

# TABLE TENNIS

JULY/AUGUST, 1947

Price Sixpence



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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Official Magazine  
of the  
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
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Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

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JULY/AUGUST, 1947

## *From the Editor's Chair*

### *The World Championships —England the Host*

To the experienced eye the official notice on page 6 means more than the promise of an exciting event. It carries a clear warning of a tremendously busy season for all connected with table tennis. Even those not directly taking part as players or officials, or helpers will feel the effect of having a World Championship meeting superimposed upon the normally full English programme (not forgetting the new County Championship schemes). The moral is clear: Take a good rest during the next two months and store up your energy for a really wholehearted return to battle.

\* \* \*

#### **Well Said, Sir!**

Malcolm M. Madgwick made a practical contribution to the prestige of our game when his letter (printed below) earned publication in a Saturday edition of the London "EVENING NEWS" . . . . .

Why all this nattering about English sport being "finished"? Recently in Paris our English girls won the world's table tennis championship (Corbillion Cup) beating Hungary 3—0 in the final. English equipment, conditions of play, sportsmanship and average playing standard are known the world over as

the very best. Or are we still too old-fashioned to admit that Table Tennis is the fastest and most fascinating sport?

\* \* \*

With this issue, No. 8, our magazine completes its first post-war season's programme. Volume VI will start in September when we hope to welcome you all back as regular readers, together with many new friends.

To all of you who have made our postbag interesting with your letters, we wish a pleasant holiday and more power to your pens next year.

To those semi-centurions, and not a few centurions, who have been ordering your 50 and 100 copies monthly, our special thanks for your practical help in setting the official journal of table tennis back on its feet in spite of present-day difficulties.

THE EDITOR.

#### **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ?**

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# THE WEMBLEY "OPEN"

by  
**BILL  
PARKER**

History is Made . . . . Television  
and  
History Repeated . Bergmann v. Barna

In having its Finals televised, the 1947 Wembley "Open" made Table Tennis history. Exhibitions, we know, have frequently appeared on the television screen during the past season, but an open tournament presents several difficulties. "Hats off," then, to the Wembley organisers, who skilfully arranged the timing of events so that spectators and B.B.C. technicians were all happy. The players, too, must be commended for their splendid performances under the great heat of the television lighting equipment.

The programme opened with the **Men's Singles Semi-Final**, between **Richard Bergmann** and **Johnny Leach**, which resulted in a win for Bergmann in two straight games. Leach was using his stylish backhand to good advantage but lacked confidence in his forehand on several occasions when the ball was "there." Bergmann gave little away throughout the two games and won the match on merit. The other **Men's Singles Semi-Final** saw **Viktor Barna** in dazzling form against **Ron Crayden**, who has won several titles this season. Crayden played well but could not hold Barna on the form the latter was displaying. His "flick" and drop shot gained him point after point and few players in the World could have found an answer to his wonderful attack.

## Challenge from Staines

It was interesting to see a comparatively little known pair, **Mrs. M. Bennett** and **Mrs. P. Pitcher** of Staines in the Final of the **Women's Doubles**. They had only two weeks previously reached the Final of the Bucks "Open" so



WINNING  
PAIR  
Doris Rivett  
(left)  
and  
Betty Wilkinson

maybe this augurs well for the future. Their opponents were the well-known East London players **Betty Wilkinson** and **Doris Rivett**, who came off winners after two deuce games. Best shots of this match were four of Betty Wilkinson's forehand drives which she made from her backhand wing.

The **Mixed Doubles Final** opened with fireworks from **Irene Lentle**, who was partnering **Johnny Leach** against **Viktor Barna** and **Vera Dace**. However, Viktor and Vera soon made up the leeway and playing well together won quite comfortably 21-12; 21-14.

## Men's Doubles Thrills

**Johnny Leach** made his third appearance in the **Men's Doubles Final** and this time he was deservedly successful. He and **Jack Carrington** started in brilliant fashion against **Richard Bergmann** and **Steve Boros**, taking the first game 21-8. The second game produced more rallies—Bergmann was hitting well and Boros was "finding his feet," but even so, Jack and Johnny "got home" by 21-18. In the third and fourth games, Boros brought off several fine forehand winners while his backhand half-volley was as safe as usual. Bergmann played a sound game, using in place of the accepted orthodox stroke that same "continental style" backhand drive, which brought back memories of Szabados and Liebster, while his follow through, after each forehand smash was, as near as possible, perfect. As a result of this fine form, Bergmann and Boros took the third and fourth games 21-16 and 21-13. The fifth game saw both pairs fighting for every point and the standard of play was extremely high. Leach flicked well and every now and then would make a winning forehand smash, but generally Carrington was more aggressive. Time and again Jack Carrington would, with a very quick action, flick a "winner" straight from service and throughout the match he took a very early ball with great accuracy. The last game finally went to Carrington and Leach 21-17.

The **Women's Singles Final** between **Vera Dace** and **Pinkie Barnes**, was just the thing to draw the spectators from the Refreshment counter (Who said "choco-

late cream buns"?) following the interval. It was a really exciting match and I have seldom seen "Pinkie" play so well—she placed the ball cleverly, chopped well and her tactics were very sound throughout the two games, both of which she just lost to hard hitting Vera.

### The Classic Final

Then came the match of the evening—the **Men's Singles Final** between **Barna** and **Bergmann**. I wish this match could have been switched back to the Empire Pool on the night of the English Open Finals—it would have gladdened the hearts of the nine thousand spectators who watched the very ordinary all Czech Semi-Finals and Final.

