

# TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL  
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH  
TENNIS



TABLE  
ASSOCIATION

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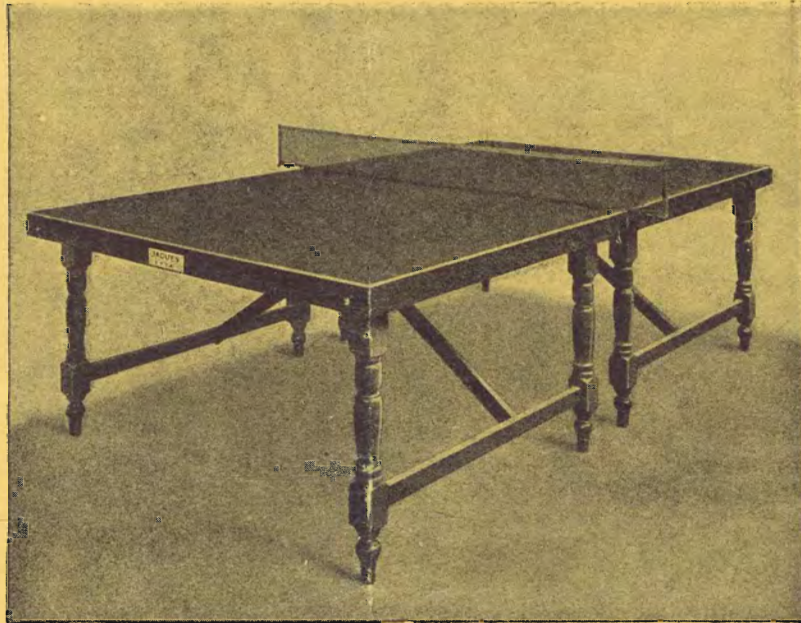
No. 1

OCTOBER, 1937

WJ



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# TABLE TENNIS

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VOLUME III. No. 1

OCTOBER, 1937

THREE PENCE

## PREFACE TO THE SEASON

TABLE Tennis in England is more than half the Table Tennis in the whole world.

Responsible thought.

Thirty nations organised, and they do not total our organisation. How we bear ourselves, therefore, matters a lot to Table Tennis. Are we a good sample?

In general, there is one thing to be said for us. In England people seem to like playing and to like watching. We steadily grow. There are more Table Tennis "fans" every year. And, once inoculated, it sticks. The dropping out of a group is a real rarity.

That's not bad.

A game catering for a lot of people—and many of them mind you, people who live in cities and haven't time or money to play

By

**The Hon. Ivor Montagu**

(Chairman E.T.T.A.)

football or squash, people who wouldn't get a game any other way—that's a useful game.

And so long as they enjoy themselves, and get along and don't quarrel particularly, our organisation must be doing its job.

Not that there aren't blotches on the escutcheon, and difficulties and spots. But we needn't cry over them. The basis is all right. By talking over them frankly, we'll work them out as we go. And this paper is meant for that.

About special questions, as the months go by, I shall have special things to say. But on our season's New Year's Day, so to speak, is the time for good resolves of being brief.

\* \* \*

ONE blotch we all know. Our players are very far from first-class.

I am not one of those who weep salt



Hon. Ivor Montagu.

tears because our country doesn't win. The world champion at a sport is a genius, no less than a genius than in art, or any other walk. He is born, and made. You can mar champions if you do not make them right. But you cannot make them, if they are not champion stuff.

No one grudges the great sportsmen, wherever they are born. They shed lustre on the game, whatever colours they wear.

This is no reason for indifference to winning or losing—the vanquished's consolation. A game may be only a game. But the act of playing involves the assumption that while the game is going on it's the most important thing on earth.

We shall be wholehearted. We shall do our utmost to look for champion stuff, to give it the proper chances if it's found. But if we do this and it still isn't there, there's no reason to be downhearted.

\* \* \*

THE World Championships are in England this year. Can we hope for surprises?

If there is somewhere in England some young scoundrel (man or woman) determined to do more than hope, determined on a surprise, that way there will be one.

But one thing must not be a surprise. It must be a certainty.

We, who represent more than half world table tennis, must see that the Championships under our management provide an unrivalled spectacle, conditions of play unequalled, and an atmosphere in which not a single competitor will afterwards say to himself: "If only that had been different."

The Albert Hall and Wembley are a good start. The rest is dependent on you, readers—on your response as players, as volunteer organisers, unselfishly sacrificing your free time, and as spectators.

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## Rule 10.

### "Finger Spin"

The wording of the provisional Rule as circulated reads:—

"The service shall be delivered by the server dropping the ball by hand only without imparting of spin."

This wording was considered by the Executive Committee at their last meeting and it was agreed that the word "dropping" was not clear. They, therefore, decided to substitute the word "releasing."

Will all League Secretaries please note as it is not the intention to make any change in the present method of serving, except for the prevention of spin.

## Two Resignations.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee the resignation of two Vice-Presidents of the Association, Mr. N. H. Smith and Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, were received. In addition, Mr. Woodcock intimated his decision to discontinue his membership of the Association.

STOP PRESS.

Eastern Open. Singles:—Barna beat Lurie. Kettnerova beat Osborne. Doubles:—Barna and Filby beat Ehrlich and Boros. Kettnerova and Liebster beat Osborne and Filby. Kettnerova and Osborne beat Frost and Standaloft.

## CURRENT COMMENTS.

### THE NEW RULES.

The Six-inch Net. The English Association opposed this. It voted against it last year.

The countries that supported it did so mainly because they thought the "pushing" fashion so menacing to the game that any experiment, however drastic and even if its result were by no means sure, should be tried in an effort to encourage enterprise.

Another influencing factor was the point that the Americans, by playing at home with 6 in. net and then being successful when returning to 6½ in. at Baden, showed that—if the experiment failed—players could return to the original height without injury to their game.

I have, personally, gone on record that it will not be successful, that it will facilitate defence, in the end, equally with attack. But I must acknowledge that I see signs of at least a spurt of popularity of attack with it. Even if the facilitation of attack is only a psychological illusion, it is of course not less possibly effective for that.

I advise particularly players to exploit the drop and the sharper angled short cross, which are aided by the lower net, and not to confine themselves merely to the extra hits from it.

\* \* \*

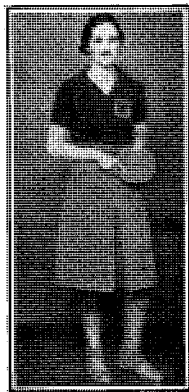
The Finger-spin Service Ban. The idea is to wipe out these services completely. Finger-spin or knuckle-spin or what have you. Whatever ambiguity there is in the wording of the rule, do not attempt them if a player, and penalise any sign of them if you are an umpire.

Personally, I like and admire finger-spin. I believe it to be an asset to the game, not only beautiful in itself, but a speedier-up, corresponding to the ace service in Lawn Tennis. (I cannot finger-spin in the least myself.)

But I have to acknowledge that, however wrongly and mistakenly in my opinion, the players of certain nations unfamiliar with finger-spin become so emotional at the sight of it, that international sporting goodwill is seriously threatened.

Repeated acquaintance with it has not, as I had hoped, served to bring, with familiarity, calm. The ban may become permanent from this fact, but in the meantime note that these rules are provisional for the season.

Whether you like them or not, give them the fullest and fairest trial.—I. M.



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# Why not a Table Tennis Coaching Film ?

(By a Special Correspondent)

AS with any sport when it grows to a really big stage, table tennis enthusiasts are clamouring for something to be done in a big way about coaching. There is a widespread demand for first-class teachers of the game, and some of the more ambitious want the E.T.T.A. to sponsor something pretty outsize in coaching schemes, just as lawn tennis does.

Unfortunately, table tennis is not one of the wealthier sports, and it takes money

consequently abnormally heavy, or else give rise to discontent.

There is, however, a good deal the local league can do to help the promising young player. Firstly, they can encourage him to enter all the Open tournaments possible, and even pay a part of his expenses where they feel it justified. The real object is to get him into a wider class of play than he will meet in his own club, or even in matches.

\* \* \*

ANOTHER very good idea, which is proving most popular in games such as golf and squash rackets, is an interchange of membership among the clubs. This means that by paying a small fee to the league, a player can receive a membership card entitling him to a certain number of nights' play at any other club in the district. As a result he can spend a useful part of his time playing new opponents in new surroundings. This often has a most important effect in the development of an enthusiast as a match player.

