

# TABLE TENNIS

3D

THE OFFICIAL  
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH  
TENNIS



TABLE  
ASSOCIATION

## CONTENTS

J. W. A. Connolly

W. J. Pope

S. W. Richardson

National Champs.

Pictures



Vol. III

No. 6

MARCH, 1938

WH

# TABLE TENNIS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

E · T · T · A

VOLUME III. No. 6

MARCH, 1938

THREE PENCE

## THE YOUNG AMERICAN STAR WE SHOULD SEE AGAIN

Foreigners scoop the pool at Blackpool: Viktor Barna gets his usual three: The total eclipse of Young America

By J. W. A. CONNOLLY

WHEN I look back over the last month of table tennis I just don't know where to begin in my report of the national championships at Blackpool. The most salient feature was I know the lack of support from the players in the north. I am rather at a loss to account for this, unless of course it is the old problem of "broken time," and players who had begged from their work for the world championships in London, were unwilling to do this a second time for the national championships. This was the reason given to me by a northern official, and I think it is a perfectly logical and legitimate explanation.

The arrangements were faultless—from the hotels and hospitality to the games on the tables. The only snag was the draw for the women's singles. Young fifteen-year-old Betty Henry, American star, again had the luck to be drawn way down below in the second half, with a chance of reaching the semi-final without any trouble. That is if she had taken her chance. But she didn't.

*Betty made an unexpected second round exit to Mrs. Eastwood, a local player. Every credit should be given to the local girl for the way she cut through Betty's defence and showed that after all what is a reputation on the table. These "locals" were determined to make good. I have had good reports of Miss Bracewell for many months now, and she was within an ace of supplying the sensation by putting out Mildred Wilkinson, American number one, in the first round. It was a near thing and I know full well that Mildred was more than a little scared.*

And what of the American men players? They had five in the last eight, and only two got through to the semi-finals. But I think they have the consolation of finding another great star. Young George Hendry pleased me most for the way he fought every point. A great fighter this kid, and one whom I am sure is destined for greater honours later on.

GEORGE went down with flying banners to Viktor Barna in his quarter final. He went down to the old Barna, who seemed to have resurrected himself for

his greatest effort in his favourite tournament. But for all that Hendry was definitely unlucky. Just when it looked that he might even hold Viktor the luck of the game went against him, and whatever net cords were going, went to Viktor.

*Barna made short shift of Bernard Grimes, the tall inter-collegiate champion of America in the semi-final, and again I liked the style of the young American on the table. If he made one mistake it was in trying to hit through the peerless defence of the Hungarian. But he stuck to his guns and the score does scant justice to his pluck. Viktor on his day is a terrific proposition for any youngster, and who would say that this was not Viktor's day of days.*

So on to Laszlos Bellak. The comical little Hungarian cut through Solly Schiff like a knife through butter. I have never seen anything like those drives, going away from the table all the time. He hit, it seemed, in sheer desperation with everything he knew, and Sol, the hardest hitter in the game, never looked the genuine article. True enough he made a grand effort when Bellak had a two sets lead and took the third game, but he was never in the picture when Bellak hit out at everything in the fourth set.

The men's singles was after all tame. One had expected great things from Bellak against Viktor Barna, but in truth Barna never had the slightest difficulty in beating his team-mate. A great day for Viktor, he held his singles title and got home in every event to make a treble. There can be only one more comforting thought to

a British audience than a home win, and that is a win for G. V. Barna, because after all, these days he is regarded almost as one of us.

THE Hungarians told me once before that Bellak can never play well against Barna. After the Tower Circus event I can well believe it. He didn't look the same player who had just hit Solly Schiff off the table. He just made the faults for Barna to win. Not that I would belittle the victory of my old friend, Viktor. Far from it, but it was rather more than a pity for the sakes of the 5,000 spectators that Bellak didn't produce that spectacular hitting again. He seemed impotent against the Barna flick and wonder of wonders was caught almost every other shot out of position.

Barna and Bellak, however, produced the real goods to beat Ehrlich and Boros in the men's doubles. The tall Pole had captivated the fancy by a terrific singles battle with Richard Bergmann, and I haven't the slightest hesitation in naming him as the unluckiest player I ever knew. He and Boros didn't have much chance in the battle with Viktor and Laszlos, because the Hungarians revelled in their mistakes, and Bellak seemed to recover his old confidence and exuberance and just hit through them again.

The third leg of the Barna treble brought some consolation to us, because it was with Margaret Osborne that he beat Bellak and Wendy Woodhead in the mixed doubles final. A fine combination these two, and fully deserving of the success they gained. And further consolation also in the women's doubles, Margaret and Wendy gave just another of those exhibitions which we have begun to expect from them, to beat the Misses Beregi and Ferenczy, the Hungarians.

Continued on page 10.

Welsh Page

# WALES HAS SUFFERED FROM THE PAROCHIAL INTERESTS

**“But eventually we stamped out such uncharitable strictures, and were beginning to feel now that all players have come to look upon Welsh Table Tennis problems in a National light”**

BY H. ROY EVANS

**I**N a democratic organisation, such as that which governs table tennis in any country, criticism may not be suppressed, and, mostly, it is welcomed, especially if it springs from a conviction as patriotic as that claimed by the responsible officials.

For years table tennis in Wales has suffered from a parochial interest which prompted the loudest voices to cry out ever and anon for their own local rights, and in favour of their own local players. The national aspect was smothered by the repeated pushing forward of players whose local leagues cared not whether they would render real assistance to Wales, as long as a representative from their area secured his place in Welsh teams.

\* \* \*

Bitter was the censure of selection committees who left out So-and-So, even though his International record may have been a long story of repeated failure, and envious were the glances at this league or that, were it fortunate enough to have two or three players honoured.

But, eventually, we stamped out such uncharitable strictures, and were beginning to feel now that all players had come to look upon Welsh table tennis problems in a national light, so that, at first, letters of criticism appearing in the press and in this magazine would appear to have been prompted by that same national fervour. But, we ask ourselves, were they so prompted?

\* \* \*

**L**ET us regard at first the question of team selection for the recent World Championships. It is no secret that the Selectors' decisions did not meet with universal approval, and the critics divided themselves into two sections, those who supported the claims of the older players, and those who did not agree with the selection simply because they thought the players chosen were not good enough.

*Without fear or favour, the Welsh Selectors decided to pass over all the players who had had a good innings in International table tennis, holding the view that none of these showed any signs of improvement, and would not benefit themselves or Welsh table tennis by further participation in World Championships. This conclusion was arrived at after our International match against England in November, and after various tournaments that were conscientiously watched by the Selection Committee.*

Having taken this step, which was expected to call for criticism, the Selectors proceeded to call upon players who had already had sufficient experience of the game to give them an understanding of stroke production, of tactics, and of the underlying reasons for Continental supremacy; players who had already shown signs of more than average ability, who had already accomplished some performances of merit, and who were yet young enough to be able to change their games when they had their experience in London.

**O**UR four were picked, and I personally do not think that any of the critics could name four more fitted to the qualifications demanded by the Committee. But, behold! Criticism was forthcoming in no uncertain terms, and the whole organisation of the Welsh Association was attacked for lack of initiative and foresight, for inability to inaugurate coaching for young players, and for not picking youngsters not even considered by the local leagues for their own inter-league games!

We are told that had we announced a policy of giving youth its chance, and then picked some of the players mentioned by our critics, all Wales would have been behind us! Even supposing the voices of those who write are raised on behalf of a goodly proportion of Welsh enthusiasts, which is usually not the case, can we assume that this criticism is constructive and patriotic?



**I am afraid not, and the dismal truth is that some people were upset that certain players were in the team, and in their endeavour to prove us wrong, they advanced all sorts of players as being eligible, and all sorts of schemes that the Association should have pursued.**

At the commencement, it was announced that this season would bring its chance for the youngsters, and that our team against England would be picked with an eye to the later test in the World Championships.

All the young players are known to the Welsh selectors, yet it was unfortunate that none of these showed promise at the beginning of the season, and Meredith alone seemed to be worth any consideration as time went on.

\* \* \*

**W**E were expected to commence coaching someone *then*, and if our detractors were only more often at our events, they would have realised that so many of the promising youngsters simply failed to live up to their earlier promise. Then followed trials and tournaments, after

which we selected a team composed partly of old hands, and partly of new. Chances were given to both and selection of our World Championship team made in the light of what happened in this game and in the subsequent tournaments. It is true Tom Smith won, but without wishing to belittle his success, let us not lose sight of the fact that his opponent was a fifteen year old youngster new to big games. None of those who criticised us for his omission saw the match!

The other player whose omission was claimed to be a surprise was Les Cann, but I do not need to say anything further than that Cann was picked for the English game, and withdrew on doctor's advice as his stamina is not what it should be. Can any committee select a player unfortunate enough to be in that position?

Many of the young players suggested are not even in league sides, and are given little encouragement to get into them. Yet the national body is expected to coach them for its team, and spend money it can ill afford on players the local leagues will not recognise; and, to crown it all, the Association is accused of failing to provide for youth, when it runs the only junior tournament, to which are attracted promising youngsters from leagues whose secretaries know nothing about them.

\* \* \*

**D**O these attacks help? Is there any real assistance given in stating that the Welsh Association does not do things on a very large scale, when its officials have waged a battle for years to push table tennis in areas where depression has left its burdens? Is it fair for any contributor to hint at lack of initiative when lack of money is the real drawback?

The Association officials do not lack ideas. Its ramifications have increased a thousand-fold within the last few years, but no good purpose can ever be served by parading before other countries its inability to run such events as the World Championships when lack of the desire is not a deterrent, but lack of money and facilities the real stumbling block.

But let us turn to pleasanter thoughts. Our four men players have all shown great improvement since their return from London. Meredith, Curtin and Milsom have all done well in tournaments since, and Sadler has shown improved play in beating Filby in the Midland.

Our women's team gave a good performance in London, and with a little luck might have finished third! Let these things be their own answer to our critics.



# Improve your Game

No. 6.

## Opportunist Shots--

### Value of Sudden Hit

**A**N opportunist shot is a stroke suddenly made when an unexpected chance presents itself. It is therefore generally a winning stroke. It is essentially a surprise shot—sometimes a risky one—but is always worth taking a risk when there is a chance of winning a point outright. Therein lies a temptation to overdo the sudden hit. Temper boldness with good judgment. This is a matter for the individual player. Some never learn discretion in taking chances.

The lowering of the net to 6 inches has made the opportunist hit more important than before because of the bigger margin of error now allowed for flat hits. The World Championships Meeting, so recently concluded, provided many excellent examples of the value of this stroke.

*Vana, the new men's singles champion, is an excellent exponent with his sudden short swing, half arm forehand finishing hit. Barna, of course, with his inimitable flick and wonderful sense of anticipation, is still, perhaps, the greatest master at seizing a sudden opening.*

**O**N the forehand side the shot is frequently made when a player has been defending against a stream of drives. The attacker tries a drop shot, but either through brilliant anticipation by the defender or slightly faulty stroke execution by the would-be drop-shotter the defender is able to run in suddenly, lean over the table quickly and make a flat forehand hit. Coming in on the run gives his hit extraordinary speed and it is generally a winning shot.

