

# TABLE TENNIS

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THE OFFICIAL  
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH  
TENNIS



TABLE  
ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

Clifford Webb

Peter Wilson

J. W. A. Connolly

Harold Oldroyd

Ivor Montagu



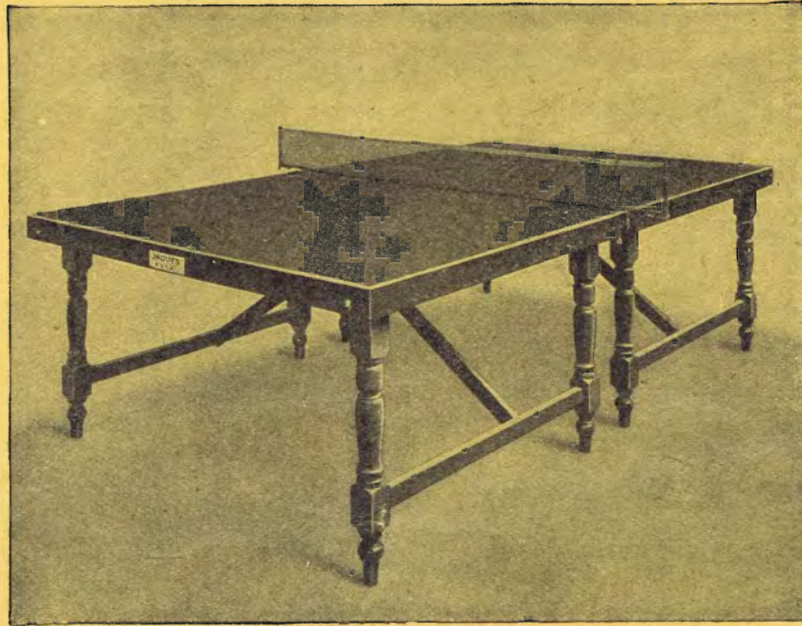
Vol. III

No. 4

JANUARY, 1938



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# TABLE TENNIS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

E · T · T · A

VOLUME III. No. 4

JANUARY, 1938

THREE PENCE

## FROM WORK'S CLUB ROOM TO PRESIDENCY

“I did not for one moment foresee its growth to  
such mammoth proportions”

By

**HAROLD OLDROYD**

I COUNT it a privilege to write a prologue to this month's magazine, particularly as it gives me such a unique opportunity of reaching all the many hard working officials and the thousands of players and friends throughout the country.

As I consider, on this typical winter evening, the sentences which have to follow from a pen which is quite unpractised in the art of expression, you will easily understand how reminiscence creeps in, and quite clearly I see the occasion of my first introduction to organised table tennis at a work's club room in Manchester; later in that same room accepting the Presidency of the Manchester and District League.

I was confident then (probably ten years ago), that the E.T.T.A. was a responsible body to encourage the many table tennis sections of boys' and girls' clubs, by offering advice and competitive play; to afford the adolescent some goal for which to train and practise on winter nights, and by interchange of the social amenities of the club room, help to build up character.

I did not for one moment foresee its growth to such mammoth proportions, to thousands of registered players and still less myself writing as President.



Mr. H. OLDROYD,  
President of the E.T.T.A.

**T**HEREFORE, let me express the appreciation I feel of this very great honour. I am fully alive to the responsibilities of an office which includes the possibility of strengthening, through the medium of our visitors from abroad, of political ties, and may we hope, the formation of new ones.

*I should like to extend a very hearty welcome to all visitors here in January, and to assure them we shall all grasp the opportunity provided by the World's Championships of reciprocating that hospitality and companionship which our "Representative Players" have so much enjoyed in their own countries overseas.*

I look forward to the day when our youth will emulate our Hungarian friends and win with that same skill, sportsmanship and serenity, the World Championship Honours.

No greater stimulus could be given to that very considerable list of over-worked honorary officials headed by that very efficient administrator, Mr. W. J. Pope (he has seen the Association through many vicissitudes), than for some known, or may be at present unknown, junior, to rise like a star in the table tennis firmament.

**M**Y earnest hope is that, having ascended one or two rungs on the ladder of popular sports, we may go on climbing, keeping our heads and our minds on all that the game can mean in providing physical fitness, healthy amusement, and that spirit of friendly rivalry which can do so much to build up characters which may be destined to play important roles in the World affairs of the future.

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous 1938, success to all those striving for championship honours, and happy evenings to those who play the game, as I do, for the pleasure it affords, and the friendships made over, and around the table.

## Our Best Players

by H. H. BRIDGE.

No. 3. Ken Stanley

**S**TARTING young appears to be a keynote of success with Ken Stanley for at the age of 11 his thoughts turned to table tennis. This was due to a friend taking him along to the Manchester Y.M.C.A. one evening, where he saw Andy Millar and C. W. Davies in action. From thence his ambition was to emulate Millar, and play for England at the age of 15.

He did not, however, wait for success to come to him, but went to meet it, by rushing off from school every evening to practise. To him practice was not the aimless winning of points from inferior players, but watching good players and practising their shots for about four hours per evening.

Having a natural aptitude for the game, he made great progress. His second season saw him in the league team of that table tennis hot-bed—Manchester Y.M.C.A.

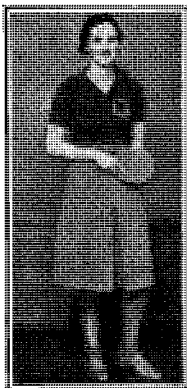
**E**XPERIENCE was gained in these matches, and also in a few tournaments, in which he was fairly successful.

In the English Junior, he made the acquaintance of H. Lurie, who beat him in the semi-final. The completion of the season found him a league representative player, and experienced match player. A valuable asset at such an early age. At the end of the season he was fortunate enough to win a free trip to London, and saw the Barna-Szabados final for the World Championships.

At thirteen he commenced to win tournaments instead of only doing well, and succeeded in the English, North of England, and Merseyside Junior Championships.

**A**MILESTONE was reached in winning the Castleford Singles by defeating both C. W. Davies and Les Cohen. In partnership with Davies, he also won the Castleford men's doubles.

This season two evenings per week are devoted to study, but he still hopes to have sufficient practice to become England's No. 1. Having attained this we hope he will be intensively dissatisfied with himself, and practise to become the World's No. 1



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### Merseyside Titles

# LIVERPOOL LOSES ALL TITLES To Barna and Mrs. Booker

**A** PACKED hall, spectators who appreciated every fine shot and every clever move, and a series of brilliantly played games—that was the finale to the Open Merseyside tournament at Liverpool. And it was certainly one of the best nights the game has ever experienced in Liverpool, a fitting climax to a splendid tournament which if slightly below its numerical record set up last season was still high in quality.

**It was a tournament of personal triumphs for Viktor Barna and Mrs. Booker, for each finished with triple successes to their credit. It was the fourth time that Barna had won the Merseyside men's singles title, and he did it by beating Liverpool's own Ken Hyde in as complete a manner as possible.**

And that is not saying that Hyde did not play well. His attacks lacked that sting necessary to upset the Hungarian, with his incomparable defence.

**HYDE had previously beaten Eric Filby in the semi-final by means of an inspired spell in the third set in which he took 19 points while Filby won 2. It was a wonderful run, with Hyde in irresistible form and the London player powerless to stem such a tide.**

Filby, however, got some consolation when he and Barna won the men's doubles from Bamford and Foulis. Barna was once again the dominating factor.

Mrs. Booker's win in the women's singles over Mrs. Hutchings was the result of just that little extra steadiness in defence, sureness in attack and cleverness in her tactics. Naturally the game paled somewhat in comparison with the men's event, but though it lacked brilliance it was always an interesting match containing some very sound play.

By J. D. PATTISON

"DUNBAR"

Like Filby, Mrs. Hutchings got her consolation by winning the women's doubles with her erstwhile victor, but their task was a comparatively easy one, for their opponents, Miss K. Taylor and Miss R. Bracewell, seldom ever looked like taking command of the game.

Then Barna and Mrs. Booker crowned their evening with success in the mixed doubles, beating in the final, Ken Hyde and Miss E. Steventon.

Liverpool's hopes for a local victory went when Ken Stanley (Manchester), for the second year in succession, beat E. J. Rumjahn in the final of the junior singles. Rumjahn had shown such good form during the tournament that local folk had had their expectations raised, but once again Stanley was just a little too good.

### THE FINAL RESULTS WERE :

#### Men's Singles.

G. V. Barna beat J. K. Hyde 21-17, 21-16, 21-19

#### Women's Singles.

Mrs. Booker beat Mrs. Hutchings 21-15, 21-15.

#### Junior Singles.

Stanley beat Rumjahn 21-18, 21-19.

#### Men's Doubles.

Barna and Filby beat Bamford and Foulis 21-19, 21-18.

#### Women's Doubles.

Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Hutchings beat Miss Taylor and Miss Bracewell 21-11, 21-7.

#### Mixed Doubles.

Barna and Mrs. Booker beat Hyde and Miss Steventon 21-23, 21-10, 21-16.

## INTERESTING SURVEY BY ERIC HYDE

### THE LATEST BOOK

**E**RIC HYDE, one of the famous Liverpool international brothers, has just published his guide to table tennis (Foulshams, 1s.). I like the thorough way Hyde deals with the usual problems of footwork and grip, and the way he gets his points home with diagrams and sketches.

