

*Ed. Kinsman*

# TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH TENNIS



TABLE ASSOCIATION

## CONTENTS

MUSIC HALL  
by  
The Hon. Ivor Montagu

PLAYING THE GAME  
by  
Laszlo Bellak

LOOKING AROUND  
by  
J. W. A. Connolly



Vol IV

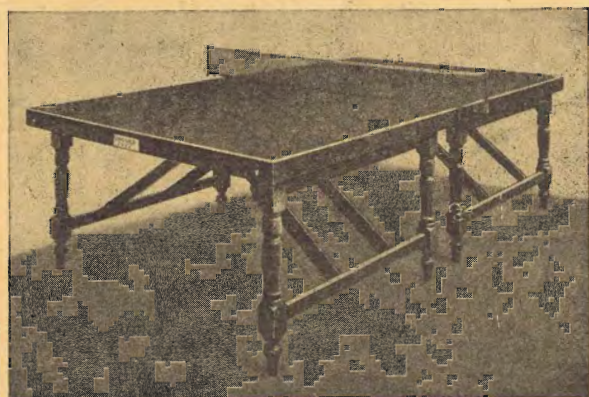
No 5

FEBRUARY, 1939



# JAQUES

## FOR TABLE TENNIS



### JAQUES' TOURNAMENT TABLE

No. 6736

197/6 Each

STILL FASTER !      NOTE NEW DESIGN !

Again Selected for  
World's Championships

**FOUR TIMES WORLD CHAMPION !**

## TABLE TENNIS BALLS

"TEMA EXTRA" CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION. No. 6719 - - per Dozen, 4/6  
(AFFILIATED CLUB PRICE, 4/3)

Again Selected for use at World's Championships, Cairo, 1939

Also Exclusively used at World's Championships—  
LONDON 1935.      PRAGUE 1936.      BADEN 1937.

THE EXPERTS INSIST ON  
**JAQUES**  
BECAUSE THEY KNOW IT IS THE  
**BEST**

*Obtainable from all good Sports Dealers*



Write for full details and Standard T.T. Catalogue FREE

# JOHN JAQUES & SON, LTD.

37/9 KIRBY STREET

LONDON, E.C.1

# TABLE TENNIS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

E · T · T · A

VOLUME IV. No. 5

FEBRUARY, 1939

THREE PENCE

## THE MUSIC HALL

by Ivor Montagu

A DISCIPLINARY case some time ago and others quite recent have raised before the public the question of the use of table tennis as a public entertainment, in contrast to its playing as a sport.

It would be well to set out the view-point of the E.T.T.A. clearly on this question. The disfavour with which, for example, exhibitions by professional lawn tennis players are regarded by the governing body of that sport is so mixed up—in the public mind at least—with controversies about amateurism and professionalism as such, that unnecessary confusion is caused.

*The E.T.T.A. attitude to shows in music halls or cabaret, has nothing to do with snobbery, nothing to do with the old idea that earning money is dishonourable and disqualifies its recipient from being a gentleman and a sportsman. Thank goodness the E.T.T.A. practice of denying the distinction between "amateurs" and "professionals" has got rid of that for us.*

*It has likewise nothing to do with any idea that music halls are vulgar or cabarets haunts of vice where such low things as beer and champagne bottles may vitiate the nobility of our healthy sport. We admire music halls, we do not criticise cabarets, we applaud beer, and we would probably like champagne if we could afford it.*

The E.T.T.A. attitude to these shows is simply one of circumspection—circumspection in face of a potential danger—the danger that must be comprised to any sport in its passing out of the control of the players themselves.

\* \* \*

IN the early days of table tennis after the war the very real peril of domination by trade interest was faced, and removed. Table tennis has been built up to a national and international sport along the strict lines of control by the voluntary enthusiasts who enjoy the game. The entire capital of public interest accumulated by their efforts for the game has been reinvested in the game's expansion. No one has any objection to a promoter making money out of the game if he thereby serves it—the fact of his making money out of table tennis is no more or less worthy or unworthy than making money any other way—but it is vital to the further development of table tennis that the decision whether he is serving it or no must remain in the hands of the voluntary enthusiasts.

*(It is also just, because, but for their efforts, neither the public interest nor the skill and celebrity of the players would be sufficient to reward exploitation by the promoter.)*

It would be absolutely fatal if it were possible for an entrepreneur outside the game—a music hall proprietor or proprietary syndicate for example—to be able to engage an exhibition at a time and place when it ruined, by diversion of public interest, the devoted efforts of the local voluntary league in some exhibition or tourna-

ment of their own. The time and place may well occur when public interest may be such that it can be divided without danger, or when the proposed exhibition in the place of entertainment may even contribute to the success of the local organisation's work. But the decision on this point cannot be left to the entrepreneur—who can continue his life on the profits of some other entertainment when table tennis is dead. It must depend on the position of the enthusiasts whose task it is to keep alive interest in table tennis.

\* \* \*

THE position is perfectly clear. There is no new principle involved. The matter is already plainly dealt with in the regulations of the Association which every player knows. The E.T.T.A. desires that players and organisers should be as free as possible and unhampered by pettifogging restriction. It has clearly supported the principle that a player should at least not be a loser if his skill and sportsmanship contribute to the pleasure and prestige of the game. Hence there is absolutely no limitation, no permission need be obtained or asked for, in respect to exhibition play on the premises of any body affiliated, and hence accepting the responsibilities of the Association.

**On the other hand, there is a perfectly clear regulation, familiar to everyone, that to play on unaffiliated premises the prior permission of the Association must be obtained.**

In the cases that have been before the Executive, this regulation, essential for the protection of affiliated organisations, has just simply been violated. No application for permission for the exhibitions in question has been submitted to the Association in proper time for it even to be discussed. It is for this and for this alone that disciplinary suspensions have been imposed.

It may be pertinently asked, what would have been, or what would be the decision of the Association in respect to exhibitions like these had application been, or indeed should it be, made in due time and form. The hands of the Executive cannot be tied by a universal answer.

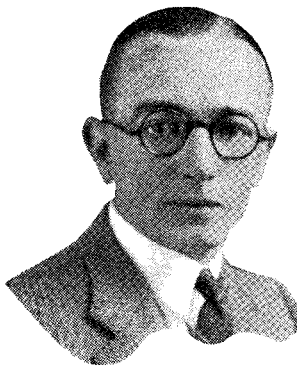
The Executive is obliged to consider any application put before it. But it may be answered straightway for the general guidance that the sanction of any exhibition in unaffiliated premises, whether in a music hall or on the impeccably sporting premises of a club engaged in a sport other than table tennis, whether at a palace or at a trade fair, is dependent on the overriding consideration of the interests of the organisations of voluntary table tennis enthusiasts, particularly in the locality where the exhibition is proposed. Anything in the nature of a contractual relation between individual players and agents or promoters of entertainment outside the sport, whereby control of an exhibition and decision of its expediency is taken outside the powers of the voluntary organisations, must and will be sternly opposed. This is a policy that commands the support, as it serves the interest, of every table tennis player or organisation throughout the country.

# NORTH AND SOUTH

## Manchester Puts A Northern View-point

By Jack Batty

I NEVER believe what I read in newspapers, and I certainly never allow a newspaper opinion to influence my own views on table tennis.



J. Batty

When I read of the storm which had been created in the South by a misinformed article written in bad taste by a Northern newspaper correspondent, I was somewhat amazed to find that TABLE TENNIS, the official organ of the E.T.T.A., had not only given prominence to the article, but that it had actually gone to the lengths of showing how well the North had been treated in the matter of Swaythling Cup and International badges. A lot of figures were produced which any well-informed reader could pull to pieces, and, generally speaking, it led people to believe that the said fluffy article had been inspired by official table tennis circles in the North.

Now let us confess that there is rivalry between the North and South in table tennis, just as there is in every other sport. It dates back long before

table tennis was ever heard of, and it will continue just as long as people inhabit this small island, "this precious stone, set in a silver sea." But that rivalry has always been friendly, it has been open and above board, and it has done and will continue to do this game of ours a lot of good.

And so the "caterwauling" needs to be repudiated by all responsible players and officials in the North, because it has left a bad taste in the mouths of everyone who has the game at heart.

No one would doubt the tremendous value to table tennis of the friendly help given by our newspaper friends, particularly since the 1935 World Championships, but, on the other hand, no sensible, level-headed person really believes half the "tosh" he reads in the daily press. Most of it is good publicity for the game, but it is written from a sensational aspect to satisfy the idealistic yearnings of people who have to work for their bread and butter, and who in the humdrum of every-day life find solace in the Arabian Nights adventures and captions of the popular press.

So BATTY, STAMP, HINCHLIFFE, ROBINSON, CARR, WORSLEY, and all Northern secretaries responsible for running tournaments, repudiate the controversial Manchester newspaper article, and suggest that no Southern players who have come North have so far been able to find any justification for the point of view expressed. Let's forget it as a piece of misguided frothing, and get down to business.

I BELIEVE that the time is coming when the E.T.T.A. will have to give a lead on the question of the interchange of Northern and Southern stars in major Open Tournaments. Mostly it is a question of finance, and I really believe that if a sub-committee to examine

the whole question of expenses, hospitality, etc., were to meet during the close season, then a simple and satisfactory solution as to the reason why Northern players don't go South, and why few Southern players come North, would easily be found.

Meanwhile, let me air one or two of my views. I believe that we ought to have an English Closed Championship for all events.

Just as the World's Championships have to be allocated to different nations each year, so I think that an English Closed Championship, if started, should be given each year to one or other of the major Open Tournament organisers.

MANCHESTER are therefore prepared to stage a big table tennis week-end on a date to be fixed by the E.T.T.A. They are willing to stage the WILMOTT CUP and ROSE BOWL finals, to run the North of England in conjunction with a National Closed Championship, and they are prepared to offer hospitality to every Southern player, male or female, who would like to enter.

MANCHESTER feels that an effort like this would not only disprove any possible suggestion of nasty antagonism to the South, but it believes that one big get-together of players and officials from all over the country, not at an A.G.M. where a natural reserve is exhibited, but at a grand table-tennis week-end, would solve all the difficult problems, and engender a spirit of comradeship and co-operation between every member of the E.T.T.A., which would rise above all petty differences, and help this game which we all love to rise to even greater heights.

### CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, TABLE TENNIS

DEAR SIR,

I would like to point out, in answer to last month's article "Over the Net," that the Liverpool League has for many years received support from prominent Southern players coming North to take part in the "Merseyside Open" Championships, where they have always been made welcome and provided with private hospitality through the goodwill and co-operation of our members, and the tournament held last November saw the biggest "invasion" ever, from London and elsewhere, which proves that the "Merseyside" still retains its popularity among Southern players, and we look forward to seeing them on future occasions.

The article further states, "We look in vain for Northern names in the records of the major tournaments of the South," which can be explained by the fact that, whereas "outside" entries in Northern tournaments are exempt till 1 or 2 p.m. on the Saturday, Southern tournaments are for the most part organised on the group system and run for a week or more, which precludes Northerners entering unless they are able to leave their business in addition to paying for hospitality.

Yours faithfully,

W. STAMP,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer,  
Liverpool and District T.T. League.

The Scarborough Open Table Tennis Tournament  
in the

Grand Skating Rink, Scarborough

on EASTER SATURDAY, 8th APRIL, 1939

Entry forms from—

W. SMITH, Hill House, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury  
Closing 3rd April

## THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL

BEDFORD WAY (RUSSELL  
SQUARE), W.C. 1

Phone: MUSeum 9001

The Rendezvous of all Table Tennis Players

Five minutes from City and West End — Centrally Heated  
Hot and Cold Water in all Rooms

TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS and TENNIS

MODERATE CHARGES

W. H. PRICHARD, Resident Proprietor



# THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: His Majesty the King

## OFFICERS, 1938-1939

President: H. Oldroyd, Esq.,  
Brow Cottage, High Lane, Stockport,  
Cheshire.

Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu,  
29, Ranelagh Gardens, London, W.6.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. K. Vint,  
5a, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings, Sussex.

Hon. General Secretary: W. J. Pope,  
Featherstone House,  
64, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.  
(\*Phone: Holborn 9544)

## Executive Committee, 1938-1939

- Mr. L. Bennett, 31, Cumberland Avenue, Grimsby, Lincolnshire.
- Mr. R. Emdin, Northaw, Kingsbury Avenue, St. Albans, Herts.
- Mr. M. Goldstein, 222, Alcester Road, Birmingham 13.
- Mr. F. J. P. Hills, 87, North Side, London, S.W.4.
- Mr. A. S. King, Teofani, Lower Avenue, Exeter, Devonshire.
- Mr. K. A. Nicholson, 24, Nuns Moor Crescent, Newcastle-on-Tyne 4.
- Mr. M. W. Robinson, 11, Elm Avenue, Garden Village, Hull, Yorkshire.
- Mr. J. M. Rose, 39, London Road, London, S.E.1.
- Miss P. Anderson, 125, Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 21.
- Mr. J. Batty, 11, St. Leonard's Drive, Woodlands Park, Timperley, Cheshire.
- Mrs. D. L. Bunbury, Dudley Lodge, Prestwich, Manchester.
- Miss R. Smits, 32, Brook House, Gunnersbury Lane, W.3.

## "TABLE TENNIS"

The Official Magazine  
Published by the E.T.T.A.  
Monthly, October to May.

### MAGAZINE COMMITTEE:

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

The Magazine is obtainable from the E.T.T.A., 64, High Holborn, London, W.C.1, price 3d. for individual copies.

Subscription rates: 2/- for eight issues, post free. U.S.A. and Canada: \$0.50.

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

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

We acknowledge, with thanks, permission of the Editor of the *Passing Show* and of the Sports Editor of the *Daily Sketch* to reproduce the cartoons appearing on page 7, and of the Editor of the *Reading Evening Gazette* to reproduce the illustrations and notes of A. D. Brook appearing on page 17.

The annual subscription to *Table Tennis Topics*, published monthly during the season by the U.S.T.T.A., is 2s. Readers who wish to subscribe should write to *Table Tennis Topics*, care of the E.T.T.A., 64, High Holborn, London, W.C.1,

# TOUR OF FOREIGN PLAYERS

THE tour so far has been just as successful as those of previous years . . . packed houses everywhere . . . audiences delighted . . . On the first night, at Chelmsford, Barna pleased the crowd by defeating Bellak,

Bergmann, and Vana in turn without losing a game. On the next night, at Ilford, it was Bergmann's turn. And so it goes on.

Here are this month's fixtures; you can obtain further information about any of these exhibitions by writing to the Editor.



Bellak (left) and Barna, two of the touring players. Here they are seen on the boat on the way to England.

- Feb. 1—Bishop Auckland.
- 2—Carlisle.
- 3—Barrow.
- 6—Leeds.
- 7—Bury.
- 8—Macclesfield.
- 9—Stockport.
- 10—Grimsby.
- 11—Nottingham. X
- 13—Wolverhampton X
- 14—Bolton.
- 15—Liverpool.
- 16—Ellesmere Port.
- 18—Paignton and Torquay (West of England Championship).
- 20—Exmouth.
- 21—Plymouth.
- 22—Norwich.
- 23—London (East).
- 24—Woolwich.
- 25—London (Hoovers)

## FEBRUARY

Again this month the magazine consists of twenty pages.

The success of last month's magazine of this size has persuaded the Committee to continue the experiment. To justify the additional expense, however, we again ask all Leagues to renew their efforts to increase sales.