Barna's flick was working beautifully, and every so often he would demonstrate the value of a good drop shot. Bergmann moved about like a panther, to return Barna's most vicious flicks, but Viktor gradually built up a useful lead and later resisted a fine attempt by Richard to pull up. First game to Barna 21—17. The second game produced more brilliant play, mainly by Barna, with Bergmann covering ground at an amazing speed to return seemingly certain winners. Barna then appeared to lose much of the strength in his right arm and his flicks lacked their earlier sting. Bergmann soon appreciated this and mixed his game cleverly to win 21—11. The third game was very similar—the same beautiful Barna flicks and Bergmann methodically working up with that backhand drive waiting for the opportunity to make a forehand kill which he did often enough to win 21—12. The fourth game saw both players in brilliant form, with Bergmann taking a substantial early lead. Then the spectators were treated to a complete repertoire of Barna shots—shots which no other player would dare attempt at such a crucial stage—Viktor was now



GALLANT  
FINALIST

Viktor  
Barna  
in a  
fighting  
rally

gaining ground. With now only three points difference, a fifth game seemed possible, despite the fact that Viktor was making few winners with his backhand flick. Then it was Richard's turn to increase his lead by fine hitting and it seemed that the match would soon be finished. But then followed three successive forehand drives from Barna—all winners that nobody in the World could have returned. Two edges then went against Viktor, and Richard combining magnificent defence with terrific hitting, went on to win the next few points and with them the game and the match. A better Final could not have been wished for.

\* \* \*

Looking back on the earlier rounds, the best performance was achieved by Bernard Crouch and Michael Thornhill, both of Staines, who in the last 16 of the Men's Doubles took Bergmann and Boros to "19 in the third game." Umpire of the week was Harry Lentle, always pulling his weight, always speaking distinctly. The schedule was planned and operated well and conditions were as usual, very good (Don't blush, Mr. Decker!).

To the organisers (turn up your Programmes for names) we say "A good job well done!" Thank you, Wembley—we'll be back next year!

### RESULTS.

#### Men's Singles, Semi-Final—

R. Bergmann beat J. Leach 21—14, 21—12.

V. Barna beat R. Crayden 21—14, 21—9.

#### Final—

R. Bergmann beat V. Barna 17—21, 21—11, 21—12, 21—13.

#### Women's Singles, Final—

Miss V. S. Dace beat Miss L. R. Barnes

21—19, 21—17.

#### Men's Doubles, Final—

J. Leach and J. Carrington beat R. Berg-

mann and I. Boros 21—8, 21—18, 16—21,

13—21, 21—17.

#### Women's Doubles, Final—

The Misses B. Wilkinson and D. Rivett

beat Mrs. M. Bennett and Miss P. Pitcher

22—20, 24—22.

#### Mixed Doubles, Final—

V. Barna and Miss V. S. Dace beat J.

Leach and Mrs. I. Lentle 21—12, 21—14.

### NEW BIRMINGHAM WINNER

The new champion of Birmingham T.T.A. is Wally Poole. With his strong forehand attack he out-hit first the holder, Bobby Mackay, then the clever all-rounder W. Hall, and finally the strongly defensive Geoff. Alderton. Veteran Alderton, now home from the R.A.F., accounted for Maurice Kriss in the semi.

Women's Singles Final: Mrs. Coleman beat Miss Brain narrowly.

Junior champion is D. Heath who defeated D. Nightingale in a hard 3-set final.

# Table Tennis Parliament

(report continued)

Here are a few more items of interest from the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the English Table Tennis Association, held on 26th April, 1947.

## New Rules

### 1. The Service.

The delegates to the Meeting agreed to the adoption of the new Service rule for domestic play in England. Detailed wording will be circulated to all leagues in due course. The essential point is that henceforth, in service, the ball must be **RELEASED WITHOUT SPIN FROM THE OPEN HAND.** In all cases the hand must be **OPEN AND FLAT, FINGERS STRAIGHT AND TOGETHER,** with the **THUMB FREE** of the hand.

*(At this point a little "technical debate" ensued between Mr. A. J. Wilmott and Mr. Geoffrey Harrower, two internationals of different vintage. Mr. Harrower claimed that quite effective spin could be applied if the ball were released from the fingers instead of from the palm. Bats and ball were produced, and the Treasurer with mock ceremony thanked the "scientists" for being the first to introduce practical table tennis into an Annual General Meeting.)*

There is really no room for argument if umpires will remember that **spin may not be imparted** in service, except by the racket.

### 2. The "Expedite" or Anti-Pushing Rule.

It was generally agreed that "pushing" tactics were not a serious menace to the game in this country at present, and the question of adopting the new rule for home play did not arise.

However, the Meeting authorised the National Executive Committee to take steps to "familiarise" those players likely to encounter it, in international

play. (The rule is explained elsewhere in these columns.)

## Membership

From figures discussed at Paris it seems clear that we in our Association number approximately *ONE-THIRD* of all the clubs and players in the entire world.

## County Organisation

Certain amendments to existing rules were adopted. These are rather too detailed for general reading, but those concerned with county organising can obtain revised wording from E.T.T.A. office.

A sub-committee had been set up to consider the rules for a County Championship to start next season.

## Finance

The Treasurer (Mr. A. K. Vint) submitted a Receipts and Payments Account from 1st July, 1946, to 30th April, 1947.

Both Income and Expenditure had touched record heights. Participation in the Europe Cup competition had involved us in an ultimate loss of £60 or £70—partly owing to varying currency regulations between the nations.

This burden should be lighter next year because the I.T.T.F. intended to modify certain rules of the competition.

The President, Mr. H. O. Oldroyd, had sent a donation of £10. This was in fact the only donation received by the Association in the past season.

The English Open Championship had shown a profit of £700 odd, the best ever.