This sudden change over from defence to storming attack looks very spectacular and almost invariably draws a great cheer from the onlookers.

The best exponent of this stroke I have ever seen is David Jones, once England's No. 1 player.

Your timing must be exact, otherwise you will very likely miss your stroke (I have even seen players miss the ball altogether!). Care in running in properly is a great asset—move quickly but without hurry.

If more than two steps away from the table do not risk the hit unless the ball has been misplayed rather high up. *See that you are properly balanced for your stroke.* Your certainty of stroke depends upon this.

**T**HE short backhand kill close into the net is a great point winner—generally to be used against a return which has been a little mistimed by your opponent and "put up." For this shot you should be "there"—waiting near the table for such a chance.

Ability to play a backhand chop stroke fairly close to the table will help here, as you will then often be ready to take advantage of any high ball (even near the net)—always providing of course that you have a fairly accurate backhand hit.

There is another sort of opportunist hit—the hit against a hit. This is quite often only

with

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

a fast-medium shot, but the surprise it creates either wins the point outright or puts your opponent into such difficulty that you have little trouble in "putting away" his return.

*The eye must be well in and you must feel very confident to do this sort of thing often. Watch your opponent carefully as he makes his stroke, note the direction of his racket, judge where the ball is going to and get ready to hit it back.*

**T**HE main difficulty is to judge the length of your opponent's hit, and if you are wrong in your estimate it will cost you the point. Such a method is least risky against a player whose stroke you know fairly well. By slowing down the counter hit you will minimise the chance of a mistake.

Fred Perry was a brilliant exponent of the hit against a hit.

As a general rule I should discourage players from trying to follow up an opportunist hit if it is returned (except in the case of the hit off a hit) because, having come up to the table quickly, you are often a little unbalanced and may make your second hit when badly positioned. Besides, your opponent, caught off his guard by the first hit, has yet managed to return it and will be more ready to take the second such shot.

**Next Month: The Drop Shot and the Smash.**

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## Our Best Players

by H. H. BRIDGE.

### No. 5. Miss P. Hodgkinson (PINNER)

**T**HE surprise of the ladies' table tennis world this season was the inclusion of Phyllis Hodgkinson in the Corbillon Cup team—her name had never startled the world by unexpected victory, she had never accomplished great things to the cheers of the multitude. She had, however, steadily plodded along (her own expression) always up to a certain standard, always willing to fight for victory, unperturbed by the state of the match, or spectators around.



In 1932 she first saw table tennis of any class, when Barna and Haguenaer were touring England, and she commenced to play at the Woodlands L.T.C. at Harrow. She began to play in the men's team (which she still does for Lensbury), and the following season competed in a few tournaments with only very mediocre success.

In the next season, 1934-35, however, she won the Wembley closed singles and the London Business Houses singles. Since then she has progressed to various county titles, and has held the London Business Houses singles for three successive years.

Since 1935 she has played for Kingsway and Lensbury, as her first club, Woodlands L.T.C., is now defunct.

At lawn tennis she has held the ladies' doubles for the past four years, and has held the same title in the badminton section for one year. At cricket she plays for one of the leading teams in Gunnersbury Ladies, and at hockey plays for Chiswick and Middlesex. Last season she went to Australia and New Zealand with a touring hockey side.

She was very reticent when asked for the reasons of her sporting successes, and tends to attribute them to "luck" and "good fortune."

# Looking Around

with

**J. W. A. CONNOLLY**

("Sunday Express" sports writer)

**T**HE big item of news as far as international table tennis is concerned came in the announcement from Blackpool that Margaret Osborne, trim little Birmingham player, had at last decided to retire from top flight table tennis. This and the "Blackpool throat" provided the news of the week.

I am not really surprised after all that Miss Osborne has made the decision. She has earned more or less all the honours that the game can offer, with the exception of the world championship, and must feel the stress of continuous tournament and international play.

But Margaret isn't to be lost to the game completely, yet awhile. She will continue to play in her own area, and in favourite championships and tournaments. Her decision merely means that she will cut down these to more or less the bare necessity to sustain an interest in table tennis, and after all these years, who can blame her.

**A**LL of which takes me back to the world championships, and English showing in the Swaythling Cup. It isn't easy to say what I have to say, but I feel that the great thing lacking in the English make-up was the fighting spirit that got the American and the Austrian teams so far. There isn't any point going on to the table cocksure of victory, but it is a far worse thing to go into a big match with a premonition of defeat. That's what happened. Our players didn't lack anything in stroke play, what they lacked was spirit, and I was very sorry to see it.

I feel equally sure that Ken Hyde should have been brought in for Hyman Lurie, because the Manchester player never had the confidence that was needed in such an event.

I am not losing sight of the fact that this year the English Swaythling Cup side did better than they have ever done in the series. How can I? But the fact remains that they had an opportunity to do even better.

The replay with Austria didn't reflect any too much credit. After Bubley had given us a lead in the first match England never took another game. Yet I think any of our three should have beaten Schedewy and stood at least a sporting chance against Fred Liebster.

**S**TARS of the month are Charlie Seaman (Brighton) and D. J. Cairns (Woolwich), because they were the last Englishmen to remain in the world championships. Which only goes to show that Seaman was well worthy of the honours given him this year, and that after all the E.T.T.A. officials were right in their high opinion of him. I congratulate Cairns warmly, because it is not often that an unseeded or unhonoured player has the distinction of keeping the banner flying for his country when all the fancied candidates have gone.

Stars of the local tournaments were K. Stanley (Manchester) and Miss W. Potter

(Birmingham). Stanley's mention is for winning the National and Midland junior titles (beating Johnny Archer in both finals) and for beating Ernie Bubleby by three sets to one at Blackpool.

*Miss Potter deserves even greater praise for winning the Midland singles. On the way up she beat Dinah Newey (last year's Corbillon Cup side) and Dora Emdin and ended up by beating Margaret Osborne in the final. Three Corbillon Cup players beaten by an unranked player in the one tournament is something of an achievement, and promises well for the future of this young lady.*

**F**IRST and foremost among our women players should come the achievement of Wendy Woodhead in winning the world mixed doubles title with Laszlos Bellak, comical bald-headed little Hungarian.

Only one other English player has ever taken a world title, and that was when Fred Perry took the world's singles, before becoming world lawn tennis champion. Wendy is the second English player and the first English woman to take a title.

Her victory is the more remarkable since she was not considered good enough for the Corbillon Cup team. For the past couple of years Wendy and Margaret Osborne have been our finest doubles combination, but such was the decline in form of the Amersham girl that one could scarcely doubt the wisdom of the selectors in leaving her for a more stable player.

Wendy found her form when we most needed a tonic, after four titles had gone to foreign countries and England had lost interest in Corbillon and Swaythling Cup competitions. It also brought to Bellak his first world title.

And mark you he has appeared in more world championship finals than any other player the game has known. Small wonder he hugged Wendy and danced round and round the ring. Good luck to them both. The win brought Bellak his life's ambition and brought Wendy back into the limelight.

**N**OW that the world championships and the English championships have become things of the past, we can go over the foreigners and figure out which of them we shall see again.

America, of course, disappointed, and yet I am sure that the tiny Pagliaro, George Hendry and Bernie Grimes will all be here again, firmly established favourites like Jimmy McClure and Sol Schiff. Maurice Bassford, the American manager has promised to keep "Table Tennis" in touch with happenings over there. Of the girls' team, I don't really think we shall hear

SMILE, PLEASE!



By courtesy of J. H. L. Adams, Birmingham.

England's first woman world champion, Wendy Woodhead, and Bellak show their delight.

much more. Jay Purves and Ruth Aarons were far finer players than the present team.

*The red-haired Hungarian Beregi commended herself to me for the fine sportsmanship she showed right through the series. She is a grand player and that hit of hers makes the crowd go with her in a big way. I like the way she smiles ruefully whenever an opponent passed her down the side. Beregi will be here again.*

**I** CANNOT help thinking with regret that perhaps the battle for the Swaythling Cup cost young Richard Bergmann his world singles title. I know full well that Vana is his bogey man, but there also remains the salient fact that Bergmann had had to play harder for his country than he did for his own event.

There was no doubting his class earlier in the week. Particularly I remember his scrap with the American, Hendry. Bergmann is a fine little sportsman, and I never once heard him grumble, but this case to my mind rather points to the necessity of segregation of the individual events from the world team championships.

My contention is that the officials should get rid of one event first and then start on the other. It isn't as hard as it seems either. Give the first three days of the week to non-stop Swaythling Cup and Corbillon matches, and then revert to schedule and the individual events for the remainder.

A player first playing for his country, and then going somewhere on another court to contest singles or doubles, is ridiculous. The events in future must be separate. It gives the players a chance, and also cuts out the long periods of waiting. In this respect the English officials are angels compared with some of the continental countries, but it is a problem that must be settled.

**In Memoriam****Mr. J. W. Swann**

**“In every village where the game is played, people will mourn our loss . . . He will live in memory as a true and gallant sportsman . . .”**

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the sudden death of one of the best known and best loved men in table tennis—Mr. J. W. Swann, of Manchester, at the early age of fifty-five.

PRIOR to the English Open Championships at Blackpool, during the first week in February, Mr. Swann had taken part in a Manchester League match, playing for the Adelphi Lads' Club, and he afterwards found it necessary to visit a doctor, as he thought that he had strained the muscles of his heart. The doctor sent him to a specialist for examination, and Mr. Swann was advised to take a complete rest for a month, and to avoid exercise of any kind. As a consequence, he was unable to go to Blackpool to see the results of his work as a member of the Championships Sub-Committee, although he believed that he was getting better. On Friday evening, February 11, he retired in the best of spirits, only to pass away peacefully in his sleep.

Right from his school days, Jack Swann showed keen prowess in every kind of sport, and his record shows that he was one of the finest athletes in the North. We find him, during the early part of the century, playing football for the crack amateur team of the day—Northern Nomads—and he subsequently received international honours as an amateur footballer, taking part in continental tours. On many occasions, he was brought in as goalkeeper for Manchester City and Manchester United, and he also played for Liverpool.

He was tempted many times to turn professional, but he played purely for the love of the game, and he never wavered from his intention to play strictly as an amateur.

HE was a fine water-polo player, and was capped for England several times. The post-war boom in table tennis found him one of its most ardent players, and he took part in the first England v. Wales match ever played, in March, 1923. From then, he seems to have interested himself in the administrative side of affairs, although we have it on record that he played in the first inter-league encounter between Manchester and Liverpool, when he lost to Harry Turner, of Liverpool, to the consternation of the Manchester stalwarts.

When the Manchester League was formed in 1927, Jack Swann was elected to the Management Committee, and he retained his position as E.T.T.A. representative for Manchester right up to the time of his death. His election to the Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A. was the finest thing that could have happened to Manchester and the North, for his clear insight into the difficulties encountered by provincial leagues gave him the power to present the “locals” point of view in a straightforward and spirited manner that often brooked little or no opposition.

