

JANUARY 1948

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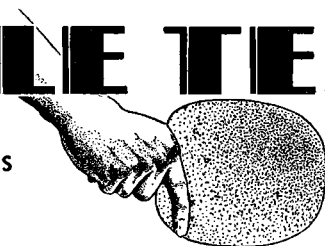
TABLE TENNIS



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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JANUARY, 1948

From the Editor's Chair

DON'T ASK US, PLEASE!

This department is always ready to oblige, but one thing we cannot help you in is the reservation of tickets for the World's Championships (at Wembley, 4th-11th February).

In that matter you must please address all your requests direct to the "maestro" of such things:—

Mr. W. J. POPE,
"Maisonette,"
Woodside Avenue,
BEACONSFIELD, Bucks.

He has sole charge of the ticklish job of allocating seats and tickets for the great "Cup Final" of table tennis. Although we are perfectly willing to pass your letters on to him, such procedure is bound to cause a delay of 2 or more days in handling your applications—and delay may be fatal as the usual last-minute rush sets in.

So, don't ask *us*, please; use the direct approach to Wembley!

Incidentally, Bill Pope found time to make personal appearances at several gatherings of fans in recent weeks to explain the position regarding the famous "Twenty-five bob job." This refers to the 25s. Season Ticket for the Championships.

Not everyone had appreciated that the ticket is really a book of tickets, with special pages for each evening session, giving a reserved seat, and for each daily period, allowing the bearer to rove around all the tables.

The Association, after allowing for competitors' seats and for those who can only make one journey from the provinces, found themselves with about 6,000 seats available for the Finals Night of Wednesday, 11th February.

But it is easy to calculate, from the number of clubs within reach of Wembley, that at least 60,000 folk would like to be sitting in those seats on that particular evening! It just cannot be done, can it? What a problem—how would *you* decide

who was entitled to have the seats?

Well, the Executive, who had to face this problem in the full consciousness of a total financial commitment of some £5,000 to stage the "World's," decided it like this:—

Those much-coveted Finals seats should go to those supporters who were willing to bear some small part in covering that enormous financial enterprise. For that is what it boils down to . . . in buying a Season Ticket you are becoming a shareholder in a great venture which will lift the prestige of table tennis sky-high.

We know that most of the Twenty-five Bob shareholders will be satisfied to know that they are helping to ease the worries of those who are giving their time and strength to organising this unique event. But for those who ask more concrete dividends for their investment, what could be fairer than this:—

Fourteen tickets, covering 20 sessions, for 25s. And every session presenting the finest Continental, English and American champions locked in strenuous battle.

And you youngsters, who want to get to the top? We know that 25s. is a big item for you on your own, but why not show your resource and club together, drawing the sessions out of the hat and contributing to the cost accordingly? For that matter, why not take a sporting risk on the Season Ticket yourself, selling off the portions you cannot use to your cousins and aunts and uncles? It's worth a bit of trouble to see a World Championship when it's run in England—and it won't be here again for 5 long years. Apply to Bill Pope NOW—and don't forget the cash!

ALL OTHER SEATS FOR SATURDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, AND WEDNESDAY, 11th FEBRUARY EVENING SESSIONS HAVE BEEN SOLD.

What Do We Mean By The World Championship?

by MARCEL CORBILLON
(Deputy-President, International Table Tennis Federation)

It is not so simple as it seems, this question.

Is it a matter of having a grand reunion of table tennis players from twenty or thirty different nations and thereby cementing the bonds of friendship between them? Well, although an important one, that is only a secondary purpose.

Is the objective to commercialise a very pure sport and by its presentation derive financial profit either individually or collectively? Of course not—as those who tried such experiments know to their cost.

Then what is the idea?

You may say: "Simply to decide which man, which woman, which male team, and which female team, are the best at the time of the competition."

Easy to say, but not so easy to put into practice, for reasons we shall observe.

Let us assume that some 160 men from all over the world will gather at Wembley on the morning of 4th February—not forgetting also the 80-odd women who will also make the pilgrimage. Our task, then, is to decide the best man among our 160. How lucky we have not got to put the whole lot into a proper order-of-merit! Such a task would involve all playing all, in league fashion; nearly 13,000 matches. Morris Rose, with his eleven tables, would have to keep them going some ten hours a day for ten weeks just to complete the Men's Singles!

Luck of the Draw

Obviously that won't do. We must resort to the "Cup-tie" method rather than the league method. Of course, nobody can deny that a man beaten in the first round by the ultimate winner may be better than the finalist in the other half of the draw. But for that matter, a 3rd-round match played on Thursday evening might well produce a different result if postponed to Friday morning, and vice-versa.

The Referee cannot hope to ease the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" for any particular player; but all his efforts are devoted to ensuring that

every entrant has an equal chance of giving of his best under good playing conditions and with reasonable periods of rest.

The Champion will be the one who conquers "luck" as well as his competitors.

Now for the Team events. To start with, we have to make a purely arbitrary decision which affects the final result. We have to decide

(a) how many shall constitute a team, and

(b) what form the match shall take.

Are Teams Too Small?

On this point all opinions are equally good, but they are not equally practicable. Long ago it was decided that the Men's strength of a country could be fairly represented by a team of 3. A convenient number for travelling in a sport which does not dispose of enormous funds for despatching teams abroad. But small enough in all conscience, when we reflect that one "Superman" can win 3 out of the necessary 5 for his team's victory.

One may also have a little doubt about the method of deciding the women's team Championship of the World; played on "Davis Cup" lines of 4 singles and a doubles, this means that just one outstanding woman player can ensure victory for her country.

Has anyone any better scheme to suggest—always bearing in mind the practical factors of the problems? If they have, they will find the Congress of International Table Tennis Federation very eager listeners.

* * *

(M. Corbillon is the donor of the famous trophy bearing his name, awarded to the champion women's team of the world, and at present held by England.)

OUR COVER PICTURE

Miss Peggy Franks, of Walthamstow, popular blonde member of England's Corbillon Cup team. She has improved greatly this year, and may add to her record at Wembley.

MISS AMLEROVA REGRETS

Greetings to your World Championships and all who shall be playing—or working—in them. They are sure to be a great affair; I hear the whole tournament is to be held at the Wembley Empire Pool Arena.

No doubt the place will be sold out at least a month in advance; the English public seems to be enormously interested in table tennis. I wish we could say the same of ours, which mostly considers it only worth while coming when we play against foreigners.

I must remind the players to be careful against catching cold in the ice arena.

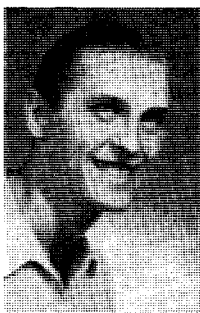
I hoped to let you have some gossip for your summer magazine but there is no table tennis in the C.S.R. at all during the summer, and where there's no play there's no gossip.

After a well-earned rest our players are hoping again for a good season, except for Slar who has been very ill and may have to avoid playing in future. Vana and Andreadis, being now in the Army, will have to obtain special leave for big affairs, but I think they will be allowed to travel to most national functions. Vana even may be allowed to make a tour of India, but I must emphasise that in all these trips the players will be first of all at the disposal of our Association for big international matches.

Next Generation

Surprising youngsters? Well, we have a lot of good young players though they do not find it easy to assert themselves against Vana & Co. I hope there will be some new Vana among them.

As for Vana, I think he certainly CAN win the World's Singles; but our hope is



LADISLAV STIPEK,
Czechoslovakia's lively "new recruit"

She's unable to come to Wembley this time, but the popular guide of last year's Czechoslovak team sends this friendly message.

simply that *he or some other of our players* will be lucky enough to win the Championship. I hope Johnny Leach will not resent this—you see we are a small nation and we all love our country dearly, so that we are not personally but *nationally* proud of any exceptional achievements of our fellow-countrymen.

Our Girls

The women's team? We are not so fortunate as you. It is not easy to say in advance who will be in the team—it is a headache for our captain. I put this down to war conditions. (That the Germans did not exactly promote Czech table tennis is shown by the fact that they did not even put Vana on the Europe ranking-list!) I am afraid we cannot fill this gap in a year or two.

Likeable London

And now my impressions of my last year's visit to London. I did not see much of the city but it was well worth seeing.

