

TABLETENNIS

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ENGLISH
TENNIS



TABLE
ASSOCIATION

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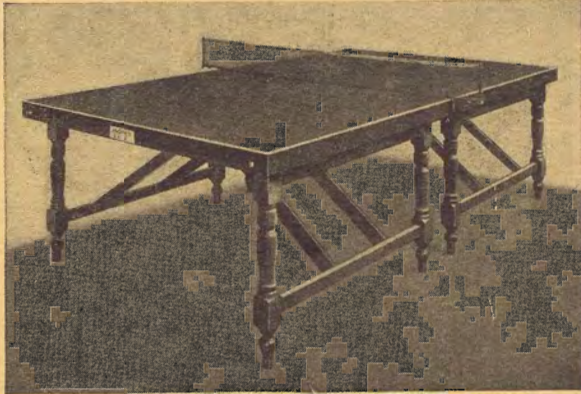
Vol IV

No 3

DECEMBER, 1930

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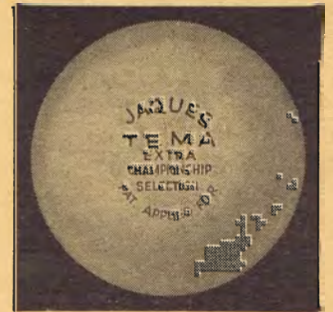
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VOLUME IV. No. 3

DECEMBER, 1938

THREE PENCE

CHAMPIONSHIPS HERE AGAIN! PLANS FOR WEMBLEY

THE English Championships this season will be played on Thursday and Friday, January 26 and 27, at the Royal Albert Hall, with the Finals at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena on Saturday, January 28, 1939.

The World Championships last season caused the interrupted sequence of National Championships played in London, but in each of the past four years we have filled big London stadiums for table tennis events in which all the best



G. V. Barna

players of the world have taken part. "Finals at Wembley" have become THE great event for all "fans," and indications already go to show that we shall have difficulty in accommodating the thousands of people who want to be present.

The final matches staged have always been worthy of the occasion, especially so far as the men's and women's singles are concerned. No-one will ever forget the dramatic match in 1935 between Barna and Szabados when, after 18-all in the fifth game, Barna put paid to his opponent's account with three untakable forehand drives. The women's final, Kettnerova versus Gal, was equally thrilling and dramatic. Undoubtedly these four players were primarily responsible for putting spectacular table tennis "on the map" when the tournament took place for the first time under the eyes of all the English sporting journalists,

and the scale upon which the tournament was being run had aroused the curiosity of everyone interested in sport.

The verdict then was that spectacular table tennis had come to stay, and we went forward to further triumphs.

The following season we engaged the Empress Stadium, and again the place was packed out. I well remember the manager of the Stadium, when I reported to him that all tickets had been sold, expressing amazement (he had been very doubtful when we signed the letting contract) and saying he was looking forward to the evening because "they had never seen the Stadium full." I was told only last week that the Stadium has never been completely packed since for a sporting event.



J. K. Hyde

high spots of the evening, and although the women's final between Miss M. Kettnerova and Miss C. Wheaton was not so outstanding, the doubles games were exceptionally good, and most people left expressing their desire for more and more big table tennis in London.

In 1937 we were again at Wembley, and

the high-light was the invasion of the American team, fresh from their triumph in the World's at Baden, where they had won the Swaythling Cup, the Corbillon Cup, and the Men's Doubles. Miss Ruth Aarons, the unbeaten "glamour girl," was the "star" player; she had just been the "heroine" of the famous pushing match with Miss Trudi Pritzi, when the title was declared vacant, after they had played 1 hour 45 mins. with the score 1-1 and 19-16 to Pritzi.

No-one will forget that tense match with Miss Kettnerova. The Czechoslovakian, after winning the two first games by brilliant hitting and going to 18-14 in the third, suddenly cracked and left the American to gain that game, and the next, and to romp home in the fifth. The Men's Final was just as exciting; the crowd's favourite, Viktor Barna, was hard put to it by Jimmy Maclure, and again the crowd went away quite satisfied with spectacular fare served up.

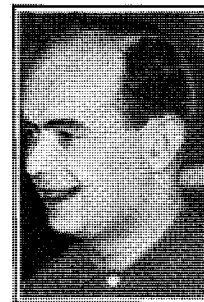
Last February Wembley was again the scene of the world finals, and we saw the advent of two new "stars"—Bohumil Vana from Czechoslovakia, and Richard Bergmann from Austria. Would the old favourites Barna, Bellak, Schiff, Maclure, Ehrlich withstand the onslaught of these youngsters? The question was soon answered at the Albert Hall, and at Wembley these two new players emerged victorious in the semi-finals. The marvellous exhibition they gave in the final will be still in the minds of all who saw it.

The women's final gave the English crowd an exhibition of the "pushing" menace to the game. Miss Pritzi defended her way to the title by refusing to show any enterprise and

(continued on next page)



L. Bellak



M. Szabados

TABLE TENNIS

breaking the heart of her popular opponent, Miss Depetrisova, who tried hard to penetrate the stone wall.

AND now we are in the midst of the arrangements for another feast of table tennis in January. For the first time we take the Albert Hall for the preliminaries, on Thursday and Friday, January 26 and 27, and at 7 p.m. on the 28th we shall open at the wonderful arena at Wembley.

Every effort is being made to put before the English public the best players of the game in the world. Vana will defend his title, and his youthful opponent, Bergmann, will try to reverse the result of last season's contest. Barna and Bellak will be there; Ehrlich, Liebster, and the best French and German players too; and our English stars, Buble, Filby, Lurie, Hyde, and Bergl will again make the effort to keep the title here.

Kettnerova, Pritzi, Delay, Depetrisova, and Votrubačova will be invited from Czechoslovakia, and this season we have a real chance to spring a surprise in this

ities have again agreed that a proportion of the 5s. seats shall be allocated to Leagues and clubs for their members at the reduced price of 2s. 6d., provided they are ordered in blocks of 20. The other prices are 1s. 3d., 2s. 6d., 7s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. If the ticket problem is disposed of early it will give us an opportunity of concentrating on the other organisational work necessary for the success of the event, so I ask officials to send their orders quickly and to take up the whole of the house before Christmas.

At the moment of writing the arrangements of prices and admission at the Royal Albert Hall have not been settled. The tournament will start on the Thursday morning, and on Thursday night we hope to get down to one table to put on some of the needle matches. On Friday night, too, it is certain that one table will be used for some semi-finals and finals, and, having regard to the galaxy of talent, each of these matches will be wonderful fights between the "stars."

Naturally the events at the Royal Albert Hall will draw more London "fans" than

Green Takes Two N. & E. Riding Titles

THE North & East Riding Open Tournament was held at the East Hull Baths, Holderness Road, Hull, on Saturday, October 22. Results were:—

Men's Singles.—Semi-finals: J. F. Green beat S. Rosenberg 21-18, 23-21; B. Denby beat J. Powell 21-18, 21-16. Final: J. F. Green beat B. Denby 21-14, 21-15, 21-19.

Men's Doubles.—Semi-finals: Powell and Green beat L. Bennett and B. Bennett 21-5, 22-20; Kramer and Bell beat Kilburn and Tillotson 21-17, 16-21, 21-19. Final: Kramer and Bell beat Powell and Green 21-13, 21-19, 17-21, 21-12.

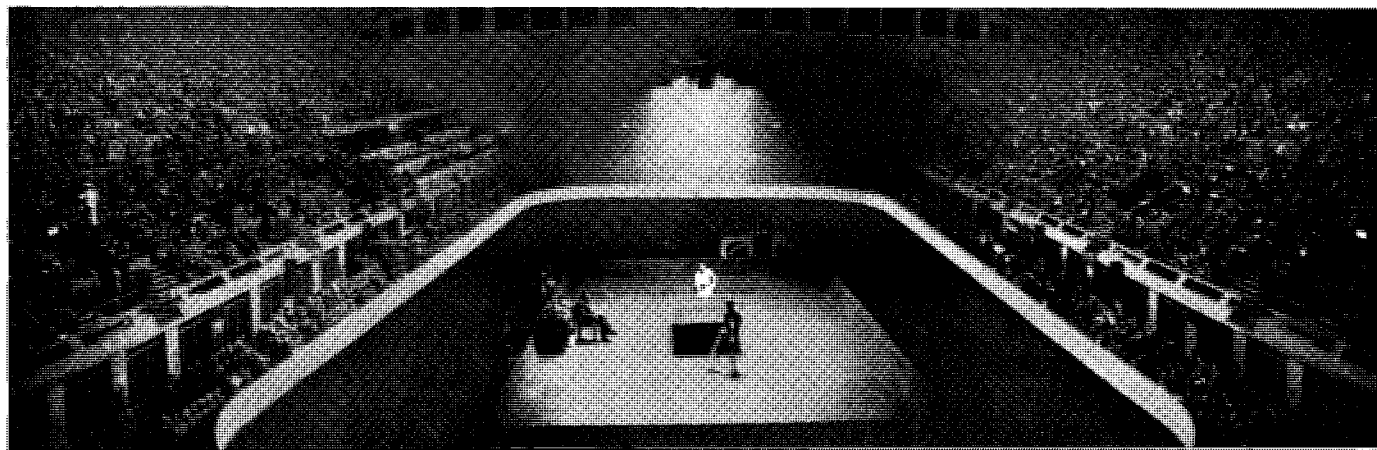
Women's Singles.—Semi-finals: Mrs. D. Stead beat Miss E. Ward 21-14, 21-13; Miss W. I. Stott beat Miss M. Tector 21-9, 21-9. Final: Mrs. D. Stead beat Miss W. I. Stott 21-15, 21-9, 16-21, 21-12.

Women's Doubles.—Semi-finals: Miss White and Miss Boston beat Miss Cross and Miss Walker 21-15, 21-11; Miss Stott and Mrs. Amies beat Mrs. Stead and Miss Ward 21-12, 21-19. Final: Miss Stott and Mrs. Amies beat Miss White and Miss Boston 21-11, 21-17, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles.—Semi-finals: Mrs. Stead and Kilburn beat Mr. and Mrs. Amies 21-8, 21-14; Miss Stott and Rosenberg beat Miss Ward and Bennett 21-12, 21-17. Final: Miss Stott and Rosenberg beat Mrs. Stead and Kilburn 17-21, 21-14, 8-21, 21-17, 21-15.

Youth's Singles.—Semi-finals: C. Brown beat J. Bell 22-20, 22-24, 21-12; J. Powell beat J. Levy 21-13, 21-11. Final: J. Powell beat C. Brown 21-7, 21-18.

WEMBLEY ARENA—Scene of the National Championship Finals, January, 29th



event. Miss Jean Nichol, Miss Vera Dace, and Miss Blackbourne are three young players of whom much is hoped. With the assistance of some members of the "older" school we should be able to make a very ambitious attempt to wrest some of the women's titles this time.

IT looks as if one of our difficulties will again be the accommodation for all our members who want to be there. Last February there were thousands of disappointed club members who could not obtain tickets. The invasion from the various Leagues was stronger than ever, and they converged on Wembley in special trains, motor coaches, cars, and other conveyances.

Already plans are being prepared for special trains and booked parties. Apart from the games the thrill of nearly 10,000 table tennis "fans" being gathered together appeals to enthusiasts all over the country. It is the culmination of months of hard work by the local officials, and of hard games between thousands of teams in local competitions. It is a gathering which, in enthusiasm and good humour, is unexampled in the experience, I believe, of any other sport.