Provincial table tennis has a lot to thank Jack Swann for, because in those dark days when country leagues felt that London would always remain supreme, he gave them new courage in his convincing presentation of the provinces viewpoint.

HE decided, at the beginning of the present season, not to seek re-election to the Selection Committee of the E.T.T.A., as he believed that newcomers might help to solve the difficulty of finding talent sufficiently capable of offering resistance to the foreign invasion, but he was always on the look-out for promising players, and the present high standing of Manchester as a nursery of future internationals can be attributed to his keen eye for potential ability at the game.

As a committee man, he will always be remembered for his singular straightforwardness of purpose, and his quick insight into intricate problems. Any views he put forward were the result of careful thought, and they often cleared the air when others were at cross purposes.

But table tennis players and officials will remember him chiefly for his charming disposition, a willingness to help in any job, no matter how small, and for his wholehearted enthusiasm for the game which we enjoy. Of the many people who have helped to put table tennis on the sporting map of the country, Jack Swann took a prominent part, and in every town and village where the game is played, people will mourn the loss of one of our most valuable administrators, who will live in our memory as a true and gallant sportsman.

**J. B.****CONDOLENCES.**

The Editor and Staff of “Table Tennis,” and the officials of the E.T.T.A., extend their heartfelt sympathies to the relatives of Mr. J. W. Swann in their bereavement. Mr. Swann was an old and valued servant of the association. We have lost a fine worker, loyal colleague and life-long friend.

**MR. N. R. HARRISON.**

It is with regret that we have to announce also the decease of Mr. Norman R. Harrison, Southport League Secretary. The news reached the office as the issue was going to press. To the family and friends of Mr. Harrison we tender our condolences.

**FIXTURES**

1938.

- 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.

**CHESHIRE TITLES.**

*Treble for  
Dinah Newey, and  
Ken Hyde at Wallasey*

THERE is one feature about the Open Cheshire tournament which is peculiar to it, as compared with almost every other similar event held in the north—its “homely and social” atmosphere. Once again the competition maintained this reputation, and once again its final stages produced some very thrilling exchanges, evidence that the event's unique atmosphere does not in any way detract from the keenness of the play.

The tournament brought triple victories to J. K. Hyde, of Liverpool, and Miss Dinah Newey, of Birmingham. Hyde was always too good for Manchester's B. Casofsky, whom he met in the final; he and F. Bamford produced a wonderful recovery to win the men's doubles, while partnered by Miss Newey they took the mixed against Bamford and Miss R. Doolan. Miss Newey once more beat Miss Doolan in the women's singles, although at no time did she have anything to spare, and together they carried off the women's doubles in comfortable fashion.

Men's Singles—J. K. Hyde beat B. Casofsky 21-17, 21-14, 21-16.

Women's Singles—Miss D. Newey beat Miss R. Doolan 19-21, 21-17, 22-20.

Men's Doubles—J. K. Hyde and F. Bamford beat B. Casofsky and F. Cromwell 16-21, 26-24, 21-19.

Women's Doubles—Miss D. Newey and Miss R. Doolan beat Miss N. Foulis and Miss I. Pollitt 21-10, 21-10.

Mixed Doubles—J. K. Hyde and Miss D. Newey beat F. Bamford and Miss R. Doolan 21-19, 19-21, 21-16.

**The  
Secretary Says:**

**I thank  
these  
fine  
Workers!**



**by W. J. Pope**

**We  
say now,  
a job  
well done!**

**T**HE World Championships are over, and we can look back, I think, upon a job well done. The Royal Albert Hall was attended chiefly by our London members—provincial League fans were at Wembley, of course. Table tennis was put over under ideal conditions at both places, and I am sure all our members were pleased. At the Albert Hall, during the week, I was constantly wishing that our provincial fans, especially the keener members whom I have met at Conferences, could have been present to have received the inspiration and grand thrill of seeing this wonderful hall packed with cheering crowds—the beauty of the setting and the brilliant games played, especially on the one table on the Thursday and Friday nights. But they were at Wembley—a satisfactory compensation which was well appreciated—as the letters I have received testify.

**I AM SATISFIED.**

I am satisfied, too, that the tremendous work which has been necessary during the past six months has been appreciated by all members of the Association. I feel, however, it is necessary to pay proper tribute to the workers responsible for the great success.

The Association is lucky in having at its disposal brilliant organisers, selfless workers and real enthusiasts, and after working with them for the past six months I want to pay my own tribute and to bring their services to the notice of all.

First of all, Morris Rose—his achievement in carrying through the tournament to schedule was remarkable. Eleven tables constantly in use from Monday to Friday, 14 hours a day, with 16 nations participating in men's and women's team matches, and all singles and doubles—and without a hitch! It is almost unbelievable, and I know he stayed up all through many a night to work it out.

To carry it through required concentration of a high order, tact, good humour and opportunism. When the triple-tie necessitated alteration to all his well-laid plans we thought Morris was "stumped." Not a bit of it! He had it all worked out, and when he put his plans before a hurried conference we could do nothing but say "O.K." to his suggestions. A real genius—well done, Morris!

**THE REFEREE'S WORK.**

In addition to the work done as Referee it should be mentioned that he was largely responsible for the earlier arrangements—booking the Hall, working out the plan of the tables, equipment, lighting, flooring, &c. All the negotiations with the Albert Hall were conducted by him.

Second, Godfrey Decker—who carried out the Equipment arrangements. Whenever I have seen him during the past six months he has always brought out his famous "postcards." One postcard for each problem, lighting, floor, nets, tables, clocks, scoring machines, dressing rooms, rest rooms, the hundred and one items coming under the term "equipment." He worked all night on the Sunday before the opening—he worked all night when it finished. On each of the 11 courts were water, glass, packet of bandage, and bottle of iodine. Down to the minutest detail everything was perfect—well done, Godfrey, good comrade, good sport, and—hard worker!

Third, Charlton, Hospitality Secretary. Innocent title but—work schedule, arrange all hotels, meet 150 foreign players arriving all dates and times, booking and allocating rooms, arrange lunches for all at Victoria and Albert Museum, arrange dinners for all at Albert Hall, arrange transport each day to Albert Hall (four charabancs), transport players to Wembley, check all accounts, pay all bills, etcetera, etcetera AND etcetera. Charlton worked night and day—meticulous and enthusiastic—no hitch here!

**TOWER OF BABEL.**

Fourth, Stan Diment—O.C. Interpreters, hard worker, there all the time, organised all the "languages"—how many ticklish situations saved by this diplomat with the Tower of Babel in his charge! Always about—willing, anxious, and—successful.

Then, Hills, Emdin and Vennell—Umpires and Stewards. How confidently we looked to these officials to carry out their duties satisfactorily! Some hundreds of volunteers organised, instructed, timed, it is difficult to visualise the hard work called for, but everything went like clock-work—well done!

Ladies last! Miss Smits, Miss G. Capper, Miss B. Capper, Miss Stevens, Mrs. Poupard—medals and trophies, magazines, tickets, and the organisation of the successful Reception and Dance, general utility, all efficiently and willingly done—good work!

These were the "key" men and women. But there were dozens of others. Miss Phylis Anderton—I see her now at the switchboard in the Referee's Office, telephone at ear, writing score cards, entering results, answering questions, advising, suggesting all at the same time—but calm, cool and collected—with Messrs. Lewis and Bush.

**THE LADIES AND PRESS.**

Jack Batty and his "sparring partner," McGuire, O.C. Press Room; White, of the Civil Service, Referees' deputy, quietly efficient and invaluable in a "jam"; Frank Wilson, Cameron, Milton and many others. Assisting Hills, Wright and Ashcroft of the Business Houses, "key-men" in a most complicated task—smoothing out chaos and building up before the end a "clock-work" system, helping Vennell, Cohen, Kurzman, Milligan, Oulds, London League's contribution to the administration. Invaluable and experienced organisers, lending a willing hand always, were Miss White, Miss Finch, Mrs. Milligan, Leslie Bennett and F. G. Mannooch. Our Mrs. Carrington cheerily bustled anywhere and everywhere, and we cannot forget the invaluable Honeyball and Johnson putting in the results of the experience gained at the 1935 event at their London University.

The Table Stewards should be in a class by themselves—theirs the hardest task, sitting day after day, carrying on the matches with little relief and relaxation, they must be *specially* thanked and their work *specially* appreciated.

Our President, Mr. Oldroyd, casting a benignant eye over the busy scene, and our Treasurer, Bill Vint, active, energetic, responsible, always available to settle a trouble, to smooth over a snag, to give the best of advice and to "pull his coat off" when necessary. Cherry optimist and good pal. Table tennis owes much to this unassuming, efficient and wise administrator—how much only we, who know his work, can appreciate.

**AND THE NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN.**

A special paragraph should deal with our Chairman, Ivor Montagu. His was the key task of non-playing Captain. Upon the success of his team depended the financial success of the tournament, because if England did well, more publicity would be obtained and greater interest amongst the non-players.

He took his task seriously, fathered his "boys," and never left them. At every match there he was, watching intently, thinking out the correct tactics, advising sympathising, encouraging.

In addition, he had the task of guiding and managing three sessions of the International Congress.

It was interesting to see him make a speech, translate it into French and German, and retranslate the points in discussion. I did not envy the President of the I.T.T.F.

Mrs. Bunbury, in her new role of non-playing Captain of the Women, justified her appointment. Her care and consideration for the team was no mean factor in their success—well done, Manchester again!

I was proud and happy to work with such a team. And I am glad to be able here and now to record for the information of all some detail of what, during the week, looked like an ant-hill at work. The printers are waiting for this "copy." I know there are many who did valuable work who have not been mentioned, and apologise in advance for omitting them from this appreciation—but the valuable work of all is recorded and we shall all be "meeting again."

# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!!

**A**ND so has come to an end the 1938 World Championships, undoubtedly the finest ever. A packed-out Wembley was a fitting compliment to an equally brilliant Albert Hall, where Mr. Rose, the referee, earned the thanks of the whole table tennis world by directing operations in a way that was little short of miraculous.

Only those who have had experience of running tournaments can have the vaguest idea of what it meant to successfully keep to such a scheduled timetable.

Much has been written of the vast amount of work done by Mr. Pope, the organiser, before Albert Hall and Wembley became *ipso facto*, so it would be redundant to go over that again. But that a long rest is deserved by both Mr. Rose and Mr. Pope can be appreciated by anyone who tried to interview them during Championship Week—and saw them surrounded by reporters, players, papers, Wembley tickets and beer bottles (for exclusive consumption by distinguished visitors).

The difficulties of the officials were not lessened by the problem of finding, in the midst of a babel of tongues, the right interpreters at the right moment. How, for instance, to convince the non-English speaking Latvian Captain that one could not, and should not, on principle, post a letter in a fire alarm box. An easy thing to explain, but just try it.

**A** GREAT mistake, I think, was the absence of a Cook's Information Bureau. It must be embarrassing to be asked why it is our public buildings are built clean in front and dirty behind; and whether the St. John's ambulance people present were "stormguards" to prevent zealous opportunists from making political speeches.