These difficulties do not apply in the main in London, where the coaching problem is also simplified by the vastly greater accessibility. Here the Association is both able and willing to advise, and club secretaries have only to spend a minute on the telephone to be put in touch with the best possible coaches in their own districts.

*The possibility of an instructional film has been mooted, and while there is an idea in official circles that the cost would be prohibitive, I feel reasonably sure myself that this would not be the case.*

Lawn tennis, of course, have done their instructional films in a big way, as they can afford to do. So have the F.A. But it should be possible at comparatively small cost, with the aid of volunteer "stars," which would certainly be forthcoming, to produce an absolutely correct and entertaining official film. It could pay its way by rental fees among the clubs.

AT the annual meeting of the English Table Tennis Association, the executive committee reported on the suspension of an American player, and correspondence with the United States Table Tennis Association. A resolution was unanimously adopted endorsing the action of the executive committee.

Since that date the U.S.T.T.A. have circularised statements intimating their withdrawal from, and application for re-affiliation to, the International Table Tennis Federation. The statements include allegations against the E.T.T.A. and its officers, and an account of other circumstances of which the Executive committee take a very grave view.

The executive committee have communicated their view to the U.S.T.T.A., inviting a representative of that Association to visit this country for the purpose of resolving all matters at issue by direct negotiations, offering that any and every matter which may remain in disagreement subsequent to such negotiations shall be submitted to arbitration.

Further, to facilitate speedy and cordial agreement by these methods, the executive committee have advised the U.S. T.T.A. of their intention to refrain from the present from subjecting these allegations to public discussion, which would necessarily be critical of the U.S.T.T.A.

No decision by the U.S.T.T.A. in respect of this invitation has yet been received in London.

to keep anything like that going. I know that the official feeling is that the leagues are the bodies to do what they can in that line, in their own areas.

All the Association can do at present, in answer to the many requests from the Provinces, is to offer to send the best coaches if the clubs will foot the travelling and expenses account. In almost every case the club find it a bit beyond them, and the Association has nothing like the necessary money to start subsidies, which would either have to be general, and

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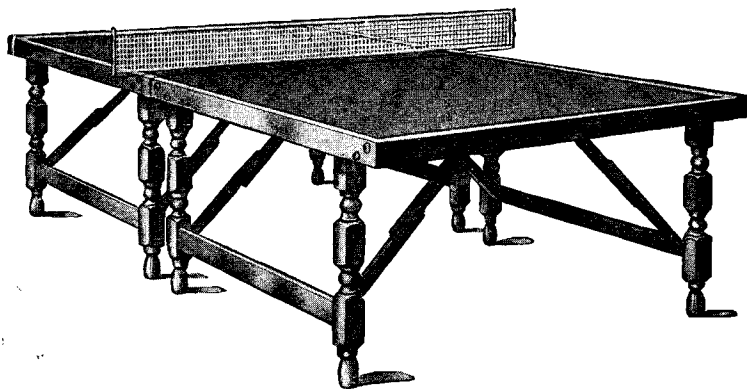
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# OVER the NET



**T**HERE are three main reasons why the season 1937-8 may be a crucial one in the continued development of table tennis. Firstly and secondly are the two revolutionary changes in the rules—the lowering of the net and the ban on fingerspin—and thirdly, the staging of the World Championships in London, on what promises to be the most magnificent scale yet attempted.

What is being done to ensure that these developments shall have a forward, and not a retrograde, nor even a merely stationary effect upon the game in England?

Foremost among the perils to be avoided is a repetition of the Championship fiasco at Baden, and this can best be done—and we are sure will be done—by firm control at the championships themselves.

But there are other, more domestic, but certainly not less important, factors to be considered, from the point of view of the game's progress in England itself. Let us see how the English Table Tennis Association are preparing to meet them.

**I**T is encouraging to know that the necessity of England doing better in the playing sense, if the game is to grow in public popularity, is an urgent concern of the Association chiefs. They, more than anyone, realise that table tennis to-day has no personality such as Perry was, in the only year this country has ever won the world title. Worse, that there are at the moment few signs that we are in the process of developing any.

This is to be remedied, in an excellent way, if a somewhat curious one.

Barna, undoubtedly the greatest player the game has known, has generously offered to coach the best and most promising England players for the championships. He is even to be an unofficial member of the selection committee who will decide which of our younger hopes will best repay coaching.

So that, in effect, we shall have the anomaly of England's most serious playing rival helping to select the team to oppose him. Something, surely, which has never been done in any sport anywhere before.

**T**HE selectors have two other main ideas this season—catch 'em young, and catch 'em early. For the second, the area trials, from which the players to be given the Barna course will be chosen, are planned to be completed before the end of October—unusually early, but an excellent move that will give the players every chance of really intensive practice.

As for catching 'em young, don't be surprised if there are a few labelled "sensations" when the Swaythling Cup team is chosen. There is a strong feeling that results, as such, should be largely ignored this year, in favour of team-building for future seasons, and this may well mean that several of those famous stars who year after year have been, and still are

winning the tournaments, will find themselves outside the team.

*There is bound to be a bit of grumbling. It comes to all pioneers. For ourselves we hope the Association will not be put off by thought of the critics, but will go all out for a genuinely experimental side.*

Everyone knows, however much they may hope, that really there isn't a chance of holding the foreigners this year—even if the fingerspin ban has put an outside spoke in America's wheel. What we have to look for is a team who will be able to sweep them off the table in about 1940.

**I**NCIDENTALLY, watch for some fun from America, who are beginning to realise they were perhaps a bit hasty in resigning from the I.T.T.F. as soon as it looked as if that body might really exercise their nominal control. The Ruth Aarons business, of course.

Unfortunately for America, they would very much like to have the world championships themselves next year, for their World Fair celebrations. Which, it seems to us, means a speedy return to the Federation, who may not be prepared to accept them on their own terms.

**Q**UITE a little epidemic of misfortune among some of the game's "big names" just recently. First Les. Forrest, that most popular handyman from headquarters, went down with scarlet fever; Stan Proffitt has been in hospital with arthritis, which didn't help his cricket with Essex any, even though he did have an excellent season; and H. H. Bridge has had an uncomfortable, if not too serious operation. All doing well now, thank you.

*That's not quite the end of the story. Adrian Haydon, Swaythling Cup player No. 1, has gone down with something pretty serious. The old love bug has got him, and you can watch for an engagement announcement pretty soon. Two internationals, so there should be some good across the table scrapping.*

**T**HEN Gilbert Marshall, the demon redhead, has got right ideas about some of the wrong things—in his opinion—in the game. Instead of sitting down and telling his own little circle how much better things could be done if—, Gilbert is coming out on his own as a writer of really controversial stuff (you will find some on another page), and also moving generally into the organisation of the game.

From what we hear, he'll be very welcome, but as we don't expect he will find it any easier than the others have done to work for the game and at it, we can see Secretary W. J. Pope, Chairman Ivor Montagu and Gilbert, getting down to it seriously in the "I could have beaten you when I was really playing" stakes,

**C**OME on you women players! Something has got to be done about this St. Albans monopoly in your branch of the game, or those Saints are going to need new haloes.

Just take a look at this galaxy—Dora and Doris Emdin, and the Misses Wheaton, Wood, Berry and Wright. All internationals No wonder St. Albans feels fully capable of taking on all comers.

Birmingham is getting a little self-conscious too, about its ball-playing stars. We are asked if any other centre can match this record; table tennis, men's and women's No. 1 (Haydon and Miss Osborne), and in lawn tennis, Wimbledon champion Miss Round, not to mention Charles Hare, Don Butler and a few more.

**W**HATEVER the game does here this season, it's certainly having a great drive in Australia, and maybe we'll be having Test matches soon. Australia really cottoned on to the game in a big way when Fred Perry and Frank Wilde, over there for the lawn tennis championships a year or two back, put over some pretty good stuff on a table.

