

# TABLE TENNIS

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THE OFFICIAL  
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH  
TENNIS



TABLE  
ASSOCIATION

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THE ENGLISH  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Vol IV

No 6

MARCH, 1939



# JAQUES

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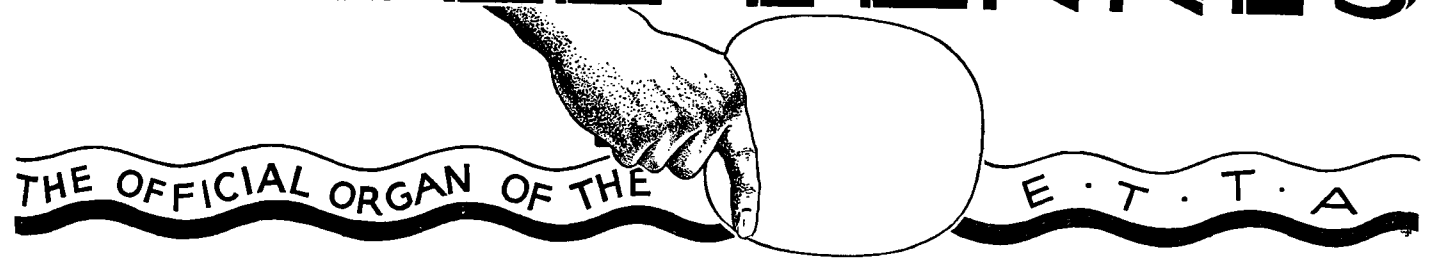
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# TABLE TENNIS



VOLUME IV. No. 6

MARCH, 1939

THREE PENCE

## THE BIG MATCHES

*By The Hon. Ivor Montagu.*

8,000 or more fans saw the Wembley Finals. With the world championships so far away they were *the* event of our season this year. And they proved an unusually good show.

**MEN'S SINGLES.**—One of the most spectacular matches of modern times. A match to remember and hark back to. The players are both brilliant, and of an age to be near the top of their form. A contrast. Vana—the natural genius. Bergmann—the intelligent strategist who improves and makes the most of his games by hard work. Vana—born attacker who has developed an extraordinarily agile defence. Bergmann—the pure defensive player who has taught himself the attack he needs.

In a way the pairing reminded one of Bellak (also an unconscious and unpredictable genius, who threw away many titles from two games up) and the strategists like Mechlovitz, Barna and Szabados, who were greater though less gifted players.

Last year's meeting was spoiled because Bergmann, then world-holder, was so scared he did not even put up a fight. This year he had won so many exhibitions against his rival that confidence returned and ensured a better show, while on the other hand Vana was over-confident. Despite his exhibition losses he believed in his star. Somehow, in the match that mattered, things would come right, as they had before. And they nearly did.

Few who saw that evening's Table Tennis will forget the Vana who won seven or eight of the last ten points in the first, second and fourth games against Barna in his semi-final, and in the first and second against Bergmann. In every case, his opponent had played so consistently brilliantly as to earn a lead. And in each case, as Vana put the screw on,

it was not possible to see *where*, with him in this mood, any human being could take a contested point away from him, flashing inspired half-volley to every

### *The New Champion*



*Photo by J. L. Adams, A.R.P.S.*

*Richard Bergmann*

attack of his opponent, with an unanswerable combination of drives as climax. Point mounted after point. And in each case first lead then game was gone from his opponent.

But in the third game against Bergmann as against Barna, Vana relaxed. Leading in the third—and in the first two, what had even a lead profited his opponent? He threw it, carelessly and disdainfully, and Bergmann did what Barna, without his youth, could not attempt. Clearly, from the start, Bergmann profited by his last year's lesson that defence was futile against Vana. In 12 months he had developed attack and like hardly any developed player who learns new tricks, had the courage to employ them. Having rightly determined attack his only policy, come what may, he did not falter. Feeling his chance he doubled pressure in the fourth game like a whirlwind.

Everything came right. Vana strove to stand before the storm. He could not pull himself together. Nothing he could try availed the least. I have seen better fought matches, from first point to last, but what fireworks!

**WOMEN'S SINGLES.**—A newcomer. A rare record. Not since Dr. Pecszi, in 1908, has a junior won both junior and senior titles in a single tournament. Victory in such a fight, before so great a crowd, and against an opponent playing throughout Table Tennis of the highest international order, could have been won only by a youngster so naturally gifted in ball-game match-play, as to deserve unstinted praise as genius.

But there was another side to the match. Dora Emdin has had quite a long international career of many feats. She has defeated a reigning world champion. But never has she played so well as in  
*(Continued on page 2)*



THE BIG MATCHES—Continued from page 1.

these championships, nor better than in this match. To make the pace for five long games, to open up a closed vise, with accurate swift attack from no particular opportunities, provided a frightful ordeal which she sustained so creditably indeed, as to recall the play that earned Kettinova so much sympathy in this hall against Aarons, two years back.

It is a chastening thought that, had Jean Nicoll not been an English girl, known to be young, and liked as well as she was known; had she been a stranger as World Champion Pritzi was a stranger, it would have been Dora who would have gained, as she earned the applause, and the youngster might well have been booed as loud as Pritzi was.

In such a reaction the crowd would have been wrong. It is always wrong, to decry a player playing his or her best and hardest. How wrong of course is apparent in such a case as Jean's, where no one blames and everyone admires, because it is plain that a youngster holding her own in such an ordeal is doing her best.

Jean Nicoll is young, it will be a pity if she is content to win, when she has it in her to win wonderfully well. Her mark in Table Tennis, as one of three great defensive players in a day lacking in strong all-rounders, or as something more, has yet to be determined.

### World Championships, Cairo

The following will represent England in the Swaythling Cup:

- E. Buble (London).
- K. Hyde (Liverpool).
- H. Lurie (Manchester).
- K. Stanley (Manchester).

The Championships will take place from March 6 to 11.

No English women's team is being sent.

### ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thank You, Every One

Bill Pope.



Photo by J. L. Adams, A.R.P.S.

Jean Nicoll, Double Champion

## Viktor Barna picks an English team

LAST season I had the privilege of coaching the English team taking part in the World Championships. This season I have been playing in New Zealand, Australia and India and therefore could not be busy with the English boys. But this does not mean that I am not interested. On the contrary I am very interested and no one would be happier than I to see them win in Cairo.

I am reminded of an article I wrote for the Magazine last year—against unnecessary trials. Trials, in my opinion, make discontent between players who have earned their places already and who *must* be selected, and those who have good trial results, and in spite of this will not be selected.

This year we have one more reason against depending solely upon trial results. That is that never before was a team so obvious. Let's have a look! Filby, being abroad, the first three must be selected without question. Hyde, Buble, Lurie! These three players have earned their places over and over again, not only by their recent performances in the

English "Open," but in all the tournament results, so we need waste no more time about them.

For the other two places I have three names—Bergl, Seaman, and Stanley. I personally would prefer Seaman, because of his fighting spirit. He has a good forehand and a good defence. He never knows when he is beaten, and you can be sure he will not let you down.

This leaves us with "good ole warhorse" Maurice Bergl, and "three times junior champion" Ken Stanley for the fifth place. The Selectors will have to make a choice between "experience" and "youth," but I do not think the settlement of this question needs a nation-wide trial.

About the ladies! I was glad to see them play so well in the English "Open," and would like to see Jean Nicoll in Cairo, not only because with her the English team could win the Corbillon Cup, but I think she is the only player who can beat "public enemy No. 1," world champion Pritzi.

(N.B. This was written before the final trials.—Ed.)

# THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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## "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.

THE English team selected to play against Wales on Tuesday, February 21, was as follows: Singles: Stanley, Rosen, Seaman, Hardman, Litten, Bergl (captain). Doubles: Rosen and Hardman, Moreton and Carrington, Bergl and Seaman.

Answers to Problem Corner, and Bellak's "Playing the Game" are unavoidably held over until next month.

### WANTED.

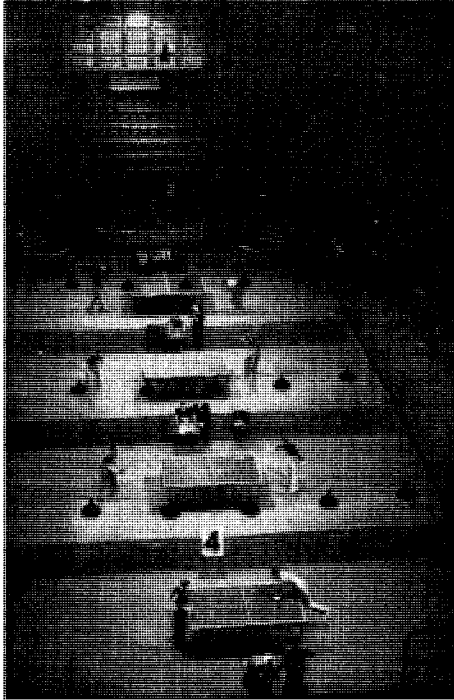
Good second-hand table tennis table—Kenn, ro, Gore Road, E.9.

# National Championship Results

## MEN'S SINGLES

### QUARTER FINAL ROUND

Bergmann beat Bellak 21-12, 21-17, 21-9.  
Lurie beat Liebster 13-21, 16-21, 21-14, 21-11, 22-20.  
Barna beat Bublely 17-21, 18-21, 21-6, 21-12, 21-15.  
Vana beat Hyde 22-20, 21-18, 17-21, 21-12.



Play at the Albert Hall. Note the Indicator Board - an innovation this year.

### SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Bergmann beat Lurie 21-14, 21-15, 21-16.  
Vana beat Barna 25-23, 21-19, 18-21, 21-14.

### FINAL ROUND

Bergmann beat Vana 18-21, 19-21, 21-17, 21-8, 21-14.

## WOMEN'S SINGLES

### QUARTER FINAL ROUND

Nicoll beat Depetrisova 22-20, 21-16, 21-15.  
Osborne beat Roy Evans 21-9, 21-12, 21-13.  
Steventon beat Whelan 21-17, 15-21, 18-21, 21-17, 22-20.  
D. M. Emdin beat Votrubçova 10-21, 21-18, 21-15, 22-20.

### SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Nicoll beat Osborne 17-21, 21-12, 21-16, 22-20.  
Emdin beat Steventon 21-18, 21-18, 15-21, 21-13.

### FINAL ROUND

Nicoll beat Emdin 19-21, 21-15, 20-22, 21-16, 21-17.