It is certainly a valuable addition to publications on the sport, especially since Hyde deals so fully with stroke play, and illustrates his facts so well through brother Ken.

There is also a championship appendix and comprehensive survey of the general rules.

### Wilmott Cup.

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Stockport v. Macclesfield.

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Liverpool v. Birmingham or Sheffield.

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London v. Dartford.

Luton v. Thames Valley.

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#### CHAMPIONSHIPS EQUIPMENT.

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The "Jaques" Table has been selected for the World Championships and the English Open. Supplied by Messrs. John Jaques and Son, Ltd.



# Improve your Game

No. 4

## DEFENCE—THE CHOP STROKE

**C**HOP has been much extolled as a match-winning stroke. It is less favoured since the "chiselling menace" was discovered—i.e., the dullness caused when two defensive players are opposed—it remains the stroke most often used in the game.

Nearly every first-class player is expert at the chop stroke, the "pen-holder" or freak grip players being the exceptions. The lowering of the net to 6 in. appears to have made the path of the "chopper" more difficult and to have forced attacking players to learn a full stroke repertoire.

Although it looks a *very* easy stroke to execute the "chop" is really hard to master because it is difficult to get continual practice unless you are able to find a regular practice partner who can (or will) send over a stream of drives. It takes a season's consistent practice to develop a reliable chop.

Patience is the first requirement of a successful defensive player. Without this admirable quality you will never become very good as a defender. Learning the chop stroke (properly) provides a good schooling in this respect. It is lack of patience which causes a lot of otherwise quite good chop players to break down against a good hitter. They will chop back several drives quite safely, but begin to get rattled under pressure of further fast top spin strokes: feel they can't be chopping properly, think they are not getting enough cut on their returns, alter their stroke—try to send over an absolute "sausage" with the result that their return is sent hard into the bottom of the net or over the end of the table.

**CHOPPERS—Keep cool! Persevere with your stroke. So long as your opponent isn't hitting actual winners why should you worry? Hold on as long as you can. Very often your persistence will be rewarded—your opponent will tire and start to hit off. After a few very hard and lengthy rallies he may "crack up" altogether. Give way early on and all is lost for you. Every early winning hit for the attacker gives him further encouragement.**

Now for the flaws in many a chopper's game.

First comes poor anticipation. The player who has learned to chop back a succession of fast drives, but when his opponent varies his game and sends over a slower drive, the defender (having been driven several feet back from the table) waits for the ball to come out to him as usual. He realizes, too late, that the drive is slower than usual and so reaches forward rather hurriedly and makes a chop stroke with his arm well in front of his

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

body. A spooned-up return is usually the result, and he loses the point next shot. Quite frequently the ball is chopped right over the end of the table as a result of this stretching forward.

**Cure: Watch your opponent after every return and you will get to know when he is slowing up his stroke. (This applies also to placed hits—watch and be ready to move into line with where the ball is travelling.) As soon as you observe an alteration in your opponent's stroke get ready to move—forward against a slower shot or sideways for a placement. Don't stay back and stretch forward with your racket at the ball.**

Similarly, there is the chopper who refuses to give ground. He stays in too much and, faced with a sudden extra fast return, will stretch his arm backwards and chop the ball from behind his body. Sometimes a very effective return can be made in this way, but it is a risky habit unless you are already an expert at the chop stroke. Since your object in dropping back on to defence is safety, it is obviously wrong to take any undue risk in executing your shot. Lastly, there is the drop shot danger. Again the answer is "keep your eye on your opponent." If you see him suddenly stop his arm that is the signal for you to move forward quickly. You must rely upon your own quickness of perception and movement to counter the drop shot.

Next month : The Half Volley.

## Clubs wanting Players

(Advertisement rates, 1s. per line.)

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## "TABLE TENNIS"

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## HERTS TITLES.

### Treble for Filby at Watford

**I**N the last London Open Tournament before Christmas, at Watford, Filby took all three titles. Conditions for the finalists were much improved as compared with last year, when two finals were played at the same time.

The greatest draw of the evening was the match between Haydon and Filby in the quarter-final, the latter winning in two straight games. The result occasioned some surprise, as it was not thought that Filby's defence could stand up to Haydon's quick drive.

Filby and Coles, in the final, gave a perfect exhibition of spectacular table tennis—without tactics. Filby stood there and hit the balls as hard as he could. In reply, Coles showed that his footwork and long-distance defence could rank with any first-class player; his retrieving at times almost brought the house down.

*Now that the World Championships are drawing near, it is time the ladies did something to deserve a pat on the back. Of the four Corbillon Cup "possibles" present (Miss Osborne, Miss Jordan, Miss Wheaton and Miss Woodhead), Miss Osborne alone showed any signs of a forcing game and a consistent hit. After beating Miss Woodhead, she went out to Miss Wheaton in the third game of the semi-final through overuse of an unsure backhand. But with all due respect to a really difficult opponent, Miss Osborne had no business to lose. A little less top-spin on the high balls, a little more viciousness with the "sitters" and she would have won easily.*

Miss Jordan, who had sailed through to the final without dropping a game, lost her touch at the critical moment. Her backhand chop was never better, but her forehand defence showed gaps through which an elephant could have walked. Both Miss Jordan and Miss Wheaton were afraid of one another, and concentrated more on keeping the ball on each other's weak spots rather than working for openings and taking the initiative.

C. M. H.

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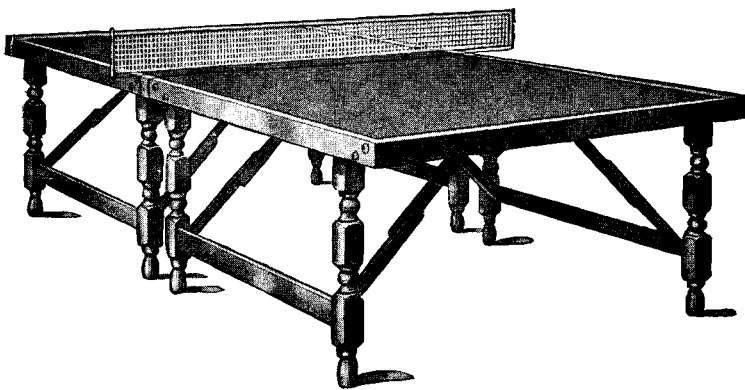
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# Looking Around

with

## J. W. A. CONNOLLY

("Sunday Express" sports writer)

**W**HEN I remarked last month that improvements were manifest on all sides, I didn't mean that these affairs have reached a stage of perfection. Far from it. I intend now to deal with the greatest bugbear in the game, the group system.

The group system in itself is sound, but not complete. Table tennis tournaments command such big entries in the singles that it would not be practical to run these consecutive tournaments without the almost complete abolition of ordinary league matches, but for the group system of working or weeding out.

A system of seeding international players is now a necessity. In the West London Championships I saw that Harry Rosen, one of the season's new internationals, had to meet A. D. Brook, another international in his group.

\* \* \*

**I**ADVOCATE the exemption of international players, or at any rate, as a compromise, players listed in the first couple of dozen in the ranking list, until the actual knock-out starts. Internationals are only very rarely eliminated in the groups.

If the promoting clubs need the internationals to pull the crowds in on the final days, then they should, I think, seed them carefully in the various sections of the draw. It isn't a case of favouritism. After all the international player has played and worked hard for that honour and is surely entitled to some slight privilege.

\* \* \*

**A**T the international trials, Alex Brook was told fairly broadly that he was getting too old for any more big international matches. His answer was to beat internationals Harry Rosen and Ernie Buble in the West London event.

It has also been hinted recently that Arthur Haydon is no longer the player he was. His answer to that was to beat Brook and then Maurice Bergl in straight sets, in the same event. He hit beautifully and with his old accuracy to break down that stoic Bergl defence. It just goes to show that there is no knowing, is there?

**I**HAVE been rather disappointed in the form of young Hardman, the Sheffield player. Very obviously he needs rounding off before being even considered for the Swaythling Cup side. Lurie and Cohen, the Manchester pair, seemed well enough teamed for doubles, but I think that Lurie would have been better off to have stayed with Freddie Cromwell, if he has hopes of big honours.

Manchester should be well represented when the committee finally sits down to pick the Swaythling Cup side. Lurie, Cohen and Casofsky are playing true to form.

**W**AS asked several times during the month whom I thought was the most stylist British stroke player. Without hesitation I say my old friend Tommy Sears. His strokes are carried out with the ease of the great players. Just that lack of concentration robbed Tommy of being one of our real world championship hopes in the past.

**H**EAR that David Jones, former England No. 1, has been invited to play for Wales in World Championships. Well, why not? David obviously can't make the English team now. He is qualified to play for Wales. Rather a good thing, because Wales could badly do with a player like Jones.

*I wonder, then, will we find Ireland inviting Tommy Sears and Johnny Joyce. They're both English Internationals, but they're Irish. After all, Gilbert Marshall has captained England and yet played for America in the Swaythling Cup.*

\* \* \*

**G**LAD to see that Harry Swetman is on his feet again. Harry has been in hospital for eight weeks after a rather bad motor cycle accident. I am afraid he won't play much table tennis inside six months. A fractured wrist is a nasty business. Harry has been a steady player, loyal worker and a sound coach. I wish him a speedy recovery.



