

TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH
TENNIS



TABLE
ASSOCIATION

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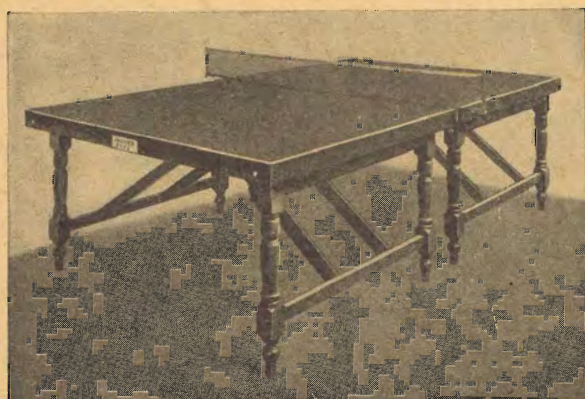
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No 8

MAY, 1939

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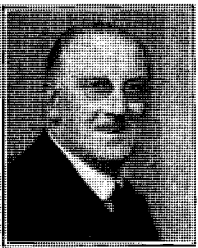
E · T · T · A

VOLUME IV. No. 8

MAY, 1939

THREE PENCE

FAREWELL to 1938-39



Mr. H. Oldroyd

THE publication of the last magazine of the season and the Annual Meeting of the E.T.T.A. on the same day signify all too surely the passing of the present season. Spring is here, and already it is rather warm for playing indoor games. To be sure, there are many who will put up with this discomfort and follow M. A. Symons' hints for summer practice, but most of us are ready to stop chatting Over the Net; to cease for a time wandering Around the Country—on Magic Carpets or otherwise—playing in tournaments, Wilmott Cup, Rose Bowl, County Championships, Inter-leagues and "friendlies" (though are we not always friendly?); even J. W. A. Connolly yearns to close his weary eyes and rest awhile from Looking Around.



Hon. I. Montagu

NOW we lay down our bats and look back on the past season and what it has meant to us.

An increase of twenty-five Leagues, ten thousand members and perhaps £100 in affiliation fees, says Treasurer Vint.

A huge development of the work at Headquarters in dealing with business organisations—printing, advertising, providing spectacle, co-operating in the National Fitness Campaign—which cannot be measured in terms of the growth in membership of the Association, says Secretary Pope.

Our leading men maintaining the standard they reached last year and new players, both men and women, putting in an appearance who are full of promise, the girls particularly showing signs of producing talent that may even mean world titles at no distant date, says Chairman Montagu.

One more season of continued progress, of hard work by a happy and enthusiastic band of officials and of keen and enjoyable play by many thousands all over the country; I am as proud as ever to be associated with this grand sport, says President Oldroyd.



Mr. W. J. Pope

SO till next season, we bid you adieu. We hope the magazine will be coming into every Table Tennis home at the beginning of October, when we trust we shall have the continued support of those generous contributors who have helped us so much in the past.



Mr. A. K. Vint

TABLE TENNIS

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FINAL STAGES OF THE WILMOTT CUP

THE semi-finals and final of the Wilmott Cup Competition were staged at Bristol on April 22.

London beat Bristol in the first semi-final by the comfortable margin of five games to one, Baron's loss to Dawes being the only London defeat.

Manchester beat Liverpool by the same margin. Stanley was playing better than ever before in this match and only lost to Hyde very narrowly. Cohen also played well, there being an absence of the weak patches which so often mar his game.

In the final, Rosen gave London a good start by defeating A. Stanley, who was a little below his peak form in the earlier match. After this, however, Manchester went quickly ahead, and took all the remaining games—even though they might have been excused had they lost the last three sets, played in a less keenly competitive spirit after the match had been won.

RESULTS

SEMI-FINALS

London beat Bristol 5-1.
 Rosen beat Dawes 21-18, 21-8, beat Shipton 21-9, 21-9.
 Baron beat Symons 21-19, 21-15, lost to Dawes 12-21, 10-21.
 Phillips beat Shipton 18-21, 21-17, 21-13, beat Symons 21-16, 17-21, 21-11.
Manchester beat Liverpool 5-1.
 Stanley lost to Hyde 20-22, 17-21, beat P. Rumjahn 21-15, 17-21, 21-10.
 Cohen beat P. Rumjahn 21-13, 21-15, beat E. Rumjahn 21-15, 21-15.
 Lurie beat E. Rumjahn 21-16, 17-21, 21-14, beat Hyde 21-15, 19-21, 21-19.

FINAL

Manchester beat London 8-1.
 Stanley lost to Rosen 17-21, 18-21, beat Baron 21-11, 21-18, beat Phillips 21-19, 21-14.
 Cohen beat Baron 21-15, 21-17, beat Phillips 21-19, 21-12, beat Rosen 25-23, 16-21, 21-15.
 Lurie beat Phillips 21-11, 21-19, beat Rosen 21-17, 21-14, beat Baron 21-17, 22-20.

ENGLAND v. WALES

England beat Wales by 7 matches to 2 in the Women's International at Birmingham on April 22.

RESULTS

(English players first)

Miss Blackburn beat Miss Jenkins 21-9, 21-8.
 Mrs. Collier beat Miss Rees 21-8, 21-6.
 Mrs. Roy Evans beat Miss Emdin 21-16, 21-19.
 Miss Dace beat Mrs. Day 21-13, 21-19.
 Miss Steventon beat Mrs. Richards 21-6, 21-8.
 Miss Hodgkinson beat Miss Morgan 21-12, 21-14.
Doubles—
 Miss Emdin and Mrs. Carrington lost to Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Day; Miss Dace and Miss Blackburn beat Miss Acreman and Miss Adams. Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Steventon beat Mrs. Richards and Miss Jenkins.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP, 1938/9

MEN'S SECTIONS				
NORTHERN SECTION				
	Plyd.	Won	Lost	Pts.
Yorkshire	2	2	0	4
Durham	2	1	1	2
Northumberland ..	2	0	2	0
MIDLAND SECTION				
Warwickshire ..	4	4	0	8
Nottinghamshire ..	4	3	1	6
Lincolnshire ..	4	2	2	4
Derbyshire ..	4	1	3	2
Cambridgeshire ..	4	0	4	0
WOMEN'S SECTION				
Warwickshire ..	3	3	0	6
Lincolnshire ..	3	2	1	4
Yorkshire ..	3	1	2	2
Northumberland ..	3	0	3	0

The play-off between Winners of Northern and Midland Sections will take place at Matlock Town Hall on May 6th.

MEN'S SECTIONS

Yorkshire 5, Durham 4.
Lincolnshire 6, Derbyshire 3.
Warwickshire 6, Cambridgeshire 3.
Cambridgeshire 3, Lincolnshire 6.
Warwickshire 9, Nottinghamshire 0.
Northumberland 0, Yorkshire 9.
Derbyshire 2, Warwickshire 7.
Durham 9, Northumberland 0.
Nottinghamshire 9, Derbyshire 0.
Lincolnshire 3, Warwickshire 6.
Cambridgeshire 3, Nottinghamshire 6.
Derbyshire 5, Cambridgeshire 4.
Nottinghamshire 6, Lincolnshire 3.

WOMEN'S SECTION

Yorkshire 8, Northumberland 1.
Lincolnshire 4, Warwickshire 5.
Northumberland 0, Lincolnshire 9.
Warwickshire 7, Yorkshire 2.
Northumberland 2, Warwickshire 7.
Lincolnshire 5, Yorkshire 4.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

SWAYTHLING CUP RESULT

1. CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. 2. JUGOSLAVIA.
 3. ENGLAND.

CORBILLON CUP RESULT

1. GERMANY. 2. CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

SUMMARY OF ENGLAND'S SWAYTHLING CUP MATCHES

v. ROUMANIA.—Hyde beat Eros, beat Vladone. Lurie beat Eros, beat Naunescu. Bublely beat Vladone.

v. YUGOSLAVIA.—Hyde lost to Marinko, lost to Heksner, lost to Haragozo. Lurie beat Marinko, Heksner, Haragozo. Bublely lost to Heksner, Haragozo.

v. GREECE.—Hyde beat Leventis, beat Kelaidis. Bublely beat Paleologue, beat Kelaidis. Stanley beat Leventis, lost to Paleologue.

v. INDIA.—Lurie beat Kapadia, beat Ghosh. Bublely beat Kapadia, beat Bhasin. Stanley beat Bhasin.

v. LITHUANIA.—Hyde beat Variakojis, beat Nikolskis. Lurie beat Dzindziliauskis, beat Nikolskis. Bublely lost to Variakojis, beat Dzindziliauskis.

v. CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—Hyde beat Vana, lost to Tereba. Lurie lost to Tereba, lost to Haner. Bublely lost to Vana, lost to Haner.

v. LUXEMBOURG.—Hyde beat Tartacower. Bublely beat Schlafenberg, beat Tartacower. Stanley beat Schlafenberg.

v. FRANCE.—Lurie beat Bedoc, beat Guerin. Bublely beat Haguenauser, lost to Bedoc. Stanley beat Haguenauser, beat Guerin.

v. EGYPT.—Hyde beat Georgoura, beat Abu Heif, beat Helal. Lurie lost to Georgoura, lost to Helal. Bublely beat Abu Heif, beat Helal.

v. PALESTINE.—Hyde beat Finkelstein. Lurie beat Weissfish, beat Finkelstein. Bublely beat Weissfish, beat Igel.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I notice the growing feeling as regards affiliation fees for teams, not Clubs, but I would really like to give another side of the question.

It is all very well for some of the leagues, both small and large, but their greater financial resources through the various Insurance Clubs, Tennis Clubs and big works Clubs, the latter supported by the works itself, make the proposed extra charges nothing to them.

I represent an Association of 88 teams composed of 54 works' teams, 28 Church teams and 6 social teams. The Social Clubs are self-supporting, but the Church Clubs have the time of their lives getting sufficient subscriptions together to pay their entry fees to the Association.

One particular Church club has to pay for every bit of lighting used and its members are composed of young boys to whom every penny is valuable. In three cases of this kind the secretary himself is footing the bill, even including the affiliation fee. Another Club of young boys rely entirely on bicycles for away matches, bus and tram fares would kill the Club. The players are all keen, only last night one young enthusiast walking two and a half miles to play a knock-out match immediately after he arrived at his destination.

I am not, I hope, giving the impression that we are in a terrible financial condition. We are not and never have been in debt, but we have to make some mighty efforts to pay for the fares of our players in inter-league matches. Unfortunately, home "gates" are very very poor, the feeling being that players would rather play even practice matches than watch inter-league players. I agree with them there. But that doesn't help us officials to make money.

All this is only to show that any extra money demanded from such an Association as ours

would of necessity result in our resigning our affiliation.

The E.T.T.A. might find this happen in a number of cases and consequently lose on the whole affair rather than gain.

I agree that England should take part in these international tournaments and also do her share of entertaining from a prestige point of view, but what possible way could one show say our bottom club of our bottom division and explain to them that they should shell out more money to support some international player from another league.

There must be quite a number of un-affiliated leagues. We were unaffiliated during our first season, and for the life of me I cannot see in what way we are better off for affiliation. Our rules remain the same, our play is, has, and always will steadily improve. Affiliation suits the Associations with the better players, but from a playing point of view we are swamped by our neighbours, Birmingham. Why do we affiliate then? Purely from a prestige point of view. Without affiliation we should be pounds better off each year, financially, as we should be debarred from playing Worcester, Gloucester, Coventry, Birmingham, etc., and it is these matches, together with the affiliation fee, that keep the officials at it every night, thinking out ways of doing this or that at its cheapest.

That's my point of view personally, not my Association's opinion necessarily. One question. If for instance, all the leading Midland Associations became unaffiliated and played among themselves as they are now doing, would the Associations lose anything by it? The E.T.T.A. certainly would.

Yours truly,

A. A. WALL, Hon. Secretary.
 West Bromwich District T.T.A.

World Championships Reviewed

Reflections on our Swaythling Cup efforts

ONCE the Cairo World Championships were over and we were released from the strain of continual play, watching, and conferences, we felt we were entitled to a little relaxation, and the last mail home to reach the Magazine in time for the April issue came upon us before we were really prepared to give a satisfactory account of our deeds, and the bare notes which were published last month did rather less than justice to the efforts of our players.