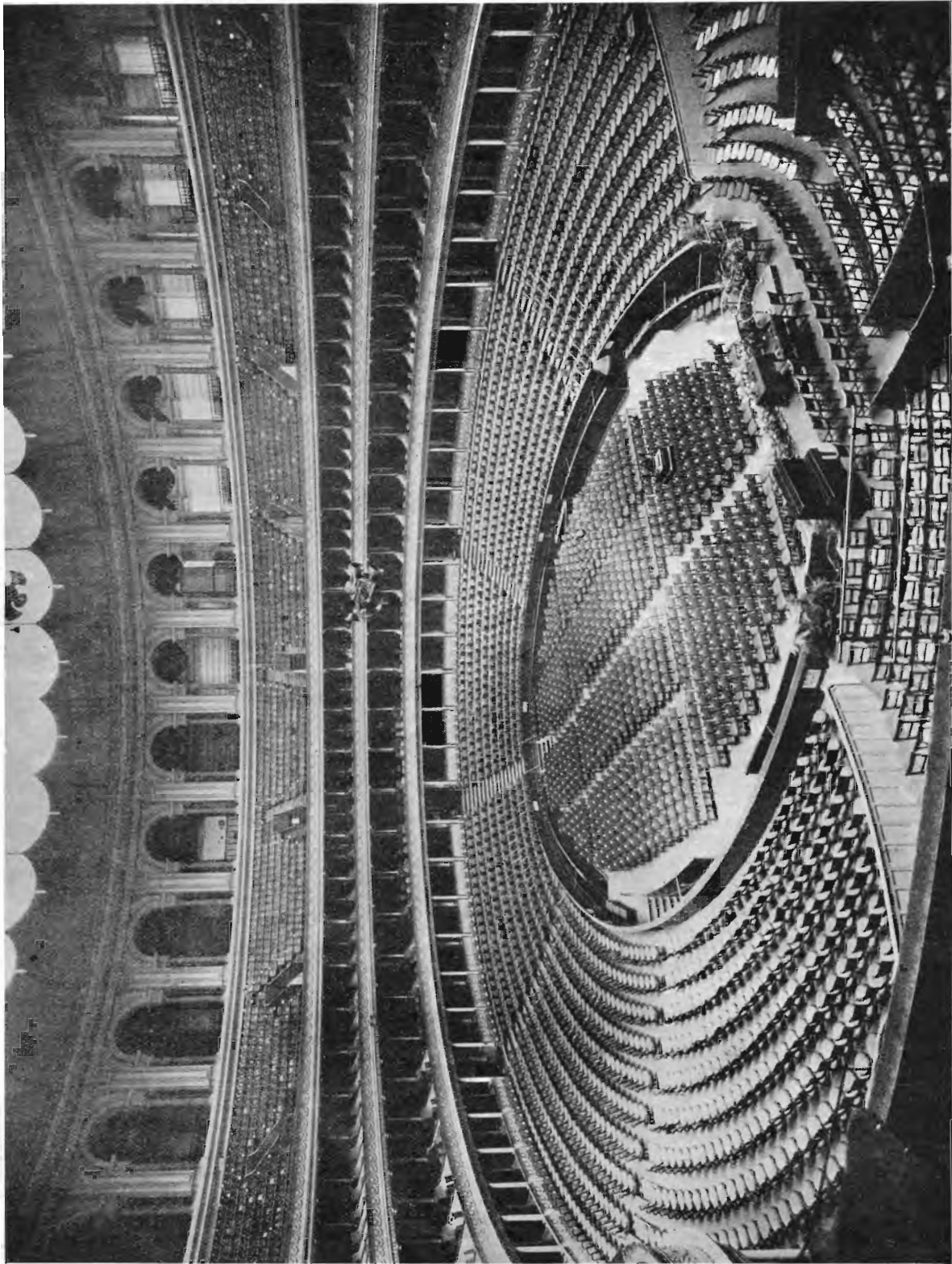
That started something. Now Szabados and Kelen, known to you all, are over for a big exhibition tour both there and in New Zealand. And New Zealand specially affiliated to the I.T.T.F. to get them. That's the spirit.

**B**ACK to England we come by liner, and that brings in a serious note. An astonishing number of complaints are being received from regular ocean-goers that the tables provided for play on board are not up to standard, and that the equipment generally isn't such as to help the game along. We hear the same thing about too many hotels, and holiday camps, where table tennis has been proved a very necessary attraction.

Fortunately, in most cases, it has proved just a matter of not knowing, and we hear that one famous shipping firm actually—and wisely—rang up headquarters the other day, to be put right about this question. The leading holiday camps, too, are all putting in official tables now. It just shows what a pull the table tennis player has if only he will stand up for what he knows is right.

**A**ND here's another thing for you to think about, when you want to introduce a few recruits to the game. Ask them whether they really enjoy those morning jerks and body rolls. Then say how much more pleasant it is to keep that figure under control the table tennis way.

People just don't realise the amount of honest-to-goodness muscle-stretching exercise there is in a game of table tennis; but there is a tremendous lot, and it is quite on the cards that the National "Keep Fit" authorities may be persuaded to recognise it as one of the fittening games.



*A remarkable photograph of the Royal Albert Hall interior. Picture those tiers of seats filled with Table Tennis enthusiasts. Picture yourself there—then buy the ticket for the Championships.*

# From Memorial Hall to ALBERT HALL.

## AMAZING GROWTH OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1926—1937.

By W. J. POPE, *Hon. Secretary, E.T.T.A.*

ON January 24 next, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, the thirteenth World Championships will begin. It was in 1926 that the first world championships were held, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. Six nations entered and the comparatively meagre accommodation for spectators was found to be ample, attendance being confined to interested players.

Very few members of the general public bothered to come and see this new Table Tennis, which they knew as Ping-Pong.

Eleven years have passed—years of great development, and now we can say that the tournament attracts attention from the peoples of the whole world. They will read each day in their papers of the progress of the Championships. Thousands watch the play and among the many sports programmes placed before the public as entertainment, Table Tennis has taken its place as second to none in interest, drama and exciting spectacle.

THE Championships played at Kensington and Wembley, in 1935, definitely placed Table Tennis on the map. Little publicity was given to the events before they began, but when it was found that 20 nations were actually sending teams the Press became intrigued. Once the tournament started, and thousands of people flocked to the courts, recognition was inevitable and the reports, for the first time in the history of the game, were full and descriptive. All the leading writers admitted the arrival of a new attraction.

Who among those present will forget the Centre Court at the Imperial Institute—the tiers, floor to floor, packed nightly

by cheering thousands: the hushed silence of the crowds in the darkness, attention concentrated on the active figures under the brilliant lights on the table; the gasps of amazement at the brilliant play?

Who will forget the roof-raising cheers when Miss Bromfield beat the reigning champion, Miss Kettnerova; the needle match between Hungary and Austria, when Liebster failed to beat Barna the then unbeatable Barna, after having a long lead in the deciding game?

And was there ever more heart palpitation in a sporting event than that of the crowd who watched our own Margaret Osborne fail to get into the semi-final of the singles after winning the first two games and leading 11-4 in the third against Miss Kettnerova, who went on to win the title?

AND then the great finals at the Wembley Pool—the exciting singles between Barna and Szabados, 18—all in the fifth game; the fight put up by Miss Gal against Miss Kettnerova; the immense crowd of 10,000 fans from all parts of the country; and the amazement of the Press and Public that such a huge concourse should have been got together for table tennis.

Now we are preparing for another World contest. The Royal Albert Hall, that great London historical monument has been engaged for the whole week. Scene of Conferences, political meetings, national demonstrations, this beautiful hall is a perfect setting for our game. Tiered from ground to roof and accommodating 8,000 spectators, it will be the Mecca of all Table Tennis fans in January.

We look forward to the greatest tournament ever played in this country. Will the growth of our sport as a spectacle justify the enterprise of the Committee in engaging such a tremendous stadium? Are we too optimistic in assuming that the general public will flock to the games in sufficient numbers?

Time alone will tell, but we are confident that our members, at least, will be there.

Already the clubs are busy and special facilities are as usual being given to the club players. The need for improvement in our standard of play is so great that I feel the Committee are wise in offering concessions to attract the young aspirant. To see the best foreign stars in action is the best object lesson, and very eager eyes will be concentrated on the "masters" during this championship week.

The season-ticket, which gives admission to 15 sessions, will cost 5s. It is

transferable to friend or relative, and as there will be a big demand, and the numbers available at this price will be strictly limited and cannot be sold after October 30, readers should write in to Headquarters immediately, sending cash with order. The best positions in the hall have been allocated to these tickets.

IT is natural that the finals will arouse the greatest interest among our members in the country. It is only on the Saturday that they can make the journey to London, and the great arena at Wembley has now become associated with the high spot of our tournaments.

For years past this event has developed into a "gathering of the clans"—a re-union of players and officials, and Saturday, January 29, will be the greatest of them all. Already excursion trains have been arranged, parties are being booked up, and the special club tickets are almost disposed of.

When I attended the Conference at Manchester in August, a League Secretary said to me: "We have booked an excursion—last season only 16 members made up the party, but they came back and described what they had seen and now all our members want to go."

