

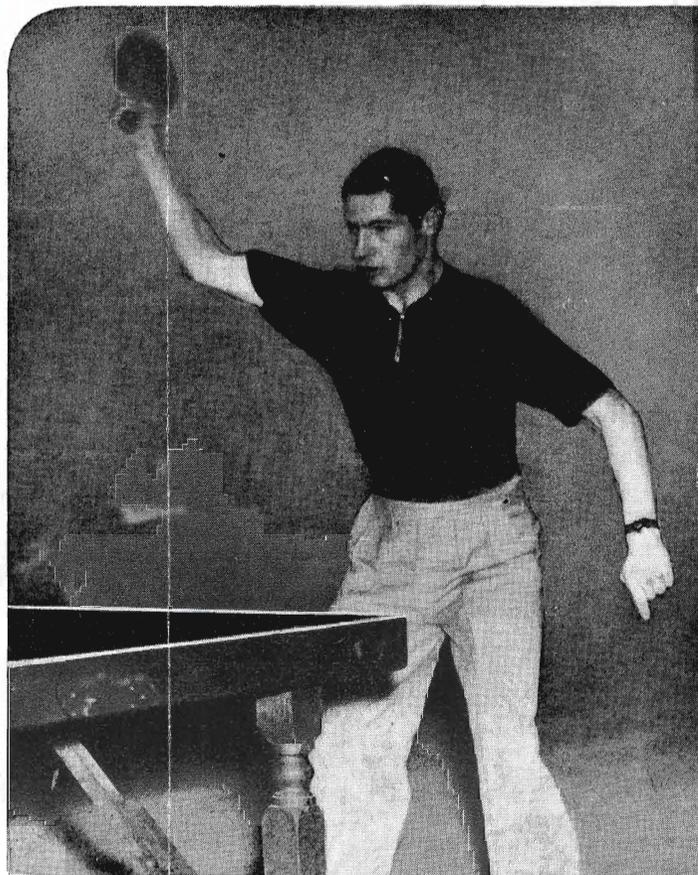
FEBRUARY/MARCH 1948

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TABLE TENNIS

**“Special World
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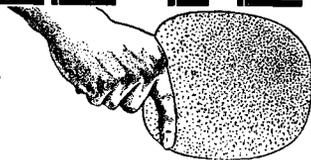
**RICHARD
BERGMANN
World Champion
1947/48**



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

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

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 1948

From the Editor's Chair

So, it is over . . . our World Championships. To many, both players and organisers, the last ball at Wembley on Wednesday, 11th February, 1948, signalled just a sigh of relief that a big effort was done, and successfully.

In the first reaction it was only natural that some should declare that they are never going to play again, never going to organize again—even never going to watch again!

Yet already we seem to be missing much; the wealth of good fellowship between the twenty-odd nations, the feast of good play in good conditions,

able folk to discuss things together, before deciding what lessons have been learned or must be learned for the future.

* * *

At least one point needs no argument—these World Championships have given a more English look to the record books than ever before.

Congratulations to Richard Bergmann on fighting his way through such a strong field to claim the Mens' Singles crown for the 3rd time.

Excusably a little nearer to the English heart comes the Doubles victory of those two charming and so very English girls, Vera Thomas and Peggy Franks. Congratulations again to these two, with their team mates Dora Beregi, Betty Steventon, and Margaret Knott, on keeping the Corbillon Cup safely here for the second year.

Others of our players figured as finalists or Consolation winners, for details see special supplement.

* * *

In another important respect every competing nation would like future Championships to have "that English look." We refer to the matter of playing conditions; not every nation can produce world champions, but all are now aware that champion conditions lead to champion play—and Wembley certainly showed the way.

24-page SOUVENIR PROGRAMME of the Jubilee World Championships containing :—
Detailed score of every match, whether team or individual.
Records of all past Championships.
Over 60 photographs; and
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—oOo—

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the reunions with old friends behind the Wembley terraces, and all the subtle values of a big sporting event. Before long we shall be looking forward to "next time."

Some of the more talkative characters have already reached the stage of declaring that this or that must be changed, that So-and-so is finished, etc.

We prefer to allow a little time for the jumbled impressions to sort themselves out in the mind, and for reason-

EUROPE CUP (WOMEN) FINAL

ENGLAND (the holders) beat
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5-0
(played in London 12th February, 1948)

OUR JUNIORS' GRAND WIN

England 7 — Sweden 2

Although overshadowed as regards publicity by the imminent World's Championships, this first-ever Junior International attracted a good crowd to Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. (the home of those forceful up-and-comers Harry Venner and Jack Head) on 2nd February.

Not only was the result a tonic to English hearts, but the character of the play was a fillip to those who refuse to believe that we have no young talent. Quite candidly the play seen in this meeting of the 16s and 17s was more varied and entertaining than many adult championship games.

Keynote of the evening was set in the first game, when junior champion Thornhill "set about" his opponent Palm with great spirit, just winning 2 hard games. This inspired the 2 Yorkshire left-handers, Thompson and Kennedy, who, in beating Nicander and Bergstrom respectively, added that very necessary ingredient "guts" to their remarkable range of talent. In particular Kennedy gave a wonderful display in which consistent forehand and backhand attack were allied to a Bergmann resiliency in defence and an apparently mature tactical judgment.

Thompson's all-out topspin whip-drives tickled the crowd, who seemed to think he was playing for their benefit; but behind the fleshy strokes was a sound strategy as the results show. Team captain Tommy Sears, happily now returning to the game after his severe war experiences, remarked that Ron's forehand style put him in mind of Adrian

Haydon's early efforts—which should be a good start for any lad!

The Swedish boys, on the whole more brilliant but also more nervous than ours, tended to recover their poise in the later games, helped possibly by the organised war-cries led by team-captains Eriksson, Flisberg and others of their senior teams.

Vocal counter-attacks led by supporters of some football team apparently known as "The Dons" (never heard of 'em) may have been inappropriate, but certainly added to the gaiety of a very pleasant encounter.

Our young visitors have made themselves very popular during their tour of England and they may be sure of a welcome when they return, as no doubt they will before long, as fully-fledged international rivals.

Scores (England Juniors' names first):—
R. Thompson (Halfax) bt. T. A. Palm 9, 20; bt. B. I. Nicander 14, 7; bt. N. J. Bergstrom 10, 20.
B. Kennedy (Leeds) bt. Bergstrom 14, 14; lost to Nicander 20, —10, —16; bt. Palm 13, 17.
M. Thornhill (Ashford) bt. Palm 23, 19; lost to Bergstrom 13, —19; bt. Nicander —15, 11, 11.

Thanks, Hosts

Quite apart from table tennis, our young visitors found themselves the centre of interest among their hosts of West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Hastings, Luton and Surrey.

Receptions by civic authorities, and visits to famous schools and industrial firms were organised by the local leagues to give the Swedes an understanding of the "English background."

In fact time was too short to take advantage of all the invitations received from well-wishers anxious to show hospitality to these ambassadors of our great sport-loving Northern neighbour.



YOUNG SWEDEN—

—and an

Old-Time Champion
Mr. ARNOLD PARKER,
well-known Champion of
Ping-Pong days.

From left to right—

T. A. Palm, B. I. Nicander,
Mr. Allan Eriksson (capt.),
N. J. Bergstrom, Mr.
Arnold Parker.

Lines from Lincolnshire

by LESLIE BENNETT

A GRAND COUNTY MATCH (Northern Division) Lincolnshire 5; Durham 4

Played at Grimsby on 3rd January, this match provided the ideal Saturday evening—excellent conditions, a large and appreciative crowd, and enterprising and spectacular table tennis with the result in doubt up to the last rubber. Both sides are to be complimented on their showing, and the Northerners, after thrice drawing level, declared themselves satisfied with the result.

Joe Wrona, Lincoln's talented acquisition from Poland and holder of the East of England title, shocked Norman Roberts, of Stockton, with his unusual hard-punching style, yet the experienced Roberts went down narrowly. Wrona, however was mastered by bespectacled Moore, a deceptive all-rounder, who rarely missed an opportunity of a winner.

In the Men's Doubles, the practised Stockton pair, Jeal and Roberts, outplayed the scratch combination of Hall and Merryweather, who, normally located in towns 40 miles apart, rarely have the chance of competing together. Jeal and Roberts defended solidly against two potentially dangerous hitters, and produced telling snatch-drives at the right times.

