

*Ernie B. Rudkin Littleton*

# TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL  
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH  
TENNIS



TABLE  
ASSOCIATION

## CONTENTS

—  
England v. France

—  
Table Tennis on the Air

—  
Looking Around

—  
How to Play



Vol IV

No 2

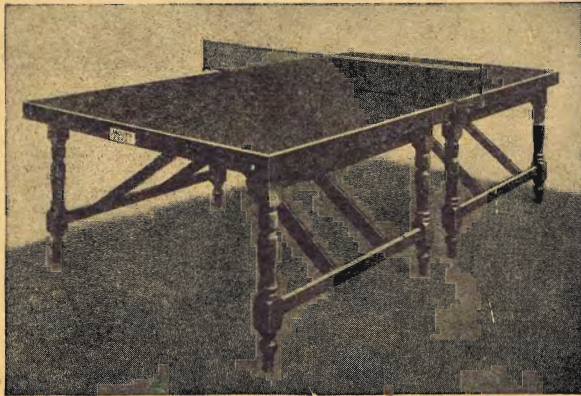
NOVEMBER, 1938

WJ



# JAQUES

## FOR TABLE TENNIS



### JAQUES' TOURNAMENT TABLE

No. 6736

**197/6** Each

STILL FASTER! NOTE NEW DESIGN!

**THREE TIMES WORLD  
CHAMPION!**

LONDON 1938

BADEN 1937

PRAGUE 1936

## TABLE TENNIS BALLS

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

EXCLUSIVELY USED AT WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS—

LONDON 1935.

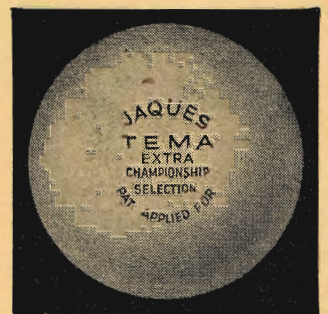
PRAGUE 1936.

BADEN 1937.

**HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT  
JAQUES' OFFER?**

Free STAMPED Score Cards to every League that adopts  
exclusively the "HAYDON CHAMPIONSHIP" T.T. Ball.

**3/-** per Dozen. (Affiliated Club Price, 2/9)



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

# JOHN JAQUES & SON, LTD.

37/9 KIRBY STREET

LONDON, E.C.1

# TABLE TENNIS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

E · T · T · A

VOLUME IV. No. 2

NOVEMBER, 1938

THREE PENCE

## ENGLAND BEAT FRANCE ON LAST MATCH

### ENGLAND 4—FRANCE 3

By E. G. WHITE

HASTINGS on October 8 failed to live up to its reputation for sunny weather, and rain made us hurry into the spacious pavilion at the end of the pier.

There was at least the consolation that we had not had to go through the ordeal of the French team, who had had to cross a very rough Channel. Bedoc, their No. 1, since Haguenauer was unable to obtain release from military duties imposed by the recent crisis, had suffered badly from sea-sickness.

After the Deputy Mayor had welcomed the French team, the match began with Lurie playing Aguilar. The French player seemed nervous and was slow to settle down. Lurie's sustained attack was much too good for him in the first game, and though the second was somewhat closer the issue was never in doubt.

Bedoc started well in his game with Seaman, winning the first two points with clever drop shots and taking a lead of 7-4 by clever positional play.

The Frenchman's plan was to half-volley to Seaman's backhand until he was forced right over to that corner, and then to place the ball wide and well angled to the forehand.

Seaman didn't take very long to find a reply to this strategy, and began to force his way through Bedoc's defence with quick hard drives.

He started the second game like a hurricane, but leading 12-8 he began to tire, and the scores crept up level until Seaman just managed to scrape home at 21-19.

The mixed doubles, Buble and Miss Stott against Bedoc and Miss Delay, provided a close and interesting match, and had the English pair had any experience of playing together they would have won.

Miss Delay retrieved very well at vital stages, and she was not afraid to hit whenever she had an opportunity. Miss Stott, in contrast, preferred the safe shot, and occa-

sionally seemed to miss an opening for a winner. Bedoc's sound tactical play was, however, the deciding factor.

Miss Stott, wearing an international badge for the third time, and fighting for a place in this year's Corbillon Cup team, certainly gave a very good display, and it was no disgrace for her to lose to Miss Delay.

She retrieved Miss Delay's hard hitting early in the first game excellently, and at times forced the French girl to make wild shots. At 7 all Miss Stott embarked on a campaign of attack on her own, and took the next four points, only to be down at 12-15. She never regained the lead, for after creeping up to 16-18 marvellous retrieving by Miss Delay secured for her the next point, and she took the game at 21-16.

The second game was a repetition of the first, each player in turn taking the lead until Miss Delay pulled away from 16-14 to lead 20-15. Here Miss Stott made a desperate effort to save the game, but it went to France 21-19.

PERHAPS you have noticed how Filby seems to unwind himself as he makes an attacking stroke. Aguilar seems to go through the opposite process and to wind all his limbs together as he chops the ball. His defence was too good for Seaman, who

did not seem able to change his tactics when he found they were not succeeding, and, helped by an edge ball at 17-15, Aguilar took the first game without Seaman scoring another point. Aguilar was well on top throughout the second game.

Lurie didn't know quite how to deal with Bedoc at the beginning of their match, and the French player took an early lead of 7 points. Lurie then discovered that he could attack Bedoc's short chops after all, and quickly pulled up to level the scores at 14 all, and won in straight games.

That was three all, and everything depended on the last match, the men's doubles between Lurie and Buble and Aguilar and Bedoc.

The English pair played a clever game. When they found that attack was not winning points they made the Frenchmen hit.

#### RESULTS

H. Lurie beat F. Aguilar 21-11, 21-14.  
C. Seaman beat R. Bedoc 21-17 19-21, 21-19.  
Lurie beat Bedoc 21-16, 21-14.  
Seaman lost to Aguilar 15-21, 15-21.  
Miss W. I. Stott lost to Mlle. J. Delay 16-21, 19-21.  
E. Buble and Miss Stott lost to Bedoc and Mlle. Delay 22-20, 19-21, 18-21.  
Buble and Lurie beat Aguilar and Bedoc 21-17, 22-20.



The French mixed doubles team, Mlle. Delay and R. Bedoc, in play

# Desert Nights—Or The Albert Hall Again?

By CLIFFORD WEBB

OFFICIALS—all honorary—of national table tennis associations have one big get-together every year—at the World Championships meeting.

Then they sit down, sort out 17 different languages between them with a dexterity diplomats might envy, and promptly begin to make arrangements for the next "annual."

Now, last year, there was a dusky young man who came to London in charge of Egypt's representative team. And he said why not have the next "annual," championships and all, in sunny Cairo?

Money? That was O.K. by him. Why, his government had promised a grant of £2,500 to put the show over big. He could assure everybody of a good time; night rides round the Pyramids, close-ups of sarcophagi and mummies and all that.

## Good Idea

TONGUES wagged in 17 different ways. Yes, Cairo in the winter sounded a good idea. The dusky young man was slapped on the back, congratulated on his government's generous wisdom, and told to expect everybody—17 languages and all—some time next January.

England would send a team? Oh, most certainly! Trips to Cairo didn't come everybody's way so easily. And that was that.

The dusky young man departed. Time, as time does, marched on. Summer came and went. In 17 different countries, bats were retrieved from storage. The sales of the little celluloid ball leapt. Another T.T. season was here.

Time we heard something from the dusky young man, said one. The others smiled. There was plenty of time. . . .

## Complete Silence

THEN, to London, where this table tennis is really handled for all the table tennis nations, came inquiries from abroad. Was it all right about Egypt. . . ?

So secretary Bill Pope of the English Table Tennis Association, who takes international complications in his stride, began writing letters to Cairo. Letter after letter. . . And never a word from Cairo.

Unofficially, manufacturers' agents and others in Egypt said they had evidence that the arrangements were being made. But Secretary Pope couldn't get the official low-down on anything.

Finally he sends a cable. That was two days ago. If there is no reply to the cable this week the Egyptian business is off, and 17 different languages will have to be welded into one again to make other arrangements.

## "Holding The Baby"

WHO will hold the baby? London? It will be a pity if the players have to substitute dreamy desert nights for rambles

around the ancient corridors of the Royal Albert Hall and gyrations on the covered ice at Wembley, but there it is.

There is still time for Egypt to come through, of course. On the other hand the mystery of the dusky young man may remain for all time as profound a puzzle as his native Pyramids.

## Loans Repaid

THE point is that nothing seems to upset these table tennis officials. They do get things done. Remember what a shock it was to hear of the first table tennis excursions—special trains packed with provincial customers willing to pay up to 10s. 6d. to watch the stars in action in London?

Quite an achievement. First big table tennis splash here in 1935 involved the E.T.T.A. in a loss of £550. Individual members subscribed to a loan in £10 lots to pay the debt. They have all been repaid since.

The way that erstwhile toy game has been developed into a big spectacle is almost a sporting fairy tale. And Egyptian nights fit so nicely into fairy tales. . . . A pity.

[Reprinted by permission of the "Daily Herald."]

## COACHING for any Grade of Player

Phone M. A. SYMONS Vic: 9030 Ext. 4.,  
or  
Write:—9, Cedars Road, S.W.4

## Club Coaching & Lectures a Speciality

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION CLASS EVERY WEDNESDAY  
Also: POSTAL COURSE. Details upon application

## TABLE TENNIS UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS

8 Tournament Tables  
in  
specially constructed hall  
11½ feet run-back

Dressing Rooms, Refreshments, Bar, etc.

at  
**BRADIX SPORTS GROUND**  
**KINGSDOWN AVENUE**  
**OFF WESTERN AVENUE, W.3**  
(3 minutes walk up Western Avenue, from Savoy Cinema, East Acton)

**OPEN TO PUBLIC DAILY**  
10 a.m.—11 p.m. (including Sunday)

Phone: SHEP. Bush 2590  
BUS ROUTES: 7, 12, (15), 72, 105  
NEAREST STATION: EAST ACTON  
(Central London Railway)

**VENUE OF WEST LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**WEEK COMMENCING NOV. 28th 1938**  
For details apply above address

## November Tournaments.

THE Home Counties is now on, and the finals, at Whitefields Institute in Tottenham Court Road, London, at 7.30 p.m. on the fifth, should attract a large crowd. On the same day Pontefract is holding its open tournament. We hope there will be fireworks at the table instead of in the back garden!

Today (November 1st) is the closing date for entries in the North London, at the Wright Kingsford Home, Granville Road, North Finchley.

In the middle of the tournament two others will take place. The Hull Open, which this year is on the twelfth, always attracts a number of the best players, and this season should be no exception. On the same day the Sussex Open takes London players—and others—to the coast for a happy week-end.

The finals on Sunday evening should again attract a big crowd to the Pier Pavilion at Hastings.

The following week there is another South Coast week-end. Long famous for its winter weather, Bournemouth is becoming well known also for the fine conditions it provides for Table Tennis at its two tournaments, the Bournemouth Open (November 18 and 19) and the Hants Open, early next year.

Picton Hall, Liverpool, will again be the scene of the finals for the Merseyside Open championships on November 26. The B.B.C. will broadcast an eye-witness account of the finals in the North Regional programme at 10.30 p.m. and it is hoped to broadcast the commentary to the spectators in Picton Hall.

At the end of the month the West London at the Bradix Club will be begun. Slightly less grandiose than the "Merseyside," perhaps, but eight tables will be in use for the full week.