"Cuss this table tennis!"

By courtesy of "Passing Show."

### For Northern "fans"!

The English Open Championships at the Tower Ballroom & Circus, Blackpool. Play commences, 7.30 p.m., February 3rd, 1938.

Three sessions, 9.30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., on February 4th, 1938, and one session at 9.30 a.m. on February 5th, at the Ballroom.

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## ENGLAND LOSE

### AT MANCHESTER.

The results in the England v. Rest match at Manchester Y.M.C.A. on Saturday December 18, were:—

A. A. Haydon (Birmingham) beat K. Stanley (Manchester) 21-15, 21-19; lost to L. Cohen (Manchester) 21-19, 15-21, 14-21; lost to H. Lurie (Manchester) 15-21, 18-21; lost to E. Buble (London) 20-22, 7-21; beat E. J. Filby (London) 21-15, 21-19. M. B. W. Bergl (London) beat K. Stanley (Manchester) 21-16, 21-14; beat L. Cohen (Manchester) 21-16, 18-21, 21-15; lost to H. Lurie (Manchester) 16-21, 14-21; lost to E. Buble (London) 16-21, 13-21; lost to E. J. Filby (London) 10-21, 13-21. S. Profit (London) beat K. Stanley (Manchester) 20-22, 21-14, 21-14; lost to L. Cohen (Manchester) 11-21, 23-21, 17-21; beat H. Lurie (Manchester) 21-13, 16-21, 21-13; lost to E. Buble (London) 14-21, 18-21; lost to E. J. Filby (London) 16-21, 14-21. B. Casofsky (Manchester) lost to K. Stanley (Manchester) 18-21, 18-21; beat L. Cohen (Manchester) 19-21, 21-14, 21-19; lost to H. Lurie (Manchester) 21-9, 20-22, 15-21; lost to E. Buble (London) 14-21, 23-25; lost to E. J. Filby (London) 21-17, 17-21, 17-21. E. Hardman (Sheffield) lost to K. Stanley (Manchester) 12-21, 16-21; beat L. Cohen (Manchester) 14-21, 21-15, 21-19; lost to H. Lurie (Manchester) 18-21, 12-21; lost to E. Buble (London) 9-21, 13-21; lost to E. J. Filby (London) 17-21, 14-21.

ENGLAND 8, THE REST 17.

### HUNGARY BEATEN

For the first time in history Hungary has been defeated at Budapest. The score was 5-3. Hero of the Austrian team was Sedwiy, who beat Soos and Hazi; Bergmann beat Bellak and Soos, but was defeated by Hazi. Hungary are obviously missing Barna and Szabados.

# HOW COUNTY BODIES COULD IMPROVE THE GAME'S CONTROL

By  
**LESLIE BENNETT**

Secretary of the  
Lincolnshire T.T.A.

**T**HANKS to the rapid increase in the popularity of organised table tennis there has been much agitation for the decentralisation of government into county or district areas. Criticism has been made against headquarters of the E.T.T.A. that this scheme has not had sufficient encouragement there.

This criticism is unfair, for the officials would willingly pass on into other capable hands the immense amount of overwork they cheerfully endure. The prime duty of the officials of the E.T.T.A. is to see that the sport is reliably and efficiently conducted, and beyond the mere submission that administration should pass into the hands of county bodies, nothing further has been received.

The authorities have to bear three main objections in mind. The animosity of some leagues towards joining a county body; the possibility of inefficient area officials; and the problem created by certain districts where specially affiliated collective bodies exist.



Mr. L. Bennett.

**T**O inaugurate a definite plan, and propound rational alterations to the constitution, the following suggestions are put forward. They are advanced with the knowledge that they are tentative and incomplete, but comments of every district are invited, so that if possible a formula acceptable to everybody can be submitted to the next A.G.M.

In other words, critics can be constructive.

The obvious initial treatment is geographical, and a fine example is the Yorkshire T.T.A. Founded in 1924, it embraces practically all centres affiliated to the E.T.T.A. and provides all kinds of competitions admirably controlled and enthusiastically supported. The needs of both remote and central towns have been met and table tennis in Yorkshire is very strong.

It is excellently served by its officials, and its secretary, Mr. F. A. Amies, has

in addition organised the popular County Championship, which in its first season comprises eight members.

Northumberland, Durham, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Nottinghamshire are fully-fledged county members by the consent of their constituent leagues. In addition, a method of district government exists in Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, London, and in area bodies in the Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, North Derbyshire, North Middlesex, Ribblesdale, South Devon, South Dorset, Surrey, Thames Valley, West Essex and West Sussex, besides any others that may have recently affiliated.

Again, principal county towns run associations under their town names. It should not be difficult to form county organisations throughout the whole country with one hundred per cent. support from the centres contained.

This article will be concluded next month.

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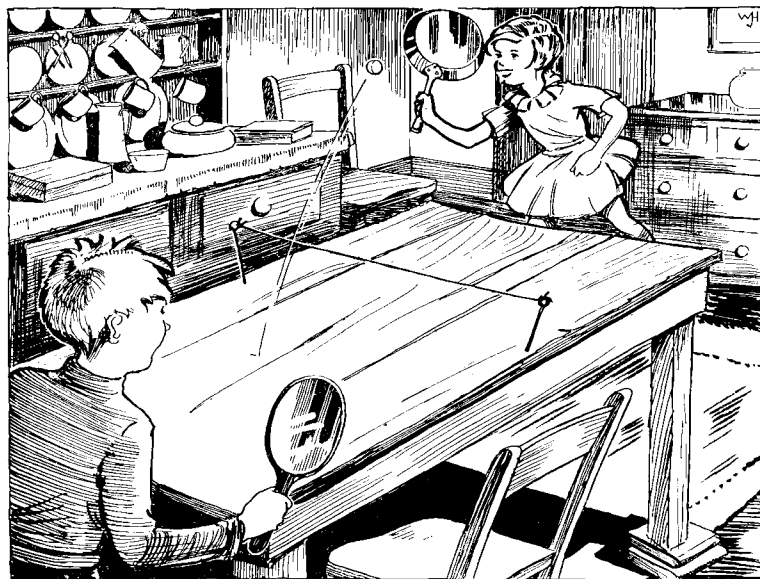
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	P.	W.	L.	Sets		%
				For	Agst.	
BLACKPOOL ... ..	2	2	-	12	6	100
BOLTON ... ..	5	4	1	28	17	80
PRESTON ... ..	2	1	1	9	9	50
BOLTON S.S. ... ..	5	2	3	25	20	40
BURY ... ..	2	-	2	5	13	0
REDDISH ... ..	2	-	2	2	16	0

## BEGINNERS.

We regret owing to pressure on space that C. M. Hutt's ARTICLE FOR BEGINNERS and PROVINCIAL FLASHES HAVE BEEN HELD OVER.



The  
Secretary Says:

The Next  
Hungarian  
Tour



**F**IRST item of importance this month is the tour of foreign players. Applications are being received from all parts of the country, and the tourists will definitely be visiting North, South, East and West, to say nothing of the Midlands.

Leagues are asking me for definite dates now so that they can book halls. I am afraid that this is impossible as numbers of leagues are calling their committees together to decide. When all applications are received a comprehensive tour will be worked out and concrete information be given about dates.

I am compelled to ask all Secretaries to send applications on or before January 4th, and to say that after that date it will be impossible to work in any further towns.

\* \* \*

By the time this issue is received the official Handbook will be in the hands of League and Club Secretaries. I regret the delay, but this is caused by reasons well known to all members. It will be seen that the Handbook is now more comprehensive than ever, and the information it contains should make it a most valuable possession of every player. The contents include the History and Constitution of the Association, records of every championship and representative match since 1921, names and addresses of National and local officials and of every Club Secretary in the country.

For the Secretary, rules of the Wilmott Cup competition, new regulations for registered players; for the interested player and "fan," the fixture list for the season, rules of the game—330 pages of interesting information.

**I**T will be seen that we have topped the 200 mark—there are now 201 leagues, 3,605 clubs and over 65,000 players actually registered with the Association. This does not, of course, exhaust the number of affiliates. Eight National Sports Organisations are affiliated, many hundreds of clubs and thousands of players must be linked up with us in this way.

The price of the book is 1s. (post free, 1s. 3d.) and can be obtained from the office.

by W. J. Pope

These  
World  
Champion-  
ship  
Problems

I suggest that all League Secretaries and organisers of matches should obtain supplies to be put on sale—there must be hundreds of the general public visiting games for the first time who want to know more about "this table tennis." This is THE book for them.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

**A**T the moment of writing volunteers for work at the Royal Albert Hall are coming in slowly. I want to emphasise that we shall be pleased to receive offers of assistance.

Postcards should be sent to the referee, Mr. J. M. Rose, and a questionnaire will be sent in which volunteers can state the nature of the services they can render and the exact times they are available.

There is no assistance required for the Wembley Finals as the work is being done by the Wembley Authorities.

Experienced umpires, interpreters and stewards are still required, and members who can place cars at our disposal will be specially welcomed. Time is getting on and we want to mobilise all our resources efficiently to carry on the biggest tournament ever held. A meeting of all helpers will be called within the next week or so.