There was an abundance of stewards and umpires—three to each table; and a time-clock as stern warning to would-be chisellers. The outstanding feature was the remarkable success of the lower net as an aid to attack. Unenterprising play is now practically dead, and with one or two exceptions, "hitting to glory" was the general rule.

Summing up, we can justifiably say the whole affair was an unqualified success, both from the spectators' and players' point of view. The "gate" was satisfactory; there was scarcely a dull moment, and once again thanks are due to Messrs. Rose and Pope and their many hundreds of volunteer helpers for their really fine effort.

## THE FINAL AT WEMBLEY.

**V**ANA, the new Czechoslovakian world champion, demonstrated once and for all that defensive tactics, even by such a brilliant exponent as Bergmann, his opponent in the final, does not pay.

The first game was fairly ding-dong, and was won by Bergmann, 22-20, Vana doing most of the attacking. In the second game a metamorphosis took place in Vana. From a fairly harmless and inoffensive little man, with a good hit and equally good defence, he changed into what must have seemed to Bergmann a fury-ridden and relentless Nemesis; he simply waded in and smashed everything that came over, leaping about like a cat on hot bricks to ensure himself being in position for his forehand attack (he is relatively weak on the backhand wing). Bergmann, in spite of truly wonderful retrieving, could not cope with such a salvo and conceded the game with only nine points to his credit. The audience showed their appreciation of the efforts of both players by nearly bringing the roof down.



By courtesy of J. H. L. Adams, Birmingham.

Viktor Barna flicks one over to Vana in world singles semi-final. Notice the perfect balance of body and feet as the champion finishes the stroke.

The third and fourth games were more or less repetitions of the second, though tempered with more cautiousness on the part of Vana. He attacked, but contented himself with full-length top-spin drives, smashing only at certainties.

In gaining the title for the first time, Vana proved himself a worthy champion. He has a superb hit, magnificent defence, and his footwork is a revelation.

*To his predecessor, Bergmann, we can only say "hard luck." His amazing agility and retrieving powers could not carry him through this time as it has done on so many other occasions; but a little criticism regarding his tactics in the final might not be amiss. It was noticeable that whenever he hit—and how he can hit—he nearly always gained the point; and yet he concentrated mainly on defence. It is easy, perhaps natural, to say that Vana would not let him hit, but one cannot rise to be world's champion without having a will of one's own, and who knows what might not have happened had Bergmann played a more all-round game.*

BY C. M. HUTT

**C**HIEF interest in the preceding rounds was the match in which Vana defeated Barna. Barna (still first favourite with the crowd) was badly off form and his famous backhand lacked the sting for which it is noted. This might be explained by the fact that he had been playing all the week with a wrist that had not yet fully recovered from a bad sprain. Whatever the reason, Vana won fairly comfortably in three straight games, and the crowd, without prejudice to the latter's fine achievement, were disappointed of the prospects of a Barna/Bergmann final.

In the other semi-final, Hazi, with a bad foot, fell an easy victim to Bergmann. He nevertheless continued to be spectacular, and the audience, aware of his injury, gave him an appreciative send-off.

The men's doubles, between Barna/Bellak and Schiff/McClure, should have gone to the Hungarians. There was really no excuse for losing. They were leading 15-10 and 19-16 in the fifth game. Taking into account Bellak's usual recklessness, there was yet no grounds for the very many attempts to kill impossible balls. To McClure, however, must go all credit for hitting six outright winners at 16-19, thus retaining the title for America.

The women's final, between Miss Pritzi, of Austria, and Miss Depetrisova, of Czechoslovakia, was disappointing. In the first game Miss Depetrisova went all out in a fruitless attempt to hit Miss Pritzi off the table. This being unsuccessful, the second game developed into a chiselling match, and, for the first time ever in England, the two finalists were booted. From that moment until the end of the match (three straight games, in favour of Pritzi), every attacking shot was ironically cheered and applauded. Whether or not the audience were as sportsmanlike and indulgent as they might have been, is a matter of personal opinion, but outstanding is the death knell that has been sounded to unenterprising play.

To Miss Wendy Woodhead we take off our hats for being the first English girl to hold a world title—the mixed doubles, with Bellak as partner. They did extraordinarily well to beat Vana and Votrubcova, but I think it was some time before Bellak could believe that he really held the title of mixed doubles champion. It is a pity really, as it spoils his perfectly unique record of being more times in final events than anyone else without having won a title.

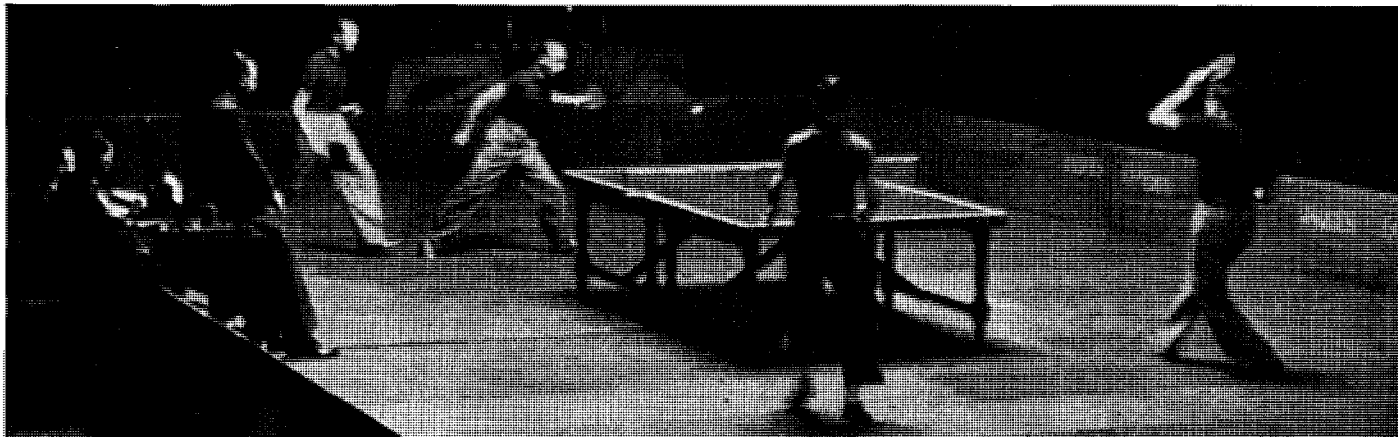
## THE SWAYTHLING CUP.

**E**NGLAND started off well in the Swaythling Cup. Two 5-0 victories, against Wales and Latvia, respectively. Our boys came down to earth, however, with a thump when they met the U.S.A. team. In beating McClure, Bubleby was the only member of the team who took a set, and the score, 5-1, was fairly representative of the superiority of the visitors.

Undeterred by this defeat, England made no mistakes after that. They beat Germany



## ACTION!!!



By courtesy of J. H. L. Adams, Birmingham.

An exciting moment at Wembley. Solly Schiff, American hurricane hitter, tries to put one "away," but Laszlos Bellak is there. Viktor Barna is crossing to position and Jimmy McClure is ready waiting for the return. Schiff and McClure beat Barna and Bellak for the world title.

5-3, crashed through Ireland without dropping a game, and then, to the general surprise, and for the first time in history, they defeated Poland. Ehrlich, whose very appearance at the table is worth five points to him, was, however, unbeaten, and the three games with which Poland was credited came from him.

The position at this juncture was interesting. Poland was out of it. U.S.A. had lost one match (to Austria), and was the only team which could so far claim a victory over England. England, to force a triple tie, had to beat Austria, hitherto unbeaten; and the fact that we did it (5-4) was a truly sensational victory, forecast by none. At four games all, it fell to Filby to play the deciding set against Goebel, and he made short work of it, hitting his opponent off for 21-15, 21-15.

So far as further progress was concerned, however, this was England's parting fling. In the play-off with both Austria and U.S.A., she failed rather bleakly, losing 1-5 to both countries.

*The replay between Austria and America produced the most brilliant table tennis ever seen; outstanding from which was the match between Bergmann and Schiff. Schiff, the hardest hitter in the world, was allowed full opportunity to display his prowess. But Bergmann had a complete answer for everything. He retrieved balls from the most amazing angles.*

**H**E often had Schiff beaten by the sheer surprise of his returns. Bergmann won the first game, 22-20, but lost the second 18-21. Schiff, in the third, could not keep up the terrific pace, and he cracked completely, losing 7-21. The sustained applause which greeted Bergmann's victory has never, I imagine, been equalled, and the cheers which greeted the final eclipse of the Americans (for a year at least), were as much for the sporting losers as for the winners.

In the other half, Hungary had been having a comfortable time. They had regained their old dominance, and though they had some anxious moments against France and Czechoslovakia, they went through to the top without a single defeat. They then supplemented their success by beating Austria in the final. Thus, in spite of adverse prophecies, they once again succeeded in taking the Swaythling Cup back to Hungary.

Appended below is a list of individual performances by members of the English Swaythling Cup Team.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.
Lurie ... ..	12	7	5
Bubley ... ..	13	9	4
Filby ... ..	14	8	6
Bergl ... ..	3	3	—
Hyde ... ..	4	4	—

#### THE CORBILLON CUP.

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to the ladies. In coming second in the Corbillon Cup, they were nearer their goal than ever before. Their success, however, must be modified by certain features. The absence of the German team, on whom we have never succeeded in inflicting a defeat, was a great help; whilst the absence of Miss Aarons and Miss Fuller so weakened the American team as to make them almost a negligible quantity—at least so far as we were concerned.

Nevertheless, the performance put up by Miss Osborne, Miss D. M. Emdin, Miss Jordan and Miss Hodgkinson, more than justified both themselves and the Selection Committee. They had their off moments, but in the main played at the top of their form.

Mrs. Bunbury, non-playing captain, is to be congratulated on the manner in which she graded the players against the various countries, though I think that in the match against Czechoslovakia Miss Jordan and Miss Hodgkinson, as a defensive doubles pair would have stood a great chance of success against Miss Depetrisova and Miss Votrubcova than Miss Osborne and Miss Emdin.

England's only defeat was at the hands of Czechoslovakia, the new holders. Apart from this, from a grand total of 29 individual games, they dropped only three—a record for which they can surely be proud, and the more determined next year to surpass.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.
Miss Osborne ... ..	7	4	3
Miss D. M. Emdin ... ..	3	3	0
Miss Jordan ... ..	8	6	2
Miss Hodgkinson ... ..	2	2	0
Miss Osborne and Miss Emdin	7	6	1
Miss Jordan and Miss Hodgkinson	2	2	0

#### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

The Souvenir Programme published in connection with the World Championships can now be obtained price 1/-, post free. It contains 32 pages of matter of interest to all players, the final results of each event, including the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup competitions, photographs, articles &c., &c.

It is well worth having as a record of a memorable event in the history of the game and as there are only a limited number left members should apply, with remittance, as soon as possible.

#### FOREIGN TOURS

**F**OLLOWING a Civic reception at the Mansion House, Newcastle, which was reciprocated in the evening when the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, and the civic party attended the St. James' Boxing Hall. There were 4,000 spectators, and many more turned away.