For visits of the touring players, and for Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches, the magazine can be obtained "On Sale or Return" at half the normal retail price.

## MARCH

Next month's issue will contain a full account of the English championships, in addition to the usual reports and features.

## In the Near Future . . . Tournament Dates

### FEBRUARY

- 4—Midlands (Birmingham).
- 4-5—S. of England (Croydon).
- 9-11—Cheshire (Liverpool).
- 11—Castleford.
- 11—Dorset (Dorchester).
- 17-18—West of England (Paignton).
- 18—Peterborough.
- 18—Cardiff.
- 20—March 4—Wembley.
- 25—Leeds.

### MARCH

- 5—Canterbury Invitation.
- 6-18—Surrey (Croydon).
- 11—Yorkshire (Barnsley).
- 13-16—Gloucestershire.
- 18—Bradford.
- 20-April 1—W. Middlesex (W. Ealing).
- 24-25—Grimsby.
- 25—Doncaster.

## WILMOTT CUP

### Further Second Round Results

- Barking beat \*Chelmsford.
- Barnet beat \*Bishops Stortford.
- \*Bristol beat Ilfracombe.
- Burnley beat \*Nelson.
- \*Chester beat Manchester Business Houses.
- Liverpool beat \*Reddish.
- \*London beat London Banks.
- Macclesfield beat \*Crewe.
- Manchester beat \*Urmston.
- Nottingham beat \*Leicester.
- \*Oxford beat Newbury.
- Sheffield beat \*Halifax.
- Southampton beat \*Farnham.
- S. London beat \*Woolwich.
- Sunderland beat \*Northumberland.
- Thameside beat \*Surrey.
- Wembley beat \*N.A.L.G.O.

\* Indicates team having choice of venue.

## ROSE BOWL

### Second Round Results

- \*Birmingham beat Leek.
- Exeter beat \*Bristol.
- Grimsby beat \*Sheffield.
- Ilford beat \*Chelmsford.
- Ipwich beat \*Lowestoft.
- \*Liverpool beat Macclesfield.
- London beat \*Acton.
- London Business Houses beat \*London Civil Service.
- \*Manchester Women beat Leeds.
- St. Albans beat \*Watford.
- \*Sittingbourne beat Folkestone.
- \*Southampton beat Bristol.
- \*S. London beat Dartford.
- \*Spalding beat Nottingham.
- \*Staines beat Reading.
- \*Wembley beat Surrey.

\* Indicates team having choice of venue.

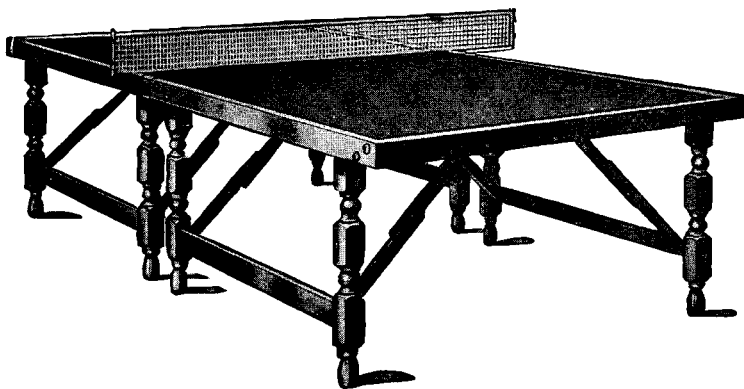
### Draw for the Third Round

- Grimsby v. Manchester.
- Liverpool v. Birmingham.
- London Business Houses v. St. Albans.
- Sittingbourne v. London.
- Southampton v. Exeter.
- Spalding v. Ipswich.
- Staines v. Wembley.

WE REGRET THAT, IN THE CIRCULAR ANNOUNCING THE ABOVE DRAW, READING WAS PRINTED IN PLACE OF STAINES.

# ● SPALDING continues to lead in all TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT

The **SPALDING "VILLA" Table** . . .  
*acclaimed by leading players as the fastest table ever produced*



Sturdily mounted on 8 turned legs giving EXTREME RIGIDITY.

|                                   |   |   |   |   |   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---------|
| COMPLETE                          | - | - | - | - | - | £9 19 6 |
| TOP ONLY                          | - | - | - | - | - | £7 0 0  |
| SPALDING "CLUB" TABLE,            |   |   |   |   |   |         |
| complete - 9' x 5' x 18 MM. thick |   |   |   |   |   | £6 18 6 |
| TOP ONLY                          | - | - | - | - | - | £5 10 0 |

|                                       |   |  |  |  |  |         |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---------|
| No. 1 TABLE TOP ONLY                  |   |  |  |  |  |         |
| 9' x 5' x 12 MM.                      | - |  |  |  |  | £2 10 0 |
| No. 2 TABLE TOP ONLY                  |   |  |  |  |  |         |
| 8' x 4' x 12 MM.                      |   |  |  |  |  | £2 2 0  |
| TRESTLES for Nos. 1 & 2 Tops per pair |   |  |  |  |  | £1 1 0  |

## The "NEW VILLA" BALL

E.T.T.A.; T.T.A.W. & I.F.S.T.T.A; OFFICIAL for 1938-9.

As the technique of Table Tennis has developed, so it has been found necessary to improve the qualities of the ball. The "New Villa" ball is the result of long research and experiment by Spaldings in close co-operation with leading players. It is *definitely the finest ball ever produced and is entirely British made.*

**Club Prices:** X X X 48/- X X 33/- X 24/- per gross

ALL SPALDING PRICES ARE FIXED NETT. CUSTOMERS THEREFORE CAN BE SURE OF PAYING THE LOWEST PRICE FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE VALUE WHATEVER SPALDING GOODS ARE BOUGHT. NO FICTITIOUS DISCOUNTS.



Spalding offer a magnificent range of bats including the "ERIC FINDON" Autograph at 3/6, The "TOP-SPIN" at 3/11, The "POWER CHAMPION" for 2/9, The "CHAMPION" at 2/9, The T.I. "VILLA" at 2/6 and a dozen others at various prices.

From all dealers everywhere and:—

## SPALDING SPORT SHOPS

LONDON:  
318, High Holborn, W.C.1  
78, Cheapside, E.C.2  
212, Putney Bridge Road, S.W.15

BIRMINGHAM: 21a, Bennetts Hill  
MANCHESTER: 22, Mosley Street  
LIVERPOOL: 20, Lord Street  
LEEDS: 3, King Edward Street

SOUTHSEA: 94, Palmerston Road  
GLASGOW: 60, St. Vincent Street  
EDINBURGH: 3, St. Charlotte Street  
BELFAST: 15, Lombard Street

● Write for Illustrated Catalogue:—SPALDING BROS., PUTNEY, LONDON, S.W.15 ●

When purchasing, please consider Advertisers in this publication

## OVER THE NET



YOU know how some people can walk into a crowded room and at once take all the attention. They call it personality. Well, that's just how it is with table tennis when Viktor Barna comes in.

Barna's back this month, and a brief glance at my notes shows such a Barna complex that I am left wondering where it has all come from.

Starting seriously, here is news that will make a thousand feminine hearts on both sides of the Atlantic beat fast with disappointment. Barna—is engaged!

Lady in the case is Miss Suzette Arany, and if you look at the picture on this page you'll see them both together.

\* \* \*

BARNA isn't letting future married life interfere with business, though, and there'll be new tricks and bigger ideas than ever in these exhibitions he gives with Bellak.

Bellak has greatly widened his repertoire of jugglery and trick shots. He can now play quite a long rally without looking at the ball at all—he turns his head and makes faces at the audience, keeping the returns going all the time.

And if you've seen Barna and Bellak playing with two balls at a time—as most of you must have—don't miss their new effort, in which they play with three.

\* \* \*

ONE of Barna's newest stories—advertisers please accept it as apocryphal—is of a street in Paris where there are four sports shops. In the first is displayed a Bellak bat, advertised as "The best in France." In the second is the Bergmann bat—"The best in Europe."

The third, he says, displays the Vana bat—"The best in the World." And in the fourth shop window is a Barna bat, and underneath, "The best bat sold in this street."

Bellak, of course, has to cap this one. Now an American citizen, he paid, during his last stay there, a visit to a State prison.

Someone, he says, has given the prisoners a Barna bat, and it is one of the severest punishments to be made to play with it.

BATS are very much in the news this month, and someone has discovered that world champion Vana plays with the same bat he started with some six years ago.

This must be a record for a world-class player, but if anyone knows of any other long-service bats, we should like to hear about them.

Incidentally, our November note about the comma-shaped bat a Bath player invented has inspired improvements on it. Another local player tried one, and not liking the acute angle of the handle,



Viktor Barna and his Fiancée

halved the angle of the original and waved it!

Now he is hoping to do the Britannia stuff and rule a few championships.

\* \* \*

A WELL-KNOWN Continental champion, now in England, took a young lady to dinner at his hotel one evening, and afterwards they played table tennis.

Our hero not having mentioned his slight skill at the game, and feeling tactful, they played ping pong.

Higher and higher went each rally, and the girl was eventually permitted to win, 21-19.

Standing by was the hotel proprietor, highly amused. The lady invited him to play, and the proprietor, who is certainly no champion, won.

The girl, being taken home by our hero later, confessed she thought the proprietor the most wonderful player she had ever come across—surely he must be a champion.

And our hero said not a word!

\* \* \*

ALL is well that ends well, and our well-intended comments on North v. South rivalry last month, though they have produced some discussion, have also brought a vigorous denial from Northern officials that the Northern grievances expressed were those of any official table tennis bodies.

This was, of course, exactly London's

opinion, and while we are only too delighted to encourage healthy playing rivalry, it should never be allowed to develop into feelings of bad treatment by one side or the other.

So thank you, North, and now let's get on with the game.

\* \* \*

Here's that man again! Barna, who certainly should know, holds an opinion highly interesting in view of the present fashion of cracking-up players who are almost babes in arms.

His serious theory is that the would-be champion player shouldn't begin to learn the game before he is 14 or so.

Younger than that, says Barna, the average player isn't tall enough to take the shots at the same angle as a fully developed man or woman.

Consequently, when he attains full height, he has to learn to take the ball at a different angle and finds it extremely difficult to make the necessary change in his style.

\* \* \*

EVEN the magic of the Football Association Cup, whose enormous appeal is at once the most mystifying and incontrovertible thing in sport, cannot eclipse table tennis enthusiasm.

In the midst of their Cup worries, Arsenal, Chelsea, Fulham, and Millwall players, all keen players, did not forget the National Championships at Albert Hall, and expressed a keen desire to attend. Quite a number were officially invited.

Dance bands, too, are usually enthusiastic players; and one unusual match played recently was between two photographic studios, under the photographic arc lights.

\* \* \*

A surprising number of people have written asking about the white trousers world-champion Vana has been wearing at places visited on his tour.

Grey trousers are, of course, insisted upon by the E.T.T.A for tournaments and matches, but are not so essential for exhibitions.

Strictly, of course, Vana should not wear white. But if his laundry bills don't teach him, nothing said here will help!

\* \* \*

Wembley Hill women's team—the third of their teams entered for the "Elvin Cup"—have reached the last eight. No other women's team have got so far, and the Wembley Hill first men's team have been knocked out.

Good work, girls.

\* \* \*

More news from the Women's game; Daphne Roberts has become engaged. Congratulations, Daphne.

### Wembley Open Championships

Lancelot Hall, Wembley

20th February - 4th March, 1939

MS, WS, MD, WD, XD

Closing date for entries, 13th February

Entry forms from:

L. E. FORREST,

8, Clitheroe Avenue, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Mdx.

# IRISH WOMEN WIN ALL THEIR GAMES

## —but England win 7-3

IMAGINE the feelings of two little expeditionary forces starting off to do battle with the mighty Sassenach on Friday the 13th January. The outlook was dark (it was 9 p.m.) but our small band from Dublin showed no signs of dismay. Were not reinforcements starting out from Belfast even at that moment to join forces on the morrow at Liverpool with their team mates from Southern Ireland for our international with the mighty England?

In the early hours of Saturday morning the two parties joined forces at the hotel



Ken Stanley

where excellent and much appreciated hospitality had been provided by our good friend Billie Stamp, on behalf of the English Association. Arrangements were made for the players to have a good practice in Littlewood's Social Club, and this opportunity was so well used that our

last possible excuse for not putting up a good show was gone.

After lunch the opportunity of seeing Everton play the Arsenal, as the guests of the Everton directors, was very much

appreciated by the Irish men and officials, while the women endeavoured to see all the Liverpool shops in under two hours.

Then came the match, and once again the Irish team has had to admit defeat, but this time we did more than even our most optimistic supporters had hoped for by winning three matches.

For this we have our girls to thank, as they alone were responsible for all our victories. Miss Boyle and Miss Yeates are now playing better than ever and showed

by Cyril Boden

Hon. Secretary, Irish T.T.A.

wonderful restraint in waiting for the right ball before attempting outright winners. Playing together for the first time, they immediately struck up a very happy partnership, both taking every opportunity of hitting winners.

The highlight of all the events was the battle between Cyril Kemp and Ken Hyde. Kemp, who is Irish champion, in winning the first game from Hyde showed that given the opportunities leading English players have, he would soon be in the top flight.

Unfortunately the cracking pace set by Kemp was not maintained, and he very wisely took things easily in the second game once Hyde had an early lead, hoping to make the final set a real tussle, but it was then

we really saw Hyde at his best.

The majority of the other matches were very keenly fought out, and we Irish who were fortunate enough to witness the match certainly envy the E.T.T.A. on having three young players of the calibre of Eric Hardman, Ted Rumjahn and Ken Stanley.

May we be permitted to offer to the E.T.T.A. on behalf of Emerald Isle our heartfelt congratulations upon this victory, and best wishes for successes at the World's and English Championships.

At the conclusion of the match, both teams and officials were entertained to a most enjoyable supper and dance, and it is hard to properly express our thanks for the wonderful manner in which we were all looked after. Our best thanks are due to Mr. Stamp and the Liverpool league officials for the trouble they took to make our stay pleasant.

Scores (English players first):—

**Men's Singles.**—E. J. Rumjahn (Liverpool) beat M. Collins (Ulster), 21-13, 21-14; K. Stanley (Manchester) beat H. S. Carlile (Leinster), 21-12, 21-8; K. Hyde (Liverpool) beat C. A. Kemp (Leinster), 16-21, 21-16, 21-12; E. Hardman (Sheffield) beat J. Goldstone (Ulster) 21-15, 21-14.

**Women's Singles.**—Mrs. D. Stead (Bradford) lost to Miss E. Yeates (Leinster) 13-21, 21-14, 20-22; Miss W. I. Stott (Leeds) lost to Miss G. Boyle (Ulster), 16-2, 21-16, 17-21.

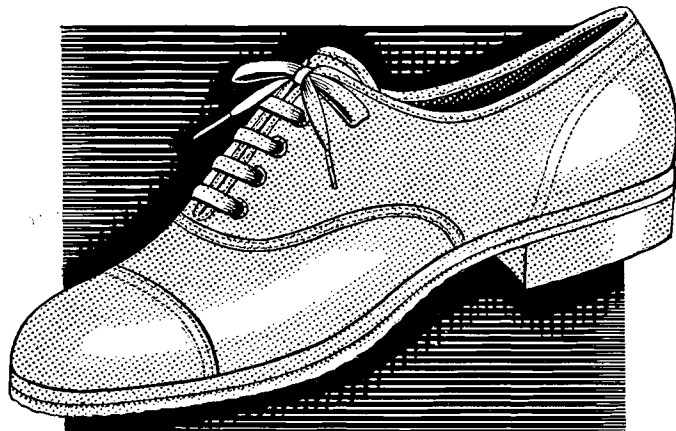
**Men's Doubles.**—Hardman and Rumjahn beat Goldstone and Collins 21-13, 23-21; Hyde and Stanley beat Kemp and Carlile, 21-16, 21-19.

