

TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH TENNIS



TABLE ASSOCIATION

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

OVER THE NET

LEARNING THE GAME



Vol IV

No 7

APRIL, 1939

TABLE TENNIS

Registered at Stationers' Hall

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

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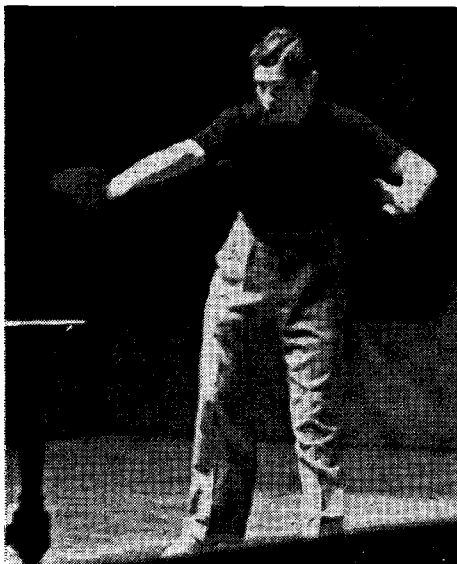
VOLUME IV. No. 7

APRIL, 1939

THREE PENCE

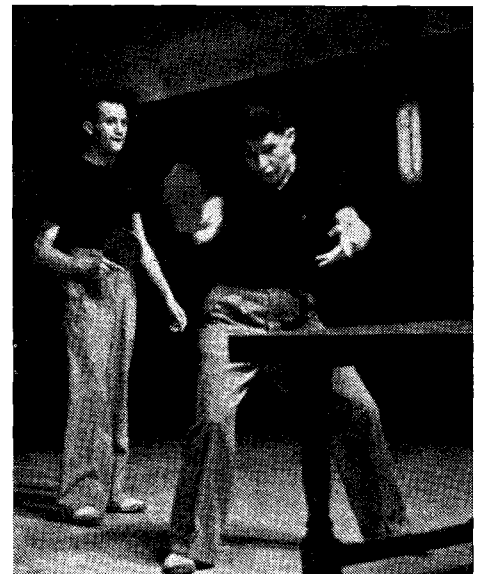
THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S SINGLES



R. Bergmann

MEN'S DOUBLES



R. Bergmann and G. V. Barna

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-Finals: Ehrlich (Poland) beat Dolimar (Jugoslavia) 21-18, 21-10, 21-14; Bergmann (England) beat Vana (Czechoslovakia) 21-13, 22-20, 15-21, 15-21, 21-19.

Final: Bergmann beat Ehrlich 21-7, 21-15, 21-18.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Semi-Finals: Pritzi (Germany) beat Kettnerova (Czechoslovakia) 21-10, 22-20, 21-19; Depetrisova (Czechoslovakia) beat Naili (Egypt) 22-20, 21-12, 21-19.

Final: Depetrisova beat Pritzi 21-19, 16-21, 16-21, 21-19, 21-9.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Final: Bergmann and Barna beat Hamr and Tartakower 21-11, 21-9, 21-12.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Final: Pritzi and Bussmann beat Adelstein and Kolasvary 21-17, 21-15, 21-15.

MIXED DOUBLES

Final: Vana and Votrubcova beat Tereba and Kettnerova 21-15, 21-17, 20-22, 21-11.

THE NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN'S NOTES

FIRST DAY. v. *Rumania*. Our boys played mavelously and ran away 5-0. v. *Jugoslavia*. Lurie on top form. Bubley and Hyde not so good; in each game they had the lead and lost, no fight. Bubley led Heksner 19-17 in the third game, he also led against Marinko. Hyde led against Harangoso (fourth player of Jugoslavia). Against *Greece* Bubley, still playing nervously, won owing to the opposition being weak. Hyde was better, but still not in best form. In Stanley's first Swaythling Cup match he won against the third player of Greece, but lost to their first player, a wooden bat defence player with pen-holder attack on forehand.

SECOND DAY. v. *India*. Won easily 5-0; Lurie not quite as good as day before. India's team very weak indeed. Barafwala did not

play in any match so as to give his team experience.

AFTERNOON. No Swaythling Cup match. The Queen present, and Hyde played an exhibition game against Vana.

EVENING. v. *Lithuania*. Hyde and Lurie played on top of their form. Bubley was still weak. His defence and attack looked inferior in comparison with the strong players of the world.

THIRD DAY. v. *Czechoslovakia*. All our players played well. Vana was not in top form and lost his first game (to Bubley) since the Cup commenced. Hyde did not allow his opponent to settle down, but Vana was not in his best form. Hamr looked the strongest Czech in this match. A great fight was put up by Lurie against Hamr in first game. Losing 0-11, 1-14, 4-17, 19-19, 24-22, the

effort was too much, and he suffered reaction in the following games.

v. *Luxembourg*. Tartakower proved himself a splendid player, but by the time he played us he was feeling the strain of playing in all matches. Hyde hit him off. Stanley beat the other man easily.

v. *France*. Haguenaer's first match since his illness. Bubley showed again his weakness against a defensive player with a hit. Stanley played with pluck against Guerin. Lurie was off form in this match.

v. *Egypt*. A great crowd on the centre court. Egypt were all out to beat us. Lurie's backhand was right off, and in the last game he lost ten points on this alone. The Egyptians have all improved under Ehrlich's training. In a year or two, if they

(continued on page 2)

TABLE TENNIS

ENGLAND v. WALES

Llanelly, February 21st
 England won 9-0

World Championships—Continued from page 1
 continue this progress, they will become a first-class country. Ehrlich had been training in Cairo about four months.
 v. Palestine. Won easily.

INDIVIDUALS—DOUBLES.

Wilmott/Ostler put up a great fight against Haguenaer/Bedoc; lost in fifth. Bublely/Stanley lost easily to the same pair through wrong tactics.

LURIE/HYDE. Played marvellously to beat Vana/Tereba. Both hit like — and left the Czech pair standing. They lost to Bergmann/Barna. Not in quite such good form except in first game. Barna's tactics won. Bergmann not in such good form. Probably saving himself. Still a wonderful match. About the best of the whole tournament doubles. Could have won if both had been in best form in fifth game.

SINGLES.

Ostler lost to an unknown Egyptian with strong defence. Wilmott lost easily to Eros (Rumania), who attacks all the time.

BUBLEY lost narrowly to Haguenaer after a fight about the balls. Hyde lost to Bergmann easily, although the strength of his attack kept Richard entirely on the defence.

LURIE lost to Ehrlich. Playing a strong defensive game in the third with occasional flick. Gave the impression that if he had played like this all the way through would have won.

Stanley to Dzindziliauskis—three straight.

BARNA beat Tereba, although he was nearly all in when playing the fifth game. The effort to win cost him so much that next day he lost easily to Ehrlich.

BERGMANN. Very easy draw to semi-final. Match against Vana not so good as London. Won first two games easily. Threw the first ten points of the third; could not recover and lost the fourth also. By then Vana playing near his London form. Fifth a tough battle decided by Bergmann's all-round excellence. He beat Ehrlich easily in final and was hardly extended.

DEPETRISOVA/PRITZI. Push, push, push, livened by a forehand hit by Depetrisova. Went to one hour in all.

After Bergmann, the best players were Tereba, Hamr, Lurie, then the Jugoslavs, and then Hyde, Bublely and Tartakower. Standard of play was the lowest in any World Championship, and there were few exciting matches except Jugo v. England. Czechoslovakia was easily the best team.

**MIDDLESEX OPEN
 TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 at the
HERGA CLUB, HARROW
 17th-29th APRIL, 1939 (entries close 14th April)

Entry forms from:—B. J. WALDRON,
 HERGA CLUB, COURTFIELD AVENUE, HARROW.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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21 - 20

How many times have we seen this score in newspapers, in secretaries' reports, on referees' record sheets, and, perhaps most of all, on umpires' result cards?

Why do we mention it? To call attention to the number of games that reach the score "twenty-all"? No!

It's because there is no such score at all.

The score in table tennis should always be the exact number of points played. The game may end at 22-20, 21-23 or 45-47, but it can't be 21-20 unless the game is unfinished. There is no "deuce," and after twenty-all has been called the umpire should go on counting upwards and not revert to love-all or even twenty-all each time the scores become level again.

CAN THE MAGAZINE BE SOLD?

We often receive letters saying that players and spectators will not buy the Magazine they will only read it. Listen—here is Mr. Davidson, one of our best friends, of the North Middlesex League: "I took 200 copies from the office and ran them down to the exhibition at Leyton. I now return 48, and am very sorry I could not dispose of more than 152. I found a good spot just inside the entrance, and personally sold 110—local girls sold the balance. I was very sorry not to have sold out, but it was quite an entertaining experience!" Well done, Mr. Davidson, and thanks, Mr. Hewitt, for giving the facilities. If we sold like this at every exhibition most of our circulation troubles would be over.

**THE ENGLISH
 TABLE TENNIS
 ASSOCIATION**

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"TABLE TENNIS"

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MAGAZINE COMMITTEE:

The Misses B. Capper and R. Smits, Mrs. G. Tower, and Messrs. R. Brewer, E. A. W. Cast, W. C. Charlton, W. J. Pope, E. G. White, and F. H. Wilson.

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The Magazine can also be obtained from League Secretaries and all newsagents.

MSS. for publication must be received by the 14th of the month.

We acknowledge with thanks the courtesy of the following in allowing the reproduction of illustrations: Messrs. Hoover Ltd. (Barna and Bergmann on page 1 and the groups on pages 8 and 9); "Sunday Express" (Bergmann on page 1); "Bath and Wills Chronicle" (cartoon on page 6); "Bolton Evening News" (central illustration, page 8).

We regret that owing to pressure on space, correspondence from Mr. Wall, of West Bromwich, has to be held over until next month.

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MAGIC CARPET

IT'S not so easy flying around on the Magic Carpet in these days of balloon barrages and what not, but the Editor was in dictatorial mood. He sent me to Coventry, and added: "Look sharp about it."

So I went to COVENTRY, and looked at Sharpe while I was about it. And it was well worth the trouble; this young man won his home-town championship in convincing style. Solid defence, steady nerve, and occasional carefully placed drives—not much wrong with that recipe.

Sharpe's opponent in the final, H. Seadon, has nothing to worry about. He has a splendid all-round game, and at the age of 19 (same as Sharpe) his prospects are rosy.

I stopped to see the ladies. [Naturally.—Ed.] In the final Miss Peacham set out to teach 'em how to beat Miss Parkin without any larkin'. Slow but sure, but then Miss Peacham had learned her own lesson from several previous finals in which she got the dry part of the sandwich.

* * *

TALKING of dry reminded me of Burton-on-Trent, so off I went, but by way of a joke we landed at Stoke!

Big night at STOKE for the finals of the men's championship for the A. T. Finney Cup. The match between Wm. Hulme and T. Bradshaw gave the crowd a thrill. Hulme won, but there was very little in it.

From the "platform" it seemed that Bradshaw was just a little bit "off the rails." Although his "timing" was not quite accurate, Hulme didn't find Bradshaw as simple as the ABC!

Afterwards the donor of the cup, Mr. A. T. Finney, veteran supporter of table tennis, spoke of the early days in the Midlands, but he was capped by the Rev. W. Upright, who recalled a "table tennis" match of 39 years ago.

I don't know whether the future of the game is at stake, but the past was certainly at Stoke that evening!

In the NORTH STAFFS inter-town tourney neither Crewe nor anybody else can stop

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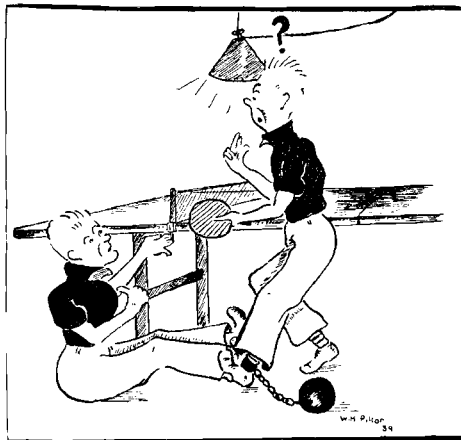
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Leek, but they are not hoisting distress signals on that account. LEEK have a good team, but the others will be after them next season.

