one club—the first league champions—there was very little knowledge of modern table tennis amongst the local players. "Penholder" grip was almost universal, and wooden bats, many of them of weird shape and size, were the rule rather than the exception.*

I remember one of these bats, made by a player who has since played in representative matches for the league, which was as big as a frying pan, and the blade was half an inch thick! Incidentally one of the most famous of these wooden bats (still used until recently by its owner), known to, and anathematized by every member of the league, was *accidentally* (?) burned along with some club rubbish the other week, and great was the rejoicing thereat!

**I**N April, 1932, the General Secretary of the E.T.T.A., in fulfilment of a promise made when the S. & D.T.T.L. became affiliated, arranged for some international players to give an exhibition in Sheffield.

The players taking part were Stanley Proffitt, Freddie Cromwell, Noel Ashton, and Schatzow, and they were accompanied by Messrs. Oldroyd and Swann, of Manchester.

What a revelation to the local lads! On all sides the marvellous play of these brilliant exponents was being discussed, the predominant expression being amazement! With few exceptions the members of the audience had seen nothing like it before, but, having had the possibilities of the game demonstrated to them, they set out with real Yorkshire determination to learn how to play table tennis.

An immediate result of the exhibition was a wholesale scrapping of bats, with a corresponding run on "Proffitt" and "Schatzow" bats, whilst in every club room erstwhile "penholders" were grimly tackling the "orthodox" grip.

So much for the early days; and now,

skipping the intervening years—years of steady and continuous progress—what of season 1937-38?

With a club membership of 49 clubs the S. & D.T.T.L. is easily the largest league in Yorkshire.

Seventy-two men's teams are divided into six divisions of 12 teams each, and there is a women's division of 10 teams, a grand total of 82 teams. Over 800 players are registered with the league, each having his or her own handbook with certificate of registration.

**A** POINT of interest about the league competition is that there is no fixed system of promotion and relegation. Each season the teams are matched up in divisions as closely as possible in the light of known facts as to playing strength, &c., and it speaks well for this system to find at this date only one unbeaten team (in Division three) out of the 82, and only four have yet to win a match. At the moment Atlas & Norfolk, the sports club of the famous steel firm of Thos. Firth & John Brown, Ltd., are slight favourites for the league championship. They are the holders, having won the championship for the past two seasons, but Brook House, the only private table tennis club in Sheffield, are running them very closely, and may yet spring a surprise.



In addition there is a Team Knock-out Competition for teams of three, and 42 teams have entered this competition. All classes are thus catered for, and there are trophies for every competition.

In the Wilmott Cup competition, the league registered its first victory by defeating Leeds 5-4 in the first round, but with a weakened team, were eliminated by Birmingham, 6-3, in the second round.

For the past four or five seasons we have received visits from the strongest teams of Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, and the same programme applies this season.

**I**N December, Manchester, with Cromwell, Davies, Cohen, Casofsky, and Stanley, gave us a trouncing, but on February 12 the S. & D.T.T.L. made history by defeating Liverpool, 6-4!

Admittedly, Liverpool were weakened by the absence of one or two famous players, but our boys are beginning to shed their "inferiority complex" and if my friend Mr. Goldstein, of Birmingham, should read these notes I warn him to take notice!

**It is a source of great satisfaction to the league officials that we are gradually building up a table tennis public in Sheffield. This is being done by careful spacing out of events, and the avoidance of anything in the nature of a "boom."**

**Our inter-league matches are usually well attended, although we are greatly handicapped by the lack of a really suitable hall in Sheffield for major events. A party of 250 visited Wembley by special excursion for the World Finals, and another party went to Blackpool for the English Open Finals. The interest is there all right!**

Now what of our players? We had G. V. Barna with us for three days in Sheffield, and we gave him half a dozen youngsters to take in hand. Five of them 17 years of age, and one 16, and we hope to hear more of these boys in the future. The outstanding player is, of course, Eric Hardman, the 17 years old boy to whom belongs the honour of becoming Sheffield's first international player. He has, perhaps, not done quite so well as we expected, but we have hopes of him doing bigger things next season.

**V**ERY little behind Hardman are J. Powell, barely 17, and J. K. Young, also 17. All these boys benefited by Barna's tuition, and Powell particularly is expected to make a name for himself. He made his debut in real representative match play against Liverpool and celebrated it by winning two straight sets without being extended. It is the view of many competent judges that he will develop into Sheffield's best player. At the Final Trials in London he was nervous and his inexperience told against him, but he will overcome that.

The youngsters are now reaping the benefit of the labours of such "old stagers" as Morton, Shivers, Armytage, and a host of others who, by their enthusiasm in the old days, enthusiasm which still continues, made possible the development of the game in Sheffield.

I must also say a word about the league officials, and possibly more important still, the club secretaries.

*From its inception the league has been blessed with capable officials and committee men, and as for the club secretaries, well, everyone knows they are the keystone of a successful league, and right well have the club secretaries served the S. & D.T.T.L.*

Are we active in Sheffield? I think we are, and in conclusion let me give one further proof. We dispose of 240 copies per month of this magazine, thus doing our little bit towards the success of our own publication.

# Improve your Game

No. 7.

## THE DROP SHOT AND THE SMASH

USE of the Drop Shot is one of the finer points of the game and should not be attempted except by a fairly good stroke player. It is a purely subsidiary stroke and ought always to be regarded as such.

Ability to "Drop Shot" well is of great assistance to a hitter, and saves always hitting into an opponent's defence with the alternative of slow top spin. But before it can be at all effective, first impress an opponent with hitting powers.

**Do not confuse the Drop Shot with any short return. It is the most difficult form of short play—a feint to hit the ball and then just a touch at it.**

IT is easiest to play the shot against a high return near the net which seems to invite a smash. Your opponent gets back ready to retrieve your hit but—it never comes! You poise yourself for the blow, start your arm swing back and at the last possible moment just touch the ball over the net. This should mean a certain point.

*It is useless to expect good results from even a well-played Drop Shot unless backed by a decisive hit—otherwise the opposing player will not be ready to retreat and defend.*

Perfect timing is essential before the stroke is perfected. Be prepared to play the stroke a good deal in practice before experimenting in a match.

Don't be discouraged if you find you put the ball up high enough for your opponent to jump and make a quick "kill," or if you play in the ball gently into the net. Careful practice will eliminate these faults and improve your touch sufficiently to enable you to use the stroke at least occasionally.

ONCE you are really proficient it is tremendously effective against all but the quickest footed defensive players. It is a most unsettling stroke—for any opponents.

Avoid using it too often, however, or it will lose its sting—its surprise value—because good players will then always be ready for the shot.

There is nothing more futile than to see a player, who has obviously practised the Drop Shot, continually making a short return in the apparent hope of catching his opponent napping.

An overdose seriously weakens a player's ability to make a stream of attacking strokes.

HAVING learned to use the Drop Shot against returns close to the net, try to increase stroke range by playing it against returns which come farther down the table. This is, of course, more difficult, but ought to be attempted, since by so doing you will improve sureness of touch for the successful Drop Shot.

*If you find it difficult to drop the ball over the net sufficiently gently to make your shot difficult to return try half*

with

**M. A. SYMONS,**  
the well-known coach.

*drawing your arm back immediately after contact with the ball. This will seem difficult at first but it will ensure delicacy of touch—the essential of a good Drop Shot.*

Above all you must believe in the effectiveness of your stroke. Having come up to the table and made the stroke stay in to kill the return with a hit after drawing your opponent close in. Don't be afraid of putting your shot "up" and try to get back from the table in case your opponent hits it.

IT is quite the wrong attitude to adopt. You must expect your Drop Shot to be awkward for your opponent and he should only be able to make a weak return. If he hits it—well, that's because you've made your stroke badly. *The Drop Shot is a stroke that must be made well or not attempted.* Practice the shot until you can execute it properly.

### The Smash

THE Smash is at the other end of the scale to the Drop Shot—it is brawn as opposed to guile. Sheer force, when called for, is always the best medium to use because the most natural. Why worry about placing or anything else when the return is so simple that you feel you can hit it out of

sight! *Try to do that*—it is a most exhilarating feeling to smash the ball right past your opponent—guaranteed to give confidence and likely to rattle an opponent if tried often.

However, there should be method even about your smashing. Poise ready for the blow. The chance formula shot will most often come after a previous good drive by yourself. Watch how your opponent shapes to your hits, then you will automatically position for a more telling reply.

This habit is most conducive to become a really good hitter.

ENSURE perfect balance before trying to hit. Don't rush at the ball because it is invitingly high—you should be then waiting for it if you've followed up your previous shot properly. If you are not ready positioned for the shot when the chance comes you should refrain from your "slam" unless the ball is very high. Even then the time you take may give your opponent time to return your hit.

Confidence and opportunism play a great part in successful smashing and the frequency with which you take advantage of sudden chances which present themselves depend upon your own natural agility.

### Chop Smash

Against a "skied" return fairly near the net, chop smash can be played. Hit the ball with racket head held above the wrist and strike the ball almost straight downwards with a sharp chopping movement. It is inadvisable to try this shot to any but the simplest returns unless fairly expert at the chop stroke and even then its use should be carefully restricted.

### Missed Smashes

AVOID carelessness about taking the simplest looking return. No player can afford to treat returns with contempt although I have often seen players do this—try to make their smash almost without looking at the ball and turn round to the audience with a smile as if to say—"its as easy as that!"

*Careless habits make for loose play and will result in missed "sitters" and eventual lack of confidence. Never relax when playing in a match. Try to remain calm and businesslike about every stroke no matter how easy.*

**Next Month: Choosing the Right Ball—the Value of Restraint.**

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### "TABLE TENNIS"

Published monthly, October-May, by the EDITORIAL BOARD, E.T.T.A.,

64, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

Phone: Hol 9544.

Editor:

J. W. A. CONNOLLY

Hon. Magazine Secretary:

W. C. CHARLTON

Circulation:

Miss R. SMITS Miss G. CAPPER

Obtainable from above address or from League Secretaries and all Newsagents. MSS. for publication must be received not later than the 15th of month.

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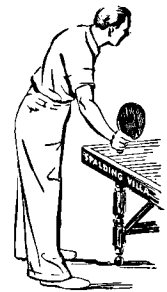
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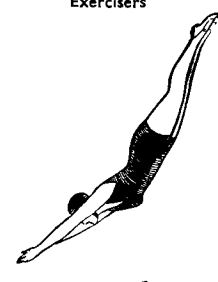
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# Looking Around

with

**J. W. A. CONNOLLY**  
 ("Sunday Express" sports writer)

**T**HE star of the month this time is, I think, without question Joan Harding, the young West Ealing player. I don't mention Joan particularly for her singles play, but for her consistency with L. Baron in the mixed doubles.

I haven't kept anything like a careful check of the wins recorded by this pair, but I should say at random that they have won more than any other mixed doubles pairing, even including Arthur Haydon and Doris Jordan.

