

APRIL 1948

Sixpence

TABLE TENNIS

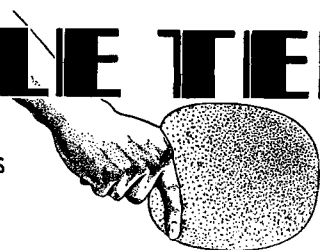


Roseanu — the
World's Un-
luckiest Loser?
(See article within)

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



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Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. VI. No. 7

APRIL, 1948

A Pleasant Tribute

One of the most pleasing features of the period of the World Championships at Wembley was the interest shown by almost all sections of the Press. Reporters and specialist writers were generous in their support.

Especially encouraging to table tennis fans of long standing was the editorial which appeared in the London "Times" of 7th February, 1948, reprinted here by kind permission of that most respected of all newspapers.

"The World Table Tennis Championships are now being played at Wembley with 300 competitors drawn from twenty-eight nations. This will probably astonish a good many people who still think of the game under the pleasantly onomatopoeic name it once bore of ping-pong. That name dies hard in the layman's mouth, but it would be an absurdity as well as an insult to apply it to a game so dashing and vigorous and making such demands on stamina as well as skill as does the table tennis of to-day. Here is one more example of a game which had developed so greatly from its original form as to be almost unrecognizable. It is as different from the pursuit once domestically enjoyed as is the stern modern croquet, with its minute margin of error, from that played on Victorian lawns, with its invitingly wide hoops and its cage with the bell in the middle . . .

"Not one whit less remarkable is the change in table tennis since people now grown elderly used to amuse themselves with it on a wet day, perhaps on no more formal arena than the dining-room table. In those days there were one or two private reputations. It was darkly rumoured that a distinguished cricket and rackets player at Cambridge was so adroit that he could

defeat all comers with a paper-cutter in lieu of a bat; but there was no public standard of skill and each small community had its own hero, deemed by it invincible. Now the names of the international champions, some of them hard for insular lips to pronounce, are widely known. The least erudite has heard of Victor Barna, the Harry Vardon of the game, who is now a naturalized citizen of this country, and a prop and stay of the British side. To see only once the game as played by these great ones is a revelation. Such glory of hard hitting, such retrieving from impossible situations, have never been dreamed of in the philosophy of those who indulged in interminable rallies of neat little back-handed half-volleys and thought no small thing of themselves in consequence. There will always be some to 'murmur a little sadly' that a pastime, once such good fun, should develop into something altogether out of the reach of ordinary mortals; but it is vain to lament what is utterly inevitable. Those who so desire can still ping and pong gently to and fro in the privacy of home, even as they can play battledore and shuttlecock without envy or malice towards the illustrious of Badminton. **Meanwhile if they go to Wembley they will see what a truly imposing beanstalk has grown from a humble seed planted not yet sixty years ago.**"

* * *
A novel feature of the Championships was the Saturday evening parade and march-past of all the national teams. Clad in their various uniform kits, and bearing banners with the name of the country inscribed, the players made a bold and colourful show as Mr. Tomlinson, Minister of Education, made a formal address of welcome.

On page 1 we reprint a splendid article from "The Times" on the theme of the "growing up" of table tennis.

Although the game itself has now a history of some sixty years, it is significant that practically all the great advances in technique and prestige, outlined in the quoted article, have been consolidated in the last 20 years or so.

In fact the advances have occurred since the game became organised—since the isolated towns (and latterly the isolated countries) began to pool their experiences and to share their skills, for the general good of all.

And foremost in organising table tennis for this country and indeed for the whole world, has been the ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, familiarly and fondly known as E.T.T.A.

Just Twenty-One Years ago this month—to be exact, on the 24th April, 1927—was held the first conference of "national delegates" from the few existing leagues, which adopted the new Constitution and Title of "The English Table Tennis Association."

The first Chairman and Secretary respectively, were none other than the same Chairman and Secretary who will present their year's Report at Caxton Hall on Cup Final Day in this year of austerly Nineteen Hundred and Forty Eight! What a story they could tell us, if we had the space (or if they had the time!).

They have seen the game they love grow from an enthusiasm of a few score individuals to a complex phenomenon of this fun-chasing generation. From the Hobby stage, through the Obsession stage, and now some would say into the Big-Business stage.

And behind the outward changes, the inward changes. For Bill and Ivor have been almost continuously the two foundation stones of an edifice which had to be rebuilt in part

BIRTHDAY

OUR GREAT VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION

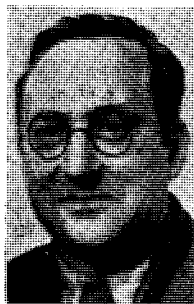
by Jack Carrington

after every Annual General Meeting. An edifice of sound government whose design must be changed continually to conform to the needs of the time, and always having regard to the resources in finance and manpower available.

For E.T.T.A. has always been a typical English sports organisation—always slightly hard up, slightly inefficient (by business standards), slightly abused by those it helped the most. And yet so genuine, so clean, so class-less, so unselfishly enthusiastic that its spirit could always shine through its untidy framework and inspire each year more and more loyal workers for the cause of table tennis.

Gradually the two "foundation stones" found themselves buttressed by others whose continued labours ensured that what had been already built up need not be pulled down but only modernised from year to year.

Such as: H. Oldroyd, of Manchester, our President since 1931, A. K. "Bill" Vint, our Treasurer from the same date, Corti Wood-

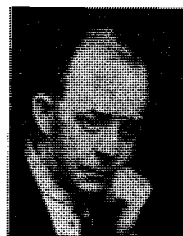


THE HON. IVOR MONTAGU
Chairman

SALUTE — WE'RE



THIS MONTH



W. J. POPE
Hon. General Secretary

cock, Mr. and Mrs. Bunbury, Morris Rose, J. Siddron, G. Decker, all of them Officers on several occasions and willing workers on all occasions.

The names of the newer generation of builders may be Mortlake Mann, Harrower, Stamp, Reay, Goldstein, etc., etc., but all of these will agree that the names are not important.

The spirit is what counts. The instinct to sacrifice time and comfort for the guidance and pleasure of others, to pursue a task, once undertaken, to a right and successful conclusion. Not merely a "GIVE AND TAKE" spirit, but a "GIVE AND GIVE" spirit.

And so it has been in these 21 years of E.T.T.A.; the success story of Bill Pope and Ivor Montagu has been told, not only by the mounting annual figures of member leagues (5, 19, 21, 23, 32, 38, 52, 71, 102, 121, 158, 206, 230, etc.), but by the extent to which they have gathered unto them these other helpers of like spirit, who in turn have inspired hundreds of members up and down England and many other countries to "Give and Give" to this great game of ours.

Apart from this growing tradition of service, E.T.T.A. is not hampered by old traditions or conventions. Probably because the sport itself is young, the

Association has always shown itself willing to experiment with new ideas. Of course, with the best will in the world, an Association cannot keep exact pace with its most advanced revolutionaries; as in other walks of life the exponents of new theories must prove their worth, and even then Finance will usually dictate the speed of any advance.

In judging our progress, too, we must remember that there have not been 21 years for the build-up. By no means; the six war years undid a great part of the good work, and a German bomb obliterated the E.T.T.A. office and all its records in High Holborn one Sunday afternoon in 1940. We believe that this disappointment, following on his strenuous efforts, contributed largely to Bill Pope's breakdown in health.

The Association Today

We have tried to convey something of the atmosphere in which organised table tennis has grown up, under the care of its voluntary E.T.T.A. officials. But we must not dwell on the past—what of E.T.T.A. as a newcomer would find it to-day? The following few points may help to fill in the present-day picture

E.T.T.A. HEADQUARTERS The central office is at 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. It is not a clubroom or a table

tennis school, as so many appear to expect! That may come one day, but meanwhile please leave your bat behind when you call on Mr. Pope, because although he was a jolly good player, he has hundreds of letters to answer every day now. For the same reason try to make your business short and sweet if possible.

