

TABLE TENNIS

MAY/JUNE, 1947

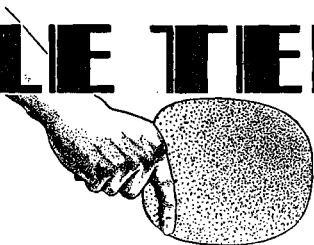
Price Sixpence



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
69, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1



Publishers :
VAWSE & WILES, LTD.,
Guardian House,
London, E.17

Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. V. No. 7

MAY-JUNE, 1947

From the Editor's Chair

In Season and Out of Season

We take the liberty of quoting from our contemporary, "ULSTER TABLE TENNIS," the official organ of the game in Northern Ireland, produced in stencilled form by the popular Norman Wilson in his "spare" time from being secretary of the All-Ireland T.T. Association.

Mr. Wilson, who has done so much to put table tennis on the map in Ireland, has some interesting things to say regarding the ever-growing length of the T.T. season . . .

"A crowded season from November . . . many people have had an over-dose of the game . . .

"I think it will be true to say that in future some restriction on 'big' events is necessary. Likewise a reduction in the demands on top players . . .

"The pie is being kept hot too long. And the amateur's enthusiasm is apt to be sapped by the rising demand for professional accuracy . . .

"The strength in this game is

still the unknown and unheard-of player—the fellow who cycles 5 miles to lose in the first round of a tournament; the 'needle' matches between the lesser teams; the fun and goodwill which was always manifest and now seems in danger of extinction . . ."

It Can't Happen Here ?

Well, we do not say that these remarks can be applied exactly to the game over here, but we have printed them because we believe they contain some sound philosophy. When you recall that our English season began in September last, and here in May we have 400-odd entries in the Bucks and the Wembley tournaments, it seems that the lethal dose for English fans has not yet been reached.

But the magnitude of the problems facing our organisers is obvious, and calls for some hard thinking.

Meanwhile, thanks, Norman, for reminding us about that little chap on the bike !

THE EDITOR.

Table Tennis Parliament Meets

The Annual General Meeting of the English Table Tennis Association was held on 26th April, 1947, attended by all members of the retiring Executive Committee and a representative gathering of delegates from leagues and affiliated bodies from all over England.

Notable exception was the President, Mr. Harold Oldroyd of Manchester, who was unable to attend owing to ill-health. His absence was universally regretted, and the meeting requested the Secretary to send a letter to Mr. Oldroyd on behalf of all members, wishing him speedy recovery.

In addition to routine business, some interesting discussions took place.

Chairman's Speech

The Chairman, the Hon. Ivor Montagu, supplemented the formal report of the National Executive Committee with a brief resumé of the play in the World Championships held in Paris.

He said that English players generally had done well in the world contests, and paid special tribute to the Women's team and to Johnny Leach, the "opening bat" for our men. Viktor Barna was to be complimented on reaching the semi-finals of both doubles events, 17 years after his first world championship success.

Our success was greatly helped by good captaincy, splendid team spirit, and loyal backing from the "home front."

Referring to administration, Ivor Montagu said that the Association's work had been very strenuous and was still growing. County organisations were coming into being, which should prove of enormous help to the head office.

Some comment had appeared in the Press regarding encouragement of juniors, but it was evident that the younger players needed a little time to develop. Schemes would be put into operation next year which would have been premature in the first full post-war year.

Summing up, the Chairman hoped that the Meeting would agree with his own view that fair progress had been made along the path of good government.

Some mistakes had been made, but lessons had been learned and useful work done, too. Whilst he would not be bold enough to claim that all mistakes could be eliminated, he was convinced that the proportion of error to useful work was continually improving.

Finance

The Treasurer, Mr. A. K. Vint of Hastings, presented a detailed Receipts and Payments Statement, subject to certain small adjust-

"Cabinet" reports Record Year in many ways.

ments. Both income and expenditure this season had been a record.

This will be discussed in more detail in our next issue.

Election of Officers for Season 1947/48

The results of the postal ballot (conducted by the Proportional Representation Society) were as follows:—

For Chairman: **Hon. I. G. S.**

MONTAGU (unopposed).

For Hon. General Secretary: **W. J.**

POPE (unopposed).

For Hon. Treasurer: **A. K. VINT** (unopposed).

National Executive Committee:

MIDLAND Region: **G. W. Haydon.**

NORTH-WESTERN Region: **E. Worsley, W. Stamp.**

SOUTHERN Region: **F. G. Manrooch.**

SOUTH-WESTERN Region: **D. H. Thompson.**

EASTERN Region: **J. M. Rose.**

LONDON Region: **G. R. Harrower, H. C. M. Mann.**

NORTH-EASTERN Region: **E. Reay** (unopposed).

NORTH-WESTERN Region: **L. E. Forrest** (unopposed).

* * *
By unanimous vote of the Meeting Mr. Harold Oldroyd was again elected as President of the Association.

APPRECIATED



MISS LENA FERGUSON

Retiring Executive member for Southern Region; Hon. Secretary of Southampton T.T.A. and permanent secretary to the Mayors of that city.

On behalf of all players, the Meeting recorded its appreciation of the work done in the past year by those members of the Committee who now retired as a result of the elections. These were:—

SOUTHERN Region: **Miss L. Ferguson.**

Bergmann on Come-back Trail at "Bucks Open" 3rd May, 1947

The final stages of the Buckingham Open Championships were played at the Slough Social Centre on Saturday, 3rd May, and proved to be a great success. Despite brilliant weather, a large crowd filled a stuffy hall to watch the players, whose skill had led them to participation in the Finals.