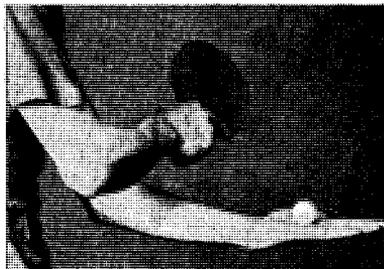
A set-off to such figures was of course, the increased expenditure necessary for

Correct position of hand (forehand)



The New Service

Correct position of hand for Backhand Service



office staff and general administration. Something like £1,300 had to be spent on "office work," including the printing of the Association Handbook which was distributed free to all affiliated bodies.

Participation in the World Championships cost us about £280. Other international events balanced out fairly evenly.

Total affiliation fees received were £1,450.

The January exhibition tour showed a profit of £55 to the Association, quite apart from the "missionary" value of such an undertaking.

Summing up the period under review had produced a gross surplus of Receipts over Expenditure of about £800. We had started the period with a credit balance of £650; allowing for outstanding administration and other charges, the Treasurer had every hope that on 30th June, 1947, the Association could close the financial year with a credit balance of £1,000.

### International Table Tennis Federation

The Chairman, the Hon. Ivor Montague, reported that a new, post-war, Constitution had been agreed upon. Enemy countries had now been re-admitted into the Federation, with the exception of Germany and Japan.

The U.S.A. had agreed that the World Championships should be held mostly in Europe. This would ease the situation, as obviously few countries could afford to compete if U.S.A. were to claim their right to stage the meeting.

This year the World Championships would be staged in England, next year Sweden, the third year Dublin and the fourth year Holland.



And this is the one you must NOT do any more. (Bunny Chernock, the Anglo-Scottish international, demonstrates his "snake" service.)

### WELSH JUNIORS SHOW PROMISE

The West Wales closed championships at Swansea raised the hopes of Welsh fans by reason of the many good youngsters on view. The old hands managed to win the main events, but the new stars are clearly rising on the horizon.

Men's Singles: **J. L. Beynon** bt. **W. J. Williams** 21—16, 21—18.

Ladies' Singles: **Miss Betty Gray** bt. **Mrs. Crewes** 21—15, 21—15.

Junior Singles (Boys): **Alan Morris** bt. **J. Pears** 21—17, 21—17. The winner Morris is only 14.

An interesting entrant in this event was 7-year-old **David Beynon**, son of the senior champion. David actually won his first round, against an old man of 12!

\* \* \*

In the Welsh Closed Championships, a week later, young Morris won the junior singles, beating Saunders of Cardiff. Betty Gray also added to her honours, beating Audrey Bates in the singles final 22—20 in the third game.

Other winners:—

Men's Singles: **Walter Sweetland** (bt. Stan Jones).

Women's Doubles: **Miss Bates** and **Mrs. Roy Evans**.

Mixed Doubles: **Miss Bates** and **Ken Milsom**.

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# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1947-48

(organised by the International Table Tennis Federation)

The 1947-48 World Championships will be held at  
**THE WEMBLEY POOL AND SPORTS ARENA**  
**WEMBLEY PARK, MIDDLESEX**

on the following days:—

**WEDNESDAY, 4th FEBRUARY, 1948**

to

**WEDNESDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1948**

(both dates inclusive)

Play will take place in three sessions each day—Morning, Afternoon and Evening

**EVENTS TO BE DECIDED:—**

For the Swaythling Cup: Men's Team Championships of the World

Present holders: **Czechoslovakia**

For the Marcel Corbillon Cup: Women's Team Championship of the World

Present holders: **England**

For the Individual Championships of the World

Men's Singles ..... Holder **B. VANA** (Czechoslovakia)

Women's Singles ..... " **Mrs. GIZI FARKAS** (Hungary)

Men's Doubles ..... " **B. VANA** and **A. SLAR** (Czechoslovakia)

Women's Doubles ..... " **Mrs. G. FARKAS** and **Miss T. PRITZI** (Austria)

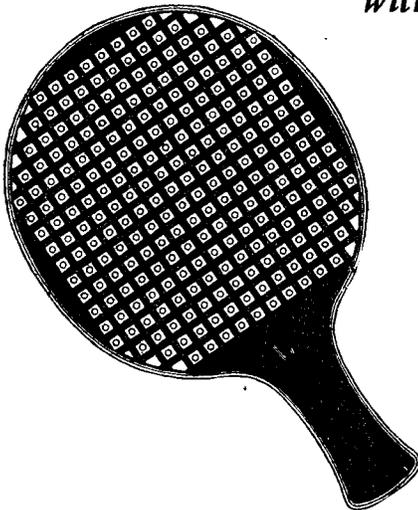
Mixed Doubles ..... " **Mrs. G. FARKAS** and **B. SOOS** (Hungary)

*Further details will be published in our later issue, but it is clear that the demand for tickets will be heavy, and this early notification is given to enable those concerned with organising parties to give early consideration to their plans.*

*It seems likely that the Saturday evening session will be reserved for the final of the Men's team event, and the Wednesday evening, 11th February, for the finals of the Individual events; but this has not been decided officially yet.*

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# THE BEST PLAYERS OF 1946-47

by IVOR MONTAGU (Chairman of the Selection Committee)

Ivor Montagu, with tremendous diligence, has compiled his own private "ranking lists" after seeing every candidate in action during the season, and studying results from all over Europe. Space does not permit us to print all his comments and explanations, but the following extracts from his notes should prove very interesting. Ivor's ranking of the women will appear in our September issue.

A Ranking List? O.K. then. So long as nobody tries to endow it with any sensational importance, or any weight beyond that attaching to a personal opinion.

The French T.T.A. has an official one, in which everyone has his allotted individual or group number and has to send in to a records department all his details during the season, resulting in monthly changes, etc. I can see its value, but there's a certain stiffness and regimentation about the idea which makes me shy at it. Mine is just meant as an off-season diversion, like choosing cricket teams at Xmas-time to play for the World v. Mars.