We now embark upon the problem of the disposal of tickets, and the Wembley autho-

those who have to travel. I can say now that prices will be as low as possible in order to attract every club player, because, apart from the thrill of spectacular table tennis, the Committee always remember that the play at these tournaments is an education to our young players, and everything must be done to attract them to see how the "masters" produce their strokes.

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Midland Counties League

THE one surprising result to date in the Midland Counties League was the defeat of Nottingham by Wolverhampton. Notts were not at full strength, but even so Wolverhampton's 5-4 win was an encouraging start to their first season's participation in the League. Chambers, Wolves' champion, beat Cassingham and Willgoose, and with Bailey won the doubles, after an exciting duel against Willgoose and Warrington, on deuce in the fifth game.

Leicester beat Wolverhampton 6 sets to 3, whilst Birmingham's victories against Coventry (9-0) and Leicester (8-1) are reported elsewhere.

In the southern section of the League, Gloucester were beaten at Worcester by 7 sets to 2, and just failed at home to West Bromwich 5 sets to 4. Worcester also recorded a 7-2 victory against Stourbridge.

Coventry had little difficulty in beating Leicester 8-2 in the women's section, Miss Finlay winning all her three sets, and West Bromwich registered a 6-4 victory over Wolverhampton, for whom Mrs. Bailey beat all three West Bromwich opponents.

Late Results: Lincs. 4, Warwick 5 (Women); Yorks 5, Durham 4; Lincs. 6, Derby 3; Warwick 6, Cambridge 3.

THE DOUBLES GAME

By JACK CARRINGTON

(Home Counties Men's and Mixed Doubles Winner)

A DOUBLES match between four good players never fails to thrill the crowd, and a top-class attacking pair in action has a rhythmical attraction comparable to that of a well-balanced piece of music.

Even ordinary players can derive tremendous fun from doubles played in their own clubroom or in local tournaments if they will study the requirements of the game.

First of these is a suitable partner. This is a matter for careful consideration.

As a general rule choose a partner whose game has a similar character to your own. You may hear people say, "A and B should make a good pair, because A attacks so well, and B defends so well." This is a fallacy

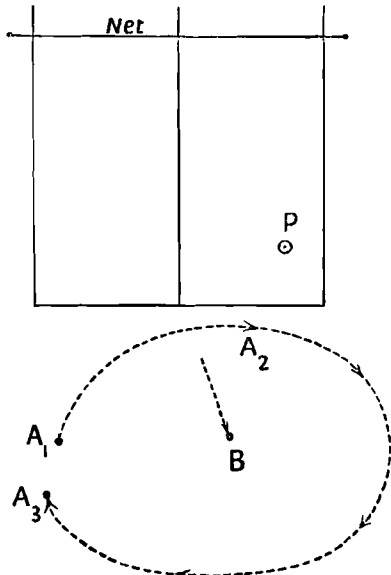


DIAGRAM A

DOUBLES PLAY—POSITIONAL MOVEMENTS (for A., a forehand attacker, when playing ball at point P.)
 Note: Partner B., if a player of similar style, is free to follow A. round the same rotary path, so that each has the table to himself when striking.

because A and B cannot choose which balls to take; they must play alternately. They may, in fact, both be forced to play their weakest game, i.e., A defending and B endeavouring to attack. No, the best recipes for doubles teams are, in order of merit:

1. Two sound attackers.
2. One sound attacker and one clever half-volley or over-the-table player.
3. Two determined defenders.

If your game has no marked preponderance of attack or defence, you can adapt yourself to an attacking or defending partner, or you can pair up with a similar player to yourself. In each case, however, it is wise to discuss all eventualities with your partner, and settle your general policy in advance.

Simple defensive play by one partner will seldom pay in doubles. The reasons for this are:

- (a) The defender cannot keep a grip on

the game as he can in singles; he has to take the consequences of any easy returns sent back by his partner, who is less skilful in defence.

(b) The defender, from force of habit, cannot take advantage of attacking openings created by his partner.

So a defender must pair up with a partner of the same type, and then, with determination, they may achieve some success.

Bearing these matters in mind, there is still another factor which affects your choice of partner. It is almost indefinable, but you will always notice it. Why, for instance, do A and B, both sound all-round players, lose regularly to C and D, whom both A and B can beat comfortably in singles? The answer is that C and D possess an "understanding" which A and B lack.

To me it seems to be a matter of rhythm, and you will know almost at once whether a certain player's game will harmonise with your own. Experiment until you find a good partner, and then practise seriously with him (or her).

Work out for yourselves the types of services best suited to each; also the best method of returning opponents' services to give the second partner a fair chance. Unless you have decided on 100 per cent. defence, try to attack the service in doubles. Nothing rash, of course; simply strong top spin, which will return most services safely. If you cannot get the initiative in this way, try to return the service low, and softly, to make it difficult for the opponents to start their attack.

COUNTER-HITTING is very useful in doubles, and the ball should be directed straight back to the same corner as it comes from. This gives the original hitter very little time to make way for his partner. It is not always realised that doubles is very different from singles in this matter of direction.

Thus, a swinging attack to alternate corners, so telling in singles, simply allows each partner to stay comfortably in his position. On the other hand, a sustained attack on to ONE corner, simple enough in singles, is deadly in doubles, because it forces the partners to make way for each other time after time, eventually causing a faulty return.

DO remember in doubles that a sound shot is more useful than a finely placed shot. The latter is difficult to execute whilst on the run, and it is not really necessary to secure the point in most cases. Furthermore, a succession of sound shots leads to far greater confidence between the partners than a succession of flashy kills mixed with foolish misses. Keep the ball going steadily, and sooner or later an easy kill will come up.

Interchange of position, which is all important, cannot be carried out according to hard-and-fast rules, since much depends on the individual's style of play.

A player who prefers to play backhand strokes will probably find it best to retreat to the right of the table while his partner is striking. Conversely, a strong forehand player

finds it best to wait to the left of the table.

Furthermore, in both cases, the position of the non-striking player must be behind, or at least as far back as the striker. There are two reasons for this: first, it allows the striker a clear view and complete freedom of lateral movement; secondly, it reduces the possibility of the "waiting" player being surprised by a sudden attacking stroke.

IN defence, circumstances will dictate the path by which you will reach the desired position, but in attack you should try to arrive at a rotary exchange of positions with your partner. Suggested movements are shown in the diagrams.

Movements for a backhand attacker are, of course, similar, but based on the right-hand side of the table.

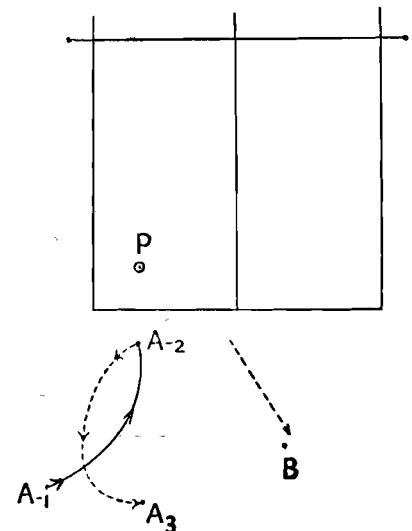


DIAGRAM B

DOUBLES PLAY—POSITIONAL MOVEMENTS (for A., a forehand attacker, when playing the ball at point P.)
 Note: By retreating to the side from which he entered, A. has again left the whole table free for his partner B.

It will be seen that when the ball is in the nearer court the striker goes out the same way as he came in, but when it is in the farther court he continues his movement, and goes out on the far side of the table, afterwards doubling back round his partner.

After serving it is best to retreat almost directly backwards to leave the whole table to your partner.

When an opponent chops or top-spins too strongly for your partner, give him a very short, delicate service, which he can only push carefully back.

Reproduced from J. N. Carrington's book, "Modern Table Tennis," by permission of the author and publishers, Messrs G. Bell & Son, Ltd. Supplies of this book are now available and copies can be obtained from the E.T.T.A., price 2/6.

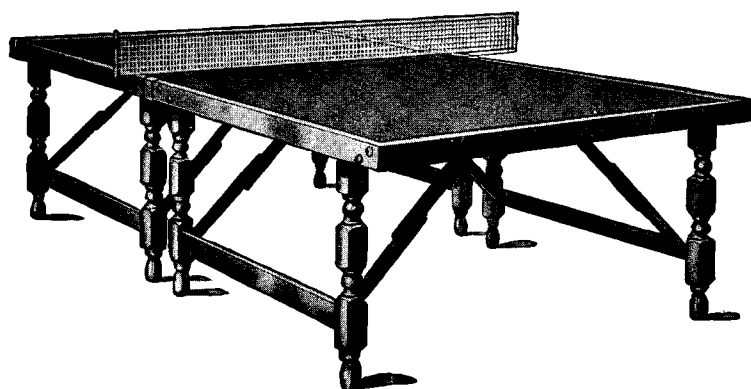
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OVER THE NET



EVERYONE in table tennis will have a welcome ready for Viktor Barna, whom we are hoping to see back in England by Christmas. Viktor just *is* table tennis. He may not be world champion now, but even if he never played again he'd still draw the crowds.

You can't help liking him. Ask the ladies. It's that thing called poisonality.

Well, Viktor's coming back, after playing in the French championships, and if you ask this world-wide ambassador of the game quite seriously, he'll probably tell you he's coming home. We think he likes England as much as England likes him.

* * *

Barna and tours always seem to go together, and plans are certainly on foot for another of those popular playing "circuses." There's a chance, too, of an American team coming over for the English Open, and to play an international series in a number of the country's leading centres.

This would be a big attraction, for we don't see a lot of our friends from U.S.A., even though we may hear quite a deal.

* * *

Which reminds us that a certain magazine in America had an interesting little story about Eric Filby, who was tennis touring there, playing table tennis in a glove, to protect his fingers—Eric, you see, being a violin virtuoso.

Human interest, sob stuff, good reading. Only, unfortunately, Ernie Bublely, not Filby, is our virtuoso. Which shows you can't fiddle with facts.

* * *

FILBY, by the way, caught the hustle habit in America, which explains why, just as our energetic honorary secretary, Bill Pope, was telling someone that Eric couldn't possibly be home for a fortnight, in he strolls at the E.T.T.A. office door!

Anxious to get down to practice at once, Filby had cabled entries for the Lancashire and Home Counties tourna-

ments. His early form was very poor—unexpectedly beaten early in the Lancs, and only just scraping through his group in the Home Counties before losing finally to Coles.

But by now he will have taken part in a week's tour of Sweden and played in the International there. America, Sweden, and now off to South Africa with the L.T.A. team. Tennis and table tennis certainly get Filby going places these days.

* * *

Stan Proffitt is another of the busy ones. Tired of waiting for an invitation for a cricket tour of Egypt next summer,

**We wish all our Readers
A Happy Christmas**

Stan went to Darlington to fix up with a club interested there.

With everything arranged he came home. Next day came the contract for his signature, and by the same post the invitation for Egypt!

And the very same day Stan was asked to go on a Badminton exhibition tour—stage shows, with a well-known band. It would be a new departure for Proffitt if he took up Badminton seriously now.

* * *

FASHION Note, or Who Wears the Trousers?

Everyone has been commenting this season on the increasing number of men in shorts and women in trousers at the tournaments. It all leads to complications, and wearing women's hairnets to keep flowing locks under control while playing doesn't help either.

Go easy, boys, easy.

And what has happened to Leo Baron's skull cap? We've missed that Rugby scrum cap idea lately.