All the people we met were very kind and tried to make us feel at home; except for the food! We missed our national favourite dumplings. Even with much sugar brought from Prague I could not eat all my porridge up; and the tea you make—I thought they were giving me black coffee at Lime Grove!

I like the smooth running of your traffic and the discipline of your pedestrians; your Parliament and Westminster Abbey, and St. Paul's. Our own Hradcany Palace is better than your Royal Palace—but I believe Czech palaces and castles are a delicate subject with your touring players?

The ancient and shabby appearance of No. 10 Downing Street was a sort of shock to me, although the policeman told me it was spacious and comfortable enough inside. In fact all your houses seem less solidly built than ours; when the wind blew, walls were broken in our hotel and whitewash fell down upon us!

On our way to the women's Europe Cup match we even experienced one of your famous London fogs. (EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS WAS NOT ORGANISED BY THE E.T.T.A.!)

NORTHERNER'S

by STANLEY
PROFFITT

Swaythling Cup International

We're all singing the song of Wembley and wish the English team the very best in the New Year's struggle at the World Championships. Any fragment of information will be eagerly lapped up by those not so fortunate to be able to see the play. Therefore we aim to furnish you with all the details in this Magazine at the earliest possible moment. Disappointment is registered in some quarters that Eli Goodman wasn't invited down for the Swaythling Cup trials, in view of his showing in Paris and at Belle Vue. However, the foreign cracks are expected to enter for the combined North of England and Lancashire County "Open" at the Y.M.C.A. on 12/14th February, thus Eli has the opportunity to show his worth.

From College Chapel way there's another grouse. Harold Johnson, chosen for the County II team against Lincoln which was cancelled earlier in the season, has been omitted from the re-arranged fixture. They claim it is discouraging to young players having to stand down for no apparent reason. In answer I say if there has been a slip-up it may be due to the heavy task set before the officials in recent months. You as well as I must admit that, in this part of the country, at least, they are not unmindful of the need of new blood under ordinary circumstances.

"OVER TO
YOU,
TRINIDAD,
OVER!"



A blow to Northern table tennis circles comes with the news that Jack Thompson, match and tournament secretary of the Lancashire Association, has had to resign his position. Jack steps on a Trinidad boat in January to take

over a situation as Clerk of Works to a Development Company for a period of three years. If the climate is suitable he plans to settle out there; thus Lancashire's loss will be Trinidad's gain. Says Jack: "My thoughts will always be with you in your efforts to further English Table Tennis, and I thank all for the co-operation given in making my work light."

Mr. Thompson first became interested on the organisation side of the game in 1932 when, as general secretary of the Bury Y.M.C.A., an exhibition match took place. The late Mr. J. W. Swann, of the Manchester League, brought over a team of experts and henceforth the Bury League sprang into being with Jack as the founder, continuing in his activities until 1940, when the League closed down. After a period of war service as a Royal Engineers S/Sgt., he again put on the harness immediately on demobilisation alongside Bill Worsley and became vice-chairman of the Lancashire County Association, later taking up the post which he has recently vacated. At the English Championships Jack was in his element, beaming like a lighthouse in a sea of stationery. As a tribute to his efforts the committee have honoured him with a life membership of the Association. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Thompson "Bon Voyage" and lots of luck in their new-found nation.

Much regretted, too, is the loss of Mr. Eames from active service on the West Craven League front; due to working out of town. Through this column I'm requested to express the appreciation of his colleagues for the sterling quality of his work done in the past.

Few of the readers will have heard of this hive of enthusiasm where Barnoldswick (pronounced Bar'lick, if you please) is the central spot. A town situated in North Lancashire with a population of some 9,000 people. Originally founded under Barnoldswick and Earby League in 1933 by Sunday School institutes in these two cotton towns, it flourished in a minor sort of way and remained strictly aloof from the official bodies of the game until the outbreak of war put an

NOTE - BOOK

West Craven show the way
for "small-town" enterprise

end to its activities. During the war years Barnoldswick sprang to fame as the home of Rolls Royce jet-propelled aircraft; workers flocked into the district from the Midlands, among them many ardent table tennis lovers; to Earby came other new industries likewise.

When they settled down to reform the league in September, 1946, the officials grasped the opportunity thus presented and a typical example of the rapidly growing interest is that the organisation covers extensive areas around the Lancashire-Yorkshire border country, hence the name was changed to West Craven. Secretary Jack Parkinson (of whom more is going to be heard on the administration side) got together a nucleus of eight teams to commence a competitive League, rightly believing that progress could only come through affiliation to the National and County authorities. Last year they entered two teams in the Wilmott Cup, and had fixtures with Nelson and Burnley. Each visiting side left West Craven singing the praises of their hosts for the hospitality and welcome they had been given. But the great thing that put them on the table tennis map was a "Team-of-Three" competition in March when 21 teams scrambled through bad weather to get to this distant spot. Now the League extends down as far as Colne with eight new teams comprising two divisions. Three of the teams are made up of entirely Polish personnel employed by the local cotton mills.

"Our aim is to make standards and conditions first class," writes Mr. Parkinson, "and with this in mind we asked Jack Carrington along to give us a spot of coaching. Within a few minutes of Carrington commencing we found that previously our ideas had been entirely on the wrong track. Jack explained the grip, footwork and other essentials like a schoolmaster who knows his pupils and their limitations. The coaching was a marked success. We held it in two sessions: (1) privately for the youngest promising players; (2) spectators and older players were admitted so that they would reap the benefits."

Energetic League chairman Harry

Mitchell is apologetic in spite of all that has been accomplished. "This is only our first real season," he says. "We shall be well organised next winter."

That's the spirit, West Craven. **Keep it up!**

SOME OF THE MATCHES I SAW

CHESTER v. MANCHESTER
(Wilmott Cup) at Chester

Manchester, strong contenders for the Wilmott Cup, gained a 9-0 away victory in the second round tie on Monday, 15th December.

Against such a virile side, stimulated by eggs and chips en route, any team is liable to get a thrashing, and I heartily commend Chester for putting forth such a brave front.

Scores (Chester names first):—
W. Devine lost to Lurie 12-21, 8-21; lost to Miller 5-21, 17-21; lost to Cohen 18-21, 17-21, 21-17.
J. Devine lost to Lurie 7-21, 14-21; lost to Miller 16-21, 21-16, 14-21; lost to Cohen 5-21, 21-14, 19-21.
R. Smithson lost to Lurie 9-21, 21-19, 13-21; lost to Miller 9-21, 13-21; lost to Cohen 16-21, 12-21.

Journeying to Manchester the following night in opposition to the "B" team, Chester again stumbled in the Lancashire County sponsored inter-city fixture—this time 5-4.

Of the home team Colts, Arnold Shepherd, who recently defeated International A. G. Miller in a League match, confirmed the opinion that he is destined for higher honours. Attacking, where he is faulty, will have to be improved, and I should advise him to cut out a few "exhibition shots" when on defence.

Scores (Manchester names first):—
D. Shaw beat F. Dean 22-20, 21-14; beat W. Nield 21-14, 21-15.
B. Simons beat W. Nield 15-21, 21-19, 21-18; beat F. Dean 21-17, 21-19.
A. L. Shepherd lost to R. Smithson 16-21, 21-15, 19-21; beat J. Devine 14-21, 21-12, 21-14.
S. Woolfson lost to J. Devine 20-22, 21-9, 19-21; lost to R. Smithson 21-18, 19-21, 14-21.
S. Woolfson and A. L. Shepherd lost to W. Nield and J. Devine 13-21, 19-21.

**LADIES: LIVERPOOL v. BLACK-
POOL, at Liverpool, December 20th**

Liverpool, in the Ladies' Division of the Lancashire League against Blackpool at the Balfour Institute Headquarters, reversed their previous away defeat by a 5-4 victory. The visitors commenced well and won their first two games chiefly

(Continued overleaf)

Northerner's Notebook

(Continued)

by steady play of Peggy Allen, later extending the lead by 4-2. It was then that the Liverpool girls "stuck their toes in," and by means of good wins by Olive Dickinson and Bluey May in straight games, left Eileen Mansell and Kay Benson to fight it out. The latter took the first game, but by brilliant play Miss Mansell went on to take the set at 13.

Scores (Liverpool names first):—

Miss Mansell lost to Mrs. Allen 18-21, 20-22; beat Mrs. Bracewell 19-21, 21-18, 21-10; beat Miss Benson 17-21, 21-13, 21-13.