The only disappointment was the absence of Vana but this was amply compensated by the attendance of Haydon and Filby on their first appearance in Newcastle and who were incidentally on top of their form.

The crowd was in expectant mood and ready to be humoured. Barna was the "star" attraction and made up for his previous visit when he was off form. Bellak who seems to reserve his best for Newcastle, where he is the favourite, added to his popularity, but it was left to Arthur Haydon when opposing Barna to provide the high spot of the evening.

His attack was superb against Barna's brilliant defence and the crowd got what they wanted—hard hitting and more hard hitting, while Barna and Bellak provided a wonderful singles finale.

A special word of praise is due to our "locals," Tommy Ewbank and Edgar Reay, of whom the crowd never tires.

**The general consensus of opinion at the conclusion is that Newcastle wants more Barna, Bellak, Szabados and Haydon.**

## IRISH PAGE.

# THE IRISH PLAYERS NEED COACHING

## Lessons of World Championships

BY "SEAMUS"

**N**OW that the World Championships are over and we have time to review the Irish team's performances, we find the results are even better than the most sanguine of their supporters had hoped.

The difference between our players and those of other nations was very slight, being mainly in the inability to keep the rally going long enough to get the right ball before attempting winners. If they could only get some first class coaching they would in all probability hold their own in any country.

This, however, will now have to wait until next year. Why not let the results of this year's different Championships decide who shall be coached.

*By this I do not mean the different finalists, but those who show promise even though they may be beaten in the first or second rounds. The main point in coaching should be to improve those who have all or most of the shots. Concentrating on those who are really good and those who are young enough to benefit by such coaching.*

The approaching visit to Dublin of Vana, Bergmann, Bellak, and the one and only Viktor Barna is creating great interest.

Every effort is being made to secure a hall big enough to hold in comfort the number of spectators who will want to see these players.

**D**UBLIN table tennis fans are offered the finest treat ever, they will now have an opportunity of seeing the four finest exponents of the game.

With the exception of Bellak they were all in the semi-finals of the men's singles, Barna and Bellak were most unfortunate to lose the final of the men's doubles, while Vana and Bellak were on opposite sides in the mixed doubles final.

The Inter-League matches should prove very interesting. While the two newcomers appear to have very slender chances of victory over their stronger rivals.

Weakness on paper, however, is not an infallible guide to actual play and either may cause a surprise.

These Inter-League competitions is a step in the right direction, plenty of new and untried players will get their first opportunity of "hitting" their way to the front.

*It is possible that these matches may result in the discovery of a future champion. Our home players must have the courage to enter championships even though they seem to have no chance of winning matches.*

*Even champions start at the bottom and they all have to "make the grade."*

**V**ERY often one set taken from a really good player who plays in the Senior Division of the League gives the beginner more confidence in himself than does the winning of twenty League matches in his own division.

**I**T is with the deepest regret that we have to record the sudden death of Mr. A. J. Sweeney. One of the stalwart of table tennis, he was Hon. Secretary of the Dublin and District League and later Hon. Secretary of the I.F.S.T.T. Association.

In the Senior Division of the Leinster League, the race between Norwood (holders) and Optimists is proving very exciting.

At the time of writing, both these teams are level with only a few matches still to be played. In all probability a test-match will have to be played before the ultimate winners are found. In the corresponding division of the Dublin and District League, Acme (holders), are only one point ahead of Optimists.

Here again there remains but a few matches to be played but it is likely that Messrs. Kemp and Company will once again see to it that Acme finish at the top.

### A FINE NEW CLUB

On Tuesday, February 15th, I was invited to go along to the opening of the new Club of the Midland Bank Sports Association. Made possible by the enthusiasm of Mr. M. Ostler (Secretary of our Abbey League) and the generosity of the Directors of the Bank, the Club is unique for the facilities it provides for players living in London.

Five Courts have been rented by the Club. With two tables in each, they make ideal conditions for table tennis. Lighting is perfect, fine floor, run back, and there are shower baths and slipper baths, running buffet and rest room.

There are 300 branches of the Bank in the London area and already about 150 players have joined. Lucky employees of the Midland Bank!

W. J. P.

### THE WILMOTT CUP, 1937-38

#### Round 4 Draw

Grimsby v. Manchester  
Macclesfield v. Liverpool  
Bristol v. London  
Luton v. Barking

Home teams mentioned first. All ties to be played on or before Saturday, FEBRUARY 26, 1938.

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(English International and Swaythling Cup Player)

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ANY TIME

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### NATIONAL CHAMPS.

(Continued from page 1.)

I don't think our girls were ever seriously worried by the foreigners. Miss Woodhead simply countered the forehand hitting of the red haired Beregi with even harder hitting, and she was more than a shade more accurate in her placings. The flat hitting of Beregi didn't seem to trouble Margaret Osborne much either, at any rate, she got it all back. The team work of the English girls stood out a mile, because Ferenczy was all too frequently out of position for the returns.

**I**T is inexplicable how our girls came to be literally exterminated in the women's singles, because the foreign entry was nothing like so dangerous as in the world championships. Doris Jordan almost got there and thoroughly deserved the praise she got. She had perhaps one fright in the last sixteen against Maroucha Azque, the French girl. Miss Azque gave a much brighter performance than I, indeed, thought possible. She had the luck of the draw, and was unfortunate in catching Doris at a moment when her own game fell far below par. A pat on the back for Miss Jordan. When she realised that her own game wasn't all that it might have been, she hung fire, and let her opponent make the mistakes. That was how she won in the fifth set. The scores were 14 all, and she won at 21-15. That's the spirit I like.

**A far different Miss Jordan beat Mrs. Hutchings to the wide in the semi-final. "Twinks" was, I think, as amazed as we were when Doris planted those winners down the lines. She attacked with a vigour that promised well for the finals. But alas!! The bounding Beregi proceeded to hit the English girl out of the game completely.**

Whatever mistakes Miss Beregi made in the doubles were not evident in her singles. That deadly flat forehand hit of hers did the damage. She hit clean through Doris Jordan in every set. Miss Jordan must glean whatever consolation from the fact that I have seldom seen a woman hitter like Beregi, and on the face of it very few players could have stopped those winners. Well done, Doris, for getting so far.

Ken Stanley, fifteen-year-old Manchester player, of course, won his junior title, when he beat Johnny Archer of London. They gave us a fine game for juniors, and should both do well later on in higher company. I have not forgotten that Stanley produced the sensation of the tournament by beating Ernie Bublely, but that is, after all, old news now.

#### RESULTS.

**Singles—Men's:** G. V. Barna (Hungary) beat L. Bellak (Hungary) 21-15, 21-16, 21-18; **Women's:** D. Beregi (Hungary) beat D. Jordan (England) 21-17, 21-17, 21-16. **Doubles—Men's:** Barna and Bellak beat Boros (Hungary) and Ehrlich (Poland) 21-14, 21-10, 21-15; **Women's:** Miss M. Osborne (Birmingham) and Miss W. Woodhead (Amer-sham) beat Miss I. Ferenczy and Miss Beregi (Hungary) 15-21, 21-10, 21-15, 21-9; **Mixed:** Barna and Miss Osborne beat Bellak and Miss Woodhead 20-21, 21-18, 21-18, 21-19.

# Northern Flashes

from

**S. W. RICHARDSON**

**G**ROVE House seem certain to win the Manchester League championship this season. They are unbeaten to date, and have a fine sets record. Still captained by that ever-popular and old war horse Freddy Cromwell, they have a good all-round team. B. Casofsky is proving a worthy No. 2 to Freddy.

Manchester Y.M.C.A., the Manchester League champions, have only lost one match, that being to Grove House, but have been handicapped by team worries. A. G. Millar, their international, has been ill and is only just back again. He has only made a few appearances this season. C. W. Davies and Ken Stanley have been the mainstay of the team.

*Who were the two journalists who beat a well-known international in partnership with an E.T.T.A. official at 2 a.m. on February 5 at a certain Blackpool hotel?*

*It was said there was a round of drinks at stake.*

**M**ACCLESFIELD League have a grand player in D. S. Heaps, and it is unfortunate in many ways he could not get into better company earlier on. He has table tennis in him.

The new Lancashire Association for minor leagues is proving a successful organisation, thanks to the hard work of its founder, Bill Worsley, of Blackpool. I should like to see all the leagues in Lancashire join this competition next season. It would be well worth their while.

I hear Mr. Jack Siddron, who was honorary secretary of the E.T.T.A. a little while back, has recently become engaged.

*Wedding bells in the air again!*

**M**ANCHESTER are very proud of their fifteen-years-old Ken Stanley, whom they look upon as the player of the future. His popular win over E. Bublely in the English open was acclaimed with joy everywhere. Stanley's improvement in table tennis has been gradual, and this is looked upon as a good omen. He didn't just jump into the picture like most of the stars of to-day and yesterday.

*I hear a well-known table tennis figure in the north is now devoting his time trying to teach his tame budgerigar how to talk. Whether he hopes to introduce it to some tournament as a scorer is not known. Someone would get the bird, anyway.*

*Cupid has also been shooting arrows round Manchester players recently. More news later.*

**I** HEAR a well-known official, dashing to Blackpool in his fast car for the English open, was pulled up by the new Lancashire police courtesy squad and told a "few truths" about risks. Unfortunately the constable wasn't a table tennis fan.

Table tennis is getting into all Manchester business houses, and it is a common sight to see the manager getting off a few pounds during the lunch hour with the cheeky office boy as his opponent, and the office cat as spectator.

Four Manchester enthusiasts, including an international, bought up the refreshment bar on Crewe station at 4 a.m. on January 30. Mid-night travelling after Wembley was evidently a hungry job. But still Hung(a)ry lost.

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**AT THE CIVIC HALL, EXETER**  
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 Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Ladies' Singles, Ladies' Doubles, Junior Singles.  
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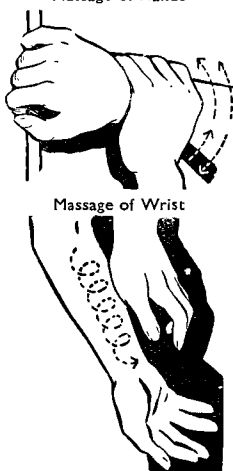
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**Book early and be sure of your seat!**

# ALL PROVINCIAL NEWS

**B**ATH league tournaments are just starting. This year, by a majority vote, there has been no seeding **BATH**. whatsoever, and in the handicap games each player is being handicapped at each round.

The tournaments arranged are the singles and doubles championships of Bath, a second division championship, open to only second division players, and the singles and doubles handicap. H. T. F. Buse is the present champion. He has held this championship ever since the Bath league has been started, mainly since season 1932-3. This year, however, he has suffered his first competitive defeat when playing for Y. M. Sens. "A" against Oldfield Baptists, he lost a hard-fought game to J. Butcher.

In the first round of the doubles championship H. T. F. Buse and J. Offer, the holders, have been drawn at home against J. Butcher and his team mate F. Derrick. This should be an excellent game.

The second division championship is a new competition, being started this year. This is taking the place of the team knock-out handicap. It is hoped that this competition will improve the younger players and make them keener, and consequently bring forward a likely player good enough for the Bath team.