And this is the feeling everywhere. I have no hesitation in saying that everyone who has seen a Final at Wembley has gone away thrilled and pleased, and determined to come to the next.

Some Leagues have already started to collect weekly instalments to pay the fare—it is realised that a trip to London is costly for the younger players, especially in some districts, but Leagues who organise the trip now will find a ready response. It is our desire and ambition to pack Wembley with "fans"—to show them how the game can be played in ideal conditions and to what heights the standard can be raised.

We also want to say to them that what Barna and Bergmann and Haydon and Miss Osborne can do, so can every young player given the chance and opportunity.

To this end we want the support and help of everyone interested.

WE are very proud of the fact that, in running these Championships, we depend solely upon the voluntary work of our members. To carry on the events efficiently, a huge army of helpers is required—umpires and stewards, interpreters and attendants, committees for equipment and hospitality and programmes, and the multifarious detail which has to be done in a tournament of this size.

Under the energetic and enthusiastic supervision of Mr. J. M. Rose, much has already been done. But there is a long way to go, and we propose to issue a clarion call to everyone to help.

Those members who are free for the whole week will be particularly welcome and we have already heard of some members who are taking their holidays for the period. But the larger number will be those who can help at varying sessions. We shall be sending out a circular shortly, when we hope to have the co-operation of all who are interested in the administration.

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Miss Osborne.

**M**ORE and more women are taking up Table Tennis and I think women have a legitimate complaint that sufficient attention is not given to their development by the Association.

BY THE WOMEN'S EDITOR.

When players talk about putting England on top or winning titles, they too often think of the Swaythling, rather than the Corbillon Cup, and of the men's

## Be fair to the Women Players!

singles rather than the women's. When training of players is discussed, it is training of men, not training of women.

I wonder if this is the fault of the women themselves? Very few seem to take an interest in the running of the local leagues or the E.T.T.A. There seem to be very few women who have a general knowledge of what is happening in the country—yet we are in a better comparative position than the men in world ranking, although it is also true that the standard in the Leagues is much lower.

Steps are being now taken to remedy this. In Exeter a club for women players, started only last season, has been overwhelmed with applicants for membership and has had to close the list.

In Bristol a women's section of the League has been formed, and I hear of a successful meeting just held at Bath for the same purpose. Swindon has had strong women's teams for a long time, and last season one of their players, Miss C. Jones, was selected for England.

**I**N London and the South there have been large numbers of high standard players and strong clubs for years. Eastbourne, Hastings and Brighton have played inter-

town matches, and St. Albans have produced a remarkable run of players.

Watford have produced Daphne Roberts, Mrs. Hutchings and Mrs. Coleman, both towns showing what can be done if interest is backed by enthusiasm.

In Yorkshire, Mrs. Amies is the leader of a group of strong players, outstanding among whom is Miss Stott of Leeds, who did remarkably well in the trials last season. In Lincoln they have a very good player in Miss Piercey, and from other parts of the country I have reports of promising new players.

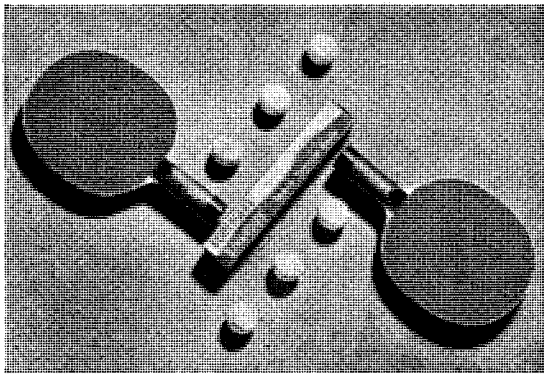
\* \* \*

**I** THINK the time has come for something to be done. The County Championship is providing for women, and I hear there are four Counties entered. But against that there is one affiliated League confined to men's clubs, and no club with women members is allowed to enter!

We want more clubs, we want coaching facilities, we want more representative matches, area trials and women on the Selection Committee. We want more attention paid to the women's game by the authorities everywhere.

It looks as if we shall have to attend to it ourselves. Will women players interested please write to me?

# SLAZENGER'S

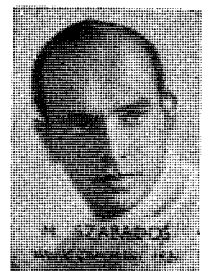


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## THE 6-INCH NET AND THE BAN ON FINGER-SPIN.



. . . The net shall be 6 ft. in length, its upper part along its whole length 6 ins. (previously  $6\frac{3}{4}$  ins.) above the playing surface.

. . . The service shall be delivered by the server releasing the ball by hand only, without imparting spin. . . . —Provisional Amendments to the rules of Table Tennis.



### I Oppose . . .

(by GILBERT MARSHALL.)

(International and American Swaythling Cup Player.)

THE abolition of finger-spin and the introduction of the six-inch net are, in my opinion, a retrograde step which I most strongly oppose.

I will deal first with the hotly debated question of finger-spin. It may be claimed I am prejudiced, since I am myself the possessor of a useful finger-spin service. My answer is that it is open to anyone with sufficient patience to acquire a good service, whether by bat or finger-spin.

Surely service must mean more than the mere putting of the ball into play? It should be a means of attack, and as such should be helped rather than hampered. Players in general probably do not appreciate that the outcry against finger-spin came mainly from the continentals, who, with very few exceptions, have not the remotest idea how to play against really good spin, either by bat or finger.

Instead of taking the trouble to master this branch of the game—and I contend it is a branch of the game, which should have the same importance as service in lawn tennis—one in which they are definitely inferior to the Americans and English, they simply raised the parrot cry of "unfair," a cry to which the International Federation have listened solely by reason of the source from which it came.

THE argument apparently is that if a continental player cannot take finger-spin, it must be unfair. This is patently absurd.

Actually Tommy Sears, the Londoner, has probably the best return of service of any player in Europe, *i.e.*, he attacks spin services, which is the correct way to handle them.

I myself have been beaten by finger-spin services, and my only reaction has been a feeling of annoyance with myself for having played carelessly. I feel sure I am not alone in contending that a player who takes the trouble to cultivate a spin service, is fully entitled to whatever benefits he can reap from exploiting it.

It is also my firm belief that the few players who are not frightened at the mention of the words "finger-spin," but can deal capably with any type of service, are being placed at a disadvantage by the removal of the opportunity to show their capability, *i.e.*, by the game being made easier for players less capable in this particular respect.

AND now the question of the lower net. I have said before, and I say again, that, as an attacking player, I have never seen the slightest need for an alteration in the height of the net.

Defenders will remain defenders because that is their favourite style of play; thus we shall have just as much chiselling as in past seasons, which in England, at any rate, has not been very extensive.

The only players benefited by the lower net will be attackers who have never learned to control the ball properly, and are most certainly not deserving of assistance by an alteration in the rules. If an attacker loses to a defender it is, and always has been, his own fault, provided that play takes place under good conditions.

In that last statement lies the answer to abnormal chiselling; by that I mean chiselling between two players, one of whom normally attacks. This occurred in Prague—why? Linoleum floor, bad tables, bad lighting. The same thing took place in Baden—Stone floor, and, I understand, poor lighting.

It might be contended that a stone floor helps an attacking player—such is not the case. The hardness of the floor is conveyed to the table, and makes proper control of the ball extremely difficult. A wood floor, preferably solid, is the only perfect surface, and its universal use in tournaments would seem desirable.

### I Agree . . .

(by KEN. HYDE.)

(English International and Swaythling Cup Player.)

IN my opinion the more important of the new rules is that which lowers the net. Many players think that the game will be revolutionised by this change, and that play will now consist of terrific attack by both players, defence being no longer effective.

I cannot see such lengths being attained. The most noticeable factors will be an increase in the speed of play over the table, and the ability to obtain more angle on attacking shots.

Both must necessarily tend to brighten the game, for speedy play is always spectacular, while being able to hit so as to give a defender more running about to do, must make attacking easier, and more attack must follow.

It is argued that the lower net is as helpful to the defender as to the attacker, because he can put the ball back so much lower, but I have played many exhibitions with a 6 in. net, including a recent one at Southampton, with Haydon, Brook and Stennett, and I always found that attacking was definitely easier.

Drop shots also were more effective.

IF, thus, attacking has now been made easier, there must follow more open attacking play, which is what has been needed for the last few years. It was thought that "chiselling" would die a natural death, but the last World Championships at Baden proved it still largely alive.