E.T.T.A. STAFF To explode another myth—E.T.T.A. have at present only one paid employee. She is Mrs. Pegg, that pleasant "Secretary's secretary" who herself does at least as much unpaid as paid work.



A. K. VINT
Hon. Treasurer

(Continued overleaf)

BIRTHDAY SALUTE TO E.T.T.A.—Continued.

The appointment of paid officials is a matter which comes constantly before the Executive Committee; meanwhile all E.T.T.A. officials do their arduous work, as always, without any thought of payment.

E.T.T.A. OFFICIALS E.T.T.A. affairs are managed by a National Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Chairman, Treasurer and General Secretary, plus 11 members elected to represent the country by Regions. The N.E.C. may co-opt certain others to assist them.

WHO ELECTS THE OFFICIALS? The "General Council," which really consists of one representative of each affiliated league or local association. As there are hundreds of these member-bodies, voting is done by postal ballot on the Proportional Representation system.

It would be hard to imagine a more democratic constitution than this.

WHAT IS THE IDEA OF E.T.T.A.? Briefly, the stated objects of E.T.T.A. are:—
(a) To secure uniform laws for the game

- in England.
- (b) To decide all doubtful questions or disputes in England.
- (c) To control and govern the game in England.

Notice that no mention is made of "promoting" or propagandising or extending the game. Yet E.T.T.A. is often taken to task by critics who assume that these are almost the primary duties of E.T.T.A.

Of course, by its work in standardising good equipment and staging big events the Association has paved the way for a great amount of "missionary" work. Through its channels thousands of casual players are brought into contact with the fuller satisfaction of the organised game.

Table tennis is respected now by the Press, by other Sporting authorities, by Educationalists, and by the general public. This is the just reward of unity amongst all players. UNITY MEANS STRENGTH—and that is really the "idea" of E.T.T.A.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION E.T.T.A. itself is in turn an "affiliated member" of the International T.T. Federation. Thus an English player becomes a member of a world-wide fellowship of sport.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS The English Championships are organised each year by E.T.T.A.; they are entirely open to all comers and are regarded as the premier tournament of the world, apart from the World Championships themselves.

WHO CAN JOIN E.T.T.A.? Any club playing to standard rules may join through a local League or Association. (Yearly fee 7/6 for one team, 2/6 each extra team. Youth clubs pay a reduced fee.)

Clubs may affiliate directly to E.T.T.A. (fee 15/-, or 5/- for youth clubs); individuals may apply for personal affiliation (5/- yearly).

Any player who wishes to enter a tournament must be affiliated either directly or through his club.

WHERE DO THE COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS COME IN? County Associations may be described as the "local branch offices" of E.T.T.A. They

are a recent development designed to relieve Headquarters of some of the detailed work; with their close local contacts they are proving a valuable factor in bringing new recruits to the game.

DOES E.T.T.A. ALLOW PROFESSIONALISM? By its policy of realism combined with a friendly discipline, E.T.T.A. has avoided many of the troubles which beset other sports. No player is allowed to receive payment for playing in competitive events, but he/she may receive genuine expenses. Players who wish to capitalise their skill or knowledge of the game in any other way must register with E.T.T.A. Their registration will only be confirmed if E.T.T.A. is satisfied that their activities will be a credit to the game.

Other countries have varying rules on this subject.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? Well, let us all wish ourselves "Many Happy Returns of this Coming-of-Age birthday, and may we be as fortunate in our future leaders as we have been in this first Twenty-One Years."

Wish ourselves did we say? Yes indeed, for what is E.T.T.A. but you and me and the blokes we can beat and the other blokes who have all the luck?

EUROPE CUP (MEN)

Startling Final Result

France, after defeating England and Wales to win the West Zone, fell victims to the Slovak team of Marinko/Tokar, who had entered as a separate country, and not, as usually, in combination with the Czechs.

The real surprise, however, came when the Slovaks met the Czechs in the Challenge (final) Round.

Both Marinko and Tokar scored 3—2 wins over Vana, and Tokar in addition beat Andreadis! Tokar, regarded by the Wembley crowds as a lagging No. 3 in the Czech team, thus beat his illustrious leaders who are quoted by many as the best 2 players in the world.

To complete veteran Tokar's night out, he and penholder Marinko vanquished the world's doubles champions, Vana/Stipek, to give Slovakia a 4—1 victory.

NATIONAL TEAM CONTESTS

THE "J. M. ROSE" BOWL

Quarter-finals:

Northumberland 4, Blackpool 1
Southampton 1, South Devon 4
Winners to meet

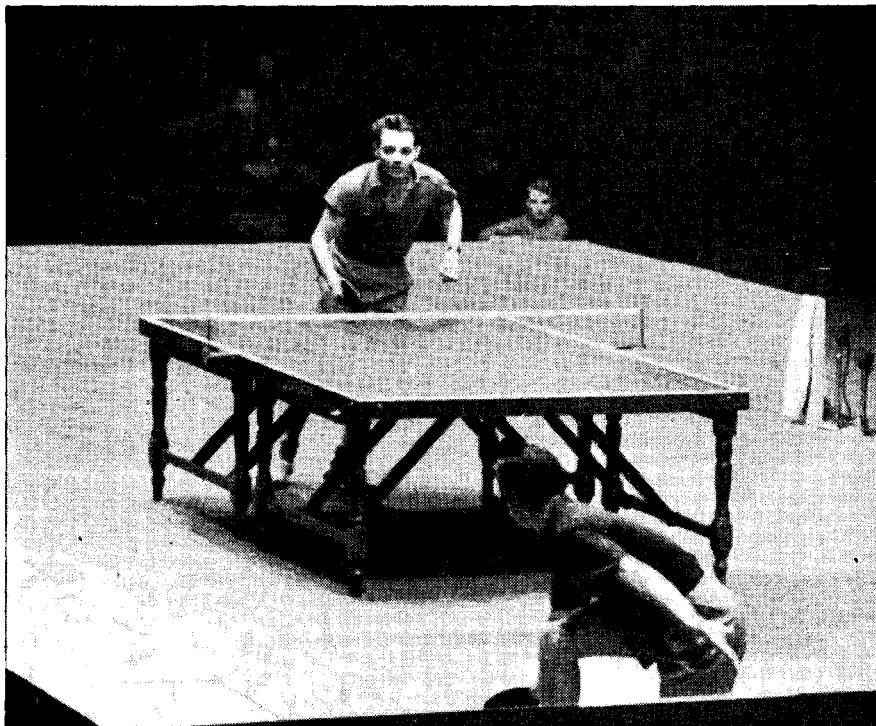
Central League 1, North Middlesex 4
Birmingham 1, Maidstone
Winners to meet

THE WILMOTT CUP

Quarter-finals:

Grimby 4, Northumberland 5
North Middlesex 6, Brighton 2
Winners to meet

Leatherhead 2, Manchester 7
Bristol, London
Winners to meet



HE STOOPS TO CONQUER. Bergmann (near camera) returns one of Andreadis' wide-angled drives by a back-hand chop stroke almost off the floor.

(Photo by courtesy of Wembley Stadium, Ltd.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES "OPEN"

at Birmingham Indoor Stadium, 28th Feb., 1948

M.S. Semi-Final: Leach bt. Carrington 12, 17;
Harrower bt. Mackay 17, 17.

M.S. Final: Leach bt. Harrower 13, 8, 19.

W.S.: Miss D. Beregi bt. Miss E. Steventon
15, 17.

W.D.: Miss Beregi/Miss Mackay bt. Miss
Steventon/Mrs. D. Smith 7, 15.