* * *

NEXT stop LEICESTER. Still smacking Naway at their old rivals, NOTTINGHAM, but although they led 3-1 in their last Midlands League match, Notts tied them up 5-4. Gooder should have done better—after beating Warrington, the old hand, he lost to Nottingham's youngster, Jimmy Nelson.



Unfair handicap eh? You forget I'm the
Tournament Secretary.

You have got to take this kid seriously when he is t'other side of the net. One bright spot for Leicester—Howkins, Y.M.C.A. "white hope," celebrated his first appearance by winning both his matches. That's the right spirit!

* * *

A FEW more calls: SUNDERLAND—just in time to see the town team go down to Manchester in the Wilmott Cup. First game went to the North, when Ewbank beat Cromwell—Freddie, not Oliver, you know—but that was all for Sunderland. Good to see those old war-horses, Ewbank and Hunnam, still fighting fit, but what are the young lads of Sunderland doing that these two are still automatic first choice?

KINGS LYNN—amongst last 16 in the Wilmott Cup, but they were beaten 7-2 when Boston came to tea. Boston's new man, Renshaw, notched three. All defence at the moment, but still a man for the county to watch.

CORTON BEACH—dropped into the holiday camp here (strictly business, Mr. Editor). A grand meeting between LOWESTOFT and NORWICH. Not only a women's and a men's representative match, but also a match between the respective Second Divisions of each city. Now that's a sensible idea, giving the lesser lads a share of the limelight occasionally. Lowestoft's premier team knew too much for Norwich, 17-8; the seconds, however, only got home by the odd game in 25. Norwich women kept the flag flying with a 14-11 win, Miss Crocker being out-

standing, whilst Miss Pogmore lent a hand with a useful 4.

BURNLEY. The town team is very prominent here too, but there is plenty of activity amongst the clubs. Nearly a hundred entries for the Willie Holt Cup show the keenness amongst the "also-rans."

Burnley men are especially pleased about their "double" over their great rivals, NELSON, in the N.E. LANCS LEAGUE. This time it was Brunton who bore the brunt for Burnley, beating Matson the League champion, Dinsdale and Stevens in straight games. Nice work, Brunton!

Dinsdale, of Nelson's team, was pleased to score his first win for two years against Alston, but blotted his copybook by losing to Burnley's third man, Proctor. True, he stuck it well, recovering from 1-15 in the deciding game, to 15-18, so he deserves a cheer.

Local girls are on their mettle, as they have to entertain the redoubtable Manchester lasses in a challenge match to finish the season.

The Editor Hears . . .

. . . Of a little opposition in Shrewsbury. They are running their own Table Tennis Magazine down there. Called "Flick," the February number, which I've just read, runs to eight pages and makes good reading, even for one who is not too well up in the details of play in the Shrewsbury neighbourhood.

And it's not really opposition, for they distribute "Flick" with TABLE TENNIS—a good scheme which others might do well to copy, for we can't give all the space we should like to local notes.

Congratulations Mr. Editor and Mr. Secretary.

* * *

. . . Of a new move in the East End of London. The Manhattan Club, having realised its ambitions of producing a Swaythling Cup player and a team to beat London, have been looking round for new fields to conquer.

They've fastened on the women's game. It means a new club, with better dressing accommodation and new equipment, to make things comfy for the ladies, but that doesn't dismay Manhattan. I don't believe there are any Bublely sisters, so Club-manager Harold Bublely will have to go outside the family for his first Corbillon Cup player.

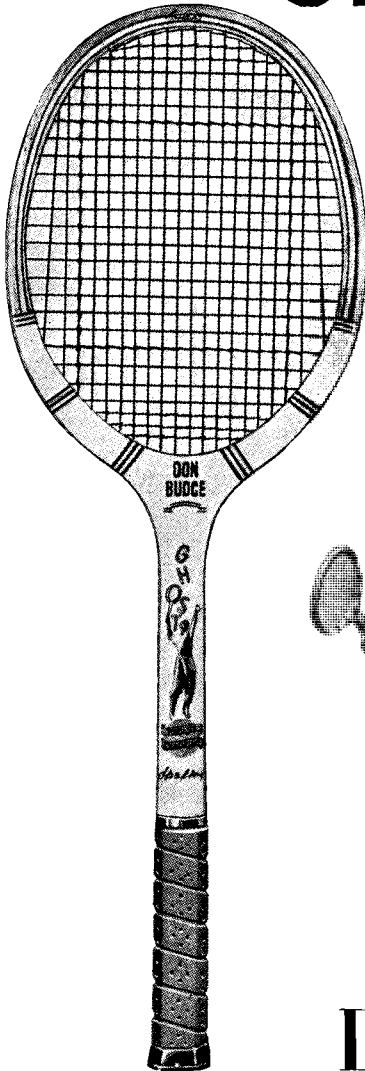
Co-operating with Harold on women's questions is Miss Marie Canini. She's so keen that, although the new club won't get going until the Summer, she's already started the ball rolling . . . by designing a smart outfit for the new team!

TABLE TENNIS

SPALDING

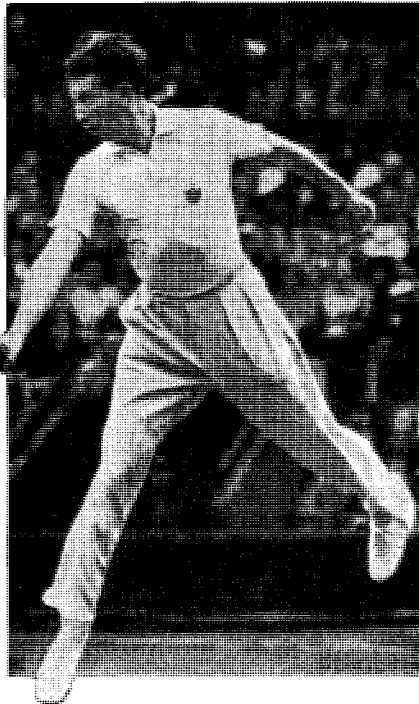
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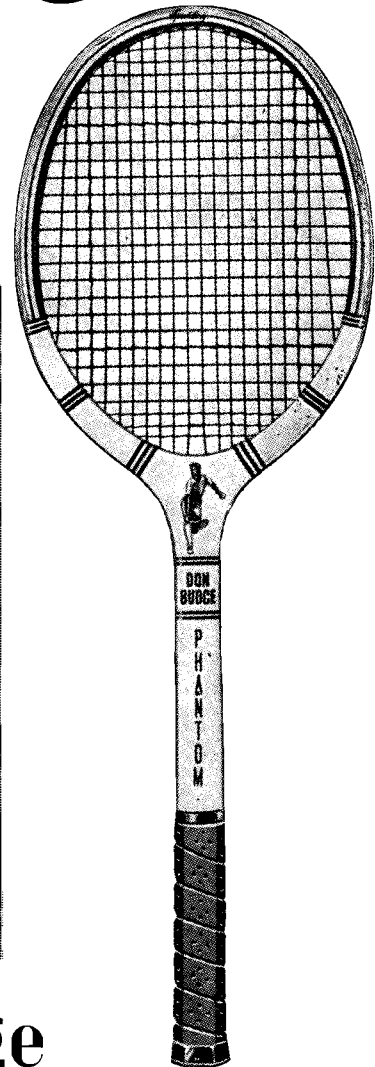
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EDINBURGH: 3, South Charlotte Street.
LIVERPOOL: 20, Lord Street.

MANCHESTER: 22, Mosley Street.
BELFAST: 15, Lombard Street.
GLASGOW: 60, St. Vincent Street.

OVER THE NET

WE write this month under the shadow of a crisis that makes all sport seem of small consequence except its spirit. And it is the spirit of sport that makes us able to joke about a situation so grave.

Germany has begun another march to the east, and it has been left to table tennis to find the reason.

Remember how Trudi Pritzi, formerly of Austria, won the women's world championship, and almost immediately Germany took over Austria? Quickly they acclaimed *their* world champion.

But now Miss Pritzi has been beaten by Miss Depetrisova (Czechoslovakia)—to whom congratulations on her title. Something had to be done. So, say the cynics, Germany absorbed the Czechs.

Again Germany have a world champion—but what a good thing they don't play cricket!

* * *

Bubley's Violin Again

THE English team for the world championships—Hyde, Bubley, Lurie and Stanley—travelled through France and the Mediterranean with the French team.

Bubley was the life and soul of the party on the boat, unofficially joined the ship's orchestra with his violin, and according to some accounts, greatly improved it.

Later certain objections were raised to Bubley's assistance, but not before he

WHO IS THIS?



No—it's not Bubley but another Table Tennis violinist. His name is on Page 13.

had amused a large audience with his celebrated rendering of the Lambeth Walk.

DURING the recent tour of star players, the tourists were at one town conducted round a timber factory. In the middle of piles of timber the guide pointed out one particular stack to Vana, who is a Czech.

"That came from Czechoslovakia," he said. "Yes," replied Vana, without a smile, "I recognised it."

* * *

It was also at one of these touring exhibitions that the following conversation was overheard.

"What was that ticket for you sold me?"

"Table tennis, of course."

"Table tennis? Then what's that game you play at your club?"

* * *

Was He Mortified!

MR. LESLIE BENNETT, honorary secretary of the Lincolnshire T.T.A., and a member of the E.T.T.A. executive, never minds a story against himself.

He tells proudly how at Peterborough recently he was drawn against a diminutive, 14-year-old boy in the open, and after trying really hard was deservedly beaten in straight games.

Later he overheard the lad telling his friends that he had never played worse in his life. "He sounded quite disgusted with himself, and was I mortified?" asks Mr. Bennett.

* * *

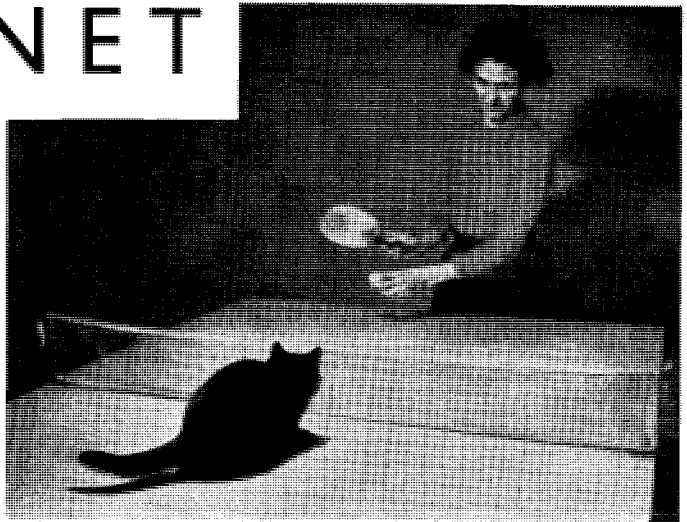
THESE Bellak stories are unending, and if this one is not new to all of you it's good enough to bear repeating.

Barna and Szabados, the tale goes, were arguing in Budapest as to which of them was the world's most famous player. Bellak offered to settle the argument.

He took them both into the street, stopped the first passer-by. "Do you know this man?" he asked, pointing to Barna. "No," was the reply.

Then Bellak pointed to Szabados. "Do you know this one?" "No, Mr. Bellak," was the astonishing response.

Did we say it was a Bellak story?



Mr. Walker Wants to Know...

A READER sends this true account of the happenings in a well-known Midland League. He suggests it, with apologies to Mr. Syd Walker, the Editor wants to know...

Jones and Robinson are members of a local club. On the day of the draw for the club championship, a well-meaning committeeman informs Jones that in the first round he is drawn against Robinson.