* * *

We haven't heard enough recently of all those "train 'em young" schemes which seemed to be going with such a swing, but there was an interesting flashback to the idea at the Home Counties, where two youngsters, Birmingham and Merritt, each only 13, made an appearance.

Each, in his group, had to meet one of the oldest players in the tournament. Birmingham actually beat Mr. Steel, who is more than 60, an old stalwart of the Whitefield's Club, and the oldest competitor.

During an interval in the finals ten boys gave an exhibition, with Mr. Steel

as umpire. A fine idea for ridding these budding stars of crowd nerves, and with careful bringing along there should be no danger of swelled head.

* * *

ONE or two people over here have been considering again the possibility of a "championship" on the points system, just as they have in U.S.A. There points are awarded for performances in every tournament in which a player competes—very like the new Memorial Trophy competition here among the golf professionals.

The tournaments are graded, Nationals counting most points, then the big Areas (Northern, Southern, Western, and so on), then the State Open and Closed events, finishing with the smaller competitions.

Points vary according to the stage the player reaches in the tournament. Thus, to get to the last 64 in the National earns one point. To win it earns 64.

* * *

The system as applied to America seems to work reasonably well, but differing conditions here seem to condemn it from the start. For one thing, the Londoner, with so many tournaments easily reached, would have an overwhelming advantage over the Provincial, equally good, who probably couldn't afford either time or expense for the longer journeying he would have to do to keep in step.

Grading the tournaments, too, would lead to inevitable jealousies, however carefully and impartially it was done. And the system puts a premium on the more wealthy players, who can afford to do their bit of travelling around.

Still, it would lend spice to the season, wouldn't it? And it might be possible to try it out in areas—a Lancashire "championship" for points won in specified tournaments in and around Lancashire, for example.

And think what a boost it might give to tournament entries.

* * *

One more Filby cameo has just reached us. It is of Eric searchingly scanning Jack Carrington's new book on the game, to find the bit where he is cited as a model for young players to copy.

Eric was highly gratified—who wouldn't be?—and really anxious to find the reference. So why should we spoil it with that old one about the model being a small edition of the real thing?

We won't even hint at it.

* * *

STRANGE things happen in Table Tennis. But we don't hear about all of them. Why not send *your* story along? Address it to "Over the Net," c/o E.T.T.A.

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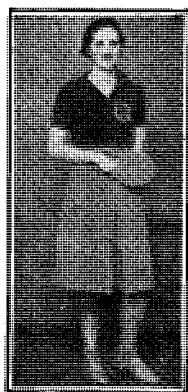
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POST-BAG EMPTIED BY A. A. HAYDON

¶ *The Editor, and Mr. Haydon personally, both receive numerous letters. We feel that it will be of interest to publish some of them, together with Mr. Haydon's replies, in the magazine. Here is the first selection; if you have a grouse to make or a query to be answered, write to Mr. Haydon, care of "Table Tennis."*

I am a keen follower of table tennis, having seen quite a few of the big stars in action, and I was also a spectator at the recent international match here against France. Now, what amazes me is that a player like Mr. Buble is ranked as No. 1 in England both by yourself and Mr. Proffitt. Why is this? After watching the fluent strokes of Messrs. Lurie and Filby, to mention only two players, and their beautifully balanced game, I definitely think they are in a class above Mr. Buble. —E. L., Hastings.

You are not the only one who has been deceived by Buble's rather ugly style and apparent lack of effective strokes. In ranking results tell: and Buble had a better record than any other English player last season, which included, remember, the World Championships. Whether or not he can hold his position now his game is known remains to be seen.

I notice that H. Lurie and E. Filby have been chosen to represent England in the match against Sweden. Whilst not wishing to detract from their selection, I believe the claims of the best player in the country, namely, Ken Hyde, have been

overlooked. There is a general feeling in the North that Hyde isn't getting a fair deal, so I thought I would ask your opinion on the matter.—G. L. JAMES, Liverpool.

Well, I am not a member of the Selection Committee, but I should say Lurie and Filby were selected on last season's Swaythling Cup form. Lurie and Filby filled the second and third places with Hyde No. 4, but to be quite candid I think there is little or nothing to choose between all three.

I have a fairly consistent forehand and can get my opponents to put the ball up, then somehow or other when the point is as good as mine I invariably manage to muff the shot. Can you help me? I would appreciate your assistance, as I feel my game would improve 50 per cent. when this fault is righted.—MARY STONE, Wolverhampton.

From your letter it appears to me you don't know the difference between a "drive" and a "kill." Normally a forehand attacking stroke is made with top spin, but when the bounce is high enough get well over the ball and drive "flat," i.e., without putting any spin on the stroke at all.

A POPULAR SECRETARY

Mr. A. S. KING, of Exeter

MR. A. S. KING has recently resigned from his position as secretary and treasurer of the Exeter and District Table Tennis League, an office he has held for the past ten years.

The League and its members have derived considerable benefit from Mr. King's activities in the interests of table tennis. The game in Exeter has greatly advanced, and the number of teams and divisions in the League have doubled during his term of office. In addition, the finances of the League have been considerably strengthened.


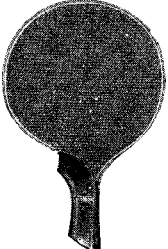
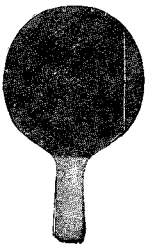
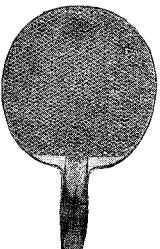
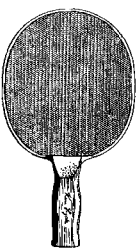
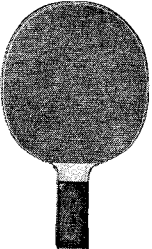
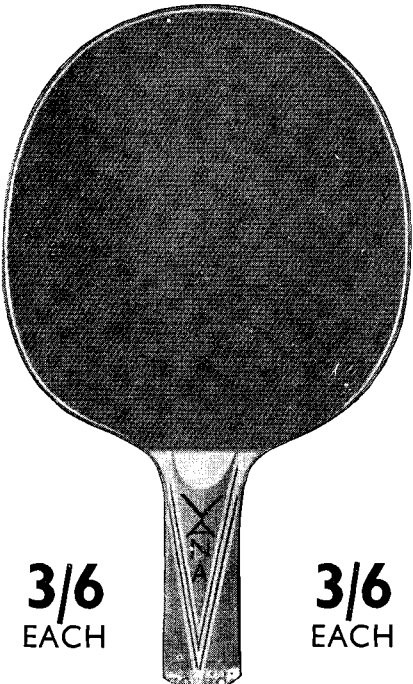

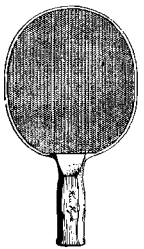
He has also realised his ambitions of seeing an Exeter International player and the formation of a Ladies' League at Exeter. His organising of the West of England Open Championships in Exeter for the first time last March, when competitors included Barna, Bergmann, Bellak, and Vana, was an outstanding achievement.

As an appreciation of Mr. King's valued services he has been elected a life member of the Exeter League, and arrangements are in hand for a suitable presentation from the members to be made to him.

Fortunately for Exeter, Mr. King's services will still be available to table tennis, for besides continuing as a member of the League committee, he is at present acting with other leading players as honorary coach.

For several years Mr. King has been a keen executive member of the E.T.T.A., in which capacity he is continuing.

The new secretary of the Exeter League is Mr. H. J. Amery, a well-known Exeter player and a table tennis enthusiast, who has done a lot for the advancement of the game in Exeter and district.

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Backhand or Forehand — Not Both

Bergmann's Surprising Views

Told to

J. KURZMANN

I REMEMBER Viktor Barna stating in this magazine some time ago that, in view of the lower net, the future world's champion would have to be a complete player, with perfect hitting on both wings and a sound defence.

Talking about this to Richard Bergmann, I was surprised to find that he most definitely disagreed with this.

"The days of point-winning attack on both wings are over," said Richard. "The future world champion will have his winning attack on one wing only.

"That does not mean that, if his winning shot is a forehand drive, he will not need a backhand at all, but that his backhand drive will be only a preparatory shot for his forehand winner. It will be a drive of medium pace which he will use merely to gain position for his winning shot on the other hand.

"The player of world class prepares the way for his winning shot; he does not attempt to put away the first possible ball whether it comes on his backhand or his forehand."

I have watched Bergmann coaching on many occasions, and often when his pupil has endeavoured to hit a winner off the

second ball of the rally, Richard has called out as he returned it (or as it went off the table): "Too quick." Then he has explained that before hitting a ball at such speed you should make several shots at lesser pace getting the feel of the ball and a perfect position, so that when you make your winning shot there is little risk of it going off or in the net.

"Find your best wing," says Bergmann, "and concentrate on developing a winner on that hand. Don't attempt to play it too quickly, but get a proper 'feel' of the ball with medium-paced drives, and ensure that

Mr. J. Kurzmann, of the London League Committee, has for some months now been handling Bergmann's arrangements on behalf of the E.T.T.A. In almost daily talks with the young star, he has learned his views on most important table tennis topics. In this article he tells you about some startling theories round which Richard Bergmann has built his game.

your 'winner' really does gain a point and not present one to your opponent."

Bergmann agrees, of course, that a sound defence is essential to a first-class player, but

he has made some interesting remarks to me about defence on the backhand wing.

"Nearly all the players I have seen in this country use a side defence on the backhand," he told me. "This I consider definitely wrong.

"Good backhand defence is played from in front of the body. This enables you to keep a good balance and to recover easily.

"But this is not all. By playing the defence in front of the body, two paces will put you in perfect position for a forehand drive, the surprise of which will probably gain the point.

"Try doing this with a side defence, and you will find that you will require at least four paces, and the shot can't be made properly because of lack of time."

We have all admired the speed with which Bergmann changes backhand defence into forehand attack—this was, in fact, one of the high-spots of the last world championships—and his views on this certainly merit very close study. Naturally, for Bergmann's defence, you must be very quick on your feet, but this, after all, is a first essential for any top-class player.

* * *

Bergmann and Liebster are still in this country as guests of the E.T.T.A., and the object of their stay is to improve the standard of play throughout the country. Will secretaries of any Leagues or clubs interested in having their services for coaching or exhibitions please write to Mr. J. Kurzmann, 35, Suffolk Road, Barnes, London, S.W.13.

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GIVE IT FOR CHRISTMAS!

AFFILIATION PROBLEMS

THE organisation of table tennis cannot be compared with that of any other sport. Our methods are unique, but some of our rules are still similar to those adopted when the present Association was formed in 1926. We have not "moved with the times," and developments this season will compel us all to give attention to many changes caused by the tremendous development of the game.

One of the chief complications relates to the question of methods of, and payment for, affiliation to the governing body.

The present rules provide that affiliation shall be by individual direct (2s. 6d. per annum), club affiliation direct (7s. 6d. per annum), and League affiliation (based upon the number of clubs in the League at 3s. 6d. per club). In addition, national organisations, who have members playing table tennis, but who do not treat the game as an important part of their general functions, can affiliate as a body on a fee which is mutually agreed, and is based upon the size and importance of their table tennis activities.

The great proportion of our 5,000 affiliated clubs are, of course, affiliated through Leagues at 3s. 6d. per club—truly a very small amount to pay for the connection to, and the right of control over, such an active body as the E.T.T.A. It has always been realised, of course, that players of table tennis are generally drawn from sections which cannot pay large sums for their sport, and I realise that it is a real struggle in some areas to raise even small amounts to pay for participation in table tennis. In consequence, I have always personally been opposed to any suggestions for an increase.