Now we have come home, and we can sit down to think of what we did—and what we failed to do—the successes which we forgot in the disappointment of the defeats assume their true proportions.

* * *

THE SWAYTHLING CUP

WHEN we started our Swaythling Cup matches by playing Rumania the day after our arrival at Cairo, we were delighted to find that, in spite of the trials of the voyage and the short period they had had for getting acclimatised, Bublely, Lurie and Hyde were in such good form that they won all their matches without letting any opponent get nearer to them than 21-18 in any game. We left the hall full of confidence for our next match against the difficult-to-beat Jugo-Slav team.

But in the afternoon only Lurie could produce the brilliant form of the morning's play. As the scores show, both Bublely and Hyde could not maintain their concentration at the end of each match. Bublely lost to Heksner 21-19, 19-21, 20-22 and to Harangozo 21-13, 17-21, 19-21, and Hyde especially losing to Harangozo in the vital eighth set 21-15, 17-21, 19-21. All of us felt sorry for Hyde and Bublely, who were obviously now feeling the reaction of the journey. Lurie played brilliantly—probably better than ever before in his career.

* * *

STANLEY PLAYS WELL

GREECE in the evening provided Stanley with his first Swaythling Cup match. He played very well—full of confidence and quite up to the standard we expected from his play in England.

Next morning India provided another easy victory, although Lurie had a hard battle against Ghosh. Stanley played again and won the one match he was called upon to play.

* * *

A PLEASANT BREAK

IN the afternoon there was a break from play, and all the teams and officials were taken by boat up the Nile to the barrage which provides the Nile delta with water for irrigation. Whilst the party was there, the King and Queen and the Prince of Iran arrived on a similar visit, and provided a wonderful spectacle.

Lithuania in the evening proved further easy victims, although Bublely again was not in his best form and lost to their No. 1 player, Variakojis. How we wished we had the Manhattan supporters with us to give vocal encouragement at the crucial moments.

* * *

OUR SECOND DEFEAT

NEXT morning we met Czecho-Slovakia, and Bublely seemed to have recovered his best form when playing Vana. You will remember Lurie's endurance feat against Hamr, which was described in last month's magazine, and how Hyde beat Vana to give us our only set of the match!

In the afternoon we played two matches—against Luxembourg and France. Luxembourg were easily defeated, but France provided sterner opposition. Stanley played in both these matches and won all his games. Our only loss was Bublely to Bedoc.

* * *

THRILLS FOR THE CROWD

ENGLAND'S match against Egypt had been "saved up" as a star event for the last evening of the Swaythling Cup, and drew the biggest crowd to the tournament.

For the first time Lurie fell below the high standard he had maintained throughout the tournament. He lost both his sets (much to the Egyptian crowd's delight), but fortunately Bublely and Hyde, both playing very well indeed, made no mistake and carried us through to a 5-2 victory.

Palestine provided another 5-0 victory, Finkelstein, their star player, losing easily to Hyde and Lurie.

* * *

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

AS regards the Individual Championships, there is little to add to what was said last month beyond saying that last month's account did scant justice to Bublely's match with Haguenaer. The scores were extremely close and show the keenness of the play.

* * *

CONCLUSIONS

WE all came to the conclusion that next year the progress which England is making, coupled with the lower standard of play shown by these Championships to exist throughout the world, should see us in a position to win the Swaythling Cup. We also feel, after watching the women's teams in action at Cairo, that our young women players should also stand a great chance of winning the Corbillon Cup. In both cases, however, this depends on our players cutting out exhibition play for this year and getting down to really serious and concentrated match practice.

* * *

TRAVELLING

ON the way out we experienced a nasty swell on the English Channel, the brave ones sat on deck, the not-so-brave went to sleep in their bunks. Later on the formerly-brave tottered below, and the others, much refreshed, emerged happily on deck. Only Bublely was sick, and this was the more unfortunate because such things are always less unhappy if you have a companion in distress.

We were welcomed in Paris by the French Association, and the President expressed his happiness that the English and French teams should be able to travel on to Cairo together.

* * *

PHYSICAL JERKS

ON board ship, physical jerks were ordered for the team, but after Lurie and Hyde had retired to their cabins (whether with the effects of the exercise or of the motion of the boat we know not) these had to be abandoned.

We were fortunate to pass the volcano Stromboli at a time when it was in eruption, but otherwise the voyage was uneventful, although we played tournaments in chess (won by Barna), shuffleboard (won by Wilmott) and deck tennis (which resolved itself into a struggle between Wilmott and Barna which was never really decided).



World Championships Reviewed—contd. from p. 3

WELCOME TO CAIRO

IN Cairo the party received an enthusiastic welcome from the Egyptian Federation, and bouquets of flowers were presented. The team was eager for practice, and immediately set about finding a table and balls, which didn't take long.

Meanwhile, some of us went down to see the Agricultural Palace. We were amazed at the perfect conditions provided. Special wooden floors had been built for each court, whilst the centre court had banked seating for 2,000, with beautiful carpeting between the court and the seats. The lighting provided—a replica of that used in this country—was all that could be desired, and as readers probably know, the tables had been specially brought from England. We must express our gratitude to the Egyptian people for their unsparing efforts to provide the best in everything, and for their unfailing hospitality to all of our party.

* * *

THE KING AND QUEEN

THE play was seen by both the King and the Queen of Egypt. The women players of all the countries present were presented to the Queen when she attended an afternoon session specially arranged at the Opera House, and the King was quite obviously thrilled with the play he saw in the finals of the Individual events—so thrilled that we understand he has offered a trophy for annual International competition on the knock-out principle.

And we should perhaps mention that this year was the first occasion on which World Table Tennis Championships have been watched by a reigning monarch.

J. M. R.

A Suggestion

YOU have seen Elliman's Athletic Rub advertised in our columns for a long time. Recently the proprietors have introduced a new small package, at sixpence. As table tennis players usually carry only a small attaché case to matches, the new pack should prove very handy. You can easily slip it into your kit bag for use before or after a match—try it!

Our World Championship Team on Camels near the Pyramids

During the Summer

THE magazine is not published during the summer, but we hope that you won't forget about it altogether. We should like to hear *as soon as possible* of any changes in the method of play which may be decided upon during the close season—or of any other important developments in your League.

League Secretaries, now that perhaps they have a few seconds to spare, should consider whether they can suggest improvements to our magazine. Whether or not they can do this, we hope they will spend a little thought on increasing our circulation, for unless the circulation increases, it seems scarcely worth while that the constant effort which is put into producing it should continue to be expended.

And when you search through your minute books in preparation for your annual report, if you come across a knotty problem which worried the committee, think of Problem Corner, which we propose to resume next season.

THE DOUBLES GAME

by A. STEVENS

THE object of the Table Tennis Rules is to give opponents equal opportunity—change of service every five points, change of ends each game, and change at score ten in the deciding game, being examples. In Doubles it is more difficult, but it is not generally realised that the position of the *striker-out* is the most vital factor. Where one player is very strong, or in Mixed Doubles where the man has a particularly heavy chop, an ingenious service, or a devastating "kill," it must be remembered that it is the position of the opponent as "receiver" that is conclusive. Therefore, we see in Doubles players trying to place so that one is in the most advantageous position.

The Rules have been framed to deal with this but their wording is not clear. Most of the Doubles rules are the same as Singles, and the following represents, I think, the exact position:—

1. The pair who win the toss have the right to serve or be strikers-out. The pair who serve shall decide which partner shall do so and the opposing pair shall **then** decide which of their pair shall be striker-out.
2. The pair who served first in the first game shall be strikers-out first in the immediately subsequent game and so on until the end of the match. The players who started at one end shall start at the other end in the immediately subsequent game. In the deciding game where the match consists of more than one game, or where the match is only one game, the players shall change ends at the score 10, and the pair

who served the first five services (in the first game) have the right to alter their order of striking out or that of their opponents.

3. The pair who serve the first five services in any game shall decide which partner shall do so and the opposing pair shall **then** decide similarly which shall be the striker-out.

It would seem that the Rules were designed to give opportunity for initiative, as it is possible to arrange your order of play, but there seems to be a mistaken idea that automatically in the second game the *order of play* is reversed whereas it is only the *right to service and ends* that are reversed, as explained in point 3 above.

It has always puzzled me why the "experts," when winning the toss, often give away service. It seems to me more advantageous to take service, giving your opponents the *right to place the striker-out in the first game*, as, should you lose badly in this game you would have the opportunity of changing the order of play in the second game. If, on the other hand, you give the service in the first game to your opponents and they win with a good margin they will have the choice and will naturally choose to play in the same order in the second game, and in a three game match the chances are they will win in two straight games. Should you manage to win the second game under these conditions you will be faced with the same difficulty at the score 10 in the third game when *your opponents will have the right* to change the order of play (because they were servers in the first game) for the final ten points. Every player entering a Doubles Tournament should understand these Rules, as so much depends on arranging the order of *receiving*.

OVER THE NET



IF Ernest Bubley, table tennis's violin virtuoso, ever decides on a change of job, he has only, I am credibly informed, to change into his playing shorts and wear a fez to qualify at once as an Egyptian guide.

It is said that the way he looked the part during the World Championships in Egypt was nothing short of extraordinary.

During our match with Egypt, he was mistaken, after his first match, for an Egyptian, and a spectator asked him if he had won.

"Yes," he replied, adding with due modesty, "Just about."

"What!" he said, "you beat Bubley?"

* * *

IT is also suggested that he should have cards printed, "Official Humorist to the E.T.T.A." And certainly, since the day he first staggered officialdom by marching unknown and unheralded into the Association offices and announcing that he was going to play for England, he has won everybody to him, both as player and jester.

In Egypt, Bubley and his violin were the world's sweethearts. He played it everywhere, and was always in demand to keep up the spirits of the nation.

The players all stayed at the same hotel, and coaches were supplied to travel to and fro from the Royal Palace of Agriculture, where most of the play took place. Everyone waited for Bubley to get into a coach, and then there was a fight to get in with him.

The driver would then refuse to move, as the vehicle was overloaded, leaving the other coaches practically empty.

Usually the deadlock was ended by persuading Ernie to move to another coach, and preventing people from getting out with him once the load had been reduced to the proper number in the coach that he had first chosen.

* * *

Bubley was seasick on the first day out on the Mediterranean, and thereafter insisted on sitting in the exact middle of the boat, having been told the boat rocked least there.

I gather that no amount of persuading, nor of bitter experience, could tear him away from this pleasing theory. His only reaction was that he couldn't have worked out the centre accurately, and it was with difficulty that he was restrained from borrowing the ship's instruments to do it.

* * *

A. J. WILMOTT, the veteran English international, and donor of the Wilmott Cup, was with the team as usual.

I think he has been to every World Championship since they began.

He spent his spare time investigating the flora and fauna of the neighbourhood, and thereby hangs a tale.

The curator of the Cairo Museum had for years been trying to find a particular kind of small sand bug, of which only one specimen had apparently previously been preserved. Wilmott took this fellow



Mr. and Mrs. Hibbins, of Sheffield

out into the desert by car, and pointing up a rather steep slope said: "There should be a cave up there, where you'll find what we want. But it's too much of a climb for me."

His companion went, and collected eighteen specimens of the species he had looked for unsuccessfully so long. Wilmott had worked it all out from the accounts of the expedition on which the insects had been found before.

His share of the "bag" travelled home, complete with a little of their native sand, and were still alive when last heard of.

* * *

Wilmott also figured in an heroic light as a "life-saver," when Bubley, pestered by tiny, and not scrupulously clean, Egyptian urchins for tips, brought Wilmott to his unwilling rescue.

"Go to Uncle Willie," he exhorted the kids. "He's got all the money."

The sight as the mercenary horde clambered all over our revered cup-donor must have been excruciating. But he and Bubley have made it all up now.

* * *

WE hear from America that Morris Bassford, President of the U.S.T.T.A. last season, has given up the post. The job corresponds to that of General Secretary over here, and in this

capacity and previously as delegate to the International Federation and non-playing captain of the U.S.A. team at the world championships in London, Morris Bassford did much to put Anglo-U.S.A. relations back on their present harmonious level.