Jones, seeing Robinson knocking up, suggests they play their round straight off, and Robinson agrees.

An umpire is appointed, and after a stern struggle Jones runs away on the last few points to win. They shake hands, and Robinson says goodbye to the cup for that year.

Next day there appears on the notice board the official draw for the tournament. To Jones's surprise he has not drawn Robinson, but another member.

As luck would have it, three rounds later Jones and Robinson *do* clash in the draw. "When can you play me?" asks Jones.

"Play you? I've played you, and I'm not going to play you again. Good luck, and may you get to the final," was Robinson's reply.

Jones informed the committee, and in turn they tried to persuade Robinson, but he still refused, saying: "I played Jones on the understanding that I was drawn against him, and I lost. Now I find the match should have been played a little later, that's all."

* * *

Well, what would you do, chums? Just drop a postcard to E.T.T.A., 64, High Holborn, London, E.C. Just put "Play again" or "Not play again."

We'll know what you mean.

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Western Counties Season Reaches Climax

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BATH

THE final stages of the Western Counties closed championships were played at Spa Pavilion, Bath, on Saturday, February 25, before a very fine crowd. The Mayor of Bath, Captain Adrian Hopkins, attended and presented the prizes. Thanks are due to the enthusiastic band of Bath helpers, led by Secretary Ollis, for all arrangements.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: A. W. C. Simons (Bristol) beat D. B. Shipton (Bristol) 21-18, 20-21, 21-18, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Mrs. H. R. Evans (Cardiff) beat Miss M. M. Scott (Bristol) 21-18, 19-21, 21-17.

Junior Singles: G. Chugg (Cardiff) beat F. Exon (Bristol) 21-14, 21-11.

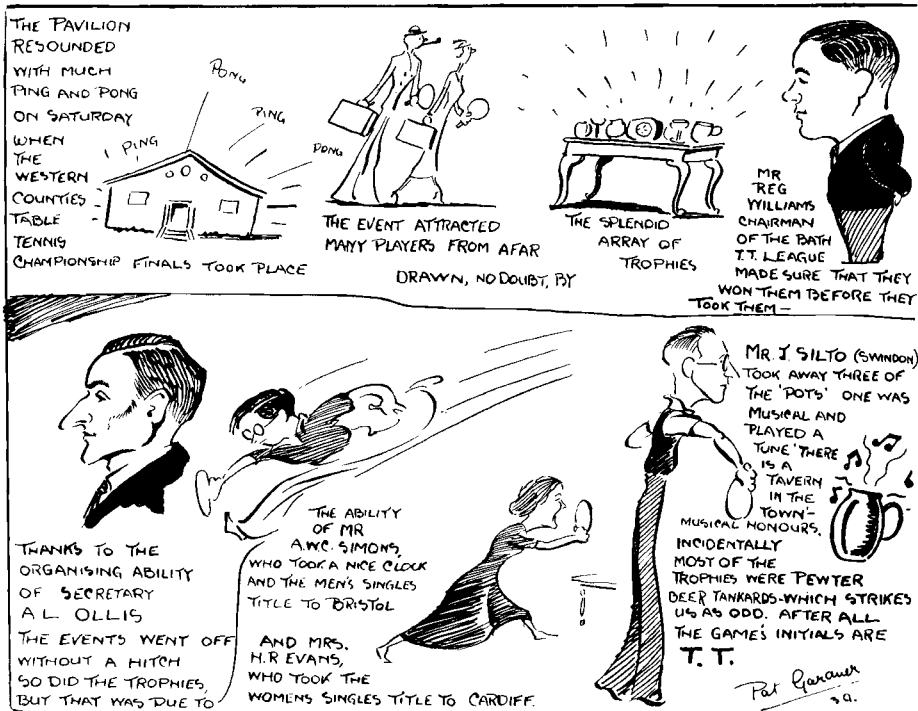
Men's Doubles: J. Silto and F. Vizor (Swindon) beat D. B. Shipton and H. A. Hodge (Bristol) 21-16, 21-16, 13-21, 21-20.

Mixed Doubles: Miss C. Jones and J. Silto (Swindon) beat Miss E. Smith and W. Beeton (Birmingham) 21-8, 17-21, 21-17.

During the last month we have seen Cardiff win the women's section, and the first defeat of Swindon in the men's by Cardiff. Scores of the matches played in the men's section were: Swindon 11, Bath 2; Birmingham 5, Bristol 8; Swindon 6, Cardiff 7. In the women's section Swindon lost to Cardiff 7-6. Tables:—

MEN'S SECTION					
	Plyd.	Won	Lost	Pts.	
Swindon	..	6	5	1	10
Cardiff	..	6	4	2	8
Bristol..	..	7	4	3	8
Birmingham	..	5	3	2	6
Bath	8	0	8	0
WOMEN'S SECTION					
Cardiff	..	4	4	0	8
Swindon	..	4	2	2	4
Bristol	..	4	0	4	0

The first inter-League match of our history was held at Bristol on Saturday, March 25, when the pick of the Western Counties entertained the pick of the Metropolitan.



Bergmann Wins West of England Three more titles for Miss Blackbourn

THE West of England Championships were played at Paignton and Torquay and proved to be a great success. Bergmann won the men's singles title, and in doing so showed form far superior to any of his colleagues. He beat Barna in the semi-final without losing a game, and repeated the dose in the final at the expense of Vana. His play was brilliant both in attack and defence, and at no time did he look like losing.

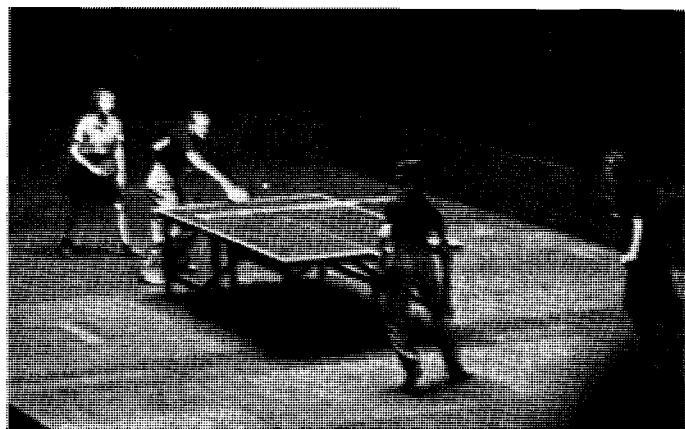
junior singles, thrown open to both boys and girls, Miss Blackbourn reached the final of this event. She lost to A. W. C. Simons of Bristol, who won the title for the second successive year.

The men's doubles final was the best of the evening, and Barna and Bellak just beat Vana and Bergmann after five hectic games which brought the crowd to their feet on many occasions.

The preliminary rounds were played at the Public Hall, Paignton, and the competitors were transferred to the covered courts at the Palace Hotel, Torquay, where conditions were perfect for the finals. The Palace Hotel was packed, every seat was sold several days beforehand, and over 1,000 were present to watch the greatest table tennis exhibition ever staged in the South Devon area. The mayors and mayoresses of Torquay, Paignton, Newton Abbot, Teignmouth, Totnes and Dartmouth were present, and the Mayoress of Torquay presented the trophies at the conclusion of the programme.

The extraordinary record of Miss Blackbourn is worthy of note, for in addition to winning the women's singles, she won the women's doubles with Miss Joan Brock of Exeter, and the mixed doubles with Barna. In addition to which, in the

The B.B.C. arranged a running commentary on the men's singles final, which was given by Ralph Rossiter. The South Devon League made the arrangements, and were successful in having three new perpetual trophies presented to these championships, which should further add to the attraction next season.



The World's Mixed Doubles Champions: Vana and Votrubcova (nearest camera in play in the English final this year, in which they defeated Barna and Osborne.

M. A. Symons talks to the BEGINNER

"WOULD you like to play for the team next Tuesday, Robbins?" asks the club secretary. "It's an away match, but it'll be rather an experience for you."

You can hardly believe your ears. Can he possibly mean *you*? "Yes, of course, I'd like to very much," you reply, "but you know I'm not much good—I expect I shall lose most of my games." "Don't worry about that," says the secretary, "we've all got to make a start sometime. Why, I remember in *my* first match, four years ago . . ."

The fateful Tuesday comes and you feel a mixture of nervousness and elation at the idea of playing in your first League match. You are very anxious to play well, more particularly because you have overheard a club member, not so keen to improve his play as you are, remark: "He asked *me* to play but I told him I couldn't manage Tuesday. He's been running round trying to get anybody for the match, afraid he'll be left with only four men. Now he's got hold of Robbins." His fellow conversationalist had smiled back sarcastically.

After waiting for some minutes at the meeting-place the secretary and two others of the team arrive. You hear that "— is going straight there, he knows the place well—used to be a member there." Half an hour later you cross the threshold of the opponents' club.

You are ushered into a large clubroom and see two table tennis tables both occupied by members of the opposing team. They seem to be pretty good, one of them making backhand and forehand drives with great gusto. The other player, after retrieving several shots, receives a real "snorter" which gets past him. "Better than ever," says he, and laughs as he stoops to pick up the ball. You take a quick look round and see on the mantelpiece an indicator which

No. 7—Match-play for the beginner

reads: "Home Team 21, Visitors 4." "Hot stuff, aren't they?" you say to the secretary. "Yes, pretty good," he replies, "but their best player isn't turning out to-night and I think we might just do it."

You retire to the changing room and presently emerge ready for the fray, with your bat under your arm, feeling somewhat nervous and with hands a little moist. As you re-enter the clubroom you see the secretary knocking up with the club "star" who has now arrived. They seem to be pretty casual about things, but you notice slight anxiety in the secretary's eye. He is going on first.

FOUR games are played before your turn comes and the opponents lead 3-1. The secretary says to you: "Don't worry too much about his flick—he hits as many off as on." Service. Your opponent seems to wave his hands about and then strikes the ball. Over it comes to you; you strike at it, but it goes off your bat sideways off the table. A bad start. Again it happens, and you begin to feel that you are going to play even worse than you feared. 0-5.

Your service. You serve your fast one. Bang! it is driven past you like lightning. You try slower services, and these are not treated so cavalierly. Your opponent tries a backhand hit which fails. You feel a little more at ease now; if only you could master his services. But they continue to worry you; you do worse and worse, eventually losing the game 21-7, and come off wishing the earth would swallow you. However, the secretary laughs and says: "Never mind, that was Smith, he's their best player—turned up after all, but they put him No. 5 as he was late."

You watch the varying success of your team mates with mixed feelings. By the time your next turn comes they are still down on the match score. Your other games are little more successful than the first. You seem never to have time to make any shots; all you can do is to rush from side to side

of the table trying to get the ball back. You do manage one or two good returns, and the opponents say "Well up!" but these are few and far between. All your opponents appear to have different kinds of trick services, and you lose point after point from one fellow's side-spin service in spite of your "star" player's advice to "push to the right when he serves that one, it's only breaking into your body." It seems to break both ways to you!

You finish by playing their weakest man, who has lost all his other games. The match is already well lost, and your only consolation after losing this last game (your "weak" opponent seeming to find unaccountable good form against you) is that the rest of your team lost games too. But you have lost *all* yours badly. Your total points score is only 43, with 105 against.

As you travel home in the 'bus you feel depressed. You had expected to be nervous and play badly, but this—to be "wiped up" without a chance, all your hits going off, almost your only points gained by scrambling the ball back or mistakes by opponents. You feel that your first match has been indeed a baptism of fire. "Cheer up," says the secretary, who has won three games, "you didn't play any worse than — (the club member who "couldn't manage to turn out") would have done. Their table's rather fast and the lighting's rotten. Not enough run-back either, I was nearly on top of the chairs at times."