Mrs. Phyllis Lammin justified her inclusion in the Lincolnshire side with accurate driving in the singles and mixed doubles, while her singles opponent, Mrs. E. Bell, pinned on the defensive in the singles, flashed in some forehand drives in the doubles that were delightful to watch.

Congratulations to Derek Merryweather on his recent marriage. This popular hitter from Lincoln just lost his two rubbers after pulling up from shaky periods. At times he drove off the dour defences of Jeal and Roberts, but both of these did not hesitate to counter-attack to increase the pleasure of the spectators.

The evening finished on a grand scale, with the homester, Albert Hall, as the hero. Off the table for a longish while, Hall forfeited the first six points to Jeal, a considerable start for such an able and wily player. As he settled down, Hall attacked on both wings with relentless precision to wrest the first game in the deuces. Hall was now on top and in the second his cross-court forehand, undismayed by the deep chop of Jeal's consistent defence, deeply impressed the

crowd by its top-class brilliance. As he is well able to do, Jeal turned into penetrating offensive, and although in the final point he waltzed five successive full-blooded drives, Hall versatily returned every one to win the point and bring down the house.

After being Grimsby's leading player for the past decade, Albert ("Knocker") Hall is now better than ever. Winner of the East Midland Open, he is unbeaten this season in County matches, the Lincolnshire Haigh Cup inter-town competition, and the Grimsby League, and his only defeat was a week earlier at the hands of Anderson, of Nottingham, in the Wilmott Cup tie in which Grimsby overcame Nottingham 5-4.

This meeting between Durham and Lincolnshire was the first between the counties, and the home side was pleased to hold its own against the area which cradled the game.

Scores (Lincs. names first):—

- J. Wrona bt. N. Roberts 18-21, 21-14, 21-19.
- A. Hall bt. E. G. R. Moore 21-15, 21-14.
- A. Hall and D. Merryweather lost to T. H. Jeal and N. Roberts 13-21, 21-15, 14-21.
- D. Merryweather lost to T. H. Jeal 18-21, 21-18, 20-22.
- Mrs. P. Lammin bt. Mrs. E. Bell 21-15, 21-11.
- J. Wrona lost to E. G. R. Moore 17-21, 15-21.
- J. Wrona and Mrs. P. Lammin bt. E. G. R. Moore and Mrs. E. Bell 25-23, 7-21, 21-8.
- D. Merryweather lost to N. Roberts 21-17, 15-21, 19-21.
- A. Hall bt. T. H. Jeal 23-21, 21-14.

* * *

In the very successful Lincolnshire Closed Championships at Scunthorpe on 18th January, Albert Hall kept up his wonderful run by retaining the singles title, defeating his veteran pen-grip teammate, Norman Ingham, 22-20, 22-20 in the final. Mrs. Phyllis Lammin, of Grimsby, took the singles and two doubles titles.

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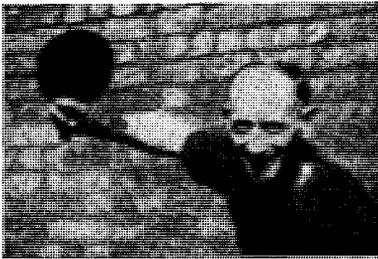
NORTHERNER'S NOTEBOOK

by STANLEY PROFFITT

Northern Notables

No. 1. Herbert Airey

It has been my intention for some time to introduce the lesser-known Northern Table Tennis personalities to Southern fans. That's the reason I've chosen as the first in this series—**Herbert Airey**, of Stockport—who is by trade a machine tool maker at Messrs. Cunliffe & Brown.



Says Bert: *"I had always longed to play for England. Unfortunately, in my hey-day there were so many top-liners. Now I'm waiting for the golden years when I can hit back, via the Veterans' Singles, at the stars who thwarted my youthful ambitions."* There's nothing malicious about Bert, it's just sheer love of the game, and at the age of 37, when the majority are looking for convenient shelves to place their rackets, he means to carry on for many more seasons.

How right, and worthy of comment, for in not-so-many-years-hence, there is likely to be a rush for the Veterans' event. Instead of being placed in an obscure spot at Wembley, the odds are that it will have an Empire Pool centre court setting.

Airey commenced way back in 1929, at the age of 19, with Heaton Mersey Social Club, who were a force in the 2nd Division of the Manchester League. Team-mates Whitefield and the Plaster brothers gave him every encouragement. The following year he joined the Stockport League, and has since played there so long that it seems he has a freehold right to the property. Claims the record that for 17 successive winters has never missed an inter-league match—*can you beat it?*

Reckons his best-ever performance was taking World Champion Bohumil Vana to the odd points in both games (23—21,

22—20) at the Centenary Hall, Stockport, in 1937. Recently at Belle Vue, I thought Bert's attack (for he rarely defends) when partnered by Heaps (Macclesfield) was the main-spring in pinning down the famous French combination, Haguenauser-Amouretti, to five games. This is not all by any means, having turned out for both Manchester and Cheshire, no one can take the satisfaction away of wins over Bamford (Wales), A. G. Millar, H. Lurie, C. W. Davies and many other stars.

His personal collection of trophies amount to 26 medals, 8 cups and several prizes. The Stockport Singles has been in the bag five times, with three Doubles titles and has been twice Singles Champion of the Manchester Social Club.

Richard Bergmann won the Belgian National Open Singles in Brussels on 26th January, beating Victor Barna by 3 games to nil in the final.

The Czech Andreadis beat his fellow-countryman Vana to win the final of the Netherlands Open Singles in Amsterdam on 31st January.

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(Advertisement)

WESTERN WINDOW

by

DENNIS THOMPSON

Chairman,

Cheltenham T.T. League

How many of you who have visited the beautiful old Cotswold town of Cheltenham, and seen its lovely parks and lakes, its noted shopping centre and the famous Promenade, realised that it also has a well organised Table Tennis League founded 24 years ago as The Cheltenham Ping Pong League?

It hardly seems appropriate that I, a Londoner, with only seven years residence in the town, should tell of its activities, but having been asked to do so I will try and interest you in Cheltenham from my position as Chairman, to which office I was appointed last April.

We are not one of the large and illustrious leagues, but 1940 saw us still in operation, and we are proud of the fact that we are one of the few who kept the game alive during the war. In those days registration fees were 3d. per player

and 1s. per team, but to-day we have advanced with the cost of living to 2s. 6d. per player and 10s. per team! Such is the road of progress.

In Soccer the guest player was looked upon as an unnecessary luxury, but in our league we encouraged the servicemen to join us, and by so doing generally improved our standard of play. Popular and grand players who assisted us in those dark days were Peter Nice (North Middlesex), Charlie Warman (Luton), Bert Moberley (Birmingham), and the late Dora Zillwood (Emden), who died with such tragic suddenness after appearing in our finals night programme nearly 3 years ago. All of these and many others played a part in lifting our standard, but the biggest step along the road of progress was 5 years ago when Mr. W. E. Griffiths took over the Secretaryship. "Griff," as he is popularly known, has a tremendous capacity for hard work and a whole wealth of ideas for the advancement of the league. Under his guidance we joined the Western Counties League, our players were encouraged to enter Open Tournaments, and exhibition matches of various kinds were successfully staged.

Last season saw us without a victory in the Western Counties League, but in the newly-formed 2nd Division we expect this year to have some small say in the destination of the title, and look forward to our matches with our most keen and sporting rivals from Bath. We enjoy all our matches, but Bath has a special appeal for us, as their players and officials "speak our language."

Molly Jones, of Gloucester, first played in the Cheltenham League and we think it a real tribute that she continues to play for us in spite of competition from our Gloucester friends.

During the summer months Jack Carrington came down for a series of Coaching Lessons and, under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A., did a great job with some of our youngsters, two of whom—in addition to Molly Jones—played in the English Trials. Carrington had a high opinion of Bob Griffin and Peter Cruwys, neither of whom lived up to

WESTERN COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Results and league tables to date:—

MEN'S SECTION

Division 1

Bristol 4, Birmingham 5; Exeter 1, Newport 8; Gloucester 0, Cardiff 9; Cardiff 7, Worcester 2; Birmingham 7, Gloucester 2; Worcester 8, Exeter 1; Cardiff 5, Birmingham 4; Cardiff 4, Newport 5; Newport 9, Gloucester 0; Birmingham 3, Bristol 6.