## TOURNAMENT DATES.

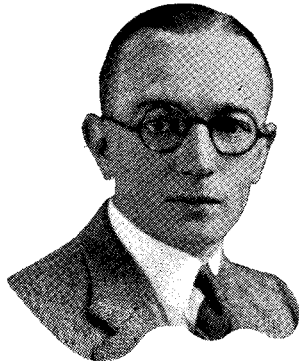
- Oct. 31—Nov. 5.—Home Counties (Whitefields Institute, London).
- Nov. 5.—Pontefract.
- Nov. 7—19.—N. London (Finchley).
- Nov. 12.—Hull.
- Nov. 12—13.—Sussex (Hastings).
- Nov. 18—19.—Bournemouth.
- Nov. 24—26.—Merseyside (Liverpool).
- Nov. 28—Dec. 3.—W. London (Bradix Club).
- Dec. 3.—Bramley.
- Dec. 5—10.—Hertfordshire (Watford).
- 1939
- Jan. 9—12.—Gloucestershire (Cheltenham).
- Jan. 9—21.—London (Indian Students Club).
- Jan. 13—14.—North of England (Manchester).
- Jan. 20—21.—Hampshire (Bournemouth).
- Jan. 20—21.—N. Midlands (Mansfield).
- Jan. 21.—Welsh Championships (Newport).
- Jan. 26—27.—ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, Preliminary Rounds (Albert Hall, London).
- Jan. 28.—FINALS, ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Wembley, London).
- Feb. 4.—Midlands (Birmingham).
- Feb. 4—5.—South of England (Croydon).
- Feb. 9—11.—Cheshire (Liverpool).
- Feb. 11.—Castleford.
- Feb. 20—Mar. 4.—Wembley.
- Feb. 25.—Leeds.
- Mar. 5.—Canterbury Invitation.
- Mar. 6—18.—Surrey (Croydon).
- Mar. 10—11.—West of England (Paignton, Devon).
- Mar. 11.—Yorkshire (Barnsley).
- Mar. 18.—Bradford.
- Mar. 24—25.—Grimsby.
- Mar. 25.—Doncaster.
- Apr. 8.—Scarborough.
- Apr. 10.—Whitby.
- Apr. 17—29.—W. Middlesex (W. Ealing).



# MORE AND MORE TABLE TENNIS "ON THE AIR"

By Jack Batty,  
Secretary, Manchester League

I SUPPOSE that most of us experience an unforgettable thrill at some time or another, and I must confess that when I first heard the magic words "Table Tennis" on the wireless I was not only excited, but immensely proud that at last this sport had finally been recognised by the British Broadcasting Corporation.



J. Batty

Since then, coupled with the amazing increase in public interest in the game, the broadcasting of table tennis commentaries and news has become much more frequent, and we are now taking quite a prominent part in the winter programmes over the radio.

It is becoming an established custom for a link-up in some form or other between the B.B.C. and the E.T.T.A., at least on the occasion of important International matches and championships.

But despite the fact that in my opinion table tennis provides an ideal subject for broadcasting, there are still many difficulties to be overcome.

First and foremost is the fact that the speed of the modern game is such that it is quite impossible for a commentator to describe a match stroke by stroke. It is almost as difficult to comment effectively on each point scored, and at the same time to describe some of the rallies.

In addition, some description of the players, their past achievements and potentialities, their dress and appearance, and also any outstanding features or characteristics of their play, is usually essential to provide the right atmosphere, and as a general rule the description can be given only by someone who has had considerable experience in rapid thinking.

It must, therefore, be a matter of great personal satisfaction to Mr. Stuart MacPherson, who gave the running commentary last month from Hastings on the occasion of the return match between England and France, to know that the thousands of table tennis enthusiasts all over the country join me in congratulating him on a really excellent description of the play.

\* \* \*

ONE of the chief difficulties facing a commentator is to keep up with the score. It is most embarrassing for both

speaker and listener if the spoken word does not tally with the umpire's announcement, which can usually be heard in the background.

One reason for this is that players, after a point is scored, usually dash back to the table and serve again with very little break. To ask them to take a little longer to pick up a ball is quite a knotty problem.

Of the many factors which make up a player's game, not the least important is a balanced "rhythm," and this, with the intense concentration required, should never be upset. To ask players to "rest" longer might have an adverse effect on their play, but it is a point which might be considered in our efforts to give the commentator a little more time.

One of the factors which makes table tennis an exciting game to watch is facial expression. Until television becomes more popularised, only the fortunate few will have the opportunity of listening and seeing table tennis in their own homes, but the criticism given in the *Listener* of the television demonstration last season was most hopeful for the future of the game as a medium for televising.

Meanwhile, our listening consists of hearing the spoken word, enjoying the rise and fall of interest, shown by the actions of the crowd in the background, and, chiefly, in listening to the ball striking the table.

The placing of an amplifier for "ball" noises must give the B.B.C. technicians plenty to think about. Whether the possibility of catching the sound of the ball hitting the bat has been explored I do not know, but I think that if this could be done it would add quite a lot to the general atmosphere.

We have also been quite fortunate in the matter of Talks on various aspects of the game. Where commentaries have not been arranged, it has often been possible (despite the late hour at which matches and tournaments finish) to arrange for an eye-witness account.

\* \* \*

IN conclusion I would like to tell you that this month arrangements are being made for at least two Table Tennis broadcasts. Both are from North Regional, the first being a commentary on the Hull Open Tournament from Hull on November 12, from 9.45-10 p.m., and the other an eye-witness account of the Merseyside Open Tournament at Liverpool on November 26 (10.30-10.40 p.m.).

It would be of considerable interest if fans who are able to listen to either or both of these items would write to me (c/o B.B.C., North Regional Offices, Manchester) and let me know their views on how the broadcasts are put over.

Criticism and encouragement are always helpful. If listeners would be good enough to give their impressions, these may help not only to correct uninteresting points, but may be of assistance in forging a still closer link between table tennis and broadcasting.

## Lancashire Association Now 12 Leagues Strong

By J. R. Thompson

THE Lancashire Table Tennis Association, started as a result of discussion between League officials at a General Council Meeting held in Manchester three years ago, and was formed with the hope that at last a County body would become a reality.

During the first season nothing much was done, except in sounding the Leagues and preparing the Association on a solid foundation. Season 1937-38 found us with a membership of six Leagues, all of whom were determined to make things go.

We began a County League inside the Association to cater for the smaller Leagues only, and carried out a full programme ending with the Championships at Blackpool, at which fourteen Leagues competed.

It was felt that we had achieved something at last. No grumbles, everyone happy, and not least, the Association was in a good financial position.

So we come to the present season. At our annual meeting held at Bolton, in September, six new Leagues were admitted to membership, making in all a round dozen. We have mapped out a comprehensive programme to the end of March.

The League is run on a percentage basis, each League to play every other League once, home or away, with a minimum of seven matches. The system worked splendidly last season, when Blackpool finished as champions after a play-off with Bolton and District.

Much of the success of the Association can be traced in the hard work and enthusiasm of "Bill" Worsley, the Blackpool secretary, who made such a good job of the National Event.

The following were elected as officers for the season 1938-39.

President: S. W. Richardson (Manchester).

Chairman and Press Secretary: J. R. Thompson (Bury).

Secretary and Treasurer: E. Worsley (Blackpool).

### STOP PRESS FLASH

A large Table Tennis Association writes to Spalding thus:—

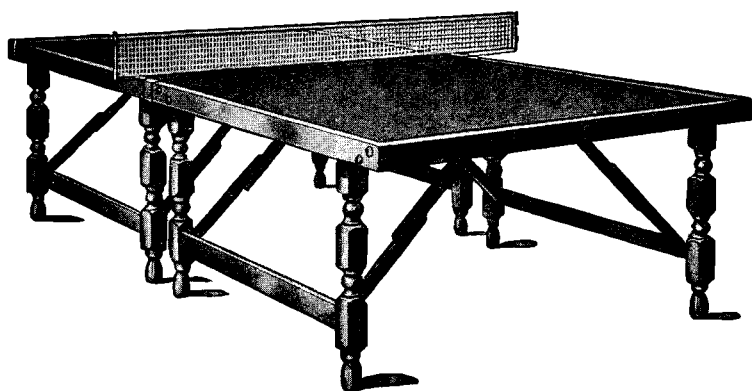
"Two more clubs have purchased Villa Tables; others will follow next season, for the improvement in play shewn since these clubs purchased new tables from you last year, has been most gratifying."

QUITE UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL

See Spalding advertisement on page 4 of this issue for prices, etc.

# ● SPALDING continues to lead in all TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT

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



Sturdily mounted on 8 turned legs giving EXTREME RIGIDITY.

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

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

## The "NEW VILLA" BALL

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

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

**Club Prices:** XXX 4/- XX 2/9 X 2/- per doz.

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



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

From all dealers everywhere and:—

## SPALDING SPORT SHOPS

**LONDON:**

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

**BIRMINGHAM:** 21a, Bennetts Hill

MANCHESTER: 22, Mosley Street  
LIVERPOOL: 20, Lord Street  
LEEDS: 3, King Edward Street

**SOUTHSEA:** 94, Palmerston Road

GLASGOW: 60, St. Vincent Street  
EDINBURGH: 3, Sth. Charlotte Street  
BELFAST: 15, Lombard Street

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

When purchasing, please consider Advertisers in this publication

# Looking Around

with

**J. W. A. CONNOLLY**

("Sunday Express" sports specialist)

I CONFESS quite openly that, being on my soccer-bound journeyings in the West Country this month, I had completely forgotten table tennis and, alas, also my friends in the sport, until I wandered into a little tea-room in Gloucester.

Over my meal I heard a heated, but very friendly argument on the subject of table tennis, and I listened for the right moment when I could, with all courtesy, butt in.

That moment wasn't long, because the debaters called upon me to settle a point, if possible, which I did.

Next I was challenged. To my amazement the café proprietor said: "Let's have a game, I have a table upstairs."

We adjourned to the battleground, and played ourselves to a standstill. If I had been amazed at the enthusiasm of these two league players, I was still further surprised when they unfolded details of the Gloucester and District League.

The League apparently has forty-four clubs in four Divisions, and more than three hundred players. After meeting many of the players, I can safely say that the competition is mustard keen. That is the sort of thing I like to see, and the sort of occurrence that must surely convince the pessimists that not only is table tennis established in every district in this country, but that it is still growing at a pace that kills.

And one thing I find about these small districts is that the players and secretaries have a solid ambition, once they themselves have overcome the first difficulties of stroke play, to see the great masters—Barna, Bellak, and Szabados, and our English stars, too.

I ASKED three of them at random who was world champion and they didn't know; but I asked three of them who was the greatest player in the world and the answer was, as I would have given myself, Viktor Barna.

Never is it possible to discuss table tennis in the backwaters of the sport without Viktor being brought into the conversation. Barna is simply the greatest player in the game, not because he has been so much publicised, but because his personality is so great and likeable.

Viktor will never again be world champion, but he is still the greatest player in the world, because no star to-day has the box office appeal, the personality or the ability to win a crowd that Barna possesses.

If you like to put it that way, he is a great showman.

Already enthusiasts have tried to tempt me into committing myself through a ranking list, but I am too old a hand to be so easily drawn. It is far easier to forget last season's rankings and let the forthcoming season get on by itself.

I HOPE that Eric Filby's heavy tennis engagements won't affect his table tennis later in the season, because after his showings

in the world and English championships this year I am convinced that Filby is the most improved player in the game. He would be a really worthy England number one.