## MIXED DOUBLES

### SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Vana and Votrubçova beat Liebster and Dace 21-13, 19-21, 22-20, 13-20, 22-20.  
Barna and Osborne beat Tereba and Depetrisova 21-10 21-14, 21-14.

### FINAL ROUND

Vana and Votrubçova beat Barna and Osborne 21-17, 14-21, 21-18, 21-11.

## MEN'S DOUBLES

### SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Barna and Bellak beat Bergmann and Liebster 21-18, 15-21, 21-14, 21-16.  
Vana and Tereba beat Lurie and Cohen 21-8, 21-17, 21-19.

### FINAL ROUND

Barna and Bellak beat Vana and Tereba 19-21, 9-21, 21-12, 21-19, 21-15.

## WOMEN'S DOUBLES

### SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Depetrisova and Votrubçova beat Blackburn and Steventon 21-17, 21-18, 21-17.  
Osborne and Woodhead beat Stead and Beregi 21-18, 21-5, 14-21, 21-6.

### FINAL ROUND

Depetrisova and Votrubçova beat Osborne and Woodhead 21-18, 18-21, 21-18, 21-16.

## JUNIOR SINGLES

### YOUTHS' FINAL ROUND

Stanley beat Merritt 21-7, 21-18.

### GIRLS' FINAL ROUND

Nicoll beat Blackburn 21-14, 19-21, 21-16.

## VETERAN'S SINGLES

Mechlovitz beat Wilmott 21-8, 17-21, 22-20.

## ALFRED LIEBSTER

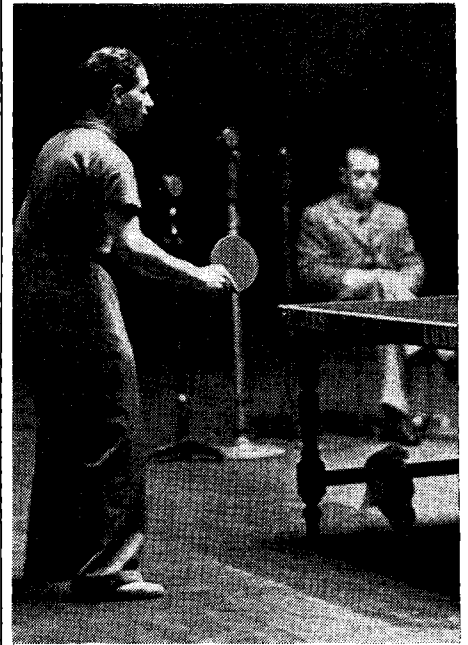
Alfred Liebster, the famous ex-Austrian Swaythling Cup Star, is still in this country and available for coaching and exhibitions.

Will secretaries of any Leagues or clubs interested please write to Mr. J. Kurzmann, 35, Suffolk Road, Barnes, London, S.W. 13.

RECENTLY, Liebster has been playing with Tereba at Messrs. Bentalls' store at Kingston-on-Thames. There was a grand show, with a large playing area and sparkling games to attract huge crowds to the sports section, where a special display of table tennis equipment occupied the whole of one side of the department.



Liebster and Tereba at Bentalls.



[Sunday Express photo,

Hymie Lurie, last Englishman in the Singles.]

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, TABLE TENNIS

SIR,

A Disgrace to 'the Game.'

At Wallington, Surrey met Wembley in the most disgraceful match of organised tactics I have ever seen.

Wembley are at the head of the Metropolitan Table Tennis Association, and Surrey are second, and the match was obviously important to both teams; but if table tennis is to suffer for the sake of self-aggrandisement it is a sorry story for the progress so many of us are striving for.

If there was a board of control I should send them my report in no uncertain words to suspend the players concerned in this shameful display, together with those instructing them to adopt such tactics, for such a period as would teach them to mend their ways.

I could say more, but to do so would be invidious, and I feel certain my criticism will strike home to the culprits.

I am disgusted and ashamed that such "stuff" should be "served up" to the public in the name of table tennis.

Yours faithfully,

C. G. MILTON,

Chairman, Surrey T.T. League.

[We are sorry that this letter was omitted from the February issue. We understand that the match to which Mr. Milton refers commenced at 8.15 p.m. and was not finished until 12.25 a.m. There was eight best-of-three-game matches, and no interval. —ED.]

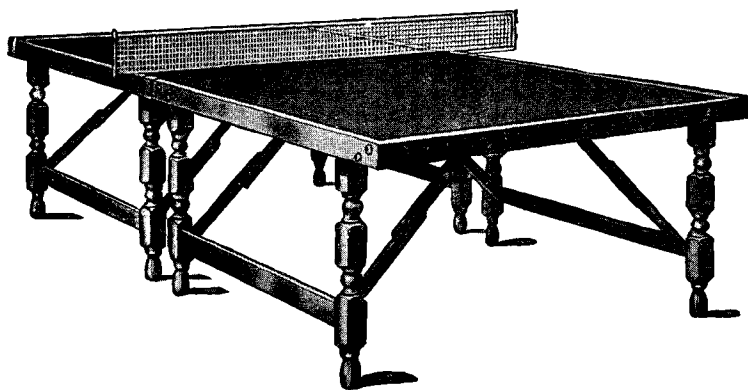
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Skegness	...	5	1	4	18	27 2
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# OVER THE NET



THE championships are over, the new champions enthroned. They are for the moment yesterday's news, which is no news at all. But there are memories, not alone of the winners, which will be recalled when many more championships have gone.

Who, for example, will forget Miss Dora Beregi, defeated champion, who cheerfully gives up her job several times a year for the sake of table tennis? Dora, in her home in Budapest, is a shop assistant. Each time she wishes to enter a tournament abroad she has to get leave. Often it is refused.

Dora is philosophical. "I ask for a holiday," she says. "If I can't have a holiday—I go just the same."

Usually she can't have a holiday, which means a search for a new job on her return. But cheerful, lively Dora Beregi should never have to search long. And she thinks table tennis is worth it.

Dora is unassuming, the perfect sports-woman. She never makes excuses. Beaten in the Midland Open by Miss Bettie Steventon she said: "I played as well as I have ever played. She is very good, Miss Steventon."

LASZLO BELLAK, genial clown of table tennis and another of the game's outstanding personalities, looks far older than his years. His father, who was over here for the English, looks the younger of the two. Characteristically Laszlo introduced him—"My father, Mr. Bellak junior!"

Bellak speaks good English without being able to throw off his foreign accent. This he explains readily. To Londoners he says: "You can't understand me? Ah, I learned my English in Yorkshire." In the provinces he tells them he learned in London.

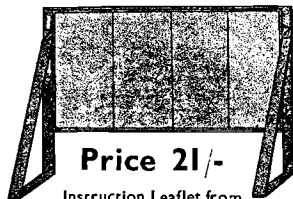
Bellak gets away with it rather better than Vana and Bergmann, who were practising their English in a certain

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provincial town when a stranger approached. "Excuse me," he said, "what is that language you are speaking. It sounds very similar to English."

\* \* \*

### This 'modern' Charleston!

More details have now come to light about Bellak's visit to an American prison, mentioned here last month. After an exhibition table tennis match had been played, the players and a few of the prisoners sat together for refreshment.

The conversation turned to modern dancing, and one long-term prisoner was hotly in favour. "This new Charleston gets me," he explained.

Bellak mistakenly asked one of the convicts how he came to be there. "Well," the man explained, "I had a drink or two, and—you know how it is—I shot a guy!"

\* \* \*

STILL on the championships—the crowd at Wembley who laughed when Bergmann borrowed a comb from the umpire during the men's singles final, and laughed again when he pocketed it after use, would have laughed a third time if they had seen the comb at the end of the match—warped by Bergmann's body movements.

They would probably have laughed still more if they had known that Bergmann had a comb in his pocket all the time!

\* \* \*

This combing business is not, as some people think, a ruse to obtain a short rest, or to put an opponent off.

With Bergmann it is sheer necessity. Close observers will have noticed how, just before combing his hair each time, Bergmann had to push it out of his eyes with his hand during a rally.

\* \* \*

### Morris and Bill—Ballet Dancers!

And as we say good-bye to the 1939 "English," an epilogue from the Albert Hall.

Bill Pope, E.T.T.A. secretary, and Morris Rose, championships referee, are leaving at midnight, Friday, 27th January.

Taxi-driver: "Been rehearsing for the ballet next week?"

\* \* \*

THE news that world champion Vana still uses the same bat with which he began to play some six years ago, has set the historians busy. Now Mr. H. Rose, honorary secretary of the Bradix Club, writes to say that B. Bernstein, Swaythling Cup player of 1926/7, is still using the bat he had then, and has played with it for 14 years.

It has no rubber on either side—not so unusual in the old days—and apart from the usual thickness of plywood, it has no handle.

The cork pieces it used to have on either side were ripped off years ago by some ill-disposed personage. But so far from Bernstein's game being affected, he missed the cork so much that he has never bothered to replace it!

\* \* \*

Table tennis players who are thinking of holidaying abroad can be sure of a warm welcome in Norway, where the population are rapidly becoming table tennis conscious.

An open welcome is extended by Mr. T. Noer, of Oslo, who writes that if any English players are ever visiting Norway, the local players would be very glad of a game against them, "although," he adds, "we will most certainly get a thorough beating."

\* \* \*

THE problem of affiliation fees continues to exercise a great deal of controversy. It would seem that those organisations who pay only one fee for a whole club, instead of one for each team, are losing out in the argument.

A typical commentary is that of the Northampton Table Tennis League, who have passed the following resolution:—

"That this League deplore the attitude of large organisations in paying an organisational fee to the E.T.T.A., and that this Committee are very strongly in favour of a team fee.

"Further, that this meeting has decided not to accept any rebate of the fees which it has 'overpaid' by charging itself on the team, and not on the club, basis this season."

Thanks, Northampton.

\* \* \*

THREE times this season L. Baron and M. B. W. Bergl have entered the same tournaments. Three times they have met in finals—each time Bergl has won.

Baron didn't enter for the South of England. Bergl did—and was beaten by Ron Moreton.

Poor Baron!

\* \* \*

ONE more Bellak story . . . It was Laszlo's birthday on the twelfth, and he decided to give himself a birthday treat.

So instead of going with the touring party direct to Wolverhampton after their exhibition at Nottingham on the eleventh, he came to London—to watch the final trials.