ALL of us have to make a start in match-play, and it is often a disappointing one. However, club matches are not so all-important as you think at the time. To you your failure may have seemed almost criminal, but players are mostly concerned with their own failures—not yours. Watch your opponent's play and try not to bother about anything else. If your opponents seemed to be extra good, remember they were playing "at home," and every player is better on his own table, especially in club matches, when the conditions are variable. Watching two alleged brilliant players, count how often they can repeat the same stroke in one rally. When you find that they quite often make mistakes, that will tell you they aren't quite so "hot" as you have imagined.

Against services which seem difficult and which you keep missing, try *any* way of returning them. *Anything* is better than putting them off the table or into the net every time. If your opponent gains an early lead keep steady and don't try anything "super." Desperate measures are seldom successful, but steadiness wins more matches than anything else.

Try to keep a bold front and remain cool. By persistent effort and will-power, non-chalance can be assumed even when you are almost at your wit's end as to what to do. In the end, you will have a feeling of calmness (or comparative calmness) during a match and will think "I can only lose, it's no use getting 'het-up' about it."

Two final maxims for match-play to last you for your whole playing career:

- (1) Try always to get a knock-up before you play.
- (2) Try to get a sight of your opponent in play before you have to play him.

Next month: "Hints on Practice."

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SCRAPBOOK OF THE TOUR

HERE are a few notes about the recent tour of foreign players, taken at random from a mass of reports, letters and press cuttings which have been reaching the E.T.T.A. office recently.

There isn't room to include everybody, or even to say a great deal about those places we do mention, so if there is nothing here about the particular show you went to—which was, of course, the best of the lot—you will have to forgive us.

At **Chelmsford** there were 400 present, and the house was full as soon as the matches commenced. Souvenir spoons with the borough crest were presented to the players. Congratulations to Chairman Emmett on a well-organised show.

Next day at **Ilford**. Marshall and Bergl joined the tourists. All seats were sold beforehand, and over seven hundred were there. The Mayor and Mayoress of Ilford welcomed the players and presented them with engraved silver pencils. At the end of the evening Vana made a short speech on behalf of the players, thanking everybody, including the baths superintendent, who helped so much to the success of the evening. Ilford keenly awaits a second visit from the tourists.

Thameside Industries sold all their seats in advance, and 400 people packed the hall. Mr. A. V. Hussey, O.B.E., J.P., presented mementoes to the players.

Nearly 300 attended at Stewart and Lloyds' Club at **Corby**. Bergmann and Barna got as far as 31-30 in their match when the umpire stopped play. Magazines sold like hot cakes. Souvenirs presented to the players by Mr. Parsonson, the firm's welfare

supervisor, who sponsored the show from the beginning.

Chard were sold out before the matches began, and 850 people were there. Wilts United Dairies Sports Club organised the show, and Mr. Lee, manager of the factory, presented leather notecases to the players.

Five hundred watched the display at **Coventry**, where the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress were present. A presentation was made to the players, of whom Bergmann was particularly brilliant on this occasion.

Bishop Auckland were booked to capacity (500) a week before the exhibition. The



Play at Bolton.

Chairman of the Council presided, and other civic dignitaries were present. Mementoes were presented to the players.

There were 400 spectators at **Carlisle**, including the Mayor of the city and the Director of Education. Parties came from Penrith, Workington, Keswick and Appleby. Carlisle says "Thank you" to Mr. North,

of the Carlisle Co-operative Society, for his great help.

Eleven hundred was the attendance at **Leeds**. All seats were sold beforehand, and you couldn't have got another spectator in. Organisers Dickinson, Carr and Chadwick were much impressed by Bergmann's marvellous display.

Seven hundred-odd went to the **Macclesfield** exhibition, where the players received a civic welcome from the Mayor, who later presented Macclesfield silk souvenirs. Local players partnered the tourists in doubles matches.

At **Stockport** there was a crowd of 750, including many well-known people. Local players were matched against the tourists, and enthusiasm ran high when Airey took Vana to 20-all in two games. Organisers Bradshaw, Manning, Lloyd and Walker are already making plans for "next time."

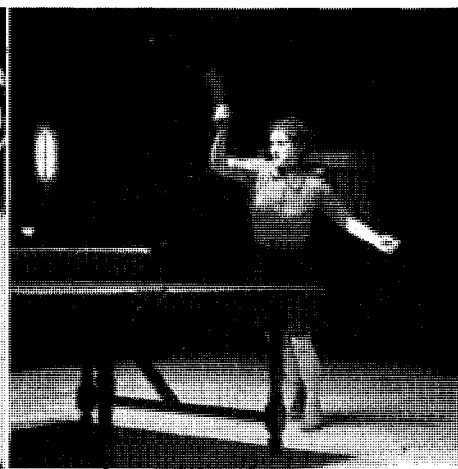
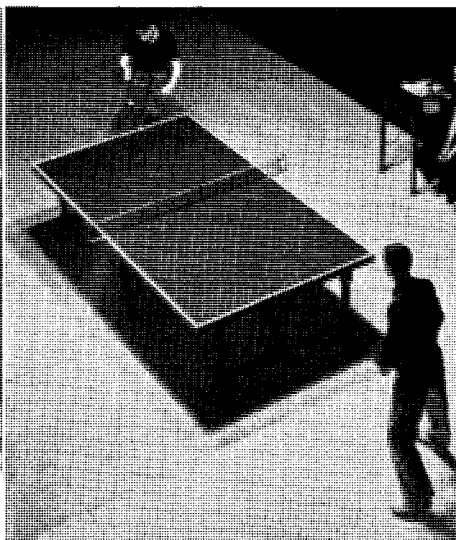
The players were received informally in the Mayor's parlour at **Wolverhampton**. Barna was in disfavour because he insisted on maintaining that Chelsea would win the cup. Nearly 1,000 watched the exhibitions.

Five hundred were present at **Bolton**, and seats were all sold before the show. Part of the programme consisted of a tournament in which Lurie and Shepherd joined the tourists. Bergmann, the winner, received a fine silk scarf.

Liverpool were sold out well in advance, and after Barna and Vana had watched Everton play Birmingham in a cup replay, and Bellak and Bergmann had had a good swim, all the players were in fine form. Part of the programme was a match between the tourists and Hyde, Lurie, Stanley and P. W. Rumjahn, which produced some excellent play.



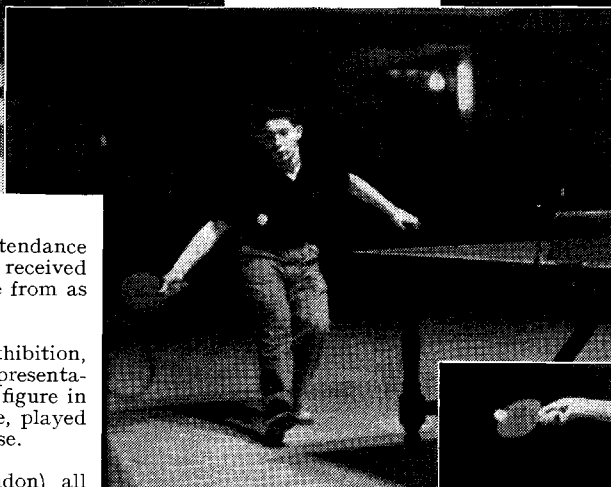
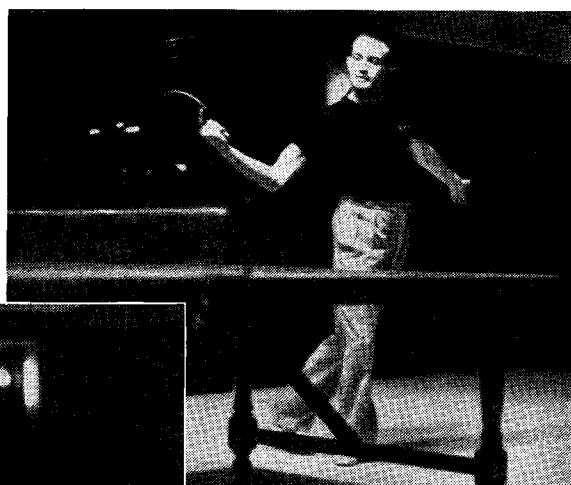
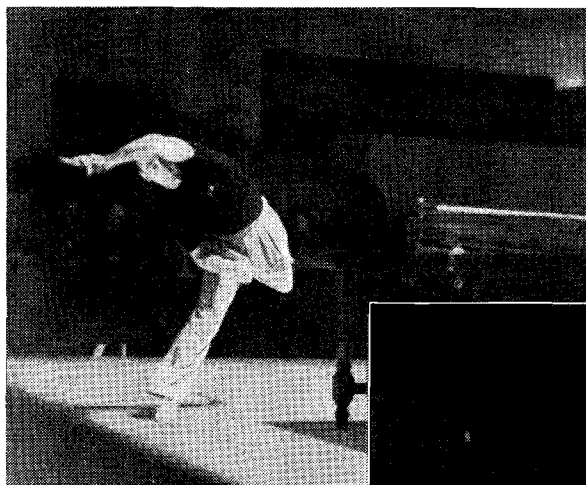
Left: Barna and Bergmann.
Centre: Bergmann and Liebster.
Right: Miss Nicoll.



Play at the Hecover Sports Club

TABLE TENNIS

THE TOURISTS IN ACTION



Six hundred and fifty was the attendance at **Ellesmere Port**, where the players received a civic welcome and spectators came from as far away as Shropshire.

Norwich, staging its third exhibition, gave the tourists a civic welcome and presentation ashtrays bearing a table tennis figure in relief. Liebster, taking Vana's place, played excellently and earned much applause.

At the **Hoover Sports Club** (London) all tickets were sold in advance, and 400, including directors of the company, were present. Miss Nicoll and Miss Hodgkinson joined the tourists, and all the players greatly enjoyed the dance which followed the exhibitions and presentation.

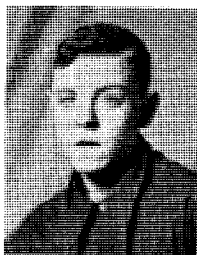
Top left: Bellak. Top right: Barna.
Centre: Bergmann.
Below right: Liebster.



Shepherd Wins Lancs. 'Closed'

by Jack Thompson

LANCASHIRE can be justly proud of its table tennis talent. While its star players H. Lurie, Ken Hyde, Ken Stanley, and Leslie Cohen were figuring prominently in the English open championships at Wembley, there was another event being held with all the same keenness and enthusiasm, so much that play lasted from 2 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. before the finals were decided.



A. Shepherd

Bolton Y.M.C.A. won the singles and the junior event by his very fine attacking play. If this boy can develop a backhand attack on the lines of his forehand he will go far. W. T. Barlow from Bury, also seventeen, was another very promising youngster with a good all-round game, and had he not had such a strenuous programme towards the finals he might have won. In partnership with V. Peatfield from Bury he did win the doubles.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—Final: Shepherd (Bolton) beat Matson (Nelson) 21-19, 21-18, 22-20.

Junior Singles.—Final: Shepherd beat Seddon (Southport) 21-17, 21-11.

Men's Doubles.—Final: Barlow and Peatfield (Bury) beat Brunton and Astin (Burnley) 21-15, 21-18.

The event was open to any League in Lancashire. Nineteen Leagues nominated 76 players for the singles, 38 for the doubles, and 27 for the junior singles, thus the best players in the county were present.

Seventeen-year-old A. Shepherd from the Bolton Y.M.C.A. won the singles and the junior event by his very fine attacking play. If this boy can develop a backhand attack on the lines of his forehand he will go far. W. T. Barlow from Bury, also seventeen, was another very promising youngster with a good all-round game, and had he not had such a strenuous programme towards the finals he might have won. In partnership with V. Peatfield from Bury he did win the doubles.

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The following sports shops stock all official Table Tennis equipment, and any of the requirements for the game can be obtained from these Firms. We hope players will patronise them. They also stock the official magazine "Table Tennis."