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Cardiff	9	7	2	14
Newport	7	6	1	12
Bristol	7	5	2	10
Birmingham	9	5	4	10
Exeter	8	3	5	6
Worcester	8	2	6	4
Gloucester	8	0	8	0

Division 2

Bristol 4, Swindon 5; Swindon 7, Bath 2; Forest of Dean 1, Oxford 8; Weston 4, Cheltenham 5; Oxford 3, Bristol 6; Cheltenham 3, Swindon 6; Bath 3, Oxford 6.

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Swindon	9	8	1	16
Cheltenham	8	6	2	12
Bath	9	6	3	12
Oxford	9	5	4	10
Weston	8	2	6	4
Bristol	8	2	6	4
Forest of Dean	7	0	7	0

WOMEN'S SECTION

Birmingham 6, Exeter 3; Cardiff 5, Bristol 4; Cardiff 7, Swindon 2; Bristol 2, Birmingham 7; Exeter 7, Birmingham 2; Swindon 4, Cardiff 5.

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Birmingham	6	5	1	10
Exeter	5	4	1	8
Cardiff	4	3	1	6
Swindon	6	1	5	2
Bristol	5	0	5	0

Western Window

(continued)

their reputations in the trials, but we hope that you will hear more of them and others of our youngsters in the tournaments of the future.

This season sees us with a record number of teams (39) and we have 4 Divisions, including one Junior. We are encouraging the ladies to make efforts to play the game, and confidently expect to form a Ladies' League soon.

Like most leagues, we have financial troubles, but endeavour to surmount these with Whist Drives and a Christmas Draw. We have plenty of players but are lacking in members volunteering for the hard, unpraised tasks of the "back room" boys.

We shall not rest until we are "the best in the West" for paying standard, sportsmanship and hospitality.

Some interesting exhibition games were seen in Bristol on 10th January, when Bergmann and Leach played in a programme with the Western Counties League stars, Simons, Sweetland and Litten.

For once Johnny Leach had an "off day," although this is not to detract from the fighting form shown by all 3 westerners, who each won their match against the Londoner.

Aubrey Simons' victory over Leach, although admittedly only in exhibition play, certainly underlined the wonderful improvement of the Bristol champion, who just one week earlier had claimed the scalps of Bergmann and Barna in the final trials.

Naturally a fair amount of keenness crept into the item "Bergmann v. Simons," especially when Aubrey took the first game once again. Bergmann took no more chances and slowly wore down his gallant opponent to win 2-1.

YOUNG GENERATION BREAKING THROUGH

Exeter Y.M.C.A., unbeaten since the war ended, had their colours lowered by the teen-age St. Georgians, of Torquay.

The giant-killers were Wilfred Rowe, last year's junior champion of England, Louis Devereaux, Nutall, and Paddy Roberts, of lawn tennis fame, who played in doubles.

Score was 7-5 to the lads, and Devereaux became the first to beat the amazingly consistent Lionel Kerslake in a league match this season.

KENT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(at Herne Bay, 11th January, 1948)

Fourteen tables were used this year, as against the twelve previously used, and this was found to be a decided advantage. The Entertainments Manager and the Pier staff are to be congratulated upon their splendid efforts in having all the preparations made in good time. Despite the fact that the Pavilion is in use until late on Saturday night, everything was in readiness for the Sittingbourne Committee when they arrived at 9.0 a.m. on Sunday. When it is realised that the work entailed the erection of fourteen tables with netting between each row, the installation of 42 lights, three over each table and arranged with great precision as to height and distance, the equipping of the stage with tables, seats and microphone, etc., it will be appreciated that it was no light job which faced the workers on Saturday night. It is understood that their task was not completed until 4.0 a.m.!

The number of entries was not quite so large as last year but was very satisfactory in view of the difficulties of travel with which the competitors were faced. Although the majority of the entries were from the neighbouring towns, there was quite a large number from London and Surrey but, unfortunately, none of the cup holders found it possible to defend their titles. The result was that quite a few of the local players fought their way into the last rounds of each event, some of them appearing in the finals. The results of the finals were as follows:—

Men's Singles. Semi-finals—R. B. Dean (London) beat J. E. Head (Epsom) 22-20, 10-21, 21-14. H. T. Venner (Epsom) beat S. H. Sugarhood (Romford) 9-21, 21-18, 21-14. Final—H. T. Venner beat R. B. Dean 19-21, 21-8, 21-15, 21-17.

Women's Singles. Semi-finals—Mrs. D. Evans (Maidstone) beat Mrs. P. George (Weybridge) 21-13, 21-15. Miss S. M. Wright-Swatman (Ashford, Middlesex) beat Miss P. Cantor (Broadstairs) 21-19, 19-21, 21-15. Final—Mrs. Evans beat Miss Wright-Swatman 21-14, 21-5.

Men's Doubles. Semi-finals—K. I. Hurlock and H. T. Venner (Epsom) beat A. R. Miller and J. B. Abbott (Wimbledon) 21-15, 21-13. S. Morton (Wimbledon) and J. E. Head (Epsom) beat S. Basden and C. Rouse (Dartford) 21-5, 21-17. Final—Hurlock and Venner beat Morton and Head 15-21, 21-11, 21-11.

Women's Doubles. Semi-finals—Miss G. Foley and Mrs. B. M. Hills (Faversham) beat Miss S. M. Casey (London) and Miss E. Glue (Reading) 21-16, 21-7. Miss J. Roberts (London) and Miss S. M. Wright-Swatman (Ashford, Middlesex) w.o. Mrs. P. George (Weybridge) and Miss J. F. Cuss (Gillingham). Final—Miss Roberts and Miss Wright-Swatman beat Miss Foley and Mrs. Hills 21-16, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-finals—A. A. Hills and Mrs. B. M. Hills (Faversham) beat A. C. Harrison (Ramsgate) and Miss P. Cantor (Broadstairs) 21-5, 21-12. A. R. Miller (Wimbledon) and Miss J. Roberts (London) beat J. E. Head (Epsom) and Miss J. E. Barlow (London) 21-12, 18-21, 21-15. Final—Miller and Miss Roberts beat Mr. and Mrs. Hills 21-11, 21-17.

Men's Consolation. Semi-finals—C. Rouse (Dartford) beat C. M. Wyles (Sutton Valence) 21-16, 21-19. N. Trigg (Faversham) beat N. Gentry (Ramsgate) 19-21, 21-10, 21-17. Final—C. Rouse beat N. Trigg 21-14, 21-18.

Ladies' Consolation. Mrs. J. Butler (Sittingbourne) beat Miss B. Glue (Reading) 21-12, 23-21. Miss J. Roberts (London) beat Miss J. E. Barlow (London) 21-19, 21-17. Final—Miss Roberts beat Mrs. Butler 21-19, 21-10.

SCORE BOOK

WILMOTT CUP —

1st round results:

Zone 1	
N.A.L.G.O. League	3 London Banks L'gue 6
London League	9 South-West Mddx. L. 0
Zone 2	
Chelmsford League	4 East London League 5
Wembley & Harrow L.	7 Romford League ... 2
Willesden League	8 Southend League ... 1
North Mddx. League 8	St. Albans League... 1
Zone 3	
Medway Towns L...	2 Thames Vall. League 7
Reigate, Redhill & Dis. 0	Beckenham League 9
Zone 4	
Southampton Civil Service Club...	4 Portsmouth League 5
Southampton League 7	Bournemouth League 2
Salisbury League ... 0	Brighton League ... 9
Zone 6	
Cambridge League...	8 Northampton League 1
Lowestoft League ... 2	Bedford League ... 7
Zone 7	
Grimsby League	8 Retford League ... 1
Nottingham League 6	Lincoln League ... 3
Zone 8	
Huddersfield League 8	Southport League ... 1
Keighley League ... 0	Chester League ... 9
Leek League ... 1	Manchester League 8
Halifax Red Triangle League ... 9	West Craven League 0
Zone 9	
Northumberland L...	9 West Cumberland L. 0

2nd Round results:—

Zone 1. University of London		2 L.B.H.A.S.A. ... 7
Staines Lge.	3 London	6
South London	9 Central	0
London Banks	4 Civil Service	5
Zone 2. East London		3 Wembley ... 6
Willesden	0 North Mddx.	9
Woolwich	4 Croydon	5
Sittingbourne scr	Leatherhead ...w/o	
Beckenham	9 Maidstone	0
Thames Valley	6 Sutton Valence	3
Zone 4. Portsmouth		5 Southampton ... 4
Brighton	9 Newbury	0
Zone 5. Bristol		9 South Devon ... 0
Zone 6. Cambridge		7 Bedford ... 2
King's Lynn	8 Peterborough	1
Zone 7. Grimsby		5 Nottingham ... 4
Zone 8. Radcliffe scr	Huddersfield ...w/o	
Halifax	Y.M.C.A. Club	5 Liverpool ... 4
Chester	0 Manchester	9
Halifax Red Triangle ...w/o	Blackpool ...scr	
Zone 9. Sunderland	4 Northumberland..	5

NORTH MIDLAND OPEN

Organisers' nightmare came true at Mansfield during this year's North Midland Open on 8th December. An electricity breakdown came just at the start of the afternoon and it was 5.0 p.m. before things got under way.