# Some Suggestions on Administration

EVERYONE must at last agree that our Hon. Secretary has much too much to accomplish, and I put the following suggestions forward solely with the thought that in order for table tennis to be thoroughly sound and go ahead we must not only develop our players but administrators as well.

Some form of local administration must be formed to overcome the delay in dealing with domestic matters, which we all experience from London, giving the Executive more time and scope for dealing with matters of a national character. Why is it that other bodies such as soccer, rugby, and lawn tennis have to rely on county bodies to carry out the rulings and laws of the national body, and yet table tennis is quite content to muddle on its old-fashioned course?

It is, I think, because people are quite willing to form county bodies, but have a mistaken opinion that such should be subsidised from E.T.T.A. funds.

How stupid! A sport which we consider "first class," run by finance of a "kindergarten" nature, each club paying only 3s. 6d. After deducting the cost of the official handbook, actually 2s. 6d. goes towards the national organisation with all its obligations. How could county bodies expect something back?

MY idea and theory to overcome this is that in quite a number of counties leagues

are too small (numerically) to warrant county bodies. I therefore suggest that England be divided into 10 Area Associations as follows: Northern, North Western, North Eastern, North Midlands, South Midlands, Eastern, South Eastern, Southern, South Western, and Metropolitan.

Each area should function as an Area Body responsible to the English Association, in the

*We have all been tempted, from time to time, to tackle the Area Administration problem. Here Mr. J. C. Eyles, Secretary of the Western Counties Interleague and the Bristol Association, gives his views, linking the subject up with Finance and National League.*

*Other bodies, less familiar perhaps than Mr. Eyles, with the difficulties and expenses of National Administration, would do well to consider his remarks about the impossibility of making any rebate to local bodies out of the present E.T.T.A. affiliation fee.*

same manner as county bodies are responsible in the sports mentioned above. No league in any area should be affiliated direct to the E.T.T.A., but must become a member of its local area association.

Each area association should be respon-

sible to the E.T.T.A. for payment of all club fees under its jurisdiction. Each area association should on top of the E.T.T.A. fee charge an extra amount for its own local administration. This means that no two area associations might charge alike. The London area might decide that an extra 6d. per club would be enough; they would therefore charge each club under its control 4s., remit to the E.T.T.A. 3s. 6d., and keep the rest. On the other hand, another area much more widely spread might find it required an extra 1s. per club. Right, their fees would be 4s. 6d.

Now comes perhaps the most revolutionary idea. I am convinced that the method of nominating Executive Committee does not represent the views of the country as a whole, and I would suggest that if my views above became law that each area association should have at least one seat on the executive committee of the E.T.T.A.

This brings me now to my own very pet scheme, the *National League*.

With each of the ten Area Associations in a flourishing state, and with everyone pulling their weight, I think that the finances of each Area Association would warrant them running a team in such a League.

**North National League, 5 teams. South National League, 5 teams. Champions meet, Trophy presented. My Utopia.**

I bring these points forward not that I am a rebel but that I believe they would be for the good of the game. I shall be glad to hear from anyone with any comments.

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# YOUNGSTERS DO WELL IN FINAL TRIALS

FIFTY or more players of promise and performance appeared at the trials. Together they are already lifting our table tennis level. As for the men—there may be ten players in the rest of the world who can beat every English player. (It is not certain, but likely.) But there are not twenty in any one country who can begin to come near giving a match to the twenty excellent players at the trials. As for the women—the E.T.T.A. is indeed lucky. Faced with a drop in women's play so serious as to threaten the game, faced with retirement of its past years' best, it sent out S.O.S. Who could expect, within a season, the *bon trovatio* of a girl of Jean Nicoll's stature—always a matter of chance not deserts—and the extraordinary high level shown by the many newcomers to the trials, a real response of loyalty and keenness from the women's side the E.T.T.A. must value.

Individually, space dictates that short-hand must suffice.

### MEN.

The best three on the year's form so far: Bubleby, sick, alas. Lurie, stronger than last year. If a slow, a steady betterment. Hyde, better than ever, the only older ranking player to retain full form. Next two. Stanley, exceeding consistency and a headpiece. Reliable and competent, still lacking a trifle in severity of finish, but this may come with growth. Rosen, splendid form. Gives promise of an ability—like formerly Millar's—to rise to an occasion and lift his game at least as often as it sinks. In a combination

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wherein every team member plays throughout a tournament of many matches, I would prefer him to Stanley and



B. Casofsky

count on him for some results of the highest class. For Cairo, where No. 4 may play rarely, if at all, and is mainly needed as standby in case of sickness, young Stanley's consistency must earn him preference. I have rarely seen a player improve in twelve months as much as Rosen, however, and if he doesn't fall away his future is most rosy. Hardman, coming late, started the afternoon weakly and finished like a storm. This player has yet to find consistency, but may still fulfil his great early promise.

Of the old 'uns: Bergl still *nearly* as good, but without the keen spring of youth. Seaman sick, we know he's near the top. Litten turned up trumps. We thought you were going off nowadays, but you certainly did show us an all-round liveliness and results.

On the fringe: Casofsky, always consistent, just not top but not far away. Rosenberg, studious game of high level, lacking severity. Rumjahn, same remarkable easy strokes, needs a touch of devil. Baron, steady competent, but not the range to rove if the opponent is on form.



A. Shepherd

The rest have further to go, but a lot of them look determined to cover the ground. First row: Shipton (be more severe), Simons (guts here—experience needed), Alderton (hard to beat, a deceptive customer).

And second row: Mitchell, Hall, Shepherd, Davies, Moreton, Watson, Carrington, Phillips, Straker, Merritt and Brumwell. We will not forget to watch any of you.

### WOMEN.

Nicoll, hardest to beat, was not here. Nor D. M. Emdin, who at her best is equally outstanding, though she is not always at that best.

No. 1 at the trials, young Vera Dace. Her game has obvious limitations (on one side). She lacks experience (and sometimes loses therefrom). So much the better. There is the more room for improvement. Sufficient that she has already done enough in tournaments to show the new generation is at least level with the old. Promise.



Miss E. Blackburn

Next, younger still, Betty Blackburn. How refreshing—trials at which the two youngest show themselves the two outstanding! Young Blackburn's game is still formless. You cannot tell when she starts whether she is going to win or lose. (Just as you cannot yet tell whether she is going

to be one of the most remarkable players ever, or a fadeaway in-and-outer. Which do you think, Betty? Eh? You're going to show us? Well, we'll watch, and cheer occasionally.) What does matter is that sometimes when she wins she wins by a street, and punishes everything loose the second she catches sight of it.

Next a bunch: Steventon, lion-hearted, playing up to form, but that form not quite top. Bence, range limited, but tough to beat. Hodgkinson, the best match player, but still a bit lacking in severity, of chop or hit. Mace, some elegant hits and will improve. Collier, good fighter, defence as unsevere as Hodgkinson, not yet as determined a match winner. Bracewell, some nice backhands here, may improve with experience.

Curiously, none of these, all of account in singles, much cop in doubles. Not so good as doubles specialists, say Mrs. Carrington, or Harding. Don't neglect study of this side, young women. Remember it comes in the Marcel Corbillon Cup and must therefore affect your choice.



Mrs. M. A. Carrington

Next row: Stead, Fildes, Ward, Brock, Endicott, Frost and Fay. Experience is the most lacking thing in any of these. In general, what must women still go out for? Variety and range, on the whole this is all now encouraging. Hardly anyone sticks to foiling. But what is needed, to lift everyone up a class, is practice at really punishing swift finishing hits. Scarcely more than three yet attempt these. With this common as well as present enterprise, English women's table tennis would be right out of the doldrums and in the lead.

I.M.

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# MAGIC CARPET

"FLIT," said the Editor. "I beg your pardon," said I. "Flit!" he repeated. Just like that. "We haven't got any," I replied, "but there's that tin of Keatings which we use after the Executive meetings."

At this the Editor came over all haughty. Curling up his lip, like Eric Filby about to do a drop-shot, he announced: "The only insect I am referring to is you. And I want you to flit. Get the Magic Carpet out and hop around, you're late already."

Well I thought I wouldn't have to go trucking down all the avenues this month, seeing that everybody was coming up to town for the Trials, but once the Carpet is on the air, it takes a deal of stopping. Talking of trials reminds me that Richard Bergmann has a lot to answer for. Every fan who went to Wembley was struck by the change in this young man's game, from all defence to all-round attack. Apparently this has inspired others to do likewise, because at the London Area trials next day a well-known Woolwich defender was observed to be flicking and driving with tremendous zeal. Finally he became so enthusiastic about it that he couldn't wait for the ball—he slobbered the umpire on the head! Yes, Ridout a word of warning, too!

When he came too, the umpire looked up Rule 8, of the Appendix to the Laws, and ruled that whilst the player was a constant hazard, he, the umpire, was not going to be a motionless one. In fact, he had a knotty point on his head.

RETURNING to the Magic Carpet, our first flight was to SALISBURY, for the Ladies' Southern Trials. The locals think highly of Miss Fay, and I think their faith will be justified later. She went through to the Final Trials, with Miss Enticott, of Southampton. The latter has a bat covered with sponge with which she wipes out many good opponents. Salisbury also have hopes for their youngster, Sheppard, who qualified for the Final Trials.

Next to BRISTOL, where they are beginning to be just a little proud of themselves this year. Two of their boys, Douglas (and what a topspin!) Shipton, and the studious-looking Aubrey Simons are forging to the front. They beat Exeter in the Wilmott Cup. Admittedly the Exe-men were without Litten, but the result was 7-2. Bristol girls are improving, too, 6-7 to Cardiff, in their Western Counties contest is good going. Mark my words, 16-year-old Barbara Watts will come into the limelight next year.

IN EXETER I found them by no means downhearted. For the fourth time they have won the "Sir Edgar Plummer" Cup for West Country teams, whilst all the Dorset Open events were won by Exeter players. Ron Litten and Betty Blackburn have been picked for England against Wales. As for the Rose-Bowl, with those two busy little B's, Blackburn and Brock, buzzing after it, it's as good as on the shelf, I understand.

**OUR  
EXTRA SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT  
MAKES HIS  
THIRD JOURNEY**

PASSING through BOURNEMOUTH there was some excitement. They pipped Southampton in the Wilmott Cup, 5-4. Muller, Soton's fierce penholder hitter, got that Munday feeling and lost at deuce in the third to Bournemouth's No. 3.