There is another point that I mustn't forget. Since last year I have changed my address, and, to save the mail from reaching me by devious routes, my new address will be 1, Eversleigh Court, Grosvenor Road, Finchley, N.3.

In the close season I have been flattered by election as a vice-president of the Wembley League.

I was sorry to learn that my good friend Jack Tebb has given over the chairmanship, but it is cheering to think that, after all, Jack hasn't severed his connection with the league, and will, I trust, continue to give us his able support in the coming campaign.

\* \* \*

WHEN the next world championships take place we will have to change our reckoning somewhat. Germany, once a forlorn country more or less, is now a power in this sport of ours. Trudi Pritzi, easily the best woman player in the world, is now a German, and so are the other crack Austrian players, and the Austrians were by no means a poor set.

I don't know how many of the Czechoslovakian players will be affected now, but it will be a poor lookout for the competitive side of the women's world table tennis if these hard-hitting Czech girls have likewise become Germans. I wouldn't be surprised to see Leo Baron as one of the top-liners. Baron has a sound repertoire of strokes, doesn't lack for anything in the matter of confidence, and has the experience to back it up.

He is one of those rare players who go into the ins and outs and the whys and wherefores of the strokes. Pretty much the same as Leslie Booker, in that respect.

The prospective northern stars would appear to be Manchester's Ken Stanley and the Rumjahns from Liverpool.

Specialists in

**TABLE TENNIS  
TROPHIES AND  
MEDALS**

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

**John Taylor & Co.**

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

Phone: HOLborn 3169



## of TABLE TENNIS TERMS

**Doubles.**—The game played by four players. Special rules apply, and the ball is struck by each player in rotation.

**Drive.**—An attacking stroke nearly always played with topspin.

**Drop shot.**—Played (if correctly done) with the opponent well away from the table. Feinting to attack, the player instead plays a short, soft shot just over the net.

**Edge ball.**—A shot which on its first bounce hits the corner between the playing surface and the vertical sides or end of the table. Such a shot is a good return and the ball is still in play. If the ball strikes the actual sides or end of the table below the edge a good return has not been made and the ball becomes dead.

**End lines.**—The white lines at the five feet long edges of the table.

**Fault.**—A service which is not "good."

**Flat hit.**—Bill Pope says there is no such thing. Ivor Montagu says it is a topspin hit with less topspin than other strokes. Most players agree, I think, that when they speak of a flat hit they mean an attacking shot played without imparting either top or bottom spin.

**Flick.**—There isn't enough space to define this. Watch it done by the experts, and you will realise why. It should be mentioned though, that there is a forehand flick as well as the backhand stroke famous as the "Barna flick."

**Forehand.**—The right hand side of a right handed player, or the left side of a lefthander.

**Game.** The game is 21-points up according to the rules, but some people still play games of different numbers of points, from four to 101.

**Grip.**—The way you hold the racket. Usually it is either "orthodox" or "penhold."

**Handle.**—The part of the bat you are intended to hold—though with the orthodox grip the racket is held mainly with a thumb and forefinger on the blade.

**Half volley.**—A shot played quickly after the ball bounces.

### MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

November 24th, 25th, 26th, 1938

ALL EVENTS

Entry Forms from  
Mr. W. STAMP

CLOSING DATE  
NOV. 15th

"BUENA VENTURA"

FARMDALE CLOSE  
LIVERPOOL, 18

### THE SILTO TABLE TENNIS COURSE

Brings expert tuition within  
every player's reach

Many pupils report "marked improvement."  
Put points on YOUR game with the help of the  
SILTO COURSE.

Write for full details to:

J. SILTO, 58 Montagu Street, Swindon, Wilts.

# Women's Council Appeal Gets Great Response

By  
THE WOMEN'S EDITOR

AT the E.T.T.A. office you will meet both optimists and pessimists. But just lately we have got them all to agree at least about one thing—the Women's Council.

They are all really amazed at the response to the appeal we made for volunteers to come forward either to join this Council or to assist in its work.

I knew that the women members of the Executive were right when they suggested that women were keen to take their part in the organisation of the game, but I don't believe even they expected the numerous inquiries from nearly every corner of the country which have been coming in during recent weeks. I certainly did not.

It's strange, though, that these inquiries leave a few blank patches. Is it that some parts don't read their magazines or E.T.T.A. circulars? Hasn't the women's game developed far enough, in that little town of *x*, for even one member to come forward? Have the men got you so much under their thumb in big city *y* that you dare not write to us about women's affairs?

There are several *x*'s and at least two *y*'s, so I am not going to mention any names.

Shall we say, for the moment, that you are just shy? I hope that by the time of the next issue I shall be able to say that you have overcome that shyness; that the whole of England is now co-operating.

NOW to deal with the letters we have had. We have already answered most of them personally, of course, but as nearly everyone asks the same questions—"How best can we help? What are Women's Council duties?" I am going to give you the answers here.

First and foremost, the Council's object is to improve women's play. To do this, young players must be watched carefully by the Councillors, and all who seem likely to improve must be encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity to do so.

They must be told about all the open Tournaments in their district—and any closed ones they can enter for, too—and they must be encouraged to enter for them.

Councillors will then report to the E.T.T.A. the results of all the matches these promising youngsters play, and say whether they think they are suitable for trials.

These reports will provide the Selection Committee with something to work on.

Another task which each willing helper will be asked to undertake will be to help any women in her district who want to join Clubs, or want to form a League. The Councillor will, of course, be in close touch with the E.T.T.A., and when she herself cannot provide the answer to a problem put to her, she will always be able to obtain the information or advice which is needed.

\* \* \*

EVERY Councillor will, of course, make it a golden rule that every league should

enter the Rose Bow Competition, and I hope, too, that Women Councillors will all send me reports for this page of the magazine.

This is just an outline of the work the E.T.T.A. want the Women's Council to carry on. If it can be done and done well, then our object of making the Women's game as important and interesting as the men's—and perhaps even more attractive—will be achieved.

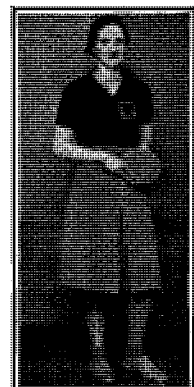
So now, please, will everybody interested who hasn't yet sent in her name sit down and write to the E.T.T.A. at once. League Secretaries, too, if your women are shy, write to us for them.

If only those blank spots can be covered, the E.T.T.A. will very shortly be able to send notices to those chosen for the Council.

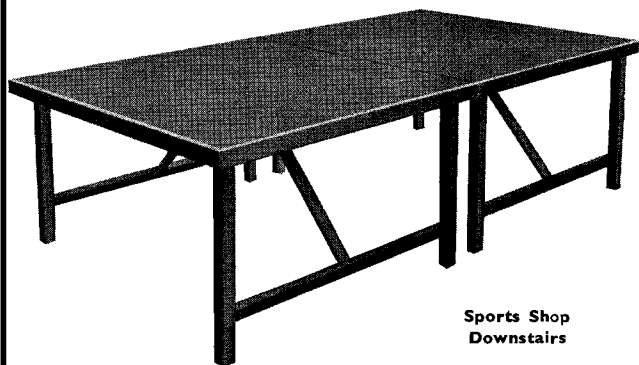
## PIONEERS OF MODERN TABLE TENNIS CLOTHING

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

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



BENTALLS · KINGSTON  
introduce their  
"JUNIOR CLUB"



Sports Shop  
Downstairs

— the table for small club and home use

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

SIZE  
8 x 4 11'10

SIZE  
9 x 5 12'6

and 5 monthly payments of an equal amount. Cash Price 63/-

and 5 monthly payments of an equal amount. Cash Price 67/6

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

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



THE OFFICIAL  
**E.T.T.A. SHIRTS**  
(FAST DYES)

Ladies' from 5/- each      Gents' from 5/7 each

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

"UMBRO - ETTA"  
JUNIOR SHIRTS  
(B.I.C. DYES)

Ladies' from 3/3 each      Gents' from 3/6 each

See the "UMBRO" Price List

SUPPLIED BY ALL SPORTS OUTFITTERS



## From the Secretary's Chair

SINCE my last notes, the international crisis has affected the administration at Head Office and in the local Leagues. The first issue of the Magazine was affected, but I hope that the Leagues which did not order early in the month will not neglect to see that October copies are purchased even late in the month.

The crisis also meant belated entries for the Wilmott Cup, and necessitated altering the closing date.

### English Championships

Preliminary arrangements for the English Championship are now settled. The Albert Hall has been booked for Thursday and Friday, January 26 and 27, 1939, and the Finals will, as usual, be played at Wembley. It is expected that all the foreign "stars" will be available—Vana, Bergmann, Barna, Bellak, Ehrlich, Szabados, Kelen, with the women—Pritzi, Kettnerova, the popular Czechs. All our top English players will be making another effort to keep the titles in this country.

There will be the usual reduction in the price of tickets to Club members buying in blocks of 20, and, remembering the number who were disappointed last season, I take this early opportunity of advising everyone that we are prepared now to take bookings.

### Tour of Sweden

At the invitation of the Swedish Association, a match will be played at Stockholm on November 21. Filby has already been selected and he will be accompanied by one other player. Afterwards they will do a

short tour of the country. It is expected that one of the younger aspirants for honours will be chosen with a view to giving him experience—I think a very wise policy.

\* \* \*

In spite of the world situation Table Tennis experts are getting about. Barna and Bellak, after spending the summer touring New Zealand and Australia and winning their Championships, are now fixed for four weeks in India, and they open at Bombay on November 5. Filby returns from his lawn tennis visit to U.S.A. on November 14, and immediately departs to Stockholm.

### World Championships

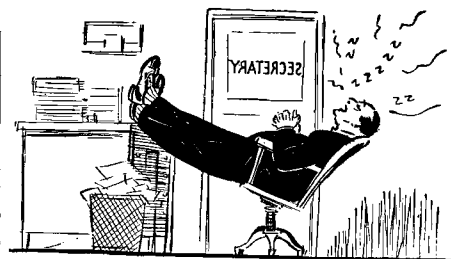
It is now certain that the World Championships will be held in Cairo, and the date has been given to us as February 6 to 11, 1939.

We have since received intimation that the date is March 6-11, and are seeking confirmation. We feel the latter date was wired in error, but at the moment of writing the complication has not been cleared up.

\* \* \*

Table Tennis "fans" will be pleased to hear that Richard Bergmann and Alfred Liebster are still with us, permission having been obtained for them to remain as the guests of the Association. The object of their stay is to improve the standard of play in this country and their services are available to Leagues who are prepared to take part in the scheme.

Secretaries interested should write immediately to Mr. J. Kurzman, 35, Suffolk Road, Barnes, S.W.13, who has charge of the arrangements.



### Official Handbook

This year's Official Handbook will be quite a different production from past years. In addition to the Constitution of the Association, Rules of the Game, History, Fixture Lists, Local, National, and International records, particulars of Local Leagues, Area Bodies, etc., there will be a number of articles of interest to players and particularly to officials.

There should be a wide sale among our own members and the general public, too.

For the first time the book will be in the hands of the trade, and can be obtained from all booksellers and newsagents on request. Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, Ltd., of Stationers' Hall Court, London, E.C.4, are handling the sole Trade Agency for the forthcoming year, and all Trade Inquiries should be directed to them.

### League Affiliation

Many questions have been asked about the payment of fees by Clubs having teams in two Leagues. The Executive Committee considered that position some years ago, and ruled that the League was responsible for payment on the basis of the number of Clubs taking part in the League, irrespective of whether any of their Clubs were in other Leagues.