\* \* \*

To my mind it is the remarkable steadiness of Miss Harding that makes the combination. It was rather amazing to find her courageous enough to take Arthur Haydon's service at Wembley and actually hit it.

\* \* \*

She has the makings of a grand player, and I would like to see her paired with one of the really tip-top internationals, because I think she is worth it. Which rather reminds me that it is high time Miss Harding got some recognition in the shape of an international jersey. She's well worth that too. Her singles game has improved, but I think her doubles play deserves international honours.

\* \* \*

**I**T was liable to happen any time. After resolutely refusing to be drawn into the competitive side of the game again, I yielded to the gentle persuasion of my old friend Leslie Forrest, my assistant editor, and competent assistant to Bill Pope, and broke the golden rule.

*We reached the doubles second round. We did well. We had a bye in the first round. That's all the story.*

\* \* \*

Talking of the Wembley tournament, I must compliment Mr. Tebb and the Wembley League Officials on their splendid organisation. The finals, please note, were finished at 10.15. *Fitting compliment from the players themselves in the shape of an entry of almost 600, and the best of the season. In future I think that Wembley at least deserve the ranking of a major tournament. It is seemingly ridiculous to have a tournament with such an entry rated second class.*

\* \* \*

**J**ACK TEBB is practical minded. When the entry swelled beyond expectations, he hired the Wembley Institute. When the entries rolled in still he didn't tear his hair, he hired the Railway Club, and had twelve tables going every night. Other clubs please note!!!

\* \* \*

Wembley fixed a scratching time, and they stuck to it right through the championships. Players who didn't get there to time were scratched. Jack Tebb didn't brook any delay. The Wembley has always been one of my own favourites . . . they're great hosts at Wembley . . . other clubs please note that also. I shall be there again next year, every night.

**M**UST bid adieu to friend Stanley Proffitt who this month goes to Scotland to take up a cricket appointment at Perth. I wish Stanley the very best of luck once again, and I am glad he will assist Barking in the Wilmott Cup final rounds.

\* \* \*

Stanley has been almost as successful with his cricket as table tennis. He started with Lancashire Colts, had a successful spell in the greatest northern nursery, the Central Lancashire League, played in the Birmingham League, and lastly, of course, with Essex.

\* \* \*

**I**AM pleased he is to play in the Wilmott Cup, because Gerry King, the Barking second string, was one of his first pupils. Had Gerry been able to spare the time he would have been a brilliant left-hander.

\* \* \*

He started with Mount Carmel, my old club, in Manchester, years ago, and was one of the best of the first league players. Incidentally I have a note that Mount Carmel have found new fields to conquer in the Manchester Catholic league, and are right bang on top of the table. That's good news, but as I have said before Bill Grogan and Norman Madden were always good players. They even used to beat me easily.

\* \* \*

**T**HE latest player to produce a bat is none other than Benny Marcus. Benny claims wonders by means of a cork inset in the handle. Says that the inset gives the player the comfort of a cork grip, and the wooden handle itself gives the bat the speed of an all-wooden handle.

\* \* \*

Young Marcus is one of those players who have taken the game really seriously, and bordered on the top class without any international reward. He seems to have been out of luck since he won the West London doubles with Tommy Sears.

\* \* \*

**H**ARD lines on Mrs. Collier. She has practised hard all the season, and this is only her second year in the game. She was set on winning an open title before the close of the season. Went mighty near, but just missed the boat in the south of England and Surrey events. She reached the singles finals in the Surrey and South of England and the South of England doubles.

And she didn't win a title. But leastways she had the satisfaction of her finest performance to date, namely, in beating Dora Emdin in the semi-final.

## BARKING GIANT KILLERS IN WILLMOTT CUP

BY L. E. FORREST

**F**OR the past two years, the Wilmott Cup draw has been made in public. Last year, when South London won the trophy, it was made at the finals of the South of England Championships at Croydon. This time, 11-year old Master Jimmy Birmingham, incidentally the youngest competitor in the Wembley Open Championships, sealed the fate of the four surviving Leagues.

I wonder if this draw made at Wembley, North London, on March 5th, is an omen that either Manchester or Liverpool will succeed in capturing the trophy! This is how they came out of the hat:—

**London v. Liverpool.**

**Barking v. Manchester.**

The semi-finals, and final will take place at Emmanuel Hall, West Derby Road, Liverpool, on Saturday, April 9th. This will be the first time the Wilmott Cup final stages will have been played in the North, and Mr. Stamp, the Liverpool League secretary, is leaving no stone unturned to ensure the event being a huge success.

**A**S we go to Press the final composition of the teams is not known. London will select from E. J. Filby, M. B. W. Bergl, S. Coles and H. Rosen. Liverpool have in mind J. K. Hyde, F. Bamford, D. Foulis and the brothers P. U. and E. J. Rumjahn.

It is interesting to note that of all the inter-league matches played by both Liverpool and London Leagues, this will be their first meeting.

Of London's players, Filby alone has played in tournaments on Merseyside. Provided both Eric Filby and Maurice Bergl are selected we shall see three of England's Swaythling Cup team players in action.



Mr. W. Stamp.

**B**ARKING, the York City of the Wilmott Cup, with the knowledge that they have already defeated the holders—South London, travel North for the first time, full of confidence and surprisingly enough two of their team are Manchester men. I refer to that old stalwart Stanley Proffitt and to Gerry King, both left-handed players. Don Chapman, still at school, will in all probability complete Barking's trio.

These men from Essex face a formidable array of talent, for Manchester have on their selected list the following—H. Lurie (our pocket edition Barna), B. Casofsky, L. Cohen, A. G. Millar, C. W. Davies and 16-year-old Ken Stanley.

# TOURISTS SHOW MANCHESTER SOMETHING NEW

## She Rose From Sick Bed and Won Title

BY S. W. RICHARDSON

**F**OR those who were lucky enough to be able to see Saturday's play in the *Evening Chronicle* table tennis festival it will live long in their memory. Never before has Manchester seen such brilliance, in fact I thought the standard of play in the final of the international tournament was better than the recent world singles final in which the same players took part.

Perhaps it was because R. Bergmann (Austria) the 19-years-old ex-world champion was all out for revenge, but he again found the 18-years-old B. Vana, of Czecho-Slovakia, the world champion, his master. Vana lacked nothing. He had an endless range and variety of strokes while his footwork was superb.

Ken Stanley, the English junior champion, gave Bergmann a hard fight in their first match, and he often beat Bergmann completely with drives.

**Viktor Barna showed much of his old form against Bergmann, but he now lacks a fore-hand although his back-hand seemed as good as ever.**

**So keen was the play that hundreds of spectators sat from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. with only a short interval for refreshments.**

**P**LAY in the *Evening Chronicle* championships was better than previous years and results were close. Again a Manchester player, A. Cohen (Manchester Jewish), won the men's singles. Cohen is 19 years old and has played the game two years. He shows much promise and has a nice all-round game with a terrific smash. When he becomes steadier he may be a great player. He beat B. Dorfman from Liverpool in the final after a few anxious moments towards the end. Cohen won the first two games convincingly but when leading 16-13 in the third game he wavered. Dorfman seized his chance and took that game, but Cohen got the next.

H. Cohen, his elder brother, runner-up last year, fell in the semi-final to Dorfman, thus killing hopes of a family final.

**M**RS. D. E. JONES (Leek) rose from a sick bed to play in the women's singles and she won, which must have been a big consolation, mainly because of her steadiness.

Miss G. Bean must feel very unlucky. Runner-up last year, and leading by 2 games to nil in the final, this time only to lose 2-3.

Tribute was paid to the enterprise of the *Evening Chronicle* in staging such an event by Mr. H. Oldroyd, the President of the E.T.T.A.

Mr. Oldroyd presented the *Evening Chronicle* trophy to B. Vana, winner of the international tournament and the Hon. G. Lionel Berry presented the *Evening Chronicle* trophies.

Thanks are due to the honorary referees, Messrs. H. Oldroyd, S. W. Richardson and H. M. Bunbury, to Jack Batty and to all officials, and the Manchester League for their co-operation.

Messrs. Burrough and Watts, Messrs. John Jaques and Son, and Messrs. A. G. Spalding and Bros. (British), Ltd., are thanked for the loan of the equipment.

### FIXTURES

1938.

Mar. 21-Apr. 2 West Middlesex (West Ealing).  
 April 1-2 Grimsby.  
 „ 4-8 "Nucaw," Transport House, Smith Square, London.  
 „ 16 Scarborough.  
 „ 18 Whitby.  
 „ 19-30 North West London, Ellerslie Hall, Cricklewood, N.W. 2.



(Courtesy of Allied Newspapers, Manchester)  
 The Hon. Lionel Berry presenting the "Evening Chronicle" Women's Singles Table Tennis Championship Cup to Mrs. D. E. Jones, of Leek, at Belle Vue, Manchester.

# Foreigners Sweep the Board in Pontefract Finals

## But Lancashire Stars impress Crowd

BY LEONARD JOSEPH

**A**LL records went by the boards at the Pontefract Open tournament on March 5th when a crowded hall—the first time such a crowd has witnessed a table tennis tournament in the town—paid full tribute to a brilliant evening's play.

To the organising secretary, and Yorkshire secretary, Frank Amies, must go the compliments of all concerned in the success of the event. He gave added spice to the affair by getting A. Ehrlich (Poland), A. Liebster (Austria), A. Boros (Hungary), Miss Beregi and Miss I. Ferenczy (Hungary) in addition to many Manchester stars including Leslie Cohen, Freddie Cromwell, Ken Stanley, C. W. Davies, &c.

*The highlight of the evening was the final of the men's singles when Ehrlich defeated Liebster 22-20, 21-18, 21-19. The closeness of the scores indicates what a tight fight it was. A battle of giants, I called it, in more senses than one, for both are six feet tall and possess a fine understanding of tablecraft.*

**I**N the first game Ehrlich was losing 16-19 and 17-20, but he managed to pull out that extra bit to draw level to 20 all and then took the two deciding points.

What a reception greeted these two players! Ehrlich's non-stop whirlwind tactics against the ever-steady Liebster quickly captured the fancy of the spectators.

Ehrlich, in fact, had a "night out." He and Boros won the men's doubles, defeating Liebster and Cohen 15-21, 21-19, 24-22, while in partnership with Miss Beregi he won the mixed doubles against Boros and Miss Ferenczy in two straight.

**T**HERE was one thing I was pleased to see and that was the way in which the Manchester stars stood up to the continental cracks. Leslie Cohen in particular made a big impression.

He gave Liebster a real scare in the semi-final of the men's singles. Losing 15-19 in the first game he rallied brilliantly to deuce only to lose 20-22.

Full of confidence he left Liebster at 11-1 in the second, which he won 21-10, but in the final game he lapsed after holding his own to 11-14, and lost 21-14.

The youths' singles, although not possessing the thrills of the other big matches, was interesting, because it brought Ken Stanley on view again. He was opposed to E. Goodman (Grove House, Manchester), who on his day is "the goods."

The greater experience of Stanley won him the day, 21-12, 21-16.