IN favour of the lower net is that it is an experiment which is not destructive to old equipment. No extra expense is put upon the clubs, such as there would have been by altering the size or height of the table. *Personally, I think further improvement on the same lines could be made by using a slack string along the net top, and so do away with so many "gift" points to a defender, when the ball flies off the top of the net and beyond the table.*

To brighten the game the attacker should have every advantage.

The rule banning finger-spin serves is not, to my mind, of such importance. English table tennis has very few "spinsters," and the rule should not greatly affect any individual player.

It was chiefly to do away with American "knuckle-spins" that the rule was brought in by the International Federation, for at Baden the Americans made tremendous use of these serves in winning the Swaythling Cup.

I do not blame them. They were quite within the rules. But the serves had been copied by other nations, and one saw visions of matches being nothing but service duels.

Thus, I am in agreement with both changes in rules. I am sure they will lead to more spectacular play, and all efforts in the last few years have been to attract the public. If practice proves me wrong, other changes must be made; but at least something has been done when it was needed.

(NOTE—The views expressed in this debate are the personal opinions of writers, and not necessarily in any way those of the E.T.T.A.)

To the ultra-beginner.**No. 1—Choose your weapons carefully.**

**T**HIS, the introduction to a series of articles, is not a treatise on table tennis. It is intended solely to help those whose knowledge of the game is limited to ping-pong on the kitchen or dining-room table. It is an endeavour to correct the impression—a very common one—that to buy a sandpaper bat, a penny ball and a net of indifferent height—coupled with an aptitude for searching under chairs and sofas—constitutes table tennis and the "Compleat Table Tennis Player."

It must be understood by the beginner that there is a great deal of difference between ping-pong and table tennis. Apart from the enormous strides that have been made in the general standard of play in the last ten years, there are several factors contributory to this difference. Important among these is the racket itself.

In club and tournament play to-day, bats are almost universally rubber surfaced. The reasons for this change-over from sandpaper and cork are numerous and obvious once a rubber-surfaced racket has been used.

*There is more control of the ball, a greater adaptability to spin, and for long-defence it is streets ahead.*

There are many kinds of bats on the market and dining-room players and youngsters about to start are strongly advised to use these modern bats in preference to the cheaper ones without rubber. It is difficult to recommend any special make or pattern, as so much depends on individual taste; but where space is limited and the table is smaller than standard size (9 ft. by 5 ft.), it is best to use a soft wood with a hard rubber.

A hard bat with soft rubber tends to send the ball back high, and difficulty may be

encountered in keeping the ball in play on a small table. The average cost of a bat is 2s. 6d.

\* \* \*

**C**AREFUL selection should be made in the choice of a ball. The balls too often purchased at toy shops are hopeless—egg-shaped, uneven in bounce and of a non-standard weight. Any ball can be recommended which is sanctioned by the English Table Tennis Association. They can be obtained at any sports shop at about 3d. each.

Make sure the height of the net is correct—6 ins. Last year it was 6½ ins.

The question of dress depends upon the individual. The recognised outfit for men is any colour of shirt, provided it is dark, grey flannels and shoes. For ladies, dark shirt, grey skirt or shorts, and grey shoes.

If youngsters are taking up the game seriously, it is advisable for them to dress properly from the start.

\* \* \*

**S**O much for equipment. The next thing is to learn the rules. It is surprising what a large number of players there are who are not sufficiently conversant with the laws of table tennis to make efficient umpires. **Get the English Table Tennis Association's Handbook (obtainable from their offices) and learn the rules inside out.**

Once and for all rid yourself of that bogey—the cause of age-old friction—"Was it on or off?" It is not difficult to realise the temptation to volley when it is understood that to let the ball go means a possible crawl to retrieve the ball from under the sideboard.

But at the same time *know* that volleying balls going off is not allowed; and bear that in mind when playing on a club table.

**CHAMPIONSHIP DATES**

Following is a list of Open Championship dates approved by the English Table Tennis Association:—

- 1937.
- Sept. 25 East of England (Butlins Camp, Skegness).
- Oct. 9 Dewsbury (Invitation Tournament).
- " 11-16 Home Counties (Whitefields, London).
- " 23 Hull.
- " 29-30 Lancashire (Manchester).
- Nov. 5-6-7 Bournemouth (Glenroy Hall Hotel).
- " 6 Pontefract (Team of Three).
- " 13 Leeds.
- " 20 Dewsbury.
- " 23-27 Merseyside (Liverpool).
- " 29-Dec. 4 West London (Bradix Ground, Acton).
- Dec. 4 Bramley.
- " 6-11 Hertfordshire (Watford).
- 1938.
- Jan. 7-8 North of England (Manchester).
- " 7-15 Middlesex (Herga).
- " 16 Kent (Herne Bay).
- Feb. 12 Midland (Birmingham).
- " 12 Castleford.
- " 17-19 Cheshire (Wallasey).
- " 21-Mar. 5—Wembley.
- " 26-27 Sussex (Hastings).

- Mar. 7-19 Surrey and South of England (Croydon).
- " 12 Yorkshire.
- " 12 West of England (Exeter).
- " 21-Apr. 2 West Middlesex (West Ealing).
- April 1-2 Grimsby.
- " 16 Scarborough.
- " 18 Whitby.

List of other Events:—

- 1937.
- Nov. 7 Final Trials (London).
- " 20 England v. Wales (Men), (London).
- 1938.
- Jan. 24-29 World Championships (London).
- Feb. - National Open.

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**THE GAME**  
*in*  
**THE HOME.**

**T**HE Official Magazine is necessarily chiefly devoted to the interests of Club players. There are, however, hundreds of thousands of home players who love table tennis, are keen to improve their play, and who want to know all about the strokes, equipment, and how things are going in the "outside world." "Table Tennis" will be serving a good purpose if it caters for this type of player.

In some foreign countries table tennis is played in the open air. In England, unfortunately, the weather seldom allows of this, so the home player is confined to attic, drawing-room or shed, and seldom does that allow of the run-back necessary to develop the modern strokes made possible by the rubber racket.

The half-volley game, therefore, is the most popular form, and I have seen some amazing examples of skill and speed achieved by home players. An occasional "whack" livens up the play, and as this has to be taken on the table, and defence is based upon quickness and a good eye, constant practice has produced some wonderful players in that form of the game.

Would it be true to say that the devotees of table tennis in the home are chiefly the middle-aged? I think it is. The younger players generally join clubs, and there is so much to appeal to the youth in club life in these modern days, that even the younger married people are attracted.

Also the development of the Service Flat, and the popularity of smaller houses with smaller rooms is changing ideas. "Spending an evening at home" is talked about now as quite an exception.

This leads me to believe that there is perhaps not much hope of finding in the homes top-class players or of developing them. On the other hand the children follow the examples of their elders, and here, I think, the influence of the magazine could and should be used.

I often meet people who tell me that their boys or girls are so good at the game that they should be given a chance to show what they can do against the "crack." Upon investigation I have found that these children have developed a marvellous half-volley game, but spin, chop, cut and footwork are mysteries to them. They therefore fall easy prey to the poorest club player.

Every parent should advise his child to join a club. This should be done as early as any interest is shown, because later it is difficult to change grip and strokes.

I am very pleased to hear that a series of articles are to be published advising the home player how to play the modern game. Proper equipment, spin, drives, defence, &c., can be explained, and connection with the Association, and its publications can be of advantage to both.

But an appeal should be made to home players to visit our championships, to see the star players in action, to see to what heights the game can be raised. A new vista will be opened to them, new delights in this best of indoor games.

W. J. P.



# “TITLE VACANT” *by the Hon. Ivor Montagu.*

THE English Championship programme last year noted the fact that the Women's Singles Championship of the World is “deservedly vacant.”

The situation is unusual enough in sport to deserve more detailed explanation.

At the beginning of the Baden congress, the first session of the General Meeting of the Federation faced the task of devising means to prevent a repetition of the previous year's events at Prague, when deliberate stalling by both antagonists had led to “pushing” contests of many hours duration, disastrous for the whole congress and the game in general.

A rule was passed, applicable to Baden congress only, that in the event of a best-of-three game taking more than an hour, or a best-of-five more than an hour and three-quarters, both antagonists might be disqualified by vote of the jury.

The rule was three times enforced. One occasion was the final of the women's singles.\* The jury majority was small, the minority included representatives of the Associations of both antagonists.

\* \* \*

FOLLOWING the disqualification of the two competitors in the final, the view has been advanced in some quarters that the previous year's champion, Miss Aarons, not having been defeated, remains champion. This view is not tenable.

In Table Tennis, as in lawn tennis, golf and other sports, titles are held for a year by the winner of an annual competition. A competitor who is disqualified in a competition cannot conceivably be estimated as the winner of it.