Feature of the tournament was undoubtedly the return to competitive play of Richard Bergmann, ex-world champion. Although annexing the Singles title without conceding a game, it was obvious that Bergmann's play lacked the "bite" which had earned for him world honours. At times his rhythmical attack and Astaire-like footwork bore the hall-mark of class, but so often did he fall down on the comparatively simple shot. In the semi-final he defeated a tenacious Ron Sharman, who, unfavoured by fortune, lost what may have been the vital game at 25-23. The final against Eric Marsh was a most spectacular affair, with neither player asking for quarter. Bergmann, by dint of better positional play and consistency, emerged the victor, but his opponent was by no means disgraced. The form displayed by Marsh surprised even his most fervent supporters and sent his stock rocketing sky-high. He proved conclusively that he is something more than a defensive player with an indifferent temperament. His drives, both forehand and backhand, were executed with a crispness and punch which hitherto had been lacking. In the semi-final he defeated his club-mate, Ron Crayden, who was put completely out of gear by the relentlessness of his opponent.

Double "Consolation" for Marsh

Although losing the coveted Singles title, Eric Marsh had the consolation of

winning both the Doubles titles. In these events he was partnered respectively by Vera Dace and Ron Crayden.

Once again Vera Dace showed her supremacy over the field, winning the Women's Singles at the expense of international Molly Jones. For the past month Vera has concentrated her talents on tennis, not having handled a T.T. bat, but never was she affected by the lay-off. From the "gong" she attacked without ceremony, hitting the ball with controlled fury.

A surprise in the earlier rounds was the defeat of Doris Rivett (East London champion), by an unyielding young girl from St. Bride's Club, Miss J. Boyd.

Coming Up ?

A word of praise is also due to Bernard Crouch, up and coming Middlesex player. Tireless, speedy, and possessing a devastating forehand drive, Crouch defeated the seasoned Jack Glickman, and came very near to toppling international Ron Sharman.

The general standard among the youngsters was most encouraging, and if given proper tuition both M. Thornhill and K. Beamish should develop into International stars. In the final of the Junior Singles, M. Thornhill accounted for K. Beamish in straight games, but both boys must be congratulated on their performances.

In all it was a most successful tournament, and a special bouquet must be handed to an enterprising committee, who, though faced with many present-day obstacles and a record entry of 453, handled the proceedings with remarkable efficiency.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Final—R. Bergmann beat E. Marsh 21-16, 21-19, 21-15.

Ladies' Singles—Final—V. Dace beat M. Jones 21-17, 21-18.

Men's Doubles—Final—R. J. Crayden and E. Marsh beat B. Crouch and M. Thornhill 22-20, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles—Final—E. Marsh and V. Dace beat L. Thompson and P. Milburn 21-7, 21-13.

Women's Doubles—Final—Miss A. Fowler and M. Jones beat Mrs. M. Bennett and P. Pitcher 21-14, 21-15.

Junior Singles—Final—M. Thornhill beat K. H. Beamish 21-13, 21-12.

(Continued from page 2)

SOUTH-WESTERN Region: Mrs. D. Anderson.

EASTERN Region: Mr. C. Richards.

LONDON Region: Mr. J. Kurzman.

It will be noted that the new Executive Committee does not include any women members. However, by a vote the Executive is empowered to co-opt additional members whose assistance it considers valuable in the general interest, and this matter will no doubt be considered at the next Committee meeting.

Further interesting points from the proceedings will be published next month.

"What Should be Done for the Young Player?" Contest

4 PRIZES AWARDED

From the many thoughtful contributions submitted we have selected the following as the two most helpful and practical letters, and each writer will receive a prize of one guinea.

From **Geoffrey A. Owen,**

Orpington, Kent.

The ever-recurrent problem of the young player is one that can be met only on a national scale, not by the Association alone, but by full co-operation and integration of effort from the individual player right up to the "powers that be." Let us see what all these can do.

The Individual. It is trite to talk of encouragement and advice. What about example for a change? Do you (and perhaps you are the best player in the club) play carelessly, in any clothes, your favourite briar in your mouth, and so on—and would you do it in an important match? And will the youngster think that that's the right road if he wants to reach the top.

The Club. Equipment is dear, your club-room costs more . . . but stop a moment. Can't you really afford to take those youngsters who have just left school, and haven't money to burn, in at a reduced fee? Aren't your members, who have got so much out of the game, willing to do this for its future?

The League. I know your officials are over-worked and busy. But what about one new official for every league, one of its most experienced players, with no other duty but to look after the young players, to find them, to encourage them and maybe "touch" your funds to send them to tournaments. Try some "extra" way of raising the money for this, a sweep or dance—pretend that you're in dire financial straits and must find those few pounds.

The Tournament. You don't know what to do with the number of entries? But the best thing you can do for the game is to run a "junior," however much you have to restrict other entries. This could well be made a condition for granting a permit for an "open."

The E.T.T.A. Yes, it's that money again. But it's no use the local league discovering a player with the "goods," no use his or her going to tournaments, unless there is an expert spotter to visit the leagues and to watch the "junior opens." (Is every junior watched at the English, even?) And Master or Miss "Right" must be coached, perhaps by a voluntary League coach at first (but they need training). He or she will soon pass local efforts, however, and play against the top-class in expert hands, regularly, at one of a few national centres . . . and now we are talking big money.

* * *
From **A. A. Wall,**

Hon. Sec., West Bromwich T.T. Assn.

Firstly, the obvious thing to say is "Coaching," but that can be classified. There is coaching by professionals, which I do not think will work, owing firstly to the expense, and secondly that many, many lessons must be given before the coaching takes effect.

We must therefore do our own coaching. We, in West Bromwich, have been fortunate in having two clubs, the Wellington Tube Works Sports Club and the Church Army Centre,

where tables are in action every night and boys of 14 to 17 are using every minute. At the Works Club, they don't even go home to tea.

There is no haphazard play; the two clubs named above have been with us since 1933; the Wellington Tube Club began well and kept it up with the result that these junior boys have the best players in the League with whom to practice and they follow their style. The Church Army Club began to blossom some years ago. They produced many good players, one, T. Bowen, who became an inter-League player. Two years later his brother J. Bowen also played in the inter-League. Last year the third brother, R. Bowen, won the Central England Junior Championship. It grows!