With regard to the Bath team, this month they have received and lost to Cardiff by 12 points to 1. The home point fell to the honour of Bath's number one, H. T. F. Buse, who beat T. Smith in a match which went to best of three games. Although not winning points, C. Bristow and K. Ullis put up a good show only losing by narrow margins in best of three.

League play has produced some good games this season. Y. M. Sens. "A" team are still at the top of division one, being unbeaten for the last two seasons. Their team consists of J. Offer, C. Bristow and C. England, who play in nearly every game.

**E**XETER beat South Devon by 9 sets to 2 in the Final of the Sir Edgar Plummer Cup at the Public Hall, Paignton before a record number of spectators.

**EXETER.** The score certainly flatters Exeter as South Devon put up a better fight than the score of 9-2 suggests. The winners were undoubtedly the better side but they had to fight "all out" throughout the match. Litten and Grigg were unbeaten, but Turner and Rossiter both beat Suter in straight games. Five out of the nine remaining sets went to three games. At the conclusion of the match, Lady Plummer presented the Cup to Exeter, and Mr. G. W. H. Spanton, the Chairman of the Paignton Council, thanked Lady Plummer for attending and Mr. Arthur Brock, J.P., of Exeter, replied on behalf of Lady Plummer. The match was the best ever seen in the South Devon district.

## WILMOTT CUP RESULTS.

### THIRD ROUND.

Stockport 2, Macclesfield 7; Ashton 0, Manchester 9; Liverpool 5, Birmingham 3; Cambridge 0, Grimsby 9; Bristol 8, Bournemouth 1; Barking 5, Surrey 1; Dartford 0, London 9; Luton 5, Thames Valley 4.

**B**OURNEMOUTH N.A.L.G.O., who beat North Bournemouth 15-10, now lead in the First Division, and **BOURNEMOUTH.** their meeting at the North Bournemouth Club, on March 8, will probably decide the championship.

The Third Hampshire Open Tournament, held at the North Bournemouth Club, on January 21 and 22, was a great success, and a record entry was received, the men's singles numbering 60. This event was won by R. F. Litten, of Exeter, who beat H. W. Roberts, of Whitefields Club, London, 21-16, 17-21, 21-15, 21-15. Miss B. Wright (St. Albans) beat Miss M. McDonald, the Bournemouth champion, in two straight games in the women's singles. The men's doubles was won by R. F. Litten and H. J. Amery (Exeter) who beat G. Platt and E. Dunckley 21-16, 21-14. Litten, partnered by Miss Joan Brock, won the mixed doubles in two straight games from K. Caines and Miss M. MacDonald (Bournemouth) at 21-17, 21-11. Mrs. Enticott and Miss Bartlett, of Southampton, beat the Misses Freeman, of Portsmouth, in the women's doubles.

**INTER-TOWN RESULTS—Bournemouth 8, Salisbury 4; Portsmouth 6, Bournemouth 19; Portsmouth Ladies 18, Bournemouth Ladies 7; Southampton 17, Bournemouth 8; Southampton Ladies 19, Bournemouth Ladies 6.**  
**THIRD ROUND WILMOTT CUP—Bristol 8, Bournemouth 1.**

**G**REAT interest is being taken locally in the West of England tournament at the Civic Hall on Saturday, March 12, especially as it is known that such famous players **EXETER.** as B. Vana, V. Barna, R. Bergmann and L. Bellak are competing.

E. J. Filby, the English Swaythling Cup player and holder of the Singles, Doubles and Mixed titles, will be defending his Singles title. We wish him the best of luck.

Arrangements have been made for Councillor T. J. W. Templeman, the deputy Mayor of Exeter, to welcome the visitors and for a broadcast of one of the Final events between 9 and 9.20 p.m.

Congratulations to R. F. Litten, Exeter's International, on winning three Hampshire titles, the Singles, Men's Doubles with H. J. Amery and the Mixed Doubles with Miss J. Brock, also the Dorset Singles by defeating the holder, L. R. Suter, also of Exeter. The Dorset Men's Doubles were won by W. Tucker and L. C. Kerlake (Exeter) and the Mixed Doubles by L. R. Suter and Miss J. Brock.

St. Thomas Methodist are now almost certain of retaining the Championship of the First Division of the League, but their Second and Third Division teams are not so well placed and at the moment look like losing the Championship, to the Exeter Y.M.C.A. "C" and Colts respectively.

**S**WINDON are still unbeaten in the Western Counties League. Each team in the League has now been met and defeated as follows: Bristol 10-2 and **UNBEATEN SWINDON.** 7-6, Cardiff 9-4, Ilfracombe 11-0, and Bath 12-2 and 14-0. Swindon, therefore, head the

league with an aggregate of 63 events to 14. Good work!

The women have not been beaten since the inception of inter-league matches three years ago. This season Cardiff were defeated by 10 events to 3, Oxford 22 games to 3, and Bristol (twice) 9-3, and 7-5.

Pursuing their progressive policy, trials have been held for the Swindon team and also for the women players. The younger players were especially encouraged and judging by the form shown, Swindon should have no team worries for several seasons.

St. Paul's is the only unbeaten team in Division I, with Central Mission hard on their heels with one defeat. In the ladies' league, Okus Sports Club have beaten both of their nearest rivals, Garrards and Lucania, and are favourites for the Championship. Miss C. Jones added to her laurels by winning the Dorset "Open" and also the Women's Doubles.

**T**HE West Middlesex Table Tennis Tournament takes place from Monday, March 21 to April 2. These Championships have been held since **W. EALING CHAMPS.** 1930, when they were started by S. T. Westlake and when Table Tennis was beginning

to feel its feet, and in connection with the commencement of same great help was extended to the former by W. J. Pope, our hard working Association Secretary.

Looked upon as one of the major tournaments in England, well run and organized, with a spacious hall, four tables and plenty of run back, it has increased in popularity.

Well-known players who have won the Men's Championships are R. D. Jones, F. J. Perry, B. de Condappa, J. Dass, A. D. Brook, M. B. W. Bergl, S. Coles.

The Ladies' Cup has been won outright by Miss V. Bromfield, and last year Miss C. Wheaton had only to do so to make it her own property, but after reaching the final she was beaten by Miss W. Woodhead.

West Ealing Club is in Mervyn Road, W. Ealing, W. 13, six minutes' walk from Northfields or Boston Manor District Stations, or 97 'bus from Ealing Broadway Stations to Mayfield Avenue.

The Tournament Secretary is A. F. Scarman, 7, Elthorne Park Road, Hanwell, W. 7.

**T**HE best season ever is the general opinion of the game in Coventry. A record number of 55 teams **COVENTRY.** are affiliated, and nearly 350 entries were received for the Annual Tournaments. A party of 50 travelled to Wembley for the finals of the World Championships.

The foreign tourists paid a visit on February 14, and on February 17 the Coventry Championships were played at the Central Baths, where six tables were in use.

A new team Handicap Competition is proving very popular, and the Singles Tournament, organised by "The Midland Daily Telegraph," has created tremendous interest locally. In the Midland Counties League, Coventry have met with only one defeat, and have a chance of winning the championship.



**A**S the season carries on so does the enthusiasm for table tennis in Lincolnshire increase and two recent successes have given much encouragement. The first was the amazing 9-0 victory of Grimsby away over Cambridge in a well contested Wilmott cup-tie which placed the "Mariners" in the last eight. They have been rewarded with a great home tie with Manchester, three internationals, and of course this is by far their better effort in this competition. In Manchester they tackle the highest standard of English play and the experience should do much good.

The second was the unexpected 7-2 victory of the County Men's team over a strong Nottinghamshire side at Worksop in the County Championship. The home match at Sleaford had previously resulted in a 5-4 win for Nottinghamshire, but at Worksop the attacks of the Lincolnshire players led them to a handsome victory. Albert Hall obtained another convincing trio.

Contestants from all over Lincolnshire will compete in the Finals of the Lincolnshire Closed Championships at Grimsby on March 9 and a most interesting evening will be certain. The progress of the two inter-town leagues can be judged by the following charts:—

**HAIGH CUP.**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Grimsby ... ..	4	4	0	0	58	6	8
Lincoln ... ..	4	3	0	1	41	23	6
Spalding ... ..	5	2	0	3	37	43	4
Boston ... ..	5	0	0	5	8	72	0

**SUBSIDIARY COMPETITION.**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Louth ... ..	9	8	0	1	115	29	15
Woodhall Spa ... ..	12	5	1	6	90	86	11
Scunthorpe ... ..	6	5	0	1	76	20	10
Skegness ... ..	7	4	0	3	51	45	8
Horncastle ... ..	9	4	0	5	53	91	8
Mablethorpe ... ..	8	2	0	6	38	90	4
Alford ... ..	7	0	1	6	25	87	1

**T**HE Ashton League with 44 clubs and 64 teams is the proud possessor of 14 silver trophies and in addition 126 prizes are awarded to the

**ASHTON-U-LYNE.** winning teams and runners-up. Ashton had the honour of the presence of the Association President, Mr. H. Oldroyd, who made the presentations at a crowded presentation dance. Who knows, this season, Ashton may be after the great W.J.P. to come along and make the presentations.

In the Senior Division, Carlton, who have not dropped a single point during the last two seasons, seem likely to carry everything before them again.

**H. Renshaw, Carlton No. 1, has the distinction of being the only player in the league who is yet undefeated. Renshaw has a great record, he has never missed a first division match since he joined the league five seasons ago. A keen fight is being waged between Stalybridge Holy Trinity and Portland House for second place.**

In Division II, Stalybridge Liberals lead Carlton "A" by one point and a tough fight is anticipated before the Championship is decided with the Liberals as favourites. The Liberals should also win the Gaunt Cup (which was presented by Mr. Gaunt, the league's first treasurer).

Division III West are providing the keenest of games, only three points dividing

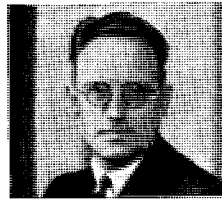
the top four clubs. Guide Lane Meths. or Waterloo Meths. will most likely provide the winners. These two clubs are also in the final of the Brown Cup.

In the Southern Section, Stalybridge Social and Victor Mill, two neighbouring clubs, are fighting a lone battle for league honours, and as these two have to meet in the final of the Salthouse Cup, the honours may yet be divided.

St. Mary's, St. James' M.C. and the Parish "A" are the best of the Northern Section, with St. Mary's the likely winners of the league and Harrop Cup. St. James' may carry second place honours in the league, whilst the Parish are assured of runners-up prizes, should St. Mary's pull off the double.

**W**OOLOWICH, one of the ten largest associations in the country, is adopting a progressive policy. Mr. A. L. Ferris, who took over the Secretaryship at the latter end of last season, with the help of a very able Executive Council, led by Mr. Chas. Cooper, the President and Chairman, is expanding in North and West Kent.

The Association enlarged their divisions to seven this year, covering some 40 clubs, including two ladies' divisions, and have also just completed a record closed tournament of over 300 entries.



ARTHUR L. FERRIS (Woolwich).