X.D.: Leach/Beregi bt. Mackay/Mackay —12,
11, 11.

M.D.: Leach/Carrington bt. Kriss/A. G. Smith
10, 12.

J.S.: D. Heath bt. K. Kershaw —17, 17, 12.

STOP PRESS

England defeated Ireland 9—2 at
Dublin, 24th March, 1948.

J. Leach won 3 titles in the Irish
Open Championships at Belfast,
27th March, 1948.

COMING EVENTS

Date	Tournament or Event	Address for Enquiries or Entries
April 9 & 10 ...	Yorkshire Open (M.S., M.D., W.S., X.D.)	At Holdsworth's Club, Drighlington, near Bradford. L. E. Forrest, 15, Briarfield Road, Frizinghall, Brad- ford.
April 24	Yorkshire Open (J.S., J.D., W.D., Vets.)	At West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, W.13. J. Joyce, 7, Croft Gardens, Hanwell, London, W.7.
April 12-17 ...	West Middlesex Open	At Seymour Hall, London, W.1. G. R. Harrower, 34, Gallants Farm Road, East Barnet, Herts.
April 21	Champton County (Mddx.) v. Rest	L. R. Norminton, 31, Acacia Road, Romford, Essex.
To be fixed	Thameside Open	At Town Hall, Wembley.
June 7-11	Wembley Open	
To be fixed	Bucks Open	

BEHIND LOCKED DOORS

Since its inception, table tennis has been instrumental in bringing joy and stimulation to many thousands in all walks of life. Barna, Bergmann, Leach, Carrington and other contemporary stars have blazed a trail, leaving in their wake potent memories, which are being constantly re-lived in bar, club and fireside conversation.

Never, however, to my knowledge, has exhibition table tennis been played before a large audience of hardened criminals. This unique and memorable experience was the lot of Sharman, Shorey, Rich and myself, when we were called upon to play within the precincts of an English prison.

THE WAY IN

Dusk was closing in when we came in sight of our destination, a grim-looking pile of bricks and stones cemented carefully together in never-ending monotony. Internally it may have been a beehive of activity. Externally it was cold and sort of unfriendly.

The front gates—formidable iron barriers—made us feel small and insignificant. The fears of expectation we had felt on our journey, were again surfaced, and we were in two minds whether to ring or run. The formalities of identification were soon over. The huge gates opened and clanged behind, leaving only a hollow metallic sound to ricochet off the high walls. We were in, feeling like the Christians in a lion-infested arena.

ON THE INSIDE

A cordial greeting by the deputy Governor and a quiet tea partially dispelled our feelings of uneasiness. It was heartening and interesting to know that the number of prisoners wanting to see us perform far exceeded the seating capacity of the hall. Lots were therefore drawn to determine the audience.

The playing conditions exceeded those afforded by most first-league clubs. Whilst changing we could hear the audience shuffling to their places. We felt like prima donnas on an opening night.

Parting the hangings we had an absorbing glance at these children of circumstance. Some were absurdly boyish, others pale-faced, with a strangeness already in their eyes. The uniformity of the prison garb tended to take away any individual touches and most of their faces were rigid and unyielding. This was understandable, as, in addition to having missed the refinements of living,

by

Ron. J. Crayden

they were apprehensive as to what was in store for them. Need I say, we ourselves were also a little apprehensive.

A noticeable feature was the number of men who had rolled their programmes into cigarette form and were sucking them, meditatively. Smoking was a pleasure of which the inmates were apparently deprived and these men were endeavouring to satisfy an urgent craving.

OUR DEBUT

During the first game—a singles between Ron Sharman and Tom Rich—I watched, not the table pyrotechnics, but the faces and reactions of our audience. One by one they lost their lugubrious expressions and entered into the spirit of the game. A nod of approval here, a relaxed grin there, and intermittent bursts of applause were pointers assuring us of success. The more we played the more vociferously we were acclaimed. Not only were we boosting morale with visible entertainment; we were the vital link between confinement and the pleasures of freedom—the slippers, the fire, the frothy tankard and the elegant girl.

We concluded with a series of challenge games with one or two of the prisoners. Their No. 1 was particularly good and with practice might have developed into another headache for the Selectors. *Maybe we have an untapped source for potential Swaythling Cup players?*

Complimentary speeches and some amusing asides brought to a close a very successful evening. The knowledge that we had flavoured success with a mixture giving renewed strength and hope, was such that we felt a kinship with the criminal. Triumphantly we travelled home, singing with much feeling a little tune.

BEDFORDSHIRE PROGRESS:

Following two large-scale exhibitions in January (at Bedford and at the Electrolux Club in Luton), growing interest is being shown in all parts of the county. At present, leagues affiliated to the county Associations are: Bedford, Luton, Leighton Buzzard. Clubs or individuals interested in joining up for next season should write to the county secretary,

Mr. L. S. Woollard,
12, Campbell Road, Bedford.

THINKING ALOUD

by E. F. CHRISTOPHER

I have been extremely interested in the reaction of players to the new service. Whilst all new ventures have their teething troubles, many services are still very doubtful, the tendency being to "cup" the hand. The neatest way I have seen is for the player to hold the ball with his thumb and release same the split second before contact of ball with racket, with fingers straight the umpire has no worries. Incidentally, writing of umpires, I wonder if the E.T.T.A. will ever introduce examinations and grant certificates to those who pass. This is done in many sports—why not table tennis? One continually sees services outside the imaginary line which go unfaulted. I must confess that having occasion to read the Laws of Table Tennis, I was surprised recently to realise some of the rules I had forgotten. I saw an inch white line (for Doubles) on a table a week or two ago and yet this is contrary to rules.

Mr. W. J. POPE

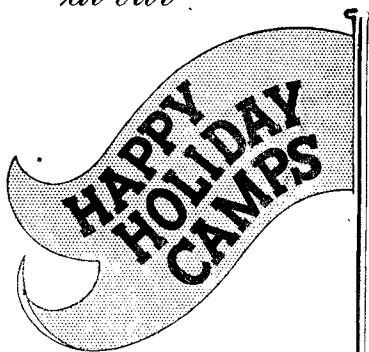
To serve again?

At the beginning of the present season, Mr. W. J. Pope, who has held the burdensome position of Honorary General Secretary of the English Association in 15 of the 21 years of its existence, was obliged, on the insistence of his doctors, to advise the Executive Committee that this must be his last season of office—that after the 21st year was completed, he could not stand for office again.

"TABLE TENNIS" now takes great pleasure in reporting, on the assurance of Bill himself, that he feels stronger in health than at any time since his breakdown in 1943.

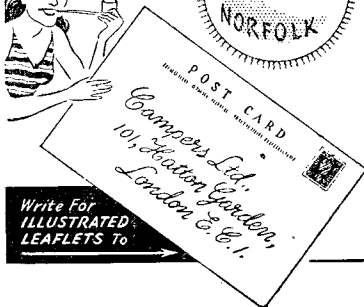
He has recently retired from his job at the N.U.R., and, following considerable pressure from friends all over the country, he has allowed his name to go forward once again for the Secretaryship. Being unopposed, he will be automatically re-elected, and we shall thus have the benefit of this great administrator's services for at least another year.

*You'll find Freedom,
Fun & Friends
at our*



*Our Chalets are right
on the Sea-Front with
private bathing beaches.*

BEHIND OUR ORGANISATION
ARE YEARS OF FIRST-CLASS
HOLIDAY CAMP EXPERIENCE.



Write for
ILLUSTRATED
LEAFLETS to

The WEST of ENGLAND "OPEN"

6th March, 1948

(Extracts from a report by Geoff Coulthead)

This tournament, at the Drill Hall, Bristol, attracted a record entry of 451, including 80 boys and 40 girls in the Junior events. Players came from over 30 towns; by erecting a special steel staging, Mr. Eyles and his hard-working team of organisers ensured a clear view for every spectator in the later rounds.