Mrs. Dickinson lost to Miss Benson 21-18, 18-21, 15-21; lost to Mrs. Allen 16-21, 18-21; beat Mrs. Bracewell 21-17, 21-17.

Miss K. May beat Mrs. Bracewell 21-11, 18-21, 15-21; lost to Miss Benson 15-21, 21-11, 19-21; beat Mrs. Allen 21-17, 21-17.

MANCHESTER v. LIVERPOOL (Rose Bowl Competition)

At the Social Club, Manchester, on 19th December, the home team passed into the third round tie of the Rose Bowl competition, with a 4-1 win.

Highlight was the last game between Mrs. Hardman (Beryl Marshall) and Miss Mansell. Only fair to say, at this stage, Manchester had already gained sufficient points for victory, thus Miss Mansell may have relaxed somewhat. Nevertheless, there were some grand rallies, which rounded off an enjoyable evening. Miss Rubins, top, exhibited an intelligent defence.

Scores (Manchester first):—

Mrs. Hardman beat Mrs. Dickinson 21-15, 21-10; beat Miss Mansell 21-13, 19-21, 21-19.

Miss Rubins lost to Miss Mansell 15-21, 21-23; beat Mrs. Dickinson 21-12, 16-21, 21-17.

Mrs. Hardman and Miss Wood beat Miss Mansell and Mrs. Dickinson 21-17, 21-19.

JUBILEE CUP

In connection with the World Table Tennis Championships being held 4th-11th February, 1948, at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, the English Table Tennis Association is organising a competition in celebration of the fact that it is now the 21st Anniversary of the first Championships, held in London in season 1926/1927.

This competition will be for a special Cup, i.e., the JUBILEE CUP, and entry will be open to all players who competed in the first Championships that were held. Some of the players of that day may be difficult to trace, but entries for it have been received from as far afield as Hungary and Czechoslovakia, and includes at least one lady—Mrs. D. E. Evans, now living in Kent, who in 1926/7 as Miss D. Gubbins was the runner-up in the first ladies' singles.

The Association would be glad to hear from any players, with whom they have lost touch, who may be qualified and see this announcement.

OUR FIRST EVER

Junior International

The English Junior team to play against Sweden, at the Wimbledon Y.M.C.A., 2nd February, will be the following:—

M. THORNHILL 16 (Middlesex) Junior Champion 1947/8.

BRIAN KENNEDY 16 (Yorkshire) who has won several senior competitions this year.

RON THOMPSON 17 (Yorkshire) who has represented his county in the senior team.

The Swedish team consists of:—

Bengt Ingemar NICANDER (18) of Norrkoeping. A tube-worker Swedish Junior Champion 1946, who is a club mate of Tage Flisberg the Swedish Champion and has done well in senior tournaments.

Nils Johan BERGSTROM (17) of Eskilstuna. Apprentice in a playing card printing works. Has won many local junior Tournaments and done well in senior ones. A keen handball player, and footballer. Lower School Certificate and speaks a little English.

Tore Arne PALM (16) of Karlstad. Clerk. District Junior Champion of Vaermland for three years running.

The team will be accompanied and captained by Allan Eriksson, Treasurer of the Swedish T.T.A.

The tour is arranged as follows:—

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE (West Bromwich and Wolverhampton) 19th-22nd January.

NOTTINGHAM, 22nd-26th January.

HASTINGS, 26th-30th January.

SURREY, 30th January-3rd February.

Following the tour, the Swedish Juniors will stay on and participate in the World Championships.

The selected Juniors and Miss Adele Wood 16 (Lancashire), the present girl Junior Champion (1947/8) will stay in London as guests of the E.T.T.A. throughout the Championships. They will compete in the events, practise with the senior teams and have an invaluable opportunity of acquiring first-class experience. The captaincy of the boys' team has been undertaken by Mr. T. E. Sears (Essex) the former England International, who will be in charge of them throughout.

The visiting boys will not only play matches with local Junior teams during the tour, but a programme of visits to schools, factories, local government and social institutions (Mayoral receptions, Y.M.C.A.'s, Boys' Clubs) has also been arranged.

The ENGLAND v. SWEDEN Junior International at Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. on the evening of 2nd February, is being organised by the Surrey Table Tennis Association (Hon. Secretary, L. A. Preston, 22, Digdons Rise, Epsom, Surrey) to whom applications for tickets should be directed.

THE OPEN-HAND SERVICE

Comment by

M. F. MOHTADI,

(Iran Champion)

The new service rule, which was adopted for all table tennis matches throughout the world by the International Table Tennis Federation after 1947 World Championships in Paris, does not seem to be welcomed by most British players. I was at the indoor sports stadium in Birmingham last month, where Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann were confidently winning their pre-final games in the "Birmingham Open Championships," and asked quite a number of competitors what they thought about the new service rule.

Almost all, or at least a great majority of them had the idea that the new type of service and placing the ball in the palm of the hand is very complicated and uneasy. I personally believe that the old method by which many points could be won merely on spin services was unfair and unjust. Anybody who has seen Pagliaro and Schiff's game at Wolverhampton last February (America v. Central England), or Soos, in the Swayth-

ling Cup matches in Paris would probably agree with my idea.

I can still exactly remember one when Goodman hopelessly and desperately shouted in the middle of his Swaythling Cup game against Soos, and asked Haydon (the English Captain) to do what he could in preventing Soos from using his spin service. He has surely got a better chance against the Hungarian in next year's championships.

A few years ago, when I was playing in the "Middle East" and "South of Persia" championships, arguments and complaints against the umpires by the British, Indian, Syrian and Czech players was quite a usual and unsurprising thing. With the exception of Yanks and Iranians, who obeyed this new service rule, which was then only accepted by the American T.T. Association and few other countries including Iran, all other players just would not agree and accept what they used to call "ridiculous rules"! It is nice to see this ridiculous rule being observed and obeyed by all now.

What is going to be the effect of this new service rule on the shortly coming 1948 World Championships? Whether Soos, Schiff or Paggy will discover new tricks in service even with existing rules, to use at Wembley, or not, I don't know. That remains to be seen.

With Pride and Confidence

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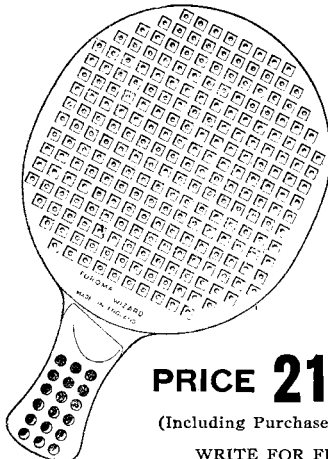
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THE WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

12-13th December, 1947

A crowd of some 1,500 watched the finals and were thrilled by some first-class table tennis. Other finals must inevitably pall when one reflects on the latest episode in the Bergmann-Leach serial, but the interest of the audience was well held throughout the evening. Richard, fresh from his triumph in the English Open and from his successful Irish tour, was in devastating form and never seemed in serious trouble in the first game against a Leach who, though a model of consistency in attack on both flanks, lacked that "bite" which a player must have in abundance to defeat a Bergmann—if more than one Bergmann is ever possible.

In the second game, however, Johnny was hitting the ball much more cleanly and, although behind all the way, made Richard work for his 21—18 victory. With the score 2—0 to Bergmann, and 12—5 to him in the third game, the result seemed inevitable, but Leach was not giving up his title lightly, and, continuing his attack, interspersed with delightful dropshots (three of which caught even Bergmann palpably on the wrong foot), levelled the score at 14—all, and for the rest of that game Richard could not hold him as he forged ahead to win comfortably 21—15. The fourth game again showed Johnny as slow starting, and again he was 12—5 down before he knew what was happening. But this man Leach does not seem to know when he is beaten and, incredible as it may seem, he repeated his performance of the third game to level up at 18—all, and to win 21—18! The atmosphere was now electric, for both men were playing wonderful table tennis, but there must have been a fuse in the atmosphere somewhere for Leach never really got going in the final set and Bergmann, mixing his defence beautifully with well timed counter attacks, romped home 21—10, to win a brilliant match and, as the President of the Welsh Association, Mr. Morgan R. Evans, declared whilst presenting the trophies, "**After such a match, Wales is proud to think that both these men have been her Champion.**"

The Ladies' Singles showed a most gratifying return to form of Dora Beregi, as popular with the Welsh crowds as she is with all others, and she thoroughly deserved her victory over Pinkie Barnes in the Ladies' Final. Pinkie had, in the

semi-final, provided the shock of the event by defeating Helen Elliot after a great struggle in which a spasm of terrific attack in the final game just turned the scale for Pinkie.