Clubs must foster this juniorism and note especially the family skill. I was at a Community Centre last night where they have only recently installed a table tennis table (shame on them!). There were many young boys round the table, and one little chap was playing, using his feet and wrists and showing style if not necessarily skill. I asked him how long he had been playing—Just a few weeks. How old was he—12. What name—Earp. Then I knew. His brother, 16, has just reached the final of the Midland Counties Junior Tournament. Henceforth, I shall watch that 12-year-old.

That is what clubs can do for the young player; the two organisations mentioned in the beginning of this letter both run 4 teams.

But what about the League's efforts. We actually had a meeting last week to decide on this. Finally we abandoned any idea of professional coaching as too expensive. We already have a team in the Midland Counties League and—do let me say this—have already beaten Birmingham 6—3 twice on their own table.

We decided to enter our six best junior players in all Midland competitions, even to the extent of paying their entrance fee. That doesn't mean much, but it is the gesture of showing that the League is watching them. Badges are issued when once they are inter-League players whether in juniors or seniors. Trials are held for juniors only, and for the past two years we have religiously played our best junior and No. 4 in our Senior inter-League side and have seldom been let down. It takes away any stage fright.

You ask, "What should be done for young players," and I suppose I could have adapted this article in a different way, but we have put our ideas into action and the above is the result.

* * *
In addition, "consolation prizes" consisting of a year's free subscription to TABLE TENNIS have been awarded to the following:

H. M. Evans, of New Moston, Manchester, who took the line:

"It is a saying that the Continental player is born with a bat in his hand. In England that is useless as there is no table to go with it.

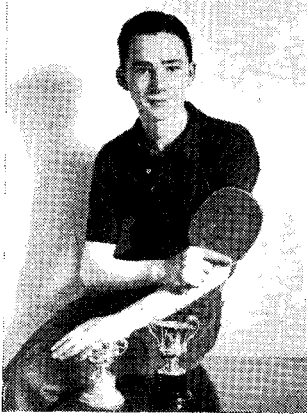
"We must provide a table for the baby with the bat."

I. I. Morgan, of Hounslow:

Mr. Morgan's carefully planned letter covers points made by many other competitors, and will be reviewed in our next issue.

and here is

ENGLAND'S JUNIOR CHAMPION, 1947
WILFRED DENNIS ROWE,
Born January 12th, 1932.



Wilfred Rowe plays for St. Georgian's club in the South Devon and Torbay League.

As a lad he lived next door to this club, and the noise of the ball used to keep him awake on those evenings, not so very long ago, when young Wilfred used to be packed off to bed at eight o'clock.

Rowe's tutor, Mr. Terence I. Gill, writes:—

"... this is the fourth year in succession that St. Georgians have been top of the League, winning 18 out of 18.

"Incidentally, if any League in the London area has a team of three under-16's who think they are good and will be in this district on holiday this summer, I think we could show them their mistake!

"The weather is glorious here now, if any tired (?) internationals need a holiday."

THE STING IS IN THE TAIL?

BECKENHAM & DISTRICT LEAGUE

Tremendous progress has been made in only two years, particularly as there has never before been a Table Tennis League in the Borough. Among the spectators, numbering nearly 500, at our Finals Night, we welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Beckenham, Lady Dorothy Macmillan, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, the Town Clerk, an Alderman and two Councillors, Mr. and Mrs. Quertier with their daughter Jean, the tennis star, and many other notabilities, so that we are really beginning to put Table Tennis "on the map" in this part of the world.

This year we ran 20 Clubs with 36 teams in 3 Divisions (one being Ladies). Our aim for next season is 3 Men's Divisions, one of them possibly a Junior or Youth Club Division, and two Ladies' Divisions.

Our inter-league representatives were:—
F. H. D. Meads, J. A. Semark, G. G. Guntripp,
Mrs. V. Watts, Miss M. Lister, Miss V. Sallisbury, Miss E. Barker.

CECIL H. BURTON,

BOMBS AND BURGLARS

missed the Cups

After war-time adventures, the cups belonging to the Isle of Thanet Table Tennis Association, formerly the Thanet League, have been restored and will be competed for again when the league returns to competitive matches next season.

The two trophies held by Cliftonville, winners of the First and Second Division competitions in 1939, have seen the most amazing adventures. They were in the care of Mr. F. J. Roberts, Chairman of the Association, and had a narrow escape when his house was bombed by the Germans. They travelled hundreds of miles with him during the war, and when his new home at Margate was broken into, the burglars overlooked them.

A new set of rules was drawn up by the league secretary, Mr. J. L. Culver, and agreed to at a meeting on 14th April, 1947. It is anticipated that once again there will be two divisions when play starts in October, consisting of about nine teams each.

WILLESDEN & DISTRICT LEAGUE

After the "shut-down" through the war, the League re-started last September with three Divisions and 28 teams. Only five clubs in membership in 1938-39 could rejoice, so we have had to "educate" quite a number of newcomers. By November, we had received such a large number of enquiries from other clubs desiring to join, that we took the unusual step of forming a supplementary division of nine teams. Almora took chief honours, winning the first and second divisions, and defeating Kemp's (1st Division runners-up) in the Final of the Ascot Cup (a new trophy presented by the Ascot Gas Water Heater Co. for our team knock-out tournament). There has been an exceptional happening at the head of the Third Division. Everett Edgcombe (Colindale) and Elmwood Ladies finished level, and as they replayed three times and drew on each occasion they have been declared joint champions. Dollis Hill (1939 2nd Division Champions) won the Supplementary Division by a point from Maccab.

For the first time the League undertook inter-League engagements and in the Eastern Zone of the Middlesex Championship were runners-up to North Middlesex League.