Aubrey Simons won the Men's Singles, as expected in the absence of many leading players, without great trouble. Ron Litten, however, had a hard semi-final against veteran Charlie Dawes, who was playing as well as ever. Litten's two-wing attack lacked the venom to pierce Simon's chop defence in the final.

Dora Beregi reached her singles final without conceding a game, but Pinkie Barnes met resolute opposition from Bristol's No. 2, Miss E. (Terry) Pomroy. Dora won a thrilling final on the 3rd game, although Pinkie's storming tactics nearly upset the agile red-head.

The surprise defeat of Litten/Simons by Dawes/Shipton left the Men's Doubles open for Markwell/Brumwell; but the Welsh pair Morris/Johns led them 20-15 in the 1st game of the final, only to lose on deuce.

Junior events produced the most scintillating play of the tournament; besides the finalists Bratcher and Morris, great promise was shown by Devereaux and Nuttall of Torquay, Edwards of Newport, Vaughan (Swansea) and Bruton (Bristol).

Morris, a stylish left-handed hitter with a good sense of positional play, can well be the answer to the Principality's prayers for a future star, and Vaughan can hardly miss the top rung.

In a less spectacular all-Torquay girls' final Miss K. Mann beat Miss J. Holland. There must be more young 'uns with the right "stuff" produced in Torquay than in any other town!

The top-spin of Dora Beregi and Mrs. Crosbie (Exeter) proved superior in the Women's Doubles to the characteristic side-spin play of Audrey Bates and Nancy Roy Evans.

During this game a well-known tournament player admitted to me that she did not know whether it was top-spin or side-spin that was being used—what a wonderful thing is women's intuition!.

M.S. Semi-Final : Litten bt. Dawes —17, 12, 16; Simons bt. Brumwell 8, 15.

M.S. Final : Simons bt. Litten 14, 17.

W.S. : Miss Beregi bt. Miss Barnes —16, 17, 14.

W.D. : Miss Beregi/Mrs. Crosbie bt. Miss Bates/Mrs. Roy Evans 16, 17.

X.D. : Litten/Beregi bt. Simons/Barnes —18, 8, 5.

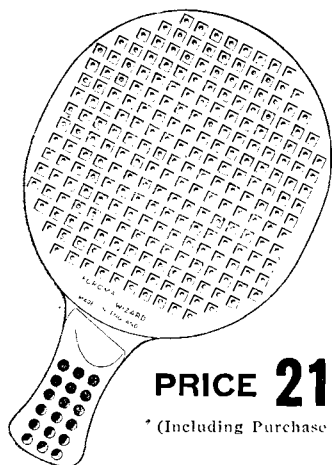
M.D. : Markwell/Brumwell bt. R. Morris/D. Johns 20, 10.

Boys' : A. Morris bt. G. Bratcher 14, —21, 14.

Girls' : Miss K. Mann bt. Miss J. Holland —17, 14, 7.

"FOROMA WIZARD"

(Prov. Patents 2908/6737/46. R.D. 849768/851990)



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PLAY LIKE A WIZARD

WITH A WIZARD!

The "Foroma" Wizard is the finest All-British Table Tennis Bat in the world. It is Unique, Scientific, Amazing. ITS EXCEPTIONAL BALL CONTROL has been proved beyond doubt. THERE IS NO OTHER BAT OF SUCH QUALITY AND ENDURANCE AND ITS POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.

PRICE 21/-

* (Including Purchase Tax)

- Heavy Weight
 - Light Weight
 - Left-hand Grip
 - Right-hand Grip
 - Individually Boxed
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John O. Greensmith, Ltd., Patentees and Concessionaires.

The National County Championships

CHAMPIONS

v. THE REST

at :

Seymour Hall, London, W.1.,

on

WEDNESDAY, 21st April, 1948,

start 7.0 p.m.

Enquiries to :

Mr. G. R. Harrower,
34, Gallants' Farm Road,
East Barnet, Herts,
or to your County Secretary.

Tickets : 10/6, 6/- and 3/6 (all reserved seats),
standing 2/-.

SPECIAL REDUCTION for tickets purchased
through County Secretaries : 10/6 for 6/-,
6/- for 3/6.

TEAMS

MIDDLESEX : G. V. Barna (capt.), G. R.
Harrower, M. B. W. Bergl, Miss M. Franks,
Mrs. R. Lentle.

THE REST : J. A. Leach, K. Stanley, R.
Sharma, Mrs. V. Thomas, Miss I. Barnes.

Reserves : B. Casofsky, Miss N. Senior, Miss
M. Lightfoot.

This challenge match will be a grand finish to a series which, in only its first season, has aroused widespread enthusiasm. Of special interest will be the return match between Barna and Leach. Victor Barna won the previous encounter by reproducing his superlative best form; as captain of the Champion team he is sure to be keyed up to top standard by the knowledge that his popular young challenger Johnny Leach is eager for revenge and inspired by his Swaythling Cup experiences.

Equally keen must be the singles between Vera Dace and Peggy Franks; on the Surrey table Peggy thoroughly earned a decisive victory but since then Vera reached the World Singles final and has thus regained her confidence.

TOMS

for the finest

**TABLE TENNIS BATS
AND TABLES**

Send for current price list.

JOHN G. TOMS,

18, Norbett Road, Arnold, Notts.

THIS IS YOUR BUSINESS

The Annual General Meeting of the English Table Tennis Association will be held on Saturday, 24th April, 1948, at the Caxton Hall, off Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, starting at 6.0 p.m.

Any member of an affiliated club may attend and may put forward his or her views with complete frankness.

The results of the postal ballots for election of Officers will be announced at the meeting, and the new Executive Committee will be eager to exchange ideas with any enthusiast who has the good of the game at heart.

WE PLAY IN CEYLON, TOO

by A. UYTHIALINGRAM

Browsing through a bookshop the other day I came across the bright-coloured magazine "TABLE TENNIS" and immediately bought up all available copies. These are now being passed from hand to hand among the players here.

You may be surprised to hear that we play the game a great deal over here. But neither in membership nor in point of accomplishment have we attained the dizzy heights you seem to have reached in England.

Our association started 3 years ago and we have 22 clubs. The Ceylon Championships attracted about 70 entries and the finals were watched by about 300.

Kelen and Szabados showed us the way to play in 1939; later Swaraman from the neighbouring continent came and during the war several good Servicemen, who invariably took away our titles. Best known were Congdon and Ernie Power who I was delighted to find reported as playing well for the victorious Manchester "A" team.

In India I myself saw the late Cyril Merrett—what a fine player and man. Also a Ken Mitchell, who played one night at the YMCA here and then disappeared.

We are anxious to improve and to popularise the game in Ceylon. How did you all do it in England? Any suggestions to help us in this respect would indeed be most welcome.

NORTHERNER'S NOTE-BOOK

by STANLEY PROFFITT (English International)

Cotton Town's Progress

At Bardsley, a small village between Oldham and Ashton, the Premier Division County match on Friday, 13th February, dispelled any assumptions a few might have harboured that the game was merely a glorified Ping-Pong. On this showing county clashes are going places. It removed the nasty taste of some of the dull performances earlier in the season.

By tactical methods, Leslie Cohen proved to us that Essex 19-year-old Dennis Miller has a lot of leeway to make up before he attains Swaythling Cup class. When two veterans get in a clinch it is always an interesting scrap, here Jack Carrington defeated Cohen with the scores fluctuating and ending like this, 25—23, 16—21, 21—18.