**Women's Doubles.**—Miss E. Malley (Liverpool) and Miss Stott lost to Misses Boyle and Yeates, 10-21, 15-21.

**Mixed Doubles.**—Hyde and Mrs. Stead beat Kemp and Miss Yeates, 21-17, 21-16.

# Dunlop

The ideal shoe for  
**TABLE TENNIS**



3582. Oxford Style, grey canvas, low rubber heel. Also available in white, or navy with white trimmings.  
Youths' 2-5 - - 2/11 Men's 6-12 - - 3/6

For those who favour the heel-less type of Oxford Shoe, there is a wide range from which to choose  
Ranging from 2/6½d. to 10/6d.

From Shoe Shops & Stores everywhere

DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD., WALTON, LIVERPOOL

9154/1

C.F.H.

★ BENTALLS · KINGSTON introduce their "JUNIOR CLUB" ★

Sports Shop  
Downstairs

— the table for small club and home use

Has folding legs so that it can be stored flat and is made in two sections with special locking device.

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>SIZE</b><br/>8 x 4 <b>11'10"</b></p> <p>and 5 monthly payments of an equal amount. <i>Cash Price 63/-</i></p> | <p><b>SIZE</b><br/>9 x 5 <b>12'6"</b></p> <p>and 5 monthly payments of an equal amount. <i>Cash Price 67/6</i></p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Splendid selection of other tables in stock with and without legs. Also rackets by leading makers and all accessories.

**BENTALLS - Kingston-on-Thames - Phone: Kingston 1001**



# MAGIC CARPET

*Our Extra Special Correspondent Makes a Second Journey*

I ALWAYS was unlucky. Just think of the Christmas holiday I spent—careering round the country on Bill Pope's old Magic Carpet, in all that cold weather, too!

One thing about Bill Pope—he never sends anyone away empty-handed. Not a bit of it—he always finds a wad of envelopes to be addressed or circulars

meet me. I suspected a master-mind behind all this, and I soon found it, in chubby Alan Murphy, secretary of the Thameside Industries League. Quite an achievement to get a crowd like that together on a murrphy—sorry, murky—night, from those scattered Essex villages. Industrial life down there centres round the tunnel which they are building under the Thames. They say that when finished, it will be as good as the famous "toonnel" under the Mersey. And Alan Murphy won't rest until Thameside can stand up to Merseyside in table tennis too.

Notwithstanding all the talk about the Tunnel, the local champion, Bridges, hasn't fallen down yet. A real Welsh "wooden wall." And can he half-volley! As Vana said to me after his exhibition match with him, "Ee, laad, ye'll have to dig a toonnel to get by yon Bridges."

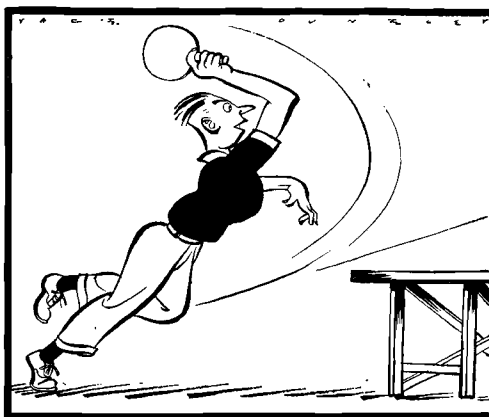
Only he said it in Czechoslovakian, of course. Of course. (Must impress that Editor, you know.)

A SHORT flit on the carpet took me to AYLESBURY. Things are looking up there, too. They nearly gave Watford what for, in the Inter-League match, only losing 12-13. The wily Fox cooked Aylesbury's goose (or should it be duck?) by

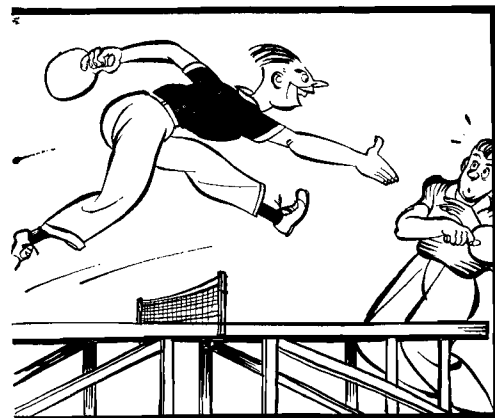
winning 5, including the decider, which he picked up from 18-20 down. Aylesbury League positions are very open. Junior Imps

hold the lead, but I think Halton Command (R.A.F.) will soon be flying high. Their squadron-leader, R. Price, proved expensive to Junior Imps—he gave them no change at all!

I have it on the word of Mr. Honour that we made a mistake last month in announcing that Aylesbury beat Oxford 17-8. The foot was in the other boot. I must see the Editor about that. But I know what he'll say—"Mistake, my dear fellow? Of course not.



*The Tennis*



*Touch*

[from the Daily Sketch]

to be folded. Myself, being a bit of a mathematician, I usually get the tickets to count. (Never the money, strangely enough.) Sort of skilled labour, you might call it. I call it something quite different.

Well, anyway, I steered clear of Holborn for a week or two; not that I am lazy, but the fact is January is such a busy month for me. I have a great deal of writing to do, you know. Why, it sometimes takes half a dozen letters to explain things to the income-tax man alone. In the end I have to pay, of course, and just as I was coming out of Uncle's, whom should I meet but our esteemed Editor.

"Hey, you!" he says. "Better get round on the Magic Carpet pretty soon. We want some more of your stuff for the magazine."

"But my dear man," I said, "you don't want my stuff again; you've got plenty of good writers in your mag."

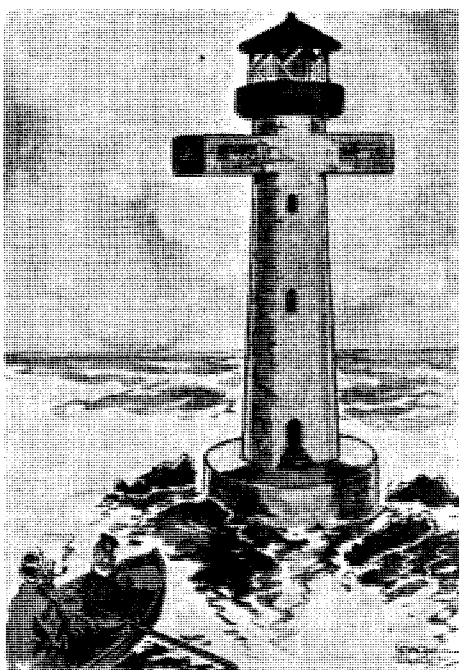
"Yes, I know," says he, "but we must have something by way of contrast."

I tried again. "Look here," I said, "I'm not in the mood. I've got a fit of the blues at present."

"Blues? Better get down to GRAYS for some local colour."

He was White—I mean right—as usual. When I tumbled off the carpet at the London Hall, Grays, I was welcomed by a crowd of 400 people.

That cheered me up a lot, and I thought it was very nice of them to fetch Barna, Bellak, Vana, and Bergmann down from London to



[From the Passing Show]

"He's keen on Table Tennis."

Merely a little intelligent anticipation."

After this, the Carpet did some of this jitter-bug business, and we flitted around so fast that I didn't have time to jot everything down. In LANCASHIRE, I heard that NELSON lost 3-6 to BOLTON, but let's turn a blind eye to that. PRESTON pressed on to second place in the Lancs. League by beating Reddish 9-0. As the sailors say on Wigan Pier, Reddish sky at night is Preston's delight.

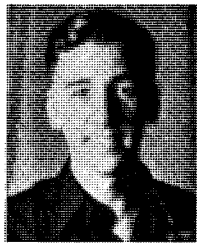
Over to CLITHEROE, all of a dither-oh. T.T. has been established here for a decade, and I heard one of the old "pioneers" admit that Whalley Church Inst. and Whalley Conservatives are streets ahead of the old-time champs. Local top-knocher is K. Sherliker. What can I do with a name like that? It neither rhymes nor puns. Thought I got past "Clitheroe" rather neatly, but "Sherliker"—well, I ask you. (Ed.—"Call him Ken next time.")

Passing through PETERBOROUGH I heard that the Town team is doing well, but the L.N.E.R. seems to be the most flourishing club. 240 people at their Christmas dance! They say that the L.N.E.R. teams prefer a square deal table—or have I got it wrong? Maybe we shall find out on February 18th, when the first Peterborough Open will be held.

Then I went West (no need to cheer, Mr. Editor). BRISTOL staged the West Country ladies' trials, and young Joan Brock put up a fine show, beating all comers. Bristol versus EXETER in the Wilmott Cup Third Round should be a rare battle. Exeter's men are experienced, but Bristol hope for big things from D. Shipton and A. W. Simons, who are improving steadily.

# Men's Area Trials Find New Talent

THE North-East Area trials at Leeds have provided two popular Northern players in Eric Hardman (Sheffield) and Stanley Rosenberg (Leeds), who will represent Yorkshire at the Final Trials. The probability is that as Hardman, as an International, was entitled to exemption from the area trials, the selectors will nominate another player for inclusion.



J. Powell  
may represent Sheffield at final trials.

Hardman, of course, is now well known as a hard hitting, wiry youngster capable on his day of beating any English player. It will be remembered that Barna gave him a most promising future when he first shot into the headlines two years ago. Rosenberg, Leeds No. 1, came back to table tennis with a bang at the beginning of the season, beating first C. W. Davies (Manchester) and then Eric Filby in successive rounds of the Lancashire championships in October.

From Manchester, where the North-West Trials were held, comes the news that three more young players are to make the trip—Ken Mitchell (Manchester Y.M.C.A.), Ken Stanley (Manchester), and Eddie Rumjahn (Liverpool). Since the selectors' decision, both Stanley and Rumjahn have received their International badges against Ireland, and if further names are required H. Johnson (Manchester), J. Walker (Manchester), A.

Ellison (St. Helen's), and W. T. Barlow (Bury) will have to be given consideration for the promise they have shown.

\* \* \*

MIDLAND trials at Birmingham recommend G. Alderton, T. Davies, and W. Hall, all from that city. Davies gave an outstanding performance, being undefeated until his last match, in which he failed to Hall. Hall and Davies, both under 20, are newcomers to Birmingham's team this season, and great things are expected from them.

A. W. C. Simons and D. B. Shipton, of Bristol, have been nominated from the West, where tremendous improvement in playing technique has been shown. Shipton exploits an attack from the word "go" and, the same age as Vana, he is also not unlike the world champion in both style and stroke play. Simons, still only 17, will be making his second appearance in a final trial. He relies chiefly on heavy chop, combined with a very useful drive on the forehand.



A. W. C. Simons

\* \* \*

ALBERT HALL, 22-year-old Grimsby player, will represent the East of England. In exhaustive trials at Grimsby he was easily the best player present, and did not lose a single rubber. His record in Closed County titles, League and Inter-League games, is such that Lincolnshire have every reason to believe that he will show up well against the stars in the final test. It's a pity he was unable to play at the Albert Hall.

From the North we travel to the warmer (?) South Coast, and Brighton is the venue for the South trials. Eight players were tested to the extreme, and G. Fretwell, of the Brighton League, emerged as the best of a very good selection from the towns submitting players. An excellent lad of 17, Sheppard by name, who hails from Salisbury, put up a very clever exhibition of hitting and defending, and used the drop shot to perfection. It is hoped that he will be "the find" of the South to pit against these numerous boys from the North. Fretwell is a club mate of Seaman, our new International, and it is easy to see the resemblance of play.

Owing to delay in issuing the circular to Leagues, the London area trials have been postponed and will now be held at Bradix Club, W.14, on January 29th. Mr. R. Emdin is in charge of arrangements. Southern Leagues who have been inconvenienced by the delay are asked to accept my apologies for the short notice given on the original circular.

J. Batty.

## New Leagues in N.E. Lancs

EXCELLING all expectations, the Accrington Works have gained the premier position in the N.E. Lancs inter-league tournament, their best victory being the 8-4 defeat of Nelson, last year's runners-up. Burnley appear set for a stern tussle when they meet the leaders, while the present runners-up, Ribblesdale, with their schoolboy team, are challenging strongly.

Rossendale are potential giant-killers, their two top men being equal to those in any other league, A. Nathan (Accrington Works), A. Matson (Nelson), T. Alston (Burnley) and E. V. Bush (Ribblesdale) are unbeaten in this winter's programme.

New leagues have been formed at Haslingden, Padiham and Darwen, giving prospects of further increases in the teams in this inter-town competition next winter. Great interest is displayed in table tennis in these young leagues, and additional enthusiasm has been aroused from the visit of the foreign tourists to Burnley on Jan. 17th, when the booking of seats in advance ensured a "house full" and 700 pairs of eyes were eager to see how Viktor Barna, hero of past visits, fared against B. Vana and R. Bergmann, his successors as world singles title holders.

"Murmurings against the Philistines" are evident in one corner of this association, chiefly concerning affiliation fees sent to Featherstone House, one press secretary declaring in his local weekly that these "go to the national body, which gives nothing in return." It is difficult to say if this attitude is general. A dispassionate inquiry at this juncture does, however, reveal some restlessness in North East Lancashire, which it is hoped will be thrashed out at the forthcoming February meeting, when concrete proposals might ensure a satisfactory solution.

League table to date:

|                   | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Accrington Works. | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 27 | 9  | 6    |
| Ribblesdale       | .. | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 28 | 8 5  |
| Burnley ..        | .. | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 22 | 2 4  |
| Nelson ..         | .. | 2  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 16 | 8 2  |
| Accrington        | .. | 3  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 12 | 24 2 |
| Blackburn         | .. | 4  | 1  | 3  | 0  | 14 | 34 2 |
| Rossendale        | .. | 2  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 8  | 16 1 |
| Calder ..         | .. | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0  | 5  | 31 0 |

W. A. Peters

### 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.
- BLACKPOOL.—J. A. Steer, Waterloo Rd., S.S.
- BRADFORD.—Sports and Pastimes, 37, 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.
- LEEDS, 1.—S. 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.—Gunn & Moore, 49, Carrington St.
- SOUTHEND.—E. G. Elam, Sports Shop, Weston Rd.
- TODMORDEN.—T. W. Greenlees, Church St.
- WOKING.—Sports House, Commercial Rd.
- WOLVERHAMPTON.—James Beattie, Ltd.

### Specialists in

## TABLE TENNIS TROPHIES AND MEDALS

Suppliers to the E.T.T.A. (The London Table Tennis League, etc., etc.)

# John Taylor & Co.

29, ELY PLACE, LONDON, E.C.1

Phone: HOLborn 3169

# IS BERGMANN RIGHT?

## Mr. S. Kirkwood Replies to the Ex-Champion

RICHARD BERGMANN'S theories on "attacking - methods - down - both - wings" are, to me at least, astonishing, not because the theorist happens to be an ex-world champion, but because he, with all his undoubted knowledge of the game, offers no real logical reason for his revolutionary and highly controversial statements.

"The days of point-winning attack on both wings are over; the future world champion will have his winning attack on one wing only," says Bergmann. But, despite his following words, does he make clear why this is so—or will be so? Has the double-handed attack proved a failure, then, that it is doomed to make way for a less spirited and less spectacular style?