Several honours have been already gained by members this season. Jack Rogers was capped against Wales, and E. Ridout won titles at the Kent closed tournaments.

Greatest of all was the honour of D. J. Cairns in being the only Englishman to get through to the last 16 in the World's Championships.

I hear that Woolwich propose forming a premier division next year to accommodate the strongest teams in the first division, and would be pleased to hear from one or two strong clubs in the South London or North Kent areas to make this premier division up to strength.

**T**HE second annual North East Lancashire Championships at Higham's Hall, Accrington, and the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Blackburn, were again a **N.E. LANCs.** huge success. The occasion was practically a reunion

of League cricketers from the rival Lancashire and Ribblesdale Leagues.

Alec Birtwell, the Nelson and Lancashire bowler, reached the semi-final in both singles and doubles, but was one of his club mate, Alan Matson's, most delighted supporters when he won the singles final for the second successive year, beating Tom Alston of Burnley; it was a popular victory when Tom Alston and J. K. Holmes won the doubles.

Ribblesdale had most honours in the Consolation event, for two youngsters, E. V. Bush and Eric Martin secured the doubles title, and the former lost in a thrilling singles final to C. Brunton a young Burnley teacher.

Sixteen year olds, J. Bromley and E. Hughes, both from Blackburn distinguished themselves, and were picked out as likely stars for next season.

Hundreds of North East Lancashire fans were there to swell the crowds at Blackpool the previous week, when the Hungarians asserted their supremacy. In fact so many had come along for another glimpse of Barna and Bellak that the cheers greeting their conquests were like the cheers given to local winners.

**T**HE Western Closed Tournament, open to all members of constituent Leagues, met with a wonderful response. In the men's singles the entry totals **BRISTOL.** 70, including all the Cardiff Welsh internationals, Joe Silto, Swindon's popular chairman, and English International and from Bristol, F. W. Hipkins present Association Champion, H. S. D. Hutchings whose form has so much to do with Bristol being in the last 8 of the Wilmott Cup, and the promising youngster, A. W. C. Simons. Bath send that fine all-round player, H. T. Buse, who will partner J. Offer, holder of "Evening World" Doubles title.

The doubles will be fought out by 30 pairs, the favourites being Tom and F. Smith from Cardiff, who reached the final of the Welsh Open. The provisional date for the final stages will be Bristol, March 19th. So West County fans watch your local papers for the venue, and other arrangements.

**LATEST RESULTS.**

League.	P.	W.	L.	P.
Swindon ... ..	5	5	0	10
Cardiff ... ..	4	3	1	6
Bristol ... ..	4	2	2	4
Ilfracombe ... ..	3	1	2	2
Bath ... ..	6	0	6	0

**FOREIGN TOUR Coventry**

Six hundred spectators at Coventry Gauge and Tool Club, all seats having been sold a fortnight previous. Vana joined the party, and his first appearance in England since winning the world's title, created additional interest. He beat Bergmann and Bellak, but lost to Barna in straight games. Bellak beat Barna in one of the best matches. H. Sharpe, a local player, was matched against Barna, and put up quite a good show.

In the afternoon the players made a tour of the Standard Motor Factory, and were afterwards entertained to tea.

**TOUR FIXTURES**

Tuesday, March 1, Wimbledon; Wednesday, March 2, Dartford; Thursday, March 3, Tottenham; Friday, March 4, Woolwich; Saturday, March 5, Southend; Sunday, March 6, (—); Monday, March 7, Ashton-u-Lyne; Tuesday, March 8, Derby; Wednesday, March 9, Shrewsbury; Thursday, March 10, Cricklewood; Friday, March 11, Rest; Saturday, March 12, Exeter; Sunday, March 13, (—); Monday, March 14, Lydney; Tuesday, March 15, Llanelly; Wednesday, March 16, Cardiff; Thursday, March 17, Sittingbourne; Friday, March 18, Acton; Saturday, March 19, Bedford; Sunday, March 20, (—); Monday, March 21, Cheltenham; Tuesday, March 22, Hackney; Wednesday, March 23, Rest; Thursday and Friday, March 24-25, Dublin; Saturday, March 26, Belfast; Monday, March 28, Bolton.

## THE INTERPRETERS WERE "GUIDES, PHILOSOPHERS AND FRIENDS"

By S. L. DIMENT

IF they had played table tennis in the days of the Old Testament, then conditions at the Albert Hall during the recent championships were surely the modern version of that famous incident. Like the Tower, the Albert Hall woke up one morning to find itself confounded by many tongues.

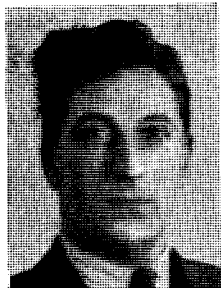
Work actually started on the Saturday and Sunday, January 22 and 23, when most of the teams were met at the various termini. On the Sunday, accompanied by Mr. Kelly with his shooting box and luggage van, and three or four private cars, we invaded Victoria Station—a party of strangers meeting strangers. Only two of us had met before some of the 1935 players who were again making the trip, but armed with rackets, and copies of the magazine we spaced ourselves along the platform.

Unluckily the boat train had been duplicated and after waving rackets and magazines in the faces of many innocent and unsuspecting foreigners who refused to be persuaded thereby that they had come here to play table tennis, we came to the conclusion that the 50-60 players we were awaiting must be in the second train.

This arrived soon afterwards and our flag-wagging immediately met with success.

Commandeering a portion of the platform as an "International Settlement" we shepherded arrivals together, and despatched little groups in the cars.

Others were bundled into a fleet of taxis to their respective hotels. Our band of volunteer interpreters covered the following languages: French, German, Dutch, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Hebrew, and during the week I called on 50 different volunteers.



S. L. Diment.

GETTING players from their hotels to the Albert Hall each morning meant some of these volunteers reporting to me at 8 a.m., and they did it.

This time we did not station an interpreter with each umpire and it was not until Wednesday and Thursday (when the Singles and Doubles competitions started) that we were really busy. Nearly 150 'phone calls asking for different players were dealt with on Wednesday, and nearly 200 on Thursday, and sometimes the whole building was searched to find one player. They were frequently not in their boxes, but fortunately no one was reported to be in his (or her) bath.

*During the week we acted as "guides, philosophers and friends" to the best of our ability, although one interpreter, when asked by a visitor where one "could eat and dance with ladies to whom one doesn't have to be introduced" replied "The Savoy or the Ritz!"*

Some of the French girls tried to post their letters in a Fire Alarm whilst some of the Poles thought the black and white grime effect on our buildings was part of the architects' or builders' pet scheme.

BUT to me, at any rate, the real *pièce de résistance* of the whole week was the report in a London daily paper of a conversation between M. Corbillon and Mr. Wilmott. As I was acting as interpreter the story is told first hand. After discussing the definition of the table and of the ball, Mr. Wilmott said to me, "The surface of the ball must not be smooth but rough, otherwise it cannot be gripped by the racket. The matt surface must be impregnated with pulverised pumice stone. Tell him that!" I replied that I did not know the French for pumice stone, but that I would get his meaning over. I asked M. Corbillon if he knew Naples and then Vesuvius and then asked what was the substance that the volcano cast out when in eruption. Having got that, the rest was easy. But the account in the London daily read as follows:—

*"Can you translate the official definition of a table-tennis surface into Latvian, Lithuanian, Hungarian or Arabic? In English it is 'A matt surface impregnated with pulverised pumice.' The Official interpreters gave it up. One, who was not official, exhibited a picture of Vesuvius in eruption and emptied over it some dust from his tobacco pouch. That helped a little." The reference to me as an unofficial interpreter is just too sweet.*

The Lithuanians were very intrigued with the switches and pushes in the hotel. Anything to press or push drew them like magnets. After switching lights on and off one appeared somewhat perplexed because nothing happened, although he kept on pressing the button of a bell-push. He was completely astounded when a chambermaid suddenly appeared.

**Looking back, I think we can congratulate ourselves on the work, the greater part of which was done behind the scenes (e.g., at the three Congress meetings), with little to bring it before the public's notice. We had a much better team of interpreters, as interpreters, than we had in 1935, although here and there it was obvious that one or two wanted to see the play but do no work.**

On behalf of the Championships Committee I thank them all for the help and time they put at our disposal—days off annual holidays in several cases and my only regret is that it will probably be another three years before we can hope to meet under similar circumstances again.

## FILBY'S "FRIGHT" IN LONDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE London Championships, at the Indian Students Union, provided international trialist L. Baron with what is easily the best opportunity he has had this season, or for that matter is likely to have. Baron reached all three finals. Quite a good performance, especially since he beat Tommy Sears and Stan Coles on the way to the singles final.

He should have beaten Eric Filby too after holding a two sets lead. Eric was all at sea in that first set, and only just scrambled into double figures. He was obviously disconcerted at the way in which Baron returned his back-hand flicks with his half volley defence. Baron adapted himself quickly also in the early games, and defended and attacked with pleasing variation, and picked his shots well.

But Filby fought back splendidly, and after being two down won in the third game. To his credit it is that although he lost the second set at 17, he won the remaining three each to 12.

And Connie Wheaton retained her women's singles with a win over Doris Jordan in straight sets at 21-18, 21-15. In justice she well deserved it, giving one of her usual steady, give-nothing-away games.

SHE got a double when with Bessie Wright, she beat the Misses Waters and Cabot, two very promising youngsters, appearing in their first open final, in two straight sets at 21-10, 21-12. It was a good spirited showing and I hope that more will be heard of both girls later. It is a good performance indeed to reach the final of the London.

In the mixed doubles of course, Arthur Haydon and Doris Jordan collected another scalp for their belt. They are, I should think, the best mixed pair we have to-day. Joan Harding and Baron, playing against the pair for the second time in a few weeks, put up a better show than 21-12, 21-17 suggests.

I was glad to see Hugh Jones in a winning partnership again. He and Baron surprised us all by beating Haydon and Benny Marcus (remember he was Wembley champion a couple of years ago) after losing the first set 21-15, and won the next three at 21-18, 21-11, 21-16.

And a word of praise for the hard working officials of the Indian Students Union. There have been many grumbles in the past, but the playing conditions this year were as good as any I have seen this season, and better than a great many. At any rate not a single complaint was raised. The provision of a third table upstairs made all the difference.

J. W. A. C.

**WORLD-FAMOUS PLAYERS**  
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**BELLAK**  
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# LOCAL GIRL BEATS THREE CORBILLON CUP STARS

## MISS OSBORNE LOSES IN MIDLANDS

By ADRIAN HAYDON

**A**S friend Maurice Goldstein was far too busy counting up the receipts it befalls my lot to tell you something about the 14th Midland Counties Open Championships. And what a tournament! A record one, both from the number of entries and from the number of shocks handed out to its competitors. Staged at Bingley Hall, seven tables were in constant use on three days for the distinguished gathering of players. The Men's Singles alone produced an entry of 140.

No one, least of all myself, was prepared for the surprises to follow. Winnie Potter (Lyndhurst), a local club player, proceeded to wipe up three internationals in a row and to annex the Ladies' Trophy. Miss Potter, although orthodox style, has an awkward game to contend against, with a quick hit on both sides of the table and plenty of fight.