The physical strain on the Committee and players of this popular "one-day" tournament can well be imagined, yet all five events were duly completed and a high standard maintained.

All five titles changed hands, the new winners being:—

M.S.:	A. Hall (Grimsby).
L.S.:	Miss E. Steventon (Nottingham).
M.D.:	Bolton and Anderson (Nottingham).
X.D.:	G. Smith and Mrs. Smith (Birmingham).
L.D.:	Miss E. Steventon and Mrs. Smith.

"J.M. ROSE BOWL" —

1st round results:

Zone 1	
Beckenham League w/o	Sittingb'ne League scr.
L.B.H.A.S.A. 1	Woolwich League ... 4
Civil Service League w/o	London League ...scr.
Central League	4 London Banks League 1
Zone 2	
Maidstone League	4 South West Mddx. L. 1
Croydon League	2 Thames Valley Lg. 3
Staines League	5 Leatherhead League 0
Zone 3	
Wembley League	1 Willesden League ... 4
North Mddx. League 4	East London League 1
Romford League	3 Chelmsford League 2
Southend League	0 St. Albans League... 5
Zone 4	
Brighton League	5 Portsmouth League... 0
Zone 6	
Nottingham League w/o	Northampton L. ...scr.
Birmingham League 5	Bedford League ... 0
Zone 7	
Southport League	0 Manchester League... 5
Grimsby League	0 Northumberland L. 5

2nd Round results:—

Zone 1. Beckenham		1 Woolwich	4
Civil Service	2 Central	3	
Zone 2. South London scr		Maidstone	w/o
Thames Valley scr	Staines	w/o	
Zone 3. Willesden		0 North Mddx.	5
Romford	1 St. Albans	4	
Zone 4. Bournemouth		2 Southampton	3
Brighton	3 Salisbury	2	
Zone 5. Bristol		2 South Devon	3
Zone 6. Nottingham	2 Birmingham	3	
Zone 7. Manchester	4 Liverpool	1	
Blackpool ...w/o	Huddersfield ...scr		
Zone 8. Sunderland	Northumberland	postponed	

YORKSHIRE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1947-8

A crowd of some 200 saw 16-year-old Brian Kennedy of the Victoria T.T.C., Leeds, create a record on Saturday, 31st January, by winning both the Men's Singles and the Junior Singles titles at Sheffield. By this performance he became the first player to win both events in the same year since the championships were first held in 1924.

En route to the final of the Men's event, Kennedy disposed of English, also of the Victoria Club, and Bell of Sheffield, both Yorkshire County players and, in the semi-final, again emerged victorious after a stern fight with George Mitton of Huddersfield.

Mitton and Whiteley defeated Kennedy and Thompson (A) of Leeds in the semi-final of the Men's Doubles, only to succumb in the final before the inspired attacks of R. Thompson and K. Nixon of Halifax.

RESULTS.

Men's Singles: B. Kennedy (Leeds) bt. C. Whiteley (Huddersfield), 23—25, 21—7, 21—17.

Women's Singles: N. Senior (Sheffield) bt. M. I. Lightfoot (Leeds), 16—21, 22—20, 21—11.

Men's Doubles: R. Thompson and K. Nixon (Halifax) bt. G. Mitton and C. Whiteley (Huddersfield), 21—18, 21—19.

Women's Doubles: N. Senior and M. I. Lightfoot bt. N. Quesky (Hull) and A. Taylor (Bradford), 21—11, 21—14.

Mixed Doubles: W. Bedford (Huddersfield) and M. I. Lightfoot (Leeds) bt. B. Denby (Leeds) and N. Senior (Sheffield), 22—20, 21—17.

Junior Singles: B. Kennedy (Leeds) bt. K. Nixon (Halifax), 21—19, 21—8.

KENT CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Held at Aylesford Paper Mills, Maidstone, on 30th November, 1947. Winners:—

M.S.:	J. H. Tabbenor (Woolwich).
L.S.:	Mrs. D. Evans (Maidstone).
M.D.:	Tabbenor and Nokes (Woolwich).
X.D.:	Carrier and Miss Coplestone (Woolwich).
L.D.:	Mrs. Evans and Miss J. Ing (Woolwich).

NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Middlesex clinch the first year's honour

Under blazing television lights in the packed Manor Place Baths at Walworth on 20th January, yet another County match was decided by the 5—4 margin. This time it was the decisive match of the season, and Middlesex were the winners over Surrey.

Victor Barna's class and certainty tipped the scale for Middlesex in his affray as they did in the 5—4 win over Essex; but we must not belittle Peggy Franks' determined win over Vera Dace, which balanced the unexpected loss of Marsh to Merrett.

The Surrey youngster was in fine form, beating Harrower, too. The latter appeared too clever for Crayden, who thereupon tried to "take it out of" Barna—tried so hard in fact that the maestro only took the first game at deuce.

Full scores (Middlesex names first):—
 Barna bt. Sharman 10, 17; bt. Crayden 20, 7.
 Harrower bt. Crayden 17, —19, 12; lost to Merrett —9, 6, —16.
 Marsh lost to Merrett —18, 24, —17.
 Miss P. Franks bt. Mrs. V. Thomas 9, 20.
 Miss Franks and Mrs. Lentle lost to Mrs. Thomas and Miss Barnes —20, —14.
 Barna and Franks bt. Crayden and Thomas 22, 9.

ESSEX 8, WARWICKSHIRE 1 (At Plaistow, 31st Jan., 1948)

Details (Essex names first):—
 Leach bt. Kriss 7, 13; bt. Mackay 10, 15.
 Carrington bt. Hall —12, 15, 5; bt. Mackay 18, —12, 18.
 Langner bt. Kriss 16, 7; lost to Hall —15, 18, —18.
 Miss V. Patterson bt. Miss J. Mackay 22, —17, 12.
 Miss Rivett and Miss Wilkinson bt. Miss Mackay and Mrs. D. Smith 25, 11.
 Carrington and Miss Rivett bt. Mackay and Miss Mackay 14, 9.

READERS PLEASE NOTE!

Our new "Scoreboard" system

To conserve space and allow more results to be printed *Table Tennis* will in future use the shortened score notation seen below: Under this system only the loser's score for each game is printed, the winner obviously scoring either a straight 21 points or, in the case of a deuce win, 2 points more than the loser. When the first-named player loses a game, a minus-sign is printed before the losing figure. A short study of the matches recorded below will soon make the system clear.

LANCASHIRE 3, ESSEX 6.

(at Oldham, 13th Feb., 1948)

Details (Lancs. names first):

Casofsky lost to Leach 17, —12, —20; bt. Carrington —20, 16, 18.
 Lurie lost to Leach —17, —8; bt. D. Miller 10, 11.
 L. Cohen lost to Carrington —22, 16, —18; bt. D. Miller 12, 16.
 Miss Benson lost to Miss V. Patterson —19, 16, —17.
 Miss Benson and Miss Wood lost to Miss Patterson and Miss Rivett —15, —14.
 Casofsky and Miss K. May lost to Leach and Miss Rivett —16, —13.

MIDDLESEX 8, WARWICKSHIRE 7 (at Birmingham, 21st February, 1948)

Details (Middlesex names first)

Bergl bt. Hall 9, 18; lost to Mackay —10, —20.
 Harrower bt. Hall 20, 17; bt. Mohtadi 10, 18.
 Barna bt. Mackay —19, 17, 19; bt. Mohtadi 15, 12.
 Miss Franks bt. Miss Mackay 12, 10.
 Miss Franks and Mrs. Lentle bt. Miss Mackay and Mrs. Smith 20, 17.
 Barna and Mrs. Lentle bt. Mackay and Miss Mackay 18, 10.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Cumberland (Thomson, Baird, Crowe, Brady and McDonald for doubles, and Miss Carwell) entertained the much more experienced Northumberland team (Middlemiss, Kertzman, Hewitt, Miss D. Smith and Miss Hewitt) at Carlisle on 3rd January.