**I**N the mixed doubles semi-final, the Leeds pair, Eric Marston and Miss Rene Stott found Boros and Miss Ferenczy too good to the tune of 21-15, 21-16.

The women's singles title went to the red-headed Hungarian, Miss Beregi, after three games, who defeated Miss Ferenczy. This pair accounted for Miss Stott and Mrs. Amies in the final of the women's doubles.

The entries received were 70 for the men's singles, 26 for men's doubles, 22 women's singles, 10 women's doubles, 23 mixed doubles, and 16 in the youths' singles. In every instance the entry was at least double that of any previous year.



# The World's Best Ten Players

## 1—Vana 2—Bergmann, Barna

### England is Strong—but in Second Class Players

BY HON. IVOR MONTAGU

**R**ANKINGS are generally guesswork, and any man has as much right to guess as another. We have never had one officially because it might cause bad feelings.

There used to be an unofficial list prepared by Mechlovitz, Dr. Pick and myself which just helped to start controversy and provide a topic.

To do the self-same service, but in the absence of my two colleagues, here is one to be shot at—

#### MEN.

**F**IRST, let me say that, in my view, world form has been low, very low, in 1935-6 and 1936-7. Last year we should have had to bracket together at the top five players—**Barna, Bergmann, Ehrlich, Schiff and Vana**—a thing that's never happened before and shows the want of a master—with **Bellak and McClure** just following.

This year, some begin to rise and draw out. Here goes:—

1. Vana.
2. Barna, Bergmann.
4. Bellak, Schiff.
6. Ehrlich.
7. McClure.
8. Liebster.
9. Tereba.
10. Hazi.
- 11-15. Haguenaer, Hendry, Marinko, Mauritz, Hamr.
- 16-20. Bublej, Grimes, Pagliaro, Slar, Soos.
- 21-25. Boros, Filby, Kolar, Lurie and Duskis.

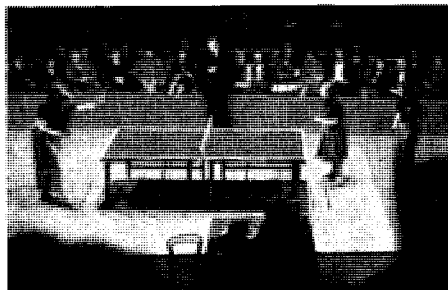
This includes all who have any pretensions to **international** form this year. In the top rank, what you might call ordinary "first class" are:—Foldi, Schediwy and Goebel, Schiff, Finkelstein, Heksner, two Frenchmen, Aguilar and Agopoff. And of course the whole of the English top class, Bergl, Brook, Cohen, Coles, Hardman, Haydon, Hyde, Marshall, Rosen, Seaman, Stanley, Stennett. There are far more English players at the top of this class than in any other country.

*The only reason why the three ranked in the first 25 pull out above their fellows in the great English strength is because they turned up trumps in the season in one or two first class games.*

**I**F they hadn't, and thanks to it when it was needed, England wouldn't have tied in its Swaythling group. Blattner, Kelen, Szabados are left out owing to lack of information.

#### WOMEN.

**W**OMEN last year were exceedingly strong, with Aarons, Pritzi, Kettnerova, Krebsbach, Bussmann, Osborne, Adelstein all crowded near the top. This year is the most frightfully weak year for women's table tennis—international class, of course.



1. Pritzi.
2. Votrubcova.
3. Kettnerova.
4. Depetricova.
5. Osborne.
6. Beregi.
7. H. R. Evans.
8. Jordan.

**O**NE cannot even finish a list of ten. How to pick and choose between such as Ferenczy, Morgan, the three Americans on view (Harrison, Hendry, Wilkinson), D. M. Emdin, Hutchings and Chalamel?

Who is missing and why? Aarons, near No. 1. Bussmann near No. 3. Krebsbach (a mother), Wildam (retired), Wheaton (presumably busy), Delay (bereavement), Mednyansky (retired), Adelstein (through causes unconnected with table tennis).

Thus not only were two of the present world's first five not competing this year, but many others in or near last year's first ten, and good candidates for this year's, have dropped right out.

**K**ETTNEROVA, Osborne and Sipos are likely to drop out next year. A sad prospect. In these circumstances England will have to hunt and nurse and coax its newcomers.

Somebody, anyway, will need to pull up her skirts and give the women's game a shaking up.

#### MEN'S DOUBLES.

There are only two good pairs—McClure/Schiff and Barna/Bellak.

#### WOMEN'S DOUBLES.

Three good pairs, ranked so—1, Votrubcova/Depetricova (out on their own); 2, Osborne/Woodhead (world class for the second year in succession); 3, Beregi/Ferenczy.

#### MIXED DOUBLES.

Several pairs of fair brilliance, including Vana/Votrubcova, Bellak/Woodhead, Barna/Osborne.

Finally, my summing up of the championship is in the following points:

- (a) *As usual general strength in men.*
- (b) *English men second class, but more in the top of this than any other nation.*
- (c) *Top ten not better than in many earlier years, but better than last two years.*
- (d) *Women's class lower than in any previous year ever.*

## DURHAM COUNTY TOURNNEY

### SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP FOR EW BANK

**T**HE first Durham County closed table tennis championships, held in the Y.M.C.A., Sunderland, on Saturday, were an outstanding success, both from the point of view of playing and organization.

In the singles all the semi-finalists were Y.M.C.A. players. T. F. Ewbank and E. Reay were expected to reach the penultimate stage, but G. Ewart, created a surprise by eliminating H. Hunnam in the quarter-final, and J. Middlemiss upset calculations by beating R. A. Punshon, who had previously accounted for F. Templeton and J. H. Jeal.

Ewbank beat Ewart 21-16, 21-12, and Reay beat Middlemiss 23-21, 21-15, and so paved the way for a final which will live long in the memory of those who witnessed it.

**T**HE final of the junior singles was also of a high standard and revealed J. Fishwick, of Grangetown, as a player possessed of correct footwork. It was a pleasure to see him playing so confidently on both backhand and forehand.

#### RESULTS.

##### MEN'S SINGLES.

**SEMI-FINAL.**—Ewbank beat Ewart, 21-16, 21-12; Reay beat Middlemiss, 23-21, 21-15.

**FINAL.**—Ewbank beat Reay, 23-25, 21-12, 23-25, 21-13, 21-15.

##### JUNIOR SINGLES.

**SEMI-FINALS.**—Stamp beat Campton, 21-10, 21-11; Fishwick beat Nichol, 21-6, 13-21, 21-16.

**FINAL.**—Fishwick beat Stamp, 21-14, 25-23.

**I**N commencing my notes I must apologise for a mistake last month when I stated that H. T. Buse, Bath's number one, beat T. Smith, of Cardiff, in the **BATH.** Western Inter-city match to secure Bath's only point. It has been pointed out to me that Buse's victim was F. Curtain.

This month Bath has secured victory, but in a friendly between Bath and West Wilts. When visiting West Wilts Bath took a weakened team and were consequently beaten by eight game to seven.

The following week was a different story in the match at Bath. The home team was represented by K. Ollis, A. R. Leach, C. Bristow, P. Kingston, R. Hillman and J. Offer, and a victory of ten points to four was recorded in favour of Bath. K. Ollis, A. R. Leach and C. Bristow secured two each, while P. Kingston and R. Hillman got one each. J. Offer and R. Hillman and K. Ollis and C. Bristow won the two doubles games.

In a league match with Swindon we put out a team of players who had so far just missed inter-city selection, and got soundly licked by 35 games to one, or 759 points to 532. The only point won went to the honour of F. Derrick, who beat L. Joy 21-19.

West Wilts are sending a team of players to Bath of 19 and under to give a start to some of the young blood. We are doing our best to find talent and build a team that instead of taking a licking nearly every match, will return with interest what we have had in the past.

J. Butcher (Oldfield Bapt.) lost his 100 per cent. league record when he was beaten by A. R. Leach (Bathwick "A").

"G. T. E."

# TOURISTS REACH PEAK FORM AT HASTINGS

## Vana wins Sussex Singles

BY JACK CARRINGTON

**T**HE Hastings Association took a bold step when they hired the ultra-modern Sea-end Pavilion for their two-day Sussex Open Tournament.

However, judging by the satisfaction expressed by competitors and spectators, the venture was worth while, and should be productive in future years.

The cheerful airy hall was laid out very efficiently, each of the eight tables having ample run-back and side-room, whilst a touch of the festive spirit was added by the carnival decorations.

The final seal of neatness was given to the scene by the now famous Albert Hall surroundings (patents pending, Mr. Decker?), separating tables into single courts.

The men's entry was particularly strong, headed by the four "Tourists," and supported by a large London contingent and players from Eastbourne, Brighton and other southern centres.

**S**ATURDAY'S play reduced these to the expected four semi-finalists, Barna, Bellak, Vana and Bergmann.

**Not much trouble for the first two, but Bergmann had quite a struggle with Filby, whilst Jack Rogers showed his independence by taking a game from Vana. (Backhands barred, of course, in this match!)**

Sunday evening session opened with men's semi-finals, Barna-Bellak and Vana-Bergmann. Both were soon over in two straight games. Filby and Rogers—Vana and Bergmann! we hoped that the old firm might pull it off here, but the Continentals were just too fast for them.

The ladies' finals which followed were not of first-class standard, but were rendered interesting by the presence of local girls in each event.

**T**HE men's final between Barna and Vana was a masterpiece of speed, tactics and stroke production.

Nothing was missing and thoughtful players learned much from this model match.

**With Victor less worried than at Wembley, and Vana a little less grim, the score went to 3-2 this time, and left the feeling that Barna is still—but you know the rest!**

Barna and Bellak *v.* Vana and Bergmann was a rousing tussle—no quarter given or asked, and on occasion all four players at one end.

The glorious uncertainty that is Bellak tipped the scale in favour of Hungary, and the crowd went home satisfied.

### RESULTS.

#### Men's Singles.

Vana beat Barna 21-12, 13-21, 21-12, 19-21, 21-14.

#### Men's Doubles.

Barna-Bellak beat Vana-Bergmann 21-17, 15-21, 21-13.

#### Ladies' Singles.

Miss J. Harding (Ealing) beat Miss R. Hadlow (Brighton) 13-21, 21-19, 21-10.

#### Ladies' Doubles.

Mrs. Carrington (Tottenham) and Miss Tansley (Brighton) beat Miss Harding and Miss Minc (Wimbledon) 9-21, 21-16, 21-14.

#### Mixed Doubles.

Vana and Miss D. E. Ward (Hastings) beat Barna and Mrs. Carrington 14-21, 21-15, 21-8.

### South of England and Surrey

# FILBY'S AMAZING FEAT IN CROYDON CHAMPS.

## Stanley Coles wins Singles Title

**W**HATEVER remarks I had intended to pass about the earlier rounds of the South of England and Surrey titles were forgotten in the amazing feat of Eric Filby in winning five titles in one day. I have never heard anything like it, and I doubt if I will again, unless some player tops it by winning the whole half-dozen next year, but then that isn't likely.