She was too good for Dinah Newey and Dora Emdin, and just got the better of Margaret Osborne in the third game of a thrilling final, to the terrific plaudits of the crowd.

**A** GRAND win. Incidentally, Margaret told me she has now definitely finished with serious Table Tennis, a circumstance I view with extreme regret, for I feel she could still remain in the top flight another year or so. Her mind appears to be made up, however, so I am sure Table Tennis fans, the country over, will join with me in paying tribute to this great little sportswoman who has so ably upheld England's prestige as her No. 1 player for the last five years.

The outstanding performance of the day was reserved for the men, and that was the

victory of Arthur Sadler, Birmingham and Welsh International, over Eric Filby.

Eric seemed unable to get his attack going full blast and Sadler, defending gallantly, held on to win 21-19 in the third. Hymie Lurie gained an easy passage to the Semi-final, but had some trouble with Ken Stanley, whose attack failed at a critical moment in the third before finally beating him. Ken

**T**HUS, the final was all set for Lurie and myself.

I took the first easily and he the second when his backhand flicks were flashing past me, but in the third, holding on to a slender lead all the way, I went on to win 21-17. Lurie and Filby had no difficulty in winning the Men's Doubles and Filby and Miss Osborne carried off the Mixed after a hard tussle with Lurie and Miss Newey.

### RESULTS :

#### Women's Singles.

Miss Potter beat Miss Osborne 20-22, 21-19, 21-17.

#### Men's Singles.

A. A. Haydon beat H. Lurie 21-11, 16-21, 21-17.

#### Men's Doubles.

Filby and Lurie beat E. Hyde and K. Hyde 18-21, 21-12, 21-12.

#### Mixed Doubles.

Miss Osborne and Filby beat Miss Newey and Lurie 21-12, 13-21, 22-20.

#### Women's Doubles.

Miss Osborne and Miss Woodhead beat Miss Jordan and Miss Emdin 21-17, 12-21, 23-21.

#### Junior Singles.

K. Stanley beat J. Archer 21-12, 21-12.

## LONDON CIVIL SERVICE CLUBS No. 2 War Office

**T**HE War Office first played table tennis in a basement on an 8 ft. by 4 ft. plain wood table. In October, 1924, an official club was organised, with twelve members. Now the club numbers over sixty, and runs four league teams.

The club was one of the earliest members of the "Civil Service Table Tennis League," as it was then called, and in 1925-26 won the League trophy.

Subsequent years found them frequently runners-up to the Stationery Office, but they have never regained the Championship. Last season, however, their Ladies' team captured the trophy for the Women's Premier Division of the League, and, unbeaten so far this season, they look like repeating the performance.

W.O. players have had a fair share of C.S. Championship honours. C. J. R. Reddall won the singles event in 1924-25, and the doubles with W. H. Davison in 1927-28. J. R. Thomas was one of the winning doubles partnership in 1934-35, and is appearing in C.S. representative sides this season.

## CLUBS WANTING PLAYERS

(Advertisement Rates, 1s. per line.)

**BISHOPSGATE T. T. CLUB.** Headquarters, Bishopsgate Institute. Affiliated to London T. T. League. Keen players wanted. Ladies specially invited. Club nights Mondays and Fridays. Apply H. Britton, 17, St. Helen's Place, E.C.3.

**MARYLAND T.T.C.** Lecture Hall, Congregational Church, Stratford, E. 15. Players wanted, Ladies and Gentlemen. Apply Hon. Sec.: Mr. B. Williamson, 30, Keogh Road, E. 15.

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By courtesy of J. H. L. Adams, Birmingham.

The new and the old!!! Richard Bergmann (Austria) smiles like the great little sportsman he is as Mr. Harold Oldroyd presents the world singles trophy to Vana (Czechoslovakia). Vana dethroned Bergmann as world champion.

## SIX HUNDRED SEE LONDON WIN

**T**HE Metropole Hall was crowded by an audience of nearly six hundred on February 17, when the Civil Service played their first representative match at their new Headquarters.

The visitors on this occasion were the London League, and although they were unable to play some of their strongest players, they defeated the Service without serious difficulty, the final score being 6-3 in their favour. Two of the Service victories were by default, as London were unfortunately a man short.

The first match, in which the number two players, Chappell (C.S.) and Coles (L.L.), were in opposition, was undoubtedly the best of the evening. Chappell was a discovery of the Service Championships last November, but some doubt was felt as to whether he could reproduce the form he showed then in reaching the final.

After starting nervously and losing the first game to six, however, he settled down to accurate penhold-grip forehand attack and surprised Coles by taking the second game to 16. In the third game he was less steady, and a few careless shots put him 15-9 down. He rallied to 15-14, but Coles pulled away again to lead 20-17. Chappell took the next four points, but lost on the second deuce.

Thomas (C.S.), another penhold-grip player, was unable to pierce Hales' (L.L.) steady defence, London scoring another victory in two games, but Stennett (C.S.) and Marshall (L.L.) provided a better match.

**M**ARSHALL'S frequent guttural utterances and queer facial contortions amused the crowd but failed to disturb Stennett, who took the first game to 18.

*Marshall then appeared to remember the veiled challenge he made in last month's "Table Tennis," and became inspired with a determination to show that at least one N.A.L.G.O. player could beat the Service best. Fighting hard in the familiar and distinctive Marshall manner, he took the next two games for another London victory.*

Heywood, the third penhold-grip player in the Service team, was in good hitting form. Rosen, the young international, was unable to cope with his Haydon-style side-spin attack, and Heywood brought the Service its only victory of the evening without difficulty in straight games.

Sears (L.L.) beat Wearing (C.S.) in two close games, but his effortless strokes made it difficult to realise how close were the scores, and he did not appear to be extended.

Neither of the Service doubles pairs appeared to play up to form, and London had no difficulty in adding two further victories to their score:—

### RESULTS (in order of ranking).

Marshall (L.L.) beat Stennett (C.S.) 18-21, 21-15, 21-16; Coles (L.L.) beat Chappell (C.S.) 21-6, 16-21, 23-21; Heywood (C.S.) beat Rosen (L.L.) 21-16, 21-7; Sears (L.L.) beat Wearing (C.S.) 21-17, 21-19; Martin (C.S.) w.o.; Hales (L.L.) beat Thomas (C.S.) 21-13, 21-17; Marshall and Sears (L.L.) beat Martin and Wearing (C.S.) 21-14, 21-12; Stennett and Heywood (C.S.) w.o.; Coles and Hales (L.L.) beat Chappell and Thomas (C.S.) 21-13, 21-13.

## IN WALES JUST NOW

By R. H. WELSH

### SWAYTHLING CUP.

The failure of the Welsh side in the Swaythling Cup came as no surprise. It was generally expected that the chosen players, Messrs. Meredith, Milsom, Sadler and Curtin, would not be strong enough to hold their own in such distinguished company. However, nothing can be gained by further criticism, and the Welsh selectors have a busy time in front of them searching for new material before next season's representative games. One very pleasing feature is the improvement of F. Curtin (Penarth). Curtin did well to win the Gwent Open upon his first appearance since his return from London. If the other members of the side show such an improvement, we have indeed accomplished something.

### CORBILION CUP.

The Corbillon Cup players performed very creditably, and Mrs. H. R. Evans (Cardiff) and Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) must be complimented upon a very sound display.

### HANOVER (CARDIFF) OPEN.

The Hanover Recreation Club staged their second open tournament at Cardiff. Welsh players failed to stave off a strong London challenge. W. Stennett (London) defeated A. D. Brook (London) in the final of the men's singles, taking with him the "Montagu-Pope" Cup. Stennett was made to fight very hard, both Les. Cann (Penarth) and R. Watkiss (Cardiff) taking him to three sets.

Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmaur) had no difficulty in winning the women's singles. T. Smith and F. Smith sprang a very welcome surprise when they defeated Brook and Stennett in the semi-final of the men's doubles. They then went on to win this event at the expense of the Thomas brothers, of Ogmere.

H. G. Needles and Miss Adams (Gilfach) defeated N. K. Contractor (Cardiff) and Miss Tovey (Gilfach) in the final of the Mixed Doubles.

### RESULTS.

**MEN'S SINGLES**—W. Stennett (London) beat A. D. Brook (London) 21-14, 22-20, 15-21, 21-15. **MEN'S DOUBLES**—T. Smith and F. Smith (Cardiff) beat D. J. Thomas and T. Thomas (Ogmere) 21-17, 21-18. **WOMEN'S SINGLES**—Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmaur) beat Mrs. Pitcher (Ogmere) 21-19, 21-14. **MIXED DOUBLES**—H. G. Needles and Miss Adams (Gilfach) beat N. K. Contractor (Cardiff) and Miss Tovey (Gilfach) 21-18, 21-19. **CONSOLATION SINGLES**—R. Morris (Ogmere) beat A. Gambold (Cardiff) 21-19, 18-21, 24-22.

### GWENT (NEWPORT) OPEN.

This tournament must have been extremely disappointing to the Newport players, for they failed to win any of the events. The Cardiff and District league players swept the board. F. Curtin (Penarth) played well in beating F. Smith (Cardiff) in a splendid final. D. Lewis and G. Greatrex (Cardiff) sprang a surprise in defeating J. Meredith and L. Samuels (Aberdare). Mrs. H. R. Evans (Cardiff) added another title to her long list of successes when she defeated

Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmaur) in the women's singles. Curtin scored a very popular double when in partnership with Mrs. Horspool (Cardiff) they annexed the mixed doubles.

### RESULTS.

**MEN'S SINGLES**—F. Curtin (Penarth) beat F. Smith (Cardiff) 21-11, 14-21, 22-20. **MEN'S DOUBLES**—D. Lewis and G. Greatrex (Cardiff) beat J. Meredith and L. Samuels (Aberdare) 21-18, 14-21, 21-17. **WOMEN'S SINGLES**—Mrs. H. R. Evans (Cardiff) beat Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmaur) 24-22, 21-16. **MIXED DOUBLES**—F. Curtin and Mrs. Horspool (Cardiff) beat K. Milsom and Miss Thomas (Cardiff) 15-21, 21-16, 21-18.

### WESTERN COUNTIES TOURNEY.

The Western Counties "Closed" Tournament was staged at the Cardiff Y.M.C.A. on Wednesday, February 9. The last four players in this tournament are to enter the competition proper, to be held at Bristol on March 19. The standard of play was well below the average, and with the exception of R. Watkiss and F. Curtin, the other players failed to reproduce anything like their normal game.

It has been tournament time in Wales with a vengeance and, although the majority of titles have gone to experienced players, the younger element had done much that augurs well for the future. I refer particularly to Gerald Chugg, the fifteen-year-old Penarth boy who shows great promise. Another who has been very consistent in all these tourneys is R. Watkiss (Cardiff), and we shall hear much more about him in the near future.

Cardiff sides are doing particularly well in the Welsh Club Championship. Cathays Methodist beat the Central Y.M.C.A. 12-11, and Hanover Recreation Club beat the 1930 Club 19-9.



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