Result: Cumberland 0—Northumberland 9.

COMING EVENTS

Date	Tournament or Event	Venue	Enquiries to
Mar. 6	West of England Open	At Bristol	I. C. Eyles, 115, Wick Road, Bristol, 4.
Mar. 13 (Finals)	Cheshire Open	At Chester	S. H. Dutton, 17, Victoria Pathway, Queen's Park, Chester.
Mar. 20	Grimsby Open	Grimsby	J. Browne, 331, Halntow Avenue, Grimsby.
Mar. 24-27	Irish Open	At Belfast	N. Wilson, 128, Sandown Road, Belfast.
Mar. 27	North-Eastern Open	At Scarborough	M. Newsom, 17, Mount Park Av., Scarborough.
Apr. 3 (Finals)	London Open	London University	A. E. Haynes, 17, Etonville Road, S.W.17.
Apr. 10	Yorkshire Open	At Bradford	L. E. Forrest, 23, Wharnccliffe Road, Frizinghall, Bradford.
Apr. 21	CHAMPION COUNTY v. REST	Seymour Hall, London, W.1	G. R. Harrower, 34, Gallants Farm Rd., East Barnet, Herts.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPLEMENT--PART I

(Further news will appear in our April issue)

WEMBLEY — 4-11 FEBRUARY — 1948

SUMMARY

	Winners.	Runners-up.
Corbillon Cup	ENGLAND	Hungary.
Swaythling Cup	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	France.
Men's Singles	RICHARD BERGMANN (England)	B. Vana (Czechoslovakia)
Men's Doubles	B. VANA & L. STIPEK (Czechoslovakia)	F. Soos (Hungary) and A. Haydon (England)
Women's Singles	GIZI FARKAS (Hungary)	Vera Thomas (England)
Women's Doubles	VERA THOMAS & PEGGY FRANKS (England)	D. Beregi (England) and H. Elliot (Scotland)
Mixed Doubles	R. MILES & T. THALL (U.S.A.)	B. Vana and Pokorna (Czechoslovakia)
Men's Consolation Singles	J. KOCZIAN (Hungary)	R. Sharman (England)
Women's Consolation Singles	Miss L. R. BARNES (England)	Mrs. Abou Haif (Egypt)



TABLE TALK FROM

I.—FINALS NIGHT

The scores reproduced here show you that Richard Bergmann is once again World Singles Champion, and his eternal rival Bohumil Vana was runner-up. Now does this mean that these two are still the two best players in the world?

Well, let each form his own opinion. Cold figures cannot convey the fever-heat of the struggles, so I will try to assist your judgment with a few glimpses of the wayside battles.

Who shall say that Chance plays no part? Sitting in the Empire Pool as Bergmann fought the brilliant Czechs were no less than three men who had beaten him in the team events, Sido, Miles and Nash. Nash had a previous challenge-match victory to his credit, too. Add to the possible Leach and Barna who know Richard's game well enough to win at times.

Yet he did not have to meet one of these five "dangers" in the rounds.

If table tennis were to be judged on "points" as in boxing contests, many judges would have awarded the semi-final to Andreadis, or the final to Vana for their superior enterprise and use of the courts.

Andreadis v. Bergmann (Semi-final)

Andreadis played a great game of steady driving against which Bergmann only counter-attacked three or four times. Finding his drives returned by an impudent forehand half-volley, Richard settled down to make war on the Andreadis nerves by making each rally as long as possible.

Leading 2 games to 1, and 9-4 up, the Czech appeared to be unshakable. He was hitting so surely (although without much sting), that he could easily have carried that 4th game to a victorious time-limit finish (20 minutes). After a specially long rally, big Ivan tried a going-away forehand winner. It missed. *OK, the score was 9-5 and he was still the boss?* But no—for some strange reason he abandoned his splendid restraint and tried no less than five quick winners of the same type, just like you or I would, but not a bit like a world champ. Score 9-10, and those who knew the players intimately also knew the result. Sadly for the crowd, who had taken the versatile stroke-player to

their hearts, the grim sticking power of Bergmann came out on top.

The Supermen Vana v. Bergmann

But Bergmann regained the crowd's respect by the masterful way in which he changed his tactics for the final with Vana. He went in from the whistle with half-a-dozen smashes which out-Vana-ed Vana. *This was not his real plan . . . it was just designed to "show" him what he'd got to worry about!* Bergmann then sat back and let Vana rush in to recover his 1-8 deficit. At 3-12 Vana realised his errors and used the rest of the 1st game to work his forehand drive into form.

In the 2nd, Wembley warmed to Vana's courage and skill in attack just as they had warmed to Bergmann's resource and will-power in defence. The balance and footwork of both men was poetically beautiful—even the uninitiated spectators began to realise that they were seeing something exceptional in human effort.

Vana was piling on topspin so, that his drives kicked sharply away off the veriest forehand corner. Bergmann, chopping more than he usually does, sent them back deep to the forehand corner again. *From that spot he knew that Vana could not angle him with that deadly hit to the backhand.*

After every chop-stroke Richard religiously moved in a little to cover a possible dropshot . . . and as religiously fell back as the stream of drives continued.

By sheer good table tennis Vana made the game his. ONE-ALL. The critical 3rd game brought some experiments from the defender. He tried some returns to the backhand, but Vana was round like a cat who sees a fat mouse and from that position he could play cat-and-mouse with Bergmann, sending him into the stop-surrounds. One wall went over, but the tension of the arena was such that seemingly nobody dared touch it for the rest of the match.

A Human Catapult!

So Bergmann tried some high lobs to tempt the anxious hitter. With consummate judgment the Czech would convert his frail body into a sort of catapult by his patent system of kicking the free leg. *These balls were definitely one-way traffic!*

WEMBLEY

Pulling the best out of each other, two supermen found themselves eventually at 2-games-all.

Love-all . . . look out, here comes Bergmann deliberately rushing in again! Forehand and backhand hits of flashing speed. But Vana moves imperceptibly into short defence position and treats us to a demonstration of chop strokes and half-volley which are just perfection.

Bergmann somehow after 2 hours of defending can find the touch to produce a dainty drop-shot. No good, Vana hops in, arms and trunk flailing like a whip to put driving speed on to the dead ball.

In this manner 8 points took as many minutes. The standard was equal to the classic 1938 match. Something had to happen—it did.

At 5-4 to Bergmann an unlucky edge flummoxed Vana. For one second he was ruffled and flung 2 silly points away.

Then at 8-5 another tricky edge shot defeated him. When mighty forces are perfectly balanced, just a small thing can cause a big crash.

Seemingly for no fault of his own Vana found himself 4-10 down at the change of ends.

And now Bergmann pounced. As Vana, very correctly in such circumstances, slowed his hitting down to ensure consistency, his rival with infallible footwork leaped in to crash over forehand counter-drives. Forging ahead to 18-8, he then sparred relentlessly with his dazed opponent to regain the title he last took from him 9 years earlier at Cairo.

The new World Champion is so well-known in England that no description is needed now. Sufficient to say that he called up some wonderful inner reserves for the key matches, playing better than we have seen him since pre-war.

Bergmann is the master of the "Five-Game-Plan"; a good poker-player on the table tennis table (but nowhere else!); a fine athlete, and a great ball-controller. The Bradman of table tennis, I should say.

And Bo Vana? He lost the World Championship this time. You don't have to do those things. But he lost nothing in the hearts of many thousands of grateful fans. He is a Champion too, and always will be.

Collected by
Jack Carrington

WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL

Gizi Farkas of Hungary won for the 2nd year in succession. We had hoped this time that our own Vera Thomas could turn the trick, but somehow that 5th game seemed to go to Gizi as though attracted by some magnetism of the will. The play was not so sparkling as usual, but took the usual form—Vera struggling to get her hitting going freely, and the cool Hungarian chopping, blocking, pushing and flicking apparently artlessly, all over the table. But in reality she is clever to be able to break up such a forceful left-handed game as Vera's.

One time I am sure she will meet Vera in real confident mood and that time the title should come to England.

Vera stuck it well to level the games at 2—all and just appeared a little over-eager at the vital start of the 5th.