**INFORMATION FOR NEWCOMERS.**

**T**HIS issue of the Magazine will be the one sold at the championships. It will be bought by hundreds of spectators who have never visited tournaments before. Therefore it might be opportune to give some information about the work of the Association and details of the organised game. If you play at home and want to join a club, we can help you by supplying a list of clubs in your neighbourhood. If you belong to a club not affiliated you can join by the payment of 7s. 6d. per annum. This will qualify your players to take part in the open tournaments held in every part of the country during the season, and will help you to fix up matches with any affiliated club.

If your club belongs to an unaffiliated league, the affiliation fee is 3s. 6d. per club in the league.

## The Editor Appeals!

Like every important sport, table tennis now has a regular and standardized magazine. Through "Table Tennis" I hope to bring together the thousands of players in the country. Sales reach 10,000 copies per issue. Highly satisfactory, perhaps! One hundred of our two hundred leagues are doing their share—the others are not.

**I want the sales to reach 20,000, and you can do this. Make your friends interested. Ask your Secretary or newsagent to reserve you a copy.**

Grievances can be aired, problems discussed and your little differences settled. If you think there is anything wrong in the game write to "Table Tennis." Keep it short, keep it snappy, and it will get in. We want your items of news.

The Association is made up of leagues who are eligible to take part in the governing of the game, appointing the officers, &c. Individuals who do not want to join an affiliated club, but want to qualify to play in tournaments, can join the Association by the payment of 2s. 6d. per annum.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, 64, High Holborn, London, or to any member of the Executive Committee, whose addresses will be found in another part of this issue.

\* \* \*

**REFEREE'S TASK.**

**I**HAVE been asked many questions about the programme of matches to be played at the Royal Albert Hall. This will largely depend upon the number of entries and, as I am writing before the closing date, it is rather difficult to say. At the moment it is proposed to have four tables on the area and seven in the gallery.

If the number of team entries exceeds 14 (which looks probable), they will be drawn into two groups, each nation playing each other nation in that group. The two top teams will play off in a final game for the Cup. It is estimated that these (with the women's team matches) will take up each of the 9 sessions on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On the Thursday the singles and doubles matches will begin, but it is hoped to hold the Swaythling Cup Final (mentioned above) on the Thursday night on one table.

This will be a "big" night, as will be the Friday night, if we can get down to the semi-finals of the singles and doubles. The matches at Wembley will almost certainly be the men's semi-finals and final, the women's final and some of the doubles finals.

The carrying out of this programme will depend upon the skill and ability of Mr. J. M. Rose, who will be spending many sleepless nights between now and the 24th on the task.

**CIVIL SERVICE*****New H.Q. Opened***

By E. G. White

**A** ROOM in Metropole Buildings, Northumberland Avenue, London, has recently been made available for Civil Service indoor sport, and the finals of the fifteenth Civil Service Table Tennis Championships were the occasion for the official opening of the room by Sir Noel Curtis Bennett, who has worked hard to obtain use of it for the Civil Service.

The matches which had preceded the presentation were worthy of the occasion. In the men's singles W. Stennett (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), the holder, defeated A. E. Chappell (London Postal Region), fairly easily in three straight games, 21-10, 21-20, 21-13, though he only just pulled the second out of the fire after being 20-15 down.

The women's singles provided a battle between the two Emdin sisters, Dora and Doris. Doris concentrated on attacking her sister's backhand, but she found Dora's defence too good. Profiting by Doris's mistakes, taking every opportunity to attack on either backhand or forehand, and even attacking against her sister's hardest shots, she won in two games, 21-13, 21-20.

The Junior event, an innovation this year, was contested by J. Archer (Board of Education), and R. G. Winder (Post Office Stores Dept.).

A. Wilmott, the holder, was again a finalist in the Veteran's event. This year, however, G. Glover, of the Engineer-in-Chief's Office, G.P.O., proved too strong for him, and won (21-18, 21-19).

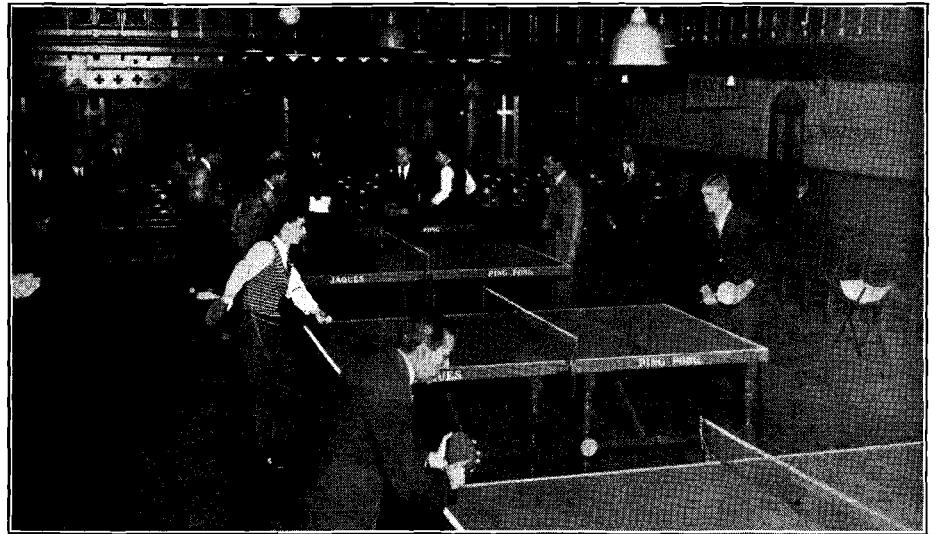
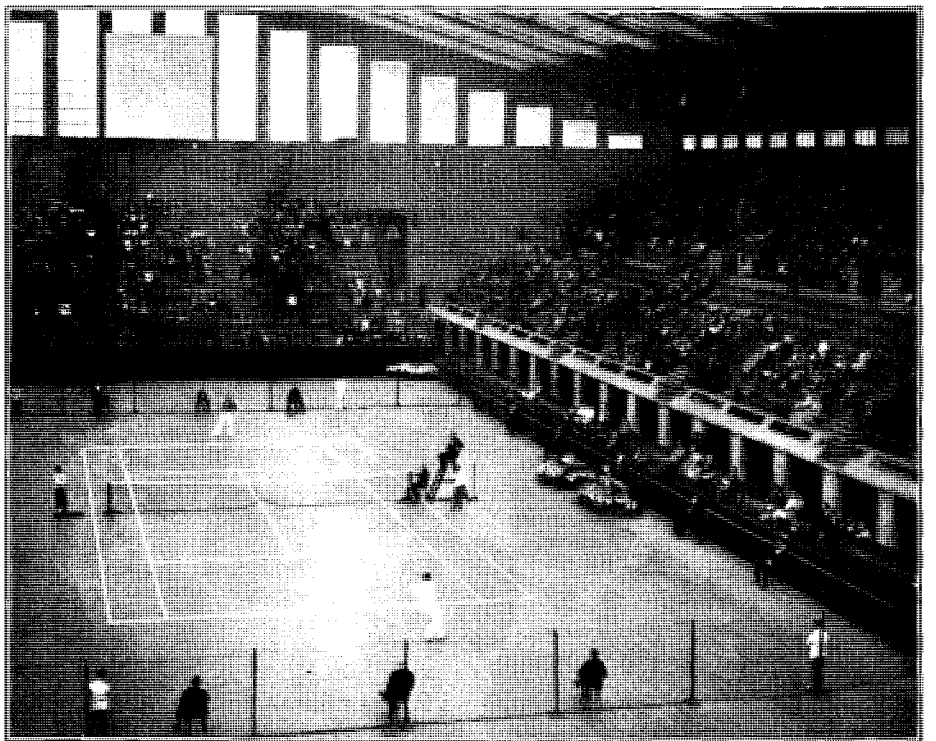
Wilmott was more successful in the mixed doubles. He and his partner Doris Emdin, defeated Miss V. Bromfield (Central Telegraph Office) and F. H. Wilson (Home Office) 21-10, 21-19. Doris Emdin made her third appearance of the evening in the women's doubles, in which she was partnered by Valerie Bromfield.

In the third game each side led in turn by several points, and the match concluded in a 20-21, 21-20, 21-19 victory for Dora Emdin and Miss Thompson.

The last match of the evening was the men's doubles, and the game between Martin (Engineer-in-Chief's Office) and Wearing (General Register Office), and Stennett and Archer provided a fitting conclusion to the programme. Stennett and Archer were well on top in the first game, but won the second only after deuce had been called. Martin and Wearing were finding their form, however, took the next two games to 18, and after a close fight in the final game, won it eventually at 21-16.

**THE OLD!**

Scene during 1926 World Championships at Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.

**—AND THE NEW!**

**Wembley Stadium, venue of World Championship Finals**

*Empty for Lawn Tennis, it will be filled by Table Tennis*

The Hon. Ivor Montagu tells of:—

# THE "THREE CAVALIERS" OF TABLE TENNIS — *And Three English Boys*

**I**T all began with the invitation from a German sportsman to P. N. Nanda, the great Indian, then leading light in English table tennis. He played in Berlin under the old lawn tennis scoring, and never lost a game.

Shortly afterwards we were surprised to hear of a proposal to invite leading table tennis players in Europe to a central tournament. The E.T.T.A. was amazed. Remember that the only international was an annual affair with Wales. To complicate matters the international date clashed with the invitation.