As I see it, the two-wing attacker is a specimen of comparatively recent maturity; his coming not only raised the scientific standard and the speed of table tennis to an immeasurably higher playing level than it had ever been, but also brought that sparkling, all-action spectacle into the game that had hitherto been sadly lacking. Through that incessant two-wing attack the public was attracted to see and enjoy table tennis and, apart from playing values, if, as is suggested by Bergmann, the two-wing attack is shelved, the public is going to have its say in the matter by slumping back into its former state of lethargic indifference to the game and players.

When Bergmann avers that one should pave the way for a winning forehand shot by preparatory backhand strokes—or vice versa, of course—he propounds an hypothesis that is directly and diametrically opposed to the first principle of the game, viz., that every ball should be treated on its own individual merits.

**To say, as the ex-champion says, that one should not hit a first or second ball in a specific rally because it is a first or second ball, and for no other reason, is preposterous; is a player to refuse a winning smash, if presented with one, because a rally has only just commenced, or is he to wait, tactically, until perhaps the ball is crashed past his reach—as may very well happen?**

**Working out new theories are splendid—provided your opponent gallantly allows you to do so.**

Again, what point is there in leaving one wing to be of less attacking value than the other, cutting down one's speed and stroke repertoire? In these days of almost demoniacal speed and skill, it is essential that a top-class player be equipped with every kind of attacking stroke, not forgetting, naturally, defensive stroke-play. To weaken oneself in this

direction by concentrating on only one wing—for any reason whatsoever—is tournament suicide—unless every player decides to follow Bergmann's advice to be a one-wing attacker only.

There are many, many sides to this question, and obviously I cannot go further into the matter more deeply; but I would like to say that I much prefer Barna's "In view of the lower net the future world champion will have to be a complete player, with perfect hitting on wings . . ." to Bergmann's illogical thesis.

### THE DORSET "OPEN"

THE Dorset "Open" will be held at Dorchester again this year. The venue has been changed, as the Territorial Drill Hall is available this year. Eight tables will be in use from 1.30 p.m. onwards.

Entry forms may be obtained from J. E. Mills, 3, West Walks, Dorchester, Dorset.

## L. B. H. Matters

By W. Ashworth

MESSRS. Joyce (Haydn Park), Jones (C.W.S.), Dawson (O/seas Farmers), and Straker (Hays Wharf) appeared in the men's second representative match on January 11, when Southend League were met and defeated rather easily by eight sets to two.

Our ladies have advanced a stage in the Rose Bowl competition by defeating the Civil Service by three sets to two. The task, however, proved more difficult than in the previous round, and it was only by winning the doubles that enabled us to qualify to meet St. Albans in Round 3. Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Oustainge each lost a singles, but they pulled out in the doubles and won after playing three games.

On January 19, North Middlesex were met on the Diamet tables and the result was 5-5. Miss Hodgkinson saved the match by winning her two singles games. In fairness to Miss Oustainge, however, it should be stated she was playing under the handicap of a wrenched back, which also affected her play in the trials. Miss Betty Edwards (C.L.E.) gave a good account of herself in the trials.

## Hampshire Trophies Go Abroad

### Touring players win all the men's events

FOUR touring players, Vana, Bergmann, Barna, and Bellak, carried all before them in Hampshire Open Tournament at Bournemouth on January 21.

They completely dominated the men's singles, which resulted in all four of them reaching the semi-final stage. The eventual winner proved to be Richard Bergmann, who was just a little too steady for Bellak, and he won the final, which was restricted to three sets on account of the shortage of time.

The winner reached the final by beating Vana, world's champion, in the semi-final by 21-13, 15-21, 21-15. Bergmann showed surprising form all through the tournament, and his combination of attack and defence enabled him to get the better of his old rival, Vana.

Vana's forehand was inclined to be inconsistent, and even when he did drive hard Bergmann was nearly always ready with a sure chop and he made some remarkable returns.

The other semi-final between the "old stagers" Barna and Bellak showed Bellak in attacking mood, with the result that he won in two games, the score being 21-14, 21-20.

Barna was kept on defence, and it was only on rare occasions that he was allowed to make use of his deadly backhand flick. Bellak led all through the first game, but the second remained fairly even until the score reached 15 all. Barna then put himself a point ahead in the next service bout, but some fine angled shots and sure forehand drives put them together again at 20 all. Bellak was steady and made the necessary advantage in four points.

The men's doubles final was a battle royal between Vana and Bergmann on one side representing "youth" and Barna and Bellak on the other. It was a good match, but gradually command of the game turned in favour of the "old stagers," so much so in fact that they took the third game to seven.

The women's singles final was between two exponents of sponge rubber bats and proved to be of little interest. Miss D. Boddie (Portsmouth) was the winner, and she beat Mrs. I. Enticott (Southampton) by 21-18, 21-7.

The world's mixed doubles champions were given a hard game in the final of the mixed event by Barna and young Miss E. Blackburn.

Local players were much in evidence, and one of them, G. Platt (Bournemouth N.A.L.G.O.) was fortunate enough to have his game with Vana in the singles broadcast by the B.B.C. Platt, who is Bournemouth League champion, played very well and often succeeded in passing Vana with well timed and accurate shots. He unsettled Vana very much, and the foreigner was unable to make the best use of his deadly forehand shots.

#### RESULTS

**Men's Singles** Bergmann beat Bellak 10-21, 21-12, 21-20.

**Women's Singles**: Miss D. Boddie beat Mrs. I. Enticott 21-18, 21-7.

**Men's Doubles**: Barna and Bellak beat Bergmann and Vana 20-21, 21-15, 21-7.

**Women's Doubles**: Misses Blackburn and Brock (Exeter) beat Misses Woodhead and Hutchings 21-19, 10-21, 21-15.

**Mixed Doubles**: Bellak and Miss Woodhead beat Barna and Miss Blackburn 20-21, 21-14, 21-17.



# PLAYING THE GAME

by Laszlo Bellak

THIS article is the result of a conversation last Sunday with my friends, Viktor Barna and Bill Pope, while spending a week-end at Beaconsfield, it transpired that Viktor and myself held entirely different views.

His idea is that anyone can learn any individual stroke by constantly watching the master and with continuous practice can arrive at a high standard of efficiency.

My theory is that a naturally developed

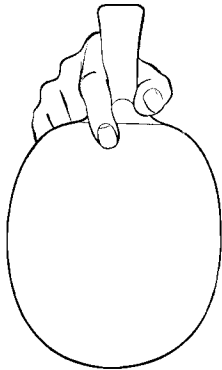
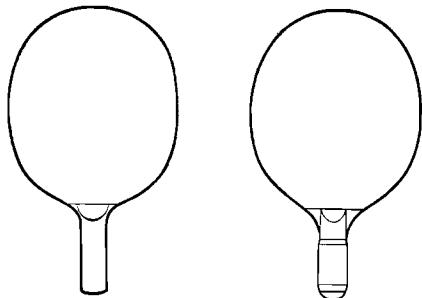


Fig. 1. Penholder grip

player, who generally tried to improve his own game, and then combined some of the shots of the specialists, would eventually arrive at a higher standard.

IN this article I intend to analyse the play of all the best players, so that readers may pick out from them the strokes that best suit their style, and mould them in with the rest of their game. Most of my advice is therefore intended for players who have passed the elementary stage.



Figs. 2 and 3. Two orthodox bat shapes

I shall use a large number of examples, as I believe that this is the most practical way to explain what I want to convey. I hope that someone, somewhere, will benefit from reading these articles, and no one would be more happy than I if through my advice some youngster came along and beat me.

Now boys and girls, rackets and balls in the hands and ready for the first lesson.

## I. How to hold the bat.

WHEN a particular grip has been adopted it is very difficult indeed to make a change, but with perseverance and hard practice it is possible. Among the champions I know of only one who has been successful in accomplishing this—Miss Sipos, the well-known Hungarian. She won the world championship women's singles in 1927, using the old-fashioned pen-holder grip (illustrated in fig. 1). Then in the following year she adopted a form of the modern grip

Laszlo Bellak is generally known as the comedian of table tennis. Nevertheless, he is a serious student of the game, and this series of articles is the result of a number of intervals in his humour.

In spite of the seriousness of this series, however, we must take the opportunity of acknowledging the services of the following in effecting a translation from the original Hungarian: Messrs. L. Bellak, W. H. Pritchard, W. J. Pope, G. V. Barna, L. Bellak, The Hon. I. Montagu, A. Liebster, E. G. White, R. Bergmann, Mrs. M. A. Carrington, L. Bellak, F. H. Wilson, B. Vana, numerous provincial League secretaries, and L. Bellak.

and was in the process of practice when the championship came along. She lost in the second round. The following year she reaped the benefits of her labours and won again.

You can play the game with any type of grip, and successfully too, but in my opinion it is by far the best for the player to take to a correct grip in the first place.

Mechlovits and Haydon, for instance, who continuously used the pen-holder grip, have been among the world's leading players for years, for among all sports there is none where natural talent has such a great advantage over acquired skill than in table tennis—but they just missed topmost honours.

If you approach any of to-day's leading players and ask them to show you how to hold a racket or demonstrate his grip you would be surprised to see how little apparent difference there is. Where the difference is noticeable is in the position of the fingers and the racket when the latter comes in actual contact with the ball.

BEFORE going further into the question of grip, however, I must try to tell you something about the kind of bat to use. First adopt a shape which feels comfortable and makes the grip secure in your hand. In figures 2 and 3 I have shown two shapes, both of which are generally accepted and proved as better than others. The racket should be of 3-ply wood—experience has proved that this gives the best control of speed. The rubber should be of a rough surface, and one which takes spin.

The best thing is to practice with one or

two and see which feels more comfortable and fits your style of play. When once you have decided on a bat, though, give it a fair chance and try to make yourself like it. To play with the bat you are used to is really very important. The weight should be about five or six ounces.

\* \* \*

Hold your racket tight in the hand and as near the rubber—or playing surface—as possible. Do not forget you do not play with the handle, but with the playing surface, and your object must be to get your hand

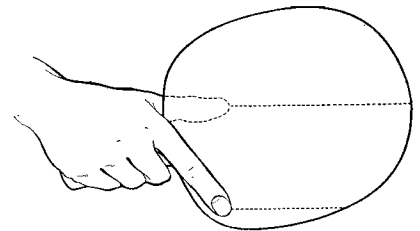


Fig. 4. The Barna grip

as near to the ball as possible. The forefinger must be comfortably pointing as near to the centre of the bat as possible, but in such a position that the change down to the back-hand position can be made as quickly and easily as possible.

The ideal grip is one where the fingers can alter their position in a minimum time from fore-hand to back-hand. The nearer your fingers are to the ball when the impact takes place the better for ball control, but take care that your fingers do not come into contact with the ball, and at the same time retain the swing of the bat hand.

The solution is for every player to place the fingers as high up the playing surface of the bat as he finds possible. You can easily find in practice the position most suitable to yourself. In back-hand positions the thumb moves up on the racket in order to get behind the ball. For fore-hand shots the forefinger

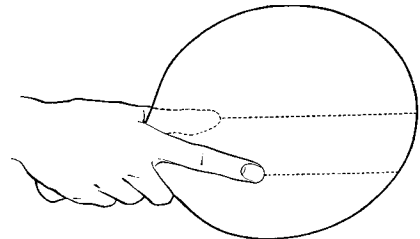


Fig. 5. The Vana grip

or the first and second fingers should be as nearly behind the ball as possible.

\* \* \*

Fig. 4 shows the grip used by world famous Viktor Barna for both fore-hand and back-hand shots. The ball hits the racket in the area between the lines drawn from the forefinger and thumb, giving accurate ball control. The wideness of this area is the secret of Barna's accuracy—there is a good margin for error without losing control.

Playing the Game—continued.

In fig. 5 you see the grip used by the present world champion—B. Vana. It is easy to see that this grip has all the fore-hand advantages, the fore-finger pointing directly to the centre of the racket. The disadvantage is that it is impossible to make a quick back-hand change, and as a result the player suffers a little on his back-hand side.

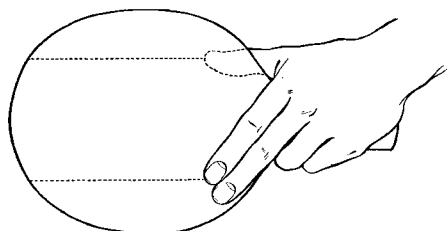


Fig. 6. The Bellak Grip.

Fig. 6 shows the grip I use. You can see this grip is most suitable for fore-hand shots—two fingers on the face of the bat you lose freedom in the arm swing, but gain considerably from the steadiness on the table and your drop shots are more under control.

This series will be continued next month.

WESTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

RESULTS.—Men: Cardiff 6, Bristol 7; Birmingham 13, Bath 0.

| TABLES MEN         |    |    |    |      |
|--------------------|----|----|----|------|
|                    | P. | W. | L. | Pts. |
| Swindon .. .. .    | 3  | 3  | 0  | 6    |
| Birmingham .. .. . | 3  | 3  | 0  | 6    |
| Bristol .. .. .    | 4  | 2  | 2  | 4    |
| Cardiff .. .. .    | 3  | 1  | 2  | 2    |
| Bath .. .. .       | 5  | 0  | 5  | 0    |

| WOMEN           |    |    |    |      |
|-----------------|----|----|----|------|
|                 | P. | W. | L. | Pts. |
| Cardiff .. .. . | 2  | 2  | 0  | 4    |
| Swindon .. .. . | 2  | 1  | 1  | 2    |
| Bristol .. .. . | 2  | 0  | 2  | 0    |

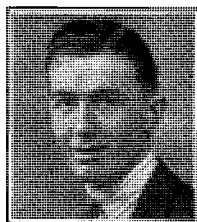
# POST-BAG . . .

## . . . EMPTIED BY A. A. HAYDON

Here is the second of Mr. Haydon's series of replies to correspondents; we are sorry that some of the answers have had to be held over until next month. If you have a grouse to make or a query to be answered, write to Mr. Haydon, care of "Table Tennis."

Would you mind helping me in my play? I have a fairly good backhand, where I can chop, use top-spin and can do the flick, but my weakness is on the forehand wing. I have a good forehand service with top-spin and chop but I cannot get the flat hit or the drive in. I have tried many times, but I seem to lose all my confidence when I attempt these two shots. I would be very grateful if you could help me to improve my weakness. Also could you tell me if Filby and Rogers are the best English doubles pair, or who is?—J. H. R. DAVIS, Welling, Kent.

Apparently you are not doing badly so far. Remember, it's a very fortunate person who has all the shots in his locker! Space prevents my replying fully to your first request here so I have written privately.



Jack Rogers

Now this question of doubles players. On form Filby and Rogers are one of the best pairs in the country, but in my opinion Lurie and Filby are the better combination. And don't forget Leo Baron and Hugh Jones. Need I remind you of their defeat of the World Champions McClure and Blattner two seasons ago?

I am heartily sick of reading about these foreigners carrying off our championships year after year. Can't something be done about it? Why can't English table tennis produce men of the calibre of Perry or Cotton. Surely there is no lack of

talent among the tens of thousands playing the game today.—E. HUGHES, Middlesbrough.

Just a moment! Fred Perry was in the first instance a table tennis player; in fact he was World Champion in 1928 and the only Englishman ever to hold the title!