Our Closed Championships—run on "Open Championships" lines with groups, etc.—were a great success. Although the Finals were twice postponed (lighting restrictions, etc.) they were attended by a record crowd who were treated to some very good play. Bill King was a worthy winner of the Mens' Singles, while Dorothy Rutherford retained the Ladies' Singles. In 1940 she reached three finals, winning two, but this year she went one better and was a triple champion. The 14-year-old winner of the Junior Singles, Ron Bernstein, is the son of B. Bernstein, a Swaythling Cup player of 1926. We are proud of the fact that Kemp's leading player, Jim Taylor, won the English Open Veterans' title.

D. G. RUTHERFORD,
Hon. Gen. Secretary.

Overcrowded Tournaments

"Groups" are out-dated, says **GEORGE WHITE**,

Editor, E.T.T.A. Handbook

It is not very long since even the most popular and most important tournaments could accept every entry and manage somehow to get through their playing schedules. Late finishes were not uncommon, but as officials became more experienced and more efficient in their planning, the increasing number of tournament competitors was still fitted into the programme without the players being too late to get to work the following morning or having to sleep out on Saturday night after the finals.

War-time loss of some of our best halls and the curtailment of late transport facilities made the organisers' problem more difficult, but the smaller war-time entries offset the effects of smaller halls and earlier finishing times for a while. Towards the end of the war, however, the warning "entries may have to be restricted" began to appear on tournament entry forms. Now that most of our players are back from the forces and in practice again, the problem of how to fit into a limited number of evenings and a limited number of tables all the people who want to play is a real headache for the organisers.

Those Late Entries

You can understand the difficulty. *Is the closing date for entries to be rigidly applied?* Unfortunately, there are usually as many late entries as early ones, and some of the best players are among the regular offenders; cutting them out would spoil the tournament and the finals "gate."

Who is to be refused? Is the player coming from a long distance to be given special consideration? Should players who need time extensions, and so make the referee's work more difficult, be eliminated? Should one-event competitors be left out rather than those who play in all events? Should singles be regarded as more important than doubles and given more of the playing time?

The Solution?

There is, however, one way of easing the situation. The problem is most acute in those tournaments where the

singles events are run on the group system.

In my opinion, the time has come when group play should be cut out of all the major open tournaments.

The justification for using the group system was to provide the lesser player with a good evening's competition with players he would not normally meet (although personally I have always doubted whether either Barna or I would benefit if he defeated me 21—2, 21—3 in a group match). From the organisers' point of view, it was thought to attract players who would not otherwise have entered.

No Such Persuasion Needed

There is no longer need to persuade players to enter the major tournaments in order to make them pay their way (although, of course, every young player should be encouraged to go in for tournaments to get experience). The competition with the best players which used to be obtained in groups is to be had no longer; most of the best players are in exclusive groups. And in any case there is no lack of competition available for the keen player in the biggest centres where, strangely enough, the group system is most commonly used.

Group play is not authorised or covered by the open tournament rules of the E.T.T.A. or I.T.T.F. It leads to contraventions of the seeding rules whenever a player is exempted from groups, and at least to a suspicion of irregular seeding in drawing the competitors into groups. It gives rise to all sorts of problems not usually fully covered by the tournament's rules, for instance, where there are ties or where one player withdraws before completing his group matches.

Abandon the "Problem-child"

There is League play and Tournament play. Both have their places in our game, but places which are distinct and different. An unnatural marriage of these two incompatibles produces an unsatisfactory child, the tournament group. Let us cease trying to do two things at once, ease our overcrowded tournaments, give the public at least a few good matches to see early in the week instead of the relatively dull group matches. **Let us abandon the group system for all big open tournaments.**

CHESHIRE "OPEN" — 19th April, 1947

By BILLIE STAMP

The Shaftesbury Boys' Club, Birkenhead, was the venue of this tournament, where seven tables were in use. E. Goodman, who won the singles event last year, did not defend his title.

A. H. Shepherd of Bolton was the giant killer and proved a worthy winner, beating Peter Rumjahn, Les. Cohen and then Benny Casofsky in the final. R. Alcock of Manchester won the Junior Singles. Betty Steventon, by winning the Women's Singles for the third time in succession, repeated the pre-war record of another Birmingham player (Mrs. D. Smith, formerly Dinah Newey). Liverpool's twin sisters, Pinkie and Bluey May, scored a well-deserved win in the doubles, and there was local flavour about the Men's Doubles Finals when Peter Rumjahn and Benny Casofsky (Manchester) beat Reg. Hetherington and Les. Cohen (Manchester). Bluey May, partnered by Casofsky, also carried off the Mixed Doubles event.

J. P. Shead, the young Blackpool player, showed considerable promise, and Miss Dell Wood, the 15-year-old Manchester girl, is deriving great benefit from

all the tournaments she is entering and I think that these two players together with Shepherd and Alcock will be in the international class in the near future. A river cruise was arranged for 21st April and the S.S. "Royal Daffodil" was chartered. The weather was rather squally, which frightened off many would-be sailors, but 200 had a most enjoyable 3-hour cruise, during which there was dancing and a cabaret show and what we lacked in numbers we made up for in enthusiasm.

Results of Finals:—

Men's Singles: A. H. Shepherd beat B. Casofsky 21—9, 21—10, 24—22.

Men's Doubles: P. U. Rumjahn and B. Casofsky beat B. Hetherington and L. Cohen 21—14, 21—19.

Women's Singles: Miss E. M. Steventon beat Miss Dell Wood 21—17, 21—19.

Women's Doubles: Misses K. and L. May beat Mrs. J. Flint and Miss K. Benson (Blackpool) 21—8, 14—21, 21—18.

Mixed: B. Casofsky and Miss K. May beat L. Cohen and Miss D. Wood 21—18, 21—19.

Junior Singles: R. Alcock beat J. P. Shead 21—23, 21—7, 21—8.

Magazine Plans

SHORT SUMMER BREAK —AND THEN

For this journal the first season of new life has not been without its difficulties.