* * *

The match of the tournament was in the semi-final of the Mixed, when Jack Carrington and Helen Elliot defeated Johnny Leach and Pinkie Barnes 23—21, 27—29, 21—19. This match had everything—and, whilst it would be invidious to single out any one player since all played so wonderfully, with a little less experienced man against them, Leach and Barnes must have won.

* * *

A most unfortunate accident almost prevented the Men's Doubles final being played for, after his singles battle with Bergmann, Johnny Leach had the extreme misfortune to trip over a bench and twisted his right thumb. A doctor in the audience very kindly gave assistance and sadly informed Johnny that he had broken a thumb-bone. Nevertheless, the Essex player insisted upon playing the doubles final, despite the protests of organisers, partner and friends, and after having the offending thumb securely strapped, play he did, to win yet another title for the Leach-Carrington combination at the expense of Bergmann and Geoff. Harrower.

Two West Country players in Ron Litten and Aubrey Simons played extremely well, both individually and together, in the doubles when they made Leach and Carrington fight for their semi-final victory. Ron took the middle game from Bergmann in the 4th round of the singles, and Aubrey reached the semi-final, only to fall to Bergmann.

Jacky Head, of London, and Miss A. G. Bates, of Cardiff, also put up good performances, the former defeating Geoff. Harrower in two straight games, and the latter in eliminating Betty Steventon.

Sincere thanks for a grand tournament must be given to all the Welsh officials, particularly Mr. and Mrs. H. Roy Evans who were so very hospitable to their English visitors, and even bore up under the strain of a North v. South argument at 2.30 on the Sunday morning! Thank you, Wales, for a grand week-end and a wonderful tournament.

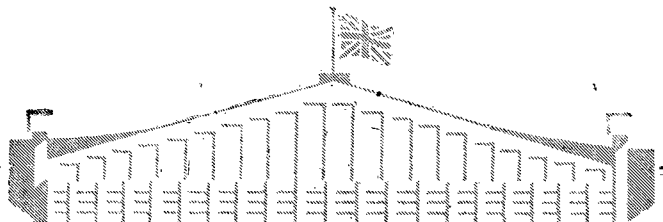
J. SOMERVILLE.

Finals Scores

R. Bergmann beat J. Leach 21—13, 21—18, 17—21, 15—21, 21—11; Miss D. Beregi beat Miss L. M. Barnes 21—17, 21—11; Miss Beregi and Miss Barnes beat Miss H. Elliot and Miss B. Steventon 18—21, 21—12, 21—14; Bergmann and Miss Beregi beat J. Carrington and Miss Elliott 16—21, 21—14, 21—12; Leach and Carrington beat Bergmann and G. Harrower 21—13, 20—22, 21—17.

All Set For The Jubilee "Worlds"

(21st ANNIVERSARY YEAR)



WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
FOR ONE WEEK

Wednesday, February 4th to 11th, 1948
Every Evening (except Thursday) at 7 p.m.
Also Saturday Afternoon at 2 p.m.

Reserved Seats 21/-, 10/6, 7/6, 6/- (All 3/6 sold)
Day Sessions 9.30 to 5.30 p.m.; Sat. 9.30 to 1 p.m.
Pay at turnstiles 10/6 and 3/6.

Series Ticket, admitting to all sessions, 25/-.

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SWAYTHLING CUP

(Men's teams of 3)
(Holders: Czechoslovakia)

Twenty-five national teams have been split into the following 4 groups:—

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>A</p> <p>FRANCE.
ARGENTINE.
TRINIDAD.
DENMARK.
PORTUGAL.
IRELAND.</p> <p>B</p> <p>U.S.A.
HUNGARY.
ENGLAND.
SWEDEN.
JERSEY.
INDIA.</p> | <p>C</p> <p>CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
GREECE.
EGYPT.
SCOTLAND.
NORWAY.
WALES.</p> <p>D</p> <p>AUSTRIA.
JUGOSLAVIA.
LUXEMBOURG.
ITALY.
HOLLAND.
BELGIUM.
PALESTINE.</p> |
|--|--|

Notes

The first-named in each group is a "seeded" entry.

Group members will play in league fashion, all-play-all.

The four group winners will play a knock-out contest to decide the event.

It does not need lengthy inspection to decide that Group B, in which England is placed, will provide the hardest competition of all. However, with Bergmann and Barna to strengthen our team, we should be favourites to reach the knock-out stage.

CORBILION CUP

(Women's teams of 2 to 4 players, playing 4 singles and 1 doubles)
(Holders: England)

Sixteen national teams have been split into these groups:—

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>ENGLAND.
U.S.A.
SCOTLAND.
JERSEY.
WALES.
AUSTRIA.
BELGIUM.
ROUMANIA.</p> | <p>2</p> <p>HUNGARY.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
FRANCE.
SWEDEN.
LUXEMBOURG.
IRELAND.
EGYPT.
HOLLAND.</p> |
|---|--|

Notes

The first-named in each group is a "seeded" entry.

Group members all-play-all.

The 2 group winners play a Final Match to decide the event.

In Group 1, Austria, Roumania and U.S.A. all represent important opposition to our girls. Nor must Scotland be overlooked in the light of Helen Elliot's great improvement and the determined support given by Mrs. Norrie. Only Hungary and Czechoslovakia can be considered in Group 2. Either of these will make a tremendous challenge in the Final.

Somehow the prodigious labours of Messrs. Pope, Montagu, Rose, Vint, Harrower, Corti Woodcock and Mortlake Mann are forming into the familiar shape of a **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**.

Here we have named but the chief architects of this ultra-modern and rather daring "skyscraper" which is being built by the *E.T.T.A.* to celebrate both the post-war re-birth of the game and the 21st birthday of the Championships.

Behind the scenes are these others like Lewis, Kempster, Keating, etc., who out of loyalty to these leaders and love of the game are creating order out of confusion and a memorable sporting occasion out of a mass of meetings and correspondence.

Zero hour for Morris Rose, who has to prepare the Wembley playing schedule, timed to the minute, was the afternoon of 13th January, when the "World's Draw" was made at the Dorchester Hotel, London, in the presence of representatives of most interested bodies.

Looking at the items briefly mentioned below, we feel inclined to suggest that the Referee should enlist the help of the man who works out the railway time-tables in "Bradshaw"!

All necessary information for spectators will be included in the handsome Souvenir Programme which is now being prepared under the editorship of Bill Parker, of Ilford.

Meanwhile here are a few dishes from the Wembley menu—just in case your appetite needs sharpening:—

MEN'S SINGLES

One hundred and twenty-eight are in the 1st round proper; some 80 others (including all non-international English players except a few) will play for places in the qualifying rounds. The luck of the draw gives us the following fancied candidates in their "quarters":—

1st Quarter: **Bergmann, Reisman, Marinko, Soos, Flisberg.**

2nd Quarter: **Andreadis, Haguenaer, Barna, Garrett Nash, Czilik, Finklestein, Stipek.**

3rd Quarter: **Vana, Sido, Miles, Bublej.**
4th Quarter: **Leach, Koczian, Tokar, Bordrez, Dubouillé.**

Needle match of the 1st round is undoubtedly Leach v. Koczian. If Johnny can turn the tables on his Belle Vue conqueror, he should meet **Amouretti** in the quarter-final.

Dark horses are: **Martin Reisman**, the 17-year-old U.S.A. newcomer. Already champion of Canada, he is reckoned to be even more promising than Richard Miles. **Czilik**, a new Hungarian who has beaten Sido and is treading on the heels of the big Continental aces. **Garrett Nash**, also of U.S.A. During the war he beat Bergmann in a challenge match, and much will depend on his reaction to the open-hand service rule.

Of especial English interest is the 1st round meeting of **Dennis Miller**, our newest international, with the clever northerner **Eli Goodman**.