A few words on general principles. Should one rank on average performance strictly? Or add a little weight in favour of the best form of a player with "ups and downs"? I must say I incline to be generous to the up-and-downer. (And this being unofficial I can indulge that sentiment.) Well, then, I compare here the best form of the best players.

Second, are all victories and defeats of equal merit? Of course not. They vary with the importance of the occasion. The best player pulls out his best when most needed.

\* \* \*

Here goes:

## MEN—My Home List

1, Barna; 2, Leach; 3, Bublely; 4, Casofsky; 5, Goodman; 6/7, Carrington/Filby; 8/9, Harrower/Sharman; 10, Simons; 11, Lurie; 12, Crayden.

## Second Dozen (alphabetical)

Boros, Cohen, Davies, Litten, Mackay, Marsh, Merrett, Mohtadi, P. and R. Rumjahn, Shepherd, Stanley.

## Third Dozen (alphabetical)

Bedford, Dawes, Edwards (E'm.), Hall, Kriss, Marshall, Millar, Mitton, Seaman, Supton, L. Thompson, Walton.

## Runners-up

Bailey, Collar, Cooper, W. and J. Devine, Fretwell, Glickman, Kerslake, Merryweather, D. A. Miller, Minter, C. Richards, Ringwals, Roberts (L'pool.), G. Smith, J. Taylor, A. Thompson (Leeds), Whiteley.

## "Insufficient Information"

Bergmann, Haydon, Proffitt, Hyde.

## Juniors: Group A (alphabetical)

Appleby, Allcock, Rowe, R. Thompson.

## Juniors: Runners-up

Beamish, I. Jones, Kennedy, Shead, Thornhill, Tirebuck, Tyson, P. J. Walton.

## Notes

Of the "insufficients," if listed, Bergmann would of course be near the top, Haydon also in the first ten.

Much heartburnings before I settled on my No. 12. I think nearest next candidate in my mind is MacKay, who deserves especially good marks for his play in the Consolation Singles at the English Championships.

We all know names that ought to be among my "runners-up" or "junior runners-up." Well, space is space, and we hope they'll forgive me.

"Group A Juniors" include four good boys. We want to see them on their way right up, next year.

## My Ranking of Doubles Pairs is:

1, Barna/Haydon; 2, Leach/Carrington; 3, Filby/Merrett; 4, Litten/Symons; 5/6, Cohen/Lurie, Casofsky/P. Rumjahn; 7, Walton/MacKay.

## MEN—My World List

1, Vana (C); 2, Tereba (C); 3, Miles (U); 4, Leach (E); 5, Andreadis (C); 6, Slar (C); 7, Sido (H); 8, Pagliaro (U); 9, Flisberg (S); 10, Amouretti (F); 11, Schiff (U); 12, Haguenaer (F); 13, Soos (H).

## "Insufficient Information"

Barna (E-H), Bergmann (EA-P), and several U.S. players.

## Key to Letters

A—Austrian, C—Czech, E—English, F—French, H—Hungarian, P—Pole, SI—Slovak, S—Sweden, Sz—Switzerland, U—U.S.A., Y—Yugoslavia, Sc—Scottish, R—Rumanian, B—Belgian.

## Notes

If listed, Bergmann would be among the top half-dozen, Barna among the next half-dozen. Certainly there are other U.S. players who merit inclusion in the top group.

Leach in Paris was certainly the second player in the tournament towards its end. He was undoubtedly superior to the other two semi-finalists and his victims there included Nos. 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13. Yet, for his home losses to Barna and other-time losses to French and Czech players during the season he must come down a couple of places.

Casofsky, Bublely and Goodman proved their title to international classification not far below the top group.

## ESSEX COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

Next season it is hoped to run an Inter-League Championship, in addition to entering probably two teams in the new County Championship and running the Essex Closed Championships.

As far as possible, every member League will be given an opportunity to stage an important event during the season.

Present members are CHELMSFORD, COLCHESTER, ILFORD, SOUTHEND, DAGENHAM and ROMFORD. LAINDON and other districts are expected to join the association before long; enquiries should be sent to the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. J. PARKER, 37, Hamilton Gardens, Barkingside, Essex.

Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, who will be remembered as a pre-war Chairman of the English T.T. Association, was re-elected as President, and Mr. W. J. Stanton of Allenbury's as Chairman.

Winners of the 1946-47 Closed Championships were:—

Men's Singles: G. C. WHEELER (Chelmsford).

Women's Singles: Mrs. M. J. DAVIS (Romford).

Junior Singles: T. DIX (Dagenham).

### "OH, THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE AIR"

Wilfred Rowe, the 15-year-old-er who won the English "Junior" in such good style, does not have things all his own way in his own home town. A still newer newcomer named J. Baker forced the issue to two deuce games before Rowe could claim the junior title of the South Devon and Torbay T.T. League.

What with these two and Paddy Roberts, All-England lawn tennis player at 17, local folk may be forgiven for claiming that there's something in the Torquay air.

Jack Carrington comments on

## THE "ANTI-PUSHING RULE"

This rule, referred to in the report of the Annual General Meeting of E.T.T.A., is known in America as the "Expedite Rule."

It is designed to combat the menace to the game of "stonewall," safety-first, play. This problem has worried organisers ever since defenders learned to chop a ball back safely on the table. When two defensive experts met, neither would take a risk, and rallies became endless successions of chop and push strokes.

Slow tables and soft balls encouraged this tendency. In England, about 1936, tournament and other key matches were lasting 2 hours or more. The advent of Ernest Bublely, super-soft push-ball player at the time, brought howls of protest from all levels of table tennis society.