The point that the time-limit rule was applicable to previous matches in the same and other competitions, and was not invoked or applied, is irrelevant, even if it be fact.

\* \* \*

IT would be very unfair indeed if my observation that the title is now “deservedly vacant” were construed as applying any imputation derogatory to the merits, or the worthiness of last year's champion.

I have very great sympathy for Miss Aarons in the circumstances of the loss of her title. I regard the temporary rule at Baden as a thoroughly bad one. It offers to an inferior player, without the ability to defeat his superior opponent, the means whereby he may, none the less, remove him from the competition.

I do not wish to be understood as commenting thus on any particular match, but in any case it is a miserable experience for any title-holder, especially one who has travelled many thousands of miles to compete, to lose the title under conditions not obtaining at the time she embarked upon the journey.

Miss Ruth Aarons has been a worthy champion. Though not unbeaten in competition, as is sometimes inadvisably claimed for her (she lost a match in the Corbillon Cup at Prague) her record is sufficiently extraordinary to invite comparison with that of the first woman world champion, peerless Mednyanszky, unbeaten for five years.

Miss Aarons' keenness and determination are an example to her contemporaries of both sexes. No suspicion of lack of sportsmanship has disfigured her play. If her style is, at present, defensive and lacking all-round mastery, it should be recalled that she is young and that improvement may be awaited.

In any case, her gracefulness and colourful personality are assets in the game which, like all sports, wilts in the absence of these rare qualities.

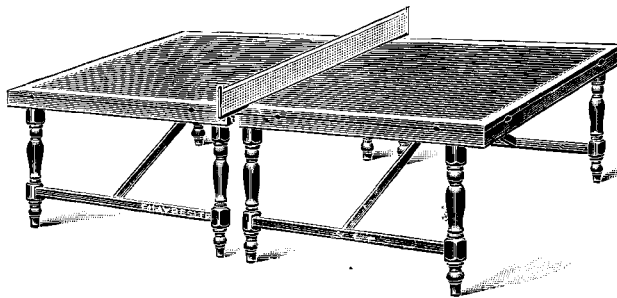
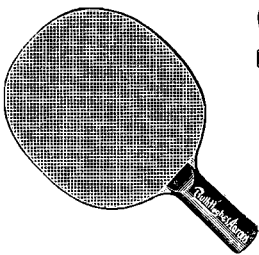
\* \* \*

THE title is “deservedly vacant” in the sense that while there are two women so nearly matched that neither can overcome the other in an hour and three-quarters, neither deserves to hold the championship. Such a period should be entirely enough for a player who deserves the title to overcome any opponent.

In so far as discredit is involved in these “pushing” matches, it reposes not upon players—who must try their utmost, always, by any means the sport leaves open to them—but upon the organisers and legislators who have not yet been ingenious enough to avoid the circumstances which lead to them.

\* When the match was terminated, Miss Trudi Pritzi (Austria) was leading by a few points half-way through the third game at one game all.

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# Once I Thought I Could Beat The World!

By  
STANLEY PROFFITT.  
The Swaythling Cup Player.

IT was in the latter part of 1929 that I gave up the idea of ever becoming a good football player, and threw in my lot with the game of "ping pong."

Rapidly the disease spread. It was not long before I would awake H. C. Cooke (the old Manchester International) at five o'clock in the morning to put in a spot of practice before going to the office.

This, coupled with an hour during my lunch time, and every evening from six o'clock onwards, quickly improved my play. Even during the summer the habit went smoothly along, until in the following season I went through the whole league matches without losing and had taken the Merseyside and Lancashire Championships in my stride.

Please note, however, that the tournaments were not then universal, and were confined to Northern players only.

\* \* \*

I HAD no idea at all of the Southern strength, and naturally enough was under the impression that in the North of England we were far superior to anything that could be put forward in Great Britain.

It happened that the World Championships were held in Berlin in the season of 1930, and after the original side had been selected, those great stalwarts and—more or less—pioneers of table tennis in this country, C. H. Bull, Fred Perry, A. A. Haydon, R. D. Jones, could not make the journey. Much to our delight H. C. Cooke and myself were selected.

\* \* \*

WE set off with what was, in my humble opinion a very formidable team—Tommy Sears, Blatchford, H. C. Cooke, Hookins and myself, with Mr. Montagu as non-playing captain. Most of us were very young, and we thought the Swaythling Cup was as good as ours.



Stanley Proffitt

Mr. Montagu talked to us for most of the 24-hour journey and during his conversation he showed he was firmly of the opinion that Barna would take the world's singles—giving Bellak and Szbados an outside chance.

Just imagine someone telling you that so-and-so was going to take the singles when you yourself have not lost a single game, and have won all the tournaments you have entered for. Above all, I had never heard of Barna.

In my ignorance, I firmly believed Mr. Montagu wrong. I myself had ideas. I would show my good captain where he was wrong.

\* \* \*

SO we arrived in Berlin, had a good night's rest, and after a hurried breakfast next morning, made our way to the hall where the tournament was in play.

*Never will I forget that morning as I walked into the hall. Hungary were playing Czechoslovakia in the Swaythling Cup—Barna was opposing Malacek.*

One glance was enough to tell me that I was only a beginner. Never was I so taken aback. Mr. Montagu's words on the train, came back to me like a flash—never before had I seen such wizards of the table.

When I had to go on myself I was almost ashamed to go to the table. Lucky that I had never voiced my opinions or I should never have known what to do.

It was a great thing for me, however. I came back from Berlin firmly resolved—that I would learn to play table tennis.

## RANKINGS IN GERMANY.

The German T.T. ranking list for this year includes several old friends.

Men: 1, Mauritz; 2-4, Deisler, Hoffmann, Ulrich; 5-7, H. Benthien, Munchow, Welter; 8, Kutz.

Women: 1, Hobolim (Krebsbach); 2, Bussmann; 3-4, Lindberg, Schulz; S. Muller-Ruster.

Of other players known in England, Schwager is ranked in the group 9-13, and P. Benthien, Dr. Entholt and Miss Felguth are omitted for lack of results.

The official magazine has a special article on a new player, Miss Karin Ingeborg Lindberg, of Hamburg, aged 22, of whom great things are expected. Miss Lindberg is an athlete, who in summer specialises in the High Jump and Putting the Weight.

## CALL FOR AN OFFICIAL STANDARD OF SCORING.

HAVING laid down regulation for dress, it is now surely time for the Association to give consideration to the standardisation of the methods of play in League matches and Open tournaments.

Hungary have laid it down that for improving the quality of play, sets shall be compulsory, and Z. Mechlovits, the "father" of the Hungarian stars, even goes so far as to suggest that sets should be the first of five games.

*Yet in this country, it is amazing to think of the great variety of methods still in common use.*

It is nothing to hear of leagues still playing 51 or 31 points up, or taking total points scored as the basis of award in matches. Some leagues play ten sets each, best of three games; others five sets, best of five games; some nine sets, with eight singles and one doubles. The 25 games method is the most popular amongst the smaller leagues.

Each method has, of course, its own advantages. The 25 games system is of social value. It gives you a chance of having a game against each of your opponents. Yet if you happen to strike an

unlucky patch in your single game, you do not get an opportunity of striking back in a second or third.

Similar advantages and objections apply to the other methods.

\* \* \*

WHEN in Open and Closed tournaments some organisers play on the "knock-out" system throughout. Others, to give each competitor a chance, use the American or group method to eliminate all but the best players.

\* \* \*

THE point I wish to make is this: I do not say that any one method is better than another—in fact this still must be a matter for local decision. But if one method will encourage the production of more first-class players, then let the Association recommend it for universal use.

There are many things to consider, not least of all the psychological aspect, which is always an important factor; but if the E.T.T.A. will consider appointing a sub-committee to examine the whole of the available evidence, then there is little doubt that all leagues affiliated will give the resulting suggestions every consideration.—J. BARRY (Hon. Sec., Manchester League).

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WOMEN'S DOUBLES. MIXED DOUBLES.

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Mr H. H. WHITELEY,

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# Higher and Higher in the Civil Service!

THE Civil Service Table Tennis Association's most important event in any year is, of course, its Championships. This year the Championships will be far more outstanding even than usual, for with the co-operation of the Civil Service Sports Council, the Association have been fortunate enough to secure accommodation in the building in Northumberland Avenue, formerly the Hotel and now known as Metropole Buildings.

The room to be used will take five tables and seat some four hundred people at the finals.