Sharman also may put **Bordrez**, of France, out of the running at the first fence.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Stars are fairly well spaced out in the top half, with **Trudi Putzi**, Austrian ex-World Champion, likely to challenge Vera Dace for the 1st quarter.

Our own **Peggy Franks** has a chance of reaching the semi-final if she can overcome the American **Thelma Thal**. But here **Pinkie Barnes** may help her, because Pinkie meets Thelma in the very first round.

In the bottom half of the draw we have a "hum-dinger" right away: **Dora Beregi** versus **Gizi Farkas**. Dora's fierce left-handed attack may unsettle the holder at this early stage of the tournament.

Kettenerova (an ex-winner) and **Roseanu**, a formidable Roumanian player, provide the chief opposition in the last quarter of the draw to **Helen Elliot**, the Scottish lassie, whose success would give us almost as much satisfaction as an English victory.

DOUBLES EVENTS

The pairings have a way of evening up the strengths, so there must be many possible finalists in these events, and many terrific matches in the rounds.

The English seedings, **Bergmann—Barna** and **Leach—Carrington**, are in opposite halves and we wish them luck. But the latter finds **Andreadis** and his Czech partner **Turk** facing them in the first round, with **Haguenaer—Dubouillé** and

"All Set for Wembley"

(Continued)

Sido—Koczian also too near for comfort. By contrast, **Bergmann—Barna** have an "easier" way to the semi-final, in which they should meet the "lightning men," **Vana—Stipek**.

There are, of course, many other exciting meetings, too numerous to mention here. In fact we may not even have mentioned the winners' names at all!

Who knows what this great week at Wembley will bring forth? The table tennis public is in a mood for something new to break. Will it be a new champion? Or a new technique in playing, brought to us perhaps from Portugal, New Zealand, the Argentine, or U.S.A.?

Perhaps a little of everything, and certainly a hatful of unexpected triumphs and tumbles. *Table Tennis* will be here in February to tell you about them, but there's nothing to beat "seeing it happen."

Make sure that you, too, will be able to tell your club-mates for the next 5 years—or maybe 50

"I WAS THERE... AT THE JUBILEE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS."

ENGLAND'S REPRESENTATIVES

After the final trials (reported in this number), the England teams were announced as follows:—

SWAYTHLING CUP:

R. Bergmann (London).
G. V. Barna (Middlesex).
J. A. Leach (Essex).
E. Bublely (London).
R. Sharman (Surrey).

Reserves:

A. Simmons (Bristol), and
K. Stanley (Manchester).

Captain (non-playing):

A. A. Haydon (Birmingham).

CORBILLON CUP:

Mrs. V. S. Thomas (Surrey).
Miss M. E. Franks (Middx.).
Miss D. Beregi (Exeter).
Miss E. Steventon (Notts).

Reserves:

Miss L. R. Barnes (Surrey), and
Miss J. Mackay (B'ham).

Captain (non-playing):

Mrs. M. Knott (B'ham).

Seeded Entries in the Championships:

Men's Singles—**Bergmann, Barna, Leach, Bublely**.

Women's Singles — **Thomas, Franks, Beregi, Steventon**.

Men's Doubles—**Bergmann-Barna, Leach-Carrington**.

Women's Doubles — **Thomas-Franks, Knott-Mackay**.

Mixed Doubles—**Leach-Thomas, Barna Franks**.

Not a Bad(ge) Idea

You have often seen players proudly wearing their international, county, or inter-town badges on their shirts—and rightly so. (In at least one league the lady champion has been known to decorate her chest with the actual medals won in the individual championships of the league.)

By these standards a World Champion ought to be decorated like a maypole. Of course, they are not—because no badge is issued to signify the great honour.

A supporter of Richard Bergmann apparently thought this was all wrong and proceeded to invent a



special "World Champion's" badge for him! Bergmann, always a lad for new ideas, expressed himself pleased with the badge; he allowed me to sketch it, but would not say whether it had brought him luck. S.D.

Among other interesting personalities who will be on view at Wembley are:—

Russell Aigle, champion of New Zealand who is "working his passage" here to play in the tournament.

Vanova (Mrs. Vana), wife of the present World Champion. She is to partner

Benny Casofsky in the Mixed Doubles.

George Levandis, a Greek Air Force pilot, who leads the first Greek team ever to take part.

Max Marinko, the Slav giant, who is the last wooden-bat exponent of World Class.

FUTURE EVENTS

Feb. 12th to 14th: North of England Open (at Manchester).

Feb. 21st: Surrey Open (at Croydon).

Feb. 28th (Finals): Midland Open (at Birmingham).

March 6th (Finals): West of England Open (at Bristol).

Through a

WESTERN WINDOW

by

E. F. CHRISTOPHER

*(President Bristol & District
Table Tennis Association)*

The Bristol and District Table Tennis Association is now going from strength to strength with a present membership of about 700 registered players.

The inter-town matches of the Western Counties League, in which we have three teams, one First Division (Men), one Second Division (Men) and one in the Women's Section, regularly draw big crowds of spectators, especially when old rivals such as Cardiff, Newport and Birmingham are met. It is appreciated that the support of the public is essential if a League is to pay its way.

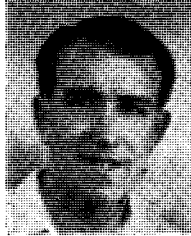
We are also lucky in the fact that local newspapers continue their interest in our activities, although space is so limited.

Bristol has entered the Second Division team in the Western Counties League in an effort to discover and encourage young players, but up to the present it is the older and established player who still holds his place in the first team. Two young boys of whom great things are expected are G. Mattock and W. F. Bruton. The former, who is 17 years of age, recently won the Bristol "Closed" Junior Championship, and has so far not lost a Bristol league game this season, in Division II. Like so many young players, it is only experience they lack, being rather awed by the big occasion, and rather lacking in deciding the moment when a little steady defence is warranted. Perhaps this is a good fault, as we do not ever want to return to the "stone-walling" days.

Of the older Bristol players, Aubrey Simons is still by far the best, and we were delighted that the E.T.T.A. gave him his "cap" against Scotland a few months ago. Although meeting several International players last season, he was unbeaten in the Western Counties League.

Players such as Cliff. Pickett, Charlie Dawes and Douglas Shipton are still playing well, although Anno Domini is perhaps beginning to take its toll. Great credit is due to such players who have always been an asset to the game, and can always be relied upon to give of their

best. Fred Hipkins is another who, although out of the first team at present, has for many years given time and energy to table tennis.



RON LITTEN,
the Exeter International,
especially good in
doubles play

Watching H. Buse, the Somerset County Cricketer, playing for Bath table tennis team the other evening caused me to think of the many players who seem to excel at all games.

In Bristol we have such players as Basil Bucknell and "Tony" Hodge, who are in the first ranks at lawn tennis, whilst Fred Hipkins is a fine bowler at cricket and can make a good break at billiards. Aubrey Simons has played cricket for Gloucestershire Second Eleven. Amongst the ladies there is Miss E. L. Mason, a fine performer at lawn and table tennis.

Thinking of the ladies, I cannot understand why the game, from a playing standpoint, does not attract more of them. After all, it does give them an opportunity to win a "love" game, if nothing else.

The World Championships will soon be here and my main desire is to see a few of the younger players get near the finals. Let us hope they may be British.

A GOOD SIXPENNYWORTH ?

Twenty pages of "TABLE TENNIS" this month, and 20 pages next month—including detailed World Championship reports.

Why not reserve your personal copy ?
Send 2s. 11d. for the issues February/June, 1948, to :—

"TABLE TENNIS,"
Guardian House,
Forest Road, London, E.17.

ODD

SHOTS



by "The Umpire"

Back from his tour of duty in Palestine, and now demobbed from the R.A.F., is **JOHNNY SOMERVILLE**, of Leeds, one of Yorkshire's bright young hopes just before the war.

Although needing some months' hard practice before he may do justice to his earlier form, Johnny's terrific enthusiasm will have an immediate tonic effect on Yorkshire's rising tide of table tennis activity.

Stylish on the table, he is also a stylish writer. His report on the Welsh Open Championships appears in our columns this month.

Having sent his entry in for the Central London Open, he reached Malta on the homeward trek in good time, only to fall victim to some "red tape" formality which took him back to the dusty land, to plod home by sea, just too late to play in the Welsh Open. Johnny asks us to give warning to all tournament organisers that from now on, when he enters he really is going to play. What's more, he says, he warns the Southern players that he intends to bring young Brian Kennedy with him as often as possible, to give the 16-year-older plenty of experience.