* * *

We sometimes grumble here about the difficulty of getting an executive together, but America's difficulties in this respect are much greater. National championships afford executives about their only chance of the year to get together. This leads to complete lack of sleep for three days, as after playing sessions the "talk feasts" begin and continue until it is time to shave, breakfast, and go to the next day's play.

The entry for the U.S.A. championships also says much for enthusiasm of players—there were 69 men and 42 women competitors this year at Toledo, chosen because it is halfway between New York and Chicago, and therefore the geographical centre of table tennis in the U.S.A.

This entry is larger than that for the English championships at Blackpool in 1938—and there were a good many more than four foreigners at Blackpool.

* * *

IT is not often that a man and his wife gain representative honours in the same sport in the same season, but this has been done by R. A. Hibbins and Mrs. Hibbins, of the Brook House T.T.C., Sheffield.

They are captains of their respective teams, and during the past season have both qualified for League badges, awarded for three appearances in representative matches.

* * *

BY the time you read this, important changes in the payment of affiliation fees may have been passed by the E.T.T.A.

The Executive have formulated proposals for affiliation fees based upon the number of League teams run by each club, for alteration in the status of County Associations, and for Regional representation on the Executive.

It is felt that their adoption would remove a number of difficulties which have been felt with increasing force in the last few seasons.

They suggest that the club affiliation be raised from 3/6d. to 4/6d. per club, sixpence being rebated to County Associations, where they exist.

LIEBSTER'S AMAZING DISPLAY

Beats Barna, Bergmann to Win N. of England Open

THE North of England Open Championships, postponed from January, were played on Saturday, April 1, at Belle Vue, Manchester, and provided a brilliant climax to the season in the North. Arrangements had been made to link up with the final rounds of the



A. Liebster

popular *Manchester Evening Chronicle* Tournament, and during the day Barna, Bergmann, Liebster, and Boros, besides competing in the Northern events, also took part in an International Invitation Tournament organised by Allied Newspapers, Ltd., Manchester.

The outstanding feature of the play was the wonderful performance of Alfred Liebster, who in successive rounds of the North of England Men's Singles event accounted for B. Casofsky, Viktor Barna, Hyman Lurie, and Richard Bergmann in the final.

DURING the earlier rounds, there were few surprises, although it was anticipated that Casofsky would have put up a better show against Liebster, but the ex-Austrian Captain found no difficulty in winning in straight games. Hyde beat Freddy Cromwell to reach the quarter-finals, only to succumb to an inspired Boros who half-volleyed all the Englishman's hard forehand drives, to win his points by outpositioning the Liverpool boy in a comfortable manner. Lurie ousted Leslie Cohen, and Stanley went out to Bergmann, although he was unlucky not to secure a game. Then came Barna's defeat by Liebster. There was little to choose between the players, Barna leading all the way in both games, but unable to hold it against Liebster's crafty mixture of attack and defence. This left Liebster in the semi-final, where he made no mistake against Lurie, who played quite well but seemed to lack "bite." With Bergmann smashing Boros off the table, these two Austrian boys met in the final.

It was obvious in the first two games that we were being treated to Bergmann in world championship vein, for with his newly acquired forehand attack and brilliant defence, he had no difficulty in outmanoeuvring Liebster's desperate attempts at positional play combined with judicious use of the half-volley. Then in the third game, Liebster seemed to wake up, and Bergmann found his smashes returned from amazing distances. Nothing like this had been seen from Liebster for years. Having exhausted Bergmann's patience, he now proceeded to attack to such purpose that even Bergmann's "ægis" wasn't sufficient to stem the flow of forcing drives.

Liebster won the third and fourth, and riding on the crest of his wave, went to 19-16 with Bergmann trying a little "pushing." But pushing wasn't enough, for Liebster took it calmly and, with Bergmann despairing, left it to the World Champion to push two off the table, to give Liebster his first North of England title.

THE Women's Singles attracted a record entry of 50, the chief feature being the splendid play of Miss Eileen Ward, Grimsby. This is the third title which she has won

by Mrs. D. L. BUNBURY

and JACK BATTY

in recent months, and she shows greatly improved form since the trials. The final was a most enjoyable game, with both Miss Ward and Rene Bracewell of Blackpool exhibiting a variety of strokes. Miss Ward's success was undoubtedly due to superior footwork, and she also has a great advantage with her reach. She is definitely a player to watch.

Miss Bracewell played well all the afternoon—she is not temperamental and can always be relied on to put up a good show. Betty Steventon was slower than usual, although this might have been due to a healing leg injury. She was better in doubles than in the singles, and combined well with Elizabeth Blackburn. It was very interesting to see the little Exeter girl on her first trip Northwards, as here we have a future star. She was not quite on form, and Miss Ward never allowed her to settle to play her own game, but the material is there.

We were expecting something outstanding from Mrs. Stead of Bradford, but she failed to strike her true form. Possibly she is feeling the strain of a very heavy season—her first big season—and we shall expect to see a much improved player next time. Her rise to the top has been phenomenal.

A WORD of praise must be given to the Manchester pair who got to the final of the Women's Doubles. Miss Campbell—surely the most indefatigable enthusiast Table Tennis ever had—and Miss Worsley play an excellent game together. They are both difficult to beat and delightful to watch. Altogether, the Women's game was well above the usual standard, and it greatly pleased the members of the E.T.T.A. selection committee who were present.

Lurie and Hyde confirmed that they are certainly the best doubles pair in the country, for they accounted for Bergmann and Stanley in the final, after beating Casofsky and Leslie Cohen in the semi-final. Barna and Davies, as holders, were unable to hold Bergmann and Stanley, and they went out in the other semi-final.

Barna had some consolation when he defeated Boros in the Invitation Tournament Final, whilst H. Cohen, of Grove House, at the fourth attempt took the *Evening*

Chronicle Singles and the Cup back home—his brother, A. Cohen, won it last year.

Some word of thanks must be given to all those who helped in the organisation. Officials from Bury, Stockport, Ashton, and Bolton did yeoman service in the multifarious jobs of umpiring, etc., and Table Tennis owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. W.



By courtesy of Allied Newspapers Ltd.
Lady Helen Berry presenting trophies at Belle Vue

Fouldes, of Allied Newspapers, Ltd., Manchester, for his invaluable assistance in the preliminary details and the lighting.

- RESULTS
- "EVENING CHRONICLE" CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- Men's Singles.—Semi-Finals:** Cohen beat Ellison 21-17, 21-7, 24-26, 21-23, 21-7. Walker beat Fletcher 21-12, 21-12, 21-8.
- Final:** Cohen beat Walker 17-21, 10-21, 21-9, 21-14, 21-11.
- Women's Singles.—Semi-Finals:** Miss P. Lee (Southport) beat Miss J. D. Yarrow (Edenfield), 21-11, 21-18, 25-27, 21-23, 21-18. Miss F. Goorney (Salford) beat Mrs. E. Kirk (Macclesfield), 21-19, 21-17, 17-21, 21-18.
- Final:** Miss F. Goorney beat Miss P. Lee 21-19, 14-21, 15-21, 21-9, 21-18.
- INVITATION TOURNAMENT**
- Final:** G. V. Barna (Hungary) beat I. Boros (Hungary), 19-21, 21-13, 21-11.
- NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- Men's Singles.—Semi-Finals:** Bergmann (Austria) beat Boros (Hungary) 21-12, 21-18. Liebster (Austria) beat Lurie (Manchester) 21-10, 21-17.
- Final:** Liebster beat Bergmann 13-21, 9-21, 21-16, 21-19, 21-19.
- Men's Doubles.—Semi-Finals:** R. Bergmann and K. Stanley beat V. Barna and C. W. Davies (Manchester) (holders) 22-20, 16-21, 21-8. H. Lurie and K. Hyde beat L. Cohen and B. Casofsky (Manchester) 21-18, 21-17.
- Final:** Lurie and Hyde beat Bergmann and Stanley 17-21, 21-14, 21-19.
- Women's Singles.—Final:** Miss E. Ward (Grimsby) beat Miss R. Bracewell (Blackpool) 21-17, 21-16.
- Women's Doubles.—Final:** Miss E. M. Steventon (Birmingham) and Miss E. Blackburn (Exeter) beat Misses E. Campbell and K. Worsley (Manchester) 21-10, 23-21.
- Mixed Doubles.—Final:** B. Casofsky and Miss A. Fildes (Manchester) beat F. Cromwell (Manchester) and Miss D. Newey (Birmingham) 21-19, 18-21, 21-15.
- Men's Consolation Singles.—Final:** R. Landau (Manchester) beat J. Watts (Southport) 21-18, 21-17.
- Women's Consolation.—Final:** Miss A. Tenen (Manchester) beat Mrs. D. E. Jones (Leek) 21-10, 21-15.
- Junior Singles.—Final:** M. Freeman (Manchester) beat S. Levi (Manchester) 21-19, 21-18.

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TOURING in NEW ZEALAND

ON Friday, July 8, 1938, Viktor Barna and Laszlo Bellak arrived in New Zealand to show the people of that country how scientific and spectacular table tennis had become.

Their tour commenced with a match against Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand, before a large and appreciative crowd. It was soon seen that the local players could not cope with the visitors' marvellous ball control, and they were decisively defeated. The visitors then revealed their true talent in an exhibition match. Watching Barna play, everyone was struck with his ease of execution in playing each stroke. Every shot was made with such graceful movements and confident accuracy that table tennis looked very easy to play. Bellak seemed to have the larger variety of strokes, and Aucklanders did not know what was going to happen next—a neat drop shot, a lightning forehand drive, or a fast backhand shot that seemed to come from nowhere.

* * *

ON the Sunday morning the visitors left Auckland by car so as to see the country and on the same night gave an exhibition match in a small country town where they stayed the night. The next day they continued their journey and played the second match of the tour at Wanganui. It was at this town that the Hungarians lost their first game, when E. Boniface, N.Z. runner-up, 1937, took the first game against Bellak, only to lose the match 18-21, 21-13, 21-11.

After further country visits, a match was played against Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand and really the home of table tennis in the country. Although Auckland has the better players, Wellington has a greater number of first-class players and a much greater number playing table tennis. Here Barna and Bellak won quite easily, but were very impressed with the styles of the Wellingtonians, E. Boniface and M. Gosling, who played against them.

After playing Wellington the visitors journeyed by boat to Christchurch in the South Island. (N.Z. consists of three islands—North Island, South Island and Stewart Island.) They played Christchurch on Saturday, July 16, and as the standard of play in the south is considerably lower than the north they had no difficulty with their matches. But they gave the game great publicity and gained many new adherents to the sport.

The next day they travelled still farther south and on Monday played in Invercargill, the nearest town of any size to the South Pole. What the local players lacked in knowledge and experience they certainly made up in enthusiasm, and the Hungarians were given a great hearing.

The next night they played in Dunedin, where ninety per cent. of the people are Scotch. Here, strange to relate, they had the largest crowd of the tour, which only goes to show the fascination of table tennis. People paid to see the game and enjoyed it immensely. Here again, strange to relate, a penholder player 47 years of age, who plays with one hand in his pocket, was able to take more points from Barna than any other player in New Zealand up to that date.

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THEIR next match was played back in Wellington when they played against a New Zealand team in a Test Match. As it was the first time a N.Z. team played against overseas

players it is worth noting the scores. Bellak beat Boniface 21-12, 21-15, 21-12. Barna beat Cantlay 21-9, 21-12, 21-12. Barna and Bellak beat Cantlay and Boys 21-14, 21-12, 21-19. Bellak beat Cantlay 21-15, 21-17, 23-21, 22-20. Barna and Bellak beat Boniface and Gosling 21-8, 21-14, 21-13. Barna beat Bellak 21-17, 17-21, 21-12, 21-11. In his match with Bellak, Cantlay was unlucky not to win a game, as he led 20-15 in one and 20-17 in the other, but over-eagerness on his part and experience on Bellak's part lost him both games, even though the umpire had made a mistake and made them play an extra game.