From the outset it was realised that the paper allotment would only allow of eight issues. As the supply position has not yet improved, we propose to publish No. 8 of this volume on 1st July, and from then until September there will be a respite for all concerned.

After this summer break for general "stocktaking" and to digest the lessons of this first year, we hope to give you an improved magazine, bigger if possible, for 10 months of the year commencing September, 1947.

Your own suggestions for improvement will at all times be most welcome.

In the meantime, don't forget to reserve your own personal copy. The enclosed subscription form covers next season's 10 issues; any subscriptions still in credit from this season will, of course, be carried forward.

A Romance of Sport



The engagement is announced of Miss Vera Dace, world-famous star of our Corbillon Cup team, to Mr. A. H. Thomas, of Bromley, well-known Beckenham C.C. cricketer and

all-round sportsman.

The wedding will take place on 16th August, 1947, at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, London, and will be followed by a reception at 6, Stanhope Gate, W.1.

On behalf of all followers of table tennis we wish Vera every possible happiness, coupled with the hope that she will still find plenty of time to delight the crowds with her brilliance on the table.

Table Tennis in East Africa

DURING the war I ran the Mombasa Inter-Services Table Tennis League. Although I hadn't run a league before, nor even seen a league match, we ran strictly according to E.T.T.A. rules taken from *Table Tennis Tips*, and the matches were conducted very seriously throughout.

We were lucky to have a few tables of standard size in the various canteens, although only one of these was made of mouli, the only type of wood immune from the attacks of white ants.

In due course we had 24 teams in the First Division and 12 in the Second. Several officers' teams entered, and many a time the other ranks put it across them. As we had only one good table you knew you were playing *Away* when the other team paid for your refreshments! Similarly, you knew you were in the first division when you got the hard balls, and the second division when you got the soft ones!



Our
Contributor
Sergt.
J. B. UNDERWOOD
of Chiswick

With a little coaching from the odd Welsh champion here and Kent champion there, first-division play became quite passable, and at all times it was very varied, what with teams from all three Services, civvies, Arabs and even some Goans.

For the sake of table tennis, the large fans which normally operated unceasingly had to be switched off as they deflected the balls too far

off course; thus, a "really hot" player in Mombasa was nothing out of the ordinary. Our unfortunate Navy, in their tropical rig of white, often had to wear their blue sweaters to conform to the rules. It is questionable whether the relief they obtained by playing in bare feet was sufficient compensation for this trial!

Spotting 'Em in Nottingham!

Something New in Coaching
by W. LATTO (C.C.P.R.)

The first-ever "Week-end Course" in table tennis was held at the Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham, on 19th/20th April, 1947.

Organised by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, with the co-operation of the Nottingham and Mansfield leagues, this course was in the nature of an experiment to see whether this game can be taught "to the many" in the same way as is done by the Army and other teachers of physical recreations.

Chief coach was Jack Carrington, an experienced "teacher of teachers," ably assisted by his young partner, Johnny Leach.

A powerful combination. As Carrington said in his opening address: "If there were any pupils he couldn't blind with science, he would hand them over to Johnny Leach, who would knock them for six!"

The School Spirit

Happily, it did not come to this, and the very mixed crowd of league players and club-leaders soon caught the "school" spirit and entered into it with a will.

The syllabus consisted of a combination of lectures, demonstrations and practice, with the emphasis placed on teaching the game to young people and developing the critical eye.

Good progress was made, and before long the weaker players were even able to "coach" the stronger ones. In this way, valuable lessons were learned by all: organisers, coaches, and pupils alike.

3. More About this Footwork

by Jack Carrington

IN the first part of this article (January issue) I confined my recommendations to general principles of footwork which will be endorsed by any teacher of any game. Briefly these were:

1. *Don't rest your weight on your heels*—poise on the ball of your foot.

2. *Don't "reach" for wide balls*—follow the ball.

3. *Don't stand too erect*—make full use of the knee action for quick movement.

It is when he comes to giving detailed advice on footwork, stroke for stroke, that the instructor finds himself open to a certain amount of argument. Exceptions can be freely quoted, and the puzzled pupil himself may even spot champions apparently infringing the rules he is asked to obey.

To some extent this is true and the exceptions not only can be "got away with," but sometimes make for more effective shots. The explanation of this would take more space than we can spare here. Suffice it to say that fortunately for the long-suffering Coach, there are also some surprisingly accurate

justifications of "copybook" footwork to be seen in the play of the champions.

You see, the Coach must concern himself with removing anything which tends towards a cramping of the *average* person's abilities. If he discovers more-than-average ability in a pupil, he must allow for this and blend his advice with the pupil's own original talent. Here then, is the next set of Footwork Rules which helps the average person and certainly will not hinder a genius:—

Three Golden Rules

1. Aim to play your shots from a sideways or semi-sideways stance. Left side forward for a forehand action; right side for a backhand action.

2. Try to pass your weight over to your rear foot in defensive play and pass it through to your forward foot as you strike the ball in attack.

3. Try to move with short ONE-TWO shuffle steps rather than long marching or running steps. The short step system helps you to make a last-minute adjustment to your body position (relative to the table); it allows you to stop short and reverse the movement quickly; it preserves your balance because no one step commits your body too far off balance. By contrast, if you form the long-stride habit, you may find that one stride leaves you too far from the ball and two takes you too near it. Then you have to adjust your arm movement, which does not come easily to most pupils.

This is not to detract from those heavily-built or long-limbed players who have trained themselves to get into every position with one or at most two steps. They are the lucky ones who have that knack.

Practical Examples

The advantage of the extra adaptability of the short-step system is shown by a comparison between two well-known stars, Harrower and Andreadis. Both are heavily built but move lightly. Harrower, although twice as brainy as Andreadis, is about half a class below him.

ONE WE MISSED



Rumania's ANGELICA ADELSTEIN: visa formalities caused last-minute cancellation of her entries in the World's and English Championships.