* * *

In the process of winning the Open Men's Singles at Pontefract last month. Kennedy accounted for the County players Mitton, Whiteley, Long and R. Thompson, all in straight sets, which suggests that Junior Champion Thornhill will have a strenuous competition all the way in the race towards International status.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES?

Entry form for the Kent Open tournament contained the following pathetic "Special Note"—

"... it will be appreciated if each player will endeavour to bring one 'Villa' ball in case of emergency."

This reminds me of the following true tale from a recent big tournament: a "3-star" well-known championship ball disappeared among the crowd's legs and

was returned in the usual anonymous fashion. After a few more points, inspection disclosed that the players were now playing with an equally well-known ball of the "fivepenny" class!

Intending to reprove somebody sternly, the umpire approached the crowd after the match... but he was forestalled.

A youth brought up to him the 3-star ball, with the classic comment: "May I have my '—' ball back, please? I can't play with this kind."

NEWPORT & DIST. T.T.L. extend a hearty welcome to all players to compete in the Newport Open Championships on 28th February. Entry forms and details from: Mr. G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon.

Miss Eileen McBryde, the Newcastle girl who won the English Consolation Singles at Lime Grove last year, has now retired from the A.T.S. to become Mrs. K. Adams, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

Eileen, who is a hockey player of international class, hopes to take part in the game locally, and with more practice should make her mark in tournaments this year.

"TWENTY-ONE UP"

Under this intriguing title the Manchester and District T.T. League has published an attractive little booklet to celebrate the 21st anniversary of its foundation on 5th December, 1927.

Articles by the famous players Proffitt, Cooke, Cromwell and L. Cohen, and organisers Livingstone, Harry Jones, Leslie Jones, and E.T.T.A. President Oldroyd, bring home to us the important contribution made by Manchester to the development and playing standard in these 21 years.

Remarkable fact is that all except one of the contributors mentioned has been closely connected with the League over the entire period.

Another who comes into this category is Arthur Waite, old international player who now edits "Table Tennis Review." Arthur wittily pictures the Manchester v. London match of 1976, when the height

of the net has been changed 7 times, each time downwards, until it stands at 4½ inches!

Tables, however, have not changed at all; in fact the match is played on a 1938 model, all later ones having been exported.

The "Spin Service" problem has been solved, says Arthur, by the introduction of a neutral server, who serves for both players impartially!

Around the table, watching Millar, Casofsky and the rest beating (but of course) the London team with ease, sit the stars of the Liverpool clubs, who now belong to the Greater Manchester League.

Surely Uncle Arthur has slipped up there? He must know that by 1976 Manchester, Greater and Lesser, will be merely an extension of the North Middlesex League?

("Twenty-One Up" may be obtained from Mr. L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Manchester, 19, price 6d., or post free 7d.)

WESTERN COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

MEN'S SECTION

Division 1

Results :-

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

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Cardiff	5	4	1	8
Bristol	5	4	1	8
Newport	4	3	1	6
Birmingham	5	3	2	6
Exeter	6	3	3	6
Worcester	6	1	5	2
Gloucester	5	0	5	0

Division 2

Results :-

Cheltenham 6, Bristol 3; Weston 8, Forest of Dean 1; Swindon 5, Oxford 4; Bath 4, Cheltenham 5; Bristol 4, Weston 5; Forest of Dean 0, Swindon 9; Bath 6, Weston 3.

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

WOMEN'S SECTION

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

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

On the same evening that Cardiff men beat Birmingham men by 6-3, the Birmingham ladies brought some consolation to the Midlands by exactly reversing the score against the Cardiff ladies.

Birmingham ladies also recorded a very creditable win against Bristol by 5-4. The match was not decided until the last singles, when Mrs. V. Brain beat Mrs. M. Pickett -17 in the 3rd game.

SEEING STARS!

A Reader writes:—

At Wembley, last year, my companion and I observed a strange effect. As the ball travelled back and forth it assumed in the bright light a distinct "star" shape with four bright points instead of the natural round shape.

Now I have heard of a lawn tennis ball becoming temporarily oval after a heavily spun stroke, but this was something very new.

Did anyone else notice this effect and how is it explained?

(Miss) E. COOPER.

We have made a few enquiries about this.

The Wembley Pool authorities tell us they provided as usual 20,000 candle-power over the table.

Mr. Decker, in charge of all equipment, is quite sure he handed out balls of the conventional spherical design.

Players who took part in the matches mentioned a certain amount of dazzle effect as the ball travelled along, but nothing of a star effect.

Perhaps our correspondent was the victim of auto-suggestion. She went to Wembley to see the "stars" and saw one too many! Anyway, there will be plenty of people at Wembley from 4th to 11th February and no doubt they will keep a sharp look-out for this phenomenon. We shall be glad to receive reports—but please, *NO Flying Saucers!*

ONE MAN'S MEAT . . . ?

A club in the Home Counties recently decided to offer hospitality to some of the German prisoners of war working in that area. The players turned out to be quite strong and very appreciative of the games.

Not so the British Tommy compelled by the regulations to accompany the prisoners. He was afterwards overheard telling his sergeant, "Had to sit and watch blinking ping-pong all evening; anyone would think we'd lost the — war!"

THE METROPOLITAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Incorporating the Final Trials Session)

by "INKSPOT"

This tournament was already established as an annual favourite, owing to the good conditions possible in the Polytechnic Annexe, and to the fact that it falls nicely into the Christmas break in the league programmes.

This time, however, the cheery holiday atmosphere was considerably livened up by the request of the International Selection Committee that organiser Jack Kurzman invite all candidates for Swaythling and Corbillon Cup to enter.

Thus, not only was there keen play throughout the rounds, but the same venue was used on the Saturday morning to play off various additional matches required by the Selectors for trial purposes.

So much good play took place that it is impossible to do justice to all in this space. Practically none of the fancied candidates failed; on the whole they did what they were expected to do, and only deuce games and "nineteens" separated winners from losers.

Final team decisions are reported elsewhere; the key scores are given here:—

Semi-finals—Men :

K. Stanley beat R. Crayden 21—13, 21—18.

E. Bublely beat R. Sharman 21—14, 21—11.

Semi-finals—Women :

Mrs. V. Thomas beat Mrs. D. Devenny 21—16, 22—20.

Miss M. Franks beat Miss E. Steventon

FINALS :

M.S.—E. Bublely beat K. Stanley 21—17, 21—19.

W.S.—Mrs. Thomas beat Miss Franks 22—24, 21—13, 21—14.

M.D.—G. Barna and G. Harrower beat A. Simons and R. Litten 21—11, 21—23, 21—19.

W.D.—Miss Franks and Mrs. Thomas beat Miss Mace and Mrs. Devenny 21—14, 21—9.

X.D.—J. Carrington and Mrs. Thomas beat K. Stanley and Miss Beregl 21—18, 17—21, 21—16.

In a splendid semi-final match, Litten and Simons recovered to win after losing 1st game and being 16—20 down in the 2nd! Beamish and W. Hall did well to take a game from Barna and Harrower. Most improved player on view was undoubtedly Jean Mackay, of Birmingham. She only lost at deuce in the 3rd to Peggy Franks, and supported brother Bobby so well in the Mixed that they reached 20 against Barna and Betty Steventon in the 2nd game.

Crayden beat Litten in the tournament, only to lose the revenge match in the trials next morning.

Another "turn-over" was between Stanley and Bublely. The Manchester lad, showing really encouraging signs of class in his play, mastered the Manhattan star in the morning trials match, but in the tournament final the same evening Bublely seemed to have learned how to bottle up the flowing attacking strokes of his young challenger.

Not-so-simple Simons

Aubrey Simons was a strange mixture. He appeared to be easily confused by the defensive tactics of Ron Sharman in the Friday tournament meeting; although he only lost —19 and —20, he gave a disappointing impression.

His temperament again seemed unequal to the demands in his trials matches versus Stanley and Bublely, the key games in each instance being lost at 19.

Then, as though he had decided that he had nothing further to lose, the West Country champion revealed an "atomic" burst of form, and produced a result which must surely be historic. . . . Simons actually beat Barna and Bergmann within 20 minutes of each other!