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- BLACKPOOL.**—J. A. Steer, Waterloo Rd., S.S.
- BRADFORD.**—Sports and Pastimes, 37, Westgate.
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Looking Around

with

J. W. A. CONNOLLY

("Sunday Express" sports specialist)

LOOKING around this month it is with amazement that I note the terrific interest taken nowadays in the various inter-League competitions, socially and otherwise. The Metropolitan League, for instance, have played their first representative match with the Western Counties at Bristol; the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl competitions are bringing forth a welcome showing of enthusiasm.

Table Tennis Leagues are at last treating these matches in the right spirit. I mean they are taking them as semi-social events, losing nothing in the competitive sense, but not taking defeat as a nationwide calamity.

That's how it should be. After all, sport isn't anything more than a recreation and the means of building up happier relationships. I'm glad that these inter-League affairs are moving freely, because it is in the interests of a game, especially a game with a limited playing power in certain areas, like table tennis, to bring forth new faces and different phases of the sport.

* * *

THE Rose Bowl progress has pleased me intensely. Birmingham, with Doris Haydon (you'll remember her as Doris Jordan of the Whitefield's team), Margaret Osborne, Betty Steventon, and, of course, Mrs. Bence (as Winnie Potter she won the Midland last year), are proving themselves worthy contenders for the title. There was no half measure about the 4-1 defeat of the London side.

St. Albans, however, must be my choice. In the first place because they have three internationals—Connie Wheaton, Dora and Doris Emdin; and, secondly, because they defeated Wembley, the real danger team in the outsiders.

Which reminds me of Connie Wheaton's grand performance in that quarter-final tie with Wembley. St. Albans were 1-2 down in games, having lost the doubles and Dora Emdin having been beaten by Jean Nicoll. The decider was between Miss Wheaton and Miss Nicoll.

Connie changed much of her style of game that we know to pull a two-straight victory out of the bag. But it was no less than she deserved on this occasion. The national champion was beaten by a Miss Wheaton who decided that attack was the best policy and carried it out with real whiz-bangs down the lines.

* * *

I must tell you about Tim. Oh yes, and I must tell you also he's my dog. Tim being a puppy, couldn't be left at home, so he came along with us to the Wembley championships.

Now Tim turned over and yawned most times, but he generally seemed to wake up in time to see Ben Marcus win. Now naturally Ben took notice and liked the dog, and the dog in turn liked Ben. In fact, they formed a mutual partnership for the further advance-

ment of Mr. Marcus in the tournament.

So whenever Ben took the table, Tim, by scrapings (and he isn't above loud barking either) made it clear to one and all in the office that he wanted to be about and watching the play. And it went on like this, until suddenly Benny found himself in the final. He winked an eye at his mascot, and it almost seemed to me that Tim winked back.

Now Tim slept rather longer than usual on the finals night. Benny was 2-1 down when Tim awoke and insisted to be taken to the usual vantage spot. Benny pulled up

to two sets all. But Tim is only a very little dog—seven weeks old to be exact—and maybe he thought Mr. Joyce deserved a break, so he turned over and slept.

You've guessed it, I suppose; Benny lost. Tim gave Ben a nice kind and sympathetic glance when he awoke, but then "dash it all, fella's, we blokes must sleep sometime."

* * *

IT seems strange after all these years since Fred Perry that we have a world table tennis singles champion in England again.

I mean young Richard Bergmann, the former Austrian Swaything Cup player, who was entered by our own E.T.T.A. It isn't quite the same as a full-blooded victory, but nevertheless it goes a long way. Most of us expected Bergmann to win, and the success of this gallant little sportsman must have been very popular indeed at Cairo. At the same time one must feel a little sorry for Ehrlich, the tall Polish international, who once again has been just so near.

There is no need for regret in the selection of the Swaything Cup side. The boys did just as well as we expected and as well, if not better, than any other side that could have been chosen from our English players.

The Game in Gloucester

by G. B. Smith

(Hon. Secretary, Gloucester T.T.L.)

IN this first account of the activities of the Gloucester League it is difficult in the space allowed to say all that should be said about table tennis in general in and around the City of Gloucester. That progress has been made from the popularity point of view is unquestionable, as this season the number of players registered sets up a record at 342. In season 1932-33 there were 14 teams playing in two divisions, with 130 players registered, and now the teams number 44 with four Divisions, so this alone gives some idea of the increase.

If the standard of play had increased with numbers, then indeed Gloucester would occupy a much higher position in the table tennis world. Unfortunately, there are only a few players who play anything like a good-class game, and there are quite a number who still use a "wooden" bat



Mr. G. B. Smith

which, of course, is quite out of date; collar and tie and ordinary shoes are still in marked evidence, and a host of players do not move a yard from the table or beyond its width. Some day Gloucester's luck might change and bring a really first-class player to the city, and then some invaluable coaching might be obtained.

Youth is said to be the keynote to success in table tennis, and in this respect Gloucester's hope is very limited, the only young players who have modelled their game on that of the big players being O. G. Wheeler and G. White of Whitfield; these two have practised much together, and both of them can use a good runback, and Wheeler especially can hit real hard.

Until this season, the Gloucester City team had not taken part in any competitive inter-town matches, the only means of testing their ability being in a few friendly matches with nearby towns. It was therefore an interesting venture when at the beginning of the present season a decision was made to enter the Midland Counties League. In this League Gloucester have done quite well, and have only been outclassed on one occasion, at the hands of Birmingham Insurance, the League Leaders.

Gloucester should, however, win the newly formed North Gloucestershire League, being undefeated with two to play. L. Baker, a native of Swindon, has done much to improve the standard of play, and is a regular choice as captain of the city team. G. C. Nickols, also a native of Swindon, and a city player, has carried all before him in League play this season, and, with Dawe, these players form Gloucester's main strength.

There is no doubt that the late secretary, Mr. R. B. Field, who ran the League practically off his own bat for several seasons, laid the foundations to present success, and it is quite fitting that he should be remembered from time to time by the "Field Cup" which he so kindly presented on his retirement three seasons ago. The duties of the office have naturally increased with the progress made and the embarking upon competitive inter-town programmes, but the present secretary has an advantage which Mr. Field was rarely afforded in being backed up by a number of officials who have the well-being of the League at heart.

Vera Dace collects three Surrey titles

Eric Filby loses three

VERA DACE, fifteen-year-old Home Counties champion, proved her supremacy among London players by winning three titles in the Surrey table tennis championships at Croydon, writes J. W. A. Connolly. She beat Mrs. H. Collier in the singles to win her second major title of the season. She took the first game in whirlwind manner at 21-4, whipping over a terrific forehand that left her opponent with little chance. Mrs. Collier fought harder in the second set and chopped her forehand returns heavily to peg Miss Dace back more, but she could do no better than hold her to 21-18.

Miss Dace got her second win in the women's doubles with Mrs. M. A. Carrington. They did exceptionally well for a new pairing to beat the Corbillon Cup internationals, Dora Emdin and Phyl Hodgkinson. The third title came in partnership with Ron Moreton, the Surrey international. They beat Eileen Finch and Jack Rogers in a well-fought game, the first set only going at deuce. Better still was the performance in beating Eric Filby and Dora Emdin in the semi-final. Not a very auspicious return for Filby, who lost both his doubles titles.

Ron Moreton also got a double when he and Jack Carrington beat Stan Coles and young Cyril Merrett in an interesting five-set match. Carrington and Moreton kept

up their usual non-stop attack on both wings, and Coles and Merrett held them evenly until the fourth set, when Coles had a nasty fall, and although he resumed he was obviously shaken. Coles won the men's singles from Moreton, because his attack had the better length, and his defence was steadier.

I think my old friends, Messrs. Milton and Bourne and the Surrey officials, deserve a pat on the back for the smooth running finals. They had a crowded programme, and yet managed to get through it all in good time and even slip in a couple of exhibitions.

My reactions after the Surrey events are mainly that Vera Dace will, I'm sure, be our Number 1 player one day if she carries on as at present. My reason is that no number of mishits will force her out of a natural hitting game.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: S. Coles beat R. Moreton 21-19, 19-21, 21-12, 21-13.

Men's Minor Singles: F. R. Webb beat C. Collins 21-19, 17-21, 20-21, 21-16, 21-11.

Boys' Singles: K. Merrett beat J. C. Frawley 21-16, 5-21, 21-16.

Women's Singles: V. Dace beat H. Collier 21-4, 21-18.

Women's Minor Singles: M. Hewer beat Mrs. Tilburn 21-19, 21-18.

Girls' Singles: R. Cook beat T. Rice 21-11, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: V. Dace and M. A. Carrington beat D. M. Emdin and P. Hodgkinson 21-15, 9-21, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: R. Moreton and Miss Dace beat J. Rogers and Miss E. Finch 21-20, 21-17.

Men's Doubles: J. H. Carrington and R. Moreton beat S. Coles and C. E. Merrett 20-21, 21-14, 21-17, 18-21, 21-13.

Scottish MIDLANDS Tournament

THE "Midlands Open," the most representative tournament in Scotland, attracted a record entry of 78 players to Dundee. Unfortunately, J. P. Guimont (Edinburgh Grosvenor) was unable to defend his title, but that only made competition all the keener. R. O. Lothian (Dundee Y.M.C.A.), nineteen-year-old previous winner, repeated his feat of two years ago and won the singles title convincingly, beating J. Smith (Aberdeen Y.M.C.A.) in the final 21-17, 21-12.

Dark horse of the tournament was fifteen-year-old Victor Garland (Aberdeen Y.M.C.A.), who in the semi-final gave Lothian his hardest game of the day.

Garland, however, had his revenge when, partnered by Campbell Balfour, he beat the Lothian brothers in the doubles final by two sets to one. This match was one of the most exciting and skilful ever witnessed in Dundee.

Glasgow, after trying unsuccessfully for four years to produce the Midlands winner, were not represented this year. Have they given up hope of winning this elusive title?

The Dundee and District League has just been concluded. Y. M. Meteors are the new champions, with Y. M. Star, former champions, taking second place.

SHOOT TO STARDOM

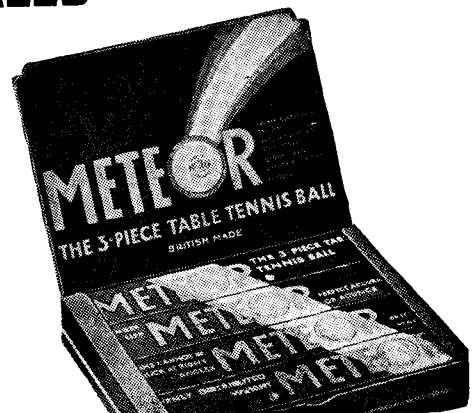
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L.B.H. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mason's Surprise Win

by W. Ashworth

MR. W. J. POPE, the untiring secretary of the E.T.T.A., was in reminiscent mood when on March 15 he presented the prizes at the fourteenth annual tournament held at the Imperial Club, Kennington. He went back to the time when the E.T.T.A. was formed, and paid tribute to the support given to the idea by the London Business Houses.

The tournament itself was a great success. Special praise is due to Mr. A. P. Fuller for the excellent arrangements made, especially as regards the men's junior singles, which was played off on the group system and necessitated obtaining the use of 32 club-rooms for the preliminary rounds.

Play revealed a very high standard, with many surprising results, and the creation of one or two records. As regards the women, Miss P. Hodgkinson (Lensbury) continues to hold her own as the leading player in the section, and for the fifth time in succession she won the women's singles championship. She defeated Miss C. Oustainge (U.D.) in the final 21-7, 21-12, repeating her success of the previous year over the same opponent. Miss Hodgkinson was concerned in the winning of the women's doubles championship in which, with Miss W. Fisher, she defeated Misses Ingleson and Frampton, of Gas Light and Coke Co., 21-14, 20-22, 21-16.

Lensbury representatives also captured the mixed doubles, when Miss Hodgkinson and H. E. Pearce defeated Miss B. Edwards and L. H. Mason in the final by 21-13, 21-17.