### The Outcasts

"Chisellers," as the stonewallers were called, became objects of scorn. Star chisellers of the period were Stennett, Symoio and Swetman. None of these attained international honours, although they were more efficient at "chiselling" than their models Hales, Jones and Brook and Bergl, who got their badges just before the "re-action" set in.

Hardly any provincial chisellers developed; presumably the generally lower standard of playing conditions did not favour defensive players.

Of course, none of these stonewallers was really un-sporting or un-athletic. They played hard tactics according to the rules—but they ignored the boredom of the spectators or their fellow competitors.

Breaking-point came in the classic "chiselling" match in Prague, 1936, when Ehrlich of Poland and Paneth of Rumania contested the first point of their match for just over two hours!

### Drastic Action

Action was obviously overdue and after this fiasco, two important rules were adopted.

1. The net was lowered from 6½ inches to its present height of 6 inches.
2. A time-limit of 20 minutes per game was imposed.

The lower net made a big difference. Drives became sharper, flatter. Wider-angled shots were developed. Drop-shots were just a fraction lower and if the game, as Barna, Marshall, and other consistent attackers averred, became less beautiful, at least the stonewaller seemed to have disappeared.

In fact the second rule became almost superfluous. It has hardly ever become necessary to apply the time-limit in England since the net was lowered.

### Menace Re-appears

However, the monster reared its ugly head once again in Paris this year. There, during the World Championship events, several games were taken to the time-limit of 20 minutes. In their train they brought the inevitable disputes, discontent and unfavourable re-action amongst the spectators. It was learned too, that such matches were not uncommon in French local play, owing to the slow tables and the dominance of defensive players such as Amouretti and Haguenaer.

The International T.T. Federation obviously took a serious view of this symptom and decided to adopt the U.S.A. "Expedite Rule" for events run under their auspices.

Here is the rule in its American wording:—

"Whenever in any game, the style of play is considered uninteresting to the spectators or threatens to upset the schedule of other matches, in the opinion of the umpire, referee or referee's committee, it shall be the duty of the umpire to call a let and notify the players before the next service that that particular game will proceed under the following rule:

The server shall be permitted to hit the ball 12 times excluding the service stroke and if all such strokes are safely returned by the opponent one point shall be scored for the opponent.

Service shall alternate after such point when this rule is in force.

Well, there it is. Few will deny that such a rule will "expedite" the most boring game. The possibility of one stolid defender trying to hit through another stolid defender inside 12 shots makes an amusing mental picture.

So far as the home countries are concerned the people most involved will be those likely to umpire at the World Championships in London next December.



GILBERT MARSHALL, quoted by Carrington as a consistent attacker, he also possessed the strongest spin services of any English player. A red headed, "rangey" type, the stormy petrel of pre-war table tennis.

International player for both England and U.S.A., he was the terror of all "chiselling" defenders, even with the net at 6½ inches. Ex-Fit.-Lieut. Marshall, now a family man, does not have much time to practise, but playing for North Middlesex has several times touched his old form.

Meanwhile, although the ordinary player is not affected, why not try the Rule out in your Club during the summer? It should liven up your mental approach to the game—and clear the table quickly for those who are waiting to play!

### THE MIDDLESEX OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 19th - 24th, 1947

Scores in Finals session:—

- Men's Singles Semi-finals:  
Bergmann beat Marsh 21—9, 28—26.  
Leach beat W. Hall 21—9, 21—17.
- Final:  
Bergmann beat Leach 21—19, 13—21, 21—10, 21—14.
- Women's Singles Final:  
Mrs. Lentle beat Miss Patterson 30—32, 21—17, 21—16.
- Women's Doubles:  
Mrs. Mullender and Miss A. Fowler beat Mrs. Lentle and Mrs. Milburn 16—21, 21—17, 22—20.
- Men's Doubles:  
Carrington and Leach beat Sharman and Thompson 21—13, 21—17, 21—16.
- Mixed Doubles:  
Leach and Mrs. Lentle beat Thompson and Mrs. Mullender 2—0.

Local Men's Singles:  
Sharman beat Thompson 21—17, 21—16.

Local Women's Singles:  
Mrs. Levy beat Mrs. Lentle 21—15, 19—21, 21—19.

# ODD



# SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

Trude Pritzi (Austria) had the bad luck to lose her suitcase soon after reaching London for the English Championships.

Her eventual playing costume proved that a wedding is not the only crisis in which one must wear "something old and something new, something borrowed and something blue"!

## Is Table Tennis Work ?

Eric Marsh, who did so well in the Bucks Open tournament (winner of two doubles and runner-up in the singles) tells me that he lost 5½ lbs. in weight during that hectic Saturday of the finals.

However, after his normal day's work on the Monday following he checked his figure again and found that he had recovered 3 lbs. already.

## "Don't De-Fence Me In"

Harry Thuillier, the Irish international, expects to be staying in Hitchin, Herts, during the summer months.

Besides being ex-holder of the Irish singles championship, he is present champion of Ireland at fencing.

It is not surprising that he shows classic footwork and wristwork in his table tennis. What *is* surprising is that all this ability is devoted to chop-strokes only—Harry is almost 100 per cent. defensive on the table!

However, he has seen the red light, and has decided to spend his spare time this summer in learning a consistent attack.

This lack of conceit, this willingness to "start all over again" after

reaching the top of the local tree has frequently made a great player out of a good player. Let's hope Harry reaps his reward.

## Balkan Bombshell

Ivor Montagu, that inveterate traveller, found himself in Rumania earlier this year. There he saw a small but sturdy young lady playing table tennis of a high order.

She was introduced as Magda Rurac (pronounced Ruzhack), leading lawn tennis player of the Balkan countries. In conversation she expressed confidence in her ability to beat the great American, Pauline Betz, and even to win the Wimbledon title.