I quite agree its a great shame that no Englishman has managed to win his own national title since 1924. Why we can't produce first-class players is a mystery. To a certain extent I blame local associations for not launching out a little and providing coaching for their likely young players. But table tennis, like any other sport, to be played well is a full time job, and not many can afford the time to do it. Take a look at the champions: most of them were students at the time of winning their titles and were able to devote much of their time to practice.

I am an ex-Welsh international of the happy wooden racket days, and note with regret the present-day attitude of the ruling body in Wales. In my day every man was chosen strictly on his merit, irrespective of style, but that does not seem to be the case today. Just because players use the pen-grip is a poor reason in my opinion why they should be passed over for their orthodox brothers, when they are every bit as good, if not better.

Maybe the orthodox style is better, but surely a player ought not to be deprived of honours solely because of the way he holds his bat? I shall be grateful if you will publish my letter in the English magazine, together with your reply; for it is a matter of especial interest to Welsh enthusiasts.—NEWPORT.

Your letter touches on a controversial point, but you ask for my opinion and here it is. I endorse the view that players should be chosen on their merits. In the case of trials, results must tell to a great extent, whatever the styles of the players concerned.

On the other hand, Wales was faced with a difficult problem. Pen-grip players had failed badly against English and foreign competition. The only alternative was to introduce the orthodox game, particularly to the youngsters. This has been done, but up to now no real top-notch has come to the front.

I am not in a position to say whether pen-grip players have been passed over, but they ought not to be. I think a judicious blending of the two styles would be productive of the best results, until such time as the orthodox players clearly assert themselves.

'without question one of the best books on the game'

# MODERN TABLE TENNIS

A first-rate up-to-date introduction to the game by a very clever championship player, who has a gift for putting his knowledge into words. The beginner is guided in the choice of equipment and is shown how to build up his game on sound lines. There is also much good advice on theory and tactics for ambitious club players.

by one of our cleverest championship players  
**Jack Carrington**  
illustrated with photos and diagrams **2s 6d net**

From all booksellers, stationers, newsagents who, if out of stock, will get it quickly for you, or direct from the E.T.T.A. (by post 3d. extra).

**G. W. DECKER & SONS,**  
9, BALDWIN CRESCENT, S.E. 5  
(Phone: BRIXTON 1150)  
Specialists in  
**TABLE TENNIS LIGHTING**  
for E.T.T.A. events during the last ten years.

# Seaside Air Suits Phillips

## Giant Killing at Herne Bay

MOSS PHILLIPS, Manhattan Club's third string, provided the high light of the Kent Open in defeating Stennett, Frischer, Rosen, and Baron in turn to

BY

FRANK WILSON

capture the men's singles title. Curiously enough his hardest battle was against the least of these lights, for he was at one time a game and several points down at one stage of his match with Frischer.

A further clash between Rosen and Baron was being anticipated, both having reached the semi-final stage without being threatened, when, having surrendered the first game to Rosen, Phillips began to raise his game to the high level that eventually earned him his first singles title. Playing with a firmer control and increasing the pace of his forehand



M. Phillips

attack, this Haydon grip exponent soon had Rosen in difficulties and levelled the scores at one all. Taking an early lead in the deciding game, Phillips continued in the same inspired mood to take the match, the left-hander's defence being unable to contend with this fierce and sustained attack.

Meanwhile, Leo Baron had put paid to the aspirations of Ben Marcus, who, although he hit hard and often, was not accurate enough to overcome the mixture of angled half-volleys and counter hits which were served up for his benefit.

In the final, Phillips, full of confidence, treated a crowd of nearly 400 to a further spectacular display, and nothing the wily Baron devised could stop him from taking the match by three games to one.

It now remains to be seen whether Phillips can maintain this form. If he can then he must quickly emulate the deeds of club-mate Ernie Bublely.

DORA EMDIN had a very close fight with Mrs. Collier in the women's singles semi-final, her ability to make better use of the openings that came her way just gave her the necessary balance of points, but Mrs. Collier must be given credit for fighting so pluckily after a mishap to her foot in an earlier round.

In the final Dora had a less arduous task. By hitting hard from the start and not allowing Gwen Mace to bring her strong forehand attack into the game, she was able to avenge the earlier defeat of her sister and at the same time claim the title in straight games.

After a surprisingly comfortable victory over Baron and Jones in the semi-final of the men's doubles, Brook and Stennett led 20-15 against Rosen and Marcus in the final, but needed a net cord to win the game at 21-18. The combination of the losing singles semi-finalists had suffered from Rosen's lack of confidence, but thanks to his return to form, and some rash hitting by Brook, Rosen and Marcus took the next two games.

EILEEN FINCH figured prominently in the finals of the women's and mixed doubles. With the match level at one game each in the final of the ladies' doubles, Mrs. Collier was showing signs of the strain of playing on her damaged foot. She and E. Finch trailed behind for most of the next game against Dora and Doris Emdin, then rallying strongly, when they looked to have lost, managed to draw level at deuce, saved one match point by some magnificent retrieving that brought the crowd to their feet and, amid much enthusiasm, won the match after a further deuce.

In the mixed doubles the last minute pairing of Gwen Mace and Leo Baron won three matches consecutively to reach the final where Eileen Finch and Jack Rogers had arrived after a close tussle with Doris Emdin and Hugh Jones. In the final Finch was once again party to a grand stand recovery—she and Rogers levelling the deciding game at deuce after being down 15-20. In this case history did not repeat itself, Mace and Baron, of four weary players, just managed to summon enough energy to win the two points for match. The winning shot that also concluded the tournament being struck shortly before 12.45 a.m. on Monday morning.

Although unable to start preparing the hall until 11 p.m. on Saturday, the committee worked to such purpose that the tournament started promptly at 10 a.m. Sunday. In spite of this, owing mainly to an all-round increase in entries, the lateness of the finish was the blot on an otherwise efficiently run tournament, and I feel that if the method of running the consolation event could be altered it would allow for a finish at a more reasonable hour.

## RESULTS

**Men's Singles.—Semi-Final:** M. Phillips beat H. Rosen 17-21, 21-17, 21-15. L. Baron beat B. Marcus 21-14, 21-13.

**Final:** Phillips beat Baron 21-14, 19-21, 21-12, 21-17.

**Ladies' Singles.—Semi-Final:** Miss G. Mace beat Miss S. Kleiner 21-12, 21-11. Miss Dora Emdin beat Mrs. H. Collier 16-21, 21-6, 21-19.

**Final:** Miss Emdin beat Miss Mace 21-13, 21-12.

**Men's Doubles.—Semi-Final:** H. Rosen and B. Marcus beat J. Bailey and D. Mackie 21-8, 21-16. A. Brook and W. Stennett beat L. Baron and H. Jones 21-9, 21-17.

**Final:** Rosen and Marcus beat Brook and Stennett 18-21, 21-17, 21-14.

**Women's Doubles.—Semi-Final:** Mrs. H. Collier and Miss E. Finch beat Mrs. B. Culver and Miss D. Leeson 21-17, 21-13. Miss Doris Emdin and Miss Dora Emdin beat Miss E. Baker and Miss M. Cox 21-19, 21-18.

**Final:** Mrs. Collier and Miss Finch beat the Misses D. Emdin 21-14, 10-21, 25-23.

**Mixed Doubles.—Semi-Final:** Miss G. Mace and L. Baron beat Mrs. H. Collier and J. Glickmann 14-21, 21-19, 21-15. Miss E. Finch and J. Rogers beat Miss Doris Emdin and H. Jones 21-11, 16-21, 21-18.

**Final:** Miss Mace and Baron beat Miss Finch and Rogers 16-21, 21-16, 22-20.

**Men's Consolation.—Final:** K. Joyes beat H. Rich 21-18, 17-21, 21-14.

**Ladies' Consolation.—Final:** Miss N. Bright beat Miss E. Baker 21-19, 21-14.

# A Close Fight at Manchester

AFTER several seasons with the championship struggle divided between the crack Y.M.C.A. and Grove House teams, added interest has been given by the efforts of Manchester Jewish, who signed both Lurie and Leslie Cohen at the beginning of the season, and who are now challenging the present leaders, Y.M.C.A., for the premier position. Y.M.C.A. had a comfortable three point lead at the half-way stage, but Jewish are almost level on sets average, and a win over Y.M.C.A. and Grove House in the second half will give them a chance to gain the title for the first time.



L. Cohen

Y.M.C.A. continue to rely on Millar, Stanley, and C. W. Davies, whilst Freddy Cromwell, who has guided the fortunes of Grove House for over 10 years, and B. Casofsky, are still the mainstay of last season's champions. Lying halfway down the table are a young team of brilliant possibilities — Y. M. C. A. "A." In no way overawed by their senior's efforts, they continue to provide surprises. This youthful side has names which may well become forces in the table tennis world—Kenneth Mitchell, a mirror reflection of Stanley, has been chosen to represent Manchester in the final trials; D. McDermott, whose unorthodox "Szabados" style has accounted for many prominent scalps; and J. Walker, were also in the short list for selection. We shall hear more from these youngsters in the very near future.

Greengate and Adelphi, relegated from the First Division at the beginning of the season, are now leading the Second Division.

In the Third Division, the third Y.M.C.A. team are running Gravel Lane close for leadership.

Once more Manchester is moving steadily forward in the Wilmott Cup Competition towards the closing rounds, with 9-0 victories over Bury and Urmston to their credit. It would be a great thing to retain the Cup, but there is little doubt that with a rapid improvement in the general quality of play all over the country, the Northern holders will not have an easy thing to repel the challenge from the South.

A good victory over Liverpool in the inter-League match will make the return counter even more keen, whilst visits to Chester, Leeds, and Macclesfield will enable Manchester to try out one or more of their promising youngsters.

J. Batty.

## PETERBOROUGH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

February 18th, 1939

ALL EVENTS

GOOD CONDITIONS

Entry Forms from :—

J. Wildman, 13 Towler St., Peterborough

Closing Date for Entries : February 13th

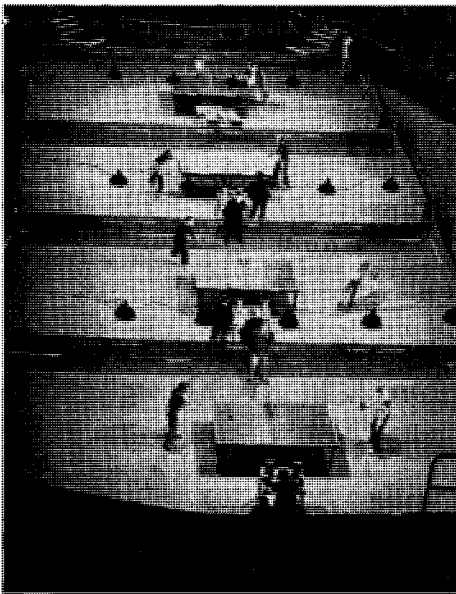


*This being National Championship month, with so much of the "big stuff" in the news, we step aside from our usual "Famous Club" series and tell you about one not so famous but just as interesting:*

**KENNINGTON RED TRIANGLE**

**K**ENNINGTON Red Triangle Club, situated in Kennington Lane, is affiliated to the Y.M.C.A. and has a membership of some hundred and fifty boys between the ages of ten and eighteen. The majority of them are local, and the rest come from the "Special Areas" in Wales, Scotland and the North of England.

The table-tennis section, which has always been an active part of the club's programme, is composed largely of local boys; those from the Areas do not take very kindly to table tennis, chiefly because the small towns and mining villages from which they come



*The Albert Hall with Table Tennis in progress. A full account of the English Championships will appear next month.*

know the game as ping pong, something played with wooden bats on small, rickety tables. "Ping pong's a girl's game, anyway," they say.

Visitors to the club are somewhat surprised to find the younger members playing on tables with "wooden nets"—permanent structures devised by an ingenious secretary for economy's sake. These "nets" remove all doubt of a "let"; the ball, on hitting the wood, either gives an enormous jump into the air or comes back and hits you in the face. On these tables breathless youngsters battle weekly in club tournaments, the prizes for which are usually two bars of chocolate from the canteen.

The hall upstairs, however, in which more serious table tennis is played, is well lit and roomy, and contains a very good table. The club enters two teams in the South London League and the first team were runners-up last year to North Dulwich in the third division. On the whole, they are having a leaner time this year, but their enthusiasm remains unabated, and the Club is particularly rich in talent among the younger players.

# Looking Around

with  
**J. W. A. CONNOLLY**  
("Sunday Express" sports specialist)

**T**HE wanderings of this reporter the other week centred round the Bristol area. Glancing through the sports pages of an evening newspaper, I found that Bristol were playing the home Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches that evening. I floated around.

Now Bristol is a fine table tennis centre, and quite naturally I looked to things being put over in a big way. But, oh dear, no!! They have difficulties down in the West Country such as never need beset us. They want to put it over well, but the trouble is that they can't get the suitable halls.

Bristol has the fifth biggest League in the country, and good support at that. A couple of years ago they promoted the international match with the tourists. Two thousand and more people saw the match, but the League lost money, simply because of the arrangements in regard to the hall.

After paying a highest-yet rent for the hall, they were then faced with the tiering of seats. That took up most of their spare time and, with the general seating arrangements, swallowed up most of what might have been profits.

If Bristol lost the Rose Bowl match with Exeter they had the consolation of a convincing win over Ilfracombe in the Wilmott Cup. Despite the fact that both matches were played on the one night, and that to my mind is good value for a tanner any time, there couldn't have been more than a handful of spectators there.

Bristol have a nicely balanced team in Shipton, Dawes and Simon, although one could hardly judge them really against a weak Ilfracombe side. Dawes is the type of player who would, I imagine, prove a stumbling block to even our top-notchers, because of his awkward stance and stroke execution. Simon is a good proposition, because he has the strokes, hits the right ball, and doesn't get flustered. My only reason for faulting Shipton was his tendency to pay more attention to the "gallery" than to the game in progress. That sort of thing has pegged back more big stars than ever were pegged back by missed shots. Yet Shipton has the makings of a good sound player, though a little inaccurate in his timing.

**T**HE Ilfracombe boys seemed a great lot of sports and took their whacking the right way. I liked the play of young Roberts. He has the strokes all right, but hasn't the confidence to try 'em out in matches, and got flurried at the hard hitting of Simon. Yet towards the end of every game, when the issue had been settled and the load of responsibility taken off his shoulders, Roberts hit beautifully down the lines and defended quite well. My suggestion is that he needs broader experience than the local Leagues. They

tell me that Ilfracombe aren't taking part in the Western League this year because of the heavy expenses entailed, and the long journeys they were called upon to make. It isn't a joke when every League match means a couple of hundred miles.

**W**HILE myself and fellow reporters scour the country from time to time in search of news the innocents just fall upon them without the worry of the hunt. Chatting to Gwen Mace during the London championships she brought up an experience she had on holiday in Scotland.

It appears that the man who gave her the hardest game of all the hotel visitors was without legs. Now that is a story, but unfortunately I didn't get it. The gentleman in question used to have a little chair-cum-table hoisted at one end of the table, and he performed from this pedestal with no small degree of skill. He remonstrated with Gwen for not hitting hard enough, and when she finally left the hotel the last thing she saw was her table tennis friend practising his back hand strokes. Beat that if you can! I remember once on holiday seeing a girl with one leg playing, and playing well, but after hearing Gwen's story from Scotland, it doesn't seem worth mentioning any more.

**M**AIN topic of conversation among players seems to be the prospect of sensational changes in the Swaythling Cup team for the world championships in Egypt.