It is possibly true that neither of these great men had quite captured the "trials" atmosphere, being already automatically selected, but the sheer technical achievement of Simons, following three poorish defeats, is almost unbelievable.

Even eye-witnesses feel that they have to keep looking at their written scores to credit this performance.

Bublely Back to Form

Barna himself had already that morning been completely out-generalled by Bublely. **So Barna lost two matches to English-born players in one session!**

But wait . . . there is more startling news to come. Barna moved along to what seemed the slowest table in the hall, and yet proceeded to beat Bergmann 2—1.

Thus not only Barna, but also the other "automatic" choice Bergmann, lost two matches in one session!

Our 3rd automatic, Johnny Leach, sat on the safe side of Decker's green surrounds, nursing his plastered thumb—and his thoughts!

Sharman the Sure Man

Ron Sharman, patient as ever, having worn down Simons, bluffed the almost-as-patient Miller out of his 2nd game lead of 19—16 and won by 21—17, 23—21, in the tournament quarter-final. Equally patient in the trials matches, he improved his normal play in respect of speed, stamina and finding openings for a well-placed backhand flick, to produce the

THE SELECTORS *That's* LACKED VISION! *JACK KURZMAN'S* *Opinion. Do you agree?*

The teams to represent England in the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups have been announced and we, having congratulated the fortunate ones and offered our consolation to those who narrowly missed being included, can now sit back and consider whether the selections are the best that could have been made taking all things into consideration.

We might at this stage consider what are the duties of a Selection Committee. I feel it is not only to endeavour to turn out a winning team but also to try and provide experience under the exacting conditions of International play for those who may be called upon to represent their country in the near future. I make my criticisms on the score that all the selections are of old tried players.

Let us deal with the men first. It will be accepted by everybody that Barna,

Bergmann and Leach are our best three players and that they must represent us in the key matches. In some of the matches against weaker countries it would no doubt be advisable to rest our leading players in turn and to take their place one must have a player who is solid and reliable. Such a player is Bublely and such a player is Sharman and there is good reason to include one of them.

MY CHOICE

But why both? For myself I would have preferred to give the fifth place to a player who would benefit most from the experience in the highest company, and I think that player is Aubrey Simons of Bristol. He has all the strokes, and we must not overlook the fact that in the last trial he beat both Barna and Bergmann, which is proof enough of his ability. Coming as he does from Bristol his opportunities of practice against leading players are very limited and I feel that given the opportunity in this year's Swaythling Cup team his place next year would be assured.

ANOTHER CHANCE LOST

There is the same story to tell in the selection of the women's team. Here Peggy Franks and Vera Thomas will no doubt play the singles in the key matches, in all probability the doubles as well. As a third player to rest them we have several of equal merit and I have no quarrel with the decision of the selectors to include Beregi and Steventon. But if our key matches are to revolve around two players why not, against the weaker countries, give our most promising youngster Jean McKay an opportunity of valuable experience for the coming years?

To sum up, then, the selectors have chosen possibly the best players we can put out, but they have given no heed to the future and in view of the fact that they have such strong leading players in both teams they had an opportunity that does not present itself every year, to encourage promising players.

I would not like my readers to deduce from this article that I favour the inclusion of Beregi, Barna and Bergmann in our Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams. Most definitely I do not, but then that is another story.

Metropolitan Semi-Final Trials

—continued

fine results listed below. In the tournament semi-final Ernie Bublely underlined the weak spot in Sharman's otherwise excellent play—the lack of an aggressive first-time hit.

Results of the Trials Session:—

- E. BUBLELY (London) beat Barna 21—6, 24—26, 21—11; beat Simons 21—19, 21—19; beat Crayden 21—17, 21—12; lost to Stanley 17—21, 15—21.
- K. STANLEY (Manchester) beat Bublely 21—17, 21—15; beat Simons 21—11, 14—21, 21—19; lost to Sharman 19—21, 21—18, 16—21; lost to Sharman (2nd meeting) 14—21, 15—21.
- R. SHARMAN (Surrey) beat Litten 21—12, 21—16; beat Stanley 21—19, 18—21, 21—16; beat Stanley (2nd meeting) 21—14, 21—15; beat Carrington 14—21, 21—11, 21—18.
- G. V. BARNA (Middlesex) beat Bergmann 21—12, 22—20; lost to Bublely 6—21, 26—24, 11—21; lost to Simons 17—21, 23—21, 19—21.
- R. BERGMANN (London) lost to Barna 12—21, 20—22; lost to Simons 17—21, 14—21.
- A. SIMONS (Bristol) beat Barna 21—17, 21—23, 21—19; beat Bergmann 21—17, 21—14; lost to Stanley 11—21, 21—14, 19—21; lost to Bublely 19—21, 19—21.
- J. CARRINGTON (Essex) beat Miller 17—21, 21—17, 21—16; beat Marsh 19—21, 21—18, 21—14; lost to Sharman 21—14, 11—21, 18—21.
- R. LITTEN (Exeter) beat Crayden 21—11, 21—15; beat Miller 21—13, 21—13; lost to Marsh 17—21, 21—19, 20—22; lost to Sharman 12—21, 16—21.
- D. MILLER (Essex) lost to Carrington 21—17, 17—21, 16—21; lost to Litten 13—21, 13—21.
- R. CRAYDEN (Surrey) lost to Litten 11—21, 15—21; lost to Bublely 17—21, 12—21.
- E. MARSH (Middlesex) beat Litten 21—17, 19—21, 22—20; lost to Carrington 21—19, 18—21, 14—21, 22—20.

CENTRAL LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

1st—6th December, 1947

By S. H. KEMPSTER

The Central London Open proved once again how far Johnny Leach is ahead of the rest of the English-born players. Ron Litten, who had earlier accounted for Eric Marsh, fought hard in the semi-final but could make little impression on our No. 1 player, who in the final completely out-generalled Ernie Bublely, and was superior in every department of the game. However, the most exciting singles match was in the third round, when young Denis Miller put up a brilliant performance against Bublely. By steady top-spin to the forehand he had the Swaythling cup player completely bottled up and it was only Ernie's great fighting spirit that enabled him to win the match in the third game at 26—24.

Brian Brumwell continued his recent improvement by disposing of Crayden 2—0, but could not produce the same form against Bublely. R. Hook added to his reputation as a "giant killer" by beating Sharman, but lost to Brumwell in the quarter-final.

The biggest surprise of the whole tournament came in the semi-final of the Men's Doubles when Carrington and Leach were defeated by Crayden and Merrett at 22—20, in the third game after the champions had led 16—7, 19—11 and 20—15! This was the first time in three years that they had been beaten by an English pair. In the final Crayden and Merrett, after winning the first two games, fell to the unusual combination of Miller and Beamish. For most of the match Miller outshone his younger partner, but in the final game it was Beamish's hits that won the points.

The Ladies' Singles saw the complete eclipse of the Internationals. Vi Patterson lost to Doris Rivett, while "Pinkie" Barnes fell to Gwen Mace, who went on to score a great victory over Dora Beregi in a rather hit or miss final. On her form in this tournament Gwen deserved the title.

* * *

The Junior Singles attracted a record entry of 71, but Thornhill and Beamish both reached the finals without dropping a game. Here Thornhill's superior footwork and temperament left him a fairly comfortable winner. A quarter-final surprise was the comfortable defeat of Appleby, last year's national junior finalist, by A. E. Older. Other juniors who showed promise were D. V. Kallend, B. Garrad, G. V. Hogg and B. Sheppard.

Finals Session. Scores:—

Men's Singles

Semi-Finals—E. Bublely beat B. Brumwell 21—7, 21—7; J. Leach beat R. Litten 21—15, 21—13.

Final—J. Leach beat E. Bublely 21—10, 21—12, 21—13.