OUR development, however, and the increased amount of work and organi-

sation thrown upon the National body, now raises the question in a very sharp form, and the figures given in the financial statement at the last A.G.M., and the income and expenditure statement which

FROM THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR

will be found in the Official Handbook for 1938-39, will illustrate the position.

Of the general income of the Association, totalling over £5,000, affiliation fees come to £677, so it will be seen that this contribution from approximately 80,000 members is so small that it is difficult to resist the conclusion that some increase is necessary, because it is not certain that we can continue to raise the large amounts on championships, tours, exhibitions, etc., etc., which now keep our organisation going.

I leave that problem to the interested reader, and hope that in the near future some consideration will be given to the matter which will culminate in suggestions for the alteration of rule.

But the immediate problem is the administration of the present rule and the efforts, legitimate in most cases, to avoid payments which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, are genuinely due, although, perhaps, the interpretation of the rule can lead to controversy.

In the first place there is the question of the club joining two Leagues. Do they pay two 3s. 6d.? The Executive have laid down that the fee is a League fee, based upon the number of clubs in the League, and therefore each League should pay irrespective of whether any other League also pays for the same

clubs. In London and Manchester particularly this difficulty is acute, some clubs being in three or even more Leagues.

Then there is the question of the treatment of "clubs" and "teams." This question is raised very sharply in the Civil Service. There are at least two Leagues, one in connection with the Employment Exchanges and one of the Tax Offices, where they run a regular competition with between 30 or 40 teams.

The teams are formed in the various district offices in London, and it is the Head Office Club which is affiliated and pays the 3s. 6d. for affiliation to the E.T.T.A. The members of the teams playing in the League look upon their Head Office Club as their club and, as a matter of fact; and the players are called upon to play for the H.O. Club, if necessary, in the main Civil Service League. If we stick to our interpretation that the club is the basis of affiliation then the number of teams run by that club does not matter.

But is this fair?

Here we have clubs with hundreds of members paying one 3s. 6d., and Leagues with less members in the whole of the League paying eight, nine and ten 3s. 6d. This, of course, is not consistent, and the problem requires very serious consideration.

THE other problem is that of juniors. It has just been reported to me that a Junior Organisation Committee, with a view to encouraging physical fitness amongst boys, has formed a table tennis League with a large membership, and help from the local municipality, and the entrance fee is 1s. per club.

Are they to be affiliated at a cheap rate? Already we hear that some of the junior teams in the old-established League where they pay the regulation League fee of 10s. per annum (including the E.T.T.A. 3s. 6d.), are wanting to leave and join the new body.

What are we to do here? We do not wish to discourage the formation of junior Leagues, but our rules are based upon the refusal to allow affiliated players to play with unaffiliated in competition. Are we to exclude the juniors and put the bar up?

I have already pointed out that the aggregate affiliation fee is small, and we are all agreed it would be inadvisable to increase it. But can we stand this "whittling away" of sums now due, and can we continue our policy of doing everything possible to develop the game irrespective of finance and reconcile this with barring people and organisations who cannot pay?

These problems should interest all our keen members. I think it will be agreed that organisations should pay on the basis of their size, importance, and the number of players. But how translate this into rules that will not bear harshly on some sections, and at the same time be easy from the administrative angle?

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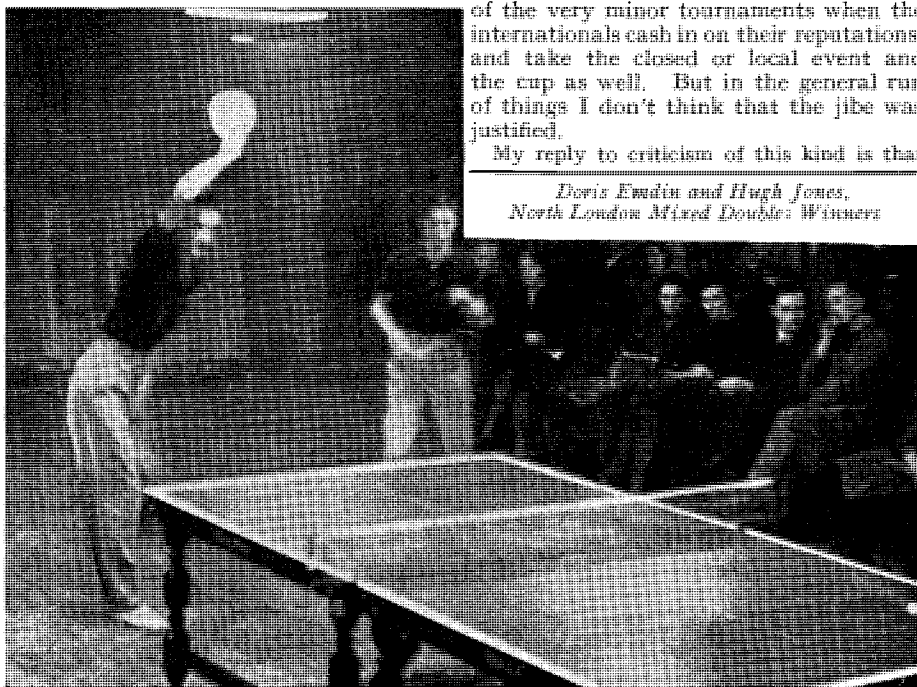
The Misses B. Capper and R. Smits, Mrs. G. Tower, and Messrs. R. Brewer, E. A. W. Cast, W. C. Charlton, W. J. Pope, E. G. White, and F. H. Wilson.

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

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



FUNNY the way things strike people. Only a few weeks ago I spoke of table tennis to a friend of mine, and he was outspoken enough to admit that the game held nothing for him in the way of interest. Naturally I asked why, and I was told : " Because it resembled lawn tennis closely in respect of the pot hunting."

Not a very pleasant thing to say, but how true it might be in the cases of some of the very minor tournaments when the internationals cash in on their reputations, and take the closed or local event and the cup as well. But in the general run of things I don't think that the jibe was justified.

My reply to criticism of this kind is that

*Doris Emdin and Hugh Jones,
North London Mixed Doubles Winners*

the players don't stay long enough at the top to indulge in any prolonged spells of pot-hunting. The rising enthusiasm of the youngsters, too, together with the general uncertainties of the temperamental stars, preclude pot-hunting.

About the youngsters. In the Home Counties events master Jimmy Bermingham, a product of the Wembley area, and looks like a real good 'un for Jack Tebb and company, and young Merrett, two thirteen-year-olds mind you, played well enough for us all to agree that here are two real stars of the future. If neither of them qualified in the Home Counties, they had the consolation of being in the limelight during their stays at the table.

THE real star without question this season is Vera Dace, the sixteen-years-old London girl. It strikes me that here is the girl who will step into Margaret Osborne's shoes, and who, if she keeps up this early seasonal form, will win a trip to Egypt. Vera attracted attention last year, but she did nothing then

Looking Around

with

J. W. A. CONNOLLY

("Sunday Express" sports specialist)

to compare with her sparkling straight sets win over Dora Emdin in the Home Counties.

And these aren't the only young players in table tennis.

The Home Counties tournament, besides being one of the most important London events, should serve to my mind as an example to all and sundry. The evening's play finished early every night, and Frank Wilson, the referee, and his colleagues managed to see that there was never a wasted table. That is the kind of thing we always want at table tennis.

FINCHLEY, too, do things exceptionally well. Archie Steel and Messrs. Dallow and Briggs might easily have cramped the tournament into less than the twelve allotted playing nights. But Archie, against his Scottish caution I'm sure, argues that it is better to be too early in the finish than too late. And I must agree.

Amazing how this Finchley tournament has grown. It has never been a really favourite tournament with the top-class internationals, probably because they are less enthusiastic about travelling the long distances, but there is always a first-class entry of three hundred and upwards. And since these always contain a large number of so-called rabbits, there must be something in the tournament to commend itself to the players.

It doesn't really seem long since Archie told me he was forming a new club. He moved very quickly and in the right direction, and he didn't have to wait a long time for the support. Finchley, a select little club, with a restricted membership, is a tribute to the zeal and energy which the officials put into it in the earlier stages.

If I am also partial to the Wembley League it isn't without reason. Like Finchley they have a willing band of officials, and there prevails that happy family atmosphere. I must congratulate Wembley on their latest effort, namely, the way they are putting over their Metropolitan League matches with the public.

Last week I met an old friend I hadn't seen for years. " Where's tha bin, lad," I asked. " I've been watching table tennis, it's a gradely game; tha oughter watch it sometime, them there stars can hit that ball."

Yes, I think I oughter . . . sometime.

BUT the point was he had been watching Wembley play in one of their Metropolitan League games, and I'll warrant he will see every game he can now. Wembley have issued tickets—they cost a shilling or so—and admit the purchaser to every one of the home Metropolitan League games.

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TABLE TENNIS

FAMOUS CLUBS

No. 3. Manhattan

THE story of the Manhattan Sports Club is largely connected with that of the Bublely brothers, to whom it owes its creation and its success. Always keenly interested in social work, brother Eddie Bublely conceived the idea of the Manhattan Club as a means of getting young East End men to leave the street corners and take an interest in healthy, clean pursuits.

Starting the club in 1934 with a membership of six, he actually sent emissaries forth on to the streets of Whitechapel and Aldgate to approach lounging groups of youths and persuade them to visit the Manhattan Club, where they were individually welcomed by Eddie Bublely in his capacity of chairman.

A dilapidated tennis table on rickety trestles, picked up at an auction sale for 2s. 3d., was the first major item of sports equipment which the club possessed. Here the newly "roped-in" members were encouraged to start playing "ping-pong," as most of them called it then, and prizes of packets of chocolate for good performances at table tennis were offered as an inducement to improvement.

The standard of play did rapidly improve; it was surpassed only by the ever mounting enthusiasm for the game. Then Eddie had a brain wave. He realised that something spectacular was needed to give the game and the club publicity. A big match and intense feeling were required to stimulate interest.

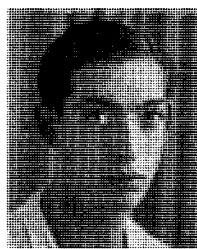
So brother Ernie entered the picture.

Working, at the time, in Clacton as a stage violinist, he suddenly received a telegram from his brother in London, reading: "Can you play table tennis? Answer 'Yes' or 'No'."

Ernie's reply was: "A Bublely tries anything."

A match was immediately arranged between Ernie and a local "crack" player. So much publicity was given to this game that the club was filled to capacity. This was Ernie's first serious competition game, and, in spite of his lack of experience, he won—a sign of that fighting spirit we have seen so much of since.

IN 1935-36 the Manhattan Club entered two teams in the London Table Tennis



M. Phillips



J. Paris

League, both teams winning their respective section championships without the loss of a single game.

From there on one team travelled to further success, winning the second section championship in the following year and rose from the third to the top division in three successive years.

The membership of the club is nearly 1,000, every man a true table tennis enthusiast, an active player, and follower of the game. Whenever a member enters an open tournament a great crowd of fellow members accompany him to lend him moral support. The proudest day in the club's history came when Ernie Bublely was picked to represent England in last year's Swaythling Cup Tournament.

Three very promising players in the club are M. Phillips, J. Paris, and C. Levy, who very shortly hope to secure an opportunity to compete for front rank honours. The Manhattan Club team is also fortunate in possessing as a tower of strength Stanley Proffitt, the English International player, who is very popular among the Manhattan members.

