

# TABLE TENNIS

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THE OFFICIAL  
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH  
TENNIS



TABLE  
ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

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Vol. III

No. 3

DECEMBER, 1937

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# TABLE TENNIS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

E · T · T · A

VOLUME III. No. 3

DECEMBER, 1937

THREE PENCE

## THIS IS NOT A "BOOM"

**M**UCH has been made in certain national newspapers of the fact that some 90,000 people are expected to see the play at the Albert Hall and Wembley in the World Championships this season. The impression is left that this figure is staggering for the game of table tennis, and represents the crest of a boom such as we have never known before.

Here are two fallacies. Firstly, though 90,000 is good, and table tennis can be justly proud of an attendance that collectively is becoming a serious rival to an F.A. cup final crowd, there is great danger that this figure will be taken as a full estimate of the game's popularity. Secondly, table tennis popularity is nothing so ephemeral as a boom. It represents slow and steady and permanent growth.

None would assume that the attendance at Wimbledon was the full strength of lawn tennis adherents. Similarly with table tennis—only more so, since there are still many thousands of enthusiasts playing the game outside the Association. The recent increase of some 40 new leagues in the affiliated strength of the game does not represent new teams, and new players, but rather old-established players who have now decided to come into the organised game.

There are at least as many more who still do not wish to take part in organised table tennis, but whose enthusiasm for the game as an enjoyable playing sport is no less than that of the keenest affiliated admirer.

**W**HAT is the Association anxious to pull these outside thousands into the fold? It is because they are convinced that the continued popularity of table tennis as a sport, which is what we all consider it, and mean it to be, lies in its success as a spectacle, in putting before the public international and representative matches; and in making the annual battles for the Swaythling

Cup as full of meaning for the general public as the Davis Cup or the Ashes.

That is why the Association is so keen that the World Championships shall be a success. Still more pleasing would be a big playing success, but whatever the promise of some of the younger stars, it is blinding ourselves with hope to pretend that there are yet any whose feats will set public imagination alight.

Table tennis wants its Jack Hobbs and its Fred Perrys. It wants players whose very names will convey table tennis at its best. It wants a few English Viktor Barnas.

That is why "Table Tennis," the magazine, welcomes whole-heartedly the enterprise of the Association in its endeavour to "build up" playing stars. We welcome the idea of Area Trials, and particularly the assistance of Barna, so generously offered. We welcome the selection so early in the season of a group of Swaythling Cup "possibles," and the trouble that is being taken to train them. Above all, the decision to include physical training in the schedule.

The rest is with the players. By personal application, determination and a serious cultivation of that puzzling quality the "will to win," a world-beating team can be built up. It means hard

work. Fred Perry's early tennis days were ones of constant difficulties, almost of rebuffs, overcome by sheer determination. If the players are not willing to face it, it shows that they themselves have not the proper appreciation of their games' importance, and they should make way for others.

**O**NE of the most pleasing features of the Area Trials was the sense of honour each of the selected players had. They were nearly all young, and at the final trials in London—where a good many of them had never been before—they came as chosen representatives of their leagues, with the interest of their home towns and the support of their team-mates behind them. The success of each one of them meant a success for their town, and an incentive to hundreds of other young hopes there to build up their game until they, too, could take a place among the leaders.

We have already expressed the opinion that whatever the genuine effort made, there is unlikely to be developed between now and next January a team capable of bringing the Swaythling Cup to England. What can, and we feel sure will be done, is to put out a team of whose efforts we shall be proud, and of whom we shall be able to say, "Just another year's hard coaching, and the Cup will be ours."

## Another All-Star Playing Tour is Planned

**A** TOUR of "star" players is now under consideration by the E.T.T.A.

Last summer the executive committee decided not to support the idea, because it was felt that it might affect the success of the World's Championship, but now that there is no doubt that Wembley will be packed and the Albert Hall will attract thousands of the general public, they are inclined to re-open the matter.

The Secretary has been inundated with requests, and clubs and leagues interested should write in. Barna would be a member of the touring side, with probably Liebster and one or two of the leading English players.

Filby and Lurie have been mentioned, although the final choice will be postponed until after the Wembley final.

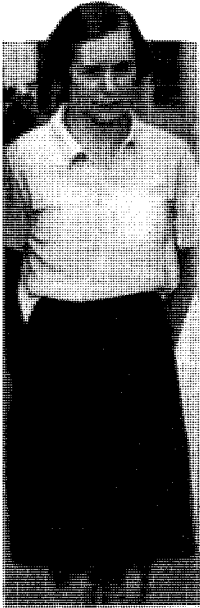
## Our Best Players

by H. H. BRIDGE.

No. 2

Miss Osborne

**M**ARGARET OSBORNE, of Birmingham, is undoubtedly the outstanding woman player produced by England. Yet she can truly be



said to be a product of dining-room "ping pong," for she learned to play on the dining-table with her brothers, and continued to do so until 1930, when she joined the Birmingham City Club.

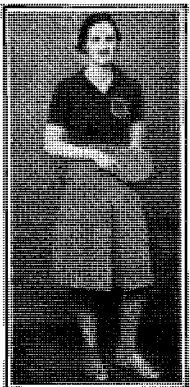
This hints at her being quite a veteran at table tennis—but she is still quite young.

As early as 1932-3 Miss Osborne reached the final of the English Open, only to remember she was nobody, and so to succumb to a bad attack of stage fright. In the following December

she surprised herself by getting into the Corbillon Cup team. She has remained in it ever since, and captained it last season. This means that she has played for the cup every year since its inception.

**T**HIS incentive of a reputation to uphold was seemingly just what she needed, for upon her return she won three Open tournaments in successive weeks—London, North of England, and the English. Since then she has won at various times every tournament for which she has entered.

I have a full list of her successes, but it  
(Continued at foot of next column.)



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## Women Players, Now is Your Chance . . . . .

**T**HE decision to hold Area Trials for women players is great news. The number of new teams, and new women's sections affiliated this season, has broken all records and the next step is to produce "national" players. The Area Trials should reveal the strength of the players in the various districts.

Between now and January competitions will be held in London, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Exeter and Lincoln. The arrangements are in the capable hands of Mrs. Bunbury, and all league secretaries will be hearing from her, with full details, very shortly. Each league will be able to nominate any of their players. There will be no limit to the numbers.

International players will be barred, as was done with the men, so there will be a chance for everyone. The final trial

by

### The Women's Editor

will be held in London or Birmingham, and the selection committee will pick the internationals to play with those who qualify in the areas. The number to play in the final trial has not yet been decided, but in the districts the trials will be open to every ambitious player.

But a word of warning. I have heard it whispered that some league officials and committees are not too keen to push the women's game. It may be that they are overwhelmed with the league programme, but I have also heard that some committees were not called together to

(Continued from previous column.)

would take another page in the magazine. Perhaps the most notable phase in her career was the winning of all three titles at the English Open Championships in 1934-5.

**M**ARGARET herself thinks her best performance was in defeating Kettnerova and Votrubeova in the Corbillon Cup match against Czechoslovakia last season. She followed it by reaching the final of the World women's doubles, with Wendy Woodhead. If ever she begins to think she is pretty good, she thinks back upon her defeat by Kettnerova in the fifth game, after leading 12-4, in the World Championships in 1934-5.

Like many other players of the indoor game, Miss Osborne can also claim considerable success at lawn tennis. She is a county player for Warwickshire, and has collected a few local "pots."

nominate men players, so this is not purely a women's grouse. The remedy is in your own hands. Get busy at once. If the sending of representatives is a question of finance, a member's club might have a "whip-round," or the women's section, or even the players themselves, might agree to meet the expenses rather than not take part.

If there is any difficulty write to me and I will try to help. *But there must be large numbers of competitors at these trials to justify the claim that women players want to be catered for in this way.*

\* \* \*

**T**HE results of tournaments so far have disappointed those of us looking for new local "hopes." Miss Jordan

is winning everywhere. Miss Woodhead, Miss Emdin, Mrs. Hutchings in the South, Miss Newey and Miss Steventon in the Midlands, and Miss Stott, Miss Doolan and Mrs. Amies in the North, are all succeeding again in getting to last rounds.

I haven't heard of Miss Osborne since Skegness, but where are the new faces? Where are the younger ones "knocking at the door?" The boys are coming forward—look at the number in the men's trials. Miss Joyce Brock has confirmed good



Miss Dora Emdin.

opinions by her play at Bournemouth, as did Miss Jones, of Swindon. I am told that there are other promising girls at Swindon—they should be nominated for the Exeter trials.

Take Blackpool as an example. Twelve teams and great enthusiasm, but I look in vain for the name of a Blackpool player on the open tournament records. Why? And the Civil Service (38 women's teams last season), the Business Houses, Bournemouth, Dewsbury, East London, Hastings, Ilford, Insurance Offices, Macclesfield, Sittingbourne, Stoke—to take some at random—all have good "closed" championships of a very high standard, but few of their players enter the "Opens." Why?