Bournemouth air is not so relaxing after all; they have beaten Portsmouth and Salisbury as well as Southampton in the Southern Counties League. The ladies are not far behind, either. The "Ace of Clubs" team has not been trumped yet. And so to BATH (Good idea.—Ed.).

IN the big-time stuff the Bath buns—I mean boys—are not doing quite so well as they hoped. 2-11 to Bristol was a bit of a blow, and 1-12 to Cardiff was another. But Peter Kingston is running into form, and so is C. Bristowe. The latter they told me, was unlucky against Cardiff. Winning 19-18, he lost the match by three successive net-balls. I thought that only happened to me!

The game as a whole is in a very healthy state in Bath. League, County, and newspaper competitions are flourishing. They had 300 at their January dance, and they are holding another on April 1st—no foolin'.

**BUTCHER CUP COMPETITION.**  
(LINCOLNSHIRE).

	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	45	10	10
Horncastle	4	1	3	10	26	2
Alford	5	1	4	9	36	2
Mablethorpe	6	0	6	8	46	0

Off on the Carpet again. I don't say that I wanted to go to Birmingham, but I got carried on to CREWE. They are looking ahead here. Having joined the North Staffordshire Association, they are fielding all youngsters in their Inter-League matches. Average age of their team is 18, and the best one is R. Charlesworth, aged 16. They have to take him away from school when he's wanted for a match. Didn't hear anything about the ladies in Crewe—maybe on my next visit they will have something to say for themselves.

FLYING dangerously near to Clitheroe again, we went on to NORTH-EAST LANCs. The standard of play is still advancing here. ACCRINGTON WORKS lead RIBBLESDALE and BURNLEY in the League, but NELSON have the N.E. Lancs. champion, in A. Matson. This player made a fine show in the all-Lancs. Championships at Preston, losing in the final to Alan Shepherd, of BOLTON.

Another useful league in N.E. Lancs. is ROSSENDALE. Miss L. Yarrow was selected for their team against Blackburn, and won both her matches.

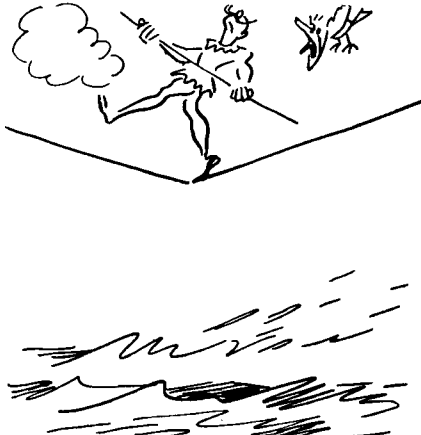
Rossendale won 11-1, and Blackburn's solitary point was won, aptly enough, by Mr. Pickup!

The Leagues up here have ideas on the question of affiliation fees, and they want us in London to know about it. As one local put it, "there's a storm brewing here, and we're no teacup!" However, like all T.T. storms, I suppose it is a matter of hearing the other side of the case.

From one Nelson to another. Not a town this time, but a young lad, Jimmy Nelson, of Nottingham. Congrats., Jimmy, on winning the Midlands Junior at the age of 14. Also on playing for the Nottingham representative team. With such sound men as Wass and Warrington to help him along, young Nelson should soon step-up to the Senior championship stage.

Oh! I was nearly missing LINCs. Always something going on there. Grimsby are still the strongest centre, but Lincoln and Spalding are coming along fine. Miss Frost, from Spalding, is going to be a hot player—she won the closed County Championship at Scunthorpe. The men's event was won by Grimsby's star, Albert Hall. He came up to the Final Trials, and showed that he is already a fine player, but with a name like that surely he must be destined for high honours in table tennis? And is it only a rumour that his Mixed Doubles partner is named Alexandra Palace?

# TOM WEBSTER AT WEMBLEY



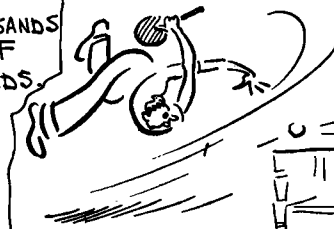
BLONDIN MUST HAVE BEEN FAIRLY SKILFUL TO WALK A ROPE ACROSS NIAGARA FALLS. (NOT HAVING SEEN BLONDIN THIS IS THE BEST WE CAN DO.)

W.C. FIELDS (FILM COMEDIAN) WAS VERY CAPABLE WHEN HE USED TO TOP BILLS IN EUROPE AS A TRAMP JUGGLER (NOTE - A DRAWING FROM LIFE WE DID IN 1911.)

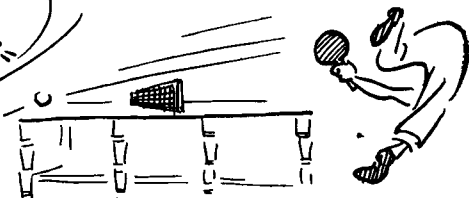


HARRY VARDON MUST HAVE BEEN RED-HOT WHEN HE USED TO PLACE BRASSIE SHOTS AS NEAR TO THE PIN AS J H TAYLOR COULD DO WITH A MASHIE AND —

— WE HAVE HEARD OF HIGH FINANCIERS WHO COULD BALANCE ANYTHING BUT



← THOUSANDS OF POUNDS



THE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONS WE SAW AT WEMBLEY ON SATURDAY NIGHT ARE THE WIZARDS OF OUR TIME.

ALTHOUGH NATURALLY DOCILE COMPARED WITH THE MEN PLAYERS JEAN NICOLL GOT THE BIGGEST RECEPTION FOR BEING WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION AT 16 YEARS OF AGE.



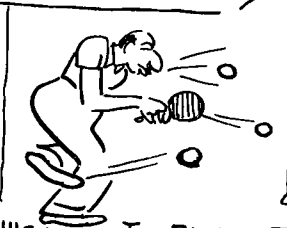
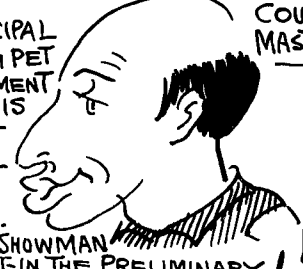
B VANA THE WORLD CHAMPION WHO WE THOUGHT, COULD ONLY BE MASTERED BY A GUN



WAS SLASHED OUT OF THE FINAL BY RICHARD BERGMANN OF AUSTRIA.



OUR PRINCIPAL PING-PONG PET AT THE MOMENT HOWEVER IS MR. BALD-HEADED BELLAK - ALSO OF AUSTRIA - THE BEST SHOWMAN OF THE LOT - IN THE PRELIMINARY KNOCK-UP HE RETURNED THE BALL SUCCESSFULLY WITH



HIS NOSE - THE EDGE OF THE RACKET AND ALSO HIS FEET.

THE LAST WORD IN CONJURING THESE PLAYERS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO SHOW THE LOT OF US UP IN PUBLIC THEY OUGHT TO BE FORCED TO PLAY "IN PRIVATE"

*Tom Webster* 39.





# GILBERT MARSHALL wins at CROYDON

## JEAN NICOLL TAKES TWO OUT OF THREE

by J. W. A. Connolly

JEAN NICOLL, young English champion, finished all square in the South of England championships, at Croydon. She lost the women's doubles title (held with Mrs. Carrington), won the singles, and retained the mixed doubles. She went down in the women's to a new combination in international Doris Emdin and Eileen Baker. Doris hit beautifully while Eileen made sure that her returns to Mrs. Carrington never allowed her to hit back.

Miss Nicoll held the mixed with Eric Filby (now in South Africa with the L.T.A. team) but won it this time with Maurice Bergl. Bergl was the steadying influence who carried them through a hectic semi-final against Harry Rosen and Eileen Baker, and helped save five match points to win. In the final they both hit too confidently for Doris Emdin and the young Surrey player, Cyril Merrett. Merrett, incidentally had a day out in this tournament, for he did extremely well to beat Harry Rosen in the singles.

Biggest surprise was the form of two newcomers, unknown to me, in J. Badham and

E. Miller, who went through to the men's doubles finals and disposed of Reeve and Bergl in the semi-final. That they went out to Jack Rogers and Ron Hook in the final is only incidental after their splendid performance in getting through. Hook and Rogers are a new teaming this season, and look good. Jack Rogers held the doubles with Filby, but defended this time with a new partner, and, like Miss Nicoll, was successful again.

Cheery, red-haired Anglo-American Gilbert Marshall really deserved his success in the men's singles. It is a long time since I saw him play so well.

Moreton, well though he defended, could hope to achieve little against this new Marshall, whose quick hit down the lines was always a winner, and who repeatedly aced straight from the service. The refreshing part of the final was to see them trading hit for hit and getting shots back that you wouldn't believe possible. Moreton was beaten in straight sets, but few of our present-day players could have done much against Gilbert on this form.

Jean Nicoll was the reverse of her Wembley personality in a very convincing win over Hilda Burton, the women's singles holder. Miss Burton fought well, but briefly.

Alas, she was beaten to a large extent by her own nerves. Jean, the score does her little justice, was in such a hurry to finish it off that she had a crack at pretty nearly every ball. But though she made mistakes, there never looked prospect of her being beaten.

The tournament was played this year at the Drill Hall in Mitcham Road. Conditions were excellent, and hard-working organiser Mr. Milton's pride at the success of the event, and his gratitude to the authorities who loaned the hall, can be well understood.

### RESULTS

**Women's Doubles.—Semi-Finals:** D. L. Emdin and E. Baker beat P. Barnes and J. Roberts 21-20, 21-12. M. Carrington and J. Nicoll (holders) beat G. Mace and E. Finch 21-18, 21-17.

**Final:** Emdin and Baker beat Carrington and Nicoll 21-9, 21-13.

**Men's Doubles.—Semi-Finals:** E. Miller and J. Badham beat M. Bergl and G. Reeve 10-21, 21-18, 21-16. J. Rogers and R. Hook beat J. H. Carrington and R. Moreton 20-21, 21-18, 21-16.

**Final:** Rogers and Hook beat Miller and Badham 21-14, 21-16, 22-20.

**Mixed Doubles.—Semi-Finals:** C. E. Merrett and Miss D. L. Emdin beat A. D. Brook and Miss Roberts 21-20, 21-17. M. Bergl and Miss J. Nicoll beat H. Rosen and Miss E. Finch 21-12, 10-21, 22-20.