After the Test Match the players went back to Christchurch to play a South Island team on Saturday, 23rd. The match was a good example of keenness and experience and although the local players were hopelessly outclassed they thoroughly enjoyed their matches.

On Monday they left Christchurch by air for Blenheim, a small country town where they rested till the next morning. It was here that Bellak endeared himself to the local inhabitants by staging an epic table tennis match between himself and the local Mayor—Bellak to sit on a chair and give his opponent 11 points in 21 start; the Mayor to do everything possible to win. Amid grunts, groans,

shuffles and bangs, Bellak managed to creep home the winner with the chair slightly the worse for wear.

After the break, Barna and Bellak were looking forward to their next match against Hutt Valley on the Tuesday night. Hutt Valley is really a semi-suburb of Wellington, but since the erection of motor car works the population of the three towns in the valley has increased to such an extent that the Table Tennis Association formed is as strong as Wellington itself. The matches here were well contested, the Hungarians in a jovial mood giving a scientific illustration of how masters of the game can win comfortably from their opponents' mistakes. The highlight of the evening was when E. Hughes, Hutt Valley Champion, led Bellak 20-15 and Bellak, by using all his wiles, won 28-26.

The next day the players flew to Auckland to play a second Test Match. It was not expected that the New Zealanders would win any games, but so great an impression had Barna and Bellak made on their previous visit that a large crowd came to see what N.Z. could do against the world. The N.Z. team put up a good exhibition, so good in fact that Barna suggested that a little overseas experience would bring them into top flight.

* * *

AND so the New Zealand tour ended. Both Barna and Bellak had proved very popular with the crowds, as each was such an excellent foil for the other—Barna, with his table tennis wizardry, seriously playing apparently impossible shots; Bellak, full of humour and enterprise, employing his arts as a master showman. New Zealand certainly owes them many thanks. Their superlative skill at table tennis, besides pleasing and amazing thousands, has already done much to further popularise the sport in the Dominion; their genial good fellowship endeared them to all with whom they came in contact; their readiness to instruct in the finer points of the game helped many young players; and above all, their tactfulness and adaptability made their tour most enjoyable.

Viktor Barna and Laszlo Bellak went to New Zealand last summer. And even when they are overseas, they never forget us here in England.

So they asked Mr. Longmore—the "Bill Pope" of New Zealand Table Tennis—to see that we received an account of their visit.

New Zealand's season is just beginning now, and so here is the account which we were promised, written by

ERROL CHEAL

(Auckland representative of the N.Z.T.T.A.)

MAGIC CARPET

THINGS are looking very fine in my garden this Easter. Well, let us be truthful; *some* of the things in the garden are looking very fine—some of the other things are looking ———. Mind you, what Mr. Middleton might like and what I might like, after a season amongst the Table Tennis perennials, are not necessarily identical.

Still, the weather being nice, I decided to do a little stock-taking. The fences, for instance, were only slightly past their best, the manholes were as good as ever, whilst the concrete paths were well up to Swaythling Cup form. In fact the only untidy part was all that beastly earth lying about. I soon realised that it wanted digging. Now in digging a garden you must always be methodical. It's all a matter of heaps and holes. If you're not methodical you end up with heaps of holes and whole lots of heaps, and to make matters worse one hole won't hold a whole heap. Then again, you must remember not to dig the bit you're standing on before you have moved to another bit.

You see how complicated it becomes. Next you make an inventory of your tools. Mine was easy: 1 spade, 1 fork, 1 deck-chair, 1 glass, 6 bottles.

And, of course, you must have a plan. Everybody has a plan nowadays. Mine was quite simple: 5 minutes' digging, 25 minutes' rest. (Sounds like a chiseller playing through a League match!)

* * *

I HAD only just started on the work portion—I always begin with a rest, of course—when there was a knock at the front door, and who should arrive but our charming Editor. "Come right in," I said, "you're just the man I'm looking for to help me in the garden. You can hold the worms while I chop their heads off."

"There's only one worm that interests me just now," he shouted, "and that's you."

"Ssh!" I said, "don't make all the other worms jealous. Come and have a look at the garden; show the holiday spirit."

"Holiday spirit be—censored—!" yelled the Editor. "Leave all this rubbish alone and get off on your old Magic Carpet. We must have something to put on page sixteen of the magazine this month." (He always says it's for the last page.)

"All right," I said, "I'll go quietly, but remember: it's a long worm that never turns."

* * *

MARK you, it wasn't so much what I said, as how far I ran after I said it. One of these days I shall give him such a look. You know the sort of look I mean—something like Herr Spitfire and Signor Must-you-really rolled into one.

No doubt still thinking of spades, the Carpet next took me to HERTS, where I saw plenty of rough diamonds from the local clubs competing in the County Championship. Some of the "trumps" were there too, but whist!—I mustn't mention names. Anyway, the big crowd in the Market Hall at St. ALBANS saw some good stuff in the finals. B. Griffiths repeated last year's success in the Men's, but it took five good games to beat Strauli.

Ladies' should have been a crackerjack—Connie Wheaton v. Dora Emdin. But Connie had Dora hemmed into the tune of 21-7, 21-18. Did Dora take her revenge in the duplicate

match for the St. Albans League title, same evening? She did not—on, Carpet, on!

* * *

THE next flit landed me at MACCLESFIELD. Very enthusiastic crowd here. The visit of the other Magic Carpet—the Barna Circus—was a great event, and has spurred on the locals no end. The lasses deserve first mention for beating the powerful Manchester Business Houses team in the Rose Bowl, and then giving Liverpool a real good fight. I thought I left my "heaps" in the garden, but I found them in Macclesfield too—D. S. Heaps is the local champion, and there are no "holes" in his game. Of the ladies Mrs. Kirk has done best, winning the local title and reaching the semi-final of the *Manchester Evening Chronicle* tournament. But I mustn't forget Mrs. Wyld—she's no tame performer.

The Conservative Club have brought off a hat-trick in the League first division. Real die-hards, but liberal-minded men amongst the other clubs agree that next season must see a radical change.

And Hough the Secretary has worked this year! Everyone is very pleased with him. A vote of thanks to the Treasurer too would be no "Hackney'ed" phrase. Mr. E. H. has carried the League's financial cares since its inception.

Just one tinge of gloom. Macclesfield could not hide from a keen observer like me their regret at the loss of their Boddises. The men have only lost one, but he was their Chairman, Mr. E. V. The ladies have lost two, Mrs. and Miss —both good players. (I haven't seen them play, but I heard they had great staying power.) Let's hope they will all show the flag of table tennis in their new sphere overseas.

Just made SHEFFIELD in time for the Grand Finale of their season at the Wostenholm Hall. Now here's a town that really understands table tennis. Every youngster is keen and many of the oldsters lend a hand. They have two huge leagues and all kinds of individual competitions—Men's, Women's, Youths', Veterans', Teams of Three, etc.

Not only are there trophies for these, but even the 6th Division of the league has its Cup, with miniatures for the champion team. I think I'll settle down here, I am sure someone would give a cup for a worn-out journalists' competition. I ought to win that—unless the Editor came after me. (I should come *before* him in a competition like that.—ED.)

* * *

SHEFFIELD owe much to Mr. Hinchcliffe, their Hon. Sec. for many years. Of course, these Sheffield men know a good thing when they see one. Just look at the number of copies of this magazine they buy each month!

(Modesty forbids me asking the Editor how many they bought before the Magic Carpet appeared.)

The players? Well, any challenger finds Sheffield's champion a Hardman to beat. Powell, as usual, was runner-up. Keep an eye on A. Hammond and D. Hunt—new names, and Sheffield always gives new names a chance.

Women's final a nice scrap between Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Hibbins, with honours to the former.

* * *

LOOKED in at LOUTH—last trip. Semi-finals of the Hallam Cup competition "staged" in style—in the Playhouse Cinema. Eyes accustomed to following Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto and all the other flicker-bugs were trained on to the leaping celluloid.

MAGIC CARPET—continued.

G. Cash got the worst of the bargain against G. Lonsdale, whilst young Dick Platt was soon out of the Hunt. Final: Hunt *v.* Lonsdale, should be good. If Hunt wins, he gets the cup for the third time—if "South-paw" Lonsdale wins, I suppose he'll get a belt?

Thought of popping over to SHREWSBURY, but have just read their natty little mag. entitled "Flick." A notice therein states that applications for ball-boys in the Women's League are now closed! Furthermore, the League's tame astrologer advises us to play all away matches at home this month.

O.K., Mr. Leonard. Very good, Mr. Humphreys. I can take a hint as well as the next man. I might as well go back to the E.T.T.A. Office to be insulted!

I must, however, express my surprise that Shrewsbury Accountants finished next to bottom in the League. Either they must be very young accountants, or the other teams must be very smart at totting up those score-cards.

THE EXTRA SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Barnet Championships

Men's singles (open): G. R. Harrower beat J. Fitt 18-21, 21-16, 21-17, 14-21, 21-12;

Men's singles (closed): A. Scarsbrook beat J. Scarsbrook 3-0;

Men's doubles (closed): R. Norrish and A. Scarsbrook beat W. Bonner and J. Woodward 3-0;

Women's singles (closed): Miss Herbert beat Miss Day 2-0;

Women's doubles (closed): Mrs. Liversedge and Miss Allen beat Miss Parker and Miss Sharp 2-0;

Mixed doubles (closed): N. Purvis and Miss M. Allen beat W. Humphrey and Miss G. Atkins 2-0.

Grimsby's Surprise Win in Rose Bowl Favourites defeated in Semi-final

IN the semi-final of the Rose Bowl at Grimsby the Grimsby girls astonished everybody by beating the favourites, St. Albans, an experienced all-International side, as decisively as 4-1. Eileen Ward

by **LESLIE BENNETT**

and Phyllis Scott achieved great heights and merit every congratulation on their magnificent play.

Miss Ward has become so experienced that she has not given a nervy display for a long time and, though the occasion did impress her at first, she settled down splendidly. The match was a much bigger test for the highly-strung Miss Scott, who rose to the occasion to play brilliantly.

It is only fair to state that the St. Albans girls did not reveal, except in one rubber, their best form, and no doubt the 160-mile car journey they had to endure had a lot to do with this.

Miss Ward attacked without ceremony, a little too hurriedly at first, against Miss Connie Wheaton, who in the previous round had scored a comfortable two-game win over the English Open Champion, Miss Jean Nicoll. Miss Wheaton imparted plenty of deep chop on her returns and came up for an occasional widely angled flat kill, and with Miss Ward overhitting the visitors claimed the first game 21-14. Miss Ward steadied, levelled games at 21-16, and got ahead with more hitting tactics in the third to clinch the rubber 21-17.

Miss Dora Emdin, finalist of the English Open Singles this year and winner 1932-33, started coolly against Miss Scott and soon concentrated on her backhand with deep chop, a tactic which usually harasses Miss Scott. The latter, however, cleverly coun-



Miss C. Wheaton



Miss E. Ward

tered with a dead half-volley which brought Miss Emdin up to the table and gave Miss Scott the chance to use her unorthodox forehand. Miss Scott dictated the play and took the first game comfortably to 21-14, running on to a lead of 12-8 in the second. Realising that defence was not paying, Miss Emdin showed her mettle by counter-attacking, and with some attractive sweeping drives on both wings she won the game 21-18. At first Miss Emdin led in the third game but was caught up at 9-9, and they changed over with Miss Scott ahead at 10-9. Miss Scott thereupon commenced a sparkling quick-hitting attack and delighted the crowd by winning the rubber 21-10.

In the doubles, the Grimsby girls swept into a rhythmical attack at once and Grimsby got the first game 21-13. The St. Albans girls hit more in the second, defended strongly, and led 20-18, only amidst tense excitement for Miss Ward to bang two beauties past them and for Miss Scott to follow up with another. Miss Ward had another go, but this time was inaccurate, the Grimsby pair losing 21-23 and leaving the result still open. The home pair carried on with consistent forehand hitting with such accuracy that they kept their opponents to 12 and earned the right to the final in three straight rubbers for Grimsby.