# Improve your Game

**A** WEAK backhand." How often one hears that phrase! Most club players of any standing can execute a backhand drive or flick and give a fairly creditable imitation of the great Barna for one shot, but they are seldom able to keep up a regular backhand stroke, nor do they really seem to expect to be able to do so. There is too much of the attitude, "It's the right shot to play, so here goes."

This is mainly because players allow the backhand attacking stroke to become a sort of bogey. Either they are afraid of the shot, or else play it because they feel they ought, but without much hope of profit as regards points.

Players should get a common sense outlook as regards the backhand. Take stock of your own stroke and ask yourself:—

1. *Are you afraid to use it? Have you a fairly sound backhand in practice and yet hesitate about bringing the shot into play in matches?*

If your backhand comes into this category then the cure is fairly simple, although (like most simple cures) it requires determination to go through with it. *You must nerve yourself to use your backhand more.*

Easily said, you think. Yes, but you can do if you make a real effort.

Start by playing weaker players, people you can beat fairly easily, and use your backhand as often as possible. Then gradually work your way up to stronger

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opposition still trying out your backhand attack. You must *force* yourself to do this otherwise your long sessions of backhand practice will be wasted through lack of nerve.

2. *Do you use your backhand too much? Use it regardless of points won by it, just because you think you ought to play it? This is the opposite fault to No. 1, and I think it is typical of the outlook of players as regards the backhand stroke that most of them either fail to make the most of their shot or overrate its value.*

Every stroke you possess ought to pay its way, i.e., be of some definite point-winning value.

Ask yourself how many successive backhands you can send over—try it in actual play. That will tell you how strong your stroke is. If you find (as you may be surprised to do) that you can only make one or two successive strokes without error, then what are you doing using it so often? Improve your stroke first.

Until you make a shot several times in succession you haven't got a *stroke*, but only a shot—one which sometimes goes on and sometimes fails.

3. *Do you make the best use of your backhand?*

This question opens up a wide field of inquiry and depends, of course, upon your own good judgment. Nevertheless there are a few main points which can easily be outlined, and upon which you may be wrong.

The backhand attack is more useful to worry and upset your opponent than to force him into complete error. There are exceptional players (like Barna) who can do both these things, but they are the fortunate few who possess a natural ability at the stroke.

It is as a mid-table shot that the backhand is most deadly, as the wrist can be turned so quickly that you can angle the ball or "put away" a short return in a flash. The fore-hand, since it cannot be made with the arm in front of the body, is often useless against such returns.

**B**ACKHAND attack is a necessity for every player who aspires to reach the first class. Without it he is

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bound to meet players who cramp his style hopelessly. He will be operating under a continual strain, moving and running about every time he opposes a player with a complete game.

If he is quick on his feet and is prepared to work hard for every point a forehand hitter with no backhand may, if his stroke is good enough, beat a great many players, but his game is lop-sided. He can be made to move about too easily to last out very long in a tournament. He can be put off his attack by good placements, and unless he has a *very* good defence he will simply lose the point.

Much more simple for the player with a backhand. No matter that he relies mainly upon his forehand attack, he always has his backhand in reserve for use against awkward returns. Also it will help him to keep the attack. He can keep his position better, does not have to wander over to one side so much.

If his opponent tries to counter hit he can repel this with his backhand which can be made much more quickly than the forehand. At such a time a slow or medium-paced backhand stroke is often all that is necessary.

Sears is an excellent exponent of this method of play and he uses it to great effect against Marshall to keep him off his extremely powerful forehand attack. The flick, with its very short swing, is a very useful stroke against a fast forehand or "pen-holder" hitter.

**A** LAST word on the backhand hit off a short return. Many players miss a chance of making a winning shot because they fail to get well up to the table, lean over to where the ball is and then bring the bat down upon it.

It is being close in, ready, which makes such a "winner" possible. You must get in close to the ball before making your hit. Don't start your stroke from too far back—that is how many backhand "winners" go astray.

**Next Month.**—*Defence—The Chop Stroke.*

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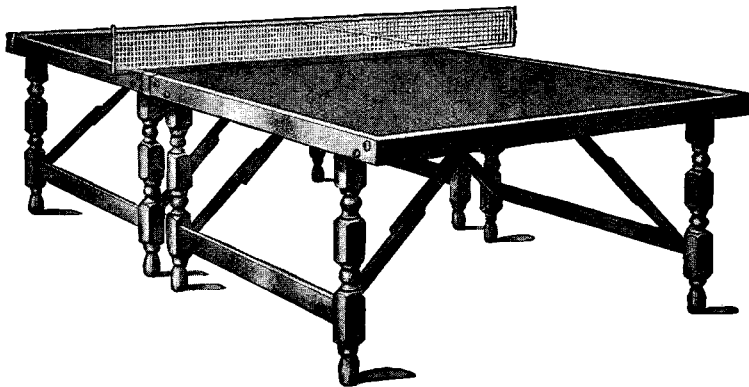
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# OVER the NET



**E**VERYTHING on the playing side of table tennis this month has been Trials, with a forward eye on the Swaythling Cup, and though it has all gone off very nicely, thank you, with the young players most hopefully to the fore, there has been one distressing signal of warning.

It is fitness. At the trials and elsewhere it has been common to see players, after perhaps two or three matches, sidle limply up to the officials with a "must I really play again" air, for all the world as though they had come through the most gruelling day of hard labour in the world.

Table tennis—good table tennis—is gruelling. We all want to see the game on the same footing as lawn tennis, with the Swaythling Cup as internationally paramount as the Davis Cup; but we shan't get it until the players themselves realise that training and physical fitness are things which just can't be ignored. You may not need to, but you must be prepared to play game after game, and end almost as fresh as you began. The man who loses his breath loses his eye, and the match as a matter of course.

He may not look it at first glance, but Viktor Barna is one of the fittest men in Sport; a Fred Perry for agility, which is one of the reasons for his success. And Viktor is the first to appreciate how much physical training, as opposed simply to practising table tennis, means to his game. Witness his visits to Chelsea Stadium (picture herewith) for running and football.

Take a leaf from his book, you ten chosen Trial players, and all the others as well. You'll be surprised at the difference it will make to that third game.

\* \* \*

**K**EEPING to the trials, not even boxing managers have anything on League officials when it comes to keeping a personal eye on their protégés. There they were, for all the world like hens with their chicks.

It was good to see the fatherly care Mr. Hinchcliffe of Sheffield lavished on young Hardman, and Mr. Ivor Eyles of Bristol, and Mr. Huxham of Coventry, on their young hopefuls.

\* \* \*

**A**DRIAN HAYDON did not play. He is apparently sticking to his decision to give up playing the game seriously. A pity, but you've had a good innings, Adrian. First game for England in 1927/8, and then No. 1 ever since Perry gave up.

**H**AVE you any old rackets, please? No, not those things with the rubber falling off, that the dog got at when you left them out, but real genuine, old-style bats of the type they used in the 'nineties.

The reason? It is proposed to form a table tennis "museum" at the Albert Hall during the Championships, and any of the game's old diehards are invited to rally round with old bats, balls, photographs, press cutting—if they had those things in the good old days—anything in fact which would help to show the development of the game from its earliest stages.

Old books, prints of old-time players and their uniforms, even that fine old Jacobean dining table, if you don't mind taking the odd bone on the mat for a week or two.

Seriously, though, everything will be

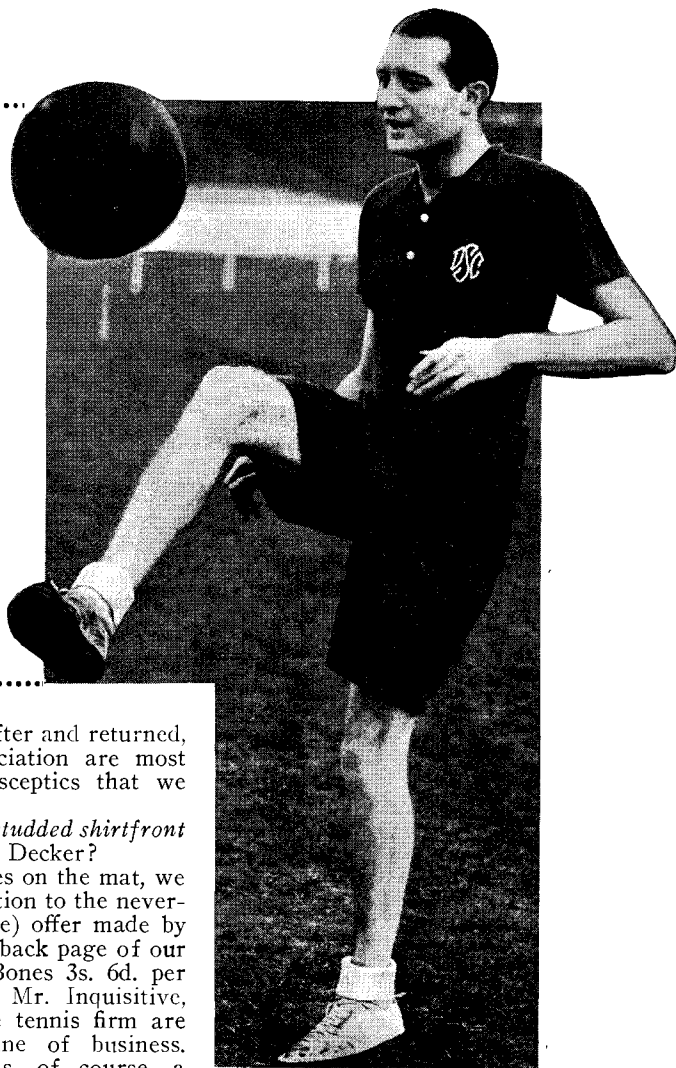
printer's error, with apologies to Messrs. Briggs and Mr. A. E. Walsh, their representative, who is one of table tennis's best friends.