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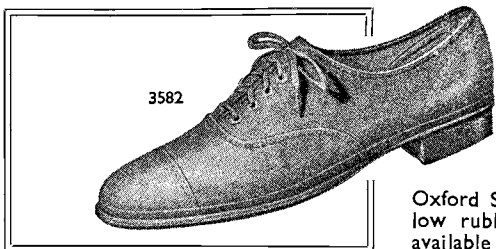
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M. A. Symons talks to the BEGINNER

MOST beginners make the mistake of trying to do too much. They see good players making fluent forehand and backhand strokes and, quite naturally, envy them. Later on they try to imitate the strokes they have seen the experts make—and then their troubles start. Why should this be? you may ask. It is because the good players have trained themselves to take up perfect position for all strokes. The tyro sees only the result, the ball struck well and truly beyond the opponent's reach. He does not realise that poise, footwork, and timing have made the stroke a certainty.

You must begin at the beginning and learn the *easy* shots first. Remember that one of the great virtues of a good player is that he rarely misses an easy shot: that is what makes him a "class player"—his highly developed sense of touch.

We will start, then, with service. First try to concentrate upon accuracy and then work up to a fast service. Service mistakes are often caused by standing too far back from the table when striking the ball. Carelessness in delivery and holding the ball too high above the playing surface are other reasons for failure. I have already dealt with the first two. The third deserves particular mention. You should hold the ball low down if you wish to develop a fast service. About 2 to 3 inches above the playing surface is best (behind the end of the table, of course, or you will be "faulted" for serving over the table). Hit the ball out of your hand with your racket; do not throw the ball up into the air and then hit it as this will allow your opponent to see exactly how you are going to serve.

Concentrate upon the point of the table on your own side of the net where the ball will strike first. Keep your eye fixed on this spot; do not look at the side of the table over the net where you intend the ball to go afterwards. Remember that in table tennis, unlike lawn tennis, the ball must bounce on your own side of the net first. If you strike the ball low and crisply, at a fair speed, it will clear the net all right and you will have delivered a good service.

Watching the table your own side will help you to avoid service failures. Looking to where you intend your service to go after it has passed over the net will make you an inaccurate server. I have often seen players do this and, as they take no notice of where they are striking the ball first, they hit it against the edge of the table.

When you have worked up a fair speed in service it is time to try for a little control, a little placing. It is inadvisable to do this until you have a fairly fast straight service, however.

Most players learn the forehand service first. Do not stop at that, try to master a backhand service too. If you have no backhand then learning a backhand service will introduce the stroke to you. After all, if you can serve on the backhand why not play strokes on that side? Backhand service is excellent for angling your opponent unexpectedly, and I have seen even Inter-

No. 3—Service and First Strokes

national players lose points against sudden fast backhand cross-table services.

Return of Service

THIS is rather more problematical for you. You cannot be sure how your opponent will serve, and only practice and experience will acquaint you with the different kinds of service you are likely to meet. Although in reality there are not many different ways in which the ball can come towards you there are a great many services which *look* different. The way your opponent holds his bat or flourishes his arm, and the spin he puts on the ball, make them seem terribly deadly.

For you, however, I advise that you be content to push the service back into play, whether it is a trick service or a straightforward one, unless it bounces up very high, when you should certainly try to hit it. Against awkward services, when the ball keeps going off your racket at the wrong angle and loses you points, you should concentrate upon returning the service at all costs. Tilt your bat in another way, or return the ball high, *but get it back somehow!*

Nothing is quite so disheartening as to keep failing to return a service. You feel you can't even start the game. Concentration upon your return and willingness to try some other method of return play a great part in taking difficult services. Unless your opponent is a fairly good player (when he will beat you no matter what you do), if you are able to return his favourite service you will quite likely find that he too is surprised and will fail to deal effectively even with a high return. Many moderate players find that a certain kind of service wins them points and

don't know what to do when it is returned successfully.

The Half-Volley

WE have arrived at your first stroke, the half-volley. That is the stroke all beginners use most—perhaps unknowingly. When you put your racket in the way of the ball and the ball goes back into play, you have half-volleyed. The stroke consists, in its elementary stage, in striking the ball just after it has bounced. The difference between the good player's half-volley and the beginner's half-volley is that in the first one the ball is returned low over the net to a certain point on the table, often at an acute angle, and in the second case the ball is just returned anyhow, generally high over the net.

The half-volley is, in its place, an excellent stroke for all players to master, and all beginners should try to cultivate some skill at it, for it is a shot that few have the patience to practise after they have learned top-spin and chop.

NEXT MONTH: Attack and the Uses of Spin.

THE WILMOTT CUP—1938/9

All first round ties should have been completed by November 29. Second round ties must be played by December 20.

FIRST ROUND

- A. Ipswich v. Chelmsford.
- B. Barking v. Southend.
- C. Urmston v. Stockport.
- D. Southport v. Liverpool.
- E. Warrington v. Chester.
- F. North Middlesex v. N.A.L.G.O.
- G. Malden v. Surrey.
- H. H.S.A. v. Woolwich.
- I. Acton v. London.
- J. West Somerset v. Bristol.
- K. Halifax v. Leeds.
- L. Stourbridge v. Birmingham.
- M. Burnley v. Blackburn.
- N. Nelson v. Ribblesdale.
- O. Bury v. Manchester.
- P. Mid-Cheshire v. Reddish.
- Q. Manchester Bus. Hses. v. Ashton-u-Lyne.
- R. Film Renters v. Wembley.
- S. Ilford v. Thameside Industries.
- T. Thames Valley v. South London.
- U. London Banks v. London Prov. Houses.
- V. Carlisle v. Northumberland.
- W. Sheffield v. Chesterfield.
- X. West Bromwich v. Coventry.

SECOND ROUND

- Oxford v. Newbury.
- Cambridge v. Luton.
- Winner of A. v. winner of B.
- Winner of N. v. winner of M.
- Winner of C. v. winner of O.
- Winner of F. v. winner of R.
- Winner of G. v. winner of S.
- Winner of I. v. winner of U.
- Salisbury v. Bournemouth.
- Sittingbourne v. Folkestone.
- Winner of V. v. Sunderland.
- Crewe v. Macclesfield.
- Winner of L. v. winner of X.
- Leicester v. Nottingham.
- Reading v. Woking.
- Northants v. Bedford.
- Bishop's Stortford v. Barnet.
- King's Lynn v. Norwich.
- Gt. Yarmouth v. Lowestoft.
- Winner of P. v. winner of D.
- Winner of E. v. winner of Q.
- Winner of H. v. winner of T.
- Winner of J. v. Ilfracombe.
- South Devon v. Exeter.
- Farnham v. Southampton.
- Gravesend v. Dartford.
- Grimsby v. Hull.
- Winner of K. v. winner of W.
- Gloucester v. Wolverhampton.
- Boston v. Lincoln.
- Spalding v. Peterborough.
- Retford v. Mansfield

THE ROSE BOWL—1938/9

First round ties must be played before December 10. Second round ties on January 7.

FIRST ROUND

- A. Nottingham v. Lincoln.
- B. Blackpool v. Manchester Women.
- C. Macclesfield v. Manchester Business Houses.
- D. Leek v. West Bromwich.
- E. Folkstone v. Maidstone.
- F. Woolwich v. South London.
- G. London v. London Prov. Houses.
- H. Thameside Industries v. L.B.H.
- I. Spalding v. King's Lynn.
- J. Chester v. Liverpool.
- K. Coventry v. Birmingham.
- L. Southampton v. Salisbury.
- M. Dartford v. Gravesend.
- N. North Middlesex v. Acton.
- O. London Banks v. London Civil Service.
- P. Barnet v. Watford.

SECOND ROUND

- Sheffield v. Grimsby.
- Winner of A. v. winner of I.
- Winner of B. v. Leeds.
- Winner of J. v. winner of C.
- Winner of K. v. winner of D.
- Lowestoft v. Ipswich.
- Winner of L. v. Bournemouth.
- Bristol v. Exeter.
- Sittingbourne v. winner of E.
- Winner of M. v. winner of F.
- Chelmsford v. Ilford.
- Winner of N. v. winner of G.
- Winner of O. v. winner of H.
- Staines v. Reading.
- Winner of P. v. St. Albans.
- Wembley v. Surrey.

TABLE TENNIS



of TABLE TENNIS TERMS

In Play.—The ball is in play from the moment it leaves the server's free hand until one player loses the point or a let is called. This is why the server loses the point, even if he misses the ball with his bat altogether when he throws it up to serve.

Kill.—If you can take a ball that highly bounces

And, hitting down, return a hard, fast, smashing one,

You've won the point, the umpire's voice announces

And—which is more—you've made a *kill*, my son.

Knucklespin.—Two seasons ago, from U.S.A., came knucklespin—but not to stay. These finger-spin serves were so hard to play that they made rules to ban them without delay.

Left Half Court.—The server's and receiver's left-half courts are the two quarters of the table marked for doubles which are not used in serving.

Let.—Any rest the result of which is not scored.

A let may be called for a number of reasons, but the chief of these is that the ball touches the net in service.

Many players—and umpires too—forget that a netcord service is a let not only if it bounces correctly both sides of the table, but also if it is volleyed by the receiver. This is the only case in which a player does not lose the point when he volleys the ball.

THE HULL OPEN

THE best matches in the Hull Open Tournament on November 12 were the two men's singles semi-finals, in which Lurie defeated Marshall and Casofski beat Hardman. Both Lurie and Casofski lost the first game in these matches, and won the next two only after a hard fight.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—Semi-finals: H. Lurie beat G. W. Marshall 19-21, 21-15, 21-14; Casofski beat Hardman 17-21, 21-14, 21-16. Final: Lurie beat Casofski 21-18, 18-21, 21-11, 21-9.

Women's Singles.—Semi-finals: Miss Stott beat Mrs. Amies 21-11, 21-16; Mrs. Stead beat Miss Ward 21-16, 21-17. Final: Mrs. Stead beat Miss Stott 21-15, 21-16.

Men's Doubles.—Semi-finals: Lurie and Cohen beat Marshall and Coles 21-19, 21-17; Cromwell and Casofski beat Kramer and Bell 21-11, 19-21, 21-14. Final: Lurie and Cohen beat Cromwell and Casofski 21-10, 23-21.

Women's Doubles.—Semi-finals: Miss Steventon and Miss Ward beat Mrs. Stead and Miss Mau 22-20, 21-15; Mrs. Amies and Miss Stott beat Miss Stegeman and Mrs. Greensides. Final: Mrs. Amies and Miss Stott beat Miss Steventon and Miss Ward 21-13, 21-11.

Youths' Singles.—Semi-finals: J. Levy beat W. Squire 21-19; J. Powell beat C. Brown 21-17. Final: J. Powell beat J. Levy 21-18, 21-19.

ULSTER NEWS

By N. M. Wilson

THE most encouraging news this month comes from the country, and four new Associations have affiliated to the Ulster Branch—Lisburn, Clogher Valley, Coleraine, and West Ulster. It is expected that the Londonderry Association will affiliate soon, and as an encouragement to these country players it has been decided to promote an annual competition on American tournament lines. Any player competing in the Belfast and District Leagues will be ineligible, so the trophy must go to the country.

It is intended to hold this competition in a different centre each year, and the pick of each association will play against all opposing districts. In this way, headquarters hope to make fresh contacts and discover new talent. Reports have already reached Belfast of outstanding players in Enniskillen, Londonderry, and Coleraine.