Farkas is similar to Bergmann in her "somehow I know I'll win" attitude, as shown by her performances with Rozeanu, reported separately.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

This had a homely look with Franks and Thomas opposing Beregi and Elliot. The more balanced pair, Franks-Thomas, deserved their win by: **17-21, 21-12, 21-19, 21-8.**

MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

Despite cheers for the popular English captain, Haydon, he and his partner Soos could not quite hold the speed and teamwork of Vana-Stipek, of Czechoslovakia, who won the title by: **21-18, 21-15, 21-13.**

MIXED DOUBLES FINAL

Coming on the table at about 11.30 p.m., this match might well have been entitled "Three Sleepy People"! For to be truthful it looked as though only one of the four contestants cared tuppence about the title.

But how that one did care! She was Miss Thelma Thall, of U.S.A., who treated us to a display of mixed doubles play which few women could ever equal. From being 2 games behind she inspired her partner to fight back. She chopped Vana's drives and services safely back, pushed his difficult chops, and drove with ferocity whenever possible.

Thus Miles and Miss T. Thall beat Vana and Mrs. Pokorna, of Czechoslovakia, by: **13-21, 14-21, 21-18, 21-19, 21-12.**

TABLE TALK FROM WEMBLEY (continued)

II.—SOME EARLIER MATCHES

MEN'S SINGLES SEMI-FINAL

Vana v. Amouretti

Although taking the first game, the young Frenchman was no match for Vana and the game took its expected course, score being: 16—21, 21—12, 21—12, 21—15.

WOMEN'S SINGLES SEMI-FINAL

Farkas v. Rozeanu

Elegant Angelica Rozeanu, of Roumania (photo appeared in our issue of May/June, 1947), secured a 2—0 lead over the holder by stern defence and sudden hitting. The match thereupon resolved itself into a stalemate. For 2 games Farkas hardly hit one ball, determined not to let her title slip away.

Many columns have been written about this match and we may add to them later. Summing up, for the present: an unfortunate dispute arose regarding the possible application of the time-limit rule at deuce in the 5th game. Eventually, the Jury of the Championships ordered the match to be re-played.

Farkas won the replay 3—0, and it is this score which appears in the records.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Quarter-finals: Bednar/Wunsch bt. Harangozo/Dolinar, Haydon/Soos bt. Andreadis/Tuerk, Vana/Stipek bt. Flisberg/Neidenmark, Barna/Bergmann bt. Price/Nash.

Semi-finals: Haydon/Soos bt. Bednar/Wunsch 3—0, Vana/Stipek bt. Barna/Bergmann 3—0.

Finals: Vana/Stipek bt. Haydon/Soos 21—18, 21—15, 21—13.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Beregi/Elliot bt. Fowler/Lentle 3—0, Thomas/Franks bt. Thall/Thall 3—0.

Finals: Thomas/Franks bt. Beregi/Elliot 17—21, 21—12, 21—19, 21—18.

MIXED DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Vana/Mrs. Pokorna bt. Bergmann/Beregi 3—2, Miles/T. Thall bt. Sido/Rozeanu 3—1.

Finals: Miles/T. Thall bt. Vana/Pokorna 13—21, 14—21, 21—18, 21—19, 21—12.

MEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

Finals: J. Koczian bt. R. Sharman (England).

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

Finals: Miss L. R. Barnes (England) bt. Mrs. Abou Half.

JUBILEE CUP (for competitors of the 1st World Championships)

Semi-finals: Bernstein bt. Montagu 2—0, Stone bt. Lawes 2—0.

Finals: Bernstein bt. Stone 15—21, 23—21, 21—17.

SPECIAL CHALLENGE MATCH FOR

JUBILEE MEDAL

Mrs. D. E. Evans bt. B. Bernstein 21—7, 21—16.

MEN'S SINGLES ROUNDS

Johnny Leach, after playing wonderfully well all week, just failed to overcome Guy Amouretti in the last sixteen. Something in the clash of styles makes the French ace a difficult opponent for Johnny. Nevertheless he opened confidently in the 5th game, until a surprising series of edge shots enabled Amouretti to nose ahead and grasp a winning lead.

Barna's quarter-final with Andreadis proved nothing except that one genius was much younger than the other. To me it seemed a pity that the unchallengeable king of so many world's meetings should have to be drawn into such arguments.

The self-retired Adrian Haydon equalled his personal record by reaching the Men's Doubles final—no less than 20 years after his first world appearance, in which he was a singles quarter-finalist. The cautious Soos would hardly seem the ideal partner for our left-handed terrorist, yet they rode rough-shod over such as Sido-Koczian and Andreadis-Tuerk (conquerors of Leach-Carrington in a 5-set affair).

It was definitely a "shorts" tournament. Among those who showed their knees for the first time were the Czech men, the Hungarian girls (where are those sandy pants, Gizi?), and—wonder of wonders—the Czech girls. These have previously won world titles clad in skirts and "nylons"! Depetrisova, now Mrs. Pokorna, also wore spectacles this year. Her eye seemed as good as ever; I don't know how she felt, her "poker-face" is rivalled only by Flisberg of Sweden and Peter Rumjahn of Liverpool!

For space reasons reports on many other interesting matches are held over until our April issue.

III.—THE LIVELY AMERICANS

Of course great interest centred on the Americans. The girls have not improved since last year—rather the reverse.

Richard Miles certainly has improved; in tactics a little, in temperament a lot, which makes him a real force today.

His whiplash forehand is so fierce that he can knock any player off his game, if all goes well for Miles. It was quite the most interesting thing of the tournament.

Vana beat him in a rip-roaring quarter-final; surely it was foolish of Miles to claim a rest when leading 2—1 in games (as allowed by rule)? He walked off the court at a time when his arm was swinging like a machine and Vana was properly rattled. It cost him the next game to get warmed up again.

Young Martin Reisman has the makings of a still more deadly forehand drive, and a better backhand counter-drive than Miles; with this he combines an astonishing eye for short defence.

Temperament seemed good, too, all that was needed was the experience. He and Miles can put U.S.A. right on top if they can learn from their infrequent contacts with such as Czechoslovakia.

Giving good support to the youngsters was our war-time friend Garrett Nash. Certainly no worse than when we saw him last, despite the loss of those fearful services of his.

More about these boys next time.

SUMMARY OF THE TEAM RESULTS

SWAYTHLING CUP

GROUP "A"									Total
NATIONS		EN	H	IN	J	SD	U	Points	
ENGLAND	4	
HUNGARY	3	
JERSEY	1	
SWEDEN	2	
U.S.A.	5	

ENGLAND—HUNGARY: 5-4: Barna/Koczian 18, —17, —19; /Sido 18, 18; /Soos —21, 15, —18; Bergmann/Fredrikson 12, 12; /Sido —13, 15, —18; /Soos —15, 4, 10; Leach/Koczian 13, —14, 12; /Sido 10, 11; /Soos 14, —17, —13.

ENGLAND—JERSEY: 5-0: Barna/Carrell 8, 8; /Davy 4, 11; Bergmann/Hansford 9, 9; Leach/Carrell 3, 6; /Hansford 7, 11.

ENGLAND—SWEDEN: 5-1: Barna/Flisberg —20, —18; /Grievie 16, —17, 13; Bergmann/Fredrikson 6, 14; /Grievie 16, 10; Leach/Flisberg 12, 16; /Fredrikson 19, 12.

ENGLAND—U.S.A.: 2-5: Barna/Miles —18, —20; /Nash 16, 12; Bergmann/Miles —17, —12; /Nash —19, —14; /Reisman 20, 16; Leach/Miles —16, 14; /Reisman —20, —23.

GROUP "B"									Total
NATIONS		C	EG	G	NO	SC	W	Points	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	5	
EGYPT	4	
GREECE	1	
NORWAY	0	
SCOTLAND	2	
WALES	3	

GROUP "C"									Total
NATIONS		AU	B	IT	L	NE	PA	Y	Points
AUSTRIA	6
BELGIUM	4
ITALY	1
LUXEMBOURG	2
NETHERLANDS	3
YUGOSLAVIA	5

GROUP "D"									Total
NATIONS		AR	D	F	IE	PO	T	Points	
DENMARK	3	
FRANCE	5	
IRELAND	4	
TRINIDAD and TOBAGO	2	

INTER-GROUP SEMI-FINALS:
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA beat U.S.A., 5-2: Andreadis/Miles —19, 14, 10; /Reisman —17, 15, 10; Tokar/Miles —18, —15; /Nash —17, —21; Vana/Miles —12, 6, 18; /Nash 16, 17; /Reisman —15, 19, 19

FRANCE beat AUSTRIA 5-1: Amouretti/Bednar 18, 10; /Just 14, 14; Bordrez/Eckl —19, 13, 13; /Just —19, —19; Haguenuer/Bednar 19, —13, 12; /Eckl 14, 10.