In order to avoid clashing with other table tennis events, the championships are to be held in the two weeks beginning November 22, instead of in January or February as previously. The finals on December 3 will be something of a gala occasion.

In addition to the usual singles and doubles events, and the men's veterans' singles introduced last year, an event for youths under eighteen and men's and women's consolation singles are being held. Entries close on October 16, and all Civil Servants are eligible.

\* \* \*

AFTER the Association's expansion last year, it is pleasing to be able to record a further new affiliation at the beginning of this season. This is the London Boy Messengers' Club, which has some 150 playing members spread among most of the Post Offices in London.

It has long been a source of regret that this Association has produced so few players of note. The addition of these youngsters to our membership, however, should enable us to develop their talents and perhaps to bring forward the internationals whom, from our large numbers, we should be able to produce.

We hope to provide special coaching for the boys this season, and I should be glad if any members of the Association who can assist will get in touch with Mr. E. G. White, at 67, Braeman-avenue, London, S.W. 19.

\* \* \*

FOR a change there has been no increase in the number of Divisions in the London Civil Service League this season. Perhaps it is as well. A League with seven men's Divisions is quite sufficiently unwieldy.

A change has been made in the rules regarding the registration of members of Clubs having more than one team in the League. This has enabled several Clubs to enter an additional team.

There are comparatively few new Clubs this year, but an important one is a Metropolitan Police representative side.

The Executive Committee of the League are anxious that the wearing of regulation dress for matches, which became much more general last season, should this year become universal. So far it has not been the policy to exercise any compulsion in this respect, it being felt that players themselves would take to regulation dress for their own comfort in playing.

A rule may eventually be necessary for those clubs who do not voluntarily adopt the practice of regulation dress for matches, but it is hoped that consideration of the feelings of opponents who wear regulation dress will render such action unnecessary.

## THE GROWTH OF THE INSURANCE LEAGUE

The Insurance League, formed in 1933 by the clubs of five London Insurance Offices, to-day runs no fewer than seven divisions of eight teams each, two divisions being devoted solely to women's teams. Teams consist of five players, so that there are more than 250 players taking part. The total active membership of the clubs concerned probably exceeds 1,000.

Last season this league met a team from the Birmingham Insurance Offices, including such good players as N. C. Parker and E. C. Banner. The London team won by 7 events to 3, D. A. Piper beating both Parker and Banner.

Since Piper did not get into the last four in the Insurance League's own singles championship, there must be some promising talent in the Insurance League. It is to be hoped that these players, as well as promising players in other new leagues, will enter this season for open tournaments and so reveal some much needed new material for English international teams.—J. H. J. DAY.

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## A Chiseller's Lament.

(With Apologies to Hamlet.)

To chisel or not to chisel, that is the question.  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The looks and curses of outraged spectators,  
Or to take arms against this growing menace,  
And by opposing, end it? To drive, to hit.  
No more, and by these means to say we end  
The scoffing groans that greet the chiseller,  
And the thousand natural shocks that he is  
heir to.

'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished.  
To drive! To hit! Perchance to lose the point.  
To lose the point? Ay, there's the dreadful rub,  
For this indeed might mean to lose the game.  
Must give us pause; for there is the respect  
That is due and given to the chiseller.  
But oh! A lower net must give us pause  
Before we chisel. For who would bear the whips  
Of those who chisel not? When they themselves  
Might our quietus make, with a flick and a drop,  
Or a forehand drive or kill right down the line.  
To chisel or not to chisel? Woe indeed is me!

## ENGLAND PLAYERS LOSE IN FRANCE.

At the invitation of the Federation Française de Tennis de Table, a team consisting of Miss D. Jordan, J. K. Hyde, A. D. Brook, A. A. Haydon and A. K. Vint (non-playing captain) played France at the Casino de la Foret, Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, and lost by three matches to four.

Playing conditions were not ideal for an international match which may account for the rather poor display of our players.

At the conclusion of the match, M. Jacques Weill (Secrétaire General of the French Federation) extended a warm welcome to the players and expressed the hope that the match would be an annual one. The results were:—

Singles: J. K. Hyde beat A. Agopoff 21-19, 21-15; lost to F. Aguilar 11-21, 16-21.

A. D. Brook lost to A. Agopoff 20-22, 16-21; lost to F. Aguilar 21-19, 17-21, 19-21.

Miss Jordan beat Mademoiselle J. Delay 21-17, 25-27, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: Hyde and Brook lost to Agopoff and Aguilar 21-16, 22-24, 25-27.

Mixed Doubles: Haydon and Miss Jordan beat Debris and Mademoiselle Dalichoux 21-9, 21-16.

## "TABLE TENNIS"

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## WON—Thought he had LOST!

A PROMINENT Holywell player caused quite a stir recently. Playing in a club handicap competition, he won the first set, when his opponent touched a ball with his bat when it was well wide of the table. This player then lost the second set; proceeded to shake hands and congratulate his opponent.

Then he put on his coat and walked out of the club, apparently under the impression that he had lost the match, despite the fact that both he and his opponent had won one set each.

When they had recovered from their amazement, several spectators and the player's opponent went after the player and brought him back to the club. It took them some time, however, to convince him that he had won the first set, as he had apparently played throughout the second set under the impression that he had lost the first. When at last he had been convinced that the game was not over, the match was continued and the player went on to win the game.

The player was no other than the General Secretary of the Holywell League, Mr. R. E. Davies.

### The Paid Player.

In future, players who register with the Association in order that they may accept payment for playing will be called "Registered Players."

It has been decided that new regulations shall be drafted, to exercise proper supervision over the practice, and so that the Leagues may have responsibility over their own members.

Players who want to register must apply to their own League Secretary, and they will be accepted by the Association only on the recommendation of the League Committee. Permission to receive money for playing, and for giving exhibitions at unaffiliated clubs or halls, must be obtained from the League Secretary in future.

The new regulations will be circulated shortly, and it is proposed to issue a card to each player accepted, so that he will be fully acquainted with the position.

### Regulation Dress.

The question of the regulation sports shirt for men and women players has received exhaustive consideration by the Executive Committee during the past two seasons.

A sub-committee of the women members was appointed at the beginning of the 1935-36 season and a questionnaire was sent to all prominent players. There are many types of sports shirts on the market, and many complaints have been received about colours, texture, shape, &c.

It was eventually decided to adopt an E.T.T.A. regulation shirt, and after negotiations with a number of manufacturers, the "Umbro" Shirt, designed and made by Messrs. Humphrey Bros., of Wilmslow, Manchester, was decided upon.

The Association will present this type of shirt to players chosen for all international matches this season.

CONGRATULATIONS to R. S. Bowes, the Rhyl inter-league player, upon his appearance in the North Wales Lawn Tennis team during the summer.

\* \* \*

ERIC HOLT, a member of the Rhyl Church team (last season's champions of the League) and No. 1 player for the Rhyl inter-league team, scored over a 1,000 runs in North Wales cricket during the past season. He played for Colwyn Bay and was also a regular member of the Denbighshire city eleven.

Another North Wales table tennis player also turned out for Colwyn Bay. He was P. Astley Edwards, the Northern Area Secretary, who kept wicket for the Bay throughout the season.

\* \* \*

Other North Wales table tennis players who captained North Wales cricket teams this summer were: Brian Baxter (General Secretary of the Rhyl League), who skippered the Rhuddlan cricket team; Austin Molloy (of the Rhyl League's selection committee), who led the Rhyl Cricket Club; and Alf. Dodge (Holywell inter-league player), who captained Mostyn Park C.C.

## Swindon says—

HOPES are running high among the clubs in Swindon.

Sweeping changes have been made on the executive, where Mr. R. W. May is enthusiastically and efficiently handling the duties of secretary. Swindon's international, Joe Silton, has been appointed Chairman, while those "old-stagers," V. C. Dowse and D. A. Kethers retain their offices of assistant secretaries to aid the Committee's discussion by their experience.

They say new brooms sweep clean. This is surely evinced by the progressive policy adopted this season. The dance, to be held shortly, is planned to be but the forerunner of an annual event, which should bring table tennis to the notice of those who still appear unaware of the possibilities of the game.

Encouragement will be given to young and promising players and endeavours will be made to discover real "stars." Who knows what Swaythling or Corbillion Cup players may be lurking in Swindon.

New Clubs joining the League this season are the "32 Club" and "Marks and Spencer" women's (two teams).—  
D. A. K.

## Woolwich & District News

THE Woolwich League secretary this season is Mr. A. L. Ferris, 54 Marlborough Park Avenue, Sidcup, Kent. The Association has increased to five men's divisions and two women's divisions.