All Leagues are now in full swing. In the Seniors, Ards and C.I.Y.M.S. are fighting for top place. Among the women, it looks to be a duel between Maguire & Patersons and City Y.M.C.A. In the "Kelvin" Cup, City Y.M.C.A. lost their top place to C.I.Y.M.S.

Preparations are now well in hand for the match against Liverpool in Belfast on December 17, and as a result of trials eight players have been selected for practice and training together.

An encouragement for the women players is the presentation, by Mr. N. M. Kemp, of Dublin, of a cup for the all-Ireland Open Championships.

READERS! PLEASE NOTE.

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."

ABERDEEN.—McMillans, Union Bridge.
 Rubber Shops, Ltd., 16-18, St. Nicholas St.
ACTON.—Bradix Games, Sports Ground, Kingsdown Ave.
BARNSELY.—British Co-op. Society.
BLACKPOOL.—J. A. Steer, Waterloo Rd., S.S.
BRADFORD.—W. Carter, 15, Bridge St.
 Sports and Pastimes, 27, Westgate.
BURNLEY.—R. Halstead, 289, Padiham Rd., Ightenhill Park Lane.
CAMBERLEY.—Whites, 36, High St.
DEWSBURY.—W. Wood, 10, Kingsway.
EALING.—Shellsheds, 122, Broadway, W.13.
EXETER.—John Webber & Sons, 51, High St.
FAVERSHAM.—T. E. Taylor, 1, Market Pl.
GLOUCESTER.—Hudson & Co., 20, Northgate St.,
GRIMSBY.—Craske & Smith, 191, Cleethorpes Rd.
HUDDERSFIELD.—Barkers, Corner House, Market Pl.
HULL.—Asbestos & Rubber Co., 24, King Edward St.
LEEDS. 1.—L. M. Wainwright, Leeds Bridge.
LEWES.—Lloyd & Son, 2, Station St.
LIVERPOOL. 1.—A. Smart & Sons, 9, Canning Place.
 J. Sharp, Ltd., 36 and 38, Whitechapel.
LONDON.—Gamages, Holborn, E.C.1.
 J. W. Hearne, 137, Uxbridge Rd., W.13.
 I. Pradal & Co., 26, Goodge St., W.1.
 J. Rose & Son, 39, London Rd., S.E.1.
 Spalding Bros. (All retail shops.)
 Sports House, Ltd., 170, Finchley Rd., N.W.3.
 Wakelings, 7/9, Clapham Park Rd., S.W.4.
MANCHESTER. 1.—Watson & Mitchells, 1, Newton St.
NEWBURY.—Turner & Sons, 86, Northbrook St.
NOTTINGHAM.—Griffin & Spalding.
 Gunn & Moore, 49, Carrington St.
SHEFFIELD.—Frank Bird, 27, King St.
 Fred Rose, 264, Glossop Rd.
 H. H. B. Sugg, 28, Angel St.
SOUTHEND.—E. G. Elam, Sports Shop, Weston Rd.
TODMORDEN.—T. W. Greenlees, Church St.
WOKING.—Sports House, Commercial Rd.
WOLVERHAMPTON.—James Beattie, Ltd.

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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West of Scotland Notes

LETTERS received indicate that Kilmarnock and Barrhead are growing more and more table tennis conscious. Latest figures show there are over 300 players in the two districts. The West of Scotland League are doing their bit to give the game a further boost by sending down two teams to do battle with the "locals." The result of these games will probably be a clean-cut victory for the visitors, but the pioneering work will be appreciated.

The new points system is proving extremely popular as, apart from holding spectators' interest until the last "Kill," it gives a very definite incentive to the players themselves. Thanks for the idea, Bristol!

It's difficult to forecast thus early in the season, but present form unfortunately indicates that the Western Y.M.C.A.—Jewish Institute monopoly will not be broken this year at any rate. Hope for the future lies in the newly promoted clubs, particularly Paisley Y.M.C.A., who achieved overnight fame in holding Western to an odd rubber in five win at their first meeting. Southern Y.M. need very little strengthening to make their presence felt, and should do well in the upper circle.

LATE NEWS

NORTH LONDON CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Doubles.—(Men's): H. Jones and L. Baron beat H. Rosen and B. Marcus 17-21, 21-17, 21-19. (Women's): Miss P. Hodgkinson and Miss S. Lavenbergs beat Mrs. J. H. Carrington and Miss J. Harding 21-16, 19-21, 21-13. (Mixed): Hugh Jones and Miss D. L. Emdin beat B. Marcus and Miss P. Hodgkinson 21-17, 21-18. Singles.—(Men's): W. Stennett beat H. Rosen 21-18, 21-19, 21-19. (Women's): Miss D. L. Emdin beat Miss S. Lavenbergs 21-14, 21-17.

LONDON C.S. CLUBS
No. 6.—M.O.D.

Amazing Recovery in Home Counties Doubles Final

THE Money Order Department Club was formed in January 1926 and entered the Civil Service League the following winter. In that season the women's team won all their matches and gained promotion to the First Division, being joined there several years later by the second team.

After a very successful season in 1935-36, when the women's first team were runners-up in the championship, the Club unfortunately lost so many of its best players that only one women's team could compete the following season, and this team suffered relegation.

Special coaching, however, has enabled the Club to return to its former position after only one season.

The M.O.D. women's team are at present at the head of the Civil Service League.

With a comparatively small male staff from which to draw, the Money Order Department has been able to enter only one men's team in the League. This is now in the Third Division, the two best players, Polkenhorn and Edge, having been members from the first.

SURPRISES in the Home Counties stable tennis championships came in the stages before the finals. Three internationals, Eric Filby, Jack Rogers, and Alex. Brook were defeated in the quarter finals. Filby was beaten by Stan Coles, one of the best defensive players in the south, Brook went out to a Bergl playing right on form, while Rogers was beaten by Leo Baron.

Women's final saw Vera Dace, new-comer to the top ranks last year, defeat Dora Emdin, one of our established women internationals. Miss Dace took a 5-0 lead and was at 8-1 and 19-11 before Miss Emdin managed to cut the deficit to game 17. Vera played with delightful confidence on the forehand, and has the art of picking the right ball to hit hard.

The most amazing feat of the tournament fell to those fine international doubles players, Connie Wheaton and Bessie Wright. They were 20-9 down to the Misses Yirrell and Sewell (local St. Albans rivals, by the way), and after saving sixteen game points eventually won 28-26. They took the second game easily.

The men's singles provided the greatest match-play stuff of the whole series. Maurice Bergl, playing in his fourth final in four years, easily outplayed Leo Baron, the new Eastern champion. Baron, hitting quickly in the early games, was slowed down by heavy top-spin attack, and then it was Bergl who fenced quickly for the opening, and

seldom missed the right chance. Baron, however, had perhaps played his better tennis in the earlier matches.

The doubles produced a useful double win for Jack Carrington. Partnered by R. Moreton (the Surrey League player) he won the men's, beating Jack Rogers and Eric Filby, seemingly certainties, in a thrilling five-set match. Neither Filby nor Rogers appear to have touched last season's form. In the mixed doubles Carrington partnered his wife, Marjorie, and again beat a greatly fancied pairing in the internationals Gilbert Marshall and Miss Wheaton. This time it was the progressive attack of Mrs. Carrington, and the way she took the famous Marshall service, that took the honours.

RESULTS

Finals.—Singles (Men's): M. Bergl beat L. Baron 21-17, 21-16, 21-17; (Women's): Miss V. Dace beat Miss D. M. Emdin 21-17, 21-12. Doubles (Men's): J. H. Carrington and R. Moreton beat E. J. Filby and J. Rogers 17-21, 21-19, 19-21, 21-17, 21-17; (Women's): Miss C. Wheaton and Miss B. Wright beat Miss J. Yirrell and Miss K. Sewell 28-26, 21-12.
Mixed: Mr. and Mrs. J. Carrington beat G. W. Marshall and Miss C. Wheaton 21-17, 21-14.

Sussex Open Results


Singles—Men's: R. Bergmann beat A. Liebster 21-19, 21-18, 11-21, 21-13. *Women's:* Miss D. M. Emdin beat Miss D. L. Emdin 21-15, 21-13. *Men's Minor:* G. Wheeler beat R. F. Hook, 8-21, 21-19, 21-19, 21-12. *Women's Minor:* Miss E. Baker beat Miss P. Little 21-15, 21-17. *Doubles—Men's:* Bergmann and Liebster beat E. Filby and J. Rogers 19-21, 21-13, 21-17. *Women's:* Miss D. L. and Miss D. M. Emdin beat Miss E. Blackburn and Mrs. C. E. Ward 21-13, 17-21, 21-14. *Mixed Doubles:* Filby and Miss D. M. Emdin beat Bergmann and Miss Blackburn 21-19, 21-8.

KENT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay. Sunday, January 8, 1939. M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., X.D.

Last date for entries December 29.
Entry Forms from Mr. F. G. Mannooch, 161 Borden Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent.

SHOOT TO STARDOM



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AROUND the COUNTRY

IN view of the push to improve and increase the women's game throughout the country, the experience gained by the Grimsby Association may be helpful to the other Leagues.

GRIMSBY As long ago as season 1933-4, when a Grimsby women's team entertained a women's team from Hull, the possibilities of League play for the fair sex were seen and encouraged by the Grimsby officials, and the next year a Ladies' League of about ten teams was commenced. These were got together by prolonged Press efforts and by the male members encouraging their ladies to play amongst themselves. The committee foresaw that the best way to keep them interested was to insist upon them taking an interest in the affairs of the Association, and were fortunate in obtaining the services of Miss F. Scofield as match secretary.

The following season a rule was passed requiring that each ladies' section of a club should be treated as a separate club for the

—
Miss E. Ward
—Grimsby have
great hopes for
this player
—



purpose of representation on a League committee (on which every club must be represented), and that this delegate must be a woman. This has had a far-reaching effect in that not only are the women made to feel that they are part and parcel of the Association, but there is always a good number of ladies present for committee work.

From one division in 1934-5 Grimsby Ladies grew to two in 1935-6, and now are three strong. With regard to general policy women have never been allowed to play in the men's League, the opinion being that although this *might* improve certain individual players, it is better to have them all competing in women's Leagues. If the Divisions are carefully sorted at the start of a season and the teams fairly evenly matched, play is soon bound to improve. Grimsby First Division now produces fine play and few pushers.

Grimsby suffers from the disadvantage that it is miles away from other table tennis centres, and tournament play proves to be very expensive. County matches are proving an alternative means of getting good match experience, however, and it is interesting to note that so far every Lincolnshire player has come from Grimsby.

* * *

IN the Luton League there are 29 teams this season, an increase of six over last year. There are again three Divisions. St.

Matthew's, the present champions, **LUTON** are making another strong effort to retain the title, and will take a lot of beating.

Last year in the Wilmott Cup the League reached the quarter-final at the first attempt,

a performance of which Luton is justly proud. Record crowds for Luton watched the matches, and a great deal more interest was created. Luton hopes to do at least as well this season.

A new departure is being made this year in that out of surplus funds (the result of last year's cup successes) the expenses of young or promising players in entering outside tournaments and so obtaining experience are being paid. This experience is greatly needed, as in the past Luton players have kept within the town, a result of which is that play in the town reaches a limit beyond which improvement is not possible owing to lack of better opponents. Lack of organised travelling facilities has been partly responsible for this, and the new scheme should be a great success.

More and more inter-town matches are being played this year. Matches against St. Albans, Cambridge, and Bedford have already been arranged.