JUST OUT : A BRILLIANT BOOK  
which everyone will soon be reading

## JACK CARRINGTON'S MODERN TABLE TENNIS

An up-to-date analysis of this modern sport by one of the cleverest Championship players of to-day. The beginner is guided in his choice of equipment and is shown how to build up his game on sound lines. The strokes are carefully explained with the help of simple illustrations and there is much good advice on theory and tactics for ambitious club players.

**Mr. W. J. POPE** (Secretary of the E.T.T.A.) in his Foreword to the book: "I know of no player better qualified than Jack Carrington to write about these matters . . . If I were asked to recommend a teacher, there is no one in the game to-day whom I would recommend with more confidence."

Illustrated with diagrams and  
action photographs

SECTION I (2 chapters) : FOR THE  
BEGINNER

SECTION II (1 chapter) : EARLY PRACTICE

SECTION III (7 chapters) : LEARNING THE  
OPEN GAME

SECTION IV (5 chapters) : TACTICS

SECTION V (5 chapters) : CHAMPIONSHIP  
PLAY

SECTION VI : RULES & KNOTTY POINTS

Price **2/6** net from all booksellers, stationers, newsagents who, if out of stock, will get it quickly for you, or direct from the E.T.T.A.

PUBLISHED BY BELL

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

IF you could only *see yourself* playing table tennis. Perhaps few of us in the learner's stage would survive the disappointment, so it is probably best that we can't.

How you shape your game now is most important. First impressions are the strongest, and most players have some unorthodox or rather awkwardly produced stroke which is a relic of their early days as a player.

Try to avoid being awkward at all costs; even if at first you seem to lose points by it. Your mistakes *now* are not important; what is important is that you should try to learn from them what to avoid.

If you aim to become something more than a "rabbit" player, it is *how* you play that matters most. Try to criticise your own play.

You can generally feel when you've made a very awkward stroke. For instance: when the ball comes straight towards your body and you, *at the last moment*, move to one side and give yourself just room enough to get your arm free and, holding your racket in an almost vertical position, manage to return the ball.

Even the most conceited of us have to blush a little when we do this and send the ball over the net, but "house" high. What a gawky shot, leaving you standing all hunched up, with your arm pointing straight forward, bent at elbow; yourself standing almost facing the net and very nearly in a "strait jacket" attitude.

**No. 2—Stance, Footwork and Anticipation**

"Well, I got the ball back," you retort. Yes, but how? What a return to make—giving your opponent a "sitter." Even if he can't hit a winner, and returns the ball slowly, you'll be so tied up and unbalanced for making your next shot that you'll very likely miss it.

HERE are a few hints as to stance:— Always take the trouble to *stand properly*. Stand easily, but not carelessly. Your general stance for serving and return of service should be stand-at-ease position, *i.e.*, feet one short pace apart, knees very slightly bent.

Stand about the centre of table a short pace behind the baseline. In case you wonder why this stance is the best: try standing with (a) feet wide apart, (b) feet close together. In each case it is difficult (almost impossible in fact) to move quickly.

Table tennis is, above all, a game for speed. You must be able to move quickly. Don't stand too near the table or you'll be liable to serve over the baseline and lose a point on a "fault" service.

For return of service, too, being too close in will render taking a deep service near the end of the table very difficult. On the other hand, by standing too far back from the table you will too easily be caught by short shots or services.

\* \* \*

TAKE your time when serving. Service is the start of the game. Start properly.

Carelessness or slovenliness is at the root of missed services. Don't serve before you are quite ready to do so. Let your opponent wait—not unnecessarily, of course, but see that *you* don't hurry.

You may be surprised to find how (after first making an effort to force yourself to do it) your refusal to be flustered or hurried makes for calmness and self-mastery. It is these annoying little things which are most important—because they are so small they get neglected. They are all things which you can do yourself, quite apart from your opponent's play.

Now let us revert to yourself, and that awful vertical arm return. You made this because you didn't *see*, until too late, that the ball was coming straight at you.

You must learn to *look*. Keep your eyes on the ball all the time it is in play from the moment you return it. Watch how your opponent shapes to your shot. If you *look* you will see what he is going to do, or at least will get some idea of its direction and the kind of shot it is going to be.

That is the basis of anticipation. Don't worry about being wrong sometimes. Even the best players are made to look silly sometimes. Remember—you will not learn how to watch the ball from other players. It is a thing that you must train yourself to do. It will enable you (in time) to tell where the ball is coming and so *prepare your stroke beforehand*.

When the ball has got there is too late. *You must get there first.*

NEXT MONTH: Services and first strokes.

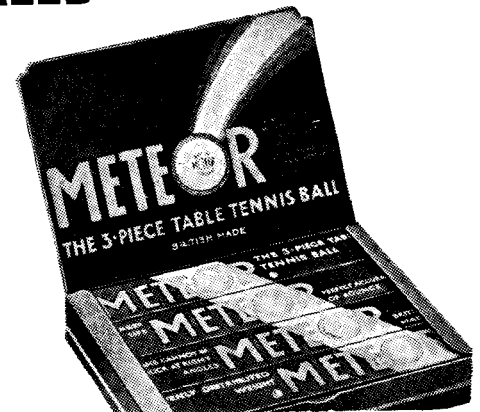
SHOOT TO STARDOM  
WITH METEOR  
THREE-PIECE TABLE TENNIS BALLS

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

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

**GET THEM FROM YOUR USUAL SPORTS SHOP**

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



# THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron : His Majesty the King

OFFICERS, 1938-1939

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

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

Hon. Treasurer :

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

Hon. General Secretary :

W. J. Pope,  
Featherstone House,  
64, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.  
(Phone : Holborn 9544)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

1938-1939

Mr. L. Bennett, 31, Cumberland Avenue, Grimsby,  
Lincolnshire.

Mr. R. Emdin, Northaw, Kingsbury Avenue, St. Albans,  
Herts.

Mr. M. Goldstein, 222, Alcester Road, Birmingham 13.

Mr. F. J. P. Hills, 87, North Side, London, S.W.4.

Mr. A. S. King, Teofani, Lower Avenue, Exeter,  
Devonshire.

Mr. K. A. Nicholson, 24, Nuns Moor Crescent,  
Newcastle-on-Tyne 4.

Mr. M. W. Robinson, 11, Elm Avenue, Garden Village,  
Hull, Yorkshire.

Mr. J. M. Rose, 39, London Road, London, S.E.1.

Miss P. Anderton, 125, Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-  
Hardy, Manchester 21

Mr. J. Batty, 11, St. Leonard's Drive, Woodlands Park,  
Timperley, Cheshire.

Mrs. D. L. Bunbury, Dudley Lodge, Prestwich,  
Manchester.

Miss R. Smits, 32, Brook House, Gunnersbury Lane, W.3.

## "TABLE TENNIS"

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

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE :

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

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

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

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

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

### PLAYERS WANTED

Malchar T.T. Club, Hall near Notting  
Hill Gate Station. 2 League Teams, 4  
Tournament Tables. Hon. Sec.: D. Oakley-  
Smith, 8, Redcliffe Street, S.W.10.

Bishopsgate T. T. Club require several  
players of League standard. Club nights  
Mondays and Fridays

Apply to:—

H. Britton, 17, St. Helen's Place, E.C.3



Miss P. Corker, first women's singles champion  
of Plymouth

### FAMOUS CLUBS

#### No. 2. ROCHDALE P.O.

ENTERING the Rochdale and District  
League immediately on being formed in  
1934, the Rochdale P.O. Club has swept all  
before it and has carried off the League  
Championship each season up to the present.

Only once have the team been defeated,  
and this during their first season.

The club's regular team consists of players  
all of whom have represented both the town  
and the League.

Page, the captain, led the Rochdale town  
team last season, and won the League singles  
event in '35/36 and '37/38. Wright and  
Nelson have held the League men's doubles  
continuously since 1935/36, whilst Robinson,  
the club's fourth player, has been runner-up  
in both singles and doubles. The club has,  
in fact, provided both singles and doubles  
winners, and singles runners-up, for the last  
three seasons.

Last season the club decided to enter a  
second team in the Rochdale League's  
Second Division, and the trophy for this  
section has now been added to the others  
on the club mantelpiece.

The club is considering the formation of a  
women's section. This is women's season—  
may Rochdale P.O. and every other club  
do its bit.

### LONDON C.S. CLUBS

#### No. 5.—Mount Pleasant

WITH a staff of some five thousand  
eligible for membership, Mount Plea-  
sant Post Office has naturally taken a promi-  
nent place in Civil Service Table Tennis.

Entering the bottom Division of the  
London C.S. League in 1932, the club reached  
the First Division in three seasons, and now  
has a second team in the League's Second  
Division.

The club is also represented by two teams  
in the London Postal League, and last season  
entered the Business Houses League. The  
club's reputation gained this new team a

(Continued at foot of next column)

## A. A. HAYDON writes on HOW TO BEAT "CHOP" DEFENCE

THE long-distance "chop" defence  
of the modern first-class defensive  
player has been brought to such a high  
standard of efficiency that the attacking  
player, no matter how hard and accu-  
rately he can hit, has to resort to tactics  
other than straightforward hitting in  
order to get the better of his opponent.

The drop-shot is a deft half-volley which  
lands on the table close to the net. It  
should be used against a defensive opponent  
when he is several feet away from the table  
edge. When about to drop-shot the ball  
you should disguise your intention until the  
last moment. Supposing you are attacking  
against a good long-distance "chop" defen-  
sive player, you should swing the arm forward  
as if about to drive again, but instead the ball  
should be gently, and very carefully, half-  
volleyed just over the net.

### Where to Place Them

"Chop" returns landing near to the net  
on your side of the table are easier to drop-  
shot than returns landing near to the base-  
line of your court. Try, if possible, to place  
your drop-shot in the centre of your opponent's  
court, close to the net, of course. Drop-shots  
landing close to either side-line are more  
easily reached by the defender.

The drop-shot, useful weapon though it  
may be, should not be over-used.

The angled drive is another sound method  
of breaking up a player's defence. The  
plain drive down back-hand or forehand wings  
is well within the good defensive player's  
reach; but, on the other hand, the angled  
drive across the court and close to the net is  
much more difficult to return.

English players do not cultivate this  
shot enough, and, as far as hitting is  
concerned, the area within 18 inches  
of the net on either side of the table is  
rarely used.

The best way to return the angled drive  
is by means of the half-volley, but this is  
obviously not possible if the defender is  
several feet away from the table edge. The  
next best method is to take the ball as near  
the table as possible, using a sharp "chop."

In order to get into position for this kind  
of shot, however, the defender must move  
swiftly to the side of the table, round the  
awkward pointed corner, breaking up normal  
footwork and causing loss of position which  
may enable the attacker to drive the return  
out of the defender's reach.

Reprinted from the "News Chronicle"

place in Division II. (East) immediately on  
entry, and the L.B.H. Committee's opinion  
of Mount Pleasant's ability was confirmed by  
the team's performance in winning this  
Division without a single defeat.

S. V. Kimmince and W. H. Tamplin have  
played for the first team since the club's  
formation. The most outstanding player at  
the Mount, however, is R. C. Rose, who  
played in two L.B.H. League representative  
games last season. It is a pity that this  
player is not seen in open tournaments.



# OVER THE NET

THE crisis did queer things to everybody and who are Table Tennis players to be exempt? At any rate they weren't, and in the inauspicious days which began the season many league programmes suffered from wholesale postponements.