**T**HIS one is not for the ladies. Not that it's smokeroom, or anything like that, but it's all about—sh—sh—sh—ages!

This question of "Too old at 26" keeps bobbing up, and makes it hardly fair of us to put our internationals in trousers. You see Vana, the Czechoslovakian schoolboy who created so much interest on the Centre Court in 1935 has just, aged 16, beaten 18-year-old world champion Bergmann at the international tournament in Paris, with those "veterans" Ehrlich and Liebster nowhere.

France is now busy training an especially young team to send over here, (Continued on next page.)

*Barna may not look happy, but he's keeping fit. Note the shirt badge of Duna Sports Club, the leading club in Hungary, of which Viktor is a proud member.*



most carefully looked after and returned, and I know the Association are most anxious to show the sceptics that we really have progressed.

*Even a diamond-studded shirtfront would do. Eh, Mr. Decker?*

And speaking of bones on the mat, we should like to call attention to the never-to-be repeated (we hope) offer made by Messrs. Briggs, on the back page of our last month's issue. "Bones 3s. 6d. per dozen" did not mean, Mr. Inquisitive, that this eminent table tennis firm are undertaking a new line of business. No, no, Boxes, it was, of course, a

# England's New Internationals give a "Nervy" display v. Wales

By

Charles M. Hutt

**T**HE first international match of the season, between England and Wales, took place at the London Welsh Hall, England winning by eight matches to one. The hall was packed to capacity by an enthusiastic crowd, including officials from the English and Welsh associations; and the match between Lurie and Lisle was broadcast on the Regional wavelength.

The English players acquitted themselves well, but the Welsh team, though they fought gamely, were not strong enough to provide real and serious opposition.

The first match of the evening, doubles, between Marshall (captain) and Rogers, and Lisle and Sadler, was a good kick-off. Rogers, a new international, justified the selectors' choice,

## OVER THE NET

(Continued from page 5.)

and we are doing our bit, with Hardman, also aged 16, Rosen, Filby and Seaman the new stars.

I hear, too, that the Hungarian team will almost be entirely new.

*Incidentally, did you hear that one about Haydon, playing in a provincial tournament? In one hectic rally he dived clean across the floor, landing full in the lap of a charming lady spectator. "Whew," commented one onlooker to a friend, "that's a new stroke." "New!" was the scornful reply. "It's his favourite."*

\* \* \*

**W**HICH automatically brings us to the ladies, whose Area Trials, I am glad to hear, are being arranged on the same wide scale as the men's. But why don't more women players enter Open tournaments, which is really the only sure road to official recognition. It has proved so in the case of every woman international so far.

We are hearing so much about the star women players in the leagues these days, but somehow they never seem to come to light in the tournaments. Of course we know it isn't always easy, and travelling costs money, but somehow the men do it.

And then, why aren't there women coaches? Lawn tennis has them, and most successful ones too. Suzanne Lenglen, for one, and H. W. Austin's sister; there is scope in table tennis, and not all the would-be women champions like to be recommended to men coaches.

and the English pair hit their way through to win in two straight games.

Hardman (Sheffield), did not show that promise which had so impressed the selection committee at the English Trials. He seemed nervous and excited, and lost to Smith, of Cardiff, in two straight games to 19 and 10.

The match between Seaman, another new international, and Sadler, was the best of the evening. Seaman, taking the initiative, lost the first game 15-21. His hit was not good enough to pierce Sadler's defence, and his drop-shots sat up and begged to be killed.

The next two games which the English player won, 21-20 and 21-18, provided some very good play. Seaman used his brains more, and though he still kept on the attack, he greatly improved the placing of his hits.

His general play, though, showed several weaknesses. He was helpless on his backhand, not hitting on that wing once throughout the three games. His forehand hit was not nearly hard enough to get him in the Swaythling Cup team.

**B**UBLEY and Thomas provided plenty of excitement, the former dispelling any reputation he may have of being a chiseller. He used his backhand flick at every opportunity, against an opponent who could get them back, and the cheers that greeted Buble's win in the first game at 26-24, were well deserved. In the second game Buble was leading 10-7, when he opened his mouth wide, yawned, and promptly fell asleep. Thomas gained the next twelve consecutive points and won easily at 21-13.

The same thing nearly happened in the third game. Buble, 17-8 up, had another little nap, and did not wake up until the score stood at 17-14, when he had to fight really hard to win, 21-15. This sort of thing, however, is most unusual with Buble, and he is to be congratulated on the improvement his game shows on last season's form.

Rosen is rather an enigma, and I can only repeat what I said about him in the trials report. His defence is good, but inclined to be showy. His hit both sides is good, but he cannot mix his game, and he is too slow on his feet to take advantage of a quick hit.

Also, high topspin on his backhand worries him rather more than it should. But he is young, was understandably nervous, and, more important, he won.

**T**HE match between Lurie and Lisle, which was broadcast, was not very exciting. Lurie won two straight

and had the upper hand all the time. And though Lisle was game and tried hard, Lurie won easily, 21-14 and 21-15.

Cohen had an equally easy time with Bamford, the latter not providing enough opposition to bring out the best in Cohen's game. I am inclined to think, and several people agree with me, that Cohen is a better and cleverer player than Lurie, and should take precedence over him in the ranking list. His defence is better, and he has not that inconsistency which is unfortunately a great factor in Lurie's game.

Scores:

Marshall and Rogers (England), beat Lisle and Sadler (Wales), 21-18, 21-15.

Smith (Wales) beat Hardman (England), 21-19, 21-10.

Buble (England) beat Thomas (Wales), 26-24, 13-21, 21-15.

Seaman (England) beat Sadler (Wales), 15-21, 21-19, 21-16.

Rosen (England) beat Meredith (Wales), 17-21, 21-20, 21-18.

Lurie and Cohen (England) beat Lewis and Cann (Wales), 21-10, 21-17.

Lurie (England) beat Lisle (Wales), 21-14, 21-15.

Bergl and Hyde (England) beat Thomas and Jones (Wales), 21-17, 15-21, 21-13.

Cohen (England) beat Bamford (Wales), 21-16, 21-14.



Robert Bergmann (Austria) the present world champion, who will defend his title at Wembley



# Looking Around

with

**J. W. A. CONNOLLY**

("Sunday Express" sports writer)

ONE thing I have noticed this year, and with considerable gratification, is the change for the better in playing conditions. At the Home Counties, for instance (always an exemplary tournament), the finals were run absolutely to schedule, and finished in the region of 10 p.m.

The English trials were a vast improvement. The London Rifle Brigade's headquarters provided the ideal setting. The players were not worried by the proximity of the spectators, and the half-way dividing curtain gave them the base room they needed.

MOST pleasing of all, however, were the strides made by the Finchley Club, in their promotion of the



Ken Stanley  
(Manchester)

North London championships. Some eight feet has been added to the width of the hall, and only three tables were in use at the one time. Each table was curtained off with the regulation net, and the players had plenty of base-room and there was no fear of

colliding with the competitors on the next table.

Which just goes to show that the steps taken in this respect by the E.T.T.A. have been appreciated by the clubs themselves, who in turn are doing their utmost to bring tournament play up to scratch.

I have heard grumbles about Finchley in the past. There is no excuse for any grouse from the competitor these days.

PLEASED to find that Bert Bridge is back with us. His interest seems to have been sustained. At tournaments Bert can be seen, armed with notebook and pencil, interviewing stars of the past and future, for his series of cameos.

I like his orthodox interviewing posture—head on arm and foot on chair.

Bert Bridge used to be one of the best doubles players in the game. I hope he will team again with Wendy Woodhead in the mixed, and find an equally forceful player in the men's doubles. His brother, "A.T.," is also back for a spell. I expect he will avail himself of the chance of playing. In the old days, of course, he was one of the regulars.

A STRANGE feature about the two championships so far is that several of the leading internationals have not entered. I take it that they have made full advantage of the "player rule" which does not differentiate between amateur and professional, and are busy the whole time with coaching.

Personally I think it is a ghastly mistake. In the first place the game and championships suffer, because the names draw the crowd in. Secondly, by not playing in championships they lose something of their colour, and are apt to be thought of as "has beens."