Filby would have swept the board, but for Stanley Coles. A great match this South of England singles final. Filby took the first set, and Stanley set his teeth to take the second, won the third at 9, and the fourth to 17.

*It wasn't that Filby played poorly, it was simply that he found Stanley's defence too good. On his day Coles is one of the finest defensive players in the country, and he didn't miss many marks at Croydon.*

Eric got one back when he and Jean Nicoll beat Dora Emdin and J. Coles in the final of the mixed doubles. The one thing I liked about this match was the supreme confidence of Miss Nicoll when match point was against. She has the match temperament all right.

**I** WAS rather disappointed that Mrs. Collier went down to Miss Burton in the women's singles, after taking the first game at 12. She seemed nervy and didn't play half as well as she did in beating Dora Emdin in the semi-final on the previous night. It was a disappointing match all told, altogether too much on the defensive.

The men's doubles produced a rouser, with Rogers and Filby giving the crowd just what they wanted. A great pair these, and it was good to see them playing so well together again. Jack Rogers hit beautifully and Filby backed him up.

*Moreton and Fretwell defended grandly, but very few southern pairings can stand up to the barrage of sideline drives that Filby and Rogers swish over. It was the free hitting, good defending game that always true to type, pleases the crowd; and believe me this did.*

Jean Nicoll got her "double," when she won the women's doubles with Mrs. Carrington. They beat Dora Emdin and Mrs. Collier 21-16, after each side had taken a deuce game previously.

**T**HERE is very little to write about the Surrey finals beyond the fact that Filby got another treble. He beat Gilbert Marshall very comfortably in three straight in the afternoon. Then with Miss Nicoll he

## WILMOTT CUP Semi-finals and Final

EMMANUEL HALL,  
West Derby Road,  
LIVERPOOL

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9th**

Commencing at 2.30 p.m. Final at 8 p.m.

Tickets: 1/- and 1/6 (Front Row)

(Including Tax)

May be obtained from—  
Mr. W. STAMP, "Buena Ventura,"  
Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 18

managed to wipe up Miss Burton and H. H. Best in two straight 12 and 13, without even being extended. To cap it the Rogers-Filby combination beat Corney and Ridout in three straight in the doubles. That really is the whole story.

*Mrs. Collier again met with defeat in the women's final. Out she went in two straight sets to Miss Roberts. Mrs. Collier again had a splendid opportunity, but it seems rather as though the excitement brought an attack of nerves. She's had the experience now, and I hope it will stand her in good stead.*

Lastly, Miss Barnes, hard working Wimbledon district official, won the women's doubles with Mrs. Owens. They beat Miss Mampson and Miss Shaul.

### FINALS RESULTS.

#### SURREY CHAMPIONSHIPS (BATHS HALL, CROYDON).

**SINGLES (Men's)**—E. J. Filby (holder) beat Gilbert Marshall 21-14, 21-13, 21-10; (Minors)—P. Date beat H. Carter 21-16, 21-11, 16-21, 21-11; (Boys)—Peter McGhee (Rutlish High) beat Brian Cook (Wallington) 21-20, 21-11; (Women's)—Miss Roberts beat Mrs. Collier 21-14, 21-18; (Minors)—Miss Battison beat Miss Shaul 21-16, 4-21, 21-20; (Girls)—Rosemary Cook (Wallington) beat Joyce Croft (Concord) 21-3, 21-15; **DOUBLES (Men's)**—Filby and J. Rogers beat R. E. Ridout and J. Corney 21-14, 21-20, 21-19; (Women's)—Miss Barnes and Mrs. Owen beat Miss Shaul and Miss Sampson 17-21, 21-12, 21-18; (Mixed)—Filby and Miss J. Nicoll beat H. H. Best and Miss H. Burton 21-13, 21-12.

#### SOUTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS (BATHS HALL, CROYDON).

**SINGLES (Men's)**—S. Coles beat E. J. Filby 17-21, 21-15, 21-9, 21-17; (Women's)—Miss H. Burton beat Mrs. Collier 12-21, 21-15, 21-18. **DOUBLES (Men's)**—E. J. Filby and J. Rogers beat R. Moreton and G. Fretwell 21-14, 21-13, 21-19; (Women's)—Mrs. J. H. Carrington and Miss J. Nicoll beat Mrs. Collier and Miss D. M. Emdin 21-20, 20-21, 21-16; (Mixed)—Filby and Miss Nicoll beat Coles and Miss Emdin 21-14, 18-21, 21-20.

J. W. A. CONNOLLY.



*The world champion, Vana, shows the Mayor of Birkenhead where his wrist work was wrong, and Viktor Barna casts an approving eye over the proceedings. The Mayoress looks interested, too.*

**L**OCAL charities should benefit considerably from the exhibition arranged by the **Derby** Rotary Club. The Mayor and Mayoress attended and welcomed the foreign players. There were a thousand spectators.

From **Grimsby** I got the following: "The Hall was filled to capacity, 600 people, and many turned away. All the reserved seats were sold a week previously. Ida Ferency and Dora Beregi appeared with the tourists. The display was well appreciated by the crowd, and Bellak was better than ever. It wound up with a thrilling last rubber between Bergmann and Vana. Sir Walter Womersley attended and Lady Womersley made a presentation to the players.

**S**HREWSBURY was delighted because local champion J. Frost put up a good show against Barna and Vana. The 400 spectators went into raptures with the Bergmann-Vana game. Viktor Barna, always a local favourite, acquitted himself with honours, in easily beating Vana, 3-1.

At **Llanely** the visitors were met at their hotel and driven to the Town Hall, where they were given a civic reception by the Mayor (Ald. A. Davies). The players were presented with silver spoons (the emblem of the town). Proposing the toast the Mayor said that the talents of the visitors were not confined to table tennis. He thereupon challenged the boys to a game of rummy . . . much to his loss. Gratifying to local officials was the attendance of nearly 1,000.

**T**HE players and members of the **Hull and East Riding Committee**, headed by the president Mr. Judge, and the Vice-President Mr. Smith, were entertained to dinner before the Hull Exhibition, and afterwards the players were the guests of the Paragon Motor Company. Nearly 1,000 people again. Good work.

**I**T is worthy of note that the Hastings Corporation considered table tennis deserving of financial support, and this year doubled the grant which they had made in previous years. That the tourists did not play to a full house is due mainly to the fact that play was at the big Sea End Pavilion. One thing that delighted the crowd was the modesty of the star players.

Players came from mountain villages even forty miles away to see the boys at **Carlisle**, which makes amends for a crowd of 400. Even so the limited accommodation was sold out days before the actual visit.

**F**ROM Barrow I got this report: "The visit of the tourists was a complete success. Our hall was filled to capacity, 700 spectators being present. All the reserved seating accommodation was sold out a week before. During the evening, Mr. E. Allison, Chairman of the League, presented the players with souvenir pewter ashtrays, engraved with the Barrow coat-of-arms. This exhibition was a milestone in the Barrow and district league's progress, and has created enormous interest in table tennis circles in these parts."

"The Liverpool officials can look back on February 23 with every satisfaction, and the knowledge that table tennis has at last come into its own as a spectacle, and is getting the support it deserves. Picton Hall was packed to capacity, and eighty per cent. of the seats had been sold beforehand. Over 200 people had to be turned away." "The tourists were received in the afternoon by the Mayor of Birkenhead at the Town Hall, and were later entertained to dinner in the £30,000 Y.M.C.A. hall. Presentations were made at the Picton Hall in the evening," and so says my Merseyside scout.

**A**T **Southend** the tourists again had a Civic reception. One thousand breathless spectators crowded the Kursaal. The inclusion of Stanley Proffitt, always popular in Essex, pleased the crowd, although it was a pity that Viktor Barna was not there, owing to illness.

The tickets were sold out long before the

evening of play. It was interesting to note that the Bergmann-Vana thriller was so exciting that the crowd asked for a third game, got it, and still asked for more. The players were presented with a souvenir bearing the Southend coat-of-arms.

Even on St. Patrick's night, with so many counter attractions, the tourists drew 500 spectators at **Herne Bay**, pretty good I thought. The crowd went up in the air when Barna beat Vana, Leibster and Bergmann in the singles. Mr. W. Pullinger, chairman of the council, Mr. Davies Taylor, entertainments manager, and Mr. E. E. Lomer, well-known local sportsmen, all showed great interest.

It was one of the finest attractions that the spacious Pier Pavilion had ever held.

**A**T **Woolwich** also the boys had a great reception. The local committee staged the show wonderfully. Again the thrill for the crowd came in the Bergmann-Vana game. No one seems to tire of this repetition of the world's singles final. The Mayor and Mayoress of Woolwich were there, and Vana showed the Mayor how it was done and the correct way to hold the racket.

Engraved cigarette cases were presented to Barna, Bellak, Filby, Rogers and Haydon, and engraved writing sets to Bergmann and Vana. All the reserved seats went before the match, and the attendance was almost a thousand.

At **Mansfield** the full 550 seats available were sold days before the visit. The Mayor and Mayoress attended the matches, and the boys were given souvenir cigarette boxes made in Mansfield, and cigarettes made in Nottingham. My correspondent says that the finest incident was in the third set when Barna beat Vana. They do tell me that Bergmann lost his heart to the dainty little receptionist in the Swann.

**T**HE tourists were received by the Mayor and Mayoress in the Mayor's parlour on arrival at **Ashton-under-Lyne**. Indeed an honour. Mr. Swindells presented pewter ashtrays with engraved coat-of-arms to the players. Quite a galaxy of local celebrities, with Alderman Dr. Williams, J.P., Mrs. Williams, of Stalybridge, and Mr. H. Diston, chief constable of Ashton-under-Lyne; and there were 700 spectators.

"And in conclusion, I merely state that this, our greatest tour ever, was initially intended to last just a fortnight.

### APPRECIATION !!

**M**AY I intrude on your columns to offer my congratulations to all the hard working Officials, who carried through the organisation of the World Championships with such outstanding success. I think I am only expressing the opinion of many other Associations in the Provinces, who would like to have taken a more active part in the Championships had their geographical position allowed.

Through the publicity gained the status of the game will be considerably raised, and it will react by renewed enthusiasm in all parts of the country.

Again thanks to all the Officials, and Stewards, from the London Area, their efforts were appreciated.

"G.H.," Coventry.

# BOYS' CLUBS SHOULD BE MEANS OF REPLENISHING PLAYERS

BY F. A. MACKENZIE

**A**N interesting experiment, which is being watched by League and E.T.T.A. officials, is being tried on Merseyside—it is the organisation of a league solely for boys.

In the Handbook is an entry, The National Association of Boys' Clubs, just a small entry in "Print," but what does it mean in "fact"? For the benefit of those who have no knowledge of the workings of the Boys' Clubs Association, I propose to give a brief outline of their organisation then it will be realized why the Wirral Boys' League is an experiment, and why it is being watched and assisted by Billie Stamp and his colleagues of Liverpool, the E.T.T.A. Office and the N.A.B.C. Headquarters.