We raked up a team, reckoning (after Nanda's performance) that anything would be almost good enough. Bill Pope and George Ross (spared from the English team), Vennell, Liggins, Haddon and myself made the trip.

**I remember the flicks and under-spin of Ross and Haddon confounded our Hungarian rivals. But they learned a bitter lesson. Never had they agreed with the utility of rubber surface on the rackets. A year later, however, when they came to London, they had followed suit.**

**T**HEN came three cavaliers to London. Tall, elegant Dr. Pessi, unruffled Dr. Jacobi and the deadly serious Mechlovits. Their athletic regularity, perfect match strategy was a revelation. Our leading three, Allwright, Bromfield and Suppiah (successor to Nanda) played well enough, but the mastery of the "cavaliers" was unmatched.

Thunderbolt came at the end. Austria, after losing to us on the first day, sensationally defeated the invincible Hungarians. Mainly responsible was Flussman with three wins. The countries tied; play off the following Monday. On the Sunday, tragedy struck Hungary. Jacobi (world champion) was sent racing home owing to a bereavement.

**K**EHRLING, the captain, never anything beyond a strong steady player, came in. He lost two games, and unfortunately for him (so it seemed) had to play the match decider against Pillinger (match at 4 all). I made the receipt for the Swaythling Cup out to Austria. Kehrling gave us a lesson to remember for all times. The "stand in" beat the star. No wild attacking, neat precise strokes, but the courage to force the game, that did it. Dead steady defence absolutely unaffected by issues at stake. Not so Pillinger. He wilted under this calmness, faltered and cracked badly.

The Austrian took the first game, dropped the second and was just feeble to the end.

**T**HEN on to Stockholm!! England's boy team beat Hungary 7-2 the first night. That was the great triumph of Haydon (then 16 years old), Perry and

Bull. Allwright (last year's number one) and Mase made up the team. Bull beat world champion Bellak, Perry beat Jacobi and Haydon lost at deuce in the third to Mechlovits.

That was the fillip we needed. I blush to think that before the match I said to Mechlovits, "we are playing three youngsters. To help and teach them will you kindly play on after five are won?" Then Haydon beat Bellak . . . Bull beat Mechlovits in the third and the game was won. Bull was on the verge of collapse and had to be seen by a doctor. The gallant Mechlovits turned to me smiling, "Please, we would like to finish it." (I pointed to Bull being repaired.) He nodded approval and added, "It is we now who request the lesson."

\* \* \*

**N**O championships since have reached the dramatic heights of Stockholm, not even Fred Perry's wonderful singles win at Budapest.

Budapest was nearest in dramatic sequence. English table tennis was at its lowest ebb. Proffitt cut his hand in a car accident, Haydon, coming back after a long illness, was unsteady, Tommy Sears, temperamental, and David Jones, then only a beginner. A team of crocks without a doubt.

\* \* \*

**O**N this occasion the Hungarians were very worried about the game. They knew their best day would be after two or three had already roused interest, and their best drawing card was England. So, knowing how poor our team was, they gave us no hard opponents at the beginning, to give us a remote chance, &c., of being unbeaten on the last day.

We just did it, by the skin of our teeth.

What a joke. Hungary, with only England to beat, had carefully nursed us to that stage. But then difficulties arose.

Mechlovits told me afterwards of his difficulty in picking the team. Barna and Szabados had to play, of course. But the third. David said: "please excuse me, I have a bad foot." Kelen said, "I have a bad hand." "Bellak," said Mechlovits, "of course I dare not play in such an important match."

\* \* \*

**A**ND Bellak had been in London only a month before and wiped the nose of every one of our players in the dust. But such is the atmosphere of world championships that they were in a panic, they did not dare play him against men he had so convincingly chewed to pieces!

Why? Well, that was Bull's heroism. He had earned his spurs as a definite player.

**I**HAVE seen Frank Wilde pale as a sheet when the match stood 3 all and he had to go on against a player he had beaten in singles, 21-6, 21-8, the week before. Your player with nerves can go further than old stodge who never varies more than two points more or less in form either way.

The implacable Mednyánsky, whose list of world championships is like a list of years, so feared and so inexorable, was in reality the shyest and sweetest of women, perpetually a little alarmed at her own victories. Helen Wills, poker-face, proclaims the nervous temperament it is designed to hide.

What is sport? Not merely a game, nor yet solely a pure physical exercise. Rather a momentary, if make believe, exaltation of effort.

England has had great days in these championships, and there will be others.

Who knows who will pull it out this time? That is the evergreen delight of the championships.

## King and Queen and the Championships

**A**N invitation was extended to Their Majesties The King and Queen to be present at the World Championships in January. Here is the reply received by the Association from Buckingham Palace:—

*Thank you for your letter in which you enquire whether it would be possible for Their Majesties to be present at one of the sessions of the World Table Tennis Championships.*

*I am instructed by His Majesty to thank your Association for their invitation, but to say that, as The King and Queen will almost certainly be at Sandringham during the latter days of January, it will not be possible for Their Majesties to be present on any of the dates which you suggest.*

*Yours very truly,  
M. E. ADEANE.*



## CLIFFORD WEBB

Popular "Daily Herald" Sports Columnist and Gossip Writer, discusses Table Tennis quite frankly in his article.

## PETER WILSON

Famous "Daily Mirror" Sport Commentator tells amusing stories of the early table tennis:— about a gentleman and a mirror.

**N**OBODY, I suggest, will quibble with the statement that Britain is the premier table tennis country in the world, despite what we all feel to be the rather unfortunate absence of home-produced world champions.

But, even if we have not yet advanced to the stage where we can teach the other countries how to play this fascinating game, at least we can give them all a few hints when it comes to organising world championships or international tournaments on the tremendous scale made necessary by the astounding progress of the sport.

**T**ABLE tennis stars from all quarters of the globe make no secret of the fact that they prefer to take part in tournaments in this country before any other, and that, in itself is a remarkable tribute to the success which has attended the energetic and unflagging efforts of officials of the English Table Tennis Association in making England the "Number-one Table Tennis Country."

For about four years now I have closely connected myself with the development of organised table tennis and I have to admit that in all my sporting experience I have never seen so colossal a boom more ably handled.

**I**T is difficult for anybody without organising experience to appreciate the terrific amount of honorary work that has been necessary during these four years, but you may take it from me that a maze of cross-currents and off-shoots has been sorted out in the most efficient manner and that only this very great amount of "real hard graft," as they say in the north could have achieved what has been achieved.

One thing I particularly admire about table tennis administration in this country is the strict adherence of the officials to the creed that table tennis is, first, last and always, a sport and should not be exploited as a medium for any theatrical kind of entertainment, nor for any forms of cheap publicity.

*That is the only trail to follow. As a sport, thoroughly organised and holding the interest of thousands of keen players, table tennis will always command the respect it deserves from the public and from the press, in which latter field I might claim to have had no small part in helping to spread the gospel of the game.*

## FIXTURES

1938.	
Jan. 7-8	North of England (Manchester).
" 7-15	Middlesex (Herga).
" 16	Kent (Herne Bay).
" 21-22	Hampshire (Bournemouth).
Feb. 7-19	London (India Students' Hostel).
" 12	Dorset (Dorchester).
" 12	Midland (Birmingham).
" 12	Castleford.
" 17-19	Cheshire (Wallasey).
" 21-Mar. 5	Wembley.
" 26-27	Sussex (Hastings).
Mar. 7-19	Surrey and South of England (Croydon).
" 12	Yorkshire.
" 12	West of England (Exeter).
" 21-Apr. 2	West Middlesex (West Ealing).
April 1-2	Grimsby.
" 16	Scarborough.
" 18	Whitby.
" 19-30	North West London, Ellerslie Hall, Cricklewood, N.W. 2.

## Western Counties League

League table tennis is decidedly a great draw in the West. The Western Counties League are fortunate to have for their first President, Sir Robert Webber, of Cardiff. Vice-Presidents are Sir Montague Burton, J. Basil Ogden, the Town Clerk of Bath (also President of the Bath League), and E. F. Christopher, President of the Bristol Association, who has watched over and guided the growth of table tennis in Bristol for 18 years.

The league is formed of all the strongest leagues in the West, with the exception of Exeter, who were league champions last season. In place of Exeter is the enthusiastic league, Ilfracombe, and the other change from last season is Swindon in place of Newport.

Swindon are boldly staking a claim to championship honours, beginning the season with a great win over Bristol, they have carried all before them, but were, perhaps, rather fortunate to meet Cardiff on the same day as Wales played England. A greatly weakened Cardiff side were easily beaten.

The Committee of the Western Counties have decided to hold a closed tournament for all members of constituent leagues. The qualifying rounds will be held at the various towns whose leagues compete, and the finals will be held at Bristol.

**T**IME, so we are told, marches on, but marching isn't nearly fast enough for the lustiest of sports of many infants—table tennis. It seems only recently that people were playing the then despised ping-pong with parchment rackets like small drums across a net made of a curtain rod draped with handkerchiefs and balanced on two level piles of books. I learnt the game myself that way when I could support myself by the chin hanging from the edge of the table. My tutor was my father who introduced the game to Cambridge at the start of the century.