The public can't be expected to know that they are too active in coaching, and have not just retired.

IT was like old times to see seven Manchester names in the trial lists. One can hardly grumble at the selection of Lurie, Cohen and Casofsky. Reminds me of the days of Cooke, Waite, Proffitt and Freddie Cromwell. Those old days in the Manchester League, when Manchester Jewish, Y.M.C.A. and Victoria used to pack their clubs when they met.

Interesting, too, to see that the provinces are again on the map. Lurie seems our star selection among the young ones, but I think Ken Stanley is booked for better things.

There is a lot in this idea of central trials. After all, it gives the young provincial player who can wallop all his colleagues off the table, a chance to see what the real international event is. I am sure many of them must have gone back chastened.

## The Secretary says . . .

(Continued from page 10.)

not a deciding game the match shall continue with the next game.

"The match shall be decided by the majority of games won, games awarded to neither player (or pair) being disregarded. In the case of the award of games to neither player (or pair) resulting in no majority of the allotted number of games for the match being won by either player (or pair), both players (or pairs) shall be disqualified in that event, if it be an individual event, in that tie, if it be a team event, and shall further be liable individually to such penalties as may be decided by the jury sitting as a disciplinary committee."

## Service for the Home Player

THE object of the service is primarily to put the ball into play. The service can be delivered very much as one pleases, with the following limitations: (1) at the moment of impact the racket and the ball must be behind the edge of the table and within an imaginary extension of the sides, (2) the ball must have left the hand at the moment of impact with the racket, and (3) no spin may be imparted to the ball other than that applied by the face of the racket.

If you join a club you will probably see some players using "fancy" services and endeavouring, by this means, to win the point outright. You are not advised to emulate them. The practice necessary to obtain an apparently "hot" service can be far more profitably employed in improving your game.

## The Half-Volley.

THE half-volley has been the cause and subject of probably more discussion and dissension than any other aspect of the game. It is the simplest stroke in table tennis, and is that which is almost universally played at home. In club play most players neglect it; some abuse it. Its judicious use is invaluable, but its constant use, as a game, will kill table tennis altogether. It is, however, the basic foundation upon which you must build your strokes, and needs unremitting practice.

Half-volley is, as its name implies, the return of an early ball. The bat is put in the way of the ball, which is returned to your opponent's side of the table by its own momentum. It is neither an attacking nor a defending stroke, and yet, paradoxically, it can be both. A half-volley to a fast ball may win you the point, not so much by the speed of the return, as by its placing and unexpectedness. The stance should be about a foot behind the line, feet about 18 ins. apart and facing the table. The position, of course, varies with the speed and placing of your opponent's shots, but this can only be learnt by experience.

Improve the half-volley game which you already play. Try and force the play; to get your opponent out of position; to return the ball with accuracy from any angle, no matter whence it comes, to anywhere you please on the other side of the table. When you are really proficient in the half-volley you are already a player by no means to be despised, and will be able to beat many superior players by the simple but studied method of "stonewalling."



*The English and Welsh Teams, which met at the London Welsh Club, London, W.C.1, where England won 8-1.*

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# Explaining the 'Registered Player' and how he came into being

**W**HO is this mysterious animal, the Registered Player? How was he discovered? What is the colour of his spots?

In Britain, professionals and amateurs are allowed to compete against each other in the following sports (among others): golf, cricket, association football, tennis (*real*, not *lawn*, tennis), rackets, squash rackets, chess.

In fencing, a fencing instructor may be an amateur, if he be in the army (*i.e.*, he is a professional soldier, fencing instruction is his "hobby").

According to the Olympic games standards, an amateur ceases to be an amateur not only if he ever competes against a professional but if he competes against an amateur who has competed against a professional. According to this, every English University or public school athlete who has ever played cricket, being defiled at third or fourth remove by the visit of an M.C.C. team with ground staff, is ineligible. But nobody takes any notice.

The amateur-professional distinction is, at its worst, snobbery, and the endeavour to keep control or enjoyment of a sport in the hands of a class. At best it is the endeavour to prevent vested interest control, to prevent result-fixing, to keep the pot-hunter professor from battering on the segregated potterer.

Why should table tennis *a priori* accept the manners of any other sport? Why shouldn't it try, at least try, its own dodge to get the best without the worst?

**HISTORICAL:** When table tennis started, every player was defined a simon—pure amateur, "who does not, either directly or indirectly, derive any profit from the playing or pursuit of the game."

First query was about men connected with business firms trying to control the game, for the sake of the firms. Hastily a limiting rule is passed, that none may serve as a national officer, or be present at a meeting "as of right" (*i.e.*, if challenged they can be made to withdraw). But they can still play, and that stands to-day.

Second query. A cricket professional plays. Is he a table tennis professional? Not necessarily. The case in point is of a man actually paying his own fare to compete in the World Championships. His accusers were being paid expenses and possibly broken time.

But, say the accusers, he is paid for sport, *i.e.*, to get fit, and uses that fitness in table tennis—an unfair advantage. But since cricket is in summer, and table tennis in winter, this is still untrue.

The third query came when table tennis grew popular, and there began to be money in it. A table tennis saloon is opened and a player is engaged as bookkeeper. His duties are not arduous. He has time to play with clients. He has been engaged, probably for his name, not his mathematics. Is he an amateur? Is he not making money indirectly out of the game?

Listen to Dr. Waugh, of Ireland. "I am a doctor. I meet people playing table tennis. They become my patients. Am I not making money indirectly out of the game?" *Reductio ad absurdum*, says Dr. Waugh.

**H**ERE is the position a year or two back. On the continent, the definition was taken loosely, and players were earning money in all sorts of ways: In England, with the rule taken strictly, no player picked up a penny.

On the continent, players were keen and stayed in game. In England, the players squeezed out almost as soon as they were of an age to need to bring a pay-packet into their homes.

Obviously the continental method was better for the standard of the sport generally, and for the interest both of players and spectators. *But*, it went against the grain for us to follow it in England and still use the name *amateur*.

So, for some years, England proposed to allow professionalism and allow competitions of both professionals and amateurs together.

Alas! In international table tennis this was impossible. A majority was there to carry it, but it would have split the Federation. Some associations are affiliated to their Olympic committees. Others to their Ministries of Sport, and have *state laws* against amateurs playing professionals.

At last a solution was found. Every country could do what it liked in its own country and with its own players. In international play, however, every country should recognise, without question, whatever players were put up by the other countries.

To make this possible, no country (this is not a written agreement, but a verbal understanding) is to call its players either professional or amateur.

By

The Hon. IVOR MONTAGU

Chairman, E.T.T.A.

**A**ND so, in England, we have the registered players. Hence also, in England, we include men fully qualified as amateurs according to the rules of the sister sports, so that no busybody can deduce that a registered player is necessarily engaged in activities that would make him a professional in a sister sport.

But why, people might say, register players at all? Why not just call them players and leave them to do as they like?

To keep track of them. To be able to know, in time, if bad tendencies are appearing, and to modify our rules to check them.

What is the good of allowing a player to pick up bits and pieces? To encourage him. To attract him into and keep him in the game. To destroy the bad (but sometimes justified) grumbling, and the feeling "all these spectators (or the organisers with their 'gate' money) are getting something out of me for nothing."

What is a bad tendency? Players refusing to play unless they get their price. Thereby less, instead of more, play. Players make organisers bid one against the other, and thereby comes less, not more, goodwill.

An admirable player, one who deserves well of the game is one who will choose places to go to play because he can help the game. A player nobody cares about and of whom everyone is glad to see the back, is one who only goes to a place because of what he gets out of it.

The contrast is not a question of money. The player who makes a favour of playing is a nuisance whether he is a "professional" or no.

**I**KNOW many players who are admirable, who play when and where they can do most good, and be most helpful to league and other organisers who mobilise the public interest which alone gives the players any value to the public. And who don't go round racketeering, treating the registration system as a means of maximum cash for minimum activity.

It is this spirit that will make it possible to continue the registration system, devised to save players from feeling one-sidedly exploited, and to help with pocket money (and thus keep in the game) boys whose economic position makes it difficult for them to give it time and attention.

# The Secretary says . . .



**M**ANY administration matters are dealt with in other pages of this issue. The Executive Committee met on November 6, and decided that the National should be held at Blackpool on February 3, 4 and 5; endorsed the new regulations for the "Registered Player" (these will be circulated shortly); decided to hold Area Trials for women players and asked Mrs. Bunbury to take charge of the arrangements.

The London "Open" at the Indian Students' Club was sanctioned providing the final games only were played on the last night.

The question of our administrative difficulties was also considered on my report that, with the growth of the Association, it was becoming impossible to cope with the tremendous amount of business. It was agreed to employ a short-hand typist temporarily. The view was expressed that many questions were being addressed to the Office which could be better dealt with by members of the committee and it was decided to ask all members to communicate with their own representatives for advice and assistance. To enable this to be done the names, addresses and phone numbers of the members are given:—

Ivor Montagu, 29, Ranelagh Gardens, London, W. 6. (Riverside 5971.)