**A** BOYS' Club is a group of say 30 or 40 boys attached to a Church, Institute, Scout Troop, Boys' Brigade, or any other body whose constitutional rules are acceptable by the N.A.B.C. These clubs are eligible in certain cases to Government grants. To facilitate the workings of business, the clubs in a town or district amalgamate into a Town Federation, the towns and districts into a County Federation and the counties into a National Association, and there you have the National Association of Boys' Clubs.

Let us suppose that you are the Secretary of one of these Boys' Clubs (affiliated N.A.B.C.)—we will leave out the hundred and one other items of your business and only deal with your table tennis. You very quickly find that you cannot form a definite team and that your chosen team is quite likely to be a player short on the last minute. Your players, unlike your seniors, can be sent to bed or to night school instead of being allowed to go to the club, and dozens of other reasons, but you are compensated by the fact that all your players are "affiliated" by virtue of the N.A.B.C. affiliation and you are able to call on any member as a reserve.

**Y**OU very quickly learn that your team must not play a "Full Night Match" because, whereas Tommy Jones may stay out until 10 o'clock, Billie Smith must be home by 9 o'clock.

You will also have the same difficulties regarding apparatus, &c., as does a Senior Secretary; but they will appear more difficult because you will, in many cases, be called upon to supply personal gear such as rackets, and if you have a match a bus ride away, you may have a fares account to ensure the presence of full strength, and will have to make sure that a responsible person accompanies the team in many cases.

Now for your troubles as a Boys' "League" Secretary. The apparatus and conditions question will give you a nightmare you didn't bargain on, especially if you have been used to a senior league with championship tables.

Methods of teaching players the rules and instructing club secretaries must be devised. League rules "toned down," as compared with senior league rules, and yet to uphold the prestige of your federation.

**W**ITH all these difficulties you will naturally ask is it worth while carrying on with boys' table tennis in league form, and as one who has organised a league during its first year (with the help of officials of Liverpool League, E.T.T.A., and my own federation, to whom I offer my thanks) I say "Yes," and in doing so, you will probably ask my reasons and advice. Well, here goes.

1. It creates a nursery to replenish first division, if not international players.  
\* \* \*
2. The Boys' League teaches the sport to youngsters, creates an interest and following which, up to now, has been lost. It provides indoor athletic occupation during winter months, and has proved to be a good social activity.  
\* \* \*
3. That the E.T.T.A. should define "Junior Table Tennis," and should adopt an age limit in conjunction with the N.A.B.C. applicable to all tournaments and players.  
\* \* \*
4. That it is essential that the Management Committee of the Local Boys' League should, whilst working on its own, have a friendly understanding, even to the point of being a subsidiary with the Management Committee of the Local Senior League.  
\* \* \*
5. A Boys' League also carries the boy over that difficult period, i.e., the first two years of night school, and also makes an easy channel for transferring to senior table tennis.  
\* \* \*
6. There is a Boys' Federation in your district—a letter to the N.A.B.C. and the Secretary's name and address will be sent you—get in touch with the Federation Committee and try and start a Boys' Table Tennis League in your district.

## On Reflection

**W**HO would like to come back stage of the Hotel-keeping business?

An enquiry—Can you accommodate the members of the table tennis teams taking part in the world's championships at the Albert Hall and Wembley? How many? Oh, about 175, that's all. Well! if not, why not? All that we could find out was they did not all like steak and kidney pudding. Strange and unreasonable (after all we do, why shouldn't they?). They didn't all get up at 7 a.m.

They were not all deaf and dumb (and did we find this out). Anyhow, we liked the look of the Hon. Secretary, and agree not too much steak and kidney pudding. We issue a list of don'ts in twenty different languages, and they duly arrive. After all we are surprised to find them all quite human.

**I**T seems that having ascertained that we were anxious to please them, they showed they were in no hurry to offend us or any other visitors to the hotel.

They didn't all do the same thing at the same time, but then they were not a party of school children from the wilds of Wigan and unlike the children didn't like tripe and onions; yes, we are proud to include many new friends through our association with the E.T.T.A., and the many letters of appreciation have proved to us that you have only to be reasonable with the client to make a good customer. The following menu was a great success—

*Tomato Juice (Dames American),  
Grape Fruit Victor, Pineapple taute  
Jaw Schiff, Kippers en Bubbly,  
Eggs and Bacon Ungarn, Vienna  
Schmitzel Lazlo, Fruit Salaad Inter-  
national. Tea 1938 Vint-age, Lemonade  
Richard B.*

A little bit unbalanced but who cares. Cherrio, Boys!

"W. H. P."

**T**HE season which is now almost over, has been one of the most successful in the history of the game here, and it can be safely said that there **N. IRELAND.** has been more enthusiasm than ever before.

The season started well with the fusion of South and North in the first "all-Ireland" venture, and also with affiliations from about ten clubs never before connected with the Association. Notable among these was Brookvale, whose President, Mr. Isaac Stewart, is taking such interest in the game and supporting the Association in every possible way.

In December, the first table tennis broadcast in Ireland took place during an exhibition match between C. A. Kemp (Dublin) and J. P. Goldstone (Belfast), and later commentaries were given during the Inter-State match in Belfast in February.

### County Championship.

#### Northern Section—Results.

|                     |   |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Durham              | 8 | Yorkshire           | 1 |
| Northumberland      | 0 | Lancashire (L'pool) | 9 |
| Lancashire (L'pool) | 5 | Yorkshire           | 4 |
| Yorkshire           | 2 | Lancashire (L'pool) | 7 |
| Durham              | 7 | Northumberland      | 2 |

#### Northern Section—Table.

|                        | Played. | Won. | Lost. | Pts. |
|------------------------|---------|------|-------|------|
| Durham                 | 6       | 5    | 1     | 10   |
| Lancashire (Liverpool) | 6       | 5    | 1     | 10   |
| Yorkshire              | 6       | 2    | 4     | 4    |
| Northumberland         | 6       | 0    | 6     | 0    |

#### Midland Section—Results.

|                 |   |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Warwickshire    | 5 | Lincolnshire    | 4 |
| Cambridgeshire  | 3 | Nottinghamshire | 6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 6 | Warwickshire    | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 | Lincolnshire    | 7 |

#### Midland Section—Table.

|                 | Played. | Won. | Lost. | Pts. |
|-----------------|---------|------|-------|------|
| Nottinghamshire | 5       | 4    | 1     | 8    |
| Warwickshire    | 5       | 4    | 1     | 8    |
| Lincolnshire    | 6       | 2    | 4     | 4    |
| Cambridgeshire  | 6       | 1    | 5     | 2    |

#### Women's Competition—Results.

|                |   |                |   |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Yorkshire      | 6 | Warwickshire   | 3 |
| Northumberland | 3 | Lincolnshire   | 6 |
| Warwickshire   | 7 | Lincolnshire   | 2 |
| Warwickshire   | 6 | Northumberland | 3 |
| Lincolnshire   | 2 | Yorkshire      | 7 |

#### Women's Competition—Table.

|                | Played. | Won. | Lost. | Pts. |
|----------------|---------|------|-------|------|
| Warwickshire   | 5       | 4    | 1     | 8    |
| Yorkshire      | 5       | 4    | 1     | 8    |
| Lincolnshire   | 5       | 2    | 3     | 4    |
| Northumberland | 5       | 0    | 5     | 0    |

# Northern Flashes

from

**S. W. RICHARDSON**

**G.** H. JONES, of the Turnbull Club, Manchester, has just completed 112 consecutive appearances for his team over a period of three years.

Jones was one of the first members of the League and assisted the old Y.M.C.A. team to win the championship in the League's first season in 1927-28.

His untiring work in those days helped to found the League and even to this day he is still an untiring enthusiast.

Now grown up with the full cares of a married man, he has a young son who may some day follow his father's footsteps, or go further in keeping the "Jones" in T.T.

**T**WO brothers, Ken and Alan Dale, aged 15 and 14 respectively, are showing good promise for the Turnbull Club, I fancy we shall hear more of them in the future.

Ken is also a "walking encyclopædia" and "statistical expert" where table tennis is concerned. He values his book of press cuttings of the game.

A Simcock, of the Carlton Club, Ashton-u-

Lyne, has just completed a nice double hat-trick in winning the singles and doubles championship of Ashton for the third successive season.

This time his doubles partner, J. Millington, fell sick, but with C. H. Renshaw as deputy, the doubles were again won. It was hard luck on Millington.

Simcock, who is 25 years old, has played the game three-and-a-half years.

**A**SHTON-U-LYNE have a grand worker in A. Swindells, now treasurer of the League. His untiring efforts have put Ashton well on the table tennis map and since he became a member of the League he has various official positions.

He organised the recent visit of the foreign stars and the staging left nothing to be desired. The place was packed, and Mr. Swindells, plus a very official looking bundle of papers under his arm, was here, there, and everywhere.

*When not announcing through the "mike" he was attending to the door, teas, answering queries, seeing people to their seats, and generally being a "head cook and bottle washer." Yes, Ashton, you are fortunate at having a man like Mr. Swindells in your midst.*

**A**NOTHER official who had a busy time when the foreigners visited Oldham, was Mr. H. Waller, Chairman of the local League.

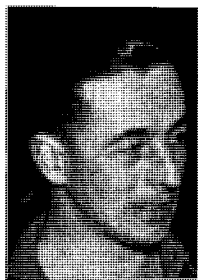
Mr. Waller was also here, there, and everywhere, looking after the number of prominent local people who were present, seeing the Cotton Queen of Great Britain, Miss Vera Greenwood, and the Lady Mayoress were comfortable, and doing every odd job.

Vana and Company had a day off in Manchester on February 14, and they spent the time either at the pictures or theatre.

In the evening I took them to the Longford Theatre, Stretford. Poor old Viktor Barna had the task of interpreting many of the jokes to Vana and Bergmann, but they laughed.

Actually the finals were played in the arena that had for many weeks housed the circus and many of the dressing rooms used by the players and officials were still labelled for the artists. Mine was "so-and-so and his performing lions."

The Rumjahn family at Liverpool are great sportsmen. Father, Eric, Peter and little Ronnie all play the game. Father has kept goal for Lancashire at hockey and both Peter and Eric have had county hockey trials.



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PROFFITT**

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Swaythling Cup  
Player,  
Table Tennis Coach  
and Essex County  
Cricketer*

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to  
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Resident Proprietor**

# ALL PROVINCIAL NEWS

**S**HEFFIELD defeated Hull by 10 rubbers to 2 on March 5 on their initial visit to that city.

It was a great game and **SHEFFIELD**, although Hull lost, their players showed promise.

Atlas and Norfolk T.T.C. are League champions for the third successive season.

With J. C. Kramer, Yorkshire county player, J. F. Green, a Yorkshire junior champion, J. Powell, who took part in the Yorkshire area trials and the Final trials, S. Bricklebank, F. Richardson, and N. Henderson (past Yorkshire doubles champion with Green as partner), Atlas and Norfolk have a strong all-round team, and are worthy champions.