Then there was the story which I expect you all know, how one of the pioneers of the game had a headache before a big meeting and went into a chemist's shop to get a cure for it, before playing. He was so impressed by the "grip" of the little rubber mat on which his change was placed that he went out and bought a couple of them and stuck them on to his plain wooden racket.

\* \* \*

**B**UT that wasn't the only experiment that was made with rackets. I remember being told of the ingenious gent who entered for an early tournament with a square of looking glass let into the centre of his racket. Opponents were positively hypnotised for when the ball was actually coming towards them they looked in the mirror where it appeared to be travelling in the opposite direction.

*At the risk of being torn limb from limb I suggest that it would be a brilliant scheme for one of our lady players to try it out as she would be bound to win if her opponent suddenly discovered, by looking at her racket in the middle of the match, that she had a shiny nose.*

\* \* \*

**B**UT all that seems a very long time ago when one starts thinking about the gigantic preparations for the approaching world's championships. It is a marvellous tribute to the popularity of the game that the preliminary rounds are to be played at the Albert Hall—famous centre for politics, dramatic art and sport—before the finals are taken to the magnificent modern sports stadium, the Empire Pool at Wembley.

Some of the happiest times I have ever spent watching any sport were spent at the previous world championships held in London a season or so ago and I only hope that the present ones will be twice as successful.

# “ UNITED ” IRELAND LOSE FIRST INTERNATIONAL

**No match for England yet : Fusion will bring better times**

By “SEAMUS”

**T**HE Fusion of the Irish Free State Table Tennis Association and the North of Ireland Table Tennis Association means that at last Ireland takes its place in the table tennis world.

An All-Ireland Council has been formed consisting of Messrs. N. M. Kemp (I.F.S.) Chairman, J. Drumm (I.F.S.), W. H. Headbeater (I.F.S.), N. M. Wilson (N.I.), R. Greer (N.I.). Mr. Cyril Boden who for some time past has been Hon. Sec. of the Free State Association, has been appointed Hon. Sec. of the new body which as the Table Tennis Association of Ireland is affiliated to the I.T.T.F.

Now that this year's only home International is over for the first time in history an All-Ireland team has had to bow to the might of the Saxon before a hall filled to capacity with spectators including enthusiasts from Belfast, Dundalk, Portarlinton, Enniscorthy and Cork, to mention just a few places.

The result looks on the face of it very decisive in so much as it was an overwhelming defeat for the Irish team. Still the laurels must go not to the victors, but to the vanquished for the splendid fight they made of the matches.

**T**AKEN all round, the result against the strongest team by which England has ever been represented here will give our players that needful extra fillip. It was only when the last few points were being decided that our players cracked.

The need for real competitive play against expert players was clearly evident.

So to the matches. Perhaps the finest exposition of the finer points of the game was in the leading singles match when K. Hyde beat C. A. Kemp. Both players showed splendid attacking skill. The real difference lay in the superb defence of Hyde.



Northern Ireland players and officials photographed before leaving for Dublin and English match. From left to right: Norman M. Wilson (Hon. Sec., N.I.T.T.A.), J. P. Goldstone, Miss G. E. Boyle, E. Hawkins, H. Courtney (Council Member), I. Stewart (Vice-President).

**We are determined in every way to  
make our Sports Department the best  
in the world - - - - -**

*SPORTS DEPARTMENT THIRD FLOOR*

**SELFRIDGE'S**  
**FOR EVERY SPORTS NEEDS**

The Women's Page

## NEW FACES

ARE HERE

By THE WOMEN'S EDITOR

**A**REA trials for women players have been taking place this month. From all districts I hear very enthusiastic reports of the improvement in the general standard of play, and news of many "discoveries."

At last the women seem to be "waking up" and the enthusiasm has been tremendous. My question last month, "where are the new faces?" has been very quickly answered. Blackpool has taken me very seriously, as will be seen from another article, and has soon answered the implied criticism.



Miss D. Jordan

That's the stuff, Blackpool! Now what about the others?

Where are the Staffordshire women?

What about the Civil Service? As expected, Miss Piercy has come through from the Eastern area, and Miss Joan Brock from Exeter.

Mr. Worsley is naturally delighted at the success of Miss Oates and Miss Bracewell, and I hope they do well in the final trial. Their success will do the game in the Blackpool district a tremendous amount of good. The other player from Manchester is Miss Fildes—a new player from the Kendal Club, in the Manchester League.

Names have not yet been received from Birmingham and Yorkshire, but the competition in the London area was very severe, there being 39 competitors. Amongst the names I see many well-known players. Miss Hodgkinson will surely make a good fight for the honours which have eluded her for so long.

In addition to these players the internationals will be selected by the Selection Committee to fight for places at the Lucania Hall, Draper Street, London, on Sunday, January 2nd, 1938, at 2 p.m.

Names have not yet been published, but I expect it is almost certain that last year's team, Miss Osborne, Miss Woodhead, Miss Jordan and Miss Wheaton, will be nominated. Other players in the running are Miss Dora Emdin, Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Hutchings.

It will be interesting to see whether the policy of the Selection Committee in connection with the men—to find new players at all costs—will be followed. The most surprising success of the trials, I think, has been that of Miss V. Dace of the South London League. She is only 15 years of age, and put up a valiant show.



Miss W. Woodhead

## Where are our Women Champions?

By NANCY DEBENHAM.

**E**VERYWHERE, in clubs, at tournaments, we hear talk of British "hopes." Athletic young men are trying to become second Fred Perrys, and some have certainly every reason to hope. They are very good indeed.

Yet with the women, the game seems almost at a standstill. Why do not our girls improve? Soon our boys will be able to challenge the table-tigers of the world, while, at this rate, in half a dozen years time the women will still be playing comparative pat-ball.

I am speaking as one who has watched the progress of women in all sports. I have seen lawn tennis women develop from gentle base-liners to electric personalities with quicksilver in their feet and magnetism in their smile.

I have seen British women golfers stride their way to freedom and skill, shaking off the hampering traditions with their heavy trailing skirts, until now they are, in the world of sport, on the crest of the championship wave. In athletics, hockey, even to an extent at cricket, women have kept pace with the men, improving their own standards and beating the world. Yet in table tennis, except for a handful of gallant girls, our standard is feeble. The women of half a dozen countries can beat us.

**I**T may be that the game needs a "beacon." True, we have the Corbillon Cup matches for women, equivalent to the men's Swaythling Cup matches, but somehow this competition has not caught the public imagination. Perhaps there are too many in it, or we are too used to it, or perhaps, when playing in this all-important event, English girls have now suffered so long from a "defeatist" spirit that they are more or less beaten before they start.

I am only suggesting reasons why this event does not afford the necessary impetus to women players. I feel there is still room for another more concentrated event which will focus attention on our women, and give them something else for which to fight.

We want a Wightman Cup of table tennis. Because of this classic event between the lawn tennis girl champions of England and America, our players are always trying to do better. There is always a chance of "making" the Wightman Cup team, and it has so developed the team spirit in British women lawn tennis players that I believe it is as satisfying as to win the championship of the world.

In other sports, too, I have noticed that British women do better when against *one* opponent or team, than when against a whole army. Let them accept

a challenge against America, Hungary, Germany, any country where the women's game is booming, and watch how women would work to get into that team. Let the match be annual, in this country every other year, and see how our girls would work to raise funds for, when in England, our rivals would be our guests.

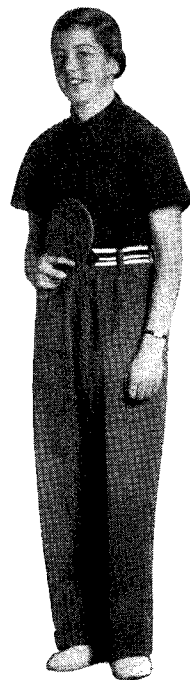
**W**HEN scouring the country for talent, the table tennis officials have been struck by the fact that so few leagues have women's sections. Leagues are the backbone of table tennis. All over Britain, in the men's game, there is intense rivalry. Every league match is fought with the keenness of an international event, and this healthy competition greatly helps the boys to improve. In the women's game, there are still too few flourishing women's sections.

If a few enterprising women would form leagues in other parts of the country they would have a chance of improving the standard. Also, more women would take to the game.

It would give the women the stepping stone which they lack—the step which has been so useful in the men's game, for our champions have gone from club to league, and from league to international matches.

Come on, girls. Keep in step.

## CAN SHE BEAT RUTH?



Miss T. Pritzi, finalist in World's Championships at Baden last year. She and Ruth Arons were disqualified for stonewall play after 1 hour 45 minutes.

Score was 1-1, and the Austrian girl was leading 19-16 in the third game.



# SOME "GOOD OLD DAYS" IN MANCHESTER

by  
**J. W. A. CONNOLLY**

I SUPPOSE that my own connections with the journalistic side of table tennis cover a period of at least a dozen years. I have seen changes. I have seen great players pass out of the sport. If perhaps I am inclined to lean to the northerners it is only because the interest which I now hold was fostered there, and because I have the greatest admiration for my friends and old officials like Les Forrest (now in London), Syd Richardson and Messrs. Swann and Batty.

In table tennis I have found to admire what is so often lacking in other sports—the social atmosphere. I have always felt friend rather than pressman and critic. It is pleasant to be on intimate terms with the star players and yet "kick them in the pants" when the occasion arises, without creating any ill-will. It is the grand sportmanship and good-fellowship that draws me to table tennis year after year, although I have sworn never to see another match.