A. K. Vint, 5a, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings. (Hastings 1660.)

R. Emdin, "Northaw," Kingsbury Avenue, St. Albans. (St. Albans 1375).

F. J. P. Hills, 87, North Side, London, S.W. 4. (Battersea 4943.)

A. S. King, "Teofani," Lower Avenue, Exeter.

K. A. Nicholson, 24, Nuns Moor Crescent, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

M. W. Robinson, 11, Elm Avenue, Garden Village, Hull.

J. M. Rose, 39, London Road, London, S.E. 1.

J. W. Swann, 14, Norwood Avenue, Kersal, Salford, 7.

L. Bennett, 31, Cumberland Avenue, Grimsby. (Business 3644.)

Mrs. D. L. Bunbury, Dudley Lodge, Prestwich, Manchester.

Miss R. Smits, 20, Brook House, Gunnersbury Lane, London, W. 3.

Many questions relating to the administration can be much better dealt with locally and I hope league secretaries will

put their problems to the members of the committee.

## The World Championships.

**L**EAGUE Secretaries will now know that all the club tickets (5s. to 2s. 6d.) for the World Championships, are very heavily over-subscribed. The tickets are being despatched, but it is very difficult to allocate them. No more applications can be accepted, and I hope those who receive a proportion only, will not be disappointed. There are still some 5s. tickets.

So far as the Albert Hall is concerned I cannot understand why there has not been a rush for the 5s. season tickets. These will admit to the best places, and the concession applies to club members only. The prices for the same seats will be 2s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. per session. *The sale of the season tickets will be discontinued early in December.* We must do this in order to proceed with the printing and sale of the ordinary tickets.

The books of tickets are being sold so cheaply that I am of opinion that club members do not appreciate the bargain offered. But I repeat—for 5s. now you can obtain a seat at each of the 15 sessions which will cost from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. each session after the early days of December. Members who are delaying because the tournament "is so far ahead" must realise that these tickets will not be available during the events, or for weeks before.

**I**GIVE below the draft of proposals now being considered by the I.T.T.F. Advisory Committee for submission to the Congress the day before play starts:—

"Where a game be unfinished 20 minutes after its commencement, the umpire shall award the game to the player (or pair) leading, unless the two players (or pairs) shall be at equality, when he shall announce without interrupting play: 'Five minutes more—the next point wins' and award the game to the player (or pair) scoring the next point.

"If no further point shall have been scored, and the score thus remains at equality, after the further five minutes period thus permitted, the umpire shall terminate the game, awarding it to neither player (or pair).

"In the case of a game being terminated by the time limit as above, where this is

(Continued on page 7.)

## Sears wins at North London

**T**OMMY SEARS won the Carris Trophy at the North London "Open," easily beating, in a three-straight game, a young and promising player in G. Frischer, of Glencairn. This was Frischer's first big tournament and the final was a bit too much for him. His win over R. E. Moreton, the Surrey captain, in the semi-final showed Frischer at his best. Moreton, however, appeared to have an off-night as he had earlier in the tournament beaten Benny Mareus who in turn had disposed of Stennett.

**T**HE women's singles (Carris Trophy) was won for the third consecutive year by Miss Dora Emdin, who beat her sister, Miss Doris Emdin, in the final in two games. Dora had defeated Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Wendy Woodhead and Doris had defeated Miss Keeling and Miss Doris Jordan in previous rounds.

In the women's doubles Miss Doris Emdin and Miss Wendy Woodhead defeated Miss Dora Emdin and Miss Doris Jordan in a very closely contested game. Hugh Jones, straight from the Welsh match, and his partner L. Baron won the men's doubles against R. C. Dawson and H. Ostler in another very good game.

The mixed doubles provided another victory for Miss Dora Emdin and Hugh Jones, when they defeated Miss Joan Harding and L. Baron in two games.

## The Bournemouth 'Open'

**T**HE Bournemouth Open Tournament, one of the most pleasant of the game's annual events, was staged at the Glenroy Hall Hotel, though the usually strong London contingent was missing.

The local players (and some from London) were not quite equal to the task of foiling the "big bad Brook" in his designs on the men's singles cup. In the Final, Muller, of Southampton, an agile and determined penholder player (and what a fighter!), took Brook to five games before he pulled out enough of his old-time defence to clinch the match.

The local ladies took things very seriously, almost all turning out in regulation kit, including very businesslike shorts. The Final was between Miss Jones, the Swindon penholder player, and Miss Brock, of Exeter, a young player with a cool and consistent fore-hand attack. Although not playing confidently, Miss Jones, with her greater experience, won 2—0. The margin, however, was quite narrow, and her young opponent should do well in future.

In the men's doubles, A. D. Brook and J. H. Carrington (London) beat E. Duncley and L. Platt (Bournemouth) 2—0; while Miss Jones and Mrs. Carrington (London) won the women's doubles from Miss MacDonald and Miss Davis (Bournemouth) 2—0.

# County Championships are Here at Last

By **F. A. AMIES**  
(Secretary, Yorkshire T.T.A.)

**T**HE organisation of a county championship this season was decided on at a meeting held in Leeds. Durham, Lincolnshire, Northumberland and Yorkshire were represented. A county championship committee was constituted with two representatives from each county or body representing a county, and a chairman and secretary-treasurer.

The committee are to meet annually in summer to select officers and arrange fixtures. The subscription is 5s. per county, and an additional 5s. for counties entering the women's competition. Mr. R. Blindell, Grimsby, was elected chairman of the committee, and Mr. F. A. Amies, hon. secretary-treasurer, with Mr. W. Atkinson as his assistant.

Circulars have been sent to county associations where they exist, or to leading leagues. One of the greatest difficulties was the absence of county associations in many areas. This was promptly remedied in one or two cases, and there are prospects of new county associations in several areas next season.

Where no association existed or was possible immediately, a league was accepted as a representative of a county. In the case of Lancashire, Liverpool League was admitted under the title of Lancashire (Liverpool).

**S**EVEN counties decided to take part this season, but at the time of the drawing up of the fixtures, one (Staffordshire) was doubtful. They were included because it was easier to leave out than to include after the fixtures had been drawn up, subsequently found it impossible to take part. The gap is being filled by Nottinghamshire, the leagues of which are forming a Nottinghamshire Association for the express purpose.

Both men's and women's championships are being played. The men's competition is in two sections with Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire (Liverpool) and Yorkshire in the north and Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire in the Midlands. There will be a play-off between the winners of the two sections on March 25. The women's section comprises four counties—Northumberland, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Warwickshire.

**T**HE first round of the Women's County Championship took place during the first week in November. Both matches had very one-sided results although a number of the games, particularly in the Yorkshire versus Warwickshire match, were much closer than the final results suggest.

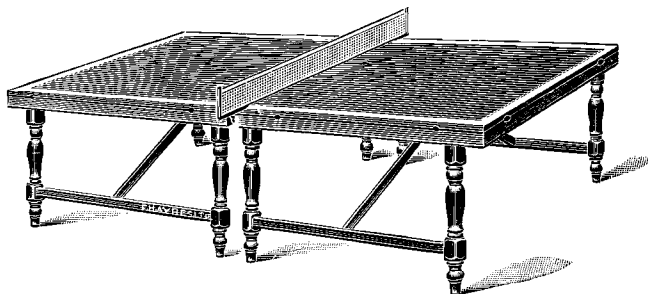
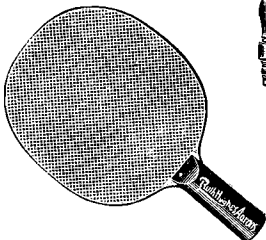
Warwickshire beat Yorkshire (at Birmingham) by 9 matches to 0, Miss Osborne, Miss Newey and Miss Potter not losing a game against the Yorkshire trio, Miss Stott, Mrs. Amies and Mrs. Beecroft. At Grimsby, the following day, Lincolnshire beat Northumberland by 8 matches to 1, Miss Ward and Mrs. Isaacs winning all their rubbers and Miss Piercey losing only one to Mrs. Waugh.

### LANCASHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following results are to hand:—  
M.S.—Filby bt. Lurie 21-15, 21-16, 21-14.  
M.D.—Lurie and Cohen bt. Davies and Stanley 21-18, 21-14.  
W.S.—Miss E. Steventon (B'ham) bt. Miss R. Doolan (L'pool) 21-17, 21-18.  
W.D.—Miss Stott and Miss Steventon bt. Miss Doolan and Miss Lasker 21-17, 19-21, 21-15.  
Mx.D.—Casofsky and Miss Doolan bt. Filby and Miss Steventon 21-14, 17-21, 21-18.  
J.S.—K. Stanley bt. S. Pepperman 21-18, 21-11.

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## The English "Open"

**T**HE Blackpool League Committee, responsible for the running of the National Championships, have already started working under the enthusiastic direction of secretary Worsley. Preliminary rounds will be played on February 3 and 4, and the magnificent ballroom will be the venue. Steps have already been taken to make the floor suitable for table tennis.