One of the strangest experiences fell to members of the Barnet club, who arrived on the first night of their season to find that what they had fondly imagined was their clubroom was, instead, a gas mask fitting centre!

\* \* \*

THE match with Czechoslovakia didn't come off, of course, our opponents finding themselves with a pressing home fixture. Happily, the match against France, at Hastings on October 18, was more fortunate, though it was feared at one time that arrangements would break down, and as it was Haguenauer was unable to get release, which rather took the gilt off our odd event win.

Still, it was a thoroughly enjoyable match, even though the Hastings weather was not too kind, and certain of the E.T.T.A.'s Peter Pans were unable to satisfy a natural craving to build castles on the beach.

Mr. P. A. Ward, the Hastings E.T.T.A. representative, managed the next best thing, heaping up little piles of powder in the court being prepared for the match, and then sweeping away the mounds with a broom. "Pat's" technique with a sweeping brush needs to be seen.

\* \* \*

ERNIE BUBLEY is stumped at last. He's found a poser that's beyond him. Seems that he met a girl who, without knowing who he was, began to talk Table Tennis. Ernest confessed that he played a little; the girl said she knew someone who was a very good player indeed, one of the best in England. Bublely wasn't having too much of that, and the outcome was a bet, three cigars to a box of chocolates, that Bublely couldn't beat him.

Then he asked the name of his redoubtable opponent. "Ernie Bublely" said the girl triumphantly. Now Ernie wants to know what will happen if he loses.

\* \* \*

These things seem to happen to Bublely who often likes to speak a sort of gibberish of his own which sometimes fools people he's "talking foreign." He once told Ehrlich it was Spanish. But Ehrlich, who *does know Spanish*, made great play with the Spanish equivalent of "Oh, yeah!"

\* \* \*

Then there was Lurie, somewhat suspiciously tackled by an autograph hunter because his signature was different from the one her friend had! But it was the friend's which was the forgery.

LATEST coincidence of the month fell to colleague J.W.A. (Looking Around) Connolly. Jim was married the other day to Miss Kathleen Shelbourne, and on the same day Miss Gwen Capper, one of the hardworking Magazine Committee, was married to Mr. Tower.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim set off with the usual secrecy for a hotel on the wedding night, walked through the lounge, and, Looking Around, came face to face with the new Mr. and Mrs. Tower.

\* \* \*

BECOMING slightly more serious, I sense discussion brewing because the All Ireland Council have decided that their affiliation charge is to be 6d. per person. In England, of course, Leagues pay, on the basis of 3s. 6d. for each club belonging.

This always seems to me so much more "in on the basement" that it is unexpected to find advocates for the individual affiliation. However, objections are made, on the ground that with memberships varying from as few as three to as many as five hundred, club affiliations cannot operate fairly.

Should the E.T.T.A. change? Clearly there would be a lot more welcome money for them, but it isn't as easy as that. This player system has its difficulties, chief among them the mysterious tendency of club memberships to dwindle when affiliations have to be accounted for, and the extreme difficulty which would attach to the collection of the dues.

\* \* \*

ERIC FILBY, in America for lawn tennis, has been practising a lot with Sol Schiff, Pagliaro and Grenies, and says he is playing better than ever.

Szabados and Kelen are playing exhibitions in India, and Barna and Bellak, we understand, will be reaching India in early November.

\* \* \*

RIBBLESDALE have made a controversial move in dividing their season into two halves, with a promotion and relegation both at Christmas and the season's end.

As Leagues get very big and numbers of divisions very large, new clubs who must enter at the bottom (unless the principle of earning their place is abandoned), find promotion to a place in keeping with their strength takes literally years.

Their youngsters are veterans before reaching First Division status.

Many object to jump promotions, and this new Ribblesdale experiment may be the solution to this difficulty.

In any case the scheme should keep things alive, and the result is being watched with great interest.



Ernie Bublely . . . stumped at last.

WITH the intention of obtaining more control over the blade, a player at Bath has invented for himself a bat shaped like a comma.

Certain opponents whom he has brought to a full stop with this weapon have commented on it in words italicised and spread with exclamation marks!!!

\* \* \*

WITH a selected number of copies of this issue of the magazine, we are sending out a poster. If you have received one in *your* copy, will you please do your best to have it exhibited in some prominent place—in your club, if there is not one there already; in your sports dealer's shop, in some other shop window, or perhaps in your own home.

Thank you!

\* \* \*

SOUTH LONDON League have a novel scheme for promoting magazine sales. Mr. E. A. W. Cast, energetic magazine secretary, is numbering every copy that he sells, and at the League's annual dance and trophy presentation a draw will be made and the winner will receive a prize.

If Mr. Cast's scheme enables him to work sales up in South London to twelve dozen copies a month, we have promised him a "Swan" fountain pen as a prize. We shall be pleased to make a similar offer to any other organiser who can sell this number.

## Sussex Open Championships

ON  
HASTINGS PIER  
12-13 NOVEMBER  
ALL EVENTS

Entry Forms from H. M. ROBINSON,  
170, St. Helens Road, Hastings, Sussex

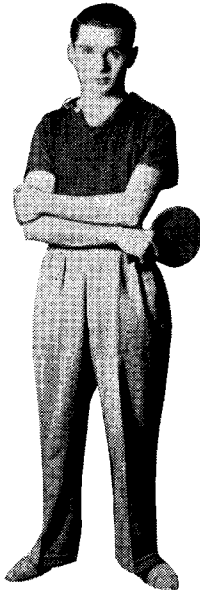
# Baron Romps to East of England Title, does not lose a game

THE second East of England Open Tournament was held at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness, and in view of the threats and rumours of war then surrounding us, the increase of 30 per cent. in the entry as compared with last year was very encouraging.

Last year's Continental stars were missing, of course, but there were representatives of most of the important towns in the Midlands, Eastern Counties and Yorkshire.

The general standard, especially among the youngsters, was quite good—the local Lincolnshire players have certainly improved, and their energetic County Association are to be congratulated on the work they have done in spreading the gospel of the game.

The men's singles title was won by L. Baron,



of London, who won his matches in convincing style without conceding a game. Baron appears to have widened the scope of his game during the close season—he is now something more than the "top and drop" expert well known to London tournament players last year.

His opponent in the final was J. Powell, a likely lad from Sheffield, whose game is rather reminiscent of Hardman's, with its fast "snatch" forehand drive and just-too-impetuous backhand. Powell's defence, however, seems much safer, and to my mind he is already a better player than Hardman was last year.

His slowness in getting up to drop-shots strengthens my view that the Northern players do not cultivate the drop-shot seriously enough.

THE men's doubles was interesting in that it provided a glimpse of another Haydon in action. They said he was the little brother of the famous Adrian, but the stroke he produced in the final was surely the father and mother of all forehand drives! At all events Baron and Carrington, who had already beaten most of the likely pairs, received such a surprise that they had conceded 10 points in the first game before opening their own innings.

The London pair fought back to win the second game, but in the third game young Haydon was very cleverly supported by the

half-volley play of his partner, Walton, and the match was theirs. A well-earned victory for Birmingham.

The women's singles provided a really brilliant match between Miss Stott, the Leeds international, and a newcomer to Tournament finals in Miss E. Ward of Grimsby.

This tall, loose-limbed young lady made a determined effort to hit through Miss Stott's admittedly strong defence, and only cracked up towards the end of the deciding game. Her hitting showed obvious signs of inexperience, but I do believe that it is the hardest we have seen from any English woman player.

Miss Stott landed the treble by winning the women's doubles with Mrs. Amies, and the mixed in partnership with H. Nickelsburg, ex-member of Germany's Swaythling Cup team. In the latter event the winning pair had a titanic tussle in the semi-final with Mr. and Mrs. Carrington, eventually prevailing at 28-26 in the third game.

RESULTS

- Men's Singles: Final: Baron beat Powell 3-0.
- Men's Doubles: Final: Haydon and Walton beat Baron and Carrington 2-1.
- Women's Singles: Final: Miss Stott beat Miss Ward 2-1.
- Women's Doubles: Final: Miss Stott and Mrs. Amies beat Mrs. Carrington and Miss Stegeman 2-0.
- Mixed Doubles: Final: Nickelsburg and Miss Stott beat Davis and Miss Smith 2-1. J. C.

**CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
METROPOLE BUILDINGS, W.C. 2

Finals: **Friday, December 2**  
Presentation Dance: **December 8**



## FOR RAPIDITY of ACTION, SUPPLENESS of LIMB, and Stamina

### WONDERFUL TESTIMONY

Rapidity of action and suppleness of limbs, as well as stamina, are of the utmost importance to me. For these I have found ELLIMAN Athletic RUB of the greatest aid. How great you can judge when I tell you that although according to age (27) I should be past my prime at Table Tennis, I am still playing in International matches, and what is more I am playing better than I ever played before.

STANLEY PROFFITT

**STANLEY PROFFITT**

*International and Swaythling Cup Player, Table Tennis Coach and Essex County Cricketer*

ADDS HIS TESTIMONY WITH GREAT PLEASURE to THE WORLD'S WONDER MUSCLE TONIC

**ELLIMAN ATHLETIC RUB 14**

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

# THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL

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

Phone: MUSEum 9001

The Rendezvous of all Table Tennis Players

Five minutes from City and West End

— Centrally Heated —

Hot and Cold Water in all Rooms

TENNIS, BILLIARDS and TABLE TENNIS

MODERATE CHARGES

W. H. PRICHARD, Resident Proprietor

# A HELPFUL BOOK

By The Hon. Ivor Montagu

JACK CARRINGTON has written a book which should prove very helpful to Table Tennis in this country. I do not know of any other that so simply takes a would-be beginner and gently leads him through the generally accepted, what everyone ought to know, about the game.

I fancy my own booklet provides a number of facts for the student of Table Tennis, or even games in general. Kelen's provides some acute psychological observations on match play, and Barna's on certain strokes envied by the ambitious. I can't recall any book on the game that hasn't something in it to interest us fans who like Table Tennis.

But the virtue of Carrington's is that it sets out in persuasive style to give a guide to *learning*, without saying so much about any one aspect that it might risk boring the newcomer who, after all, only wants to learn Table Tennis as a *game* to enjoy.

Such a player wants, certainly, advice on the right lines, so as to be able to enjoy the game at the best level of which he is capable without *infinite pains*; I am afraid most Table Tennis literature tends to terrify him by jumping very quickly and too earnestly into the higher flights.

WHILE praising this book highly, I am not in full agreement with its contents. There are some things which I think Jack Carrington should have emphasised more, some things about which I am sure he should have expressed himself differently, and some things about which I think he is wrong. I don't think any of them vitiate the usefulness of the book to beginners, because the fine points in dispute are not likely to matter to them; but as we, readers of this magazine together, are interested forcibly in them, let's spend a little time on them.

Firstly, the things wrong: the section about the theory of spin is a pity. The physics of spin is not very simple, and the effort to give a simple explanation of it is bound in the end to result in giving merely a wrong explanation. Carrington does not even say anything about the modification of shape on the ball when it is struck, though this, of course, is one of the essential factors in governing its path; and the use of a familiar word "heavy" when Carrington is speaking not about weight but density, does not make the explanation plain.

The observation that stone floors under the table "slow down the bounce" is also misleading. A stone floor makes the ball bounce higher and faster upwards, but he is right in saying that it is "rendered difficult of control" because the upright angle of the bounce is unfamiliar.

SECONDLY, things that should be put differently: This really is just a matter of things that Carrington himself has made clear somewhere in his book, but which in another place simplification has made him express so that they *might* be misleading to someone who didn't watch out.