The Singles Championships will be held at Chiesmans, Lewisham, in January.

Several new clubs have affiliated, proving the increased popularity of table tennis in the North Kent Area. J. Rogers, along with several other of last year's League Champions, are again giving their services to Woolwich.

Woolwich wish to fix inter-association matches to give their better players greater experience of the game; coaching of young players will also be an important part of the Association's programme.

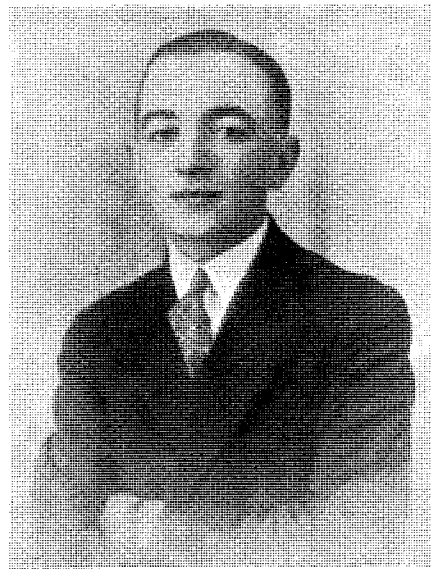
## Chester.

CHESTER and District League, entering on their fifth season, have six new teams.

There is a new President, as Mr. Alan Miln, one of the founders of the League, has found it necessary to resign, but the League are fortunate in having such an enthusiast as Dr. E. I. Bieber to take his place.

There is also a change in the Treasurership, one of the keenest players in Chester having taken on the job, in Mr. W. Moore ("Billy").

Chester have again entered the Wilmott Cup and the G. B. Hyde Cup, and they hope to get their third win in the Hyde Cup.



Mr. Jack Batty, popular Secretary of the Manchester & District League, writes (on page 13) of the need for an official standard of scoring.

### ST. BRIDE TABLE TENNIS CLUB BRIDE LANE, LONDON, E.C. 4.

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This very interesting picture is of the team which opposed Wales on the occasion of the very first International Table Tennis Match, on March 9, 1923. England won (perhaps diamond shirt-studs dazzled our opponents into defeat) but the actual scores have sunk deep into antiquity.

Left to right, back row: G. J. ROSS, London (reserve); T. HOLLINGSWORTH, Wednesbury (ex-champion); G. W. DECKER, London; P. BROMFIELD, London (ex-champion); E. TAPPER, London; R. H. BERRY (reserve, Hon. Asst. Sec., T.T.A.). Front row: G. BELSTON, Bristol (Western champion); A. F. CARRIS, London (1922 finalist); J. W. SWANN, Manchester, and E. WOODS, Manchester.

## Players to watch in Wales

BY the end of the month, the 1937 Table Tennis season in Wales will be in full swing. The number of entries received by the various Welsh Leagues has been most gratifying. Some eighty Clubs will be competing in the Cardiff and District League alone, while nearly all the other centres have been able to show an increase on last season.

Mr. H. Roy Evans, who for many seasons has worked enthusiastically to improve the standard of the game in Wales, will again be at the head of affairs, and I wish him every success.

The selection of our international side will again present a problem to those concerned. Mr. Evans, the pioneer of the tennis grip in Wales, is anxious that our representative sides should consist of this type of player. We must not lose sight of the fact that the lowering of the net is definitely going to encourage certain penhold players to hit with greater power and accuracy, and judging by practice form, our secretary may have to modify his views.

TO refer to certain individual players, the first one who comes readily to mind is D. J. Thomas (Ogmore),

the Welsh Champion for several seasons. I cannot recall anyone at the moment who is likely to depose him. He is definitely our No. 1 player.

T. Lisle of Birmingham must be ranked No. 2, a real stylist. The ex-Newport player is always a difficult man to beat. Ron Baglow of Newport and Dewi Lewis of Cardiff follow. These "despised" penhold grip players can be relied upon to shine in any class.

It is confidently expected that several of last season's promising youngsters will again be to the fore. I refer particularly to Ken Milson (Cardiff)—who will be remembered for his fine performance against the Barna trio last season, F. Curtin (Penarth), T. Thomas (Ogmore) and Meredith (Aberdare).

\* \* \*

THE West National League is to revert to its original title "The Western Counties League" and entries have been received from Cardiff, Bristol, Swindon, Salisbury, Ilfracombe, Bath and probably Newport. Exeter will not be competing this season as they have already entered the English Wilmott cup and Plummer cup competitions.

## In NORTH WALES

THREE years ago table tennis was hardly played in North Wales. Now there are Leagues in practically all the big centres. This year there will be strong leagues in Llandudno, Rhyl, Holywell, Greenfield, Shotton and Wrexham.

The Llandudno League is the oldest competition in North Wales, and for some seasons past there have been two competitions in existence in the Llandudno area, the Llandudno Local and the Llandudno and District Leagues. Now these two are to be amalgamated into one strong League, with Mr. Howell Griffiths as Secretary.

Without a doubt, Rhyl is by far the strongest League in the area. This season, the League is to be composed of four divisions and more than fifty teams are to compete. This is outstanding, when it is realised that the Rhyl League has only been in existence a little more than eighteen months, and that the population of Rhyl is only about 14,000. Much of the credit for the success is undoubtedly due to Mr. Brian Baxter, the enthusiastic general secretary.

Rhyl hope that their two "star" girls—the Misses Clara and Annie Wadsworth (twin daughters of the President of the League), will be selected to play for Wales again. They appeared in the Welsh team defeated by England at Swindon last season.

THE Holywell League is about to embark on its second season with 20 teams. There have been several changes in the officials of this League and the new officials are: Chairman, Mr. P. A. Churchill; Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. H. Jones; Treasurer, Mr. Noel Williams. Mr. R. E. Davies and Mr. P. Astley Edwards have been re-elected General Secretary and Match Secretary respectively.

Eight teams will take part in the Works League of Messrs. Courtauld's at Greenfield. Mr. W. Twine is the new Secretary of this League, while Mr. H. E. Hickson has been re-elected Chairman.

The Wrexham and District League will be stronger than last season. This is the League's second season by Mr. G. A. Sanders, the new League Secretary, who is an old Newport player.

The recently formed Shotton League seems likely to produce several useful players within the next few seasons. The players in the district have the advantage of being coached by Mr. A. Todd, who used to be a prominent player in the Liverpool area about ten years ago.

\* \* \*

### North Wales League

A NORTH Wales League has been formed, composed of teams representing Leagues for North Wales. Leagues to compete in this event are Llandudno, Rhyl, Holywell, Wrexham and Shotton.

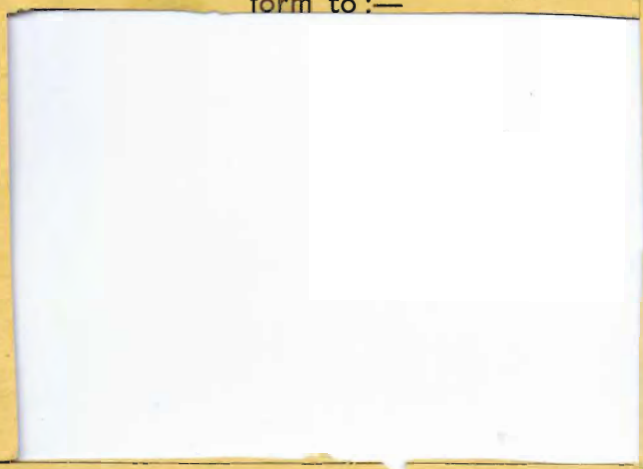
The first open tournament to be held in North Wales will be the Flintshire Open Championships at Rhyl on November 12 and 13.



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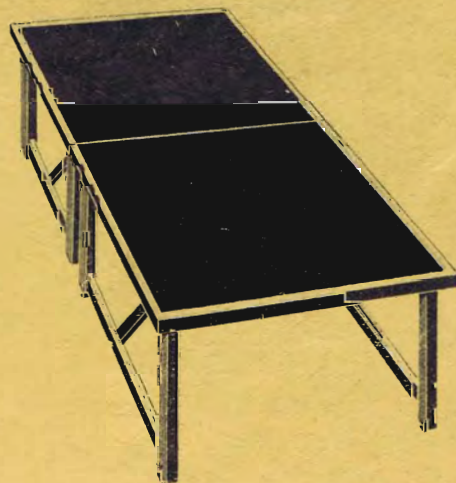
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