**Final:** Bergl and Miss Nicoll beat Merrett and Miss Emdin 10-21, 21-7, 21-8.

**Men's Singles.—Semi-Finals:** R. Moreton beat D. J. Cairns 21-13, 18-21, 21-7. G. W. Marshall beat J. Rogers 21-19, 21-13.

**Final:** Marshall beat Moreton 21-8, 21-14, 21-10.

**Women's Singles.—Semi-Finals:** J. Nicoll beat E. Baker 21-16, 21-10. H. Burton (holder) beat G. Mace 21-12, 21-18.

**Final:** Nicoll beat Burton 21-16, 21-13.

SHOOT TO STARDOM

WITH METEOR

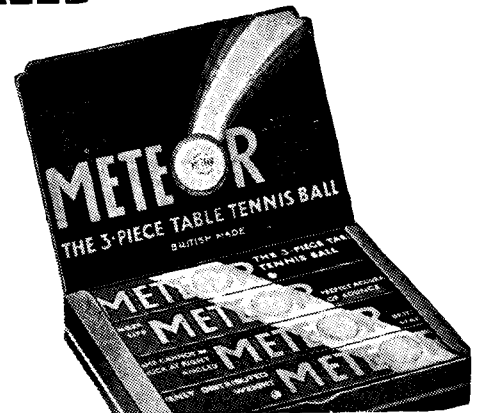
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# Looking Around

RECOLLECTIONS of the English championships last month are mainly happy, but there were one or two not so happy aspects about the affair also. It is a pleasing thought to look back on the way in which our girls beat the foreign challenge. Honours in this respect to Dora Emdin, Jean Nicoll, and Bettie Steventon. Their victims were Votrubčova, Depetrisova, and Dora Beregi. Good scalps, indeed.

I must, however, deprecate Jean Nicoll's manner of winning the English title. Not that I have any inclination to belittle this amazing little sixteen-year-old Herga Club star—I have rooted for her time and time again, for she's a great player—but it was a matter of the deepest regret that she chose to "chisel" away against Dora Emdin. Her performance is more than remarkable. It is magnificent. But much of the glory has gone from it already.

I know full well that the first incentive of any player in a tournament is to win that tournament. Quite right. I know full well that Jean Nicoll in the last set pulled the match out of the fire from an eight love deficit. But none of those things explain why she chose to "chisel."

She appealed to me in the first place because of her many unorthodox strokes carried out with the technique of the tennis player, because of her refreshing open attack, and mostly because of her courage to carry the attack throughout and to put the winners away with her terrific forehand. Yet none of these things did she do. I was just disappointed, that's all.

I ADMIRE Dora Emdin for the way she stuck at it. I noticed from high up in the Wembley press box how beautifully she positions for every stroke, how near to perfect is her footwork, and the ease with which every stroke is carried out. I sympathised with her for the heartbreaks she must have endured

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

as her endless attack was countered by a seemingly invincible defence.

PERHAPS the one surprise that stands out is the form of Miss Steventon. The Birmingham girl beat Dora Beregi in the National, and, just by way of proving it no fluke, beat her again in the Midlands championships. Miss Steventon, with her stoic defence, most unorthodox attack, and her fierce flat hit, beat a Corbillon Cup international in every round until she went out in the semi-final to Dora Emdin.

PERHAPS the bitterest pill of all, as far as the women players are concerned, came with the E.T.T.A. decision not to send a women's team to compete for the Corbillon Cup, in the world's championships in Cairo this month.

There is a deal of wisdom in the official decision. The expense in the first place is tremendous, and a factor that one cannot pretend to ignore. As it is, the expenses on the tour at present will bite a big hole in the profits of the Wembley house. Add to that the fact that the majority of the old heads are more or less in semi-retirement or have already retired. It would have meant sending a raw and inexperienced team of three to compete under conditions strange and unfavourable to them.

Then there was the other obvious matter of a chaperone. Oh, yes! I sympathise with the trialists who played with all their heart and soul throughout that Sunday of the final trials, but I can appreciate the wisdom of Bill Pope and the others. It wouldn't have been worth it.

## County Championships by M. W. Robinson

THE County Championships in its second season has proceeded smoothly on its way, without any of those snags arising which one might expect from a venture in its early stages.

The greatest difficulty has been the fact that with only a small number of entries travelling expenses have been very high. If other counties would, during the close season, consider entering for these championships, thereby making the area Leagues smaller, travelling expenses would be considerably reduced.

The details of the matches played are as follows:—

Yorkshire *versus* Durham, at Harrogate. Yorkshire 5, Durham 4.

Hill beat Reay, Jeal and Hunnam. Mitton beat Jeal and Hunnam, lost to Reay. Queskey lost to Hunnam, Reay and Jeal.

Lincolnshire beat Derbyshire at Sleaford, 6-3.

Hall beat Orme, Swale and Hindle. Skinnis beat Hindle and lost to Orme and Swale. B. Bennett beat Swale and Hindle and lost to Orme.

Warwickshire beat Cambridgeshire at Birmingham, 6-3.

Banner beat Edwards, lost to Barrer and Humphries. Walton beat Barrer and Humphries and lost to Edwards. Alderton beat Edwards, Barrer and Humphries.

Cambridgeshire lost to Lincolnshire at Cambridge, 3-6.

Edwards beat Dean and Hall, lost to Skinnis. Humphries beat Skinnis, lost to Dean and Hall. Barrer lost to Dean, Hall and Skinnis.

Warwickshire beat Nottinghamshire at Birmingham, 9-0.

**Teams.**—Warwickshire: Sadler, Lisle and Whitehouse. Nottinghamshire: Wigginton, Wass and Willgoose.

Derbyshire lost to Warwickshire at Matlock, 2-7.

Orme lost to Alderton, beat Poole and Whitehouse. Hindle lost to Whitehouse, Alderton and Poole. Holmes lost to Alderton, Whitehouse and Poole.

Durham beat Northumberland at West Stanley, 9-0.

**Teams.**—Durham: Reay, Jeal, and Hunnam. Northumberland: Simpson, Bulmer and Shaw.

Lincolnshire lost to Warwickshire at Grimsby, 4-5.

Miss Scott beat Miss Steventon and Mrs. Church, lost to Mrs. Bence. Miss Isaac lost to Mrs. Bence, Miss Steventon and Mrs. Church. Miss Ward lost to Mrs. Bence, beat Miss Steventon and Mrs. Church.

Northumberland lost to Lincolnshire, 0-9.

**Teams.**—Northumberland: Miss Kay, Miss Marshall, and Miss Sharp. Lincolnshire: Miss Ward, Miss Scott, and Miss Piercey.

Warwickshire beat Yorkshire at Birmingham, 7-2.

Miss Osborne beat Miss Stott, Mrs. Stead and Miss Chard. Miss Steventon beat Miss Stott, Mrs. Stead and Miss Chard. Miss Egerton lost to Miss Stott and Mrs. Stead, beat Miss Chard.

Northumberland lost to Warwickshire at Newcastle, 2-7.

Miss Kay lost to Miss Egerton, beat Miss Strongitharm and Miss Plumpton. Miss Sharp lost to Miss Egerton, Miss Strongitharm and Miss Plumpton. Miss Marshall lost to Miss Egerton, Miss Strongitharm and Miss Plumpton.

In the men's championship Warwickshire beat Lincolnshire, at Grimsby, but no details are available on going to press.

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### Table Tennis on Holiday

VERY often it's "only ping-pong," isn't it? No room and only a poor table. But there are a number of places nowadays that do really cater for the Table Tennis enthusiast. Tournament tables and a good run back are becoming less rare, and well-known players are beginning to pick out the best places to stay. Bergmann, Vana, Brook and Seaman, for instance, when in Bournemouth have all chosen the same place—the Westbrook Hotel. Try it yourself!

# OVERSEAS FRIENDS WRITE BACK . . .

## Some Impressions of the English Championships

### From France . . .

MR. POPE, your distinguished secretary, has asked me to give my impressions of the English championships. But don't think that what I write is dictated by the wish to please him and you. The truth doesn't need to be improved upon.

I don't want to say much about the matches themselves, for it is not necessary to come from any particular country to be thrilled by Vana playing Bergmann. But I do want to speak of what struck me most—the perfect organisation.

For the preliminaries at the Albert Hall just as for the finals at Wembley, nothing was forgotten that helped to make the event a complete success. The spectacular side—the presentations to the players, and the playing of their National Anthems—was specially looked after, but not allowed to interfere with the swift sequence of the matches, which Mr. Rose adjusts so well.

I don't like to end without saying a few words about some of your players I have seen in action and who have surprised me. It is clear that players like Hyde, Lurie, Buble and others have really attained the International first-class stage; but—much more important—you have so many young players who are only waiting their chance, ready to take the place of the present team.

So I predict a happy future for English Table Tennis, for it is in your country a young game, yet it has a wonderful popularity with the crowd—a popularity of which I should like to borrow a little for the game in my country.

JACQUES BEMBASSET.

### From Hungary . . .



Z. Mechlovitz

NOW, in Budapest, two weeks after the English championships, I reflect on the results. It was the best and finest championships I have ever seen in my life; not only the games but the sporting spirit

that was everywhere in evidence.

My heartiest congratulation to the officials of the E.T.T.A. on this year's splendid achievement.

\* \* \*

I HAVE yet to recall a more marvellous exhibition of the game than the final provided by Bergmann and Vana. These two players played a game that in my opinion it would

be impossible to better. My opinion was, that without doubt, the two best in the world were taking part.

Now Miss Jean Nicoll is a very great player and won the title by sheer grit. She is a very sympathetic and pleasant player. She has a fine defence, but she must practice. If she does, I think she may easily be the first British woman to hold the world's title. Miss Nicoll emulated a feat of a Hungarian friend of mine, Dr. Pecs, by winning the junior and senior title at the same meeting.

Barna played well excepting in his match with Buble. In his match with Haguenaer he was splendid. I noticed that on these occasions his forehand was better than his backhand.



L. Bellak

I liked very much the Belgian Evalanko. I also admired and thought a lot of the Swedish team, especially Flisberg. He lost to Vana in the 4th round, one game going against him at 25-27. A great sportsman, this player.



S. Flisberg

Now what of the Englishmen? I must say the standard has very much improved. Lurie succeeded in reaching the semi-final and against Bergmann, lost owing mainly to extreme nervousness. Buble against Barna in the first two games was good. If he had continued to play his game instead of considering the consequences he would have won. If I could have spoken to him I should have said, "take off your glove and you will win."