The whole passage relating to the banning of finger spin services should make it clear that he is referring to *finger spin* services which might put a beginner off learning the *racket kind*, if he didn't know they are allowed.

The player is advised to get the ball back (a) as low as possible, (b) as heavily chopped as possible, (c) as far from his opponent as possible. Why not include (d) as near his opponent as possible?

Carrington elsewhere describes how you can tie up a player by sending the ball straight at him, but surely the case should also be provided for in the "golden rules."

NOW for points I think should be made clearer. First about the table. Carrington rightly emphasises how important it is to get a good table in order to enjoy the game at all. But I always think a book of this kind should put the beginner on his guard against the type of table that has thickening pieces *round the edge and across underneath*. This will *look thick*, and if he only bounces the ball once or twice it may happen to fall on one of these thickening pieces and give a good bounce.

TWO final small remarks on history. A book of this kind should not be packed out with history, and Carrington has done a fine job in indicating in a few pages just enough to lure that same beginner's interest on into Championship Table Tennis as a spectacle.

His apt characterisations of some modern players in a few words are excellent.

But there are two small points I think should not have been forgotten. One is the defensive penholder grip players. With his mind on the Joyce and other London League one-side hitters of to-day, Carrington says penholder players' defence is almost entirely neglected and they "can do next to nothing on the backhand wing."

Yet all the *great* penholder players of the old days in England and Wales (Champion Donaldson and Champion Coles among them) dominated precisely by defence, and as for World Champion Mechlovits, his backhand wing was as perfect as forehand.

I do not mean to give a captious impression with all these points or to diminish my compliments to Jack Carrington's book.

From a teacher like Jack Carrington, with the experience of just how much the learner will understand at a time, he can get much more and with less pains, and learn to argue about finesses later (if his patience and interest last out till he develops so far as to understand them).

## WIN Your Tournament

### The Baron Practice Wall

Will Help You to Perfect Your Weak Shots—Practise Your Strong



Price 21/-

Instruction Leaflet from

J. ROSE & SON, 39, London Road, London, S.E.1  
WAT. 5432-3

SOUTHEND.—E. G. Elam, The Sports Shop, Weston Road.

WOKING.—Sports House, Commercial Road.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—James Beattie Ltd.

## M. HILL WINS FINAL AT DEWSBURY

THE Dewsbury Invitation tournament, at the Liberal Club, Dewsbury, attracted a good entry, including some Yorkshire county players.

The men's singles were won by M. Hill (Halifax) who beat L. Broadhead (Dewsbury T.T.C.) in the final, 21-11, 21-10. The men's doubles were won by M. Hill and G. Mitton (Halifax) who beat W. Atkinson and B. Mackinden (Leeds) in the final 21-12, 21-9. Mrs. Stead beat Mrs. Chard (Barnsley) in the final for the Women's Singles 21-20, 21-11. Mrs. Stead (Bradford) and Mrs. Chard beat Mrs. Amies (Pontefract) and Miss Richards (Bramley) 21-15, 21-16, in the final for the women's doubles.

Mrs. Chard, this time with S. Race, of Barnsley, also won the Mixed Doubles, beating Mrs. Stead and J. Kilburn (Dewsbury T.T.C.) in the final 14-21, 21-17, 21-18.

G. Mitton won the youths', beating twelve-year-old K. Reed (Dewsbury) 21-18 21-9 in the final.

### READERS! PLEASE NOTE.

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

- ABERDEEN.—McMillans, Union Bridge.  
 BARNLSLEY.—Barnsley British Co-operative Society Ltd.  
 BARNLSLEY.—W. Carter, 15, Bridge Street.  
 BLACKPOOL.—J. A. Steer Ltd., 4, Palladium Buildings, Waterloo Road, S.S.  
 BRADFORD.—Sports and Pastimes Ltd., 37, Westgate.  
 BURNLEY.—R. Halstead, 289, Padiham Road, Ightenhill Park Lane.  
 CAMBERLEY.—Whites, 36, High Street.  
 DEWSBURY.—W. Wood, 10, Kingsway.  
 EXETER.—John Webber & Sons, 51, High St.  
 FAVERSHAM.—T. E. Taylor, 1, Market Place.  
 GLOUCESTER.—Hudson & Co., 20, Northgate Street.  
 HULL.—Asbestos & Rubber Co. Ltd., 24, King Edward Street.  
 LEEDS, 1.—S. M. Wainwright Ltd., Leeds Bridge.  
 LEWES.—Lloyd & Son Ltd., 2, Station Street.  
 LIVERPOOL, 1.—Arthur Smart & Sons Ltd., 9, Canning Place.  
 Jack Sharp Ltd., 36 and 38, White-chapel.  
 LONDON.—A. W. Gamage Ltd., Holborn, E.C.1.  
 J. W. Hearne Ltd., 137, Uxbridge Road, West Ealing, W.13.  
 I. Pradal & Co., 25, Goodge St., W.1.  
 J. Rose & Son, 39, London Rd., S.E.1.  
 Shellshears, 122, Broadway, West Ealing, W.13.  
 Spalding Bros. (all Retail Shops).  
 Sports House Ltd., 170, Finchley Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.  
 Wakelings Sports House Ltd., 7 and 9, Clapham Park Road, S.W.4.  
 NEWBURY.—Thos. Turner & Sons, Ltd., 86, Northbrook Street.  
 NOTTINGHAM.—Griffin & Spalding Ltd. Gunn & Moore Ltd., 49, Carrington St.  
 SHEFFIELD.—Frank Bird Ltd., 27, King Street.  
 Fred Rose, 264, Glossop Road  
 H. H. B. Sugg Ltd., 28, Angel Street.

(Continued at foot of previous column).



## Where They Play 101 Points Up

*Tisch Tennis*, the German Table Tennis Association's paper, prints the following note on *Brazilian Table Tennis*, from R. Wetzel, for many years a club player in Dresden. We are glad to reproduce it with acknowledgement:—

"In our little town of Joinville here, we have six clubs, but everything is a bit old-fashioned. Play is usually with wooden rackets and 101 points up, the equivalent of five games.

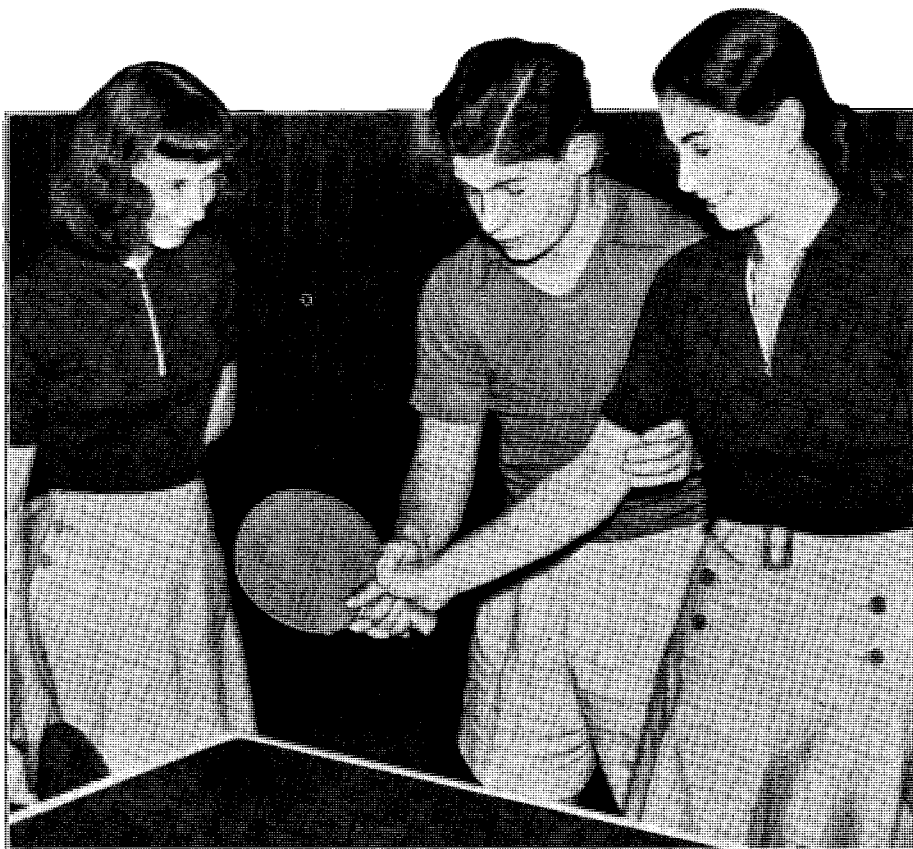
"Service has to be made below the table and quite simply, without any spin, direct on to the opposite side of the table.

"Teams play five a side, one only playing at a time. When he loses a point, he steps aside and his place is taken by his team's No. 2. This goes on through all the five, until the turn comes back to the first man again. This way of playing leads to frightful safety play.

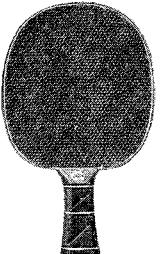
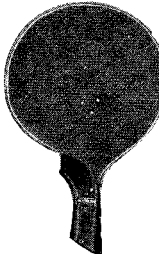
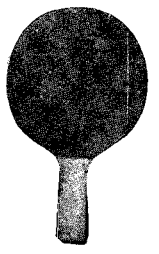
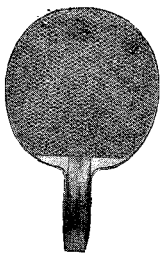
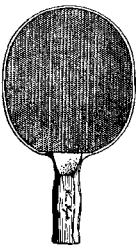
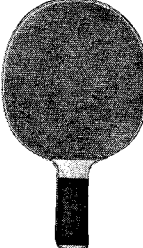

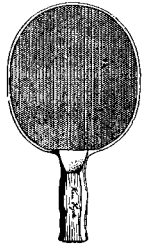
"Fixing up matches is not so easy. If we want to play a club in another town we have to undertake a railway journey of 360 miles. Add to this that the railway is not a main line and has to manage a climb of 3,250 feet altitude into the bargain, and you will appreciate why the journey lasts 15 hours.

"And yet we often do it. Less perhaps for the games than for the social pleasures and comradeship that are built up by such excursions."

Brazilian Table Tennis has always been rather legendary over here. About 10 years ago Sao Paulo wrote asking to stage the world championships, and an Hungarian traveller told Mechlovits that in Sao Paulo players were so good they had given up playing on flat tables and used deliberately curved surfaces to make the game more interesting!



*Bergmann, ex-world champion, gives a few hints to Miss Blackburn (Exeter), on left, Exeter League's most promising girl player. She will be playing in the Home Counties tournament this month.*

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

# AROUND the COUNTRY

WITH all the changes in League systems of play which have been inaugurated this season, it is strange to find one League reporting the defeat of such a proposal.

Yarmouth's annual meeting was very definitely opposed to a change-over from single games against all the other side's players to "best of three," each player meeting only two of the other team.

Like some of the Yarmouth officials, we feel that "best of three" games provide much better matches. Perhaps they will think differently next year!

CHIEF interest in the Bournemouth and District League centres in the experiment in the men's Division I, of playing three-a-side

## BOURNEMOUTH

teams, with each player playing each of three opponents the best of three sets.

Already this has been proved to be a popular change, and for the first time in the history of the League this division is the strongest.

The League has an entry of 52 teams drawn from 26 clubs in the district. The men's section is divided into three divisions, the women's into two.

Outside the League programme, the two main events of the season will be the Bournemouth and the Hampshire tournaments.