The semi-finals will be played at the Tower Circus on Saturday afternoon, February 5, 1938, and the finals at the same place in the evening.

This tournament will appeal specially to northern "fans," but there will be entries from all over the country, and a contingent of the best foreign players will definitely take part.

Arrangements are being made to see that the world finalists will be on view, and those who cannot make the journey to London will undoubtedly go to Blackpool. It will be interesting to see the defeated at Wembley trying to prove the results "all wrong," and it will be a spectacular show.

Full particulars and entry forms can be obtained from Mr. E. Worsley, 20, Banbury Avenue, North Shore, Blackpool.

# NO MORE TRIALS!

By **VIKTOR BARNA**

**I** DO not think everybody realises what a fine idea it was to hold the Area Trials and afterwards the Final Trial, instead of one long, exhausting trial at the end of which a team of five was chosen.

With ten places available, young and promising players have been given their chance without having to fight for a place in the actual team, to show their ability. Seaman, Rosen, Casofsky and Hardman are coming to the top—without, perhaps, being as yet top players—and as a result of the trials many others will also be watched very closely by the Selection Committee.

I feel certain that the Association will help them all to get to the top. So will I. Our object is to make them worthy champions.

I would like to see these sort of trials every year—perhaps every two years. But I would never like to see any other sort of trial. The type of trial where many players are invited, and play hard matches on one day, after which the team is picked, is wholly unsatisfactory. They are not good for the players, and at the end no one is satisfied—not even the

Selection Committee. These trials are certainly not good for picking our Swaythling Cup team (excuse me saying "our," I can't help it).

**I** HAVE many reasons to be against the old type of trials. One of the many is that players should not be judged on their one-day form. They must be judged by their whole-year form. How did they play and what did they do in the big Open Tournaments? Is their form coming up or going down? It is these details that must be considered.

I suggest that the players now chosen for coaching should enter all the tournaments possible. The results of these tournaments show the actual form. In Hungary, and in other big table tennis countries, it is always the results of tournaments which count when forming the team.

It is a very good policy. Tournaments need serious preparation, and the player who plays well in tournaments not only deserves to be selected regardless of trials, but more than probably won't disappoint when he has to play in the biggest tournament of all—the world championships.

**L**URIE and Cohen played magnificently in the Skegness tournament, as did Bergl and Filby in the Home Counties, and Filby in the Lancashire. Their success is not accidental. They were well prepared for these tournaments, and the results should be regarded and considered.

A point of advice to the players now in the Selectors' "eye." If you are invited to play in exhibitions, try to beat your opponent under any circumstances. For two reasons. Firstly, it is the best way to help your "fighting spirit." Secondly, it will make the best exhibition.

Enter all the tournaments, show your possibilities, and I am certain that the Selection Committee will not neglect you.



*Viktor Barna and Eric Filby during their training at the Chelsea Football Club, Stamford Bridge*

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## But results set a problem for the selectors

**T**HIRTY-TWO of what might be called the cream of England's players, gathered together to compete in the Final Trials for inclusion in "the ten," to be trained on for Swaythling Cup selections.

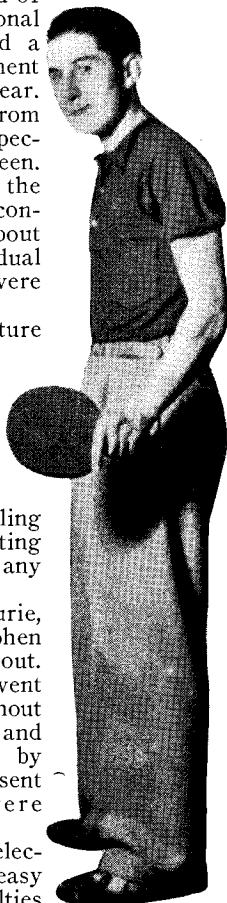
The general standard of play, from a national point of view, showed a gratifying improvement compared with last year. What it will be like from an international perspective remains to be seen. Under the eyes of the selectors, who were constantly wandering about and watching individual play, the players were eager to impress.

One remarkable feature was the prevalence of forcing shots, openings being made rather than waited for, almost to the point of rashness. There were no chiselling matches, and interesting play could be seen at any table at any time.

Four players, Lurie, Filby, Bergl and Cohen were easily picked out. Filby and Lurie went through the day without conceding a match, and Bergl and Cohen, by reason of past and present performances, were obvious choices.

From then on the selectors did not have an easy time, and their difficulties could only be appreciated by those present. Here is a case in point: Bubley gave Proffitt the hiding of his life; two straight games, 21-5, 21-9, and I believe that the score in the first game was at one point 15-0. Proffitt, justly incensed, thereupon proceeded to take it out of Bergl, whom he beat in the third game. And to complicate matters, and to give the selectors something to think about, Bergl beat Bubley, also in the third game. A vicious circle, which was repeated in kind all the afternoon, and again in the evening—pity the poor selectors.

**H**ARDMAN, that much-discussed youth, is definitely a find. I saw him playing at Whitby last year, and came back to London with glowing



H. Rosen.

### THE CHOSEN TEN.

H. Lurie (Manchester).  
E. Bubley (London).  
E. J. Filby (London).  
L. Cohen (Manchester).  
J. K. Hyde (Liverpool).  
E. Hardman (Sheffield).  
B. Casofsky (Manchester).  
M. B. W. Bergl (Harrow).  
C. Seaman (Brighton).  
H. Rosen (London).

reports of "a nobody who would one day be somebody." I was laughed at. A prophet is not honoured . . .

He has an all-round game, with a strong hit both sides, and was determined to hit off the table everybody he met. He gave Bergl a fine show, and after losing the first game, was really unlucky to lose the second at 24-26. He must, however, curb his youthful impetuosity before he can present himself to the world as a finished product. He played Rosen twice, and lost two straight each time. Ignoring Rosen's unusually heavy chop, he blithely continued his fixed campaign of hitting everything—with disastrous results.

But we can afford to be indulgent with a promising player whose only fault is inexperience.

Bubley, I think, was an excellent choice. Even at this early date there are adverse comments regarding his inclusion. Why, I do not know. He has a forcing game peculiarly his own, with a finishing flick equally peculiar. Whether or not Bubley will ever be first-class depends entirely upon Bubley: but it takes a first-class player to beat him, and I foresee that, if included in the final choice for the Swaythling Cup team, he will be a source of great anxiety and mental anguish to those internationals who are not used to his type of game.

**S**EAMAN should have been recognised a long time ago. If his game were on a par with the spirit with which he plays, he would be one of the world's leaders. As it is, he possesses an all-round game, won't give an inch no matter what the score is, and is quick to seize an opportunity to hit.

The justification of including Hyde is open to question, and can be the subject of many pros and cons. That he is good enough to be picked in the Swaythling Cup team, nobody would for one moment doubt. But in accordance with the new policy of the E.T.T.A., I think that Baron or Rogers, both of whose respective games are more capable of development than that of Hyde, should have

By  
CHARLES M. HUTT.

been given preference. Hyde is essentially a forehand top-spin attacking player, and is liable to be tied up in knots by an opponent with a strong backhand flick or an efficient half-volley defence. Bubley beat him in two straight games without too much difficulty.

Casofsky is a second Cohen, their style of play being very much the same. Casofsky hits harder, but his defence is not nearly so good as Cohen's. Because, however, of his potentialities, he is a choice with which nobody could disagree.

And finally, Rosen. Here again criticism might not be amiss. He has all the strokes, and a very heavy forehand chop, through which many players have tried to hit to their cost. But while he is good on the defence and good on the attack, there is a lack of co-ordination in his general play, and his footwork can be much improved. However, this is his opportunity. We wish him the best of luck, and hope that he makes the best of it.

**T**HE ten players selected, with the addition of a few others, will undergo a course of training and coaching under Barna. The E.T.T.A. are fortunate in securing his services, especially in view of the fact that he is liable to play against us in the World Championship.

Our hopes of success this year are not very great, but the experience of playing for England in the Swaythling Cup, and the added zest with which they will henceforth redouble their efforts, should next year give our new stars the first real chance of "getting somewhere" that we have had for many years.



E. Bubley.

## FLASHES from the PROVINCES

### Lincolnshire.

IT is unusual for the most important event in one district throughout the season to be staged before some places have even held their annual meetings, but, by so successfully running the first East of England Championships at Butlin's Camp, Skegness, before the end of September, the Lincolnshire Association have given their members a topic to discuss for the rest of the season.

Assisted by Mr. J. M. Rose, as referee, and the services of Headquarters, the new Association acquitted itself well in its organisation of this tournament. Mr. Ron Blindell and his Lincolnshire Committee have set themselves a high standard to maintain.

The benefits to table tennis in the district are considerable. The standard of play has undergone a much-needed improvement, and both the County men's and women's teams registered first victories during November. A hearty welcome is extended to new members in Spilsby T.T.C. and Sleaford and District T.T. League, who bring the total to 13. More are expected.