Fighting words these; but in due course she *did* beat Pauline Betz and impressed all critics by her energy and exuberance on the court.

Maybe we shall see the vivacious Magda on our tables at the World Championships next season. Meanwhile here is her photograph—



## Fair's Fair

From the Outer Hebrides comes this interesting expression of opinion:

Dear Sir,

On page fourteen of the December issue of **TABLE TENNIS** there appears a report of the Central London Open Championships. The report states that I. Boros played in the tournament

Now I personally have seen a Mr. Boros play Table Tennis on the stage of the New Cross Empire in London, and presumably he received money for doing so.

If the gentleman mentioned in your magazine is the same one that I saw play on the stage (and I am not suggesting for one moment that he is), then surely it would not be fair to allow him to compete in tournaments against ordinary people who are forced to spend 8 hours a day working for their living.

### D. OAKENFULL.

Here I will content myself by saying that the regulations of the English T.T. Association do permit players who gain money from their skill or knowledge of the game to compete openly and on equal terms with any other players, provided all are properly affiliated to the national body.

The entry of Boros and others in a tournament is thus perfectly legitimate. But is it fair? **WHAT A BIG QUESTION, MR. OAKENFULL!**

### Out-door Men

Richard Bergmann, twice World Champion, and Johnny Leach, our present top-ranker, are partnered together in the *Evening News* lawn tennis tournament. Both appreciate the summer game as a means of gulping in some of that fresh air so often denied to table tennis stars, and as a psychological relief from their winter battles.



Richard Bergmann ready to follow up a fast service by Boros.

(In action at the Wembley Open.)

But they are careful to pay fairly frequent visits to the table, to ensure that their famous "touch" does not disappear.

As to their skill at lawn tennis, they are somewhat reticent, but we shall watch their results with interest. So far they have won two rounds.

Viktor Barna, equally a believer in the value of fresh air, suggests a neat compromise—that in summer we should play our table tennis out of doors. If on grass, a better effect will be obtained by placing the legs on tiles or small wooden blocks.

\* \* \*

**SURREY COUNTY T.T. ASSOCIATION** will hold their Annual General Meeting on 1st August, 1947, at the Y.M.C.A., George Street, Croydon. Anyone interested in fostering the game in Surrey will be welcome to attend.

\* \* \*

### Paris Flash-back

Corbillon Cup match—France v. Switzerland. The score stands at 2—0 to France and the French pair are leading in the Doubles match by 20—10 in the 3rd game.

One point wanted for a French victory. *But they didn't get that point.* The Swiss won the Doubles, and the remaining two Singles and the match.

Remember mother's advice, girls, and *never give in.*

### PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

(2/- per line. Box Nos. 1/- extra.)

**WANTED.**—T.T. Table complete, good condition, for league team.—Particulars to M. Perkins, 78, Bridge Street, Swindon, Wilts.  
**FULL-SIZE TENNIS TABLE TOP** for sale, no legs; what offers?—Donaldson, 22, Abbeville Road, S.W.4.

## MIDDLESEX SHOWS THE WAY

The first season of the Middlesex Association was a highly successful one, from the playing, social and financial points of view. Five county matches were played, two each against Kent and Surrey, and the other against Lancashire, all being won with something to spare. In addition, a match was played against the American touring team, and we organised the England v. Switzerland Europe Cup International on behalf of the E.T.T.A.

Middlesex are fortunate in being able to call upon the three leading Internationals, Victor Barna, Peggy Franks and Geoff. Harrower, but are not relying exclusively upon the "old guard." A place in the team versus Kent was found for 20-year-old Bernard Crouch, of Staines, who played splendidly to win all his three matches. Another boy from Staines of the highest promise is 16-year-old Mickey Thornhill, and it appears probable that a place will be found for him in the Middlesex 2nd team in the National County Championships next season. Eric Marsh, of Yiewsley, continues to improve, and will be difficult to displace from the first team.

Unfortunately, there seems to be a shortage of good young girl players, but one player who improved tremendously towards the end of the season was Mrs. Peggy Pitcher, of Ashford.

The inter-league championships were won rather easily by North Middlesex, and this league also won the J. M. Rose Bowl, defeating Blackpool 5-0 in the final, a fine achievement, and the first time the Rose Bowl has come to the South of England.

The Middlesex officials, Raymond Mortlake Mann and Geoff. Harrower, have had a lot to do with the "behind the scenes" organisation of the County Championships, and, altogether, it is felt that Middlesex have done their share in promoting the game during the season.

### WILMOTT CUP

(Women's Inter-League Knock-Out)

Result of Final: North Middlesex League defeated Blackpool T.T.L. 5-0.

The Blackpool girls have done splendidly this season in fighting their way through to the final of this hard competition. Although decisively out-played by the more experienced North Middlesex team, the form shown by Mrs. Allen and Miss Benson was such as to confirm that their effort was no mere flash in the pan, and they will be well to the fore again next year.

## Holiday Message from Billie Stamp

From the Hotel Eden on Lake Lucerne the popular Merseyside organiser writes:

*In Monty's car we have covered over 1,000 miles to date, visiting Basle, Lucerne, Zurich, Interlaken, Neuchatel, Montreux, etc. . . . We take a poor view of Edith Summerskill's statement that England is the best-fed country in Europe—and as for smokes, well!! With cheroots at 1½d. each I am smoking myself to death.*

*Apropos of Pat Haskew's article in the April issue, about all the work he has to do for table tennis, and that he still had time to go and see the Wolves beat Liverpool. Please inform him that even the Alps were echoing the Liverpool win at Wolverhampton, and that Liverpool are quoted in the Swiss newspapers as the "masters of English football."*

*I suggest that Pat should take some more time off from T.T. and come to study football in the Lancs. area.*

"Monty" is of course Jack Montgomery, the host of the Antrim Hotel, Liverpool's home for wandering table tennis players.