Miss Dora Emdin next gave a grand exhibition of stylish all-round play against Miss Ward. Planting the ball regularly into her opponent's backhand, Miss Emdin hit delightfully on both sides, and when forced on defence revealed admirable footwork and good length returns. Hampered by a rather slippery floor, Miss Ward could not dance around the table to use her forehand as much as usual, yet she defended gallantly in losing her first rubber in the Rose Bowl competition by 17-21, 15-21.

Miss Wheaton, in addition to an inspired onslaught from Miss Scott, had to face a stream of unplayable net-corders. These were particularly unfortunate, as they detracted from the brilliance of Miss Scott and prevented Miss Wheaton from using her resolute defence. Despite her good fortune Miss Scott won well, as the scores of 21-11, 21-17 show. Well done, Grimsby!

SPARKLING PLAY IN WEST MIDDLESEX DOUBLES

AFTER losing his men's singles title Eric Filby had the consolation of winning both the doubles titles in the West Middlesex Championships at the West Ealing club. Particularly fine was the win of Filby and Rogers over Carrington and Moreton, the Home Counties champions. It was probably the best doubles final of the season, and both pairs indulged in the free hitting and open play which was productive of really long rallies and provided a real spectacle.

Filby also won the mixed doubles with Vera Dace, the young Surrey star. If Filby "nursed" his young partner through the awkward spells, she won her salt on her winners and the way she retrieved from both Joan Harding and Leo Baron. All in all they should make a star mixed partnership because their hitting game fits in so well.

Miss Harding was unlucky to lose two finals. She and Gwen Mace were beaten by

Eileen Finch and Mrs. H. Collier in the women's doubles. Still Eileen Finch and Mrs. Collier deserve the honour for their consistency in previous tournaments. Mrs. Collier suffered a defeat in the women's singles. Miss C. Oustainge fell into early mistakes and took the match afterwards because she wisely relied on a superb defence.

Harry Rosen took the men's singles in whirlwind style from Maurice Bergl, and played what was easily his best tennis of the season.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: H. Rosen beat M. Bergl 21-13, 21-14, 18-21, 16-21, 21-15.

Women's Singles: Miss C. Oustainge beat Mrs. H. Collier 21-18, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: E. J. Filby and J. Rogers (Holders) beat J. H. Carrington and R. Moreton 16-21, 21-16, 18-21, 21-19, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. H. Collier and Miss E. Finch beat Miss G. Mace and Miss J. Harding 21-18, 17-21, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles: E. J. Filby and Miss V. Dace beat L. Baron and Miss J. Harding 16-21, 21-14, 21-15.

M. A. Symons talks to the BEGINNER

HOW do they do it? How do the good players become good? That's what every weak player wants to know. You see players with sizzling backhand flicks and terrific forehand smashes and envy them their skill. You ask: "How can I improve *my* game and play like you do?" If you are fortunate you may be given one or more good tips on the game. Too often, however, the good player himself has only a hazy idea how he became good. Or you may get a "superior" reply: "Just practise three or four nights a week—like me."

Practice is, of course, the first essential, but you must practise in the right way. You must be prepared to pay the price. And that is? For the time being you must be willing to confine your enjoyment to playing for the stroke without so much winning games. *Your aim when playing must be to improve your play.*

The first step is to find the right kind of practice partner. You want someone whose style of play suits yours—who seems to bring out the best in your game, so that, when you play him (or her) you both get a good game, whoever wins. Choose a player as keen as you are to improve. Then you will have discussions as to why you failed to take so and so service, or topspin, or chop. Such a player is sometimes difficult to find, but you must go to a little trouble to find him. It will be worth it because practice with the wrong kind of opponent is largely wasted so far as improving your game goes. You don't want someone who returns the ball awkwardly to you.

* * *

Now, supposing that you have found this useful person, what should you do? You could start off by playing a few games and make up your minds where you are going to start for improvement. Since you will both be moderate players (your opponent need not necessarily be a much superior player to yourself, although it is an advantage if he is a little better) there is sure to be enormous room for improvement in every stroke you attempt to make. Choose the one you do best and go all out to improve that. Your aim is to train yourself to make a series of similar shots. When you can do that you will possess a *stroke* and will already be on the road to becoming something of a player. Now: *One* stroke at a time, please. The biggest mistake beginners and moderate players make in practice is to attempt too much in the way of improvement. Your improvement must be steady—gradual—to be sure. Your weak stroke (weak because you are a weak player, although it's the best one you have at present) must be fed by easy returns. Naturally players will not keep sending over similar returns in a *game*. Points count and everyone likes to *win* a game. Therefore you must knock-up sometimes. Just return the ball to your opponent without bothering to score.

No. 8. Hints on Practice

If you have or discover some aptitude for defence, for instance, you must persuade your practice partner to improve his attack, while you defend. (You must arrange that between yourselves.) Defend and defend, no matter how your opponent returns the ball.

Do not get a long way back from the table straightaway. Go back gradually. Keep to your defence however temptingly high your opponent may return the ball. You must learn control and repetition of stroke, and how can you do so if you are stopping defence and rushing on to attack every so often?

Concentrate on defence then, while you are practising.

* * *

WHEN you feel a little more confident about your defence you can turn your attention elsewhere, practise short returns, trick services or attack. Say attack: get your opponent to defend for a bit while you have a spell of hitting, or attempt to hit. Start by sending over moderate paced attacking shots and, when you can manage two or three in succession, try going right out for full-blooded hits. Then work the two together—medium paced attack and attempts at outright winners. Presently you will discover the average speed you dare try consistent with reasonable accuracy. *Don't bother about placing or making cunning shots yet.* Consistency of stroke first—learn it now or you never will. Clever varieties

will come later—they are inherent in a good player's game, learned from experience against other good players.

Avoid awkwardness of stroke. Most players, even bad players, know by instinct when they have hit the ball well and truly. When you do that try to remember how you played the shot and repeat it. Early formed habits of play stick to most players despite their efforts to correct them afterwards.

"Is practising to improve one's game boring?" you may ask. "All this will be rather dull and what about my opponent? What about playing games sometimes?" You must use your own discretion and suit your opponent, of course, but if you are both reasonably *keen* to improve, you will be genuinely thrilled to feel yourselves actually making a succession of drives, and when you return your first "cannon-ball" hit back on to the table—you'll imagine yourself Bergmann! There is considerable (often unexpected) pleasure in exploring the possibilities of one's strokes.

* * *

A FEW last words: treat *all* strokes as important and play them properly. Practise them *thoroughly*, no matter whether they be drive, flick, chop, or poke. Then you will learn never to make a bad shot—the hall mark of a class player. Build up your game gradually and try to avoid (not all of us do, alas!) becoming too pleased with your play when it does improve. Your improvement will stop suddenly if you do.

Exeter Pays Tribute to A. S. KING

ON the evening of March 16, an interesting presentation was made to Mr. A. S. King, in appreciation of his ten years' service as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Exeter and District Table Tennis League. His term of office was from September, 1928, to September, 1938.

Warm tributes were paid to Mr. King by the League's Chairman (Mr. R. C. Hurford), who was the League's first Secretary in 1913, and has been chairman since 1923.

Mr. Hurford remarked that the late Secretary was the pioneer of the free style of play in Exeter, in 1926, and, in 1936, realised his ambition of seeing an Exeter player, namely, Ron Litten, win international honours, while recently, Miss Elizabeth Blackburn had gained international recognition. He also had seen a women's league formed in Exeter last season, but the Chairman thought his greatest achievement was his organising of the successful West of England Open Championship last March. Mr. King was not lost to table tennis—his services having been retained as a Life member of the League, and he was also a member of the English Table Tennis Executive Committee.

Other tributes were paid to Mr. King by Mr. A. E. Snow (secretary of the League for seven years before Mr. King, and now the vice-chairman and Life member); Miss

W. Foot (chairman of the Exeter Ladies' Club); Messrs. C. Dewdney (Exmouth Y.M.C.A.), K. Sewell and F. G. Grigg.

Mr. R. C. Hurford then presented Mr. King with an illuminated address, giving the names of the 174 subscribers who contributed over £11, an electric clock, a photograph of the West of England Championship Committee of last year, and a cheque.

Mr. King, deeply moved at the warmth of his reception, replied, and remarked that table tennis had made phenomenal progress during the last 15 years. Exeter were one of the original 19 members of the E.T.T.A. as it was constituted in 1927.

"During my term of office the game has seen many changes," continued Mr. King, "chief among them being the development of the modern game. Thanks to the fact that we tackled this at the very outset, the standard of play in Exeter is generally ranked higher than among other centres of a similar size." The League had increased from two to four divisions, and last season a women's league was run for the first time, with excellent results. Whilst some centres may have shown a greater numerical increase he thought they had adopted the right measure in enforcing good conditions for the first division clubs. Only by good conditions could the standard of play develop.

Mr. King closed by thanking all those who had made his last ten years the happiest of his life.

HOW TO BECOME A FIRST-CLASS DUFFER

By Mel Evans, Jr.

TABLE TENNIS is the only sport with which I am familiar that does not contain a thirty per cent. duffer list. The reason is simple. All table tennis fans can be divided into three groups: top-notch players, average players, and beginners. You cannot class a beginner as a duffer for the simple reason that he is just beginning. Being a duffer takes plenty of practice and skill, but I am sure you readers can master the art of duffing, if you will sit back and relax, while I set forth a few fundamental rules.

The first rule is a cinch. All duffers use it to great advantage. All you have to do is to argue long and loud over a trivial matter of which you, of course, know absolutely nothing. Some duffers vary this rule a bit, scrambling what slight knowledge they have to such an extent that their logic is just plain screwy. Try it on your opponent some time and watch him froth at the mouth. Another little goat-getting trick which seldom fails is to refer to the game as "Gossima." This informs your opponent that you are a player of no mean ability, and will serve to enrage him to such an extent that you'll probably be licked before you start.

The second rule is also easy. All you need to master it is 29 cents. This nominal fee will buy you an atrocious sand-paper paddle with an awe-inspiring red and green striped handle. But what's a paddle without a ball? With due respects to the many fine brands on the market to-day, I advise each and every duffer to lay in a supply

of "Two-fers" (two for a nickel). Accept no substitutes. Genuine "Two-fers" are officially marked with the W. X. Z. A. stamp. So now that you are equipped with duffer bat and ball, let us proceed to Rule three.

Contrary to professional advice, never keep your eye on the ball. I give you this rule for two very good reasons. First, if you keep your eyes glued on an insignificant object like a celluloid sphere, you're bound to miss an eye-ful of that gorgeous blonde sitting over there by the window. Second, if you concentrate too hard on the ball, you're liable to return it, and then where would you be? This same rule applies to footwork. Never stand correctly. If you do, you'll miss a lot of fun elsewhere.

Rule Four is short and sweet, but it has its point. Always play with ranking players. This will ensure your zero batting average.

Even duffers return the ball sometimes. To this, I say, "If you **MUST** return the ball, hit it so it bounces high enough for a kill shot, otherwise there's no sense in returning it in the first place."

Last but not least, by all means play the PUSH-type game. Regardless of what the champs. say, this is the most provoking trick of them all. (I know???) A first-class duffer should be able to push the ball back and forth at least 85 times. It usually takes that long a volley before your opponent starts to burn. If you doubt me, try it.

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LINCOLNSHIRE —Collecting Trophies

LINCOLNSHIRE has again made its presence felt in open tournaments in the past month. At the Grimsby Open, despite opposition from Hull, Halifax, Bury, Sheffield, Birmingham, and Peterborough, Lincs claimed five out of the six events, the Youth's Singles going to W. H. Swire of Halifax.

Eileen Ward achieved her first treble in impressive style, taking the Women's Singles without dropping a game, the Women's Doubles with last year's holder, Mrs. B. Langrick of Grimsby, and the Mixed Doubles with the popular Len Skinnis of Lincoln, who became the first Lincolnshire player outside of Grimsby to gain an open title. Albert (Knocker) Hall of Grimsby beat Maurice Hill of Halifax in two games in the Men's Singles, and two defensive Grimsby players in Norman Rimmer and Basil Bennett won the Men's Doubles by aggressive hitting in straight games. The Grimsby organisation did well to cope with the huge entry of 189 competitors for this one-day tournament.