If Mason failed to pull off the mixed doubles, he created a surprise and record by winning the men's junior singles and men's singles in the same evening. Little known except for his league appearance for C.L.E., Mason has progressed well during the last season or so, and must now be considered for representative matches. He seemed to have the harder job in the junior final, which went to three sets, against T. Martin (B.B.C.), the scores being 20-22, 21-13, 23-21. Against H. Jones (C.W.S.) in the men's singles Mason won the first two sets 21-16, 21-18, lost the third 16-21, but took the fourth 21-19.

In the men's doubles W. J. King and A. Sangster (W. H. Smith & Son) beat G. Griffiths and A. Butler (London Co-operative) 21-14, 21-11, 21-13.

During the evening Mr. J. E. Wright, secretary of the section for nine years prior to the present season, and now a vice-president of the Association, presented the Association's plaque to Mr. L. G. Williams, who had resigned the position of hon. financial secretary after seven years' service.

As regards the League competition, this has been notable for the keenness displayed by the teams throughout. Not until near the end was it possible to forecast likely winners of the sections, and now we find W. H. Smith & Son winners of the First Division for the third year in succession.

In the Second Division East Dagenham Cables, Imperial and Gilbey's have been running a neck-and-neck race. In the West the 200 Club lead Lensbury by one point.

In the Women's Division Dagenham Cables and Gas Light have gone through the season without defeat.

Joyce Makes a Come-back

Wins Wembley Singles

after 2-years semi-retirement

JOHNNY JOYCE, the "Pen-holder" International, staged a wonderful come-back after nearly two years out of the top-class game, to beat Ben Marcus for the Wembley men's singles title, in what was easily the best final of the season, and one of the most spectacular for years.

Joyce hit with deadly fluency, backhand and forehand, and forced Marcus to defend. Marcus, usually a hitter, defended brilliantly, but the highlights were the long rallies when

by

J. W. A. Connolly

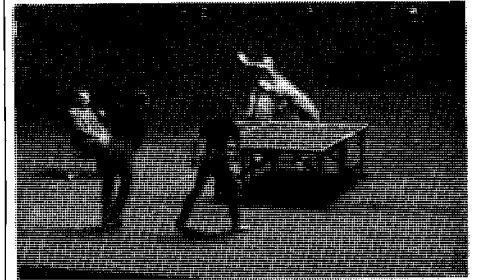
they traded terrific drives up and down the lines, with Joyce never for a moment relaxing. In the third game he held a 15-6 lead, but Marcus pulled up to 19 all, only to lose the game points. The fourth set, a real thriller, went to six deuces before Marcus pulled out to win. Joyce was just a little more accurate in the final set, when Marcus defended rather more than previously.

Consolation for Ben Marcus came when he won the men's closed singles, beating Jimmy Bailey, and the doubles with Harry Rosen, beating Hugh Jones and E. Mayer, the Kingsway pair. Young Bailey, a local player, reached the semi-final in the open event, and was again beaten by Marcus. But he lived up to his early season promise.

Dora Emdin, runner-up in the English national to Jean Nicoll, laid a bogey when she defeated Connie Wheaton, her St. Albans team-mate, in straight sets for the women's singles. It was an evenly contested affair, with Miss Emdin just a little more consistent in attack.

Not often have I seen Connie so subdued. The truth, I suppose, was that Dora knows her play better than most of us, and didn't give her a chance to get in with that so deadly flat hit of hers.

Tommy Sears too enjoyed his mite of glory, and, strangely enough, in the mixed doubles. He and Connie Wheaton proved too good all round for Doris Emdin and Johnny Joyce, and won a good game as comfortably as straight sets suggest.



English Men's Doubles Final—Bellah makes a kill.

Eileen Finch and Mrs. Collier, after playing like winners right through the rounds, were well and truly beaten in the women's final by Joan Harding and Gwen Mace, but even so both games went to 19, but somehow lacked the finesse that had marked the earlier giant-killing acts of both pairings. Rather disappointing, I thought.

RESULTS

Men's Singles (Open): J. Joyce beat B. Marcus 21-12, 19-21, 21-19, 25-27, 21-15. **(Closed)**: B. Marcus beat J. Bailey 21-15, 21-19.

Women's Singles (Open): D. M. Emdin beat C. Wheaton 21-19, 21-13. **(Closed)**: A. Fowler beat I. Lentle 21-19, 21-12.

Men's Doubles: B. Marcus and H. Rosen beat H. Jones and E. Mayer 21-15, 21-12, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: T. E. Sears and Miss C. Wheaton beat J. Joyce and Miss D. L. Emdin 21-19, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: G. Mace and J. Harding beat H. Collier and E. Finch 21-19, 21-19.

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LINCS. SUCCESSES

By Leslie Bennett

RECENT weeks have brought many distinctions to Lincolnshire table tennis and many county records have been broken.

Firstly at Scunthorpe in the County Championship, Yorkshire Women were overcome for the first time by 5-4 in a very fine match which decided the position of runners-up to Warwickshire. Miss Eileen Ward was in magnificent form and the Grimsby girl hit off three Internationals in Miss Stott, Mrs. Stead and Mrs. Amies.

Then Albert Hall became the first from the county to win an open singles by taking the Peterborough Open at the expense of Welsh International Tommy Lisle in fine style, besides reaching two other semi-finals. Miss E. Ward and Miss V. Stegeman there gained their first Women's Doubles success.

A fortnight later the same players made a very lucrative raid on the Yorkshire Open at Dewsbury and Miss Ward secured her first singles title by annexing the Women's Singles without dropping a game, accounting for Mrs. Stead in the final 21-11, 21-17. She repeated her effort in the Women's Doubles again with Miss Stegeman and with Hall as partner for the first time almost secured a treble in the Mixed Doubles, losing to Leslie Cohen and Mrs. Stead 21-16, 13-21, 21-23 in the final. Hall gathered the Consolation Singles to make up the third title for Grimsby in the evening.

The finals of the Lincolnshire Closed Championships decided at Grimsby resulted in all six titles again going to Grimsby and the repetition by Hall of his excellent achievement of last season in winning all three championships. He defeated Len Skinnis, that fine pen-grip from Lincoln, 21-15, 21-14 in the Singles; with M. Woodhouse in the Men's Doubles, H. Baker and D. J. Urwin of Spalding 21-7, 21-9 in the Men's Doubles; and with Miss M. Piercey, Urwin and Miss Frost of Spalding 19-21, 21-11, 21-19 in the Mixed Doubles. Mrs. B. Langrick secured the Women's Doubles again, this time with Miss Ward, by 16-21, 21-12, 21-16 over Miss M. Crust and Mrs. Ladd of Spalding. T. Weiss obtained the Youth's Singles.

The Association is delighted with the progress of Hall and Miss Ward who have gone so far that they are making their presences felt outside of the county and consequently helping the prestige of Lincolnshire and improving the standard of play. Hall has lost only one rubber in the Haigh Cup Competition. The chart reads—

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Grimsby	10	10	0	78	12	20
Lincoln	9	5	4	41	40	10
Scunthorpe ..	8	5	3	35	37	10
Spalding	8	4	4	36	36	8
Skegness	7	1	6	22	41	2
Boston	10	1	9	22	68	2

A play-off for the championship of the Butcher Cup Competition is practically inevitable as will be seen from the following chart, Sleaford and Louth having been much too hot for all the others:—

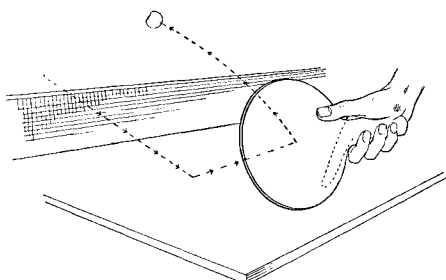
	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Sleaford	10	9	1	66	24	18
Louth	9	8	1	70	11	16
Woodhall Spa ..	10	6	4	58	32	10
Horncastle	8	2	6	19	53	4
Mablethorpe ..	9	1	8	17	64	2
Alford	8	1	7	13	59	2

PLAYING THE GAME

by Laszlo Bellak

II. The First Stroke—Half Volley

THE first and most important lesson to be learned is to stick closely to the table. There are still many top-class players whose whole game is based upon this maxim, and who have achieved outstanding records without a great variety of strokes. Prominent examples are Mechlovitz, world champion in 1928, and Buble, England's No. 1 for the last two seasons.



The Half-Volley

The basic stroke of their game is to return the ball with the backhand immediately after its bounce. This stroke is called the *half-volley*.

The racket should be held at somewhere near the angle shown in the diagram. Without using any special spin, you just push the ball back to your opponent. As soon

DID YOU GUESS IT ?

The player on p. 5 is Bellak.

as you are able to get the ball back over the net consistently you must concentrate on returning the ball to particular spots on the other side of the table. After a while you will gain such control over the ball that you will not only manage to return hard drives but you will also be able to place the ball in any spot you desire.

The half-volley stroke has many advantages. First of all you return the ball too quickly for your opponent to hit it hard, but at the same time there is not enough pace on it for your opposite to execute a hard "chop."

I have often noticed that my opponent has not known what to do with this apparently simple shot, and in making up his mind on how to counter it he has missed his shot or put up a sitter.

My belief is that the great success of the Hungarians at the game was based on their mastery of the half-volley, achieved

through their early efforts with wooden bats which would not permit play away from the table. You can still see that however a game ends where a Hungarian is concerned, the Hungarian always remains in control of that game.

The half-volley should be practised as frequently as possible, not only when you are a beginner but all the time you are playing.

The half-volley is not usually a spectacular shot, but I consider it to be a first essential. Success with this stroke only should encourage a player to practise harder, to acquire the "good" strokes that make the game really worth watching.

METROPOLITAN PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS

By C. G. MILTON

THE season, as far as the arranged fixture list is concerned, has been completed, and Surrey head the League table. On Wednesday evening, at Wood Green, Surrey beat North Middlesex by 6 sets to 2, and the final positions are:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
SURREY	8	5	2	1	44	20	12
WEMBLEY	8	5	2	1	38	26	12
NORTH MIDDLESEX ..	8	4	0	4	31	33	8
WOOLWICH	8	3	1	4	32	32	7
BROMLEY	8	0	1	7	15	49	1

As the season's play cannot be decided without a definite result a play-off, Wembley v. Surrey, will take place at a neutral venue in London in early April, and there will be great interest in this match to decide the winner.

It is proposed to hold the annual general meeting in London, and thirty Leagues within 30 miles will be invited to send one delegate empowered to nominate his League (or Association) for membership next season.

Upon election of new Leagues, at that meeting, the management committee will proceed to place all Leagues into the appropriate divisions according to the strength of old and new membership.

Copy of the rules will be sent to each League invited to join, and any alterations or amendments thereto must be submitted 14 days prior to the A.G.M. In passing it must be mentioned that the rules, compiled with the greatest care with a view to leaving no loopholes, have operated perfectly in this first year of working.

The chairman has made contact with the proposed donor of the desired Gold Trophy, and the assured success of the Association on the basis of the number of entries for next season is the only factor which remains to achieve the *fait accompli* in regard to the donation of this very valuable trophy.

The M.T.T.A. opened its activities in inter-county engagements at Bristol where a match with the Western Counties Association was played on March 25.

AROUND the COUNTRY

BRISTOL have advanced a further stage in their quest for the Wilmott Cup. Against Bournemouth an easy victory of 8-1 carried us into the quarter-finals. The luck of the draw entailed a visit to Wembley.

The Bristol championships saw two holders retain their titles: Mary Scott keeps the women's singles and K. M. Bissicks and A. W. C. Simons the doubles.

Bristol closed champions are: Division I., A. W. C. Simons; Division II., I. D. Hill; Division III., W. R. Paddock; Division IV., D. Godfrey; Division V., C. Lingard; Division VI., E. C. O'Donnell. Women's, M. M. Scott; and doubles, K. M. Bissicks and A. W. C. Simons.