Bubley, Filby, Bergl, Lurie, and Ken Hyde, in my opinion, will always come into the reckoning, whether we are decided on a young team or not. Of the youngsters and rising players I would mention Leo Baron (London), the Liverpool Rumjahn brothers (Peter especially), and Eric Hardman. There are others I know well worth a word of praise, but let them get along with the English champs. first before we judge, praise or condemn.

The Corbillon Cup field would appear to narrow down. They tell me that Jean Nicoll couldn't make the trip, even if she happened to be selected. I wouldn't overrule the long-standing internationals for a minute. The outstanding player among our young girls to-day is without question Vera Dace, and I regard her chances of inclusion as amounting almost to a certainty. Another little "Miss Poker-face," with just the right temperament for anything in the big match line.

And before I complete this job of work I would mention as my star of the month one fifteen-year-old, R. P. Santwan, probably the youngest Indian playing in London. He did remarkably well to get through his group in the London championships.

# Where Mixed Leagues Fail for the Woman Player

The Women's Editor Talks to Miss Rosalie Smits

KNOWING that for some time the question of women playing in men's leagues has been a sore point in some localities, I asked Miss Rosalie Smits, who is a member of the Executive Committee and the Women's Council, what she thought about it.

"Where women play with men in competition on an equal footing," she told me, "I think that the women's game benefits. The best women in this country are always far behind the best men, so if a woman can hold her own in a men's league, she is far nearer the top of the women's tree than the men at the top of theirs.

"Take the case of Miss Stott, of Leeds, our new international—and all the women players the St. Albans League has provided."

Remembering that both Leeds and St. Albans allow women to play with the men in their Leagues, I conceded the point, though I did mention that two swallows, or even half a dozen, don't make a summer.

"That is all right for the good woman player, though," Miss Smits continued. "She can get fine practice in a mixed League. But the novice doesn't stand much chance.

"A man generally reaches the stage at which he can take a place in a mixed League team much more quickly than a woman, and so, where there is no separate women's League, the new women players are very often starved of the very thing they want to build up their game—regular competitive play.

"These keen new players want to play matches, too, and I believe that is why nearly everywhere new women's sections are starting where there have been only men's matches before. There isn't enough women's competitive play, and women playing in a

men's league is one of the restrictions to the wider competition which we want.

"Because of this, even where mixed teams have been allowed for years, they are now starting special sections for the women."

"Do you think those Leagues should still let the women play in their men's teams?" I asked. "It doesn't seem very fair to say to them 'you've a section of your own now; but now you must play by yourselves'."

"It may be hard, but I believe in women running their own affairs. Besides, if women have a section of their own, it's asking rather a lot to expect to play in the men's section as well, isn't it?"

"So you think that women who can benefit by playing in men's leagues should give that up," I suggested.

"Yes; but they should continue to get as much competitive play as they can with men. Mixed friendly matches will help them a lot; so will competitions like this new one at Blackpool."

"You haven't mentioned practice games with men," I reminded Miss Smits.

"No, I don't think practice between men and women does a great deal of good unless it is done as real coaching. Usually either the man stands back from the table and waits for the woman to make a mistake, or else he comes up to the table and hits.

"Either way, it doesn't help the woman, and it may do a lot of harm. After a lot of practice like that, you are quite at sea when you come up against a woman opponent again. She waits for her opportunity to hit—longer usually than a man does—and those attacking shots you found so easy when your practice opponent was just scooping them back will be returned with real chop."

## LIVERPOOL ENJOY FIRST VISIT TO BELFAST

THE first visit of the Liverpool team to Belfast on December 17th to play an Inter-City match was one of the most successful events which the Liverpool League has ever undertaken. J. K. Hyde, P. U. Rumjahn, A. Hutchinson, the Misses N. Norrish, and E. Malley represented Liverpool who won 8-1, although the match was not as one-sided as the score suggests.

At the conclusion of the match over 100 sat down to a supper and cabaret, and were entertained with true Irish hospitality.

Having travelled to Southport and Reddish and won 8-1 and 7-2 respectively, Liverpool await the visit of Chester in the Third Round of the Wilmott Cup, whilst in the "Rose Bowl" competition the women have beaten Chester 4-1 (away) and Macclesfield (after a postponement due to bad travelling conditions) at Liverpool 3-2 in a very close contest.

The Fifth Cheshire Open Championships will once again be played at the Y.M.C.A., Manor Road, Wallasey, on Friday and Saturday, February 10th and 11th. Players residing more than 30 miles from Wallasey are exempt till 2 p.m. on Saturday. Particulars in advertising columns. *W. Stamp*

# PROBLEM CORNER

Two teams—we will call them Nomads and Wanderers—met recently in a League where the rule is that all matches must start by 7.30 p.m. This League plays four-a-side, each player meeting all the opposing team.

One of the Wanderers team was on night-work and was due on at 8 p.m. He played his first three opponents consecutively, but unfortunately the remaining Nomad player had not arrived when these were finished, and the Wanderer player eventually had to leave without having played his fourth game.

Later, the remaining Nomad player arrived, and played the remaining three of the other side. At the end the score stood at: Wanderers 8, Nomads 7.

This was a needle match—both teams are in the running for the Championship—and naturally neither Club wished to lose a point. So both have applied to the League Committee for the unplayed game to be awarded to their team.

The League Committee is in a quandary as to what to do in the matter, and they have asked us to help them. We are passing on the problem—with fictitious names for the teams, of course—to the table tennis world at large.

Write to us and tell us what you think. We will publish a selection of solutions next month.

## N. STAFFS welcome H. T. GRIFFITHS

MR. H. T. GRIFFITHS, a former Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool League, has joined the Hanley League side on having taken up a business appointment at Stoke-on-Trent. He was a member of the Hanley team which lost to Leek (champions) 13-3 on January 17th, and also played against Crewe. A very stylish player of the modern school, he should serve as an example to Potteries clubs, where the penholder grip is favoured by the majority of the older players.

So far, Leek are unbeaten in the North Staffs championship, and have defeated Uttoxeter, Stafford, and Hanley. Stoke-on-Trent, with a match in hand, are second. Stafford and Crewe, new member Leagues, have both accomplished good feats, Crewe drawing 8-8 with Hanley, and Stafford beating Uttoxeter 10-6. Hanley were completely surprised at Crewe, where they expected to win comfortably.

Results.—Leek 14, Uttoxeter 2; Stoke-on-Trent 13, Stafford 3; Crewe 8, Hanley 8; Leek 13, Hanley 3; Stoke-on-Trent 12, Crewe 4; Stafford 10, Uttoxeter 6.

|                   | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Leek .. .. .      | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 40 | 8  | 6    |
| Stoke-on-Trent .. | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 25 | 7  | 4    |
| Stafford .. .. .  | 3  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 16 | 32 | 2    |
| Uttoxeter .. .. . | 3  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 17 | 31 | 2    |
| Hanley .. .. .    | 2  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 11 | 21 | 1    |
| Crewe .. .. .     | 3  | 0  | 2  | 1  | 19 | 39 | 1    |

J. C. Baker

**Cheshire Open Championships**  
at Manor Road, Wallasey  
February 10th & 11th, 1939

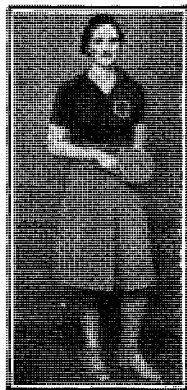
Entry Forms from  
Mr. W. STAMP  
"BUENA VENTURA"  
FARMDALE CLOSE  
LIVERPOOL, 18

**CLOSING DATE**  
February 6th

### PIONEERS OF MODERN TABLE TENNIS CLOTHING

Women's "Skorts," grey flannel, well-tailored, at 12/6 pair.  
Women's Trousers, well-tailored, grey worsted, 23/6 pair.  
Shirts or Blouses, from 3/6 each.  
Official Shirts, zipp fronts, Men's 6/7 Women's 6/-.  
Grey Shoes, crepe soles and heels, with zipp or lace, at 6/11 pair.

**J. ROSE & SON**  
39 LONDON RD., S.E.1  
Phone: WAT. 5432-3



# MORE REPLIES TO GILBERT MARSHALL

## INTERNATIONALS SHOULD BE EXCUSED GROUPS says Mr. J. W. Tebb.

HAVING had the pleasure of organising the Wembley championships for the past few seasons and increasing the entries up to nearly 700 for last season, I agree with the excusal of first-class players from groups to prevent unnecessary travelling. The standard should be, I suggest, players who have been made internationals within the previous three years and the previous season's winners of the tournament.

The majority of entries are received from club players who are of no more than average strength and it is an incentive to them to get through their group and compete against first-class players. It seems unnecessary to ask these players to travel long distances to play in groups where there is little doubt of their getting through.

Travelling expenses must always be a source of concern to the top flight player, and whereas the average player only enters tournaments within reasonable distances, it is natural that first-class players should enter as many events as possible to attract attention for international honours. Although players are not urged to enter, it is essential that at least a sprinkling of first-class players should compete if any tournament finals are to be a success, from the playing point of view.

Free entries to first-class players raises a point which should depend on each individual tournament. The concession can hardly be expected if a tournament is run at a loss—as is usually the case—and if reasonable playing conditions are to be provided.

With regard to entry fees, I do think that there is a tendency to charge for doubles events out of proportion to the singles, when it is remembered that doubles events are played on the knock-out system, which means that half of the pairs are excluded after the first round, whilst in the singles losing competitors playing in groups get at least three sets for approximately the same cost. When expenses of running a tournament are apportioned, it is invariably found that they are very much higher for the singles than the doubles events.

## “CHANGE PLACES” says Mr. F. C. Walters.

(Hon. Secretary and Treasurer,  
St. Albans & District League.)

I HAVE not had the pleasure of meeting Mr. G. Marshall; but by the tone of his recent article I should imagine that he has had very little to do with the organising of tournaments. My friend Vennell's reply for the organisers is much too mild.

As founder of the St. Albans and District League, with a membership of 400, and its hon. secretary since its formation 10 years ago, I can speak with feeling and perhaps with some little authority on the vast amount of hard work these jolly tournaments entail. It is not, by any means, “all very nice”—for the organisers.

Just for a welcome change I suggest that Mr. Marshall and one or two other first-class players organise a tournament “for organisers only.”

At my age I am not likely to qualify in any group or go far in any knock-out tournament. Still, I should like to experience that free and easy feeling of changing into flannels and sweater with badge, strolling into the crowded hall to find “first-class players” waiting expectantly with charts, score sheets, etc. I would then inform them that (1) I had arrived, (2) I had come a long way, and (3) I should like to be put on to play early. Then if I lost a game I would announce that (1) the lighting was bally awful, (2) the balls must be old stock, and (3) the table was slow and had a bright spot at one end.

If, however, I happened to win I should revel in the thrill and pleasure of receiving the cup from the mayor's wife, complete with bouquet.

On the journey home in the back seat of an enthusiastic non-playing admirer's car, I would, however, spare a fleeting kindly thought for the “first-class players,” tired but still busy clearing the hall of heavy awkward tables and chairs, whilst the aged caretaker and other hoarse hangers-on keep getting in the way to whisper “it's half an hour over the booking, sir,” and “it's been a thirsty evening, guv'nor.”



Mr. F. C. Walters.

## OPEN TOURNAMENTS



Can you put me on to play early as it's my night to bath the baby

## WEST of ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS February 17th & 18th at Paignton & Torquay All Usual Events

Entrance forms from—  
Hon. Sec.: T. Ralph Rossiter, 4 Bishop's Place, Paignton.

Players living more than 20 miles distant  
exempt until the 18th.

**BARNA, BELLAK, BERGMANN, etc., competing**



# Third Bergl-Baron Final this Season

## Bergl Wins Again

IF Connie Wheaton, the St. Albans International, lost her singles title in the London Table Tennis Championships, at the Indian Students' Union, she had the consolation of a fine double. With Doris Emdin she won the women's event, beating Gwen Mace and Daphne Spratt in straight sets without much of a fight. Miss Mace played below her club form, and the pair never seemed to settle against the Internationals. Miss Wheaton also won the mixed with Gilbert Marshall. Joan Young and Glickmann put up a remarkably good fight, but as usual Marshall scored with his terrific hitting, and not a little from a still amazing variety of services.

Jean Nicoll, young Harrow star, takes the honours for deposing the so-steady Miss Wheaton in the women's singles. It wasn't by any means an impressive final, both fell too much on defence. There was too little hitting in Miss Nicoll's straight sets win to give any real confidence.

IN marked contrast, Bergl beat Baron in the men's singles. It was a wonderful fight from beginning to end. Bergl took the first two games, dropped two successive match points at 20-18 in the third, and eventually lost it at 22-24. Baron hit

more and positioned well to take the next set, but Bergl came back to make sure of the fifth and final set. It is his third major tournament success, and the third final in which he has beaten Baron this season. The men's doubles provided another thrilling finish. Carrington and Moreton held a two sets lead against Glickmann and Phillips, but frittered away their chances by dropping

by

*J. W. A. Connolly*

the third set, because their opponents never looked back and won the two final sets after deuce in each case.

I would add that Glickmann and Phillips started really badly. Glickmann hit well enough, but Phillips seemed to have difficulty in sighting the ball. It was a game well worth the watching. Glickmann is one of the most improved London players I know, and I think Carrington and Moreton will establish themselves as one of our best southern doubles pairings.

IT was a pity that Vera Dace, fifteen years old Home Counties champion, scratched in the women's singles knock-out, because one could have looked to an even better scrap with her there. As far as the men's titles are concerned, the man who did the most and got nowhere was L. H. Mason. In his group he beat Jack Rogers, followed it up with a first round victory over young Hook, one of the

most promising of the season's finds, and finally polished off Ben Marcus before going out to Doug Cairns.

Young Johnny Archer dropped the spanner in the works with his defeat of Harry Rosen in the second round. Rosen played rather disappointingly, without initiative, but Archer took every advantage, and if playing above his form leastways played with great intelligence.

And perhaps the youngest star in this tournament was one A. E. Santwan, nine years old Indian Student, who umpired various matches throughout the tournament with veteran-like calm, never making any mistakes, and with regulation "poker-face." He's the real McCoy.