Blackpool's Kay Benson failed to take advantage of playing at home, both in the singles when opposed to Violet Patterson, and in the doubles partnered by Miss May against Misses Patterson and Rivett. Playing in textbook fashion Johnny Leach disposed of Hymie Lurie and later earned all the praise due for a brilliant win over Benny Casofsky. Time and again Leach retrieved miraculously from Casofsky's drives, often from the lap of a ringside spectator, to break the tension and scramble home in the third game 22—20. Previously Benny had come out on top in a grand effort against Carrington, at one time the Essex man led 18—15 in the deciding game.

The ultimate result going to Essex by six games to three did not by any means disgrace the Lancashire side. **If there is any complaint it would be as well for officials to make certain the table surface is not polished or has been worn so much that it shines. Now and again I noticed the ball skidding through.**

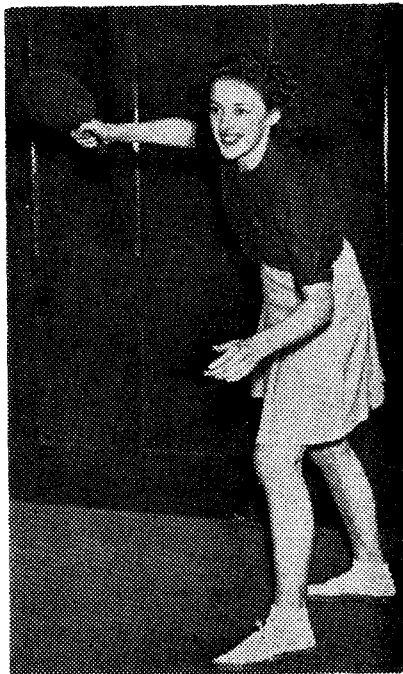
World and English Open Champion, Richard Bergmann, made his first public appearance since winning the world title at Wembley when he came to the Drill Hall, Oldham, on Monday, 16th February. The occasion was the Oldham Service of Youth Finals in which Malcolm Hilton, a Lancashire County Cricket Colt, defeated E. Whitehead in the senior event, 21—19, 21—19, and M. Taylor beat K. Orrell 21—9, 21—18 in the Junior Final.

Bergmann's appearance was made more piquant by his statement that he

has now forsaken the amateur ranks in order to concentrate his attention on the professional side of the game. That alone added the incentive to Internationals Benny Casofsky and Ken Stanley who were on peak form and thrilled the 600 crowd in their endeavours to gain the mastery over the master. Bergmann demonstrated delightful technique and coped with all the strategems designed to defeat him. English Junior Champion, Miss Adele Wood and Miss Benson completed a well-balanced performance.

Man behind the push in staging these two important events was Tom Blunn, Chairman of the Lancashire County Association, who though not connected with the Oldham League at the formation in 1932, became secretary and treasurer a few years later. It is significant of the enterprise of Tom and his henchmen that in the early years one division comprising 50 players had grown to four Divisions of 450 players by 1947. The size of the membership by the end of 1948 is a matter of conjecture for the organiser of the Youth Clubs' Association has expressed his willingness to join forces with the League.

The numbers in membership are likely to



ADELE WOOD — Junior Champion
(By courtesy Oldham Chronicle)

soar around the 1,000 mark, which is comparable to Manchester, a City many times greater and longer established in the game. Should this happen the policy is to spend the money on coaching and strive to get a table in every school. Truly an ambitious programme and one which should be the aim of every League official. The fine-cotton spinning centres of Crompton, Royton, Shaw, Lees, Hollinwood, and Chadderton come under the auspices of the Oldham League, and if in the years ahead we can turn out table tennis players as well as these same towns produce cricketers, we will be well satisfied, says Tom.

Black spot in all the good work done by the League is that they still persist in playing the 25 games instead of sets. This may be the problem child as to why they have only turned one player of merit out—Jimmy Durkin—in post-war years.

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

Sandwiched between Oldham's efforts the combined Lancashire and North of England Open Championship came to a conclusion at the Manchester Y.M.C.A.

The fact that R. A. Algie, thrice New Zealand champion, suffered defeat in the first round made newspaper headlines, but the most encouraging sign was the high standard of Junior play. Yorkshire sprang yet another surprise in this department by producing Gerald Kelly the ultimate winner.

Yorkshire—the coming County ?

Thus with Kennedy and Thompson they have a nucleus of a fine National Counties championship side in the years ahead. In the first game of the Junior Final, young Kelly was outclassed by a more polished Douglas Shaw, but displaying real Yorkshire grit he levelled the score at 1—1. Despite good work by Shaw the Yorkshireman ran out to win 21—16. Earlier we saw another fine sample of youthful determination when Sonny Forrest partnered by Kelly in the doubles made an acrobatical return whilst lying on the floor. His effort was rewarded by winning the first game against internationals Cohen-Lurie. Continuing their success, the Sheffield girl, Nora Senior, trounced Lancashire's leading lady, Kay Benson, and reaching the women's final gave a plucky display when facing Helen Elliott.

The glad hand to Manchester's Harold Johnson who narrowly lost in the third game to Guy Amouretti. Conversing

with the Frenchman, he told me that it is his intention to launch out into an attacking player. This was evident at the outset when opposed to Andy Miller, but after being one game down he had to resort to defensive tactics again. Rarely have I seen Andy rise to such heights in recent years. Occasionally he would pierce Amouretti's defence with a peach of a shot. The Frenchman had to go all the way to win. There was another typical Leach-Casofsky tussle in the singles semi-final, by far the most spectacular exhibition of the whole tournament. In the final Leach proved easy prey for Amouretti whose comfortable victory is signified by the score card, 21—15, 21—15. Having said that, it has to be recorded, somewhat sadly, that the Londoner was only a pale grey imitation of the player who gave Amouretti such a terrific struggle during the world series. *Could it be that the calls on our star performers are too heavy?—(who threw that?)*

Score of finals session :—

M.S. Semi-Final : Leach bt. Casofsky 12, 19;
Amouretti bt. Stanley 14, 20.

M.S. Final : Amouretti bt. Leach 15, 15.

W.S. : Miss H. Elliot bt. Miss N. Senior 11, 12.

W.D. : Elliot/Wood bt. Senior/Lightfoot 19, 16.

M.D. : Amouretti/D. Miller bt. Casofsky/A. Miller —13, 18, 13.

J.S. : G. Kelly bt. D. Shaw —10, 14, 16.

X.D. : No Contest.

"MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE" TOURNAMENT

M.S. Final : E. Power bt. S. A. Atkinson
—19, 13, 21.

W.S. Final : Mrs. I. Robblus bt. Miss K. Benson
21, 16.

* * *

Manchester qualified to meet Leatherhead in the National Quarter Finals of the Wilmott Cup contest by defeating Halifax Red Triangle in the Zone Final at Courtauld's Works, Halifax, on 21st February.

As a combination the Yorkshire side were outclassed, but individually, young Ron Thompson gave us a bright display. Highspot was when he defeated international Benny Casofsky to register his team's only win. Ultimate result: Manchester 8, Halifax 1.

The following players are so far undefeated in their respective Divisions in the Lancashire County League:—

A. H. Shepherd (Bolton), H. Johnson (Manchester A), both of Division 1 North; C. H. Renshaw, H. Caplan, A. Alnsworth (Ashton), Division 2 East; J. Watts (Southport), Division 2 West.

**A Message from the
Lord Mayor**

The Mansion House,
London, E.C.4.

**W. J. POPE, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
English Table Tennis Assn.**

Dear Mr. Pope,

Will you kindly convey to the National Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association, my thanks for entertaining my party and me at the World Table Tennis Championships at Wembley on 4th February.

We greatly enjoyed the events, and congratulate all concerned on this magnificent international gathering.