My explanation: Left-handed Harrower moves with long loping strides, left foot crossing right and vice versa. This brings him up to the ball in awkward positions; to counteract this he has developed "emergency" arm strokes for different distances from his body.

The Andreadis movements, however, may be described as a stride-and-then-a-shuffle, or a shuffle-and-then-a-stride. Either method produces a more accurate final placing of the body, as is evident from the fact that Andreadis has no difficulty in playing his machine-like strokes from any part of the playing area.

Leach Off Balance ?

Again, take our popular No. 1, Johnny Leach. A "long-stride" player if ever there was one, who has done splendid work this year. When he narrowly lost to Vana in the World's semi-finals, 3 or 4 easy kills sat up for him. He got there, but had not quite correct balance or distance to hit really hard. He had to hit gently.

Four Masters of "Quick-step" Footwork

Against Tereba in the English Open, the same thing happened at the end of the fifth game. But this time, Johnny tried hitting hard. It was a gamble because he had not come up to the exact position when he rushed in. For Vana, for Barna, for Bergmann, for Pagliaro, these balls would have been certainties, not gambles. All these employ short, quick, "ONE-TWO" steps.

These four veterans are the masters of footwork—not Miles (knees too stiff), nor Amouretti (weight on his heels), young and fast though they be.

Think It Out

It is pleasant to criticise these experts, who can beat us up with ease! That is the Coach's privilege—and it is your opportunity.

You may be sure that Johnny Leach will be thinking this matter out during the summer; why not you, too? Is it not possible that your misses may be due to your system of movement—stride-stride-and-plonk? Do you know that other clubman's system: wait-hesitate-and-lunge?

That slight footwork superiority of Vana over Miles, or Bergmann over Amouretti, may be just the difference between your league champion and the "also-rans."

(Next article will discuss: "Why we teach the sideways stance" and "Which is the wrong foot?")

NO MEAN CITY

From Ballymena, largest country town in Northern Ireland, and well known to many Servicemen, comes this pleasant note:—

I am enclosing a photograph of trophies presented for our first annual tournament.



Our tournament was a great success. We had 105 in the Men's Singles, and 23 in the Ladies' Singles. The Mayor of Ballymena, Councillor P. Murphy, J.P., presented the trophies at the finals' session.

These trophies were displayed in a leading window in the town, and caused a great sensation, as they were all presented by local people.

L. FREDLANDER.

A display worthy of any big tournament. Fortunate indeed is the town whose senior citizens encourage their young sportsmen in this practical fashion.

CHELTHENHAM TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

We have now completed a most enjoyable season. Though we failed to win any matches in the Western Counties League, we had some very good games and our young players have profited by the experience given them. Our League winners were as follows:—Div. I, Y.M.C.A. "A"; Div. II, Bennington Hall "B"; Div. III, Ex-Service "D." We had 9 teams competing in each League, and had a record entry for our Cup Competitions. The winners of these were:—

Cheltenham Championship (Winnen Cup), E. Cowley.

Cheltenham Doubles Championship (L. V. and S. Cup), P. Cruwys and S. Griffin.

Cheltenham Junior Championship (Dora Zillwood Cup), L. Baldwin.

1st Division (Eric Mills Cup), P. Cruwys.

2nd Division (D. J. Hyett Cup), H. Holloway.

3rd Division (R. Turner Cup), J. Barnes.

We have had a number of enquiries from new clubs and players and next season promises to be an even greater success than this one.

W. E. GRIFFITHS,

Hon. Secretary.

**WESTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE
FINAL PLACINGS
MEN'S SECTION.**

Results.—Cheltenham 4, Gloucester 7; Bath 1, Bristol 10; Bristol 5, Birmingham 6; Birmingham 11, Bath 0.

Table:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Bristol	14	13	1	26
Birmingham	14	13	1	26
Cardiff	14	8	6	16
Newport	13	7	6	14
Swindon	14	6	8	12
Gloucester	14	6	8	10*
Bath	13	2	11	4
Cheltenham	14	0	14	0

*2 points forfeited for playing ineligible player.

Bristol and Birmingham having tied, a play-off for the championship took place on May 3rd, and resulted in a win for Bristol 10—1, and they thus become the champions.

WOMEN'S SECTION.

Results.—Birmingham 6, Bristol 5; Birmingham 11, Bath 0.

Table:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Birmingham	7	7	0	14
Cardiff	7	5	2	10
Bristol	8	4	4	6*
Swindon	8	3	5	6
Bath	8	0	8	0

*2 points forfeited for playing ineligible player.

**Our WEMBLY WEEK-
END Competition
November - December Prize
Awarded**

There were two possible correct solutions to the NOVEMBER Coupon. Deliberate spelling mistakes were:—

- (1) Page 4, column 2, line 19, "practice" should read "practise."
- (2) Page 10, column 2, small type, line 11, "payed" should read "paid."

The correct anagram in the DECEMBER issue, of the clue words

"**FOOT AND EYE STEP-DANCE WELL, SON**"

was

"**STONEWALL DEFENCE DOES NOT PAY.**"

The first envelope opened containing correct solutions on both NOVEMBER and DECEMBER coupons, came from:—

MR. SIDNEY A. BAKER,
112, HOLLINGDEAN TERRACE,
BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

to whom a prize of ONE GUINEA is awarded.

Results of the JANUARY coupon, calling for selection of World and England teams, will appear in our next issue.

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Our Unofficial

Rank(l)ing List

By Our Chislehampton Correspondent

I KNOW at least four players who consider themselves to be Chislehampton's No. 1. No, that is not right—I'll start again.

I know at least four who will openly tell you that they are Chislehampton's No. 1. Presumably there must be another four who only consider they are, but refrain from saying so, and about another dozen whose fathers, mothers, and sweet-hearts think they are.

But take first the self-acclaimed "No. 1's." They do not tell you this fact in any boasting spirit; not at all, merely in a quiet tone, as of one anxious to help, to disseminate useful information.