* * *

DEWSBURY, viewing with concern the dearth of young players, are concentrating this season on finding them. So far, seven youths of promise have been discovered. K. Reed, aged twelve, and R. Fisher, a fourteen-year-old, seem to be the best of the bunch at the moment.

These young players will meet expert players at all tournaments possible in Yorkshire, and it is hoped that this will prove to their benefit.

* * *

THE Service tournament—open to Civil Servants all over the country—is being held in London now, and the finals will be fought out at the Metro-

CIVIL SERVICE pole Hall in Whitehall Place, London, W.C.2, on Friday, December 2. An innovation this year is that the trophies will be presented to the winners not on the evening of the finals, when everybody is tired and anxious to go home, but at a Presentation Dance the following week, on Thursday, December 8. This will also be held at Metropole Buildings.

Engineer-in-Chiefs', four years successively champions of the London C.S. League, still lead at the moment, and have only lost six sets out of eighty in their first five matches. Mount Pleasant are also undefeated at the moment, and the meeting of these two on January 2 will probably decide which wins the trophy.

Civil Service play Birmingham at Metropole Buildings on January 11.

* * *

BIRMINGHAM began upon its huge representative match programme with a 9-0 win against the Midland Counties League champions, Coventry, and **BIRMINGHAM** a second M.C.L. match, against Leicester, resulted in an 8-1 win for Birmingham. This was followed by a 6-3 victory in the County Championship over Cambridgeshire.

Birmingham, however, crashed badly in a friendly match against a strong Manchester side, which included Lurie, Stanley, Cromwell, and C. Davies. Lisle and Sadler, Birmingham's

Welsh Internationals, were outclassed by Lurie, but put up an excellent fight against Stanley, who nevertheless beat Lisle in two straight games and Sadler 2-1. Alderton and Walton gained a couple of sets for Birmingham by beating A. Cohen, Manchester's fifth man.

* * *

Warwickshire's women's team were very fortunate to beat the greatly improved Lincolnshire side, 5 sets to 4, in the opening County Championship match at Grimsby. Mrs. Bence, the Midland Counties champion, won all three sets for the visitors, although hard pressed by Miss Ward, who unexpectedly beat Miss Steventon, as also did Mrs. Scott.

A number of matches for juniors have been arranged against neighbouring Leagues, and the first against Coventry resulted in a 7-3 win for Birmingham. M. Kriss and D. Hiscock, two youngsters of 15, are expected to improve to top-class standard before the end of this season.

* * *

Association trials on a bigger scale than has ever been attempted previously were held during the first weeks in November at the new headquarters' club. 150 players competed in the men's section, but entries for the women's and junior trials were rather disappointing. As a result of the trials, however, the various teams are likely to undergo many changes this season, for a number of previously unknown younger players created a very favourable impression. Amongst the men who are certain to be given encouragement in the team this season are G. Lawrence (Hall Green Y.M.C.A.), R. Hawtin (Stechford Y.M.C.A.), and T. Davies (May Lane), all about 17 years old.

New clubs are continuing to affiliate to the Association, and nearly all vacancies in the various Leagues have now been filled, bringing the total number of teams entered to date to 280. The various cup competitions, closed championships, etc., are due to begin, and in all the next few months will be hectic ones for Birmingham enthusiasts.

In the Birmingham League, Washwood Heath, the champions, are not faring too successfully without Lisle and Sadler.

* * *

AT Aylesbury, Young Liberals and Junior Imps remain undefeated in Division I, whilst the newly formed Y.M.C.A. Club's "A" team have won all their

AYLESBURY matches in Division II. Several new teams have entered the League, and chief interest amongst them centres on the prospects of Halton Command, who have entered a team in each division. The "B" team have already been defeated in division II., but the "A" team have not yet had a serious test.

An Inter-League match was played on Thursday, November 10, when Apsley were defeated away by 18 games to 7. Inter-League games are being arranged with Oxford, Luton, and Watford.

Western Counties League Results

Men's Section: Bath 0, Swindon 13; Bristol 11, Bath 2; Cardiff 6, Swindon 7; Cardiff 13, Bath 0.

Women's Section: Cardiff 11, Swindon 2.

TABLE TENNIS

THANKS to the untiring efforts of Miss W. I. Stott interest in table tennis has grown considerably amongst Leeds women players, and a Women's Division **LEEDS** has been formed.

At the Pontefract Team Tournament the Leeds women's team reached the final for the Harris Cup to lose to Pontefract—a far more experienced side—by the odd game of nine. The Leeds men's team, comprising the ex-international Billy Atkinson, S. Rosenberg, and H. Salter, were beaten in the quarter-final by a first-class trio from Sheffield, Hardman, Powell, and Green; Sheffield just lost the final for the Key Cup to Halifax, who were represented by Hill, Mitton, and Lassey. Leeds will meet this team in the Wilmott Cup. Miss Stott beat Mrs. Stead (Bradford) for the women's singles title.

The Leeds League Youths' Training Scheme continues to operate, and under the expert guidance of the best local players, lads of 12 years and upwards are being given every opportunity of becoming the internationals of the future.

An interesting state of affairs exists in the premier division of the League. Until recently the Oxford Place and Bramley Liberal Clubs were undefeated, and the result of the clash between them, at Bramley, was a matter of much conjecture. Bramley emerged victorious by 7 sets to 3 after an exciting struggle. The Bramley women's team are at the head of the women's division also at the moment.

THE Chester-Liverpool match has come and gone, and the attendance left much to be desired. Congratulations to Harry Gardner, the only Chester winner. **CHESTER** He showed up very well against a good defensive player, as also did E. G. Dutton, playing in the first team for the first time, like Gardner.

R. C. Juler and Wilf Nield gave a good display in the Flintshire Open. Elsie Guest also did very well in the Ladies' Singles. Nield and Miss Guest beat Rumjahn and his partner, a fine performance indeed.

It has been decided to coach some of the younger players, and it is to be hoped their interest in the game will increase; in some cases it seems very dormant at present.

The Ladies' League have started activities, and City have so far won their two matches. The Old Palace have not found last season's form, and are handicapped at present as regards floor and lighting. Magazine sales are disappointing, and Club secretaries are again asked to canvas every player.

SURPRISING results attended the opening South London League matches. Gardens, determined to lower the colours of the champions Brixton, brought in Eric Filby who, although not playing as well as he can, was good enough to account for the best of Brixton's stalwarts.

SOUTH LONDON Brixton made amends in their second match, just beating Ravensbourne 6 games to 4. There's going to be some fireworks between these three teams before the season's end.

Two Mayfair players, Mountford and Hodgson, show particular promise. Hodgson is only sixteen and should become a top notcher.

It's good to see these young teams, abundant with enthusiasm and correctly attired too!

When will it become compulsory for players to wear regulation dress? Surely it's not asking too much to expect all players to be properly attired?

Who'll be the "Sir Walter Gilbey" of table tennis?

THE Wembley League, with four Ladies' Divisions, is taking a keen interest in the E.T.T.A.'s policy of encouraging women's play, and Miss Eileen Finch **WEMBLEY** has been nominated as a member of the women's Council. A Ladies' Trial, supervised by the League coach, Bill Stennett, was held at Lane's London Club to help the selection committee in its choice of players for the Rose Bowl Competition and other inter-League matches. The team selected to play in the first representative match comprises Miss J. Nicoll, Miss M. East, Miss A. Fowler, Mrs. I. Lentle, Mrs. E. Lane, and Miss P. Fowler. The exact constitution of the Rose Bowl team has not yet been decided upon.

In the Metropolitan Association, Wembley has won matches against Woolwich and Surrey. The home match against Surrey was attended by an enthusiastic crowd, and the popularity of this series is assured.

First Division strength has been toned up by the registration of Benny Marcus for Wembley Hill. The four-a-side game now being played in all men's Divisions seems to enjoy general popularity. Certain clubs feel that one or two sets of doubles might be added, but this is a question that must be deferred until next year's Council Meeting.

THE entry of Wembley and Brentford Leagues into the Western Suburban competition has added considerably to the interest of the contest. Slough, who won narrowly from Uxbridge last season, will be hard put to it to retain the trophy in view of the strength of the new entrants.

Action entertain Uxbridge; Brentford, Slough; and Wembley, Staines in December matches.

THE Bath Y.M.C.A. "A" team, hitherto unbeaten in League warfare, have at last come up against it. Oldfield Bapts at home put it across them to the tune of 7-2.

BATH The Y.M. have become known in Bath as the "Aces," but Oldfield managed to hold the "trumps."

Women have begun to get interested at last. They may play in ordinary teams, as it has not been possible to organise an independent women's League. The first one to appear has been Mrs. K. Batten, who on her initial effort managed to get two out of a possible three points for her team.

Inter-city games played so far this season in the Western Counties League have not yet realised the long-hoped-for victory. In the next match, which will be with Birmingham, Bath are putting out the same team.

The finals of the Western Counties closed championships will take place at the Bath Pavilion on February 25, and a dance is being arranged for early in January.

THE North Staffordshire Association's latest member is the Crewe League. The Association now embraces Leek, Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley, Uttoxeter, and Crewe.

NORTH STAFFS Activities consist of the "Sentinel" Team Knock-out, which was promoted following the formation of the Association some years ago, but is now governed by a separate committee; the North Staffordshire Inter-League Competition for the "Finney" Shield; and the North Staffordshire Individual Championship for the "Blore" Cup.

Leek are the holders of the Finney Shield, and R. Stancyer, of Leek, won the Blore Cup. The Association, it is estimated, functions in an area which controls nearly 1,000 players, and is anxious to arrange inter-Association matches.

ALTHOUGH in its first Midlands Counties League fixture the Stourbridge team was defeated by 7 sets to 2 by Worcester at home, no dismay was **STOURBRIDGE** felt at the result, as the main object in entering the League has been to gain experience.

A very pleasing feature of the match was the display of G. P. Adams, a seventeen-year-old youth who shows definite promise. He played exceedingly well to win the Stourbridge team's two sets.

The committee were very gratified by the large number of enthusiastic spectators; if other home matches are patronised in the same way they will be amply rewarded for their enterprise in entering the competition.

SWINDON has been badly hit by recent dismissals from the G.W.R. Works. Several players have left the town and nine teams have withdrawn from the **SWINDON** League. The women's section, however, shows a welcome increase of two teams.

In spite of the loss of male players, Swindon is holding its own in the West, and the season has started with a bang. In the Western Counties League away victories have already been recorded against Bath, 13-0, and Cardiff, 7-6.

THE Kent County Association has commenced its third season with very good prospects. The Kent League is being run in two sections again, with eight teams in one section **KENT** and five in the other, Woolwich being an additional entry this year. The Thanet League has now joined the Association but is not at present taking part in the League. Great efforts will be made to get other Leagues into the fold this year, especially Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

The second Kent Closed Championships have been arranged to take place at the Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay, on November 27. This is expected to better even than last year's event as the venue is a great improvement.

INTEREST seems still to be on the increase in the Sittingbourne District. The final matches for the League cups have recently been played, as they were postponed **SITTINGBOURNE** from last season owing to various difficulties.

Faversham Forbes won the First Division for the first time, and they are hoping to retain the trophy.

Entries in the local tournaments number well over 300, and the matches have already commenced. The committee are hoping to repeat their huge success of last year with the Kent Open Championships.

THE first Southern Counties League match was played on November 2, Bournemouth being at home to Southampton. Bournemouth First Division, from which the town team is selected, has adopted **BOURNEMOUTH** the "three-a-side, best of three games" system

of playing League matches, and the resulting improvement of all-round play was gratifying. Bournemouth ladies were at home to Salisbury on November 9 and were successful by 7 events to 3. Salisbury's team showed great promise, and their failure was due only to the greater experience of the home team.