Enthusiasm has spread throughout the scattered areas of the county and the subsidiary Inter-town Competition is a tremendous success. Although Scunthorpe, who are already adding a second division, have played only one match, the margin of their 16-0 win over Woodhall Spa makes them favourites, though Louth boast two comfortable victories; and Skegness organising after late holidays, are reckoned to have a chance. In the senior Haigh Coronation Cup Competition, Spalding were smartly beaten at home 4-12 by Lincoln.

A large entry has been received for the Closed Championships, the finals of which are due to be played in Grimsby on March 9. Preliminary rounds will be played in districts.

### The Leeds "Open."

THE Leeds "Open" attracted an entry of 51 and 18 for the men's and women's singles respectively, players from Manchester, Sunderland, Newcastle and Grimsby together with representatives of nearly all the West Riding centres taking part.

E. Hardman stole the thunder of the more experienced players. So brilliantly did he attack that H. Lurie had to rely almost solely on defence to beat him in a rousing final for the men's singles. Hardman defeated L. Cohen with comparative ease in the semi-final; while Lurie beat E. Reay at the same stage. Hardman also won the youths' final, beating E. Patchett, a Yorkshire County player, in easy style.

The only successful local finalist was Miss W. I. Stott, who won a well-contested final for the women's singles against Mrs. Stead of Bedford.

Messrs. Atkinson and Mackinder (Leeds) lost in the final of the men's doubles to Messrs. Lurie and Cohen; and Cohen partnered Mrs. Stead to win the mixed doubles final from Mr. and Mrs. Amies (Pontefract).

### Manchester Women.

THE Manchester women's league began their programme of inter-city and inter-league matches against Macclesfield women (a second team match) and won by 20 games to 5. The remainder of the programme consists of two matches with Liverpool (December 18 at Manchester and March 19 at Liverpool), the return match with Macclesfield (date to be arranged) and the annual match with Blackpool (Manchester, February 26).

Last season the Manchester teams, 1st and 2nd, won all their matches, and it will be interesting to see the final results this year.

In the league, Kendal and Maccabi, head the table with six matches played and won, but the Maccabi have the better games average. The struggle between these two clubs when they meet should provide a most interesting match. Miss L. N. Rubens of Maccabi is at the moment unbeaten in league games, but in the Lancashire Open last month Mrs. Eastwood, of Kendal, beat her for the women's singles trophy.

### Watford.

THE formation of a Watford and District league has long been the ambition of Mr. Frank Roberts, one of the most active vice-presidents of the E.T.T.A. Father of two well-known players, Daphne and Leslie, Mr. Roberts is always to be seen at London tournaments and his enthusiasm, from the "old days," has been consistent.

The successful annual Herts Open is one of his "babies," and now that the league is well and truly floated, his satisfaction is complete. Fifteen men's clubs and four women's have already joined, and with Mr. Roberts as President and Chairman, and Mr. G. F. White as secretary a very successful season is assured.

### Chester.

CHESTER interest this month has been focussed largely on inter-league matches. The first team met Liverpool before a very good "gate" at Chester, Liverpool winning by 9 sets to 1. Liverpool's team consisted of K. Hyde, P. Rumjahn, E. J. Rumjahn, A. Hutchinson and L. Winterburn. Chester's form was very disappointing. The same players, with one exception, have played in Chester's first team for the last five seasons, and it seems the time has come for new blood to be drafted into the team. Chester's set was won by R. N. McKee, who beat L. Winterburn.

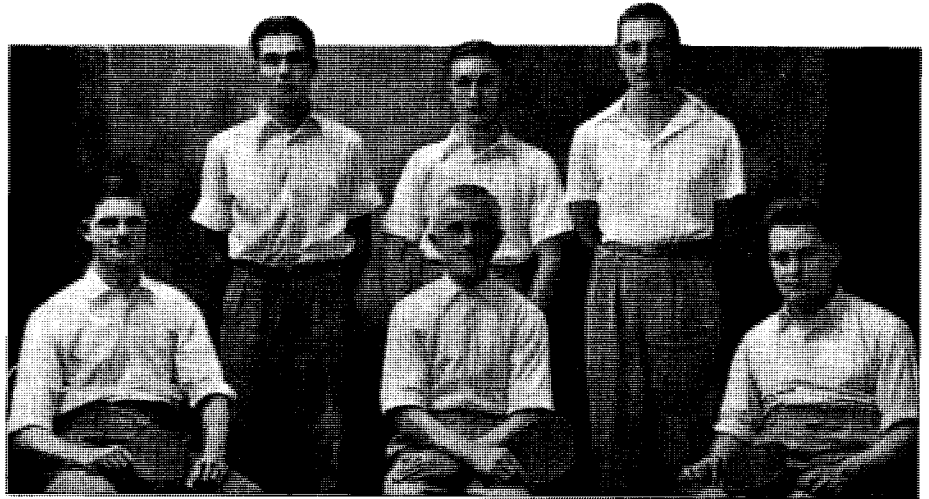
The "A" team have had three matches, with mixed results. Against Liverpool "A" they obtained three sets to their opponents seven. If the team as originally chosen had been able to turn out, Liverpool "A" might have been surprised. Against Rhyl time prevented the completion of the match, Chester "A" leading by 5 sets to 3; while against Holywell Chester "A" won by 7 sets to 3.

No fewer than 14 players have been chosen for these "A" team matches, so that the selection committee's difficulties will be realised.

In the first division, Y.M.C.A. lead the way. They have dropped only one point, and that to the City Club, who at present stand fourth in the table. Reliance Works, City Road Presbyterians, St. Barnabas and City are all in good positions, and it will need a good prophet to forecast the ultimate positions.

In the second division four teams are having things very much their own way. These are G.P.O., County Officers, Graecas and Handbridge Institute. The first three are newcomers to the League, and are setting a very hot pace.

Chester ladies played Rhyl ladies at Rhyl. This match was also unfinished owing to lack of time, the score, 6 sets to 2 in Rhyl's favour. The Chester sets were won by Miss Guest and Miss Woodfine. Miss Guest also played well at the Flintshire Open Championships, getting to the semi-final before she was beaten by Miss Dinah Newey, of Birmingham.



Led by the evergreen Mr. O. W. Tarrant, still "in harness," as he describes it, at the age of 60, the St. Saviour's Swindon Club won the Second Division of the Swindon League last year. Back row: G. Probert, V. Probert, K. Barrett; Front: C. Woolford, O. W. Tarrant, J. Mansell.



## Swindon.

**T**HE Swindon League's first dance venture proved a great success, and more than 250 dancers welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Swindon (Alderman L. J. Newman and Mrs. Newman). The finances of the league benefited accordingly, a factor very necessary in view of higher commitments this season.

Swindon opened their Western Counties League programme in fine style, beating Bristol by 10 events to 2. On this form Swindon should be strong contenders for the trophy. Cardiff was visited later, and then Ilfracombe. Swindon also had a comfortable victory at Reading by 18 games to 7.

Miss C. Jones's successes in the Bournemouth "Open" are most gratifying. Swindon feel that they have at least three women worthy of international recognition.

## Exeter.

**T**HE Exeter League were defeated by Cardiff six sets to five in the first inter-town match of the season, before a large crowd who saw some thrilling and tense play. This was one of the most enjoyable matches ever played at Exeter. L. R. Suter (Exeter) and T. Smith (Cardiff) were outstanding players.

St. Thomas Methodists, winners of the three Exeter leagues last season, are finding competition keener, and are being challenged by the Emmanuel Men's Club and the Y.M.C.A. for honours. The success of the Exeter Women's League in their first venture is a pleasing feature. Miss Joan Brock, their No. 1 player, must be heartily congratulated on reaching the final of the Bournemouth Open Championship.

## South Devon.

**S**OUTH DEVON visited Ilfracombe in the first round of the Plummer Cup and won by 8 sets to 3 after a very exciting match in which the winning team played exceptionally well. Ralph Rossiter won all his sets and Turner and Westaway won two each.

Incidentally South Devon are very lucky to have as President, Mr. R. Knight, who travels with the league team, attends the league meetings, and visits all the clubs regularly during their league matches.

The entries for the individual cups have proved a record this year, and Ralph Rossiter, who is the present holder of the South Devon Championship, will have to play exceedingly well to retain the trophy.

## Ilfracombe.

**I**LFRACOMBE have entered the Western Counties League and so play home and away matches with Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Swindon. Last year Ilfracombe defeated Plymouth at Plymouth and twice lost narrowly to Exeter (and once badly).

How many towns with 9,000 population can boast fixtures with cities like the above-mentioned?



*A. L. Ollis, Secretary of Bath League.*

## Bath.

**M**R. A. Leonard Ollis, the new Hon. Secretary for Bath, age 28, is one of three brothers registered with the Bath League. He first played table tennis in March of this year, and in June succeeded Mr. A. W. Clipsham as the official Bath Secretary.

He hopes one day to see Bath recognised amongst the first flight of English Leagues, producing its own international players.