The champions of the other Divisions are as follows:—

*Division 2.*—Rotherham Y.M.C.A. "B."

*Division 3.*—Crookes Y.M.A. "B."

*Division 4.*—Boys' Club.

*Division 5.*—Unemployment Assistance Board.

*Division 6.*—St. John's Methodists.

*Women's.*—Edgar Allens, for the second successive season.

*Finals Night and Annual Prize Distribution will be held on Saturday, April 9, at the Wosterholm Hall.*

*EVENTS.—Men's singles, semi-finals and final; ladies', veterans', and junior singles finals.*

*PRIZE LIST.—Ten Cups (held for one year), 15 miniature cups, 41 medals and six bats.*

**T**HERE has been the most thrilling finish ever to decide the First Division championship, the Granville Club

**SHREWSBURY.** on set aggregate of two sets. In the Second Division, Wem Y.M.I. "B" team have practically won this championship by beating the G.P.O. "B" team, who have been on top throughout the season.

We have had a successful season regards clubs fulfilling fixtures; club members have supported important events such as Midland County League matches.

Although we are optimistic regards next season, and expect an increase of clubs applying for membership.

Unfortunately our singles champion, J. R. Frost (open style), is leaving Shrewsbury within the next two weeks. As a player he has done tremendous amount of good in raising the standard of play in Shrewsbury.

**T**HE Wembley championships are over. League matches are again in full swing. Herga still lead the men's

First Division with **WEMBLEY LEAGUE.** 26 points followed by L. N. E. R., 20; Institute, 19; W. Hill, 18 points and two games in hand. Other League leaders include L. M. S., Tithe Farm, L. N. E. R., Harrow Weald, Hall Telephone and Northwich Park.

A women's representative match versus the London Business Houses League, played at Wellington House, Buckingham Gate,

resulted in a draw six all. Miss J. Nicholl again excelled herself in beating Miss P. Hodgkinson and Miss Oustaing in two straight games. Mrs. Higginson, Miss Dickens, Miss Cox and Miss Pettigrew won one each for Wembley, Miss P. Fowler failing to score. The return match takes place at Wembley at the end of the month.

In the final of the team knock-out competition at the Lancelot Hall, Wembley Hill put up a very stiff fight, but they could not hold the Herga, who won by six games to three.

For the Herga, D. Mackie and R. Nicoll were unbeaten. J. Bailey, who should have played for Herga, was unable to play owing to illness, and C. Blum, who took his place was very unlucky not to win a set. For Wembley Hill W. Morris, R. Spurgeon and R. Masham won one game each. The trophy for this event, the A. J. Elvin Cup, was presented to the winners on the Wembley championships finals night by Mr. L. E. Forrest of the E.T.T.A.

**T**HE Bromley and District Table Tennis League, although, actually in its infancy, is now established beyond even the

dreams of our hard working **BROMLEY.** and enterprising Secretary, Mr. E. A. Boorman.

It is surprising the interest and support he has found, not only among the League members, but outside that sphere. There is, therefore, a keen, friendly and sporting atmosphere among the clubs.

Bromley T.T. League can boast of many good players, amongst, perhaps, the best known being Frank Meads, of Beckenham.

Keen Inter-League matches have been played against the Woolwich and Dartford Associations, which has aroused interest in the district, and it is hoped to increase this still further next season.

**T**HE competitive element gave added interest to the visit of the tourists to Brunswick Stadium. Seven hundred

spectators saw Bubleby, Boros, **LEEDS.** Ehrlich and Leibster meet for a prize presented by a local newspaper, while Misses Beregi, Ferenczy, and Stott played for a prize provided by the Leeds League President. Ehrlich was a worthy winner, being unbeaten. Beregi's vitality surprised the crowd, few of whom had seen a woman player adopt such aggressive tactics, and her victory was a popular one.

Women formed a goodly proportion of the attendance, which emphasises their increasing interest in the game, a pleasing reward for the missionary work of the Leeds League. The success of Miss Stott, who has risen to international status in face of apparent apathy for the game amongst women, must be accounted a factor in this change of face.

**A**T the Yorkshire "Open" she created a remarkable record by winning the women's singles, women's doubles with Mrs. Amies, and mixed doubles with J. K. Hyde, for the fourth successive year.

The only other Yorkshire player to stand up to the Lancashire and Lincolnshire onslaught at this tournament was B. Denby,

of Leeds, who won the consolation singles event.

As evidence of the practical interest shown in the women's game, Leeds Education Department, Jewish Institute, Maccabi, Inland Revenue and Horsforth Woodside are all playing women's friendly matches.

Though the season is not yet over, the championships are settled in three of the four divisions. Oxford Place Y.M.I. have won the Premier section for the fourth successive year to equal N.A.L.G.O.'s record, and "600" Sports are assured of the Division 3 title.

The No. 2 team of the newly formed Leeds City Club have won Division 4 at the first time of asking. The position in Division 2 indicates a likely tie between Education Department and St. Clement's, the former of whom have put up a smart performance in the knock-out tourney for the Jaques Shield.

*The introduction of Table Tennis to a number of public billiard halls is a sign of the times. The Leeds League has kept in touch with these movements and clubs have been formed and are likely to compete in the League next season.*

**S**WINDON have won the Western Counties League. They are unbeaten with the splendid aggregate of 72 wins against 16 losses and have still to **SWINDON.** play Cardiff. Their "second string" is also doing well being unbeaten with a record of 53 games against 8.

Swindon, who held every title, captured all but the women's singles at the Railway Athletic Association Championships held at the Liverpool Street Gymnasium. J. Silto retained all three titles (the men's singles without dropping a game). In the mixed doubles he appeared with Miss C. Jones, while he partnered F. Jefferies in the doubles.

The League championships have been keenly contested and "play offs" are necessary in the Men's Premier and Ladies' Divisions. St. Paul's and Central Mission will contest the former, while Okus Ladies meet the Lucania Ladies.

**S**ALISBURY looks back on another season of solid progress—record numbers of clubs, teams and players; record entries for the League **SALISBURY.** Championships, and a successful new competition in the Mixed Doubles.

Y.M.C.A. are now sure to retain the Championship, and S. Martin's "B" to hold the Second Division, while the honours will probably land with S. Paul's "C" in the Third. The change to three-set events in the First Division has been generally popular, and has been played in all Inter-League matches as well.

Two new semi-finalists will appear in the Senior Singles, L. Roper, who was not defeated in any competition by a Salisbury player till March, and Reg. Sheppard, "surprise packet" of the season. Promoted from the Third Division only this season, he has represented the League, defeated the reigning champion in the Tournament and was the first to beat Roper.

**T**HAT both these players are under 18 augurs well for the future. The "old gang" is represented by Bob Bryant and Fred Gould, both playing better than ever.

The League has been well represented at local tournaments — the Bournemouth, Hampshire, Dorset and West of England. Though no championships have been won, most players can claim to have occasional "crowded hours of glorious life."

The women players have improved tremendously, but a clear No. 1 is Miss M. Fay (Marks & Spencer), sound in defence, and with a disconcerting forehand hit. This is only her first season and in her first open tournament she reached the semi-final of the West of England, both in singles and doubles (partnered by another new player, Miss Q. Conduit).

*More is bound to be heard of these players and several others who compete with distinction in a strong Third Division of the Men's League. And their comments on a possible Ladies' Division were positively devastating . . . Ah! Well!!!*

**LINCOLNSHIRE.**

Results of the finals of the Lincolnshire Closed are:

**MEN'S SINGLES**—A. Hall (Grimsby) beat N. Rimmer (Grimsby) 21-10, 21-9.

**MEN'S DOUBLES**—A. Hall and M. Woodhouse (Grimsby) beat H. H. Judge and J. R. Molson (Spalding) 21-15, 21-14.

**MIXED DOUBLES**—A. Hall and Miss M. Piercey (Grimsby) beat B. Bennett and Mrs. M. Isaac (Grimsby) 21-13, 21-18.

**WOMEN'S SINGLES**—Miss P. Scott (Grimsby) beat Miss B. Scott (Woodhall Spa) 21-18, 21-11.

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES**—Miss M. Piercey and Mrs. B. Langrick (Grimsby) beat Miss M. Crust and Mrs. H. M. Chamberlain (Spalding) 21-9, 20-22, 21-14.

**YOUTH'S SINGLES**—F. Taylor (Grimsby) beat R. Scarborough (Woodhall Spa) 21-17, 21-13.

By defeating Lincoln 12-4 away, Grimsby ensured the retention of the Haigh Cup and the final placings for this competition are:—

|          | P.  | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
|----------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Grimsby  | ... | 6  | 6  | 0  | 0  | 84 | 12 |
| Lincoln  | ... | 6  | 4  | 0  | 2  | 61 | 35 |
| Spalding | ... | 6  | 2  | 0  | 4  | 39 | 57 |
| Boston   | ... | 6  | 0  | 0  | 6  | 8  | 88 |

The championship of the Subsidiary Competition depends on the Louth v. Scunthorpe clash and the table reads:—

|              | P.  | W. | D. | L. | F. | A.  | P.  |
|--------------|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Louth        | ... | 10 | 9  | 0  | 1  | 129 | 31  |
| Scunthorpe   | ... | 8  | 7  | 0  | 1  | 107 | 21  |
| Skegness     | ... | 11 | 7  | 0  | 4  | 89  | 71  |
| Woodhall Spa | ... | 12 | 5  | 1  | 6  | 90  | 86  |
| Horncastle   | ... | 12 | 5  | 0  | 7  | 69  | 123 |
| Mablethorpe  | ... | 10 | 2  | 0  | 8  | 46  | 114 |
| Alford       | ... | 9  | 0  | 1  | 8  | 30  | 114 |

**T**HE second season of the Cambridge T.T.A. is now drawing to a close, both the First and Second Divisions having been won, and only the **CAMBRIDGE** local championships are now to be finished.

In the First Division, Y.M.C.A. "A" retained their title, having won all their games, with a lead of 4 points over their nearest rivals, N.C.I. "A." The Y.M.C.A. have still one game to play, but the result can in no way alter the position.

It is interesting to note that the Y.M.C.A. first team have won every match in League play since going in for competitive games, one year in the local Federation League and the two last years in the C.T.T.A. A record to be proud of.

The Second Division has been won by the Y.M.C.A. "C," making three Y.M.C.A. teams in the First Division next season.

N.C.I. "B" were looked on as likely winners in the early part of the season, but disappointed and finished fourth.

In the County Championships, Cambridge though finishing bottom did in no way disgrace themselves.

The team has on every occasion except one been made up entirely of Y.M.C.A. players.

With a view to the future a number of the junior players have been played in the friendly games and the most promising is F. Tilbrook, who defeated a county player in the local Championship this week.

**T**HE South London League is nearing the completion of its sixth successful season and there is an interesting position at the head

**SOUTH LONDON.** of the First Division.

At the moment Brixton lead Ravensbourne by 2 points, with the return game between the clubs still to play.