FINAL
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA beat FRANCE 5-2: Andreadis/Amouretti —17, 9, 13; /Haguenuer 18, 15; Stipek/Bordrez —18, —16; /Haguenuer —19, —17; Vana/Amouretti 6, 16; /Bordrez, 9, 5; /Haguenuer 13, 12

MARCEL CORBILLON CUP

GROUP "A"									Total	
NATIONS		AU	B	EN	J	R	SC	U	W	Points
AUSTRIA	2
BELGIUM	4
ENGLAND	7
JERSEY	0
RUMANIA	6
SCOTLAND	3
U.S.A.	5
WALES	1

AUSTRIA—ENGLAND: 0-3: Poetschek/Beregi —5, —14; Wutzl/Thomas —4, —6; Poetschek, Wutzl/Franks, Thomas —4, —11.

BELGIUM—ENGLAND: 1-3: Detournay/Beregi —11, —15; /Thomas —19, —10; Roland/Beregi —8, —16; Declercq, Detournay/Franks, Steventon 10, 19.

ENGLAND—JERSEY: 3-0: Franks/Turner 8, 12; Steventon/De La Haye 11, 13; Beregi, Franks/Taylor, Turner 6, 9.

ENGLAND—RUMANIA: 3-1: Franks/Rozeanu —18, —15; Thomas/Kolosvary 13, 13; /Rozeanu 25, 19; Franks, Thomas/Kolosvary, Rozeanu 8, 5.

ENGLAND—SCOTLAND: 3-1: Franks/Elliot —14, —14; Thomas/Elliot 16, —18, 15; /Norrie 6, 9; Franks, Thomas/Elliot, Pithe 16, —18, 12.

ENGLAND—U.S.A.: 3-1: Beregi/Clouther 16, 12; /L. Thall 15, 15; Thomas/L. Thall 16, 14; Franks, Thomas/L. Thall, T. Thall —13, —14.

ENGLAND—WALES: 3-0: Beregi/Bates 18, 7; Franks/Gray 15, 15; Beregi, Franks/Bates, Gray 12, 8.

GROUP "B"									Total	
NATIONS		C	EG	F	H	IE	L	NE	SD	Points
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	6
EGYPT	4
FRANCE	5
HUNGARY	7
IRELAND	3
LUXEMBOURG	0
NETHERLANDS	2
SWEDEN	1

FINAL
 ENGLAND beat HUNGARY 3-1: Beregi/Farkas 19, 15; /Karpati 10, 13; Thomas/Farkas —16, —14; Beregi, Thomas/Farkas, Karpati —18, 14, 13

Glimpses from the Press Room

by STANLEY PROFFITT

In this issue of *Table Tennis* it is a case of "Northerners come to Town." For those of you who didn't make the Wembley pilgrimage, all the details and highlights are given on these pages. From a Northern viewpoint it was grand to see Brian Kennedy in such scintillating form. This youngster is believed to be the first Yorkshireman ever to have reached the last 32 in the Men's Worlds Singles Championships; a feat more praiseworthy considering he had to fight through the qualifying rounds before entering the competition proper.

Miss Adele Wood had the misfortune to contract toothache and did not produce her best form until the Consolation Singles, when her game against the Egyptian, Abou Haif, was a good one. The experience of a week at Wembley has been invaluable to her. The same may be said of Ron Thompson.

Wednesday evening

ENGLAND 5, HUNGARY 4

Against Hungary, England rose to heights never previously attained in the history of this competition. Lucky spectators were served with a sumptuous dish of thrill-crammed table tennis for four hours and five minutes—nine tense and exciting sets.

This classic display was applauded wildly. No-one can be singled out for higher praise than another. Each man gave every ounce of his best.

There was a bombshell for England in the opening set when the giant, Sido, looking fierce and confident, smashed his way through Bergmann's defence and won the third game at 21—18.

When Johnny Leach took the floor against young Koczian, there were some who perhaps had an uncomfortable feeling that there would be a repetition of their quarter-final match in the English "open," but the crowd saw a different Leach on this occasion—a Leach who not only came home a good winner against Koczian, but administered to Sido, in a later set, a dose of his own medicine to the tune of 21—10, 21—11.

Soos was the mainspring of the Hungarian side and lost only to Bergmann. The latter, after being one game down to his dapper opponent, led 16—0 in the second. Soos never recovered.

Victor Barna, making his debut, along with Bergmann, in an English Swaythling Cup shirt, had a well-thought-out win against Sido, but was a trifle unlucky against Soos. The sets stood at 4—all with Bergmann and Koczian still to play. The little Hungarian was no match for the English open champion.

The English triumph was regarded by spectators as very encouraging—especially in view of the fact that word went round that the Hungarians had recently beaten Czechoslovakia in Prague 5—0.

Thursday morning

ENGLAND 5, SWEDEN 1

The Leach-Bergmann-Barna trio continued in winning vein with a comfortable 5—1 victory. Highlight was the consistent form of Leach who demonstrated to the Swedish ace, Tage

Filsberg, the art of counter-hitting. Previously, Filsberg had notched the only "winner" in a brilliant spell against Barna. Both the Swedish second and third strings, Grieve and Fredriksson, fought hard but were not up to their opponents' standard.

Friday morning

ENGLAND 3, SCOTLAND 1

(Corbillon Cup)

Helen Elliot set the ball rolling for Scotland with a two-straight win over Peggy Franks. This was a great game and the standard of play was high. However, Scotland failed to register another win although Thomas and Franks were taken to three games in the doubles against Elliot and Pithie.

Mrs. Thomas was in excellent form and packed a hard punch in her forearm attack.

Friday Evening

ENGLAND 2, AMERICA 5

The Americans displayed super table tennis against England and few of the 3,500 spectators would deny them the right to pass into the Semi-Final. England just hadn't a counter to an attack which pierced their defence from all angles.

An after-the-event criticism was that the English captain, Adrian Haydon, should not have sent Johnny Leach on the table to play the opening game, but my view is that it made little or no difference to the result. Martin Reisman commenced against Johnny like a tornado. After winning the first game 22—20, he was down 14—20 in the second; then came an inspired attacking spell and Leach, despite heroic endeavours, lost 23—25. Garret-Nash holed Bergmann's defence, often catching him with a drop-shot.

America increased the lead to 4—0 before Bergmann temporarily stemmed the tide with a win over Reisman. Victor Barna, employing the half volley and using his famous backhand flick made the score 4—2. In this game, we saw some of the old Barna, which was a revelation to the audience. Then Miles made up the issue in America's favour beyond all doubt by trouncing Bergmann; in fact, it was such an easy win that the score during one period of the second game read 14—5.

Monday morning :

First of the early-morning sensations came when Wally Sweetland, the Welsh No. 1, disposed of the Czechoslovakian Marinko. Formerly a Yugo-Slavian, Marinko, who still clings to a wood bat, is a tough customer at any time. Well done, Wally !

Martin Reisman, fancied by some as a likely Singles Winner, had a real shock in the first round. Sweden's No. 5 Cederholm, set about the task in fine style, winning the first game 20—22. Then at 2 games all, the American produced a dazzling two-winged attack to pass into the second round.

Goodman of Manchester, and Miller of London, went the full distance. A rather dreary affair in Goodman's favour. All that need be said is that unless 19-year-old Miller develops a reasonable drive he will NOT make the top grade.

Lejeune (Belgium) was unfortunate in meeting an aggressive Benny Casofsky twice. In the first round singles he did manage to take one game, but was not so successful when partnered by Staf in the doubles. In fact, Casofsky and New Zealander, Algie, made short work of the Belgian pair.

PRESS ROOM GLIMPSES

(Continued)

Swaythling Cup player Ken Stanley was no match for Vana in a game which went as the score suggests: 21—10, 21—12, 21—14.

It is evident that Johnny Leach has shaken off the Koczian "hoodoo." First in the Swaythling Cup contest and later in the first round singles he displayed superior tactics. Needless to say, the individual round was a thriller, both drew rounds of applause in a game that read 21—7, 22—20, 11—21, 23—21.

Old-time England player, Tommy Sears, partnered in the doubles by Iran's M. F. Mohtadi, very nearly upset the calculations of the American pair, Reisman and Miles. The game ended at 18 in the fifth. Reisman/Miles had another long contest in the third round. This time they met their Waterloo to the Austrian combination Bednar-Wunsch.