It was not to be expected that Billie Stamp, famed for repartee, would allow a "dig" at Liverpool to pass unchallenged. We are just wondering why his response comes so late? Did he have to wait for Liverpool's win, or was he so busy with organisational work that he had to go to Switzerland to find time to read the April issue in June?

### WESTERN COUNTIES T.T.L.

Plans are in hand to enlarge the men's competition to two sections next year. Bristol expect to run a second team and entries are possible from Exeter, Oxford, Swansea and Worcester.

The system of match-play has been changed; in future matches will be four-a-side, with one doubles item, making 9 events per match instead of 11.

A junior section for under-18's is also being considered to give representative match experience to the potential inter-league players of the future.

**BRISTOL**, fielding the team of Symons, Shipton, Dawes, Pickett and Hipkins, won seventeen victories out of 19 inter-town fixtures during the season.

**AUBREY SIMONS**, the Bristol captain, came through with a fine personal record—winning 34 games out of 34 games in the course of 16 representative matches.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

start next season

The first meeting of the National County Championships Council was held at the E.T.T.A. offices on 1st June, and the following Executive Committee was unanimously elected:—

Chairman: A. K. Vint (Sussex).

Secretary: G. R. Harrower (Middlesex).

Treasurer: E. Worsley (Lancashire).

Divisional Representatives: Premier—  
L. A. Preston (Surrey), Northern—L. E. Forrest (Yorkshire), South Eastern—Miss L. Ferguson (Hampshire), E.T.T.A. Nominee—D. H. Thompson (Cheltenham).

Further additions may be made to the Executive Committee if fresh divisions of the Championship are formed. It appears probable that the premier division will consist of **Essex, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey, Warwickshire and Yorkshire**, whilst the Northern Section seems likely to comprise **Cheshire, Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire 2nd, Lincolnshire, Northumberland and Yorkshire 2nd**. The South Eastern section may have to be split in two as **Essex 2nd, Hampshire, Kent, Middlesex 2nd, Surrey 2nd and Sussex** all appear certain starters, whilst **Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire** are also possibilities.

The Executive Committee are meeting on 19th July to determine fixture lists, etc., and applications for membership should be in the hands of the General Secretary, G. R. Harrower, 34 Gallants Farm Road, East Barnet, Herts., not later than **14th July**.

It is anticipated that the County Championships have a big future before them, and the keenness to win the premier division should result in some fine matches being witnessed. They should certainly be of interest to the International Selection Committee, as the tension attached to some of the games will be similar to that of International matches. This magazine will contain full reports of the progress of the Championships next season.

### ANOTHER ONE FOR THE BOOK?

Supporters of the Leeds' Y.M.C.A. table tennis team write to enlighten us to the fact that their regular player "**Dickie**" Williams is the same young Williams who played stand-off half for Leeds in the Rugby League final at Wembley last month. Although only 22, Dickie has already represented Wales at the Rugby League game, and Leeds folk prophesy double honours for him before long.

## British Inventor's Bold Idea

An interesting exhibit at this year's British Industries Fair at Olympia was the new "FOROMA WIZARD" table tennis bat.

This had been advertised in our columns but had not previously been available for public inspection. We understand that it is now in production and stocks are available to sports dealers.

It is of course no part of our duties to discuss the rival merits of different makers' products, but the entirely novel construction of the FOROMA appears to justify some attention. It consists essentially of a thin "skeleton" of duralumin, perforated, and covered with a layer each side of solid rubber, moulded into a criss-cross formation reminiscent of a lawn tennis racket.

The laws of our game permit the bat to be made of any material, but this is believed to be the first time any radical change has been made—at least on a commercial scale—since the universal wooden bat ousted the older "parchment drum" model.

The original inventor, Mr. Greensmith, himself a veteran player, claims that the new invention reduces air resistance by means of the perforations, and eventually allows of a very close control of the ball.

Whether habitual wooden-bat exponents could adapt themselves successfully to the distinctly different "feel" of the new weapon, we cannot say; so much depends on personal predilections when it comes to picking up a table tennis bat. Possibly some youngster learning to-day will startle us all with his new "weapon" in a few years time—time will tell.

Meanwhile we congratulate the inventor on his enterprise and imagination; new ideas are always welcome in table tennis.

### MIDLAND RESULTS

In the first Derbyshire County championships (closed), at Matlock Bath, **F. Moody** (Buxton) scored a convincing win in the Men's singles. His opponent in the final was **Bert Rhodes**, the Derbyshire county cricketer.

Ladies' champion is **Miss E. G. Dawson** (Buxton) but she was given a hard game in the final by **Miss J. Dakin**, who is only 16 years old.

\* \* \*

In the Nottinghamshire closed championships, **E. G. Anderson** of the Allendale Club beat **R. T. Bolton** of Normids in the final. These two in partnership won the Doubles title.

International Betty Steventon played with R. T. Bolton in the mixed event, which they won comfortably.

# TABLE TENNIS IN SCHOOLS

by

**RON J. LANGNER**

During his recent visit to this country, Vana, conqueror of World Champion Richard Bergmann in the Final of the English Championships, stated, "I was playing for my town when I was twelve years of age." Here lies the secret of continental supremacy in Modern Table Tennis.

I can remember seeing Dennis Compton scoring 96 runs on the Leyton County Ground when he was a school-boy of fourteen. Even at that early age it was obvious that here was a first class cricketer in the making. Last season when Leicester Boys defeated West Ham Boys in the semi-final of the English Shield on the West Ham United F.C. ground, the crowd was so huge that the gates had to be closed.