Local players are hoping that an attempt which the League is making to attract Barna, Bellak, and Bergmann down for the latter event will be successful, in which case a larger hall will be put into commission. All inquiries regarding either tournament should be sent to Mr. C. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth.

THE Association's Headquarters Club, the opening of which was announced in our last issue, should influence to a great extent the future and status of the

## BIRMINGHAM

game in the Midlands. The lack of suitable accommodation for everyday practice and training has been a big handicap to the Birmingham Association's progress during the past two or three hectic seasons. Even so excellent progress was made, but now that the ideal has become a

reality all difficulties should be overcome, and there should be no limit to the game's growth.

Standard of play must improve with such facilities for practice and training as are now available, and prospects of producing players up to international standard within two years are very bright.

Arrangements have again been made for Birmingham to represent Warwickshire in both men's and women's sections of the County Championship. The men's team, who last season finished second to Nottinghamshire, are competing in the Midland sections against Derbyshire—a new entry—Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and Nottinghamshire.

Warwickshire women, winners of their section, are defending their title against Yorkshire, Northumberland, and Lincolnshire.

THIS season Bath have twenty-one clubs playing in three divisions. Teams are now of three players each, and every man plays the best of three games against each of the opposing side. Women will be allowed to register and play in League matches.

Teams and players are taking the game more seriously this season. Several clubs have improved equipment and conditions—Oldfield Baptists, for instance, have now 50 per cent. more playing space, with new lighting in keeping.

Bath's largest and most central hall, the Pavilion, has been booked for the finals of the West of England Championships, early in the New Year.

Three members of the committee, playing in different divisions, will act as talent-scouts, and inter-division matches are being arranged with the object of finding new players to represent the City.

BLACKPOOL intend to form a junior section this season if sufficient entries are received. Specially reduced subscriptions are being arranged in the hope that this "catch-'em-young" scheme may succeed.

Another new competition is for teams of two men and one woman. All entrants will be put in the hat, and teams picked by draw. The matches will follow the same plan as the England v. France series, but teams will be

divided into groups in which all will meet. Group winners will play in further groups.

The whole competition will be played off at Blackpool's Headquarters Club, where special nights have been allocated for these matches.

A NEW division has been added to the Coventry League to accommodate sixteen new teams, and another novelty has been introduced in the matter of scoring

## COVENTRY

points in League matches. Instead of points for matches won or lost, a point will be awarded for each set won, and it is hoped that this scheme will make the League tables a better reflection of the merits of the teams.

Coventry men are once again competing in the Midland Counties League, and a team have also been entered in the newly formed Women's Section.

Season tickets at reduced prices are now being sold. They are available for all home matches, and the success of the idea will mean more regular support for these matches (and a little less worry for last season's hard-worked officers, who are still in harness).

YORKSHIRE trials for players under 21 years of age were played at the Liberal Club, Bond Street, Dewsbury, on October 1.

There was a good entry; each League sent three players, and players under 21 who had represented the county were also invited.

The players were arranged in sections, and the winners of each section, along with others who did well, played in the final two sections.

RESULTS.—Section 1: M. Hill (Halifax) 1; G. Milton (Halifax) 2. Section 2: D. Queskey (Hull) 1; E. Patchett (Bradford) 2.

Entries for the Hartlepoons Association this season set up a new record of 23 men's and 10 women's teams, three more than last season. Registrations in the women's section already show a 50 per cent. increase over last season's final figures.

The first Hartlepool's Open Tournament was held on October 29, too late for this month's issue. There will be a full report in the December number.

LINCOLNSHIRE Association were well satisfied with their staging of the second East of England Open Championships at Skegness. As before, local women

## LINCOLNSHIRE

showed up better than the men, and congratulations are due to Miss Eileen Ward, of Grimsby, for being runner-up in the women's singles, and to Miss Vera Stegeman, of Grimsby, who with Mrs. M. A. Carrington, of London, reached the final of the women's doubles, and also the semi-final of the women's singles.

Membership all round has grown, and although all details are not yet forthcoming, the Leagues are much stronger. Boston have added a second division and doubled their size, and prospects are bright there. Sleaford, in their second season, have also found a second division necessary.

Grimsby have had to create a third women's division, and for their size must surely stand alone in development of the women's side of the game.

A new club has been established in Market Rasen with 40 members.

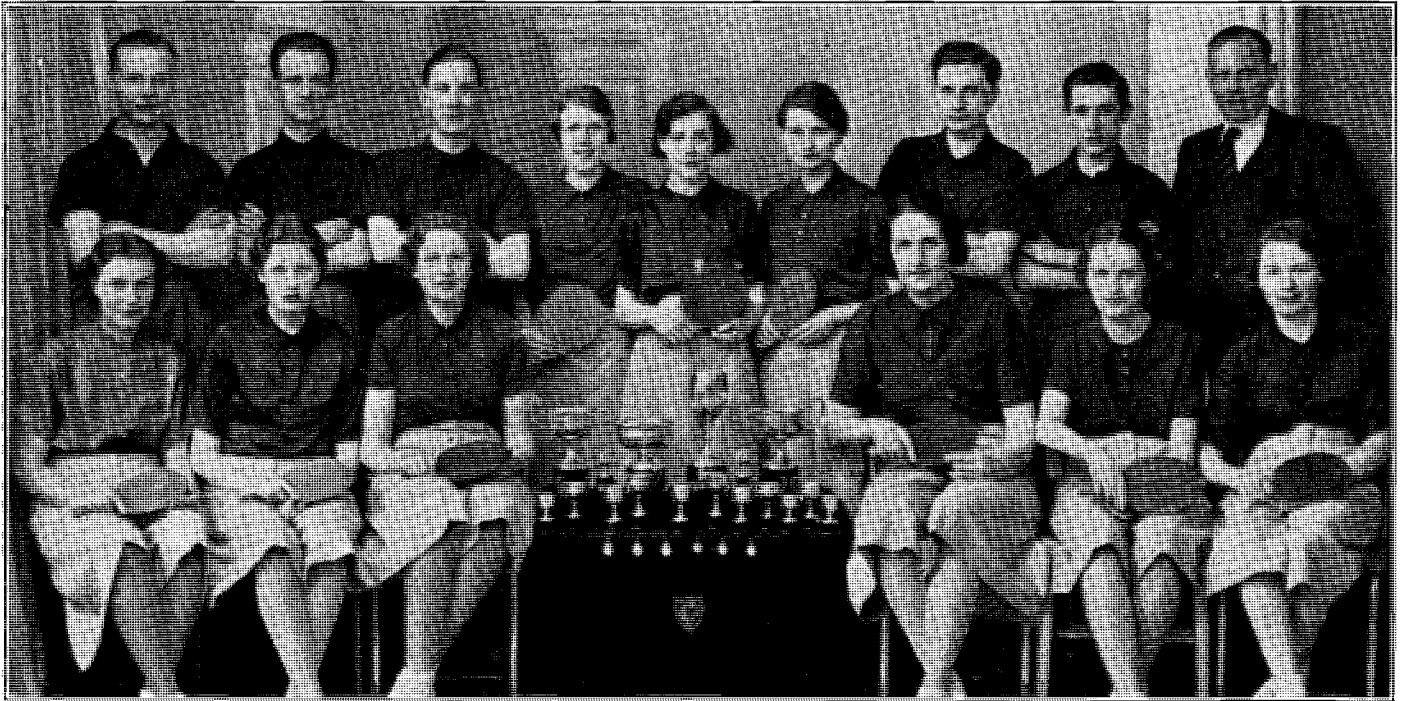
In the Wilmott Cup, Grimsby last season proved that a team did not have to be first-class to reach the last eight, and it is good to record that there will be more entries this season from Lincolnshire.

Scunthorpe are considering the advisability of staging a tournament closed to members of the Lincolnshire Association. This would undoubtedly give a boost to the local standard of play.



H. G. Chambers, of the Wolverhampton Association, receiving the men's singles trophy from the donor, Sir Charles Mander.

## TABLE TENNIS



*Champions of the West Bromwich Association, the Cuxson Gervard women's team have not lost a game for two seasons. The men were runners-up in Division IV last season.*

**L**IVERPOOL League Committee found it necessary to form a second division of the East Region, and a new record has been reached with 108 teams in the nine divisions (eight men's and one women's).

**LIVERPOOL** Clubmoor retain the services of Ken Hyde, F. Bamford, and the Rumjahn brothers, although it is doubtful whether Hyde and Bamford will be able to play as regularly as they did last season.

The Lucem team will look strange without Don Foulis, who has retired from the game. He will be greatly missed both by his club and the League.

Miss Rita Doolan, the present Liverpool champion, will not be playing this season, and will be a big loss to Clubmoor and the Liverpool team. Miss Nora Norrish will be playing regularly again for Bootle, and may help them to regain first division status at the first attempt. Breckside appear to have a strong side in the women's division, being represented by the sisters Phyllis, Thora, and Vera Moss, Miss Comrie, and Mrs. Jones.

**S**INCE the founding of the Wolverhampton and District Table Tennis Association the game has gained amazing popularity in Wolverhampton. The Association was started in 1936 with 25 clubs,

**WOLVERHAMPTON** 29 teams, and an approximate playing membership of 200. In 1937-38 these figures had grown to 28 clubs, 38 teams, and 400 registered players, of whom 350 actually played in League games.

For the 1938-39 season the Association has shown an even greater expansion than for the previous season. We now have 38 clubs, 56 teams, and it is quite expected that 500 to 550 registered members will be playing regularly this winter. The Association is under the presidency of Sir Charles Mander, one of the leading figures in Wolverhampton's public life, and the chairmanship of Mr. James Beattie, who is also very well known in Wolverhampton's social and business activities.

Up to the end of last season only one individual championship has been staged. This was the Wolverhampton Men's Closed Singles, which was won by H. G. Chambers (Transport Club).

The photograph on the previous page is of H. G. Chambers receiving from Sir Charles Mander at the first Association dinner held at the close of last season the trophy which he presented for the Men's Singles Championship.

\* \* \*

From Brighton comes news that this season Sea House, already strongly represented by Charlie Scaman, H. Weller, and L. H. Wheeler, have secured the assistance of A. D. Brook.

With this team Sea House should have little difficulty in retaining the League championship.

\* \* \*

**W**EMBLEY, Woolwich, Bromley, and North Middlesex are members of the newly formed Metropolitan League. Wembley's first pair will be Maurice Bergl and Bill Stennett, and there is little doubt that D. Mackie will play No. 3.

Fourth place is not such an easy choice, but there is certainly no lack of talent to fill it.

The team will be the strongest side that Wembley have put out for years, and have an excellent chance of topping the League table.

A season ticket is being issued for the series of four home matches—all at Lancelot Hall—at a nominal price of 1s. The number, however, is limited.

Wembley will be able to enter a strong women's team for the Rose Bowl. Most of last year's inter-League players show marked improvement, and the Northwick Park women, who are being coached so enthusiastically by Blum, merit inclusion in the list of "possibles."

We are sorry to hear that Mr. A. S. Carr of Leeds has been ill recently. This accounts for the absence of Leeds news this month.

### Rose Bowl and the Women's Game

A circular is now in the hands of all League Secretaries, with an Entry Form for the Rose Bowl Competition. I hope there will be a bumper response and I especially appeal for Leagues to nominate a woman member for the proposed new Council.—*The Secretary.*

**S**OUTH London League expect a record season with many new clubs applying for membership, including Honor Oak and Lensbury and Britannic. Three divisions of the police have also entered, necessitating the formation of another division.

There are now five sections for men and one for women.