Miss Ward surpassed herself at Manchester by annexing a plum in the shape of the North of England Women's Singles with the loss of only one game, defeating internationals in Miss Betty Blackburn and Miss Betty Steventon in straight games.

To cap all these fine performances Grimsby women pulled off a magnificent surprise victory in the semi-final of the Rose Bowl over the favourites, St. Albans, by the wide margin of 4-1. This match is fully reported elsewhere.

L. Bennett.

WATFORD Personalities at Dinner

IHAVE come back from the World Championships resolved to encourage young players, because I am confident that in England there are players who can, in the future, win for us the Swaythling and Corbillon cups. Other countries have not such promising young players.

So said Mr. Maurice Rose at the Watford and District League's dinner recently. The function Mr. Rose was addressing was easily a record for the League in both attendance and enthusiasm, and among those who paid tribute to the organisation and success of the League were the Mayor of Watford (Councillor H. Horwood), who can beat some of his staff at the game, and Mr. W. H. Barrington Dalby, the well-known boxing referee and radio commentator. Mr. D. C. Kim Peacock presented the "Watford Observer" Shield and medals to the Watford captain (L. J. Roberts) and players, and the Mayoress handed the "Sun Engraving" Cup to the Watford Ladies. Medals were also presented by the League to West Watford Conservatives and Bushey, the two promoted clubs, and to Old Centralians, runners-up in Division I and the Ladies' Division.

Continuing its efforts to improve play all through the League by the playing of inter-League matches, several interesting and exciting contests have been staged. Results:—

MEN: Watford 15, Aylesbury 10; Watford 4, Barnet 6.

WOMEN: Watford 11, Barnet 14; Watford 15, St. Albans 10.

WILLESDEN Cricklewood Win Cup and League

CRICKLEWOOD finished their Division I programme in good style by beating Kemp's 6-4 away after drawing at home with the same side a few days earlier. By taking these three valuable points from Kemp's Cricklewood won the League championship, the biscuit-men filling runners-up position.

These two teams also contested the Team Knock-out Tournament final, Cricklewood again proving victorious, this time by 6 rubbers to 3, after a very even battle. Youth was to the fore in this match, the 17-year-old Kemp's No. 1 player, Benny Bromley, winning his two rubbers, while at No. 3 for Cricklewood, the 14-year-old Jimmy Bermingham was unbeaten.

At the time of going to press Almora and Dollis Hill have not decided the Ladies' Division championship.

The season has been most successful, and it is anticipated that the League will be further extended next season. Any clubs in the neighbourhood of Willesden desiring membership should communicate with the General Secretary, Mr. D. G. Rutherford, of 134 Dollis Hill Avenue, Cricklewood, N.W.2. At the moment there are vacancies for a few teams in the Ladies' Section. The closing date for entries will be about September 1 next, the Fixture Meeting taking place about a week later.

D. G. Rutherford.

United States Championships

McClure beats Bellak in Quarter-Final, wins Title

REG HAMMOND, U.S. enthusiast well known in this country, writes to us about the ninth U.S. Championships at Toledo, Ohio.

Until recently, Reg was in charge of ranking and seeding of players—and they do things like this much more systematically on the other side of the Atlantic than we do here—and naturally he is still interested in this aspect of the championships.

Under the rules of the English Association, the only seeding permitted is that

of the country with the makings of future stars." (Why do so many of our English women players always look untidy at the table?). The experienced players came through to the final rounds, but they were hard put to it to stave off the challenge.

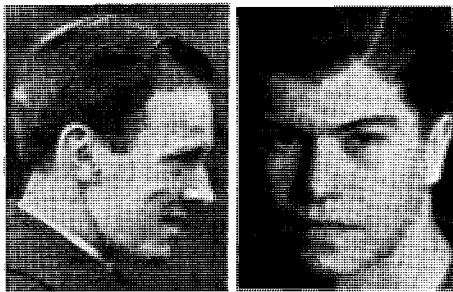
People we know in this event were Betty Henry, beaten 3-0 by Emily Fuller in the quarter-finals, Mildred Wilkinson, and Magda (Gal) Hazi, also beaten in the quarter-finals. Emily Fuller, who is the U.S. No. 1 player, went on to win the title by defeating Sally Green in the final. Results:—

Men's Singles.—Semi-Finals: McClure beat Cartland 21-14, 21-10, 16-21, 21-10; Hazi beat Nash 22-20, 21-11, 20-22, 21-18.

Final: McClure beat Hazi 21-14, 21-15, 18-21, 21-17, 21-13, 16-21, 21-18, 21-15; Green beat Brewer 19-21, 15-21, 21-17, 21-18, 21-16.

Final: Fuller beat Green 21-16, 21-13, 21-19.

E. G. W.



J. McClure

B. Grimes

four players of any nationality may be drawn into separate quarters. In the States, however, much more extensive placing is carried out. Sixteen American players and three Hungarians were seeded in this season's men's event.

These players, however, were seeded not only into separate quarters of the draw, but into definite positions so as to ensure that, barring accidents, the best players come through to the final rounds.

It is interesting to note that only three non-seeded players got through to the last sixteen.

* * *

OF old friends of ours in this country, Lou Pagliaro was beaten by Bellak, Sandor Glancz by Schiff, and George Hendry by Hazi after getting into the last sixteen.

At the next hurdle, the quarter finals, Sol Schiff went out to Garrett Nash in a five-game battle, Bernard Grimes lost to Hazi and—real surprise—Laszlo Bellak, the holder, went down to Jimmy McClure.

McClure was playing right at the top of his form, lost the first game after twenty all, won the next two by a margin of two points only, and was 20-18 down in the fourth before smashing his way home with four successive points.

McClure had a relatively easy passage to the title after that, beating Cartland fairly comfortably in the semi, and Hazi (who had put out Garrett Nash in the other half) in the final.

* * *

THE improvement in the U.S. women's game, says Reg. Hammond, is remarkable. "Young pretty girls show up from all parts

SOUTHAMPTON

Civil Service Lose their Trophies

A VERY eventful season came to a close on April 12 when the Finals of the Tournaments were played and all trophies were presented.

Civil Service were deposed of the Championship honours which they have held since the inception of the League. Their conquerors being the Y.M.C.A. club. The latter also won the team K.O. Competition by defeating C.S. in the final by 14 games to 10, and thus brought off a fine double.

In the ladies' section, Bellemoor regained the Championship Shield, which they held in 1936-37, although it was necessary for them to play-off against Banister Avenue who tied with them in the League. Bellemoor were successful by 13 games to 12 but lost the aggregate; this however, did not effect their victory.

Banister Avenue women won the team K.O. Competition, beating Civil Service (the holders) quite comfortably.

In the individual finals, Mrs. Enticott won the Women's Championship for the fourth successive season; this coupled with the fact that she did not lose a game in the League throughout the season shows her supremacy in the town.

The biggest surprise of the season was the result of the final of the Men's Singles Championship. W. L. Muller, of Civil Service, holder of the title for the past two seasons was beaten by a newcomer to the town, L. Vivian (Y.M.C.A.), after a thrilling 5-set final. The score was 21-23, 11-21, 21-16, 21-14, 21-18.

The final produced the best table tennis ever seen in the Southampton Championships.

Other results were:—

Men's Doubles: H. Burt and W. Muller (Civil Service) beat G. A. Stuart and G. J. Shannon (Banister Avenue) 21-15, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Miss V. Stewart (Civil Service) and Miss B. James (Bellemoor) beat Miss P. Prowling and Miss N. Gross (Civil Service) 21-9, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: W. Muller and Miss K. Bartlett (Civil Service) beat A. Broomfield and Miss A. Thomas (Bellemoor) 22-20, 21-10.

Women's Singles: Mrs. Enticott (Albion, Eastleigh) beat Miss L. Ferguson (Banister Avenue) 21-16, 21-9.

P. Loveless.

PRINTING AND PUBLISHING LEAGUE

Tommy Sears Third Time Champion

BEFORE a very enthusiastic audience at the Sports Room of the Cambridge University Press, T. E. Sears, of W. H. Smith, again won the Men's Open Singles Championship for the third consecutive year by defeating F. Straney, of Horace Marshall, by three straight games. The standard of play was exceptionally good and showed promise of exciting contests in seasons to come.

Other results were: Men's Junior Championship, E. J. Shilling (Cambridge University Press) beat V. McDonald (Horace Marshall) 3-0; Women's Open Championship, Miss C. Bell (Benn Bros.) beat Miss E. M. Golden (W. H. Smith), 3-0. Miss Bell was last year's runner-up.

After the distribution of the trophies, medals and prizes, the League Chairman, Mr. H. J. Bryant (Benn Bros.), remarked how pleased he was to welcome such a large and sporting crowd and how fortunate the League was in having a "live" President in Mr. Gordon Robbins (deputy chairman of Benn Bros. Ltd.) who had helped the League in attaining its present flourishing position. Mr. Bryant also offered the thanks of the League to the management of the Cambridge University Press for the use of their sports room.

Mr. Robbins then rose to say, "I don't know whether the honour should go to the beauty of the games room of the Cambridge University Press; the keenness and enthusiasm of the audience or the high standard attained by the players in the various contests. In the end I think the players have it. It has been a very pleasant evening and the most successful function I have attended so far. The League obviously strengthens itself each year, and adds one division after another. I hope to see another women's division next year.

"On behalf of those present I should like to extend our very cordial thanks to Mr. Bryant, Mr. Lockyer (honorary secretary) and the committee for organising such a successful function and for running the League during the past season."

Competition in the League was very keen this season, play-offs being necessary in three divisions. The League winners in Division I of both men's and women's sections are W. H. Smith. H. J. Bryant.

SOUTH LONDON

A New Competition

SOUTH London League held their Annual Presentation Dance at the Swan Hotel, Stockwell, which was a tremendous success and was attended by 150 members and friends.

The *South London Press* presented two fine cups to the League and Mr. J. M. Rose presented the cups and medals to the winning teams.

The League are anxious to obtain more women's teams for next season and improve the general standard of play. As a means to encourage this a mixed doubles tournament is being held on April 30. The tournament is open to all members of the League who may, if preferred, be partnered by a player outside the League.

Early entries suggest some most interesting struggles. E. A. W. Cast.

WEST OF SCOTLAND

Western Y.M.C.A. Sweep the Board

ANOTHER successful season has just ended in the West of Scotland.

Western Y.M.C.A. once more "swept the board," winning the Division I championship, the Maxwell Wilson and Scottish Cups. The Jewish Institute in each case were runners-up and cannot seem to get on top of their great rivals. Jewish Institute 2nd won the Division II championship and Western 2nd the Reserve division.

Ellis Mark (Jewish Institute) won the Scottish open singles championship and Jack Hillan (Western Y.M.C.A.) won the West of Scotland and Lanarkshire championships.

Glasgow were undefeated in inter-county and inter-city matches, winning against Edinburgh 6-1, Kilmarnock 6-0, Barrhead 6-0 and Lanarkshire 7-0.

The visit of the English International team consisting of H. Lurie, Ken Hyde, Ken Stanley and A. A. Haydon to Glasgow was the highlight of the season and the delightful play of these boys is still the topic of table tennis fans. Two of Glasgow's best players, Ellis Mark and Jack Hillan, were tried out against them, but their more experienced opponents won easily.

One of the many good things that these exhibition games has done is to point out how easily "penholders" can be beaten. Many of our players are now changing their grip, but what is needed in Glasgow is a really good coach. *W. Bennett.*

* * *

BRISTOL

Hopes for the Wilmott Cup

BRISTOL are looking forward to the final stages of the Wilmott Cup, and whilst the opposition in London in the semi-final is very strong, the Bristol team hope to surprise the table tennis world with the result.

The last month of the season has seen a hectic finish with town matches, Belsten Cup Final, and the breaking of new ground in substituting the annual dinner and presentation of trophies with the first Association Dance at the "Berkeley," Clifton.

At long last an association team has won the Gilbert Belsten Memorial Cup, after W. D. & H. O. Wills (Staff) had won the cup six seasons in succession, they went down to St. Pauls (Bed) in the semi-final.