MY opinion of the English team is that Ken Hyde is the best. Against Boros he won easily, 3-0. He lost in the fifth round to Vana, 3-1.

Now for the English girls. England can be satisfied that they have a splendid team and they have a good chance in the Corbillon Cup matches at Cairo—Nicoll, Emdin, Osborne, Steventon, Woodhead, Dace and the young Miss Blackburn. The girls I am

sure will make a good show in any international event.

IT was very interesting that the only holder to retain his title was the junior holder, Ken Stanley—and the Men's Doubles, Barna-Bellak. In all the other six games new champions were found.

A most interesting feature at Wembley was that all the matches found the ultimate winner two matches down before finally winning, and that the clock timing did not have to be called in.

Taking everything into consideration this was a wonderful meeting—I advise the International Association to allow the British Championships to rank as world's Championships—as in Lawn Tennis.

In conclusion my thanks to the E.T.T.A. for providing me with the opportunity to witness such a marvellous meeting and the players for putting up such a good show.

ZOLTAN MECHLOVITZ.

### From Sweden . . .



G. Ollén

THE Swedish Table Tennis Association has for many years been unable to send representatives to the international tournaments, and it was therefore with the greatest expectations that four Swedish players entered for the

national championship in England in 1939.

Let me say at once that these expectations have been more than fulfilled—above all in the way the championship was organised. We had never imagined anything so overwhelming as the use of the Albert Hall and the Wembley Stadium for a table tennis tournament.

One thing struck me from the very first: Table Tennis in England is recognised as a sport in a different way from in Sweden. It is true that in the course of the last year the clubs affiliated to the Swedish Table Tennis Association have increased in number from 89 to 210, but there is still a great deal to be done to give table tennis a real fillip for the public at large.

We also got to know something about English sportsmanship and we found that it went much better with our own national character and temperament to lose with a smile than with agitated gestures like the people of the South. Now when we go home again, we shall stress this more than before, and go in for English manners in sports.

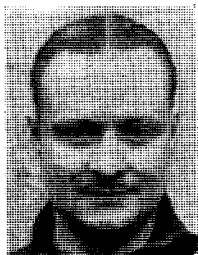
Best of all was the friendliness with which we were received by all the organisations. None of us had been to London before,



and our knowledge of the language was far from perfect. In the face of the kindness and good humour and the real desire to help shown to us by Mr. Pope and Mr. Rose and many others, we felt that we were among friends.

GUNNAR OLLÉN.

### From Jersey . . .



A. J. Le Sueur.

gave his all for his island.

We took part in the tournaments at the Albert Hall, and although suffering from "wind-up" certainly enjoyed playing and watching every game we played, and later those we watched. The matches that I shall always remember are those of Bergmann *v.* Vana and Jean Nicoll *v.* D. Emdin. I all but rolled off my seat with laughter at the clowning of Bellak and Barna, and that alone was worth my crossing to the tournaments.

A. J. LE SUEUR.

## M. A. Symons talks to the BEGINNER

### No. 6—Backhand Play

TO most beginners backhand play is a bogey. They very idea of "playing on the backhand" strikes terror into them—it seems an unnatural and difficult way of playing after using the forehand side of the racket.

The main reason for this is that beginners (and plenty of fairly experienced players) do not stand properly for their stroke. They have played the half-volley—the short push stroke using the backhand side of their racket and standing almost square with the table, they learn the forehand drive for attack, and leave the backhand hit until last because it always seems difficult.

I strongly advise beginners to start early learning some kind of a backhand hit, even if an inaccurate one, and to pay special attention to stance for this stroke which is even more important than for the forehand drive.

#### Stance

STAND in the usual position for receiving service or serving: one pace behind the centre of the end line of the table. Now make a quarter left turn (assuming that you are a right-handed player). This will have the effect of freeing your arm movement for your backhand stroke. Your quarter-turn to the left will get your body out of the way of your arm and prevent that constricted, shoulder-locked feeling which is so disastrous to the development of backhand attack. If the ball comes to hand you will now be in position to make a backhand hit. Swing back your

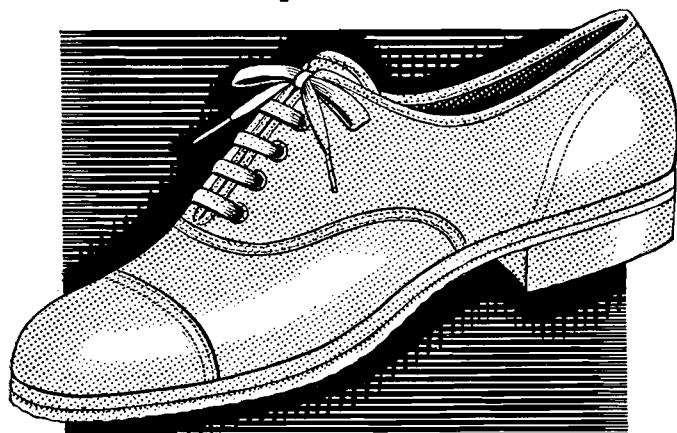
racket arm ready, meet the ball on the rise or at the top of its bounce and let your arm go through with the stroke. For low-bouncing balls (generally cut) you will need top-spin for your shot. This is made by hitting the ball with a forward and upward movement as for forehand top-spin, but the swing back is much shorter. To attack a ball coming wide to your left or right, the foot movements are the reverse of the forehand drive movements, *i.e.*, for a ball wide on the left hand side move your *left* foot over and *vice versa*. You will find with this stance it is easiest to hit the ball diagonally across the table. If you wish to hit the ball straight down the table, swing your body a little more to the left as you make your shot.

The advantage of backhand attack over forehand is that a backhand hit is a quicker shot than forehand. The ball is generally taken earlier and very often the hit is made over the table, from closer in than the forehand. You must be ready to step in close up to the table, otherwise you will miss a chance of making a good hit and will be reduced to poking back the ball into play.

Another advantage of backhand over forehand is that the backhand stroke can be made in front of the body whereas on the forehand this is very difficult and often leads to disaster. This is because the backhand stroke is actually played by stretching the arm *across* the body (which is whenever possible turned towards the left side to give arm freedom) whereas the forehand stroke is played with the arm *away* from the body. If the ball comes straight to your body backhand is the best shot to try—either a half-volley or a backhand flick.

NEXT MONTH: Match-play for the beginner.

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# AROUND the COUNTRY

THE second Altrincham closed championships attracted considerable local interest, and a large number of spectators visited the Y.M.C.A. on finals night.

**ALTRINCHAM** Again, a high standard of play was set throughout the tournament and many of last seasons leading lights fell in the earlier rounds. The Singles title was taken by R. Beddows, who went through the toughest section of the draw with flying colours. Beddows is undefeated in the league programme and is the first Altrincham player to reach the last sixteen of the popular "Evening Chronicle" Tournament.

In gaining the Singles Trophy he lost only one game, when he defeated the holder, D. J. Hullah in a brilliant second round fight. In the Final he had no difficulty in disposing of A. F. Parker (Ross.) 21-15, 21-18.

The Doubles title also changed hands, J. E. Abel and J. C. Byrne (Atlantic) created a

holder, A. L. Rogers in the quarter-finals, and had had a hard fight to overcome L. E. Symons in the semi-finals, winning the final game to deuce. Mitchell beat A. E. Butler (Guild of St. George) by the odd game in the other semi-final.

Ragan claimed another title, when with E. C. Bartlett, he won the Men's Doubles Final from E. H. Fenton and W. Norris. Some of the best play of the evening was seen in the Ladies' Singles Final, when Miss Gwen Scorah (Cricklewood) defeated Miss Dorothy Green (Hendon Municipal Officers') by two games to one. Miss Green also qualified for the Mixed Doubles Final, but with D. G. Rutherford as her partner, she was again on the losing side. J. Owen and Mrs. C. Love (Dollis Hill) proving victors in the third game. Mrs. Wright assisted Mrs. Love to win her second title when they beat the Almora pair Miss W. Newman and Miss I. Starkey by two games to one.

matches, which were played at the Slough Social Centre. Slough proved a little too strong for them, winning the men's match 8-3 (19 games to 12) and the women's match 9-2 (18 games to 5). In the men's match 9 of the 11 events going to three games. J. Pearce (Junior Imps) and R. Price (Halton Command) were Aylesbury's most successful players.

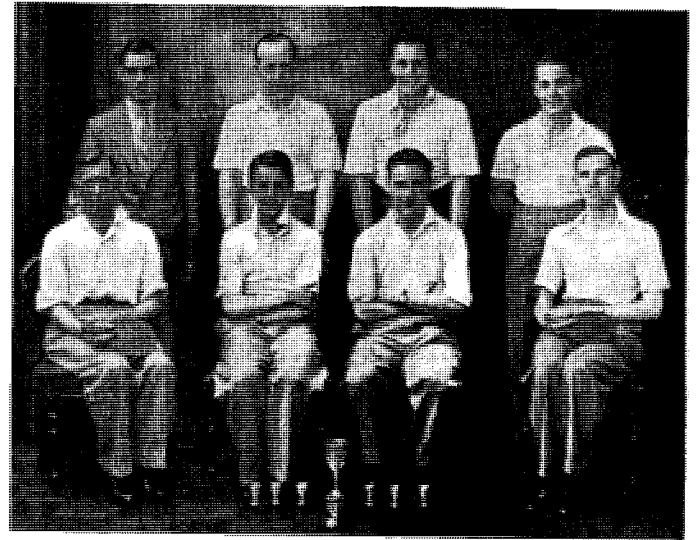
WITH less than a month of the season to go, Western Y.M.C.A. seem assured of the West of Scotland Championship for the second year in succession.

**W. SCOTLAND** They are worthy champions—not only have they proved the most consistent team, but Jack Hillan, their No. 1 man won the Open Singles Championship, beating his team mate Alex. Barclay (a former holder) by three sets to one.

J. Dunnigan (Western Y.M.C.A.) beat I.



We have just learned of an error in the January issue. We printed the above picture of the Swindon representative team—unbeaten in the Western Counties League last season—and described it as "The Central Mission Team, Swindon League Champions." To clear the matter up, here is the Central Mission team, on the right.



surprise when they won through to the final against some strong opposition only to be defeated by A. F. Parker and F. Robinson, 21-14, 21-15.