Bristol fans have a very full programme to end the season. On Saturday, March 25, the Metropolitan v. Western Counties was played; on Saturday, April 22, there is the Wales and England women's international, also the semi-finals and final of the Belsten Cup, in which W. D. & H. O. Wills (Staff), the holders for the last six seasons, will have very strong opposition.

The Association have decided to do away with the usual dinner and presentation of trophies in favour of a dance and presentation of trophies, and the new venture we hope will be a success. A record has been set up with the winning by the Central Y.M. Club of Divisions I., II. and III., and with this club also supplying the individual champions of Divisions II. and III. it has certainly been Central's year. They also have two teams in the semi-final of the Belsten Cup, and our chairman, Mr. Moon, who is also Central's club captain, hopes to round off a highly successful season by annexing this trophy.

BRISTOL sprang a surprise in beating Wembley League in the Wilmott Cup quarter-final at the Lancelot Hall by five matches to four. Bill Stennett, the Wembley captain and Civil Service champion, made a wonderful effort to pull the match out of the fire and won all his three individual matches. Ben Marcus, the former Wembley champion, however, lost all his three, while Jimmy Bailey was only able to win one match.

* * *

WITH the approach of the season's end, league organisers are busy making arrangements for the Annual Dance and Presentation on April 19, the venue of which has been changed to the Cavendish Rooms, Swan Hotel, Stockwell. Several prominent sportsmen are expected to be present and the increased strength of the league should ensure a good attendance.

The undefeated Gardens Club won the First Division Championship easily, dropping only one point. Harrower, Ashby, Archer and Weeks played consistently well throughout the season, so that the absence of Eric Filby was not felt. Trinity Old Boys were successful in the Second Division, and Alaska, Ravensbourne "A" and City Police were champions of the three third divisions.

The Denmark Club, as generally anticipated, won the women's section.

South London were defeated by Exeter

in the quarter-finals of the Rose Bowl, and by the time these notes appear in cold type the fate of South London in the Wilmott Cup will be known. They were drawn against London in the quarter-finals.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS must be offered to the Bath secretary for the hard work and untiring energy he put into the Western Counties League Championships **BATH** finals, which were held at the Bath Pavilion, on Saturday, February 25.

The Mayor of Bath (Captain Adrian Hopkins) presented the prizes. He was accompanied on the platform by the Mayoress, the Town Clerk (Mr. J. Basil Ogden) President, Mr. Loel Guinness, M.P. of the City, Lord and Lady Nugent, Vice Presidents, together with Messrs. R. Williams (chairman of the Bath League), A. L. Ollis (Secretary), I. C. Eyles (Hon. Sec. Western Counties League) and R. W. Eason (Hon. Treasurer).

Bath was disappointed with regard to their own players, in every case except one they went out at the first visit to the table. The one exception was in the doubles when G. Harper and R. Hillman beat J. Offer and C. Bristow, another Bath pair, by 22-20, 22-20. The winners of this were beaten in the following round by the runners-up, Shipton and Hodge.

Oldfield Baptists have, I think, succeeded in winning both First and Second Divisions this year. They are safe for First Division honours at any rate, but they are closely run by Weston Social and Y.M. Juniors in the Second. The champions of Division III. will, I think, be either Widcombe Recreation or Common Room.

Bath have this season been unable to secure a single victory against other towns. In the Western Counties League they have played eight matches and lost all but one, which they drew 7-7 at home to West Wilts.

The rest of the season is being made up of friendly inter-city matches, junior inter-city matches and local competitions. Another dance is being held and maybe an exhibition will conclude our programme.

* * *

VITAL matches in the North-East Lancashire League have given Burnley the leadership. First the unbeaten leaders, Accrington Works, lost 5-7

N.E. LANCS. at Ribblesdale, and a week later they fell again at Burnley.

Youngsters, as well as experienced local stars, were prominent in the handicap, held at Great Harwood, with Calder, the host League, making a great success of its first big competition. T. Taylor, of Accrington Works, beat 16-year-old J. E. Coates (Ribb) in singles, and two Calderites, J. Edmundson and J. Whittle, won the doubles against E. V. Martin and H. Greenwood (Ribb).

At the March 31 third annual general meeting Sir Thomas Higham was re-elected as President and Mr. Wm. Chapman, J.P., as Chairman of the Association, the function being held at Blackburn for the first time.

Two additional Leagues are expected to be in membership next season. Leaders in the League table are:—

League	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burnley District League ..	6	6	0	0	12
Accrington Works League ..	7	5	2	0	10
Ribblesdale ..	5	4	0	1	9
Nelson ..	6	4	1	0	8
Rossendale ..	6	2	3	1	5

* * *

DOLLIS HILL put up a spirited fight against Cricklewood "A" in the Willesden Cup Semi-final, only losing by the odd rubber. In the other semi-

WILLESDEN final, Kemp's defeated Cricklewood "B" 7-2. A grand fight should be witnessed when the Final is held.

The First Division Championship is still not settled, Kemp's and Cricklewood fighting out the issue. At the other end of the table Almora, Elmwood, Orphans & Smith's "A" are separated only by a few points.

Dollis Hill are worthy winners of the Second Division, if only by reason of their fine performance in beating Guild of St. George away. These two teams have secured promotion.

With the loss of only two points, Willesden Central have won Division III. L.P.T.B. have also gained promotion, the issue being decided by their away victory over Middlesex County Officers, who finish third.

With two defeats each, Almora and Dollis Hill head the Ladies' Division, and a replay appears likely.

* * *

AYLESBURY are having a fine finish to the best season in the history of the League. The First Division championship

AYLESBURY has ended in a triple tie between Young Liberals (holders), Junior Imps (defeated after a double tie last season), and Halton Command "A" (new to the League this season).

Hazell's Boys have won the Second Division with one match left to play. A record entry has been received for the individual championships, and although the League have arranged for the use of the Dominion S.C. Hall for five nights, they have had to apply for an extra night to cope with the entries.

* * *

THE championship of the First Division of the League has been won by the County (Exeter) Club in their first season.

EXETER Their team includes R. F. Litten, the international, who has been undefeated in the League.

The women's section has been won by St. Stephens Ladies, whose team includes Miss Joan Brock, the only other player with an 100 per cent. record.

The Second and Third Division championships have not yet been decided. At the time of going to press St. Thomas Meth. "B" look likely winners of Division II., and "E and E." S.C. "A" Division III.

The Exeter Women's Rose Bowl team have reached the semi-final of that competition, thanks to Miss Joan Brock and Miss Elizabeth Blackburn. All Exeter hope they will be the eventual winners.

WEMBLEY'S Wilmott Cup match against Oxford resulted in a 8-1 win for Wembley. Some of the games were very close, however, and it was

WEMBLEY an enjoyable evening for all concerned—players and spectators. They are good hosts at Oxford.

Our hopes were high in the Rose Bowl but the St. Albans team proved too strong. It seemed an odds on chance of a win for Wembley when Jean Nicoll had beaten Dora Emdin in two straight games, and taken the doubles with Eileen Finch. Miss Wheaton, however, always a player to be respected, played at the top of her form and beat Jean Nicoll. Mrs. Lentle, the second string of the Wembley singles pair, fought hard for the last set, but was not quite steady enough for her more experienced opponent.

FOR the third successive season, Wellington Tube Works "A" have practically made sure of the First Division title, which makes their

WEST BROMWICH fourth successive championship, as they won Division II. in their second season. Cynnets, runners-up to Wellington Tube in League and Cup last season, are again holding second place in the League, but gained a cup revenge by ousting the holders by the remarkable score of 20-5.

The Mayor of West Bromwich has kindly given a cup for teams playing on a novel handicap system. Each player starts with a points advantage, instead of the team with games advantage. If, for instance, a top team is given 24 games handicap against a bottom team, it might be easily good enough to win 25-24, whereas in our system the top team is scratch and the bottom team receives 9. This means that the bottom player starts at 9-0 against each member of the top team.

Pazo ladies' team entering for this competition received a start of 9 points to 5 against a Division IV. men's team and beat them.

Notable also has been the first defeats of Cuxson Gerrard Ladies "A" team since their entry into the League three years ago by Ebenezer Ladies, who won 5-4 both home and away. Pazo Ladies won Division II. at their first time of asking.

The men's inter-League team has had an epidemic of 5-4-itis. Losing at home to Birmingham Insurance in the Midland Counties League by 5-4, they beat Stourbridge at home by 5-4, Worcester away by 5-4, Gloucester away by 5-4, Gloucester at home by 5-4, Stourbridge away by 5-4, and lately losing to Worcester at home by 5-4. Only Birmingham Insurance away remains to be played, and a nice 5-4 win would leave us just in the running for honours.

The ladies' team has been far less consistent. Losing to Birmingham at home by 9-1 and away by 10-0, they drew with Leicester at home 5-5, but surprised them away by winning all 10 matches. Two 6-4 wins against Wolverhampton have been nullified by a 7-3 loss to Coventry, but we hope to win the return match.

THE semi-finals of the Southampton Tournaments took place on March 14, and the finals will be played on Wednesday, April 12, at the St. SOUTHAMPTON Mark's Hall.

The holders of the Women's and Men's Singles, and the Men's

In the Near Future...

Tournament Dates for April

- 1—W. Middlesex finals.
- 8—Scarborough.
- 10—Whitby.
- 17-29—Middlesex (Harrow).

and Mixed Doubles, are still in the Competition, but the Women's Doubles Holders were knocked out by two promising young players, Miss Prowting and Miss Gross. The latter won the Handicap last year and has also appeared in the Town team this season.

Two other youngsters who have been very successful this season are A. Broomfield (of Bellemoor) and R. Walker (of Bitterne Park Congs.).

The Southampton team has not had an extremely successful season in the Southern Counties League. A reasonable explanation of their failure, is the present system of playing local league games, which is five players to a team, each playing five opponents a single game, making twenty-five games per match. This means, that on the average, the respective No. 1's of each Club, get about one game per match really worth playing.

THE finals of the Coventry Closed Championships were played on March 2 and attracted 200 spectators to the Y.M.C.A.

COVENTRY Hall. H. Sharpe retained the men's singles championship, while Miss B. Peacham won the women's event for the first time.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: H. Sharpe (Herberts) beat H. Seadon (Coventry Y.M.C.A.) 16-21, 21-12, 21-15, 21-7.

Women's Singles: Miss B. Peacham (Leofric) beat Miss M. Parkin (Herberts) 21-15, 19-21, 21-18.

Junior: A. Eastham (Terry Road) beat R. Leather (Coventry Gauge) 21-19, 21-20, 11-21, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: H. Sharpe and H. Seadon beat B. Joy and D. Price (Terry Road) 21-17, 21-9, 21-17.

Women's Doubles: Miss D. Parsons and Miss B. Thornett (Warwick Road) beat Mrs. Burt and Mrs. Wellings 21-17, 17-21, 21-6.

Mixed Doubles: S. Fry (Coventry Y.M.C.A.) and Miss D. Parsons beat R. Bayliss and Miss Yates (G.E.C.) 21-15, 21-13, 14-21, 21-14.

CAPTAINED by Leslie J. Roberts and Miss D. Roberts, brother and sister, Watford T.T.C. have retained the men's and ladies' championships of the

WATFORD Watford and District League for the second year. Despite an unexpected setback at the hands of Watford Gas Co.—their first since the league was formed in 1937—the men's side finished comfortably in front of their chief rivals, Old Centralians. In Division II. (North) of the London League the Watford club finished third, a creditable performance which included a remarkable win over the hitherto undefeated Cricklewood recently.

A keen inter-League match was seen at St. Albans, where the home league ran out winners by seven matches against three. On games played the issue was much closer (15-10), but St. Albans staged several fine recoveries. Other inter-League contests are being arranged with Aylesbury, Barnet (men's and women's), and a return with St. Albans—a full programme for a comparatively young league.

PROBLEM CORNER

A PLAYER breaks the rules of his club and is expelled from membership. Later he joins another club and secures his place in their team.