### RESULTS

**Men's Singles:** M. B. W. Bergl beat L. Baron 21-15, 22-20, 22-24, 8-21, 21-13.

**Women's Singles:** Jean Nicoll beat Connie Wheaton (holder) 21-15, 21-19.

**Men's Doubles:** J. Glickmann and M. Phillips beat J. H. Carrington and R. Moreton 8-21, 16-21, 21-12, 21-20, 21-20.

**Women's Doubles:** C. Wheaton and D. L. Emdin beat D. Spratt and G. Mace 21-8, 21-14.

**Mixed Doubles:** G. W. Marshall and Miss C. Wheaton beat J. Glickmann and Miss J. Young 21-15, 19-21, 21-16.

## THE DORSET "OPEN" TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

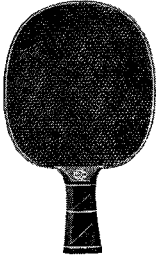
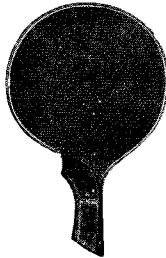
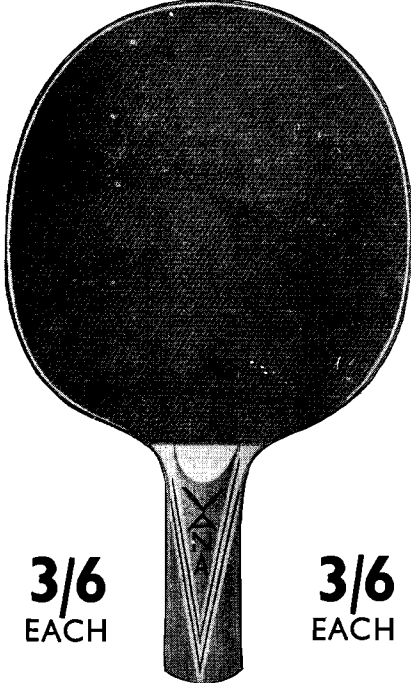

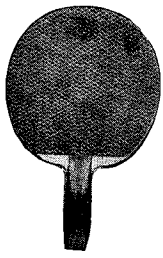
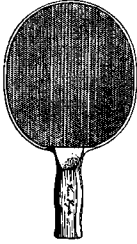

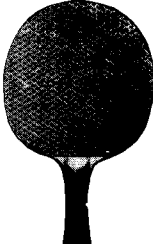
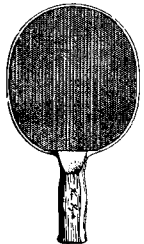
will be held at Dorchester on

11th February, 1939

Entry Forms from

J. E. MILLS

3, West Walks, Dorchester

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RACKETS<br/>BY<br/>GOODWOOD</b>                                                  |                                                                                     | <b>VANA<br/>THE BAT OF THE<br/>WORLD CHAMPION</b>                                    |  | <b>RACKETS<br/>BY<br/>GOODWOOD</b>                                                    |                                                                                       |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>THE EHRLICH<br/>AUTOGRAPH 3/-</b>                                                | <b>THE GOLD<br/>MEDAL 3/6</b>                                                       | <b>3/6<br/>EACH</b>                                                                  |  | <b>THE BLUE<br/>STREAK 3/-</b>                                                        | <b>THE HAGUENAUER<br/>AUTOGRAPH 2/9</b>                                               |
|  |  | <b>3/6<br/>EACH</b>                                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>THE KEN HYDE<br/>AUTOGRAPH 2/9</b>                                               | <b>THE ALL<br/>ENGLAND 2/6</b>                                                      |                                                                                      |  | <b>THE MASCOT<br/>2/3</b>                                                             | <b>THE ERIC HYDE<br/>AUTOGRAPH 2/9</b>                                                |

# M. A. Symons talks . . . . . to the BEGINNER

**Y**OUR defence is just as important as attack, since it is useless winning points with your hits if you give them away whenever your opponent attacks. Besides, there is a genuine thrill about getting the ball back from several feet away from the table. Maybe you've watched an exhibition or a big tournament final and come away envying those defensive experts who can return the fiercest hits by means of the chop stroke. You feel that you couldn't possibly return the ball on to the table from that distance.

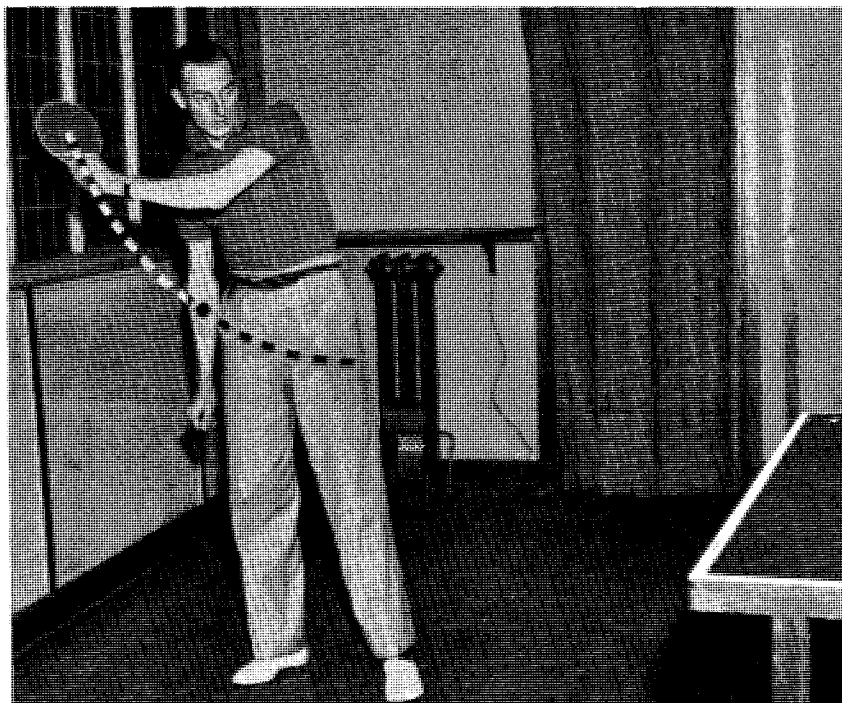
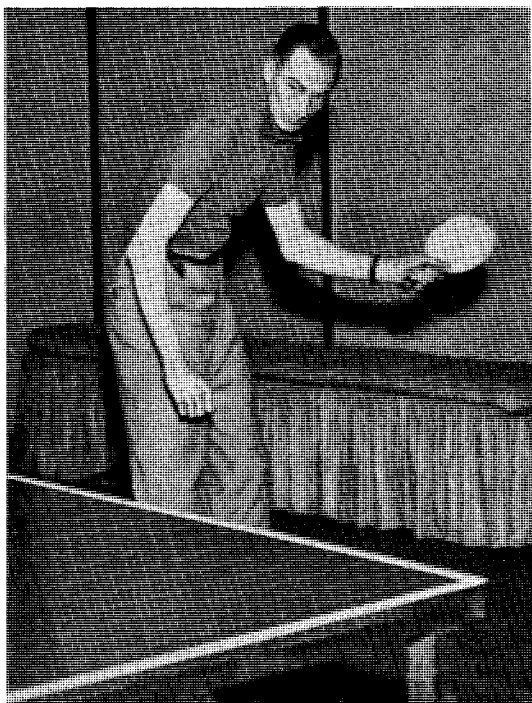
## No. 5—Defence and the Chop Stroke

*drive forces you to go back from the table).* Be ready to retreat so as to prevent the ball going past you. You must get your racket in the ball's line of flight, too, so if it is angled away from where you are standing you must step over towards where it is going. Move the foot that is nearest to where the ball is travelling.

**Once the ball is allowed to pass you, you might as well give up the point as lost, so remember that in defence it is essential that**

table and sees his opponent swing back his racket arm for a forehand hit. Keeping his eye fixed on his opponent's racket to watch the direction and strength of the hit, he steps back with his right foot and at the same time raises his racket arm nearly shoulder high.

Over comes the ball—it is a fairly fast forehand drive going towards the defender's forehand side. The defender lets the ball almost reach him and then, taking it a little more than half-arm's distance from the side of his body, he swings back his arm slightly and brings it forward to con-



[Reading Evening News photo

*In these pictures A. D. Brook demonstrates defence, backhand and fore. Left: This is the long forearm defence (he writes). In this photo I am a lot closer to the table than I should be, but it demonstrates how closely I am watching the ball, and am just about to make contact, having nearly completed the arm movement. Right: In this, the backhand defence, I am just beginning the stroke which will put a very determined cut on the ball, which I shall hit when it is just below the elbow of the right arm.*

The cultivation of a chop defence, though difficult, is by no means impossible, but you must start off by being satisfied with something far less spectacular than the internationals can show. A common error is to suppose that what is essential is that you should get back a long way from the table, then make a chopping motion with your racket and the trick will be done.

First of all forget about *hitting* the ball altogether. Concentrate upon defence and getting the ball back. Play as though you can't do anything else but defend, and push the ball back in some way or other. Do not, at first, attempt to imitate the style of the best defenders and make smooth, sweeping motions with your racket at the ball. Just keep trying to get the ball back.

**Y**OU should stand as usual, *i.e.* a short pace away from the table (*do not retreat at once—wait until the pace of your opponent's*

**you are on your toes, ready to move quickly to get into position.**

How, you may ask, are you to know where your opponent will hit the ball to? You must watch him, and particularly his racket, after each return you make. After a time you will get some idea of what he is going to do before he strikes the ball, and will move into position and be able to get your racket even to hard hits. Soon you will be returning some of your opponent's shots back into play. Your first attempts at defence will most likely send the ball back high. However, don't worry if he is able to slam them past you. Defence requires patience and you must be prepared to wait until you have developed a chop action.

I have already mentioned that spin is very useful in table tennis for attack, and it is equally so for defence. The correct answer to a top-spin drive is a chop stroke. This is what happens when a good player chops:— He is standing about a pace from the

nect with the ball with a chopping motion of his racket, sending the ball back into play with a fairly heavy chop on it.

After striking the ball the defender lets his arm travel on in a forward and side direction so that it finishes across the body. This is called "follow through," and prevents stiffness or jerkiness of stroke.

I have described a forehand chop stroke. For a backhand chop the defender's motions will be, roughly speaking, the opposite to those described for the forehand, except that backhand returns may be made with the arm nearer the side of the body. The height of the ball over the net will depend upon the chopper's accuracy in timing. Bad returns—short high ones—are generally caused through stretching forward your arm to chop the ball, and so not getting enough swing into your stroke, or else swinging back the arm too far and taking the ball late.

# AROUND the COUNTRY

THIS year Barrow have returned to teams of four, each member playing two singles matches and one doubles match, each the best of three sets. This appears to be more popular than the last year's play, five members per team, each playing each member of the opposing team.

Barrow is at rather a disadvantage in that it is a long way from other table tennis centres and thus teams have a long way to travel to play an inter-town match. They have, however, made a start this year with Inter-League games, and travelled to Lancaster where they were defeated 8-2 after a match which was by no means as one-sided as the score suggests. Practically all the games went to three sets, and it was obvious that Lancaster had the wider experience in the all-important final set.

A match was also arranged with Carlisle. Weather conditions made road travel impossible, however, and owing to the late change in the arrangements only a scratch team could be played, and the match was lost 19-6.

The most annoying feature from the Bradford team's point of view, however, was not losing the match but having to forego the splendid feed which the Carlisle chaps had prepared for them. The match only finished at about 8-15, and the train went at 8-37, and thus our fellows had to snatch a bite standing up. They were indeed sorry at being unable to do justice to the hospitality of the Carlisle League.

On February 2nd and 3rd the third Annual Tournament will be held, and on the latter night, reserved for the finals only, there will be an exhibition by the four continental stars. After last year's huge success Bradford are optimistic of a similar triumph this year, and plans are being made to accommodate a large crowd.

With the exception of Athersmith, who has left the town, all last year's winners of



the Barrow championships will be competing in an effort to retain their titles. An extra event, mixed doubles, has been added this year, and a large entry is confidently expected.

BY defeating Boston 7-2 away, Lincoln became the last Lincs team in the Wilmott Cup and have good hopes of progressing further in their tie with Mansfield away.

Two teams from Lincolnshire have reached the third round of the Rose Bowl. After a bye in the first round, Grimsby defeated Sheffield away by the unexpectedly heavy score of 5-0. Lincoln Women went under 0-5 at Nottingham, which was later visited by Spalding Women, who had received a walk-over from King's Lynn. The Spalding girls excelled themselves by taking a surprise 5-0 victory, and recent results point to the conclusion that Grimsby's supremacy in the women's game in the county is going to be seriously challenged by the Fenlanders.

Congratulations are due to the two leading county players, Miss Eileen Ward and Albert Hall, in being selected for the Final Trials as a result of their displays in the East of England Trials. Both of these hail from Grimsby, but Miss Vera Frost of Spalding showed such a sound chop defence at the Trial that she was strongly recommended to go too.

In the Haigh Cup Competition the youthful Scunthorpe side shocked Lincoln away 5-4 but failed at home 1-8 to Grimsby, who lead as follows:—

|                 | P. | W. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Grimsby .. ..   | 5  | 5  | 0  | 39 | 6  | 10   |
| Spalding .. ..  | 5  | 3  | 2  | 25 | 20 | 6    |
| Lincoln .. ..   | 5  | 3  | 2  | 23 | 22 | 6    |
| Scunthorpe .. . | 4  | 2  | 2  | 15 | 21 | 4    |
| Skegness .. ..  | 4  | 1  | 3  | 15 | 21 | 2    |
| Boston .. ..    | 5  | 0  | 5  | 9  | 36 | 0    |

By virtue of a great 5-4 win over the hitherto unbeaten Louth in the Butcher Cup Competition, Sleaford now go to the top and it looks as if a play-off will be necessary to decide this interesting league, especially as rubber average does not count if there is a final tie for leadership. The chart appears as follows:—

|                  | P. | W. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Sleaford .. ..   | 7  | 6  | 1  | 43 | 20 | 12   |
| Woodhall Spa ..  | 10 | 6  | 4  | 58 | 32 | 12   |
| Louth .. ..      | 6  | 5  | 1  | 44 | 10 | 10   |
| Alford .. ..     | 5  | 1  | 4  | 9  | 36 | 2    |
| Mablethorpe .. . | 5  | 0  | 5  | 6  | 39 | 0    |
| Horncastle .. .  | 3  | 0  | 3  | 3  | 24 | 0    |

THE eagerly awaited clashes between the top teams in the First Division of the men's division (Civil Service "A" and Y.M.C.A. "A") and SOUTHAMPTON in the women's division (Civil Service "A" and

Banister Avenue) resulted in very close wins for the Service teams. The men won 13-12, but Y.M.C.A. took the point for aggregate by scoring 451 points against 450. The Service women just succeeded by the same score in games, and also managed to win the aggregate point by a very small margin.

As both Civil Service teams were playing on their own tables, it does seem possible that for the first time in many seasons they will not be champions.

The town teams are doing exceedingly well, both in the National Competitions and in the Southern Counties League.

In the Wilmott Cup the men knocked out Farnham by 6 games to 3, and now meet Bournemouth. This match will not be so easy for them as earlier in the season Bournemouth won the League match fairly comfortably. They also recently decisively defeated Salisbury in a Southern Counties League match by 9 games to 1, and it seems that the team have now found their form.

The women are now in the last 16 in the "Rose Bowl" competition, having disposed of Salisbury and Bournemouth in the previous rounds.

W. Muller (town champion) and N. Facey, Mrs. I. Enticott (town champion for last three years), Mrs. D. Hayward and Miss M. K. Bartlett were selected to represent Southampton in the area trials.

The local tournaments are now in the third round, but no big surprises have so far resulted. The two individual champions are

playing extremely well at the moment, and it seems unlikely that there will be a change this year.

SINCE last month Chester have progressed a step further in the Wilmott Cup by beating Manchester B.H. at home by 6-1.

CHESTER Jack Devine played well to win his 3 sets, especially in beating Brierley, the Business Houses champion. Chester now resume hostilities v. Liverpool at Liverpool, on Jan. 23rd. League affairs have not proved very exciting, the main item being St. Paul's feat in taking a point from St. Barnabas. This did Y.M.C.A. a good turn, and they now lie in a very good position.

In the Women's League Reliance showed improvement by defeating the Old Palace by 7-3. Miss King, who came in as reserve for Old Palace, played exceptionally well and defeated Reliance No. 1. The interest in



this section is already showing that the venture is worth while and we hope to see some good play by the women when the Championships take place.

THIRD Round matches in the Willesden Cup resulted in Cricklewood "A," Cricklewood "B," and Kemp's reaching the semi-final, as expected.

WILLESDEN The remaining match saw the Second Division team, Dollis Hill, defeat the First Division leaders, Hall Telephones, by six rubbers to three. In the following week Halls sustained their first defeat in the League, when they opposed Cricklewood, who are offering a strong challenge for the championship.