Undoubtedly events of this kind do much to spread goodwill, not only amongst the competitors, but internationally. It was a real pleasure to the Lady Mayoress and myself to be present.

With all good wishes for the future of the Association,

Yours sincerely,
Lord Mayor.



TALK OF THE TOURNAMENT was Richard Miles' fierce forehand drive. But his chop was equally severe—note elbow action

FOUR OF THE COLOURFUL HUNGARIAN CONTINGENT

Dr. Lakatos (official) — Farkas — Sido — Koczian



J. P. Sullivan



John Sullivan



John Sullivan



J. P. Sullivan
authentic
March 24th, 1948

TABLE TALK FROM

ONLY ENGLISHMAN TO BEAT A CZECH

Proud title belongs to our much-loved Chairman, Ivor Montagu. Beat Ing. Z. Heydusek, the Czechoslovakia Chairman, in the Jubilee Cup quarter-final.

THE STARS ARE HUMAN!

Haguenaer of France beat a Jerseyman 21—4 in the 3rd game.

Next round, Haguenaer himself scored precisely 4 in the 3rd game! His conqueror was Ladi Stipek. But George Goodman faced Stipek well in the 3rd round, being most unlucky to lose both 2nd and 3rd games on deuce margins. This was a repeat of last year's World's result.

Michael Thornhill, English Junior Champion, beat Yorkshire's Ron Thompson 3—0 in the qualifying rounds.

Brian Brumwell thoroughly earned his place in the singles. He qualified by beating in succession: Dean, Domingo (France), Brook, Hook, finally snatched a game from Flisberg before falling out in the 2nd round proper.

Mohtadi of Birmingham, representing Iran in the competition, won one game from Bergmann. Mohtadi and Tommy Sears took the American stars, Miles-Reisman, to 18 in the 5th.

Leach-Carrington, finalists last year, lost a hard first-round battle with Andreadis-Tuerck at 18 in 5th game.

Tuerck, a very tall youngster, clinched some of the vital points with ferocious hitting; he supported Andreadis well through the rounds but cracked in the quarter-final meeting with Soos-Haydon.

Leach-Thomas, our Mixed hopes, won a tough 1st round with Andreadis-Fuerstova and progressed happily to the last 8 pairs.

Here they lost to the ultimate winners, Miles-Thall, despite a winning position of 17—14 in the 5th game. When we recall that the American pair won the title after conceding 2 games in the final, we may reflect how easily the course of a championship may change—just one point here or there may do it.

Adrian Haydon contracted some obscure form of eye trouble, and was to be seen wandering around Wembley under cover of a huge white cotton-wool pad. His form in the doubles was therefore all the more creditable.

Incidentally, Johnny Leach was overheard explaining, very solemnly, to an anxious enquirer, that it happened after the England-Hungary 5—4 epic. The Hungarian captain, he said, was not satisfied with the result, and challenged Haydon to a duel to decide the issue! What happened to the Hungarian captain was left to the imagination.

More likely the real cause of the trouble was trying to keep a captain's eye on half-a-dozen tables at the same time!

After all the blood, sweat and tears leading up to the final selections for the Swaythling Cup, Ron Sharman and Ernie Bublely did not play in a single match! It was apparently considered necessary to field Bergmann, Leach and Barna against Jersey in the first match, presumably as practice for the evening tussle with Hungary.

For this spell of masterly inactivity Bublely had actually postponed his honeymoon to take part in the team's country training! He married the charming Miss Jaqueline Alge on 29th January; here's wishing them a very happy future.

Corbillon Cup final England-Hungary put paid to a superstition harboured by the latter's non-playing captain, Mr. J. Duxler. He denied himself the use of a razor throughout the team competition to ensure luck for his team! This followed a Continental tour of the Hungarian girls during which the Duxler whiskers were allowed to sprout unchecked for 14 successful days!

"BE PREPARED"

Swedish officials were to be seen with their note-books, measuring and studying every aspect of the Championships organisation, in readiness for their turn next year, at Stockholm.

They expressed the highest opinion of the E.T.T.A. arrangements, voicing only one criticism; the fact that matches did not start at the scheduled hour during the day sessions. As one official put it:

WEMBLEY

"if a runner is not on the line for the starting time in a big race, what happens? The race starts without him."

Apparently the Scandinavians set great store by punctuality in all matters; we must remind our team to take an alarm clock to Sweden next year (they will hardly be able to buy one there out of their currency allowance!).

The Egyptian players showed noticeable improvement in playing strength, no doubt due to Vana's sojourn with them last summer.

Backbone of their contingent is the Abou Haif family. Three big hearty brothers and the wife of one of them—and believe it or not, the address given on their magazine subscription form is "Abou Haif Street"!

The Greek team, led by the handsome airman Leventis, had to scrape up their own fares to come here. Next best was young Ekonomopoulos—whose name at least ought to cause a crisis amongst his opponents!

Newest players were probably Norway, who provided Greece's only victory. They should speedily catch up to modern standards because they have been promised the help of Sweden, most educationally-minded of all playing nations.

A special interpretation of the "Open-Hand" service rule was issued to all umpires. This clearly stated that the ball must be thrown "vertically" upward, or the hand withdrawn "vertically" downward, and that the hand must in the first place be not only flat but horizontal throughout the service.

After this there were few arguments. A few players incurred warnings for their tendency to cup their hands in the excitement of play, and some for serving outside the sideline in doubles matches.

HAT-TRICK

After the fiercest matches, when other players were reaching for towels and glasses of water, Ferenc Soos, of Hungary, would first place his soft trilby hat firmly on his head before attending to any minor details! Perhaps he believes in protecting the best part of his game?

JUST DIDN'T COME OFF!

A successful all-out hitter was blond young Just of Austria. He saw Benny Casofsky off, actually employing topspin drives from about 6-ft. behind the table in reply to the Manchester international's own forceful driving. Going on against Bergmann he said "I've nothing to lose."—and by mad hitting gained a 20—15 lead in the 1st game. He seemed to think this entitled him to win that game; poor chap, any English tournament player could have told him. Richard the Point-Machine won the match 3—0!

The India team withdrew from the competitions out of respect for the national mourning of Gandhi's death.

OLD AUSTRIAN CUSTOM?

Trudi Pritzi, ex-world-champion, was rested when Austria played England girls. The highly photogenic Ingrid Poetschek took her place against the big guns of Beregi and Dace. Explanation was that Pritzi was being rested for the singles; in which she expected to meet Vera. In the event Vera won by 10, 12, 9!

Mae Clouther

(U.S.A.)

She went the limit

with Pritzi



Pritzi also made news in her old style by winning yet another time-limit. This was in Corbillon Cup match against Mae Clouther of U.S.A.; score 16—7. Wonder whether Trudi has ever lost a time-limit match—she must hold the record for victories of this type?

Argentine team did not turn up. As with their beef, we hope to see them at an early date.

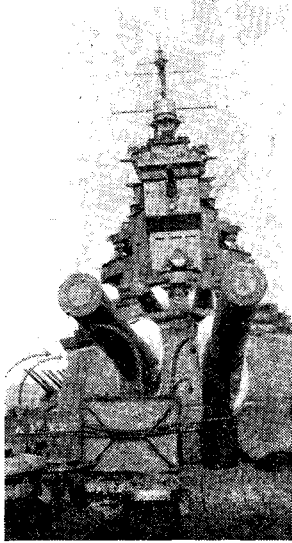
IT HAD TO HAPPEN

One poor chappie lost a Swaythling Cup match with a score of 0 and 1.

Ahoy, Club-Mates!

If the club secretary selected you to play an away match at the "Queen Elizabeth" T.T.C. your first impression would be that you were due for an evening at a local pub.