THE Ilford League now has nine divisions (six men and three women) consisting of 89 teams, as against 61 for last season.

The new method of play in League **ILFORD** matches has proved a great success. Teams now consist of four players each, playing three sets, best of three games.

(Continued on page 16.)

December Tournaments

CHRISTMAS shopping, festivities, and aftermath make tournament secretaries fight shy of December dates, and this month we have only the finals of the West London, at the Bradix Club, the Bramley, and the Hertfordshire.

The West London has, of course, already started, and there now remain to be played only the doubles events (December 1), the singles knock-out for group winners on the following day, and the finals, at 6.30 p.m., on Saturday, December 3.

The Bramley invitation tournament takes place on the same day, and is again attracting all the notable Yorkshire players.

The Hertfordshire tournament is again being held at the Watford Club. Singles groups are being played from Monday to Thursday, December 5 to 8 inclusive, with doubles on the Friday and the singles knock-out and finals on Saturday, December 10.

The West of England Championships

THIS tournament, which has been announced in recent issues of the Magazine, and in the *official Handbook*, as taking place on March 10 and 11, 1939, will now be held on February 17 and 18, 1939. Every effort is being made to make this the biggest event ever held in the West, the preliminary rounds being held at Paignton, with the finals at Torquay. The secretary is Mr. T. R. Rossiter, of 4, Bishops Place, Paignton.

Additional and Altered Tournament Dates

February 18.—Peterborough, at St. Mary's Church Hall, Peterborough. All events, Secretary, Mr. J. Wildman, 13, Towler Street, Peterborough.

January 8.—Kent (Herne Bay).

February 17-18.—West of England (Paignton).

March 20-April 1.—West Middlesex (West Ealing).

April 17-29.—Middlesex (Harrow).

International Match.

England will play Ireland at Liverpool on January 14.

Hartlepoons Open A Successful New Event

THE first Open Table Tennis Tournament to be held by the Hartlepoons Association was successfully staged at the St. Lukes Hall, West Hartlepool, on October 29. Mr. Tom Dobing presided.

Throughout the day there was a good gallery of spectators, and when the finals were played off at 10 p.m. there were still over 100 present after nearly eight hours' play.

The Teams of Three Tournament attracted 15 teams, and, as expected, resulted in Messrs. Ewbank, Reay & Templeton of Sunderland finishing in the first place.

J. Swales provided a sensation in the third round of the men's singles by easily defeating his Sunderland colleague, E. Reay. J. Kay was the last local player to go out, and did well to reach the last eight.

Ewbank and Andrew had no difficulty in winning their semi-final ties, and the final proved the Sunderland player to be a well deserved winner.

RESULTS

Team of Three: Sunderland. Joint runners-up: Newcastle-on-Tyne and Stockton.

Men's Singles: T. Ewbank beat W. Andrew 21-16, 21-16, 21-12.

Junior Singles: A. Bulmer beat W. Williamson 21-18, 21-16.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

(continued from page 15)

The Team Knock-Out Competitions will in future be run on the lines of the Wilmott Cup.

The Closed Individual Championships for *bona-fide* Ilford League players will be run on the group system.

A practice centre is to be formed for the dual purpose of coaching youngsters, and for use of players of Inter-League standard. The centre will be under the control of Mr. John Pickard, Ilford's non-playing captain and divisional secretary. * * *

TWO divisions (including a ladies' division) have been added to the Willesden League. Matches in the Ladies' Division, where

Almora, Dollis Hill, and Fenton's are fighting hard for the top position, consist of 25 games, but in all other divisions "best of three games" is the rule, and eight singles and two doubles sets are played. This system is proving very popular.

At the moment Kemp's head the First Division, closely followed by Hall Telephone, Lightalloys, and Smith's "A." Cricklewood, reinforced by several of last year's winning Willesden team, have made a late start but, having only lost one point so far, are soon likely to challenge the leaders. * * *

THIS season the Stockport League are experiencing a record season. They have four divisions comprising 43 teams. There are eight trophies up for competition, the latest of these being the Holroyd Cup and the late Alan Ingle

Shield, the latter to perpetuate the name of one of Stockport's young players who died suddenly. Stockport have joined the Lancashire Minor League, and were successful in their first match with Bury away.

The Bown Cup, run on handicap lines, is proving one of the most popular competitions and has attracted a record number of entries this season. * * *

THE contests in the various divisions of the Exeter League have a very open appearance this season, and it would be difficult to forecast the winners.

Division I, at the moment seems open to the County Club, Y.M.C.A., King's Lodge, Emmanuel "A" and Exeter. Division II, is equally open, and the women's trophy may be carried off by the County Club, St. Stephens, or Exeter.

Exeter Women's Club open tournament takes place at the St. David Institute on December 3. * * *

We have to apologise for a misprint last month. In referring to Sea House's chances of *regaining* the Brighton League championship, "*retaining*" was printed in error.

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PRESENTATION DANCE

Thursday, December 8th — Dancing 8 - 12

SOUTHAMPTON has again many enthusiasts, and the playing strength appears to have improved all round, but once again it seems

that Civil Service "A" SOUTHAMPTON (champions) and Y.M.C.A. "A" (runners-up) will carry off the honours in Division I. Neither team has yet lost a match

In the Southern Counties League, Southampton (men) rather surprisingly lost by 8 games to 2 at Bournemouth. While Bournemouth deserve all credit for their victory, the play of the Southampton team was not a true indication of form, and on the return game a closer game should result and Southampton hope to turn the tables. * * *

WHEN nine years ago Mr. J. E. Wright took over the secretaryship of the table tennis section of the London Business Houses A.S.A.

there were only 20 clubs competing. Today the number is 75, comprising 106

men's and 29 women's teams, making up four divisions for the men and one for the women. Much of this progress is undoubtedly due to Mr. Wright, who has worked assiduously in persuading firms to join the L.B.H. A.S.A., and in turn prevailed upon them to join the T.T. section. Now Mr. Wright has resigned, but in doing so is not relinquishing his connection with the section, for he has been appointed vice-chairman. He will understudy Mr. F. J. P. Hills, whose re-election as chairman each year seems to be a matter of course, for it would be difficult to find another to guide the committee so ably in their deliberations.

The new secretary of the section is Mr. Wm. Ashworth, of the "200" Club. Mr. F. A. Websper (G.E.A.A.A.), the new hon. financial secretary, replaces Mr. L. G. Williams (Doultons), who has resigned after seven years in this office. Mr. Williams is to receive the L.B.H. Association's



Presentation of Trophies at Stockport. [Stockport Advertiser photo.]

plaque for his services.

The L.B.H. will be represented in the "Rose Bowl" competition. The tournament secretary is already busy making arrangements for the individual tournament which will be played in the new year. Owing to the tremendous interest in the men's junior championship and inability to procure a hall large enough, it has been deemed necessary to run this on the group system. The main part of the tournament will be staged at the Imperial Club, Kennington. * * *

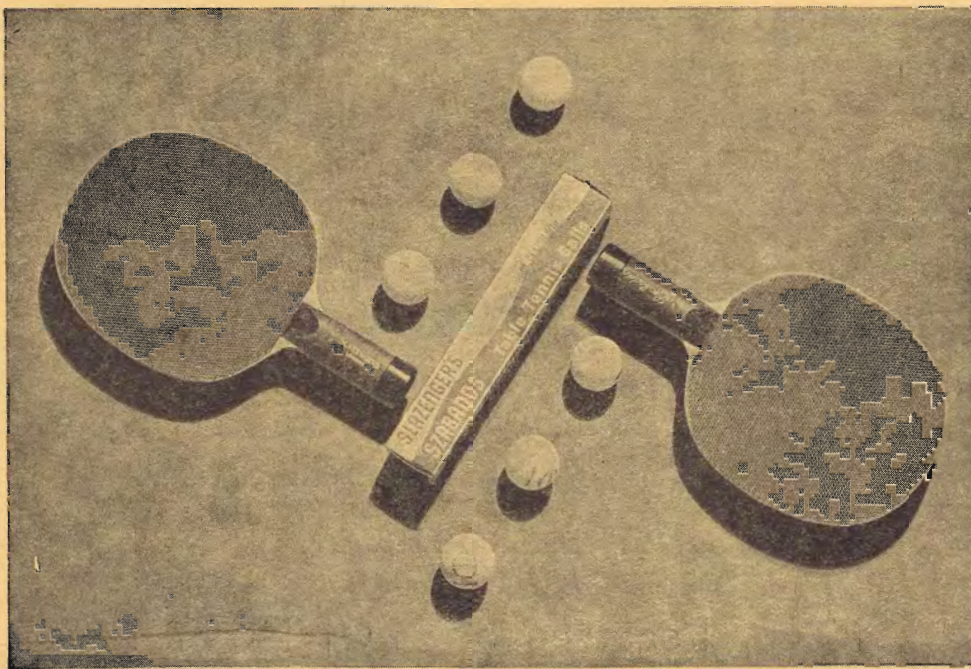
NEWLY affiliated this season, Lowestoft are proving a very go-ahead body. They have just commenced a special division for doubles play, in addition to the Third Division for singles which has been found necessary.

The committee is co-operating in the drive to improve women's play, and a Ladies' Individual Handicap and a Mixed Doubles Championship will be played.

Inter-League matches with Great Yarmouth and Ipswich are being arranged, and women will be included in the teams for these events.

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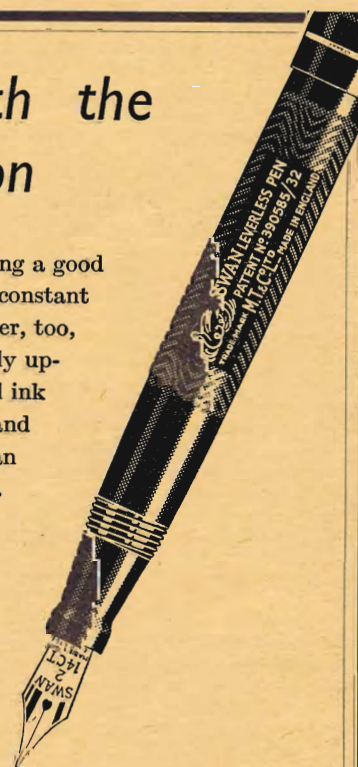
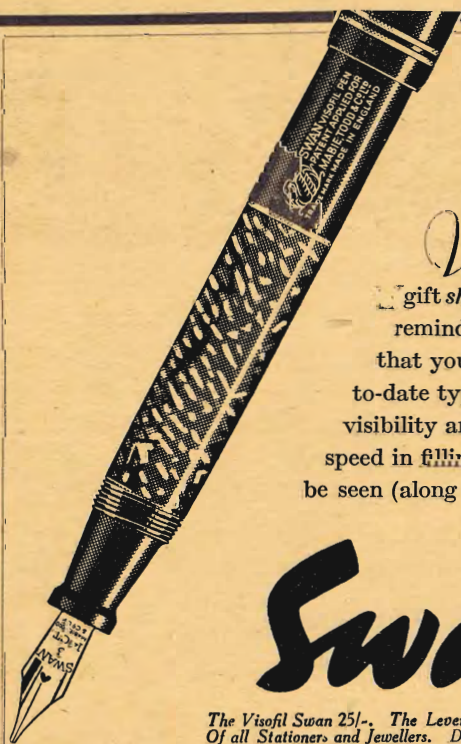


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