The League's Closed Championship is being run during early February. Only one past champion—A. Rogers (Elmwood), last season's singles holder—has entered, and there is keen competition for the various titles. As a women's section has been added, all five events are being organised for the first time.

HALF of the Exeter and District League season is over and the leading positions in the League are:—Division 1: The County (Exeter). Division 2: Exeter

EXETER Y.M.C.A. "B." Division 3: "E. and E." S.C. "A." Ladies: St. Stephens.

R. F. Litten (County), W. F. Tucker (Exeter Y.M.C.A., Kings Lodge), Miss J. Brock (St. Stephens), and Miss E. Blackburn (County) were nominated by the League to take part in the English championships.

The last two of these have been selected to play in the final trial.

R. F. Litten (County), K. Williams (Civil Service "B"), Miss J. Brock (St. Stephens), and Miss E. Blackburn (County) have 100 per cent. League records to date.

## TABLE TENNIS

Around the Country—*continued*

**W**EMBLEY can congratulate itself on the performance of its team in the Metropolitan Association during the last month, particularly on its dogged **WEMBLEY** fight against Surrey in what may prove to have been one of the key matches of the series.

This match showed the Wembley team spirit at its best, with every player fighting for each point as if it were a match point. Bob Mackie merits special praise for his magnificent recovery against Cairns. Having lost the first game and fallen behind to the extent of 14-20 in the second, he won 8 points in a row, and went on to hit through Cairns' defence to emerge a comfortable winner in the third.

The outing to Herne Bay for the Kent "Open" was a success in more ways than one, and Harry Lentle must be congratulated on his efficient organisation. Wembley brought

Another "love" match between Bath and Birmingham! Eleven of the games went to Birmingham in straight sets, Butcher and Palmer being the only Bath players to take games off their opponents. Watts, however, playing in his first inter-city match, showed considerable promise.

**T**HE League has suffered a severe loss in the death of Mr. F. Stansfield. He played first in the Dewsbury Club in 1926, and later joined the Cleckheaton Club, **DEWSBURY** of which he was the first secretary. He was the first vice-president of the League.

In the knock-out cup semi-finals Dewsbury T.T.C. beat Heckmondwike Mechanics 5-4, and Hanover St. Batley beat Ossett Green 6-3. The meeting of the finalists should prove interesting, as these two clubs are even at this early date) racing neck and neck for the League championship and seem

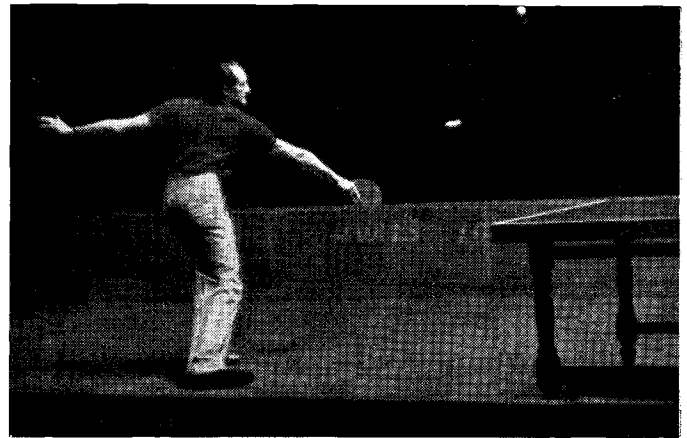
the championship, head the First Division Terry Road, holders of *The Midland Daily Telegraph* Cup, were knocked out 5-4 by Y.M.C.A. after leading 4-0.

**G**ENERAL satisfaction is felt amongst players and officials in the Ribblesdale Association that the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Peters, will soon be back in harness after his long indisposition. During his illness Mr. A. D. Smith, the secretary, has increased his reputation as organiser and administrator, and the young competitions secretary, Mr. W. H. Baskerville, has earned considerable commendation, at three successful functions.

With a praiseworthy record in the N.E. Lancs inter-town programme Ribblesdale is concentrating upon building a team for the future, giving its youthful championship winners every chance to learn from competi-



*H.M.V. Team—Champions of the Film-Renters' League*



*The Artist: Viktor Barna in play*

back its fair share of the prizes, and the non-winners solaced themselves with song in the coach coming home.

The quarter-finalists in the Elvin Cup team knock-out event comprise Herga, Wembley Hill II., L.N.E.R., Wembley Hill III. (ladies' team—still going strong), St. Joseph's, B.O.C., Institute or Salisbury, and Calvers.

**T**HE half-way stage of the Bath leagues has been reached with Oldfield "A" leading the 1st Division while Y.M. "A's" are two points behind. The Moravians, who took over the fixtures of Bathwick "C" are at present the holders of the "wooden spoon," but this is no disgrace as they have played two games less than the next team above.

Oldfield again lead in Division II, where their "C" team hold a narrow margin of two points over Y.M. Juniors "A."

The 3rd Division, new this season, is led by Widcombe Rec., who have played and won ten games, while Y.M. Juniors "B" team have played one more game but have the same number of points.

The draw for the qualifying rounds of the "Western Counties" has been published. Bath managed to get together about a hundred entries for the various events. The finalists of Bath, Birmingham, Swindon, Bristol, and Cardiff are playing off on February 25th at the Bath Pavilion from 1.30 p.m. onwards, when it is hoped to have six tables in play.

likely at present to tie and have to play off.

The Women's League is progressing favourably with Dewsbury T.T.C. first, followed closely by the Tewit Club.

**R**EPRESENTATIVE matches have played a big part in the programme so far this season. In the Midland Counties League the only defeats so far received have been by Birmingham in both men and women sections. Increased support is being received, the Birmingham match attracting 200 spectators. The season ticket experiment has put these matches on a sound financial basis, eighty of these tickets having been sold.

A record entry of 348 has been received for the tournaments. The survivors of the first few rounds will compete at Priory Street Baths on February 16th, when six tables will be in use.

H. Seadon has done best in the Midland Counties League. He is followed closely by H. Sharpe, whose form this season has not been so consistent as last



*H. Seadon*

when he won the championship. Coventry Y.M.C.A., who have never won

tive match play. Thus one finds J. E. Coates, J. R. M. Garnett, E. V. Bush, and others in their teens, representing the League.

Whalley Church have again won the 1st Division shield, with their rivals Whalley Conservatives close behind in the table, while Waddington and Clitheroe St. James's have gained promotion, the new system of half-yearly promotion and relegation proving itself successful in the case of the former team, which earns 1st Division status within a few months of joining the League with its team of schoolboys. Prospects for the second session indicate a challenge from Waddington against the 1st Division giants from Whalley, seven miles away.

**W**ATFORD'S women's team proved no match for St. Albans in the second round of the "Rose" Bowl competition, the latter winning every event. **WATFORD** This was not surprising, as St. Albans' team included both the Misses Emdin and Miss Connie Wheaton. Watford were represented by Miss D. Roberts, Mrs. Tyrrel, Mrs. Spratling, and Miss Odell.

An Inter-League match at Barnet on January 14th was won by the home League, who defeated Watford by 14-11. Watford's team was L. J. Roberts, C. E. Sawford, C. F. Sawford, A. Fox, and V. W. Stevens. Barnet: J. Scarsbrook, A. G. Scarsbrook, A. Bartlett, C. Garnett, and C. Purvis.



# New Tournament Attracts Large Entry

THE first venture of its type by the Mansfield and District Table Tennis League, the North Midlands Open Table Tennis Championships, held on January 20 and 21, was in every respect a success. The individual entry numbered nearly 150 from an area including the whole of the Midlands, and even a few places outside this area.

Competition was keen in every event, and the men's final was an international affair between E. Hardman and T. Lisle—a brilliant game in which Lisle came as near to winning as the score suggests.

Miss D. Newey beat her Birmingham neighbour, Miss E. M. Steventon, in the women's singles final, and these two together won the women's doubles, but only after a hard fight against Miss M. Crust (Spalding) and Miss V. Frost (Peterborough). Lisle and Davies (Birmingham) gave a fine doubles exhibition in beating Hardman and J. C. Kramer (Sheffield) in the men's event, and Lisle with Miss Newey succeeded in the mixed.

RESULTS

Men's Singles : E. Hardman beat T. Lisle 27-25, 15-21, 21-18.

Women's Singles : Miss D. Newey beat Miss E. M. Steventon 21-19, 21-16.

Women's Doubles : Miss Steventon and Miss Newey beat Miss Crust and Miss Frost 21-17, 18-21, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles : Miss Newey and T. Lisle beat Mrs. A. E. Pickering (Nottm.) and J. C. Kramer 21-9, 21-9.

Men's Doubles : T. Lisle and T. Davies beat E. Hardman and J. C. Kramer 21-19, 21-17.

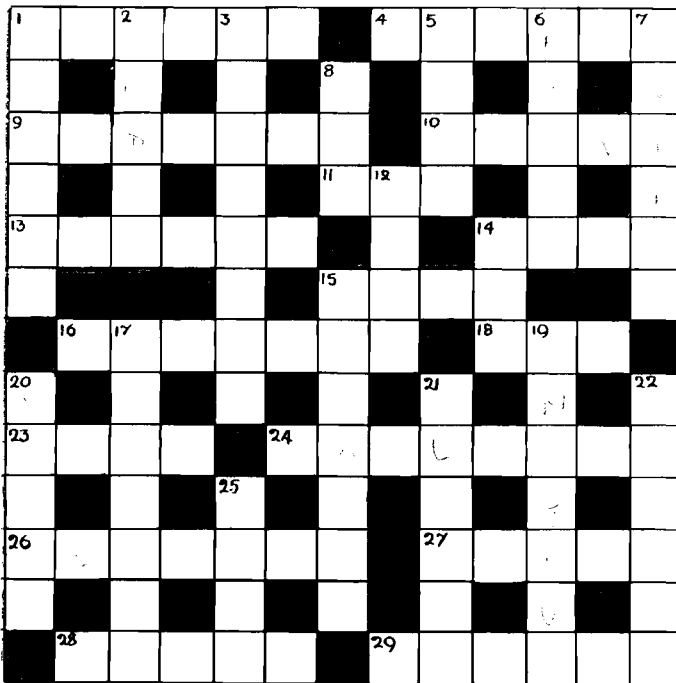
STOP PRESS

AS we go to press, we are informed that Messrs. N. Evans, S. Proffitt, and C. Stones were suspended at the last meeting of the Executive Committee.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SET BY JACK BATTY

(Hon. Secretary, Manchester and District T.T.L.)



SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

PUZZLED fans whispered that last month's crossword was too difficult, so this month's is a little simpler. Again we offer a prize of a half-guinea "Swan" fountain pen to the sender of the first all-correct solution opened. Address entries to "Crossword," TABLE TENNIS, 64, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. In the event of any dispute, the Editor's decision will be final.

Last month's prize goes to Mr. W. Hinchcliffe, of Sheffield, who sent in the only all-correct solution received.

We invite readers to submit TABLE TENNIS crosswords for publication. A prize will be awarded for each one accepted.

CLUES.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Runner-up three times in world singles.</li> <li>2. Played in England v. France at Hastings, 1938.</li> <li>3. Belgian player in 1938 Swaythling Cup.</li> <li>5. Wizard of T.T. finance.</li> <li>6. Where the Wilmott Cup has twice gone.</li> <li>7. The chief tournament ones are M.S. and W.S.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Change at this in the final game.</li> <li>12. He who makes mistakes does this.</li> <li>14. Tables which do this are not much use.</li> <li>15. A chiseller makes none of these.</li> <li>17. French player, who has beaten Seaman.</li> <li>19. No such thing in English table tennis.</li> <li>20. Popular Northern League secretary.</li> <li>21. A pestilence.</li> </ol> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

22. She might be a literary agent instead of an English International.
  25. A forceful player does it.
- ACROSS
1. The champagne of English table tennis?
  4. If your pal gets beaten, do this for him.
  9. London "circus" that doesn't tour.
  10. A steady one needed at 20 all.
  11. 6 feet in length.
  13. Runner-up, English Junior Singles, 1938.
  14. A brilliant one wins applause.
  15. Of a table, this is 45 square feet.
  16. A good selection can be seen at most sports dealers.
  18. Hazi thought she was a nice one!
  23. Another foreign one is under way.
  24. The mighty mite from Manhattan!
  26. Played against I.F.S. in 1934-35.
  27. Nationality of one of Germany's earliest stars.
  28. Regulations affecting this apply to all open tournaments.
  29. Extreme fear affecting some novices.



**THE OFFICIAL  
E.T.T.A. SHIRTS**

("TANGERU" QUALITY, FAST DYES)

THE VERY BEST

Ladies' from 5/- each

Gents' from 5/7 each

See the "UMBRO" Illustrated  
Price List

SUPPLIED BY ALL GOOD SPORTS OUTFITTERS

**"UMBRO - E.T.T.A."**  
**JUNIOR QUALITY SHIRTS**  
(B.I.C. DYES)

Ladies' from 3/3 each

Gents' from 3/6 each

**SUPER  
SUPPLENESS**

of Hands and Limbs with

**Rapidity of Action**

are the greatest essentials for

**SUPER PLAY**

For these great essentials there is nothing to equal Massage with Elliman Athletic Rub—the World's Wonder Muscle Tonic. But the Massage must be correctly done—rubbing oftentimes does more harm than good when done wrongly.

**FREE OFFER of CORRECT  
MESSAGE INSTRUCTION**

You can have free and entirely without obligation, a copy of a wonderful "Handbook of Physical Fitness" which includes Self-Massage Instructions by Edward Storrie.

All you have to do to get your copy is to send a post card for it addressed to—

ELLIMAN'S, Dept. T.T., SLOUGH



Massage of Hands



Massage of Wrist

Forearm Massage



1/- and 2/6 (Club size) of all High Class Chemists

**SLAZENGERS**

**SZABADOS • BELLAK • LIEBSTER • MARCUS**



**Autograph T.T. BATS**

All at 3/6 each

**"SZABADOS"**

T.T. BALLS PER DOZ. 3/9

**"DEMON"**

T.T. BALLS PER DOZ. 3/9

Table  
Tennis  
sets and  
equipment  
at moderate  
prices



11 SZABADOS  
World Champion, 1927



**OF ALL SPORTS DEALERS**





IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

# There is only ONE "BARNNA" RACKET

BUT IT IS NOW MADE IN TWO WEIGHTS

## "BARNNA" LIGHT & "BARNNA" HEAVY

Weight approximately 5¼ oz.

Weight approximately 6¼ oz.

EITHER WEIGHT, EACH **3/9** IN THE GREEN & WHITE CARTON

WALTER BRIGGS, LTD., Peartree St., LONDON, E.C.1

# SHOOT TO STARDOM WITH METEOR

## THREE-PIECE TABLE TENNIS BALLS

For the finest players, the finest balls—METEOR! Their flight is always accurate, because their weight is evenly distributed. Their sturdy construction gives them long life. And they always bounce true, because their patent three-piece design makes it impossible to hit a seam at right angles. METEOR balls cost only 2/6 a dozen. Use them always for club and practice play.

**HALEX** No. 1 An excellent club ball, with a strong, smooth seam. All Halex No. 1 balls are true in shape. In standard weight with a matt ivory white finish they cost only 1/6 a dozen.

**GET THEM FROM YOUR USUAL SPORTS SHOP**

MADE BY THE BRITISH XYLONITE COMPANY LIMITED · HALE END, E.4