First recollections of table tennis were in the days when Viktor Barna, Szabados and Glanz, the Hungarians, were

regarded as wonder players. I remember the excitement in Manchester when Proffitt and Cooke were chosen for the Swaythling Cup. (I covered a "news-story," and in those faraway days it was no mean achievement for a baby sport to break into the news pages of a national daily.)

The real interest you will see was beginning.

MANCHESTER has I suppose forgotten those duels, always hall-packing affairs, between Manchester Y.M.C.A. "A," and the Manchester Victoria Club (with Proffitt, Cooke and Shatzow, three internationals, as their three first strings). The latter were sweeping everything before them in the north. I remember hearing the delighted applause from Mancunians at the open play of Cooke, Proffitt and Don Foulis (Liverpool), in the earlier inter-city matches.

But these days are gone. What I once regarded as the extraordinary has become a matter of routine. The drop shot, open, swishing end-to-end drives and the defensive chop shot have become an essential factor in the armour of the everyday club player. Standards have improved by leaps and bounds. Such is the advance of the sport as I see it.

PEOPLE nowadays often criticise the selection of the Corbillon and Swaythling Cup sides. Perhaps, because I know the difficulties, I sympathise with committees responsible.

Please remember one thing. The temperamental player, lacking concentration, must always be overlooked for the steadier match-winning player. Taken collectively, England are stronger than any other country in the world. I have seen the greatest players in the world, and studied ranking lists, so I know. But these competitions are taken on the strength of five players, and five players only.

They can take a chance on two players, providing they have three rock-like first strings. So in the future if your favourite plays a brilliant game when you see him, and yet has a strong attack of nerves when playing in trials, just understand that the selection committee can't take chances.

Maurice Bergl, Eddie Buble and Hyman Lurie, I fancy as my first three for the Swaythling Cup. Another youngster I like is Hardman (Sheffield). He has the strokes, but not the confidence. That will come.

Eric Filby, delightful stroke player, confident as they make 'em, is perhaps my one other "certainty." Beyond that I won't go, except to warn old internationals that they will have to fight harder for their places, and to thank the E.T.T.A. for the go-ahead policy in giving the youngsters a chance at the trials.

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## Kent Open Table Tennis Championships

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ON SUNDAY, 18th January, 1938.

Men's Singles Women's Singles  
Men's Doubles Women's Doubles  
Mixed Doubles

Entry forms from Mr. F. G. Mannoch,  
161, Borden Lane, Sittingbourne.  
Closing date for entries 8th January.

# £ s. d. of the World Championships

by A. K. VINT  
(Hon. Treasurer, English Table Tennis Association).

**F**INANCE is a hard cold word on most occasions, and generally in connection with table tennis it has to take a back seat. The financial angle of the World Championships is not necessarily a colourful one, but nevertheless it has had an extremely important bearing on the policy of the Association in connection with the arrangements for the forthcoming Championships.

Within a few weeks we shall have entered upon the last stage of our activities, and each day we shall watch with intense interest the result of the many months of hard work which has been going on steadily since it was made known that London was the venue for 1938.

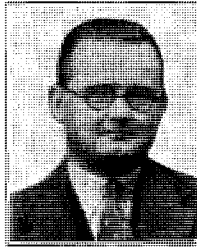
It is too recently in our minds to forget that in 1935 we lost £500 on staging the Championships. What will be the position in 1938?

**I**T is not our intention to take up the role of prophet, but fortunately we have past experience to guide us. We have again adopted a courageous policy in the presentation of what will be the greatest spectacle of the indoor sporting world, in the belief that the work of the past two or three years, which has resulted in an amazing growth of the game not only from a playing point of view, but from the interest shown by the general public, will enable us to come out on top.

We estimate that to stage the tournament in a manner which every table tennis player will consider to be worthy of the occasion, we need to spend nearly £2,300.

The greatest expense is in the provision of hotel accommodation for a week for nearly 200 competitors from 15 to 20 countries. This question of accommodation is important. We have to remember that abroad the type of food is different from our own, and that the heating of our hotels often does not come up to the standard our guests are accustomed to have in their own homes.

Another interesting item in our budget is for telephones. A sum of £30 has been allowed to cover the rental of special lines for the use of the press to enable them to get their "stories" over without undue delay. The special lighting which has to be installed over all the tables will be responsible for another £100, and a special covering for the floor will involve £40.



Mr. A. K. Vint.  
"He balances the budget."

Such things as rent, medals, reception, stewards' badges, publicity, tickets, transport and all the miscellaneous items which have to be provided will cost nearly £1,300.

**T**O meet this tremendous outlay what of the other side of the account?

We know we can expect "house full" on the finals night at Wembley, and on a sharing term basis with a guarantee, we have a definite income without any expenditure. We have a contract for the sale of a souvenir programme, and a sum of £100 should be received from entry fees from the various countries and players taking part.

The remainder of our income must come from admission charges and the sale of season tickets at the Royal Albert Hall. As we have to pay away in Entertainment Duty approximately one-sixth of our admission charge income, it will be seen that we must allow for a figure in excess of our expenditure of £2,300 before we can balance our account.

*In issuing season tickets the Association have made a generous contribution to members, enabling them to see the championships every day for the ridiculous figure of 4d. per session. When it is realised that these tickets will admit to all the best seats in the Hall, which will be priced from 2/6d. to 5s. and that a season ticket for 5s. will admit to each of the 15 sessions it will be readily understood that this offer cannot be held open indefinitely. Season tickets will not be on sale during the week and our advice is get in touch with the E.T.T.A. offices at once.*

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## "MY FIRST TIME"

By

**VIKTOR BARNA**  
(Five times World Champion)

**W**HEN my friend "Bill" Pope asked me to write an article on my first world championships, I was not at all sure what he wanted. Was I to write about the first championship I won, or the first in which I played? Obviously there would be quite a difference.

It turned out that he meant the first in which I played, and that meant casting back my memory a long, long way, to Budapest, in 1929. I remember that the championships came just before I was to sit for my examinations, and I had to get special permission from the Ministry, to have ten days holiday from school.

Well, I got it, and thought all my dreams had come true. Ever since I had heard that the world championships were to be played in Budapest, and that the "youngsters"—Szabados and I—would probably take part, I had been just unable to sleep. Day and night I dreamed. I dreamed of winning the Swaythling Cup for Hungary, and after that the singles championship, the doubles, and most probably the mixed—you know how the imagination of a young boy runs—and I was not yet 18.

The things I was going to do! I wanted to be in the newspapers, to be interviewed . . . I counted the days, and at last, so very, very slowly, the big day arrived.

I simply can't describe my feelings as we beat team after team in the Swaythling Cup, 5-0, 5-0, 5-0, and finally England 5-2. I was the hero of this match. I beat the three Englishmen, Haydon, Perry and Bull.

All around me people were whispering. Yes, they said, I was sure to win the singles. I listened, and—what a fool!—I began to believe it.

What disillusionment. In the third round—and incidentally the third has always been my unlucky round—I met Haydon again, and this time, in a five-game struggle, he beat me.

I was heartbroken. I am not ashamed to say I nearly cried, for I was still, remember, only 17. But I thought of my captain's words, "It is easy to win, but so very difficult to lose." I realised that as I wanted to be a real sportsman I had to learn how to lose. Now, of course, I find it the simplest thing in the world—I've had so much practice!

Nevertheless, for days and days afterwards I used to reconstruct that lost game with Haydon, going over it point by point in my mind to see where I could have won.

# NEW CHAMPIONS FOR LANCASHIRE?

## NEW v. OLD

By "Lancashire Lad"

**N**ORTHERN fans will have an opportunity of seeing the world's finest players at the English Championships at the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, on February 3, 4 and 5. A pleasant change to have the championships north instead of making that long tiresome journey to London.

The preliminary rounds will be played in the Tower Ballroom. Here nine courts will be erected, eight of them 45 ft. by 18 ft. and a centre court of 45 ft. by 20 ft. The floor is being specially cleared of shiny surface and the full equipment from the Albert Hall will be erected for the opening session on Thursday evening (7.30) when competitors residing within a 50-mile radius of Blackpool will be on view.

There will be three sessions on the Friday. (9.30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.) Exemption will be granted to competitors residing more than 150 miles away until the afternoon session.

There will be one session on Saturday morning, at 9.30 a.m., and the semi-finals will be played in that magnificent arena, the Tower Circus, at 2.30 p.m., whilst the finals will be played at 7.30 p.m.

All the English stars will compete, and nearly all the foreigners from the World's Championships will be there.

Thus it will be possible to see most of the world's champions and the ex-champions, some eager to repeat their triumphs and others desirous of wiping out the memories of past defeats. Never before has the north of England had such an opportunity as this to witness table tennis at its best.

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Blackpool has had test matches, internationals, tours, but never so many of the world's finest exponents of the art of table tennis in one competition under one roof.

**T**HIS will be a miniature World's Championship. Blackpool has the finest players, the accommodation, and the finest playing conditions possible. The Circus really needs no description to northerners. Already this arena has been the scene of international matches and the place packed with enthusiastic supporters; it is ideal for the game.