The principle of playing four singles and two doubles matches has now been adopted for all sections. Brixton, the champions, will have to fight hard to retain their position at the top.

November 20 is the date of the League championships, which will be held at the Lucania Hall, Brixton.

The League are very optimistic regarding the destination of the Wilmott Cup this year, and hope to see their name engraved upon it once again.

\* \* \*

**W**HAT promises to be the biggest open table tennis tournament ever held in Yorkshire is planned by the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association.

**YORKSHIRE** Details of this large-scale tournament, open to all players, whether members of affiliated Leagues or not, have commanded much publicity in the local Press.

There will be two classes both for men and women—the first open to all players, the second open only to players who are not members of an affiliated club.

First rounds will be played in the various districts during the week ending December 10, and final rounds are to be played in Leeds during the week ending January 14.

\* \* \*

Harrogate and Middlesbrough have displaced Selby and Ossett in the Yorkshire Association this season, these being the only changes in membership.

The Yorkshire Association are making a big effort to give all possible encouragement to young players, and trials to all players under 21 were held last month at Dewsbury, when three players from each League were invited to take part.

*Continued on page 16*



## Scotland Try the "Rubber" Points System

By A. C. DUNCAN

WITH the commencement of this season it certainly looks as if table tennis in Scotland is very definitely on the upgrade, and the many committees realise that now they have a splendid chance to put the game on a secure footing. That this chance has been accepted is exemplified by the work which has been covered by the committee of the West of Scotland League.

Last season they had the First Division comprising nine teams, and then a Second Division, with two sections, A and B. The Second Division thus constituted has been done away with and now there arises a Second Division with a membership of eight clubs.

Of last season's First Division four teams have dropped out. The vacancies have been filled by the "drafting in" of Southern Y.M.C.A., Paisley Y.M.C.A., Nomads, Zionist Centre and Garrion Reivers.

Of the "old hands" there are last year's league champions, Western Y.M.C.A., last year's league runners up, Jewish Institute, Hamilton Cross, Clarkston and Lewis's T.T.C., thus bringing the First Division's strength up to ten clubs. It is worthy of note that Southern Y.M.C.A. and Zionist Centre gained promotion last season from the Second Division, where they purveyed a particularly first class brand of table tennis.

ANOTHER important change concerns the awarding of points in respect to league placings for this season.

Hitherto the system was to award two points for each match won, but the committee decided to scrap this method, and utilise the system whereby one point is awarded for each rubber won.

By the adoption of this system I can visualise a far more exciting season ahead of us, as far as the league is concerned. Last year when a team had won the first three rubbers in a row, thus putting the decision beyond doubt, we were faced with the unexciting and uninteresting spectacle of the last two matches being played in a dilatory and careless manner.

A motion concerning the registration of players with the league was also adopted and it is now imperative that all players be registered.

And last but by no means least comes a word of praise for the handbook issued by the West of Scotland Table Tennis League. Well done Willie Bennett! Your handbook is a thing to which you can well point with pride.

**G. W. DECKER & SONS,**  
9, BALDWIN CRESCENT, S.E. 5  
(Phone: BRIXTON 1150)

Specialists in

**TABLE TENNIS LIGHTING**  
for E.T.T.A. events during the last  
ten years.

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

Continued from page 15

NEITHER Lewes Y.M.C.A. nor Hamsey have been able to enter teams in the Lewes League this season, but Baxters Sports Club have rejoined and no fewer than seven out of the eleven clubs in the League have entered two teams, necessitating the formation of two divisions.

St. Richards, Haywards Heath, who went through the whole of last season without losing a point in their League matches, have again joined.

It is hoped that it will be possible to arrange friendly matches with neighbouring Leagues during the season, and already a number of inter-town matches are on the programme. It is also hoped that later in the season it will be possible to stage the second East Sussex Closed Championships following the very successful event run last year.

THE City Club, one of the pioneers of the Chester League, will take part in the Second Division this season. Their two leading players R. C. Juler and E. W. Allen, CHESTER are unable to play regularly, and until their return the "City" will have to remain in the "lower regions."

Our woman champion has returned to her former club, Curzon Park, after a season with "City," and we hope she will now settle down with them. St. Marks have entered a team in the men's and women's sections, and we welcome Mr. Beckett into the League.

We play Liverpool on November 4 and we want the support of all readers. The younger players especially would benefit from watching these matches.

## Ulster Desert

### The "Penholder"

THE season in Ulster has now opened, and promises to be the most successful yet staged. Ever since the visit to Belfast of Barna, Vana, Bergmann, and Liebster, the game has taken on a new enthusiasm, and all over the country clubs are springing up, with league formations.

So great has been the interest in the Belfast and District Leagues that three new events have been started—Intermediate League, Women's and "Kelvin" Cup (presented by Mr. Isaac Stewart) on the principles of the Swaythling Cup. 42 teams have entered for the various competitions (almost double the number of last year) and applications are still being received which may result in formation of a "late comers" league.

Players in Ulster who for so many years rigidly adhered to the "penholder" grip have now changed over, and during the summer have been practising the various styles of play seen in the exhibitions by the "stars." Another sign of the times is the effort of all clubs to improve conditions.

Belfast is looking forward to staging its first Table Tennis match against Wales, which will probably take place in March.

## The Way of the West

By R. W. Eason

IT was an extremely hard thing to do, but in deciding to forgo the chance of staging this season's West of England open championships, Bristol Association's executive committee felt themselves to be acting in the best interests of the Association.

Not one of them but would have welcomed seeing this popular event pay its first visit to Bristol. Unfortunately there was the little matter of £ s. d. to be considered.

While it may seem pessimistic to think of losing money, Bristol, having barely recovered from the burden of the spectacularly successful but financially unprofitable international match of 1936, is in no position to face a further loss.

Staging the championships in Bristol will be expensive. Halls are few. So, with the greatest reluctance in the world, it was decided to wait a season and then stake a strong claim.

Nearer home, the Western Counties' closed championships are this season to be played at Bath, and already the local league is actively engaged on preliminary preparations.

BRISTOL'S inter-town programme, exclusive of Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches, is now complete.

Bath were met on October 29th, and Bristol go to Swindon on November 19th. An away game with Cardiff Women is down for November 26th, and then, on December 3rd, comes a welcome visit from Birmingham, newcomers to the Western Counties' League.

Swindon visit Bristol for a women's match on December 10th, and to start the New Year the men's team go to Cardiff on January 7th.

A step that is arousing interest is the arranging of junior matches between Bristol

and Bath. The idea is to try out promising players singled out by the selection committee.

At present there has been little chance to see these stars of tomorrow under the right kind of conditions. Premature inclusion of these players in the town team is as bad for the player in most cases as it is for the team. This problem, it is hoped, will now be overcome.

THE return to league play of Don Parsons after a break of a season will be welcomed as part compensation for the absence of H. S. D. Hutchings. Meanwhile there is plenty of room for new stars.

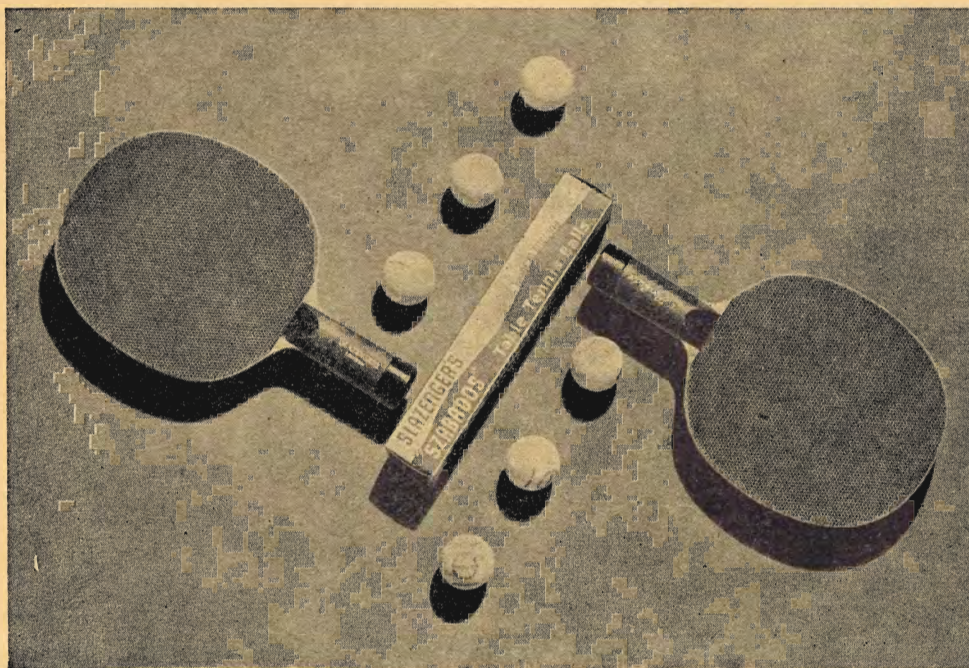
For the benefit of those who may have deferred their entries, all individual and Belsten Cup entries should reach the Match Secretary, 19, Cranham Road, Henleaze, at latest by November 5th.

THE way of the reformer is hard. But as a convinced believer in the logic that demands the scrapping of the present system in Bristol of playing single games instead of best of three, I find some satisfaction in reproducing the argument of a London evening newspaper critic who asserts boldly: "I should like to see single-game matches disappear. They are a relic of the ping-pong days, and besides giving the player no chance to settle down, do not provide the right training for big tournaments."

"The disadvantages of the arrangement where a team of five played a single game against each opponent," he adds "are now generally accepted. This method has been scrapped by many leagues; others use it only in the lower divisions, and, in some cases, for women."

# SLAZENGERS

SZABADOS • BELLAK • LIEBSTER • MARCUS



Autograph T.T. BATS

All at **3/6** each

"SZABADOS"  
T.T. BALLS PER DOZ. **3/9**

"DEMON"  
T.T. BALLS PER DOZ. **3/9**

Table  
Tennis  
sets and  
Equipment  
at moderate  
prices



OF ALL SPORTS DEALERS



## Second to None for Dependability and long service

SWAN offer the world's two most modern pens, unequalled for long life and complete dependability. The Visofil ("Big-Fill") holds more ink and shows when to refill, and the Leverless ("Quick-Fill") is second to none for speed and simplicity in filling. In both these models you will find that individual master-touch which has earned the Swan the title of "The Aristocrat of pens"—and incidentally made writing with a Swan so delightful.

# Swan Pens

The Visofil Swan, 25/- The Leverless Swan from 17/6. Lever filling Swans from 10/6. Of all Stationers and Jewellers. Made entirely in Great Britain. Illustrated lists from Mabie, Todd & Co., Ltd., Sunderland House, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1, and Branches.





iv

# “BARNNA”

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR  
RACKET



**3/9**

FROM ALL  
DEALERS



**BRIGGS'**  
SUPER CHAMPIONSHIP  
TABLE **£9 19s.**

**WALTER BRIGGS Ltd.**  
PEARTREE STREET, LONDON, E.C.1

# *Dunlop* SHOES

The Foundation of Good Table Tennis



3000

Many players favour the heel-less type of Oxford shoe, as illustrated above. In white canvas Men's 6-12—4/11. Women's 3-8—3/11. Other models at prices ranging from 2/6½ to 7/11



3582

Oxford Style, grey canvas, low rubber heel. Also available in sunburn or white. Youth's 2-5—2/11. Men's 6-12—3/6

**FROM SHOE SHOPS AND STORES EVERYWHERE**

DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD. WALTON. LIVERPOOL