An excellent entry of 62 Singles and 35 Doubles was ably disposed of by league Chairman Jack Batty, the tournament referee.

In its second season the Altrincham League increased in membership from 8 to 20 teams and a gratifying feature of the present season is the increasing public support of its activities. Arrangements are now in hand for the Mid-Cheshire Open Championships which were unavoidably postponed from October, and a bumper entry is assured.

\* \* \*

**A** RECORD entry of 190 was received for the Willesden League's Closed Championships, which proved a great success. Unfortunately the venue for the Finals had to be changed at the last moment.

**WILLESDEN** However a big crowd was entertained at the Headquarters of the Almora Club.

The Men's Singles once again was full of surprises, the holder and several of the favourites being eliminated in the "play-offs." The title was won by the Cricklewood Captain, Jack Ragan, who beat a club-mate in the Final, C. S. Mitchell, in three straight games. Ragan had previously defeated the

**O**VER 400 seats were sold immediately on issue for the finals of the Barrow Table Tennis League tournament, held on February 4. Barna, Bellak, Vana, and Bergmann gave an exhibition during the evening.

Tournament results were:  
**Men's Handicap Singles:** F. Wood. **Women's Doubles:** Miss Todd and Miss Butterworth. **Mixed Doubles:** Miss E. Keith and E. Rooney. **Women's Singles:** Miss D. Townson. **Men's Doubles:** R. Thomason and J. H. K. Park. **Men's Singles:** T. Craig.

On February 11 Barrow played their first home inter-League match against the Carlisle League, losing heavily 9-1.

\* \* \*

**T**HE First Division championship is still an open issue as, at the moment of writing, there is a possibility of a triple tie.

Hazell's boys seem well set for the championship of Division II., having now completed the double over Y.M.C.A. "A," their nearest rivals.

On Saturday, February 11, Aylesbury visited Slough for their return inter-League

Arthur (Southern Y.M.C.A.) in the Confined Singles by two sets to one. An amusing interlude occurred midway through the final set. Both players became over cautious and started to "Chisel." Immediately the spectators voiced their displeasure in no uncertain manner and the brief interlude of "ping-pong" ceased as quickly as it started.

In the final of the Women's Singles, Miss Betty Simons (Jewish Institute) was so palpably nervous that she fell easy prey to the more experienced Mrs. J. Sinclair (Radnor).

Two competitions introduced for the first time, the Junior Singles, won by C. Savage (Lewis's), and the Men's Doubles, proved very successful. The final of the latter between Amsterdam and Brodie (Jewish Institute) and White and Adam (Paisley Y.M.C.A.) proving one of the highlights of the evening.

West of Scotland Table Tennis "fans" can look forward to seeing a team of English "Cracks" shortly. The probable date for Glasgow is March 27th, and the team may be H. Lurie, K. Hyde, A. A. Haydon and A. Liebster or K. Stanley.

AT the time of going to press, Wembley has an excellent record in the Major Inter-League competitions. The men have reached the last 16 of the WEMBLEY Wilmott Cup, and have high hopes of a win against Oxford to reach the last 8. That position has already been achieved in the Rose Bowl, and the draw for the quarter-finals is being eagerly awaited.

In the Metropolitan Association all now depends on the match between North Middlesex and Surrey. If Surrey lose, Wembley emerge as winners in the first year of this competition. If Surrey win, a play-off will be necessary.

The Wembley Championship entry is bigger than ever, and there promises to be a full house at Lancelot Hall on finals night—March 4th.

WE have now said goodbye to the Wilmott Cup, losing 8-1 at Liverpool. Our set was won by W. T. Moore who beat Peter Rumlahn in straight games.

CHESTER In the League, Moore lost both his sets against St. Pauls, and W. Neild was beaten by E. Patterson, a very improving Y.M.C.A. player.

In the Ladies section Miss M. Stead again beat Miss E. Guest and this seems to make the Ladies' Singles Championship more open.

Our Championships are to be held again at the Broadway Palace, on Friday, March 24th and Monday, March 27th. The date of the Manchester match is not yet fixed, but it is almost certain Lurie will not be available. However, Cohen and Casofsky will probably be present. Club's please note and do their best to sell tickets for this attractive match.

SOUTH London have proceeded into the quarter-finals of both the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl tournaments.

S. LONDON In the Fourth Round of the Wilmott Cup against Dartford, South London introduced F. G. Harrower (Gardens) who acquitted himself very well, winning his three matches. South London were successful by nine games to nil.

Vera Dace was South London's star in the English Championship reaching the semi-finals of the Mixed Doubles with A. Liebster, and were only defeated after a very close struggle against the eventual winners Vana and Vorrubçova. They were actually leading 20-15 in the final game. Better luck next time, Vera!

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. TABLE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Games		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Leek ... ..	6	6	0	0	79	17	12
Stoke-on-Trent	6	5	1	0	68	28	10
Hanley ... ..	6	2	3	1	43	53	5
Crewe ... ..	5	1	3	1	32	58	3
Uttoxeter ...	5	1	4	0	26	54	2
Stafford ... ..	6	1	5	0	24	72	2

Results.—Uttoxeter 7, Hanley 9; Leek 9, Stoke-on-Trent 7; Crewe 11, Stafford 5; Crewe 2, Leek 14; Stoke-on-Trent 14, Uttoxeter 2; Stafford 3, Hanley 13; Stoke-on-Trent 9, Hanley 7; Leek 16, Stafford 0.

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# Betty Blackbourn takes three Dorset titles

EXETER players swept the board at the Fourth Annual Dorset Open Table Tennis Championships at Dorchester on February 11.

R. F. Litten, of Exeter, retained the men's singles title, beating L. R. Suter, also of Exeter, in the best final staged at Dorchester since the inception of the tournament, by 21-16, 21-14, 19-21, 21-15.

Litten showed excellent form throughout the tournament, and his attack was much too forceful for Suter, though the latter's retrieving amazed the large crowd that witnessed the finals.

The women's singles title went to Elizabeth Blackbourn, who in partnership with Joan Brock won the women's doubles, and took the mixed doubles in partnership with Litten.

Kerslake and Tucker (Exeter), who were defending their men's doubles title, were beaten in the second round by Amery and Litten. The latter were beaten in the quarter finals by Grigg and Suter (Exeter), who eventually won the event.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—Semi-Finals: L. R. Suter (Exeter) beat G. Platt (North Bournemouth) 21-23, 21-6, 21-13. R. F.

Litten (Exeter County) beat W. R. Spence (Exeter Emanuel) 21-19, 21-9.

Final: Litten beat Suter 21-16, 21-14, 19-21, 21-15.

Men's Doubles.—Semi-Finals: F. G. Grigg and L. R. Suter (Exeter) beat E. Gilbert and F. Mundy (North Bournemouth) 21-18, 21-18. G. Platt (North Bournemouth) and F. Ridout (Exeter Y.M.) beat C. B. Cashell (North Bournemouth) and R. Illingworth (Parkstone) 21-17, 21-9.

Final: Grigg and Suter beat Platt and Ridout 13-21, 21-13, 21-14.

Women's Singles.—Semi-Finals: Miss B. Macdonald (Exeter St. Stephens) beat Mrs. Perrett (Parkstone) 21-11, 21-15. Miss E. Blackbourn (Exeter County) beat Miss J. Brock (Exeter St. Stephens) 21-15, 21-19.

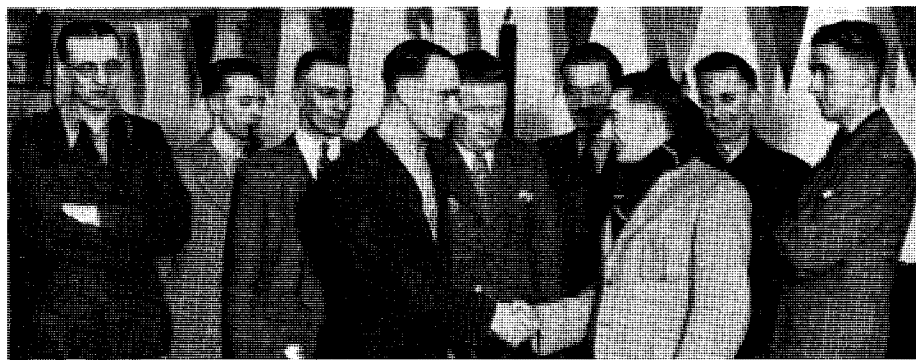
Final: Miss Blackbourn beat Miss Macdonald 21-12, 21-11.

Women's Doubles.—Semi-Finals: Mrs. Perrett and Mrs. Barnett (Parkstone) beat Miss B. Macdonald and Mrs. I. Hunter (Exeter St. Stephens) 21-15, 17-21, 21-15. Miss J. Brock and Miss E. Blackbourn beat Miss D. Pitman (Christchurch) and Miss F. Westmoreland (North Bournemouth) 21-7, 21-18.

Final: Misses Brock and Blackbourn beat Mrs. Perrett and Mrs. Barnett 21-8, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles.—Semi-Finals: Miss E. Blackbourn and R. F. Litten beat Mrs. Perrett (Parkstone) and T. H. Leeson (Weymouth) 21-14, 21-15. Miss J. Osborne and E. Bilbert (North Bournemouth) beat Mrs. I. Hnnter and R. Hollett (Exeter) 21-13, 21-11.

Final: Miss Blackbourn and Litten beat Miss Osborne and Gilbert 21-11, 21-9.



Wilmott Cup, 3rd Round. S. London v. Bristol.

## SWINDON PROGRESS

NO Magic Carpet has drifted our way, no Connolly pen has been steeped in Swindon ink, but quietly and steadily we forge ahead, defeating our illustrious rivals. Still we are unbeaten at the head of the Western Counties League—a proud record we held last season. Bristol beaten 8-5 and 10-3; Cardiff 7-6; Bath 13-0. Ladies: Bristol 9-4 and 10-3; Cardiff 2-11. Friendly matches have resulted as follows: Oxford beaten 21-4; West Wilts 10-3; Bristol Juniors 5-7 and 10-3. Ladies: Oxford 12-13.

In the First Division of the Swindon and District League, Central Hall "A" (champions) are racing neck and neck with Lucania "A," each having lost one match. Their clash at the end of the season will decide the issue. Okus Sports Club are likely winners of Division II., while G.W.R. Athletic "B" and Lucania "B" are fighting out the Third Division championship. In the Ladies' Division Okus Sports Club appear to be impregnable.