But if you were a member of the Isle of Wight T.T. Association you would have to proceed to Ryde Pier, where you would step aboard the launch waiting to take you — and all your clubmates up to 50 in number — to the handsome battleship "H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth" lying out in Spithead, somewhere between Ryde and Southsea.



The only known fully-floating
"Affiliated Premises"

The skeleton crew apparently all play table tennis, and the Royal Navy's well-known reputation for hospitality is well maintained.

No need to worry about the last bus home, either, in case of fog. With bunks for 1,000 they can put up not only the visiting team but the whole of a Finals' Night audience as well!

THE "WORLD'S" . . .

The real world champions didn't get the trophies at Wembley.

When I heard Bergmann's plaint that neither he nor any of the other competitors received any reward, I felt annoyed. Surely, I thought, not one of the representatives of 28 countries (more than for any other single sport), looked for anything more than the pride, glory and honour of what must surely be the most coveted of all amateur awards. In any case, I thought, surely the ovation and publicity accorded a World Champion has some value to anyone who intends to make a living by exhibitions and coaching?

The *real* champions, to my way of thinking, were the hundreds of backroom boys and girls who gave liberally of their time and money knowing they would receive neither plaudit nor profit, and without whose work there could have been no Tournament.

I was there and saw it all. Unhindered, I roved at will wherever I wished. I peered, pryed and pondered, seeing and hearing what comparatively few others could have done. I spoke with hundreds of spectators, officials and competitors, considering myself as the Eyes and Ears of the table tennis fraternity, and not an official mouthpiece.

What I have to say is no spoonfed talk, but the honest opinion of an ordinary, everyday table tennis enthusiast.

This was something which will live for ever in the memories of countless thousands. It was a superb, colossal achievement staged with magnificent efficiency, and in the minds of all, the greatest and best World's ever.

"Cavalcade"

It presented a colourful parade of progress ranging from the cheerful, pen-holding sexagenarian youngsters of the Jubilee Cup to the streamlined, atomic slantics of teen-age Marty Reismann, culminating in the most thrilling and spectacular final ever seen. Thrills, sensation, spectacle and amusement were all there. Everything. To be always remembered.

And now, who were the "boffin boys" who achieved this phenomenon in three odd months, and carried it through with

WHO WERE THE REAL CHAMPIONS?

A Tribute to the Organisers by LESLIE WOOLLARD

cheerful and sublime confidence? The real champions.

First pay tribute to the army of nearly 500 volunteers from all over the country, and be proud if your league was represented. Remember that even the humblest scorer or ball-boy is like a vital piece of mechanism without which the finest machine cannot operate.

This is the legion of unknown warriors whose names remain unchronicled. The names of their commanders are very well known. To many, they are but names; names which seem to have an incredible longevity and dominance in the table tennis world. Men who have the comforting ability to make molehills out of mountains.

The father of English table tennis, serenely cheerful, ubiquitous Ivor Montagu, inspired his committee of specialist veterans which included Bill Pope (who celebrated his 60th birthday in an all-day Sunday session of Congress), cheery, capable Morris Rose; genial Mortlake Mann; super T.T. organiser Geoff. Harrower; lighting and equipment wizard George Decker; and others such as A. K. Vint, Bill Parker, Corti-Woodcock, who were not so much in the spotlight.



"Cheery,
capable
Morris Rose"
(Hon. Referee)

It was really amazing how everyone co-operated. At the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, no one could do enough for the visitors. Of all, from manager to cloakroom attendant, there was nothing but the highest praise. Then Wembley Stadium itself seemed to be enthused with the whole spirit, from Sir Arthur Elvin and Mr. Herbert through the entire organisation.

Then there was genial Stan Proffitt as

popular Press Liaison, with a touch of Colonel Chinstrap and the fruity northern accents of a Priestley. There was George White packing visitors on to sightseeing coaches and filling up any odd gaps. There was Mrs. Pegg, with her photographic memory and a typewriter to back up energetic Bill Pope.

Yes, there was Miss Stevens looking after ticket issues and giving an occasional roguish ticking off to some wayward league representative or perhaps to Garret Nash, who had lost his dinner ticket!



"C.O." of the
Wembley Volunteers'
Brigade
Geoff. Harrower

Parties from each nation had to be met. Accommodation, transport, food and entertainment had to be arranged, with interpreters always available.

Lighting had to be slung from the 85-foot roof and supplied to the eleven tables. *Incidentally, the power used for the finals was nearly 85,000 watts.*

The scoring machines were an innovation particularly popular with competitors, and were the most successful ever used. Countless ideas for this alone were considered, including an elaborate electrical device using 64 lamps!

To give a little idea of the thoroughness with which the whole task was tackled, special L.P.T.B. tickets were printed for the E.T.T.A., while each competitor also received a docket of meal tickets interchangeable at the Royal Hotel or at Wembley. One of the big headaches, settled only a few days earlier, was whether Wembley would be able to supply the full quota of meals required.

CHAMPIONS WITHOUT PRIZES

It was a magnificent show, and truly fitting that the country which gave birth to the sport should organise its greatest triumph and also participate in its greatest glories, but remember, the champions who organised it go without trophies or spotlights.

WAS FARKAS A LUCKY CHAMPION?

(Official Statement on the disputed semi-final)

For sheer thrill of match-play the women's semi-final between Gizi Farkas of Hungary and Angelica Roseanu of Rumania can seldom have been equalled.

A hush fell on the Empire Pool and 8,000 folk held their breath to watch two girls pushing the ball safely back and forth. It was not the battle of skills but the battle of wills that held the crowd. After snatching a 2-0 lead the determined little Rumanian saw her Championship chances receding as Farkas grimly stonewalled her way through the remaining 3 games.

It is history now that the Referee ordered the match to be concluded, irrespective of time-limit. This at least gave Roseanu a chance of clinching the match which many thought was morally hers. But Farkas secured a two-point lead first, according to the umpire; she recovered her poise in the re-play next day and won comfortably. Here are the Chairman's Notes on the International Jury meetings which had to decide this delicate matter.

But first let us praise Angelica Roseanu for her dignified and cheerful bearing in the face of shattering disappointment and undoubted ill-luck. (See Cover Picture this month.)

The Jury found the following facts established:—

1. The concluding set scored as 29/27 lasted 26 minutes.
2. After 20 minutes the score stood 22-all.
3. The players were warned "two minutes more" after 18 minutes.
4. They were not warned, as they should have been, "five minutes more, the next point decides" when the score stood equal after 20 minutes.

There was further evidence to the following effect:—

- a. That after 22-all, until the end, the decisive odd point was several times won by Roseanu.
- b. That at 24-all a point on a service out-of-order was won by Roseanu but the score was incorrectly disallowed and service ordered to be replayed in correct sequence. The correct scoring of this point, had the match been valid up to that time, would have given advantage point to Roseanu who also won the next point.
- c. That Roseanu attempted to appeal irregularities at the time, but according to the statement of Mr. Marcu he did not intervene on her behalf until after the match, bearing in mind the Congress decision that a Captain should not intervene in a match in the individual events.

(These latter assertions were not contradicted, and in several respects members of the Jury themselves witness to them, but it should be noted that they were not investigated and adjudicated.)

Jury Conclusions:

The match was irregular: because it was not terminated by the Umpire and the Referee at the first point 22-all, as it should have been.

The match cannot be awarded to either player, because it was completed irregularly. The match should therefore be replayed.

A motion to confirm the match to Farkas received no seconder. A motion to award the match to Roseanu received no seconder.

A motion that the match should be replayed received the votes of all other Jury members present, the Hungarian and Rumanian nominees abstaining.

APPENDIX BY CHAIRMAN:

Note on equity in the case of Farkas-Roseanu attached to the decision in terms of Laws and Regulations given by the Jury:—

Although the ultimate score (29/27) was in Farkas' favour, she cannot be said to be correctly the winner of the match as played; for, as played, either the correct decision of the match by the first point following 20 minutes, or the correct scoring of point wrongly ordered to be replayed, would have given Roseanu the match.