As Brixton appear to be wilting under the strain, there is a distinct possibility of a play-off to decide the holder of the Nunhead Cup for the Championship.

There is a similar position in the Women's Division, where Ruebilder lead Denmark with the return game not yet decided. Despite the valiant efforts of youthful Miss Vera Dace, South London League candidate for international honours, the odds are on Ruebilder beating Denmark.

**T**HE recent Inter-League match against the Manchester League attracted the largest "gate" we have had for such a match. Nearly 200 people

**CHESTER.** attended, and they saw a strong team beat the locals

by 10 sets to nil. As the visitors included H. Lurie, L. Cohen and F. Cromwell, the result was no surprise. Chester's best performance was that given by W. T. Moore, who took Cohen to three close games.

We have been pleased with the promise shown by our junior team (under 17), who have beaten Rhyl juniors by 7 sets to 3 at Rhyl, and 6 sets to 4 at Chester.

**Three members of this team are only 15 years old, and they are expected to develop into really useful players.**

The results of other matches are as follows:— Holywell 4, Chester "A" 6; Chester 7, Rhyl 3; Chester Ladies 2, Rhyl Ladies 8. In the latter match Chester's sets were again won by Miss E. Guest and Miss V. Woodfine, who each beat one of the Wadsworth sisters, Miss Woodfine beating Miss C. Wadsworth, and Miss Guest beating Miss A. Wadsworth.

Chester are short of lady players, although there are now signs of an improvement in this respect.

Chester were beaten in the second round of the "Hyde" Cup by Southport, by 6 sets to 2, after beating Wigan by 9 sets to nil in the first round.

Y.M.C.A. have again won the local knock-out competition for the "Bradley" Cup. In the semi-finals they beat City, and City Road Presbyterians beat St. Barnabas.

The final produced some excellent table tennis, although Y.M.C.A. won easily by sets 8 to 2.

These two teams, Y.M.C.A. and City Road Presbyterian, are still leading the

First Division, and it seems that these are the positions in which they will finish the season. Y.M.C.A. "B" are at present the favourites for third place.

The second division is perhaps the more interesting. Here we have two clubs, both in their first season as members of the League, who have up to date lost only one point each.

**T**HESE teams are G.P.O., and County Officers. In 17 matches G.P.O. have lost only 28 sets, while County Officers in 16 matches have lost only 30 sets.

When they met earlier in the season the result was a draw—we are now waiting expectantly for the return match! Christ Church have been making a gallant effort to catch up with the leaders; they have not lost a match for the last three months, but their indifferent start to the season has jeopardised their chances.

The first week in April sees the staging of the closed championships. A large hall taking six tables comfortably has been engaged for three evenings, and the events will consist of singles, men's doubles, ladies' singles, mixed doubles and junior singles.

**B**URNLEY have now assured themselves of the Sir Thomas Higham Cup for the champion league in North East Lancashire. This result

**N.E. LANCS.** has been a surprise, for Nelson have the North East Lancashire singles title holder in their team, and Alan Matson, who retained his title for the second year in succession, has won every set he played.

T. Alston has been Burnley's stalwart in inter-league matches, and is also head of the Burnley League averages again, truly a great season, as he also won the North East Lancs. doubles championship with K. J. Holmes his partner.

N.A.L.G.O. are well ahead in the Burnley League table in both divisions, and look like achieving a record with two wins in the two years they have participated.

Whalley Church Institute in division one, and Chatburn Church Institute in division two have assured themselves of the trophies in the Ribblesdale Leagues, but Ribblesdale School Old Boys and Whalley Conservatives are fighting out the Sir William Brass Cup Competition, while the closing rounds of the Lord Cup are arousing widespread interest. A dinner on April 8 closes the season's programme, and a big attendance will witness the presentations by Sir William Brass, the new President.

**A**S I write, early in March, our playing season has some six more weeks to run, and enthusiasm is now very high.

**HARTLEPOOLS.** Competitions, of which we have womens', men's, and junior, are

now nearing completion and all is set for our "Final's Night" which, this year for the first time, will be held in the Town Hall, West Hartlepool, followed by a dance, on Wednesday, April 13. Tickets are selling so well that a successful evening is assured.

Recently, the Durham v. Yorkshire match attracted 200 spectators. Officials were complimented by the County Officials upon so successfully staging the event.

The town team, while having only a moderate playing season, has been the means of trying out many young players, who should do well in future as a result of their experience this season.

## The Carringtons in Form

### Five League Titles

**I**N the finals of the North Middlesex Table Tennis League (closed) championships at the Assembly Rooms, Wood Green, it was unfortunate that Doris Jordan, finalist in the Singles and Doubles was on the sick list and unable to appear. This gave Mrs. F. Booker, a walkover in the Ladies' Singles and Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Carrington a walkover in the Ladies' Doubles.

The most exciting match of the evening was the final of the Men's Singles between J. H. Carrington and W. T. Stennett, finalists last year.

Carrington started like a whirlwind, hitting strongly and mixing his game with some very cunning drop shots which frequently left Stennett standing.

One game to Carrington 21-14. In the second game Stennett found his length and managed to win 21-19. In the third game Carrington seemed to tire and Stennett got a lead. After some long rallies Carrington caught up and eventually won the game 21-17.

**T**HE fourth game was similar to the first, Carrington hitting hard, though not with the ferocity first shown, and Stennett retrieving well. Down 19-14 Stennett won four points in a row and it looked as though he would succeed in getting the game but Carrington by a fine effort won the next two points for match.

*The Mixed Doubles was another victory for Carrington partnered by Mrs. M. A. Carrington. Together they played extremely well and had won the match before Stennett and Mrs. F. Booker had settled down.*

To complete his treble Carrington, partnered by Stennett, won the Men's Doubles against J. Scarsbrook and A. G. Scarsbrook by three games to one. This was a good match in which there was some fine hitting on both sides but the greater experience of Stennett and Carrington enabled them to win.

**T**HE Consolation Singles were good matches and resulted in wins for L. M. Bromfield and Miss V. Weavers.

The League's thanks are due to Miss Jean Nicholl who came along at short notice to play in place of Miss Jordan. Her style and ease of execution are a joy to watch and augur well for her future in table tennis.

**Singles—Men's: J. H. Carrington beat W. T. Stennett 21-14, 19-21, 21-17, 21-18; Women's: Mrs. F. Booker, W.O., Miss D. Jordan, Scr.; Doubles—Men's: Stennett and Carrington beat Scarsbrook and Scarsbrook 12-21, 21-7, 21-18, 21-13; Women's: Mrs. F. Booker and Mrs. M. Carrington, W.O., Miss D. Jordan and Miss D. Herbst, Scr.; Mixed: Carrington and Mrs. Carrington beat Stennett and Mrs. Booker 21-15, 21-13. Consolation Singles—Men's: L. M. Bromfield beat E. Briscoe 21-18, 21-12, 20-21, 21-19; Women's: V. Weavers beat D. Herbst 21-12, 21-15.**

## World Champion Beaten

### VIKTOR BARNA'S SUCCESS

**T**HE West of England championships at the Civic Hall, Exeter, were, in every way, a huge success and the Final event of the evening, the Men's Singles final, between Barna and Bergmann will be remembered for years to come.

Barna was made to look very much like a "has been" in the first two games as the score of 6-21 and 14-21 would indicate but he fought back wonderfully well to win a most amazing game 6-21, 14-21, 21-15, 21-16, 21-19. The crowd of nearly 700 rose to him at the finish. Bergmann, however, was a gallant and sporting loser.

Other Final results were as follows:—

Ladies' Singles—Miss Dora Emdin beat Miss Doris Emdin 20-21, 21-13, 21-12.

Ladies' Doubles.—Misses Dora and Doris

Emdin beat Miss J. Brock and Miss J. Strowbridge, 21-17, 21-14.

Junior Singles—A. W. C. Simons (Bristol) beat T. White (Portland) 21-14, 21-11.

Men's Doubles—Barna and Bellak beat Vana and Bergmann 11-21, 21-16, 21-13, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles—Barna and Miss Dora Emdin beat Bellak and Miss Doris Emdin 10-21, 21-6, 21-17.

Cups and replicas were presented to the winners and finalists at the conclusion by Mrs. T. J. W. Templeman (Deputy Mayoress of Exeter).

The last event of the season in connection with the Exeter and District League will be the popular local "Finals Night" at the Drill Hall, Exeter, on April 6th.

**T**HE St. Helens and District Table Tennis League has had another very successful season and considerable progress has been achieved.

**ST. HELENS.** Great enthusiasm has been displayed by the various teams throughout, and the standard of play has been much higher than that of previous seasons.

In the First Division there has been a thrilling struggle for honours between Thatto Heath N.C. "A" and Civil Service, and in a remarkable finish both teams finished level on points and sets which may necessitate a play off to decide the issue. Civil Service, ably led by Ronnie Webb and Frank Brown, have certainly proved to be the "shock team" of the season. The Thatto Heath team have also played very consistently throughout and have retained their unbeaten record for the second season in succession, although on this occasion they have dropped four points in drawn matches.

In the Second Division, there has been an equally interesting struggle between Thatto Heath N.C. "B," Forsters Recs. "A" and U.G.B.M. "B." These three teams were all undefeated a matter of a month ago, but since that time the Thatto Heath team have assured themselves of honours by defeating both their rivals at home and away. The Thatto Heath team, incidentally, is composed entirely of Junior players who have made remarkable progress since the beginning of the season and well deserve the honour they have achieved. Their outstanding players have been: J. Ellison, W. Murphy and H. Hilditch, a trio of clever exponents who have lost very few games this season. Forsters Recs. and U.G.B.M. have yet to play each other and the results of their matches will decide who gains the runner-up position.

#### RESULTS.

Men's Singles, A. Ellison (Thatto Heath N.C.); Junior Singles, R. Grayson (Y.M.C.A.); Singles Handicap, R. Webb (Civil Service). Women's Singles, Miss D. Mulligan (Y.M.C.A.); Mixed Doubles, R. Webb (Civil Service) and D. Mulligan (Y.M.C.A.). Men's Doubles, R. Webb and F. Brown (Civil Service).

## Grimsby Fight Hard But Manchester Win

**M**ANCHESTER beat Grimsby by 8 matches to 1 in the fourth round tie of the Wilmott Cup at Cleethorpes before three hundred people. The issue of the match was never in doubt, Manchester winning the first 5 games straight off the reel. Manchester were represented by L. Cohen, B. Casofsky and K. Stanley, and Grimsby by A. Hall (Grimsby closed champion), B. Bennett (ex-junior champion of Grimsby), and K. Rimmer.

Hall played far below his usual form in the opening game of the evening against Cohen, but Bennett very nearly beat Casofsky, winning the first game and leading until the end of the second, which he lost to 19. Rimmer managed to take the first game off Stanley by 26-24, but the 16-year-old junior champion soon settled down.

**T**HE game between B. Bennett, who is just 17 years old, and L. Cohen, which the latter won to 20 and 19, was the most interesting of the evening. They both concentrated on their very fine backhand shots, bringing off some strong attacking strokes.