The majority of the local championships

have reached the semi-final stage. In the men's singles' quarter finals Ron Webb (holder) is still playing strongly, with E. Snook (former champion), A. Richens, and C. Workman offering a serious challenge. F. Vizor and S. Millard, both of Central Hall, are capable of upsetting calculations. Mrs. N. Ridge, Miss G. Beazley, and Miss C. Jones are all running well for the women's trophy, held for the past two years by the first-named. An innovation this season is the formation of consolation singles for those defeated in the first round.

The following were successful in negotiating the preliminary rounds of the Western Counties League Championships and took part in the finals at Bath on February 25: Men's Singles: J. Silto and F. Vizor. Women's Singles: Mrs. N. Ridge and Miss G. Beazley. Men's Doubles: J. Silto and C. Workman; R. W. May and L. Joy. Mixed Doubles: J. Silto and Miss C. Jones; E. Rushen and Miss G. Beazley.

D. A. KETHERO.



# LURIE DEFEATS HYDE IN CHESHIRE 'OPEN' In the Near Future...

THE entries for the Open Cheshire Championship, which reached the limit of 220 entries, and the list was then closed. The tournament committee decided to restrict the entry owing to the limited amount of playing accommodation, as they did not wish to spoil what has become the most sociable tournament in the North, and was again held at the Y.M.C.A., Manor Road, Wallasey.

H. Lurie at last turned the tables on Ken Hyde when he won the men's singles, after a hard and very close four-game match. For the third year in succession Miss Diana Newey, of Birmingham, won the women's singles, beating Miss Nora Norrish, of Liverpool. The mixed title changed hands when the holders, J. K. Hyde and Miss D. Newey, were beaten by Peter Rumjahn and Miss Edie Malley. Hyde and Lurie resumed the partnership that won them the Welsh Open, and were much too strong for Cohen and Casofsky. They must surely be considered as the strongest combination in the country at the present time, and should an English "Closed"

Championship materialise it will be interesting to see who can beat them.

RESULTS

**Men's Singles.—Semi-Final:** Hyde beat Cohen 21-17, 21-13. Lurie beat Casofsky 21-17, 21-14.  
**Final:** Lurie beat Hyde 21-15, 21-18, 15-21, 21-15.  
**Women's Singles:** Miss Newey beat Miss Norrish 13-21, 21-19, 21-13.  
**Men's Doubles:** Hyde and Lurie beat Cohen and Casofsky 21-14, 21-13.  
**Women's Doubles:** Misses Norrish and Malley beat Miss Robinson and Mrs. Lloyd 21-12, 21-12.  
**Mixed Doubles:** P. U. Rumjahn and Miss Malley beat Hyde and Miss Newey 21-14, 12-21, 21-17.  
**Men's Consolation:** F. B. Knott beat C. Evans 21-16, 21-19.  
**Women's Consolation:** Miss E. Campbell beat Miss N. Foulis 21-13, 21-10.

W. STAMP.

## ROSE BOWL

### Draw for the Fourth Round

Liverpool or Birmingham v. London.  
 St. Albans v. Wembley.  
 Grimsby v. Spalding.  
 Exeter v. South London.

### Tournament Dates

#### MARCH

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

#### APRIL

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

### The Scarborough Open Table Tennis Tournament in the

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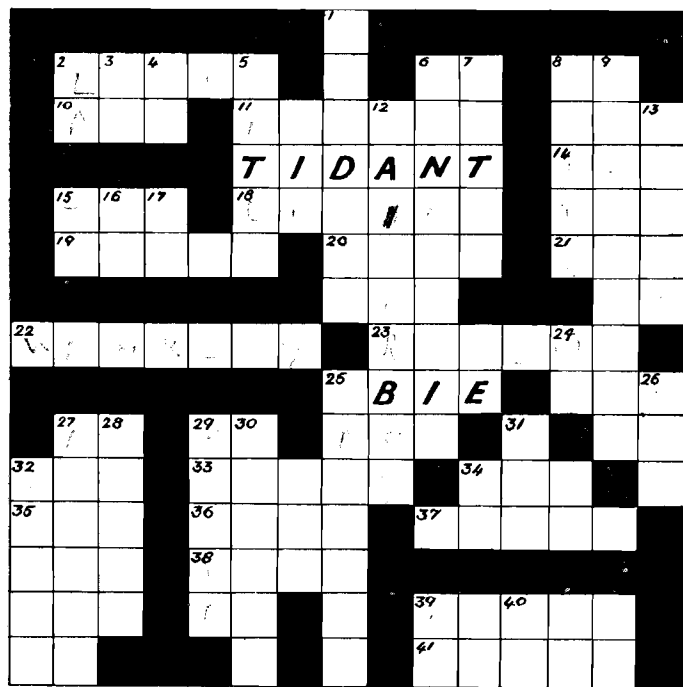
Entry forms from—

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SET BY W. HUMPHREYS, (Chairman, Wigan League)

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 "Crosswords," 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. I. Browne of Grimsby.

#### CLUES

- ACROSS**
- A bewitching exponent.
  - South Africa (abbrev.).
  - Motoring organisation.
  - the stars.
  - The good captain does with young player.
  - Accept from coach.
  - Worn by judges.
  - Not before.
  - Winglike.
  - Female.
  - Championship venue.
  - Kingly.
  - Defence and attack.
  - Disappointed loser registers.
  - Deer! Deer!
  - Barna to his fans.
  - He collects trophies on merit.
  - Antic.
  - Lady M.P.
  - Member of the Executive.
- DOWN**
- Yorkshire player. Not soft.
  - Fie.
  - Usually 21.
  - Again.
  - With competitions.
  - Learned in clan genealogy.
  - Flower.
  - Poor sportsman's comments.
  - Solvent of alchemists.
  - Internationals may be called.
  - Stop your opponent.
  - Christian name (slang).
  - Shades of Kipling.
  - T.T. is this (abbrev.)
  - You and me.
  - Measures of perspiration.
  - Accomplished.
  - Loves the game.
  - Changes direction.
  - A stylist.
  - Too unhealthy for T.T. players.
  - The peak.
  - Veil.
  - You and me.
  - A grand game.

Solution to last month's puzzle.



### LANCS. MINOR LEAGUES

#### League Table

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	%
Bolton and District ..	7	6	1	42	21	85.7
Stockport ..	6	5	1	40	14	83.3
Bolton S.S. ..	6	5	1	35	19	83.3
Preston ..	5	4	1	32	13	80
Ashton ..	6	3	3	27	27	50
Southport ..	4	2	2	18	18	50
Blackpool ..	6	3	3	25	29	50
Nelson ..	6	2	4	23	31	33.3
Wigan ..	4	1	3	8	28	25
Reddish ..	5	1	4	14	31	20
Urmston ..	7	1	6	21	42	14.2
Bury ..	4	0	4	12	24	—

### THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION

#### LEAGUE TABLE TO FEBRUARY 2ND

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Wembley ..	7	4	2	1	32	24	10
Surrey ..	6	3	2	1	30	18	8
North Middlesex ..	7	4	0	3	29	27	8
Woolwich ..	7	3	1	3	30	26	7
Bromley ..	7	0	1	6	15	41	1

RESULTS.—Woolwich beat Bromley 7 games to 1; North Middlesex beat Wembley 5 games to 3. The outstanding matches to complete fixture list are Surrey v. Bromley, North Middlesex v. Surrey, and Wembley v. Woolwich.

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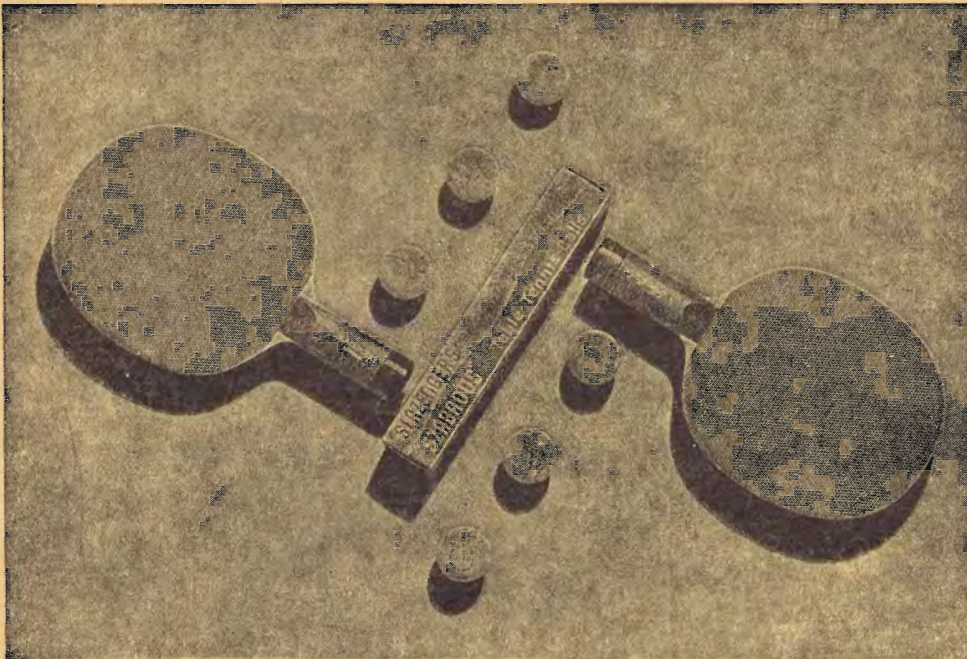
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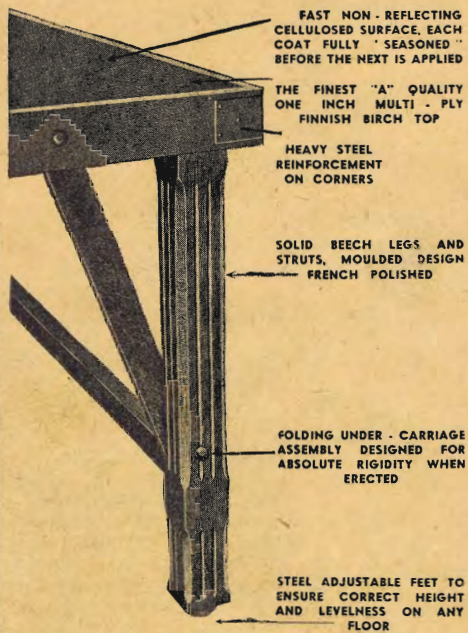


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