Their colleagues have become resigned to this little vanity, and have, in fact, elected all the suspects to a body known as "The Club." This means "The Self-appointed Chislehampton No. 1 Club," and, of course, POTHUNTER is the Chairman.

POTHUNTER'S comment on the problem was as pithy as usual: "The obvious thing to do is to stage a public match, three-a-side, between all the No. 1's, and I, as the actual No. 1, will be the referee."

Their claims are strong, of course; SLASHER was No. 1 about 10 years ago and hasn't played since; ROLLEM was the Junior Champion and won the R.E.M.E. title in Turkestan during the war; LEFTY is the unbeaten lunch-hour champion; HOPEFUL is getting better every day and feels he could beat all the others if he could just get over the fact that he has never beaten any of them yet!

CAREFUL has got all their weaknesses down on paper and only needs a break in his run of bad luck. SNOOTY has an original line—he believes he is the best Mixed Doubles player in the county and is only waiting for them to include Mixed Doubles in his singles matches.

INTRODUCING . . .

MAG. TYPE No. 1



POTHUNTER

{Chairman of the No. 1 Club}

From time to time Pothunter will re-appear to give us the benefit of his wisdom.

Then there is BUTCHER, who has developed a new swerve forehand which is quite untakable, but hasn't been tried out under match conditions yet. It is suspected that it will involve the use of a wider table.

And so the talk goes on. The return of trials and tournaments this year may conceivably dissolve some of these illusions and "The Club" may collapse in the face of hard facts and figures.

What a pity this would be! None would regret the disappearance of this quiet source of amusement more than the 50 or so modest players who, like myself, are quite content with their position as

CHISLEHAMPTON'S No. 2.

[Editor's Note.—Our contributor wishes me to state that the characters named in his article are entirely fictitious. Of course—who ever met table tennis players who talked like these? And yet . . .]

It's Up To You

By **DON FOULIS**

Liverpool's Swaythling Cup Player

The 21st Anniversary Luncheon after this year's Merseyside Open Championships was an occasion which rightly "put the spotlight" on those who, by their efforts during the past 20 years, have raised the status of table tennis from that of a parlour game to a competitive international sport.

Yes, great work has been done and table tennis has been lucky in its administrators and players. No sport has been managed or played with greater devotion and enthusiasm.

Now we've achieved our majority let us consider what work still remains to be done—*whither table tennis?*

The Government has given its blessing to the Youth Club movement and new

clubs are coming into existence all over the country. Here is a golden opportunity to sign up new clubs, form new junior leagues, etc. Here is material that can be moulded into the Fred Perrys and Johnnie Leachs of the future! League Management Committees—it's up to you to lay the foundations. It is not enough to see that they have the necessary equipment—their table tennis must be organised and nursed. League players of good club standard must be prepared to "adopt" youth clubs and help to inject that little "bug" of table tennis enthusiasm which, once installed, generally remains for life.

Yes, Mr. and Miss League Player, there's plenty of hard work for you!

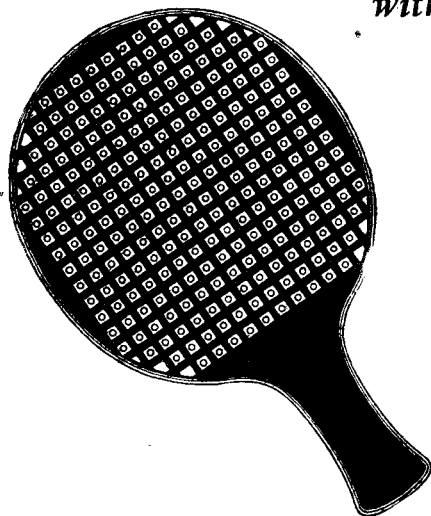
Why not organised table tennis in every school?

Conscription.—Is our Governing Body satisfied that promising table tennis players joining the Forces receive ample opportunity to improve their game during this enforced absence from civilian life? Can we not also win more devotees from the Services?

Readers, one way or another—"it's up to you!"

Highest Performance

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with the "Foroma" Wizard. Finest Table Tennis Bat in the World. (All British). We regret that an incorrect price was published in previous issues. The increased price is due to increased cost of labour, production and Purchase Tax.

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Blind Man Umpires Big Match

at AMERICAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By WILLIAM FAY

The referee stopped the match. "That ball's cracked," he declared. "Here's another."

The same minor delay occurred hundreds of times in the United States Table Tennis tournament in Rainbow arena. Ordinarily, spectators and players scarcely notice routine ball changes, but yesterday the incident stood out because the referee, Charles (Chuck) Medick, of Cleveland, O., was blind. He detected the crack by sound—a crack so slight that it had not yet begun to affect the bounce of the celluloid ball.

Chuck was blinded by an explosion when he was six months old. That was 23 years ago. He's a senior—majoring in Spanish—at Cleveland college. Four weeks ago, a friend asked him to keep score in the first round of a Cleveland tournament. He called the shots by ear so precisely that tournament officials asked him to referee the finals. Then the Cleveland Table Tennis club decided to reward him with a trip to the Nationals.

Put Him Right to Work

"I didn't believe the officials would let me referee here," Chuck remarked between matches yesterday, "but they put me right to work."

Chuck says it is simple for a man with a trained ear to detect the various sounds which distinguish shots. "There's a solid crack when the ball hits the table and a click when it hits the edge. I don't know how to describe the sound of the ball hitting the net, but I can detect it."

Tournament officials said yesterday that on "edge" shots—balls which barely tip the end of the table—Medick's delicate ear was more accurate than the eyes of the players.

Chuck hopes to come back next year and see the players he has heard in action

We are always happy to hear of anyone who rises above their personal handicaps to take part in sport with their fellows.

The facts of this surprising article are vouched for by U.S.T.T.A. officials.

NOTE: In American procedure "referee" is the same as our "umpire."

the last two days. "I've had a preliminary operation on my left eye," he said. "The doctors plan a cornea graft in June, and they're confident the operation will be a success."

AMERICAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following results show Richard Miles' 3rd successive "National" win. Note also the doubles title won by a "sisters" team.

MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-Finals

Sol Schiff, New York, beat William Holzrichter, Chicago, 11-21, 21-19, 16-21, 21-18, 21-14.

Richard Miles, New York, beat Doug. Cartland, New York, 21-15, 19-21, 21-17, 21-9.

Finals

Miles beat Schiff, 21-7, 21-15, 21-18.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Semi-Finals

Mrs. Bernice Charney Chatras, New York, beat Elizabeth Blackburn, London, England, 21-14, 18-21, 21-16, 21-18.

Leah Thall, Columbus, O., beat Reba Monness, New York, 19-21, 21-14, 21-17, 21-18.

Finals

Leah Thall beat Mrs. Chatras, 21-15, 22-20, 16-21, 21-15.

JUNIOR SINGLES

Finals

Martin Reisman, New York, beat Gordon Barclay, South Bend, 21-18, 21-18, 21-18.

BOYS' SINGLES

Finals

Edward Hancock, Indianapolis, beat Fred Rodgers, Columbus, 20-22, 21-8, 21-4, 19-21, 21-8.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Finals

Leah and Thelma Thall, Columbus, O., beat Mae Clouther and Mildred Straiham, Boston, 17-21, 21-12, 21-7, 13-21, 21-13.

EUROPE CUP

MEN'S INTER-ZONE FINAL

Czechoslovakia beat France by 5 events to 0, as expected. Stipek's fine play in England was recognised by his selection for the doubles team.

Andreadis beat Haguener 21-6, 21-12, 21-12.

Vana beat Amouretti 23-25, 21-12, 21-15, 21-12.

Vana and **Stipek** beat Amouretti and Haguener 21-16, 21-10, 24-22.

Andreadis beat Amouretti 21-16, 14-21, 23-21, 21-19.

Vana beat Haguener 21-8, 19-21, 21-17, 21-17.

Correspondence

From J. BROWNE,
Hon. Sec., Grimsby T.T.A.

Congrats on George White's fine article on "Umpiring." I have been noting with dismay the poor general standard of umpiring at tournaments this season and I hope his lines are well read in all parts as they will do much to improve.

I have been waiting for someone to officially point out that there are too many foul services, unfortunately this habit is not confined to the club player. At one tournament recently I saw one of this country's leading internationals serve no fewer than 3 out of 5 services over the table. I was so astounded that I was unable to believe my own eyes and had the check made by another person, but the result was just the same. In the doubts, he was even worse, as nearly all his services were outside the side lines. Knowing the sportsmanship of this player I have not the slightest doubt that it is being done unknowingly and that one good umpire would eradicate the trouble at once.

All power to George's pen if it helps to improve the game.

From FRANK DUNHILL,
Table Tennis Secretary,
Slough Social Centre.

I should like to extend a hearty welcome to table tennis players to pay us a visit.

We have five tournament tables available for play every day and all day (except Mondays and Thursdays). Sunday afternoon is becoming very popular with visiting players—and many come from quite long distances and get in good practice under conditions which are nearly perfect as regards lighting and space.

Membership of the Slough Social Centre is open to all and the subscription, 10/- per annum, is a good investment even if only table tennis is played. To join the T.T. Section a nominal charge of 6d. is made for a Rule Card.

During club hours (from 7—10.30 each evening). Tables are booked with the steward in 15 minute periods, and a charge of 1d. per player is made for each period. There is no restriction on the number of periods one can book (except that players cannot book more than one period at a time).

Balls are available for purchase—and bats—of a kind—may be loaned without charge.

A very sore point with our Section is the ruling that the ball quota for clubs is the same (3 doz. balls) whatever the size of the club. As we have about 430 members you will appreciate how badly it hits us.

Wishing every success to "Table Tennis Magazine," which is much appreciated by many of our members.

NEXT SEASON'S PLANS

Representatives of new clubs will be welcomed at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on 30th June, 1947. For details, please apply to the Asst. Hon. Sec., Miss K. White, 10, Abbott Avenue, S.W.20.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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

FOR SALE.—Jack Carrington Bat, new; autographed by Dace, Leach, Miles, Holzrichter, Thall, Schiff. Best offer.—Tebbutt, 59, Florence Road, Maidstone.

WILMOTT CUP Inter-League Men's Teams Competition

Semi-finals
London beat Liverpool 5—0.
Exeter beat Birmingham 8—1.
Final
London beat Exeter 5—4.

THE ROSE BOWL Inter-League Women's Teams Competition

Semi-finals
North Middlesex beat Northumberland.
Blackpool beat Exeter.
Final
North Middlesex v. Blackpool
will be played on 22nd May, 1947, at the Belling-Lee Club, Enfield.

LONDON LEAGUE TEAM EVENTS

1st Division winners :
GLENCAIRN T.T.C.
Section "A" winners :
PADDINGTON T.T.C.
Section "B" winners :
ALMORA T.T.C.
Knock-Out Cup winners :
ALBION EAST.

Individual Tournament MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-final
R. Crayden beat R. Sharman 3—1.
J. Glickman beat R. Gasson 3—0.
Final
Crayden beat Glickman 21—15, 21—23,
21—15, 20—22, 29—27.
MEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-final
R. Sharman and L. Thompson beat P. Grant
and R. Dawson 3—0.
Crayden and W. King beat A. Beale and
R. Russell 3—0.

Final
Sharman and Thompson beat Crayden and
King.

THAMES VALLEY T.T. LEAGUE

Change of Secretary

Thames Valley T.T.L. wish to inform all concerned that Mr. P. C. Catley is no longer an official of their league.

All enquiries and outstanding matters should be referred to the new hon. secretary, Mr. W. A. Gent, 60, Raven Avenue, Tolworth, Surrey.

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