Our embryonic stars of cricket and football are well catered for in the schools. But Table Tennis is the Cinderella of school sports. There is no doubt of the keenness for the game which exists among boys and girls. This enthusiasm, however, must be canalized. I know there is no organised Table Tennis in the schools of Southern England, and it is only played desultorily among the Youth Clubs.

## **Habit-forming Period**

The potential star is allowed to develop bad habits, use unorthodox grips, and produce a game which can only be contemptuously designated as "Ping Pong." A world beater cannot be discovered in this haphazard way. Table Tennis should be encouraged in the schools in the same way as cricket and football. It need not be a rival to these sports, for the school players of these games could develop Table Tennis as an auxiliary to our national games.

It is difficult in these days of post-war reconstruction to circumvent the shortage of material which is handicapping players at the moment. A large amount of equipment would be necessary to put into operation any scheme for schools. But I suggest that a long-term policy is required by the E.T.T.A. The co-operation of the Local Education Authorities would be necessary. I feel sure every assistance would be given, as a fine healthy sport could be introduced into the schools at a comparatively low cost.

A coaching scheme might be organised throughout the country if it were officially sponsored by the E.T.T.A.

*The recent correspondence on the subject of "catching 'em young" reminds us that at least one town has its own Schools League affiliated to the English T.T.A. We refer to the SOUTHSEA & DISTRICT SCHOOLS TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE, started by schoolmaster-fan K. A. Williams this season.*

*Mr. Williams believes that eventually a comprehensive national schools organisation can be built up—a kind of "nursery E.T.T.A." in fact, and is eager to exchange ideas with any other enthusiastic teacher-players.*

*And here, to start the ball rolling, are the reactions of perhaps the best-known schoolmaster in the English game, Ron Langner, of East Ham's Fellows' Cranleigh Club.*

*Himself the exponent of an unusual all-backhand grip, Ron has successfully coached along Brian Brumwell and many other good young players, in the orthodox technique.*

Local leagues and clubs could, and probably would, help in every way. It might even be possible to run an English Boys and Girls Championship. The area finals could be played first, and subsequent quarter or semi-finals could be completed during the English Championships. This scheme would need subsidising but the cost would be infinitesimal if we eventually found a successful Swaythling Cup team.

This is the bare outline of a tentative scheme, but perhaps the executive body of Table Tennis could find and work out in detail a plan which would help to develop the game in the schools of England.

Table Tennis players can be encouraged from the age of eleven onwards. Johnny Leach, our leading player, was watching his father play and practising with him at an early age. And to conclude I am going to prophesy that the name of Brian Shepherd will be known in Table Tennis in a few years' time. He is an enthusiastic youngster of twelve who regularly visits my club for coaching and practice.

## SUNDERLAND'S PROUD CLAIM

Sunderland and District Table Tennis Association claims to be the oldest Association maintaining an unbroken career in England.

It was founded 3rd March, 1910, in Norfolk Street Adult School Institute, when A. Donaldson won the first Individual Championship in beating W. Maltby of that Club. In the following season the League was founded by six clubs, and Southwick Trinity, winning all their ten games, became first champions. The first English championship was won by A. Donaldson in 1922, and he was runner-up in 1923. Sunderland players who have represented England are A. Donaldson, C. Hindmarch, M. Armstrong, E. Reay, E. Rimer and T. F. Ewbank. (Our Scottish readers will be interested to know that A. Donaldson was born in Dunfermline, Fifeshire.)

### County Organisation

The Durham County Table Tennis Association was founded in April, 1930, and by 1938 ten Associations were affiliated.

At the moment five Associations are taking part in the Durham Senior League but judging from enquiries received this league will soon be well ahead of the pre-war membership of ten Associations.

The Secretary will be only too pleased to give advice and information to any Association wishing to affiliate. Address

Mr. E. Reay,  
11, Tunstall Terrace,  
Sunderland.

## Our WEMBLEY WEEK- END Competition

### Two Guineas Won

For this stage of the Competition, readers were asked to construct World and England ranking lists from the many great players whose names were quoted in THE PROFESSOR'S article "What's in a Name?"

You were asked to consider each player at the peak of his or her form. On this basis, by aggregating all the entries, the "correct" solution (*i.e.*, the popular opinion), of the ranking lists, was:—

#### MEN—

##### World's First Three:

1. BARNA.
2. VANA.
3. BERGMANN.

##### England's First Three:

1. LEACH.
2. HAYDON.
3. BUBLEY.

#### WOMEN—

##### World's First Two:

1. DORA BEREGI.
2. VERA DACE.

##### England's First Two:

1. VERA DACE.
2. BETTY BLACKBOURN.

The decisions were clear-cut according to the voting, although KETTNEROVA ran close to DACE for 2nd ranking in the World list.

No competitor having submitted an exactly correct coupon, the prize of **TWO GUINEAS** has been awarded to:—

Mr. G. Mansell,  
Camp 17,  
Carryduff,  
Belfast, N.I.

whose only mistake was in the England list, in which he ranked Bubley No. 2, and Haydon No. 3.

### CYRIL MERRETT MEMORIAL

A special memorial match was played at Croydon on 4th May, in honour of Cyril Merrett, the brilliant young local player who was killed on active service with the R.A.F.

The match was between Croydon League and Wembley League, the visitors winning 5—4.

Cyril's younger brother Ken, already an international, played in the Croydon team.

### THE BAT THAT SCORES

*Our improved*

#### CLUB MODEL (light) 5s. 6d.

Rubber covered, 10½ ins. long,  
6½ ins. wide, 5mm thick.

Handle 1 in. x 3¼ ins. x ⅞ in. thick,  
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**Bats to order 7s. 6d.  
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