Bath this season has already registered six new clubs, their complete strength now

*An article on County Administration by Mr. Leslie Bennett of the Lincolnshire T.T.A. will appear next month.*

being two divisions of 14 teams each, and a total membership of approximately 200.

They have entered the new Western Counties League, with Swindon, Cardiff, Ilfracombe and Bristol, and also are competing again in the Wilmott Cup.

It is hoped that all previous Bath players will again be available, including H. T. F. Bure, who also plays Rugby and cricket for Bath and Somerset.

## South Shropshire.

**T**HE Shropshire Association, formed in September, 1936, has had remarkable progress in the first year. Last season being their first season only four clubs competed in the league, with two teams each. They have begun the second season with 12 clubs and 15 teams in the league.

Outstanding players are Victor Joyner and Leslie Pickles, who, given sufficient chance, should make a name for themselves.

This year South Shropshire have entered a team in the Midland Counties League, and players in the area trials. The biggest difficulty they find, being in the heart of the country, is travelling. Craven Arms, the headquarters of the Association, is situated on the Welsh Border.

## London Business Houses A.S.A.

**Y**ET another record gone by the board, for this season 65 clubs have produced 113 teams in the London Business Houses League. Among them are a number of new clubs, though a few of the older ones have dropped out through lack of playing accommodation in the Houses concerned.

The women have mustered 24 teams (surely a record for any league) and are now divided into three sections.

As area trials for women are shortly to be held before selecting the Corbillon Cup team, it is to be hoped that from among these, at least one will emerge to represent England at the Albert Hall next January.

The L.B.H. men selected for trial fell just short of the ability necessary to achieve success in the Swaythling Cup team. Those players who are aspiring to the honour of representing their country must enter all open competitions possible and so gain the experience necessary for great occasions. By so doing, recognition will surely come their way.

## South London.

**A**FTER a cold and rather dreary three-hour road journey to Hythe, South London (holders) had an excellent reception at the Church House in the first round of the Wilmott Cup Competition.

The Mayor gave them a cordial welcome, and about 250 enthusiasts, a capacity crowd, were no less generous in their praise.

This rebuff to the cynics who claim that table tennis is a game and not also a social occasion was more than welcome, and a suitable tribute was paid at the close of the evening by Mr. Fisher, Hon. Treasurer of the South London League.

The teams were: Hythe: J. Johnson, C. M. Wyles, J. S. Wyles. South London: R. C. Dawson, H. F. Ostler, T. Rich.

South London won by eight games to one.

## In North Wales.

**T**WO Holywell players, Neville Field and Dennis O'Beirne have begun coaching classes of youngsters of 10 to 14 years of age. Both Field and O'Beirne are schoolmasters and they have given their services voluntarily to coach youngsters, some of whom can scarcely see above the table.

The Wales and Irish Free State game is likely to be held at Rhyl on March 5. The match will definitely be staged in North Wales this year. Wales played Hungary at Rhyl last year in an unofficial international game.

Table tennis is spreading quickly. This season there are twice as many affiliated clubs as last. This is mainly due to the recently formed Flint and Deeside leagues. The number may also be increased shortly for efforts are being made to reform the old Bangor and District League.

Five teams are taking part in the North Wales league this season. They are Llandudno, Rhyl, Holywell, Flint and Deeside. The fight for the championship appears to lie between Llandudno and Rhyl, with the odds in favour of the former.

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## A Record Entry Likely for the Welsh "Open"

by  
R. H. WELSH

**W**ELSH players are practising hard for the forthcoming Welsh "Open," to be played at Newport on December 11. A record entry is anticipated, and the announcement that Barna will probably compete has aroused great interest. The Welsh T.T.A. are to be congratulated upon their enterprise, and it is hoped that more of the leading continental and English players will follow the example of Barna in entering this very attractive tournament.

The standard of play last year was well above the average, and many of us remember the thrilling struggle between A. D. Brook (London) and D. J. Thomas, our own champion, in the final of the men's singles. The playing conditions, on this occasion, were very near to perfect, and they will doubtless be improved upon this year.

T. Lisle (Birmingham), D. J. Thomas (Ogmore), T. Smith (Cardiff), J. Meredith (Aberdare), F. Bamford (Liverpool) and A. Sadler (Birmingham), players who did international duty against England, will be expected to do well in the "Open," but there are others who, distinctly unfortunate in not gaining recognition, will be all out for honours on this occasion.

Players will be influenced by the approaching Swaythling Cup competition, for success in this Welsh "Open" will surely mean consideration when the Swaythling Cup side is selected.

**A**LTHOUGH one regards the chances of our men players with optimism, the outlook of the women players is rather depressing. Young players have failed to impress, and some of the older ones have definitely gone back. Mrs. H. R. Evans is definitely in a class of her own and we confidently expect her to retain the singles title.

**T**HE Cardiff Premier side are now entirely engaged on the Western Counties League and they are strongly fancied to carry off the honours.

A tournament arranged to discover talent for this side failed to produce the desired result. However, S. Roberts and L. Evans were youngsters who impressed.

Cathays Methodists are carrying all before them in Division 1 and should go through the season unbeaten.

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## NORTHERN IRELAND AND FREE STATE JOIN UP AT LAST

### Amalgamation that should make them a power in the international game

**T**ABLE Tennis in Ireland has just taken one of its biggest steps forward. At long last, after years of striving, the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland have agreed to join forces. Already an understanding has been reached as to common representation for International matches, and trials are being held between representatives from North and South to pick the team for the match against England in Dublin this month.

It is difficult to overestimate the value of this amalgamation of the two bodies, in fostering the game throughout the country.

In the South, development is by leaps and bounds. With a new and enthusiastic Hon. Secretary, Mr. Cyril Boden, and under the able guidance of that "father" of Irish Table Tennis, Mr. N. M. Kemp, and an excellent council in support, season 1937-38 bids fair to be a vintage year.

Within a radius of 20 miles of Dublin there are more than 1,000 players affiliated to the I.F.S.T.T.A. In the country towns and districts amazing progress is being made. Recently, as a result of the visit of an exhibition team to Enniscorthy (Co. Wexford), with its population of 5,871, 50 new members were affiliated and the nucleus of a new league was formed. Arrangements locally were in the capable hands of Mr. R. Whelan.

**D**UBLIN itself has four leagues operating. The Dublin and District, the oldest competition, has 32 teams divided into four grades. "Acme," formed by the president in 1923, the year of the birth of the Association, are holders of the Senior division and bid fair to ward off all challengers again this season. It is pleasing to note they have made a place in their team for Frankie Ryan, age 15, last year's runner-up in the boys' championship. He plays No. 4 for them.

In the other divisions competition appears to be very open and there should be some fierce battles before the ultimate winners are found.

The Leinster League, playing on the Swaythling Cup principle, has a record entry this season of 90 teams, graded into four men's and three women's divisions. Last year's winners of the Senior, Norwood, will have the same team again this season, composed of the three internationals, C. A. Kemp, C. J. S. Bonyngé, and H. S. Carlisle. It looks odds-on on their winning again.

Norwood are also the holders of Division I of the women's league, and

led by Miss Tessie Whelan, the Irish Open Woman Champion, should defy all opposition.

The Presbyterian League has an entry of 15 teams in two divisions, and in the Senior there should be a rare tussle between Blackrock and Abbey. The youngest competition—and a strenuous youngster it is—the Church of Ireland League, has increased since last season from 14 to 23 teams. They have some very promising talent, notably Miss Clayton and the Misses Wall.

Still another league is in process of formation. Application has been received from the governing body of the Catholic Young Men's Society for permission to form a league. Needless to say it has received the blessing of the Association.

**W**ITH all this competition it is readily understandable that the standard of play is higher than ever, and Ireland is looking forward to springing a few surprises in the International world this year. All the leading players are practising hard with a view to places in the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams which it is hoped to send to London in January.

In the North, as a result of reorganisation and the appointment of a new and very energetic secretary, Mr. Norman M. Wilson, table tennis has taken on a new lease of life. Fourteen clubs were represented at the annual meeting, and everything points to a very successful season. One player at least, J. Goldstone, looks like securing a place in the Irish team, and it will take some of the Southern players all their time to stave off the challenge of J. McKim.

Congratulations to Dan and Doreen Williams (née Pemberton) on the birth of a prospective boys' champion.

And congratulations, too, to Cyril Kemp, on again obtaining his cap at lawn tennis against England.

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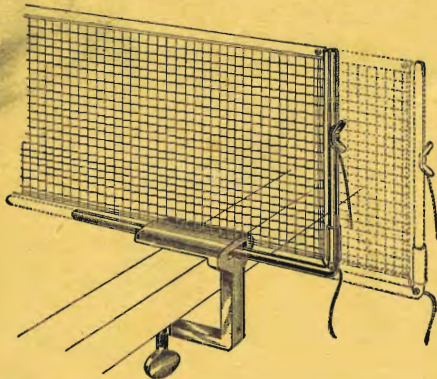
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