On the other hand, although the correct scoring of the match as played would have given the match to Roseanu she also cannot be said to be correctly the winner, for it is impossible to know that the match would have followed precisely the same course that it did, if the scoring had been executed correctly. It is useless to conjecture whether Roseanu would have won the 45th point—as she did in fact—had the warning which should legally have been given after 20 minutes at 22-all in fact been given properly. Similarly it is useless to conjecture whether Roseanu would have won the 50th point—as she did in fact—had the 49th point been scored to her instead of being wrongly discounted. The decision of the Jury to replay the match would appear to be fair in equity apart from its correctness in law.

The England royal blue shirts for our Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams at Wembley were very kindly presented as a gift to the E.T.T.A. by the makers of the well-known "Umbro" sports shirts. Supplies of these are now finding their way again to sports retailers throughout the country and club players needing supplies should specify "E.T.T.A. Official Pattern" shirts when ordering.

The World's—Some Personalities

Among the interesting characters to be seen at Wembley were:—

Zoltan Mechlovicz, of Hungary, the Champion of 1927/28. Grey now and worn by illness and the war, but as keenly interested as ever.

B. Bernstein, winning the Jubilee (re-union) Cup with the identical bat which he used in the Swaythling Cup matches of 1926/27.

Mrs. Dolly Evans, present Kent County representative. What is so startling about that? Only that this good lady won the English Open Singles way back in 1926/27, and again three years later. She will be remembered as Miss Dolly Gubbins of Wales.

Dr. D. Prens, also a Jubilee competitor, and famous Davis Cup player for Germany.

Russell Algie, 27-year-old New Zealand Champion, who worked his own passage here to participate. He is a physical training organiser down under, and will spend the next month or two in studying physical education methods in England. Of course he might get in some table tennis practice, too.

Hymie Sofer, South African singles finalist, who also surmounted great difficulties to come to London—only to find

himself ineligible because his national Association have not yet been accepted into the I.T.T.F.

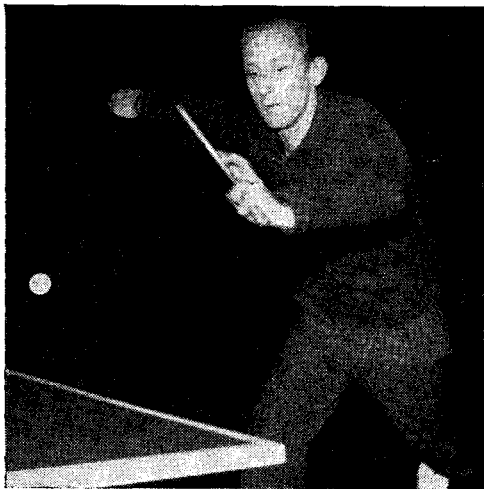
Hymie, cheerful extrovert that he is, soon got himself personally accepted by the other players, and was obviously relishing the good practice which resulted from his policy of challenging all and sundry in the "paddock" behind the official arena.

Leslie Todd, England and Kent cricketer, and left-handed table tennis international. Now busy, like Stan Proffitt, in dishing out the T.T. news items to the Press. Leslie is one of those who played with Fred Perry, and reckons that Fred would have held his own if faced with the present-day challengers, because of his instinctive speed and his fighting spirit.

Z. Dolinar, large young Yugoslav, wielding an enormous lop-sided wooden-clacker bat with deadly affect, attacking with penholder grip and chopping with orthodox grip! Incongruously clad in tiny shorts and a green celluloid cap, he looked good for the quarter-final and in fact beat quarter-finalist Just in the team matches. But an attack of nerves lost him a 5-set tussle with France's Manchiska.

COOLLY CAPABLE —

World Champion
Gizi Farkas



NERVOUSLY BRILLIANT —

Swedish Champion
Tage Flisberg

BETWEEN TWO "WORLDS"

by TOMMY SEARS

English International

Coming back to "big" table tennis after a clean break of eight years, I am perhaps in a good position to make an unbiased comparison between 1938 and 1948.

First let me answer the obvious question: *has the standard gone up or down?*

Well, seeing a few games at the end of last season, I was inclined to say "*Down, definitely,*" but after watching the current Championships I say "*Definitely not down—maybe it has even gone up a little.*"

The slight doubt comes from the fact that the technique has rather changed, therefore a direct comparison is not easy.

However, I studied the giants of 1938, Vana and Bergmann, and I don't think either of them has gone back in prowess. Vana may defend more, and Bergmann may attack more, but that is because to-day's opponents force them to do so. Summing up, they have many more dangerous challengers than in 1938.

If the top men are as fast as pre-war, yet have a more complete game, and yet still lose more games, then it must be fair to say the standard has improved.

I was certainly interested to see a new English face—and such a very English one, Johnny Leach—amongst the world figures. My opinion is that Leach is one of the greatest English players ever, but needs to develop an all-out flat kill to exploit his openings more effectively.

THE YOUNGSTERS' CHANCES

Of course, it was a real thrill to me to captain the grand little team of Thornhill, Kennedy and Thompson, who so gallantly won our first Junior International. They are good fighters and clever players and will make a good backbone for our near-future England teams—if they work hard.

They must remember that at their age, Barna, Haydon, Vana and Bergmann were already at the very top. Our boys have to make up for that war loss of several years' experience, and so they must make even bigger efforts.

Watching the intense practice of Sido, Koczian, Amouretti, Miles and Co. a youngster must realise that to be "tops" at table tennis he must specialise and "specialise" may mean plenty of sacrifice. Few visits to the cinema, not many social "nights out," and not a lot of other sports, however keen.

Of course, Ivor Montagu and other

good friends told *me* this when I was younger; personally, I found so much enjoyment and satisfaction in football and other interests that I did not perhaps raise my table tennis to its maximum level. So I cannot blame others who have the same philosophy, can I?

The point I want to make is that great chances do exist for a young newcomer to sweep the old hands off the board in a year or two. Whoever it is—and I hope it will be an English boy—he must have sticking-power, too.

THOSE HITTERS

I heard a group of players arguing about the terrific hitting of Miles, Reisman, Sido, etc. They seemed to agree that you just "can't stop those fellows hitting." Now I don't agree; I think you can stop them, or make it very awkward for them, unless they have a powerful attack on two sides, as Tereba had.

Most of the others have a murderous slash on the forehand but need more time to open up their backhand attack.

A little after this I saw George Goodman putting my theories into action in a practice match with Miles. Whenever possible, he pushed almost straight at the hitter's body. From that position, the *first hit* must usually be slower than the follow-up hits.

That first hit must be blocked; myself, I would try to counter-flick it, but George used his famous angled-push half-volley, to turn the ball well away to the opposite court. This simple system makes even such as Miles work very hard and make mistakes. Whether our mythical youngster could win like this depends on the rest of his equipment—but it is the wrong spirit to say "you can't stop them hitting."

SURREY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS at Croydon, 21st February, 1948.

Semi-Finals:

M.S. R. Sharman bt. H. Dean 13, 9.

J. Leach bt. R. Crayden 12, 13.

Final:

M.S. J. Leach bt. Sharman 18, 10, 14.

W.S. Mrs. Thomas bt. Miss Barnes 12, 10, 11.

M.D. Leach/Carrington bt. Crayden/Merrett 19, 12, 11.

Finals:

X.D. Leach/Mrs. Thomas bt. Crayden/Miss Barnes 15, 9.

J.S. M. Thornhill bt. T. Dix 19, 9, 9.

W.D. Thomas/Barnes bt. Mace/Plater 14, 17.