The final saw in opposition, Central Y.M., the Division I champions, and St. Pauls (Bed) the runners-up. After perhaps the most hectic final Central Y.M. became the new holders by an odd-set victory, young Simons for the losers tried to pull the game out of the fire and was unbeaten, but the Y.M. where just a little bit too solid, and worthily took the trophy.

The season will conclude at the end of April, and then comes the special general meeting at which the rules are overhauled. At long last we hope that the method of play will be altered, and the method of 5 players playing five one-game abandoned for some method of set play. This would be a step forward which has been held back much too long in Bristol.

I. C. Eyles.

Looking Around

with

J. W. A. CONNOLLY

("Sunday Express" sports specialist)

MY looking around on this occasion must extend not over one month but over the whole of the season, since this is the last issue of our magazine for this season.

Rankings and ranking lists are always interesting, not to say controversial, and that is the main reason why I generally like to fight shy of them. But since the ratings this campaign stand out a mile, I don't mind in the least being committed to specific opinions.

The men's lists must be guided by the Swaythling Cup selections and the form in the World Championship and English Championship series. The gradings I make are: (1) H. Lurie (Manchester) and J. K. Hyde (Liverpool); (3) E. Bubley; (4) M. B. W. Bergl (Harrow); (5) H. Rosen (London); (6) K. Stanley (Manchester); (7) E. J. Filby (London); (8) E. Hardman (Sheffield). And that is as far as I think the list need go.

In ranking doubles pairs I would without hesitation put them: (1) E. J. Filby and

THERE can indeed be few quibbles about the doubles. Jack Rogers and Filby have been one of our outstanding doubles successes over the past three seasons, and I might add one of the most entertaining to watch. Jack Carrington and Ron Moreton earn praise as the best of the new pairings. Cohen and Lurie are of course old favourites.

The women's lists present a much different proposition. They are: (1) Jean Nicoll (Harrow); (2) Dora Emdin (St. Albans); (3) Margaret Osborne (Birmingham) and C. Wheaton (St. Albans); (5) Vera Dace (South London); (6) E. Steventon (Birmingham); (7) Doris Emdin (St. Albans); (8) Mrs. Stead (Bradford).

The obvious answer to all this is that many famous players have been left out. The answer is that they haven't played in a sufficient number of open tournaments to justify ranking. Jean Nicoll, for instance, must be ranked as our number one for the very good reason that she is national champion. But the virtual champion on championship performances, excluding the national, would of course be Dora Emdin, while she takes second place on the national result.

* * *

PLEASING to note is the increased interest in the West Country since this spectacular and altogether unexpected Bristol run in the Wilmott Cup. Bristolians did remarkably well to reach the last stages, and it is a feather in their cap that they were able to hold the finals.

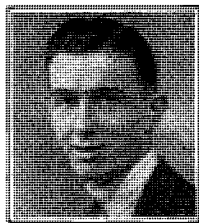
And the Metropolitan Championship still lingers on until May 2, when Wembley and Surrey Leagues enter upon their second play-off. Wembley might have won the first time had not young Merrett upset the apple cart by wiping David Jones off (yes, the same old David still going strong) and then in the decider Bill Stennett was beaten by Harry Swetman. Surrey were 3-4 down in this final game, and there wasn't more than a point in it in the third game (best of three, of course) when the time limit was introduced, and Harry Swetman held out to a slender lead to take the game on the limit rule. This incidentally is the first time I have seen it introduced this season.

Well, goodbye everybody until next season. I'll be around again I guess.

TAXES LEAGUE

OVER 300 people watched the finals of the Taxes League individual and team competitions at Metropole Hall, London, on April 22. Frost won a well-contested final from the holder, Sturtevant, by 3 games to 1. Frost's defence broke down his opponent's one-stroke attack. Miss Simpson won the women's title by beating Miss Carter in the fifth game. C.I. (Claims) won the team event from Mayfair (holders).

Mrs. W. E. Diggins presented the trophies. *E. G. W.*



J. Rogers



L. Cohen

J. Rogers (London); (2) H. Lurie and L. Cohen (Manchester); (3) J. H. Carrington and R. E. Moreton (London).

There are, I know, loopholes for plenty of brickbats to be thrown at me for these, my personal views. First and foremost must be the lowly place of Eric Filby. The reason of course is that Filby hasn't played in sufficient tournaments this season to justify a high ranking, but at the same time he is a player who must not be omitted, and consequently earns his place more for his spasmodic doubles appearances than anything else.

* * *

PEOPLE will write and tell me that Lurie must be an easy number one because he went further in the English, but then he was only a step further than Hyde, and Ken had a splendid record in Egypt.

Next I suppose comes the high placing of Harry Rosen. He had a better record in the trials than Ken Stanley, to my mind, and no doubt the selectors in choosing the team picked the Manchester boy on the age count, which I think was wise.

Maurice Bergl deserves high ranking for all his dismal record in trials and English championships this season. He was on the border line of the team, as was shown when he was chosen to captain the side against Wales. Again he has the best tournament record in the South of England.

First North Cheshire Open at Altrincham

THERE were over 200 entries for the first Open Tournament held in North Cheshire, organised jointly by the Manchester and Altrincham Table Tennis Leagues on Easter Monday, April 10, and despite the brilliant weather, players from all parts of Lancashire and Cheshire came to do battle. Entries were restricted to average players.

Jack Walker of Salford, member of the Manchester Y.M.C.A. brilliant second string, confirmed the form he showed during the previous Saturday in reaching the final of the *Manchester Evening Chronicle* Tournament, by winning the Men's Singles event in splendid style, from W. T. Barlow, Bury's No. 1.

Barlow, having reached the semi-final of the Scarborough Open two days previously and remembering his newly won reputation of Yorkshire Junior Champion, found little difficulty in ousting Clifford Frost and Harold Johnson, of College Chapel, but in the final, he had no chance against Walker's steady flow of hard drives. Both players were not frightened to use forcing strokes, even when behind, but Walker was able to pull out the extra all-round table craft to gain a well-earned title.



S. Brownhill

In the Men's Doubles, it was a case of the "local boys made good." Beddows and Brownhill, both of the Altrincham League, had the distinction of reaching the final by beating Barlow and Taylor in straight games. They play well together and should go far.

A Report from Jack Batty

In the final, they were opposed to Lawson and his club-mate Morris Freeman—the diminutive Lancashire and North of England Junior Champion—and the Altrincham boys took the first game and were leading all the way in the second, when "vest-pocket" Freeman took a hand, and by aching the ball twice well away down the white line, made it one all. Here again, in the final, experience told, Lawson and Freeman having sufficient in hand to keep in front all the way to take the Title.

The big surprise in the Women's Singles was the defeat of Blackpool's Rene Bracewell by Mrs. C. E. Lloyd of Liverpool. Miss Bracewell was easily the better player from a stroke production viewpoint, but all credit must be given to the Liverpool girl for her grim steadiness, which lured the Blackpool "hope" into making many errors. Mrs. Lloyd, still steady, won the Women's Event from Miss Campbell, and with Miss L. Robinson, took the Women's Doubles as well, to Liverpool.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—Semi-Finals: J. Walker (Salford) beat S. D. Lawson (Manchester) 21-17, 13-21, 22-20. W. T. Barlow (Bury) beat H. Johnson (Manchester) 21-13, 21-17.

Final: Walker beat Barlow 21-13, 21-17.

Men's Doubles.—Final: M. Freeman and S. D. Lawson (Manchester) beat R. Beddows and S. Brownhill (Altrincham) 16-21, 21-19, 21-17.

Women's Singles.—Final: Mrs. C. E. Lloyd beat Miss M. Campbell (Manchester) 21-16, 21-15.

Women's Doubles.—Final: Mrs. C. E. Lloyd and Miss L. Robinson (Liverpool) beat Miss E. Grimestone and Miss J. Moffatt (Manchester) 21-14, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles.—Final: J. Leeming and Miss R. Bracewell (Blackpool) beat H. Gibbon and Miss M. Fletcher (Manchester) 21-18, 13-21, 21-16.

Men's Consolation Singles.—Final: M. Sandler (Manchester) beat B. Gannon (Stockport) 21-18, 18-21, 21-12.

Women's Consolation Singles.—Miss Jean Moffatt (Manchester) beat Miss B. Graham (Altrincham) 21-18, 21-13.

COVENTRY

Presentation of Trophies

THE Coventry Association had a red letter day on March 30 when the Hon. Ivor Montagu was the guest of honour at their Annual Dinner and Presentation of Trophies.

This event increases in popularity each year. This time, nearly 200 sat down to dinner, among them being the Deputy Mayor of Coventry, Councillor J. Holt.

In an extremely interesting speech Mr. Montagu spoke of the part Table Tennis was playing in maintaining friendship



Mr. Montagu presents the cup to Mr. E. Pickering of Herberts' team

among the nations, and said that the International Federation now had at least one country affiliated in every Continent of the world. Giving instances of the game's popularity, he mentioned that in China, soldiers in the Chinese army often carried their own tables when engaged in field operations. He retold many amusing stories of the World Championships in their early days, of when Fred Perry won the Singles Title, and of when Adrian Haydon, of neighbouring Birmingham, then 17 years old, was easily the best player in England. G. Huxham.

LONDON LEAGUE

Finals of the "Closed"

MRS. H. COLLIER gained her best victory of the season in beating Wendy Woodhead in a five-set match for the women's singles title in the London League table tennis championships, at the West Ealing Club. This capped a particularly fine performance in beating Gwen Mace, her team-mate, in the semi-finals.

Harry Rosen took the men's singles very comfortably, beating G. W. Daniels in three straight sets. The scratching of the other semi-finalists, Stan Coles, Surrey champion, and Ron Moreton, made the event less interesting than usual.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: H. Rosen (Whitefield's) beat G. W. Daniels (Eton Manor) 21-7, 21-19, 21-19.

Men's Minor Singles: E. Wichelow (Barn) beat E. J. Giesen (Bow Y.M.).

Women's Singles: Mrs. H. Collier (Whitefield's) beat Wendy Woodhead (Whitefield's) 21-10, 10-21, 21-19, 18-21, 21-9.

Men's Doubles: L. Thompson and R. Sharman (West Ealing) beat E. Bartlett and J. Ragan (Cricklewood) 21-14, 21-14, 21-20.

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MANCHESTER

End of a Y.M.C.A. Season

THE league programme was completed at the end of March with Manchester Y.M.C.A. regaining the premier title from their old rivals and last year's winners, Grove House.

In Division I, this has certainly been a Y.M.C.A. season! In addition to the first team's triumph, the second string finished fourth in the table—an effort which reflects particular credit on a brilliant young trio—Ken Mitchell, D. McDermott and Jack Walker. Mitchell made his first appearance in the final trials in London, and Walker reached the final of the *Evening Chronicle* Tournament from over 1,000 entries, succumbing only after a hard struggle with Hyman Cohen from Grove House, who made his fourth appearance in the final rounds.

Greengate and Adelphi both regain Division I status, at the expense of Birchfield and Weaste Congregational. Grosvenor Square are relegated to Division III with College Chapel "A," their places being taken by Gravel Lane and Y.M.C.A. "B." In the regional sections, much interest has been evinced on the play of Stretford St. Matthews, making their initial effort in the league. They have justified their inclusion by gaining promotion at the first attempt.

Manchester Jewish "B," and the Young Men's Hebrew Association, both newcomers, head the West and North Regional Sections respectively, to secure promotion to Division III.

News—and particularly sad news—comes that Freddy Cromwell, the popular Grove House Captain, has decided to retire from active participation in the game. For over ten years he has guided the fortunes of the Grove House side, and there is no possible doubt that it is due to his patience and perseverance, in addition to his own sterling qualities as a fine all-rounder, that his team has won the League title five times in the past decade—a record of which any club can be proud. At one time, he partnered Lurie to victory in practically every Doubles Title in the North, being selected by the E.T.T.A. for Prague in 1935-36.