All entry forms must be sent to E. Worsley, 20, Banbury Avenue, Blackpool.

Special provision is being made for the comfort of players.

The Committee have made arrangements for the accommodation of players and bed and breakfast may be had at one of the finest hotels in Blackpool, which is next door to the Tower at 8s. 6d. Meals may be had in the Tower itself. A running buffet has been arranged and the committee will issue tickets for the same at a reduced charge of 1s. 3d. In the Tower restaurant meals à la carte may also be arranged. Those competitors arriving Thursday evening may book three nights at the hotel and three meals a day in the Tower for 32s.

### TERMS.

Thursday supper to Sunday breakfast, Hotel, 32s.; Boarding House, 28s.

Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast, Hotel, 23s.; Boarding House, 20s.

Enquiries to F. Holehouse, 10, South Park Drive, Blackpool.

## Women's Selection Problems

by  
F. J. P. Hills

**A**N excellent response to Mrs. Bunbury's circular produced no less than 38 aspirants for the London trials. Nine leagues were represented, and so difficult was the job of selection that the following players will be asked to appear against the selected from other parts of the country, on Sunday, 2nd January, 1938, at Lucania Hall, Draper Street, Newington Butts, S.E., 2 p.m. :-

Mrs. A. Brand, Misses J. Harding, Renée Cabot, P. M. Hodgkinson, J. Young, N. Bright, E. Baker, E. East, C. Oustainge, C. Jones (Swindon), and V. Dace.

A much higher standard of play was seen than past experience has taught us to expect. The match between Joan Harding and Renée Cabot was worth going a long way to see.

Both players produced extraordinary good forearm drives and flicks. With sound coaching these two girls (still in their teens) and V. Dace (only 15) should become world beaters, if not this year, in the very near future.

### TOWER, BLACKPOOL



The Tower Circus, Blackpool, should be the scene of great struggles between "new and old World Champions" in English Championships in February.



## WEST of LONDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

by C. M. HUTT

**A**NOTHER new tournament, the first West of London Open Championships, has been brought to a successful conclusion. There were some justifiable complaints in the preliminary rounds about the balls and lack of room; but Bradix is a new club; it was a new tournament, and the number of entries exceeded all expectations. Next year the organisers will be prepared.

As usual, Filby and Rogers provided the thrills, losing to Sears and Marcus, a scratch combination, in the fifth game, after being 10-4 up. Sears, who on his day is capable of beating almost anybody, was as steady as a rock, and Marcus was at the top of his form, even if a little bit given to cracking of jokes for the seriousness of the occasion.

In the semi-final of the men's singles, Haydon easily beat Brook, but Bergl had to use all his craftsmanship to beat Filby 21-19 in the third game.

The final, unfortunately, was not a real test. Because of a bad wrist Bergl could not get the full measure of "Haydon in retirement," and the latter won fairly comfortably in three straight games. Haydon's oft-attempted drop-shots tended to be rather loose, and in ordinary circumstances would have presented Bergl with golden opportunities for a series of finishing strokes.

Bergl's wrist, however, would not allow him to use an orthodox flick and he kept trying a backhand-slice-hit. Had these been successful there would have been seen a battle-royal, but out of the thirteen times they were attempted, only two were effective.

Miss Joan Harding did very well to reach the final of the women's singles, but she could not be expected to beat a player with the experience and ability of Mrs. Hutchings. A two-straight victory, therefore, in Mrs. Hutchings' favour, was accepted without surprise. I notice with awe and wonderment that "Twinks" is developing a backhand.

### RESULTS.

- Men's Singles: Haydon beat Bergl, 21-16, 21-17, 21-19.  
 Women's Singles: Mrs. Hutchings beat Miss Harding, 21-8, 21-13.  
 Men's Doubles: Sears and Marcus beat Filby and Rogers, 20-21, 21-16, 21-18, 13-21, 21-17.  
 Women's Doubles: Mrs. Hutchings and Miss Woodhead beat Miss Pettigrew and Miss Fowler, 21-11, 21-14.  
 Mixed Doubles: Baron and Miss Harding beat Frischer and Miss Wright, 21-19, 20-21, 21-17.

### WILMOTT CUP RESULTS

## HOLDERS LOSE TO SURREY IN SECOND ROUND

Ribblesdale 5, Reddish 4; Stockport 6, Ribblesdale 3; Ashton-under-Lyne 8, Bury 1; Manchester 9, Urnston 0; Liverpool 5, Chester 0; Southport 8, Rhyl 1; Southport 2, Liverpool 5; Sheffield 5, Leeds 4; Mansfield 1, Grimsby 8; South Shropshire 0, Birmingham 9; Bath 0, Exeter 9; Bristol 7, South Devon 2; North Middlesex 1, Barking 5; Bishop's Stortford 6, Chelmsford 3; London 7, N.A.L.G.O. 2; London 9, Film Renters 0; Woolwich 4, Surrey 5; Hythe 1, South London 8; Leatherhead 1, Farnham 8; Surrey 6, South London 3; Farnborough 1, Slough 8; Luton 7, Uxbridge 2; Reading 2, Thames Valley 7; King's Lynn 6, Ipswich 3; Slough 2, Luton 7.

## WEMBLEY LEAGUE

**T**he league started the season well with seven men's and three ladies' divisions, comprising a total of 1,000 registered players, an increase of two divisions on last season.

### REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

#### Men's: versus North Middlesex

Wembley won 6 matches to 3. D. Mackie, A. Payne and G. Strauli were successful singles winners. Wembley won all doubles, partnerships being: D. Mackie and R. Nicoll, W. Marsh and W. Morris, A. Payne and G. Strauli.

#### Ladies': versus North Middlesex

Wembley won 7 matches to 5. Misses Nicoll, Keeling and Cox, playing 1, 2 and 4, won their games, Miss P. Fowler the other. Miss Pettigrew and Mrs. Lane were unsuccessful.

Miss Finch, who holds the South of England Mixed Doubles, Middlesex and Sussex Doubles, has not yet entered any tournaments this season.

The Herga Club are winning the Men's First Division, and at present have not dropped a point. Wembley Hill are challenging them for their position.

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## Welsh Women Find Form

### Three Titles!

By R. H. WELSH

**T**HE Welsh Open Championships took place at Newport Athletic Club on Saturday, December 11th. Entries from all over Wales and a strong London contingent made it a most representative event. The withdrawal of Barna, with an injured wrist, disappointed the large crowd, many of whom had come expressly to see the former world champion in action. Lurie, Brook, Bergl, Buble and Proffitt, however, fought out some remarkably good games.

E. Buble (London), the winner, played splendidly throughout, beating M. Bergl (Harrow) in the final by 3-1. He never allowed his opponent to settle down and led 2-0. Bergl fought back and won the third set. Buble, never rattled, took the fourth set and the match.

On his way to the final he defeated A. D. Brook (the holder), D. J. Thomas and H. Lurie, while Bergl defeated F. Curtain, T. Lisle and N. K. Contractor. The Welsh players who did well were F. Curtain, D. J. Thomas, T. Lisle and H. Morgan; all reached the quarter-finals. F. Curtain (Penarth) is to be congratulated upon reaching the semi-final in such good company.

The Welsh women deserve special mention in staying off a strong English challenge from Dora Emdin (St. Albans) and Mrs. L. Booker (London). An all-Welsh final resulted in Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmawr) defeating Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg). Mrs. B. Morgan did splendidly in defeating Mrs. H. Roy Evans (Cardiff), the holder, in the semi-final.

In the men's doubles, Ron Baglow (Newport) came out of retirement to defend his title with T. Lisle (Birmingham).

### FINALS RESULTS

#### MEN'S SINGLES.

E. Buble (London) beat M. B. W. Bergl (Harrow) 21-18, 21-15, 20-22, 21-11.

#### MEN'S DOUBLES.

H. Lurie (Manchester) and S. Proffitt (London) beat T. Smith and F. Smith (Cardiff) 21-19, 21-13.

#### WOMEN'S SINGLES.

Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmawr) beat Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) 21-14, 21-15.

#### WOMEN'S DOUBLES.

Mrs. E. H. Evans and Mrs. B. Morgan beat Mrs. Hutchings (Watford) and Mrs. L. Booker (London) 21-16, 22-20.

#### MIXED DOUBLES.

T. Lisle (Birmingham) and Mrs. E. H. Evans beat F. Curtain (Penarth) and Mrs. L. Booker 21-17, 21-16.

### HANOVER OPEN.

The first big Open Championship of the New Year will be held by the Hanover R. C., Cardiff, on Saturday, January 22nd. D. J. Thomas, the holder, will be hard pressed to retain his title from such players as T. Lisle (Birmingham), J. Meredith (Aberdare), T. Smith (Cardiff) and N. K. Contractor, the Indian international.



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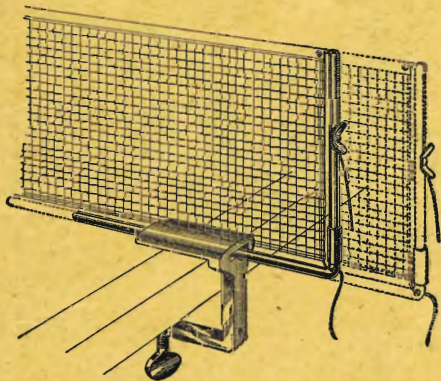
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