Bennett was not good enough on the forehand to win the match, however. Stanley beat Hall in the fifth match by the odd game, enabling Manchester to pass through to the next round.

#### RESULTS.

L. Cohen (Manchester) beat A. Hall 21-10, 21-15; B. Bennett 22-20, 21-19; and N. Rimmer 21-17, 21-10.

B. Casofsky (Manchester) beat B. Bennett 8-21, 21-19, 21-16; lost to N. Rimmer 16-21, 13-21; and beat A. Hall 21-17, 11-21, 21-10.

K. Stanley (Manchester) beat N. Rimmer 24-26, 21-12, 21-16; A. Hall 21-15, 15-21, 21-14; and B. Bennett 21-15, 17-21, 21-12.

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Wembley Championships.

## FILBY WINS THE SINGLES

*Joan Harding's Bid for Higher Honours*

**T**HE surprises in the Wembley championships were not reserved wholly for the finals' night. The initial result that started me off at a tangent was the defeat of Tommy Sears by D. Mackie, the young Herga player. That was in the first round. True enough Tommy's form was almost too bad to be true, but at the same time Mackie played well enough to justify the win.

Next came the defeat of Bill Stennett, the singles holder, by L. Baron. That was in the third round. Not content with putting out the holder in straight sets, Baron proceeded to get the better of another international, Maurice Bergl, in the next round. Not an easy draw for Baron, but he got to the final all the same.

**T**HE finals' night brought another crop of surprising defeats. Doris Jordan and Arthur Haydon—what a very safe mixed doubles pair they have always seemed this season—went out to Baron and Joan Harding in the mixed semi-finals. In the men's, Baron beat young Harry Rosen, and Eric Filby easily enough managed to beat Benny Marcus, former Wembley champion.

In the women's semi-finals Dora Emdin beat sister Doris comfortably, but Doris Jordan had to fight really hard before beating Connie Wheaton, but it was by no means an inspiring match, defence being the order of the day.

In the men's singles final Eric Filby proceeded to cut Baron to pieces, as if to show that the London championships had been a flash in the pan for the unseeded player. Baron fought well enough to lose the first set to 18, but he was never in the picture with those crisp Filby drives down the line, and lost the next two games both at 12, and very comfortably Filby played at that.

**T**HE women's doubles saw Doris Jordan and Dora Emdin easily beat Belle Pettigrew and young Daphne Spratt in straight sets. The two Wembley girls were by no means awed by their international rivals, and put up a fine performance as the scores 21-12, 21-15 showed. Had they shown the same initiative in the first set that characterised their play in the second they might have done even better. But as it was the match should give them experience.

Tommy Sears was unlucky again. He figured in two losing partnerships. He and Miss Dickens were hardly a match for Joan Harding and L. Baron in the mixed, and with Benny Marcus he went down in three straight sets to Filby and Haydon in the men's doubles.

**T**OMMY doesn't seem to be able to strike his form this season. Certainly he and Marcus were no match for the hard-hitting Haydon, and the mistakes that Filby made were more responsible for the score than for the winners either Tommy and Benny hit. I am afraid that the West London doubles champions were sadly out of the picture this time.

The mixed was a repetition. Tommy played better, but Miss Dickens didn't seem

capable of coping with the very efficient Miss Harding.

Dora Emdin beat Doris Jordan in the women's singles, but she should have done it in straight sets. She held match point at 20-17 in the second game, but fumbled three points and lost to deuce (or to be exact after four deuces). She had to fight rather harder than the 21-15 score shows in the final game, because she was 14-12 down.

**A**LEC Bergl regained the closed singles title which he lost to Mackie last year (he beat Mackie in the semi-final) and Jean Nicoll, another Herga star, won the women's closed, beating the holder, Mrs. Timmis, fairly easily in straight sets.

**RESULTS.**

Singles:—Men's, E. J. Filby beat L. Baron 21-18, 21-12, 21-12; men's closed, A. Bergl beat R. Masham 21-18, 20-21, 21-13; women's, D. M. Emdin beat D. Jordan 21-17, 17-21, 21-15; women's closed, J. Nicoll beat Mrs. Timmis 21-12, 21-14; Doubles:—Men's, E. J. Filby and A. A. Haydon beat T. Sears and B. Marcus 21-18, 21-20, 21-15; women's, D. M. Emdin and D. Jordan beat D. Spratt and B. Pettigrew 21-12, 21-15; mixed, L. Baron and Miss J. Harding beat T. Sears and Miss D. Dickens 21-17, 21-11.

J. W. A. CONNOLLY.

**Record L.B.H. Champs. Entry**

**T**HE 13th annual individual championships of the L.B.H. were a great success, and Wendy Woodhead, who presented the cups and medals, must have been impressed by the high standard of play.

Records were made in both the number of entries, and in a playing sense, for Miss P. Hodgkinson (Lensbury) won the ladies' singles for the fourth year in succession which carried with it the holding of the Dallas Norris Cup.

**T**HE number of entries totalled 657, a record for the Business Houses, and also a world record for a closed tournament. These were made up as follows—men's singles, 90; men's singles (junior), 198; women's singles, 77; men's doubles, 162 (81 pairs); mixed doubles, 74 (37 pairs); women's doubles, 56 (28 pairs).

The outstanding match of the series was undoubtedly the men's singles final between W. Straker (Hay's Wharf) and E. Ridout (T.M.C.), and so many were the fluctuations that it was not until the fifth game was well advanced that Straker began to waver against the magnificent defence of his opponent, the score being 13-21, 21-18, 8-21, 21-15, 15-21 and ending in Ridout's favour.

**M**OUNT Pleasant provided both finalists in the men's junior, and two games, each 21-18, enabled Rose to defeat his clubmate, Brant.

Although Phil Hodgkinson (Lensbury), won the women's singles and who defeated Miss A. Oustainge (United Daries), 21-9, 21-18, she had a great fight in previous round against Miss Broadberry (Glaxo), who was only beaten after three games.

**TWO WINNERS**

Jack Tebb, referee in the Wembley Championships, congratulates the "closed" singles winners: Alec Bergl and Jean Nicoll.

## The Ultra-Beginner

### The Forehand Drive

**U**P to now, defensive strokes have been the main theme of this series of articles. Theoretically, you can return any ball which comes over on your side of the table, so now a rough outline of the fundamental principles of attack will be dealt with.

You will probably find, when on the offensive, that you have a natural aptitude for one particular attacking stroke. This shot, whatever it may be, must be practised until you have it as near perfect as possible. It is far better to have a consistent and damaging stroke on which you can rely at all times, than a mediocre all-round, orthodox game.

The essential difference between a drive and a kill is that with the former, the ball is hit with a top-spin movement, thus tending to overcome your opponent's chop. It is used as an adjunct to the kill, which is a perfectly flat hit, without any spin whatsoever, the impact receiving the whole weight of the body.

In spite of the writings of experts on the matter, it is impossible to apply in practice a forehand or backhand hit as described on paper. The execution of the movement depends entirely upon your opponent—the amount of chop he puts on the bat, the placing, and your own position at that particular moment.

**T**HE main points to remember, when attempting a forehand drive, are the essentials: the left foot about 12 inches in front of the right, the left shoulder inclining towards the table; the impact of the ball at the top of its bounce; last, and most important, the follow through with the bat and arm after the ball has been hit.

When "killing" a high ball, however, there are certain minor differences. You must stand more sideways to the table, the weight on the right foot. Bring your arm back, and then forward, at the same time transferring the weight of your body from the right foot to the left, and follow through in the direction you want the ball to go.

The forehand drive is somewhat more difficult. You must gauge the amount of chop on the ball, and "lift" it accordingly.

Bring your arm back, elbow slightly bent, wrist straight, waist-high, then come forward with an upward movement of the bat. This has the effect of imparting top-spin to the ball, thus counteracting your opponent's chop. Should you fail to carry out this action on a heavily chopped ball, you will invariably hit the net, and lose the point.

# IN WALES JUST NOW

By R. H. WELSH

**T**HE Cardiff and District League held the last Welsh Open Tournament of the season. There was a record entry and the standard of play excellent.

Horace Needles (Gilfach) gained a very popular win over W. J. Stennett (London) in the men's singles championship. Needles played splendidly, and although Stennett defended well, he was never able to cope with the Welshman's hard hitting. Needles form was a revelation and his success over the Englishman was richly deserved, if only for his aggressiveness. Tom Smith (Cardiff) defeated A. D. Brook (London), but found Stennett's accuracy a little too much for him in the semi-final.

Tom and Frank Smith (Cardiff) are to be congratulated on winning another doubles championship at the expense of Needles and Rees (Gilfach). They are easily the most consistent doubles pair in Wales at the moment. Lewis and Greatrex (Cardiff) provided something of a sensation in beating Brook and Stennett (London) in the first round.

**T**HE women's singles championship was contested between two old rivals, Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg), and Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynawr). Mrs. Evans playing at the top of her form ran out winner, but only after a really fine game. A. D. Brook (London) and Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) won the mixed doubles title after an exciting struggle with Needles and Miss Adams (Gilfach) in the semi-final.

#### RESULTS.

##### Men's Singles.

H. Needles (Gilfach) beat W. J. Stennett (London), 21-14, 21-15, 18-21, 21-13.

##### Men's Doubles.

T. Smith and F. Smith (Cardiff) beat H. Needles and I. Rees (Gilfach), 22-10, 21-18.

##### Women's Singles.

Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) beat Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynawr), 21-18, 21-14.

##### Mixed Doubles.

A. D. Brook (London) and Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) beat F. Curtin and Mrs. Matthews (Cardiff) 23-21, 21-12.

**D**URING the progress of the various open tournaments it has been particularly gratifying to note the fine form shown by several players who are considered by the authorities as back numbers. I refer particularly to T. Smith (Cardiff), L. Samuels (Aberdare) and H. Needles (Gilfach). These three players together with J. Meredith (Aberdare) and F. Curtin (Cardiff) of the younger school, and you have about the five most consistent men in Wales at the moment.

The next event of importance is the Welsh Closed Championship to be held early this month. A record entry is anticipated and all Welsh players are advised to enter this event.

D. J. Thomas, the holder, will again defend his title, but his loss of form this season makes the tourney very open.

### Scotch Tour

**A**N enthusiastic reception was accorded the players who visited Edinburgh for a series of exhibitions. The visit reflects credit on the newly formed Scottish Association, who sponsored the games, and on the Edinburgh League who made all the arrangements.

This was the first visit of its kind to Scotland and the combination of the two American Swaythling Cup players, Bernard Grimes and Louis Pagliaro, and Londoners, L. W. Bromfield and J. Frischer, proved most popular to the crowds. The hall was booked for only three nights, but it was packed each time.

During the matches the enthusiasm of the spectators was extraordinary. Friendly matches were also arranged between representative Scots players and the Englishmen. Edinburgh's No. 1, Reddy, gave Frischer quite a good game, while Barclay (Glasgow's No. 1), put up quite a good show against Bromfield.

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