Another English exit in the first round of the Men's Singles was that of Ernest Buble. Here the great Hungarian, Sido, hitting with terrific power had no difficulty in piercing the Englishman's defence, though at one period during the fourth game, Buble revealed a slice of his pre-war form. The scores were 21—9, 21—15, 13—21, 21—7.

In the first round Women's Singles, Dora Beregi, playing well below her Corbillon Cup form, met Gizi Farkas in a dazzling mood. In this game, Farkas proved to the Wembley audience the reason why she won the English title in Manchester. She combined a brilliant attack with a solid defence to such purpose that the English girl just hadn't an answer. 21—18, 21—11, 21—13.

Worthy of note was the first-round win of Brian Kennedy, of Yorkshire, over Nissen, of Denmark. Then the Yorkshireman went on to defeat Ron Crayden. The tall Londoner couldn't cope with Kennedy's left hand aggression, but ample excitement to keep the spectators warm; scores were 23—21, 21—23, 22—20, 21—15. Czechoslovakian Tokar disposed of the Yorkshire hope in the third round.

Now came a tit-bit; Bergmann v. Reisman. At the outset, Richard had it all his own way, leading comfortably 17—10, until Reisman pulled out his famous attack and levelled the score, only to lose the game 22—20. It was ding-dong the whole time. In the fifth, Bergmann settled the issue 21—12.

Victor Barna strained a muscle and went off to receive treatment. He returned in time to dispose of the Hungarian Csillik. His big test came in the fourth round against the American Garrett Nash. It was a classic. Just another proof that the Americans are never beaten until the final score is that in the fifth game Barna was 12—3 up, then in a flash the American led 17—13 but failed eventually at 25—23.

Helen Elliot, I considered, used the wrong tactics against Mme. Rozeanu (Rumania). Commencing like a whirlwind, Helen petered out long before the third game. Possibly the better plan would have been to select the right ball to hit instead of being in such a hurry. This is the story of the result, Rozeanu won 21—17, 21—17, 21—11.

Vera Dace supplied the answer to the Elliot's failure against Trudi Fritzi. She hit hard and true, giving the Austrian girl little chance.

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Swathling Cup Semi-finals

I. CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5, U.S.A. 2.

This tit-bit drew a great crowd to Wembley for the Saturday afternoon session, all anxious to see how the "masters" of modern table tennis would deal with the deadly new attacking methods of the Yanks. The result was a real treat for the player with a fair knowledge of the game, but possibly not so impressive for those who came to see table tennis for the first time. This was due to the hypnotic effect of latter-day tactics, which involve the choosing of a policy, a rhythm, and the sticking to it through thick and thin.

Andreadis decided his policy—to top-spin Miles and Reisman with fair speed—and he certainly stuck to it through thick and thin. Although it is right to note that Miles' chop seemed more often to be of the decidedly "thick" variety.

These matches really deserve a fuller analysis, which we hope to include in later numbers for the benefit of the keen student of the game. For now we must rest content to say that the "old-style," i.e., the style of the Vana epoch, defeated the new American style with some certainty for the present season; but

neither the onlookers nor the players would care to assert that the Americans will never be able to beat the Czechoslovaks.

To be honest, Vana was very lucky to overcome young Reisman, although he showed supreme champion's spirit when he realised that a faint chance remained.

He pulled the 3rd game out from a losing spot of 9-14, and the last 5 points of one-hundred-per-cent. attack against inspired youth made him a firm favourite with the crowd, and probably restored his own confidence for the whole tournament.

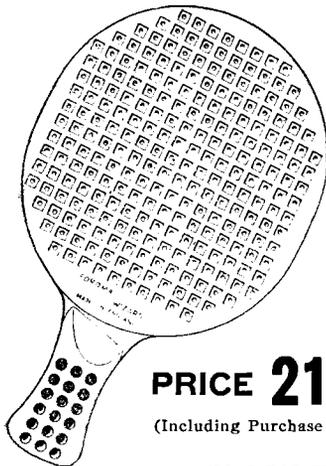
Vana seemed to remember this spasm when playing Miles, and almost exactly repeated himself in the 3rd game. Here Miles' nerve became suspect in that he never varied from this heavy backhand chop stroke during the critical 5 points, notwithstanding that Vana was obviously gaining on the "rate of exchange."

II. FRANCE 5, AUSTRIA 1

By comparison it was an affair of workmen; tough and spirited but lacking sparkle. There were the Austrians chopping away with their patent sidespin-cutting action, which they seem to rely upon stubbornly in the face of modern

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facts, and there were the Frenchmen, agile opportunists, countering chop with chop and picking out the pushed ball for their clever sudden hits.

A veteran "fan" remarked that when he saw the Austrians, Eckl and Bednar, playing, it seemed for all the world like a continuation of games he had watched the Austrians working at at the Albert Hall and even South Kensington in 1938 and '35 respectively.

Final: Corbillon Cup

ENGLAND 3, HUNGARY 1

Women's matches used to be an anti-climax after the men's, but not so this one. It "got" the crowd from the word "go," when world champion Gizi Farkas faced England's favourite Vera Thomas.

Vera's supporters hoped for a repetition of her Croydon form, but to-night she seemed to lack that speed which had enabled her to sweep Farkas off her feet once.

Whether this was due to slight "Wembley tension" in the arms and feet, or to the judicious mixture of chopping, pushing and counter-hitting served up by Farkas, one cannot say. But it soon became clear that the Hungarian was in charge of the play, and that was that.

Dora Beregi, surprisingly enough to most observers, replaced Peggy Franks in this vital contest; her amazing flair for the big occasion was soon in evidence. She steam-rolled the sprightly young Rose Karpati, whose chief strength lies in the fine support she gives to Gizi in doubles.

For the captain to send out, in the apparently all-important doubles match, a team of two left-handers, seemed to be a sheer gamble—before they played. Seldom do two lefters pair up well, whereas Vera and Peggy Franks have played many good games together.

But it was a night when anything would go for Beregi; a supreme example of fortune favouring the bold. After a few preliminary skirmishes and bumps resulting in a lost 1st game, Dora seemed to find a spot where she could "lay in wait" for Vera to set one up by means of her topspin drives. Then Dora just smacked it hard, and more began to go on than off.

Came to a 3rd game of beautiful doubles exchanges leading to a lag of 9—10 at the switch-over.

A pull-up to 14—11 and thence to 21—13 seemed to ensure the match for England; but Dora Beregi decided to made doubly certain by beating the young world champion!

The doubles loss may have shaken

Farkas; it undoubtedly inspired Beregi. Profiting by Vera's example, she plied her left-handed forehand with far more venom, and resolutely stuck to the table to half-volley the champion's sudden flicks. Altogether excellent match tactics, but not unaided by the run of the ball at critical points.

Pale and calm as always, young Gizi yet made more errors than the dynamic Dora, red of face and literally dancing with ferocious determination.

Something in the quality of that Hungarian audacity which the English player admires but cannot fathom, was now working for an English victory. As though paying tribute to the best previous player of her country, the younger girl wilted and for the first time since we have seen her, admitted defeat before it was fully upon her.

Final: Swathling Cup

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5, FRANCE 2

The Saturday night audience, prepared to be politely interested in this foreign struggle, ended up intensely thrilled by the splendid play of the Czechs, Vana and Andreadis.

Haguenuer, the war-horse, had the technique, the brains and the courage to cope with Vana's risky type of running-round attack—but he no longer had the speed. Against Andreadis in a happy mood he stood no chance, but plodded on hoping for a careless phase which didn't come. Only Guy Amouretti, of France, had the speed of foot and reaction to answer the leading Czechs, but he lacked the brain and the courage to use his magnificent flat hitting with which he can pulverise opponents in practice.

If Amouretti had Haguenuer's brain, France would have a World Champion.

Andreadis, after a cold start, losing the first game to Amouretti, gained control of himself and thereafter a stream of perfectly judged topspin drives mingled with the occasional sidespin, both being produced equally fluently with forehand or backhand, eclipsed his opponents.

Vana, attacking very vigorously with full body action, brought the best out of the wonderful chop defence of Amouretti and produced the most spectacular play of the match.

Bordrez, of France, found Vana in a "no-nonsense" mood, and thus could not come within miles of such a challenge as he had put up at Belle Vue in the English Open.

The speedy Stipek, 3rd Czech man, appeared to be a victim of his own excitement and showed much less than his form against both Haguenuer and Bordrez.