Both clubs compete in the same division of the League, and when they are due to meet, the visiting side is notified that Mr. X will not be permitted to enter the premises of the home team as it would be contrary to the rules. The visiting side strongly protest and claim that the home side have no right to determine the constitution of their team.

Should the League insist upon the player being allowed to take part in the match and thereby interfere with the domestic affairs of the home side, or should the visiting team be asked to turn out a reserve, or how should they solve the problem?

What do you think?

HERE ARE SOME OF THE ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY'S PROBLEM

From P. Hodgson, London.

On the facts given, I think the Nomads should be awarded the game. The rule is that matches must commence by 7.30 p.m. and the Nomads were ready to start at that time. The rule, however, does not state that every player must be present by 7.30 p.m. The remaining Nomad player arrived, in time to play his games, after the match had been started, and was thus entitled to claim the game which could not be played by reason of the absence of a Wanderer player.

From "Flick," of Bath:—

The League match was due to start at 7.30 p.m., and consequently both teams should have been present. I should award the points to the Wanderers all of whose players were present by 7.30 p.m.

From H. Davies and G. Brown, of Liverpool.

Re your Problem Corner, I think that the two players should meet and play the sets.

This is what we did when we had a match and that problem happened.

From V. A. Dunlop, Manchester:—

The whole problem rests on the point of whether or not there is a rule in the league concerned compelling a player to be present by say, 8.45 p.m.

The Wanderers player, in playing his three games consecutively broke the correct sequence of the match for his own convenience and presumably through the courtesy and mutual agreement of his opponents. He left to go on night duty at 8.0 p.m., and therefore did not allow the time limit in respect of his fourth opponent to expire.

Therefore, in my opinion, the unplayed game should be given to the Nomads. I give this solution of course, under the assumption that their player turned up too late for the Wanderers man who played his games out of turn, and yet still within the appropriate time limit. If he did not turn up in time according to the league rules then the game should obviously go to the Wanderers

First Scottish Championships

THE Scottish championships (men's singles and doubles) were played at Glasgow on March 11 and went off without a hitch. Entries were received from Dundee, Edinburgh, Bute, Hamilton, Wishaw, Paisley, and Glasgow.

Ellis Mark (Glasgow Jewish Institute) becomes the first title holder of the singles

by defeating John Edwards (Glasgow Western Y.M.C.A.) in the final by 3 sets to 1. Mark had some tough games on his way to the final and showed excellent form throughout the tournament. The men's doubles title went to J. Hillan, the West of Scotland and Lanarkshire singles title holder, in partnership with A. Barclay (both of the Western Y.M.C.A.).

RESULTS
Men's Open Singles.—Quarter-Finals: J. Edwards (Western Y.M.) beat K. Pollak (Edinburgh) 21-16, 21-17, R. O. Lothian (Dundee Y.M.) beat J. S. Melville (Clarkston) 21-14, 21-13. J. P. Guimont (Edinburgh) beat J. Jenkins (Western Y.M.) 21-15, 21-17. E. Mark (Jewish Institute) beat J. Hillan (Western Y.M.) 17-21, 21-19, 21-19.
Semi-Finals: Edwards beat Lothian 21-11, 21-7. Mark beat Guimont 21-14, 18-21, 21-14.
Final: Mark beat Edwards 21-15, 12-21, 21-10, 22-20.
Men's Doubles.—Semi-Finals: T. McLeod and A. Leith (Glasgow Nomads) beat S. Amsterdam and H. Tulipan (Glasgow Jewish Institute) 21-17, 21-17. J. Hillan and A. Barclay (Glasgow Western Y.M.) beat J. P. Guimont and J. A. T. Brown (Edinburgh) 19-21, 21-14, 21-10.
Final: Hillan and Barclay beat McLeod and Leith 21-13, 21-15, 21-14. W. B.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SET BY J. BATTY (Hon. Secretary, Manchester & District League)

We offer a prize of a half-guinea "Swan" fountain pen to the sender of the first all-correct solution opened. Address entries to "Crosswords," TABLE TENNIS, 64 High Holborn, London, W.C.1. In the event of any dispute, the Editor's decision will be final.

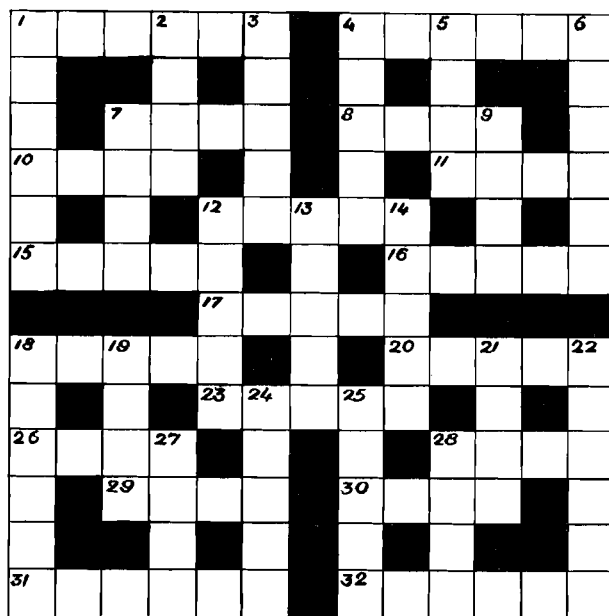
CLUES

- DOWN**
- This Southern League's chairman is an F.R.H.S.
 - Short month in which T.T. usually starts.
 - E.g., Flisberg.
 - Member of first team to win Swaythling Cup.
 - Players who co-operate.
 - For the wicked (two words).
 - Popular referee standing on his head.
 - Fishy, but one of our coming stars.
 - Fruit, possibly for first X.D. pair.
 - Soup or stew for an army of players.
 - Christian name of 18 down.
 - Nicknamed in U.S.A. "South-paw."

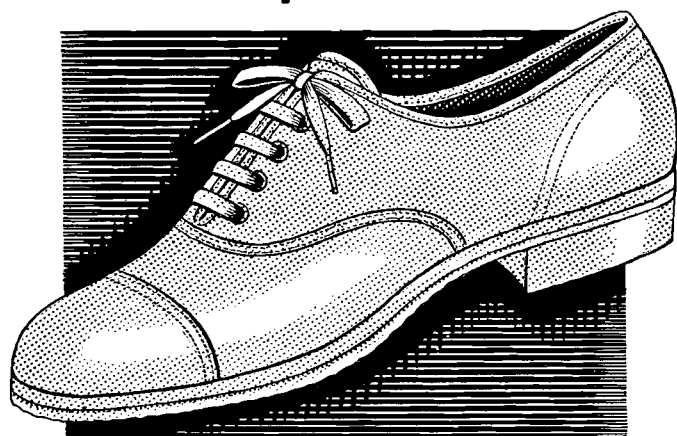
- A way out for the losers.
- He might have been our first player.
- Went out to Bergmann during broadcast.
- What Miss Steventon's friends call her.
- When T.T. matches are usually played.
- 19-11 is a valuable one.
- Birmingham player in recent Final Trials.

ACROSS

- Take leave of these and you've lost.
- We are fortunate in having a Royal one.
- Fight back, but don't use this long-bladed French weapon.
- Dress regulations will ensure players are this.



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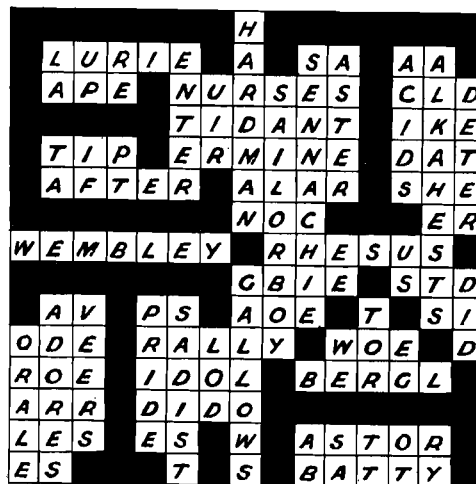
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- Let.
- A mediæval weapon —reached Merseyside 1938 W.S. Final.
- Impregnable defence.
- Looking backward, our first World Champ.
- What knuckle-spin is not.
- An apt one will study the masters.
- In his own country describes 18 down.
- "Stale" (anag.).
- Hard wood not generally used for bats.
- Greet your opponent.
- Czech player who did not meet Barna in 1935 Swaythling Cup.
- Purpose of trials.
- Not more than 2·53 of these in an official ball.



Solution to last month's puzzle

- Cromwell's first name.
- A player might wear this charm, but not back to front.



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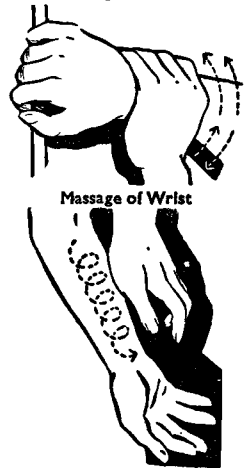
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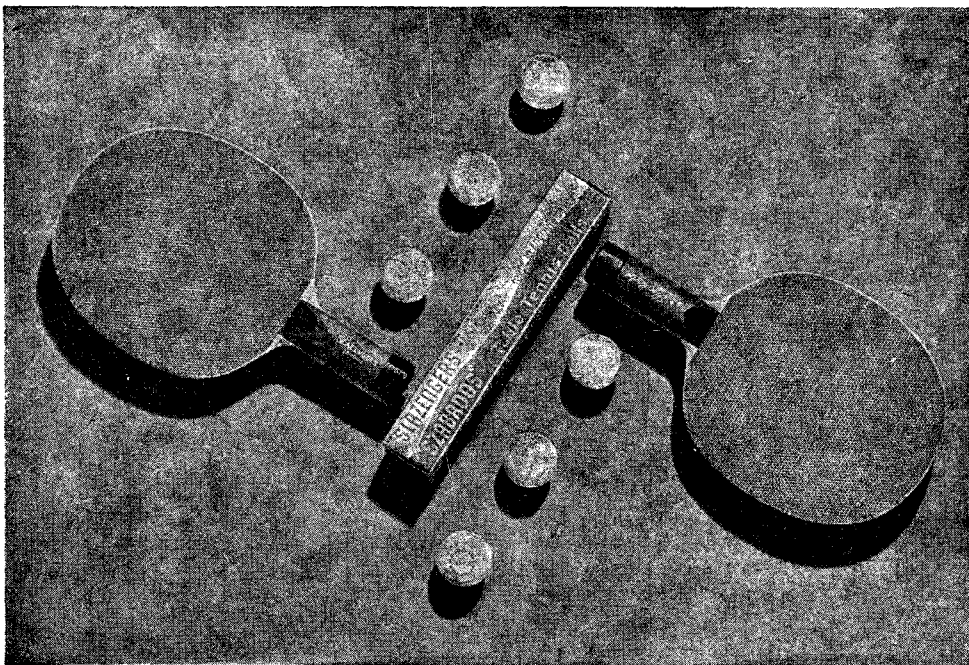
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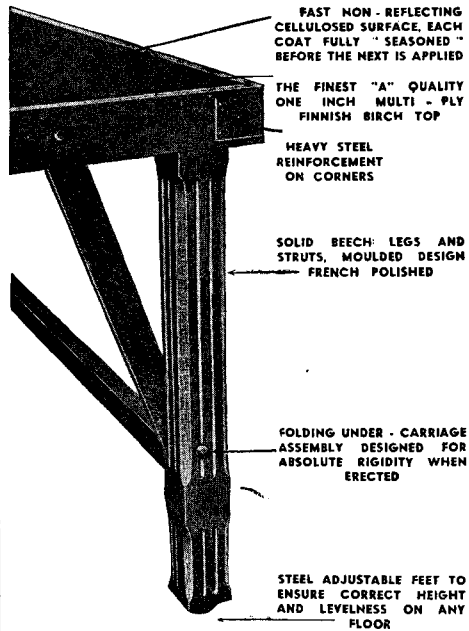
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