But Cromwell's best feat was his brilliant effort against Viktor Barna in the first round of the North of England Championships in 1933. At that time Barna was invincible—world champion and holder of innumerable National titles. But Cromwell gave of his best, and took the first game from Viktor to the consternation of Glancz, Kolar, Liebster and the other stars who had never heard of this unknown Englishman. Barna ultimately won, but Cromwell had his proud moment when Mechlovitz inquired why he hadn't played for England in the Swaythling Cup. Well done, Freddy, we shall miss you as a player and a captain, but particularly as a fine gallant sportsman.

J. Batty.

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METROPOLITAN PLAY-OFF RESULTS IN TIE

THE Metropolitan Association visited the Western Counties League at Bristol on March 25. The London team travelled by coach with a strong body of supporters.

Several disappointments had occurred and the selectors were only able to decide their team at the last moment, since M. B. W. Bergl, Jack Rogers and G. A. M. Frischer could not travel.

The Western Counties had a very strong team out with three internationals, W. C. Dawes, J. Silto, and W. Sweetland, and the two remaining members of their team are very fine players indeed. A. W. C. Simons hit Moreton off the table and D. B. Shipton, by his electrifying activity and the vim he puts into every stroke, beat Moreton for the best of three.

Stan Coles (Surrey) and C. Richards (North Middlesex) were the mainstay of the "Met." team both winning two sets. J. Bailey (Wembley) and B. Marcus (Wembley) won one set each and thus the Metropolitan won the match 6 games to 5, it was a very creditable effort for their first representative match and against such formidable opponents.

One cannot pass over the event without making reference to the doubles match which went to the Western Counties pair (Silto and Shipton) who are a very nice combination. This provided the best of the evening and some of the best of the game was the retrieving of the Western Counties pair, and the attack of B. Marcus and R. Hook (Woolwich) rendered some very fine exchanges.

Results (Metropolitan players first) :—

Richards beat Silto 21-15, 19-21, 19-21; beat Sweetland 21-18, 11-21, 21-16. Coles beat Shipton 16-21, 21-19, 21-13; beat Simons 9-21, 21-17, 21-19. Bailey beat Silto 21-14, 21-18; lost to Dawes 9-21, 7-21. Marcus beat Sweetland 21-15, 16-21, 22-20; lost to Dawes 13-21, 16-21. Moreton lost to Simons 13-21, 10-21; lost to Shipton 14-21, 21-10, 16-21. Marcus and Hook lost to Silto and Shipton 17-21, 15-21.

* * *

At the annual general meeting of the Association, to be held at the Shelbourne Hotel nominations may be received for next season. Divisions will be restricted to five leagues, and the allocation to each will be announced on the evening of the meeting.

The future method of advancement will be by graduation from the lower to a higher division and all nominations must be received prior to the date of the A.G.M. Delegates appointed to represent Leagues at this meeting should get in touch with the Hon. Secretary.

The working of the Association in its first season has been a marked success mainly due to the intense interest in its programme and the fact that five teams to a division necessitate only eight games throughout a season, i.e. four in each half of the season. There can be no question that it has fostered and built up much increased friendship in table tennis, and this fraternal feeling should be extended by future activities.

* * *

THE play-off between Wembley and Surrey for the championship was held at the Bradix Club on Tuesday, April 4. It resulted in a draw, 4 sets all.

The match was played before a large crowd of supporters and reached a high pitch of excitement, with the issue in doubt literally to the last moment.

Surrey quickly gained the lead, Stanley Coles beating Maurice Bergl in straight games, and Ron Moreton having a similar victory over Benny Marcus. In the next set David Jones scored for Wembley with a two straight win over Harry Swetman, and Bill Stennett followed up by defeating Cyril Merrett with comparative ease. This made the half-time score two-all, without one set going to three games.

After the interval Wembley forged ahead. Bergl settled down to beat Moreton in a classical game, easily the best of the evening from the point of view of stroke play, with both players hitting and defending on both sides, and Bergl emerging winner with a fairly comfortable margin in the third game.

In the sixth set Marcus put all he knew into his fore-hand hitting and became the first player to beat Stanley Coles in Metropolitan Association matches. The odds now seemed heavily in favour of Wembley, but the next two sets produced surprises. Youth had a convincing victory over experience when Merrett defeated Jones in two straight games at 10 and 11.

This left Swetman the task of beating Stennett to save Surrey from defeat. He lost the first game at 15, gained an early lead in the second and never looked back, and so left everything on the final game. In view of the issue at stake and the obvious tension of the crowd, both players may be pardoned for the element of "pushing" that crept in. The scores kept almost level to 15-all when warning of the time limit had already been given, and it was still anybody's game. Swetman then captured a two point lead, and when time was called the score was 19-17 in Surrey's favour.

The replay has been fixed for Tuesday, May 2 at Lancelot Hall, Wembley.

Results (Wembley players first) :—

M. B. W. Bergl lost to S. Coles 17-21, 12-21; beat R. Moreton 21-15, 17-21, 21-16. B. Marcus beat S. Coles 21-17, 17-21, 21-17; lost to R. Moreton 19-21, 12-21. R. D. Jones beat H. Swetman 21-18, 21-16; lost to C. Merrett 10-21, 11-21. W. Stennett lost to H. Swetman 21-15, 7-21, 17-19; beat C. Merrett 21-18, 21-8.

C. G. Milton and J. E. Cole.

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PROBLEM CORNER

THE Outlandish League play four-a-side, and each player plays against everyone on the other side. The number of sets won and lost is taken into account in fixing positions in the League, as well as the actual result of the match.

One day two teams both arrive for a match one man short. In both cases the club is not to blame—it's just one of those things that really can't be helped. Both captains would in the ordinary way be prepared to give up four sets to the other side by default, but in this case a difficulty arises over the game which would have been played between the two missing players. Should the home team receive it? Or the visitors? Or what?

We will publish some of the replies in October.

APRIL'S PROBLEM

MOST of you thought that a club was quite entitled to prohibit an ex-member from entering its premises, but that, if this was for an offence which did not bar the player from playing in the League, this ban should not be allowed to prejudice the player's new club. So the decision generally reached was that the visitors should be told that the player in question should not attend for the match, and that he would receive all his games by default.

* * *

A Problem for the Table Tennis Official

By JACK BATTY

(Secretary of the Manchester League)

AT the Annual General Meeting of a popular Table Tennis Club, the Secretary, referring to the Knock-out Tournament, stated that 90 matches were necessary before the Finals could be played off.

All the men played in the Men's Singles and Men's Doubles, and all the women played in the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles, whilst in the Mixed Doubles all competitors took part, except those for whom no partners were available (by reason of one sex outnumbering the other).

In the Women's Singles, ten competitors were given byes into the Second Round, all the others playing in the First Round.

HOW MANY MEN AND HOW MANY WOMEN TOOK PART IN THE TOURNAMENT?

We offer a fountain-pen to the sender of the most concise and well-reasoned solution received by June 1. The Editor's decision will be final.

WESTERN COUNTIES

THE first inter-league match with the Metropolitan, played at Bristol before a large crowd, saw the Londoners win by the narrow margin of 1 set. The Bristol trio, Dawes, Simons and Shipton, were the stars of the West side in this match, which is fully reported elsewhere.

The very close standard of play in the West will probably produce a tie for the championship. Cardiff, by reason of a very fine win at Bristol, have to beat Birmingham at home to tie with Swindon for the championship, which will necessitate a "play-off."

Here is the league table to date:—

Men.					
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	
Swindon..	..	8	6	2	12
Cardiff	7	5	2	10
Birmingham	..	7	4	3	8
Bristol	8	4	4	8
Bath	8	0	8	0
Women.					
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	
Cardiff	4	4	0	8
Swindon..	..	4	2	2	4
Bristol	4	0	4	0

I. C. Eyles.

Solution to the April Crossword

The prize was won by Miss E. N. Pratt, London.

S	E	N	S	E	S		P	A	T	R	O	N
U		E		W			E	E				O
R		E	P	E	E		C	L	A	D		R
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				P	U	P	I	L				
S	W	E	L	L		P		L	E	A	S	T
C		X		E	B	O	N	Y		D		E
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I		T	E	S	T		G	R	A	M		E
F			A	T			H	L				B
F	R	E	D	D	Y		T	E	L	U	M	A

AYLESBURY

Championship Results

AFTER six nights play the championships are now over and have proved a great success. Nearly all the titles changed hands, the only exception being that J. Pearce retained his Mixed Doubles title, and in doing so put up the unique record of winning this event three years in succession with a different partner each time.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: H. Dixon (Dominion) beat W. Weston (Dominion) (holder) 21-17, 21-12, 21-6.

Ladies' Singles: Miss B. Melhuish (N.A.L.G.O.) beat Miss M. Pitcher (N.A.L.G.O.) (holder) 21-11, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: W. Weston (Dominion) and E. E. Honour (Young Liberals) beat H. Dixon (Dominion) and W. Pike (Junior Imps) (holders) 19-21, 21-13, 21-13, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: J. Pearce and Miss M. Sanders (Junior Imps) beat A. Cheshire and Mrs. Wenham (Young Liberals) 21-16, 21-12.

Handicap: F. Mitchell (owe 14) (N.A.L.G.O.) beat G. Brown (scratch) (Hazel's Boys) 24-22, 21-19.

Veterans—Winner: (Group) C. Thorpe (Dominion); Runner-up, V. Rickard (Wingrove).

Junior Handicap: Winner, V. Ball (Y.M.C.A.); Runner-up, J. Keinch (Quainton).

BATH

Successful Finals Night

The Bath and District Finals were held on April 15. In the doubles event J. Offer and C. Bristow beat J. Butcher and P. Kingston by 3 games to 2. P. Taylor (Y.M. Juniors) played well to beat J. Blanchard in three straight sets in the Junior Singles title.

The two Charlies, C. Bristow and C. England, were next in competition for the "Chronicle" Cup. Bristow won a good game by 3 sets to 1.

After an exhibition by Simons and Shipton, the Singles final was staged. J. Butcher (Oldfield) beat C. Bristow (Y.M.) by 3 games to 1, the scores being 21-17, 19-21, 21-18, 21-16. Bristow, although winning only one game, put up a good fight, but three finals in one night were a bit too much for him, and in the last game he seemed to crack.

The prizes were then presented. The Mayor of Bath was unable to be present, but his deputy presented the League trophies, and the League's vice-president, Sir Guy Nugent, presented the Competition prizes.

After the presentation Mr. Ollis, the Bath secretary, was presented with a fireside armchair, which had been subscribed for by League clubs and players.

Following this, the ever-popular Viktor Barna was reintroduced to the crowd with D. Shipton, whom he beat 21-18, 21-15; then came Richard Bergmann with A. Symons, the former winning 21-10, 21-18 in games full of excitement. Barna and Simons played Bergmann and Shipton in a doubles match, the former pair winning 21-11, 21-16. The last game of the evening was the pick of the bunch—Bergmann versus Barna. It was won by the former 21-16, 16-21, 24-22, in games that brought rounds of applause from the crowd.

G. Every.

CHESTER

Mr. Juler Resigns

THESE being the last notes of the season, I would like to give the Championships the "once over." Jack Devine regained the Miln Trophy, beating Harry Gardner in the final. Gardner had played very well to get to the final, beating W. T. Moore and R. N. McKee on the way. In the final, however, he was unable to cope with the strong attack of Devine and went down in three straight games.

Only one title was retained, that being the Men's Doubles, which Devine and Moore won for the fourth year in succession. J. Cadman and Mrs. Hughes won the Mixed Doubles, a very good performance considering Mrs. Hughes' inexperience.

J. Boswell played exceedingly well to beat W. Devine in the Junior Singles. This is all the more pleasing because Boswell is in his first season. Good luck to him.

Miss V. Woodfine at last realised her ambition by beating Miss E. Guest in the Women's Singles, thus winning the title for the first time.

Returning to League affairs, everyone was sorry to hear of Mr. Juler's resignation, and players and officials showed their appreciation at the Annual Meeting by presenting him with a silver cigarette case and lighter.

Mr. S. H. Dutton was elected Secretary and his brothers, L. J. and E. G. Dutton, as his assistants. Y.M.C.A. again won the League and Christ Church won the 2nd Division. Congratulations Mr. Hallows. See you in Division 1 next year.



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