Men's Doubles

K. H. Beamish and D. A. Miller beat R. Crayden and K. Merrett 7—21, 16—21, 21—9, 21—18, 21—19.

Men's Consolation Singles

K. Hurlock beat G. McCullagh 21—17, 19—21, 21—9.

Junior Singles

M. H. Thornhill beat K. H. Beamish 21—9, 21—10.

Ladies' Singles

G. Mace beat D. Beregi 24—22, 21—16.

Ladies' Doubles

D. Rivett and B. Wilkinson beat L. R. Barnes and V. Patterson 21—17, 13—21, 21—15.

Mixed Doubles

R. Litten and Miss D. Beregi beat D. A. Miller and Miss D. Rivett 21—17, 21—16.

RECORDING ANGELS

Typical of the great band of voluntary officials are Miss JUNE CLARK and Miss EILEEN BENSTEAD, here seen recording scores at the "Central London"



SCORE BOOK

NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Northern Division

NORTHUMBERLAND v. LINCOLNSHIRE

Northumberland gained what appeared to be a comfortable win by 6 ties to 3 over Lincolnshire in Newcastle in the Northern Division of the County Championships, but it was a keener duel than the scores indicate.

On this occasion it was the men rather than the women who were responsible for the home team's success, for the latter were not as convincing as previously and did not produce the sparkling form shown in their defeat of Grimsby by 5-0 in the recent J. M. Rose Bowl match.

The outstanding personality was Hall, of Grimsby and Lincolnshire, who was never in difficulties and his greater experience gained him his two games. Kertzman the home No. 3 was much improved and Hewitt was his usual consistent self.

Merryweather, of Lincoln, was rather patchy, serving up some delightful play, then for some unaccountable reason nullifying his advantage by some indifferent play. Wrona, the other Lincoln man, was always entertaining but rather carefree, and appeared to be lacking in the necessary concentration.

Mrs. Lammin, of Grimsby, gained an unexpected win over Miss D. Smith, thus reversing the result of their earlier meeting. In the Women's Doubles the Lincoln pair, Mrs. Lammin and Mrs. Isaacs, were rather unfortunate to lose a three set game to Mrs. Waugh and Miss J. Purves, especially with Mrs. Isaacs playing up to the standard of her partner.

Individual scores (Northumberland first):—
Punshon beat Merryweather 21-17, 21-10.

Lost to Hall 9-21, 15-21.
Hewitt lost to Hall 16-21, 21-17, 15-21.

Beat Wrona 21-16, 15-21, 21-17.
Kertzman beat Wrona 21-16, 21-18.

Beat Merryweather 21-19, 13-21, 21-18.
Miss Smith lost to Mrs. Lammin 21-17,

23-25, 15-21.
Mrs. Waugh and Miss Purves beat Mrs. Lammin

and Mrs. Isaacs 18-21, 23-21, 21-18.
Hewitt and Miss Purves beat Wrona and Mrs.

Lammin 22-20, 21-15.

Warwickshire 7, Yorkshire 2

M. Kriss lost to G. Mitton 13-21, 21-14, 18-21.

R. Mackay beat R. Thompson 13-21, 21-16, 21-17.

W. Poole and W. Hall beat B. Kennedy and R. Thompson 21-14, 17-21, 21-14.

W. Poole beat B. Kennedy 21-13, 21-11.
Miss J. Mackay beat Miss N. Senior 21-18,

16-21, 21-15.
M. Kriss beat R. Thompson 17-21, 21-13,

21-16.
R. Mackay and Miss J. Mackay beat G. Mitton

and Miss N. Senior 21-15, 22-20.
W. Poole lost to G. Mitton 16-21, 16-21.

R. Mackay beat B. Kenedy 21-7, 21-14.

Hertfordshire 3, Surrey 6

(The singles between A. G. Strauli and J. Head produced an amazing result. Strauli won the first game 21-18, and was winning 19-10 in the second. The Surrey player fought back to 20-20, finally claiming that game at 29-27, and beating Strauli 21-9 in the 3rd!

Hurlock also pulled off a tight match for Surrey. Playing the redoubtable hitter Bebb, he was losing 12-18 in the 3rd game but managed to recover and take the match 22-20.)

Essex 8, Yorkshire 1

Scores (Essex names first):—

Carrington beat Mitton 15-21, 21-14, 21-19;
beat Whiteley 21-12, 18-21, 21-14.

Miller (D) beat Whiteley 21-7, 21-15; beat Patchett 21-4, 21-14.

Langner beat Mitton 21-14, 21-12; beat Patchett 21-15, 21-17.

Miss V. Patterson beat Miss N. Senior 21-15, 21-12.

Miller & Miss Rivett beat Mitton & Miss Lightfoot 17-21, 21-16, 21-17.

Misses Rivett & Wilkinson lost to Misses Senior and Lightfoot 13-21, 17-21.

Surrey 6, Warwickshire 3

Surrey visited Birmingham and defeated Warwickshire by 6 games to 3 on 13th December, 1947. The match was played at the Co-operative Hall, Stirchley, before a small crowd who saw some very interesting play. Miss J. Mackay was again successful, winning both her singles, and—with H. Walton—her Mixed Doubles games.

Scores (Warwickshire first):—

1. R. Mackay lost to K. Merrett 19-21, 21-17, 16-21.

2. W. Hall lost to R. Crayden 17-21, 13-21.

3. H. Walton and R. Mackay beat R. Crayden and K. Merrett 21-14, 8-21, 22-20.

4. M. Kriss lost to R. Sharman 17-21, 19-21.

5. Miss J. Mackay beat Miss D. Plater 21-16, 21-19.

6. R. Mackay lost to R. Crayden 18-21, 19-21.

7. Miss J. Mackay and H. Walton beat Miss D. Plater and R. Sharman 21-17, 14-21, 21-14.

8. M. Kriss lost to K. Merrett 16-21, 18-21.

9. W. Hall lost to R. Sharman 17-21, 14-21.

WILMOTT CUP

Zone Final

Northumberland 5, Sunderland 4

Since the formation of the Northumberland County Association in 1931 it has always been the ambition to defeat its neighbouring rivals (to whom they owe such a lot, for it has always been a difficulty gaining experience elsewhere) and now that this first win has been attained it may have dispelled an inferiority complex.

Moore, playing No. 1 for the home side, was the most consistent player in his team and only lost to Punshon, who in winning all three of his ties played up to the form he has been demonstrating this season.

Hewitt, the North No. 2, was not his usual consistent self since he was indisposed and two days before had a gruelling day in the Northumberland Closed Championships when he was very successful.

The match was not decided until the Final tie when that grand player, Edgar Reay, this year's English Open Veterans' winner, opposed a similar styled player, Punshon, who was at his best and who had an easier game than anticipated.

Individual scores (Northumberland first):—

Punshon beat Moore 17-21, 22-20, 21-18.
Beat Patterson 21-17, 21-13.

Beat Reay 21-9, 21-19.
Hewitt lost to Reay 17-21, 21-12, 19-21.

Lost to Moore 19-21, 21-12, 12-21.
Beat Patterson 21-13, 19-21, 21-16.

Kertzman lost to Patterson 19-21, 19-21.
Beat Reay 21-18, 21-17.

Lost to Moore 21-18, 16-21, 18-21.

GUERNSEY GOSSIP

by E. T. BAILEY
(Captain, Corinthians T.T.C.)

There is great enthusiasm here and the island league has 2 divisions, with a special Ladies' League and a Juniors' League. In fact the present Channel Islands champion is a Guernseyman, Bert Brenton by name; he improved his play considerably in Manchester during the war.

Jersey are, of course, still somewhat stronger, having beaten Guernsey twice since the war, and being by no means disgraced when the Czechs played there last March. You will see Jersey in action at Wembley both in Swaythling and in Corbillon Cup—watch out for Roy Davy, their present champion.

Guernsey decided that the time was not quite ripe for entering a team, as we have still much ground to recover following the German Occupation. Jersey was more fortunate in that respect, owing to less people being evacuated to England; her clubs were not forced to close down as here.

My own club are leading both Men's and Women's leagues at the half-way mark of the season; we shall be glad to hear from any players who intend to visit Guernsey during the holiday season or earlier.

Best wishes to *Table Tennis* and a Happy New Year to all fellow-readers.

The Sussex Open Championships this year (results in our last issue) were notable for the fact that no less than 11 Continental stars took part, breaking their return journey from the English Championships at Manchester.

The innovation of a Junior Singles proved a great success.

The Saturday session was followed by the "Hastings Special"—the ouffet-dance at which all competitors were guests.

In a feast of good play Ronnie Hook deserves mention for coming close to ousting the dour Agopoff and later with Amouretti reaching 19 in the 3rd game of the semi-final against the ultimate winners Sido—Koezian of Hungary.

The form shown by young Miss Doughty suggests a future England player here.

B.A.O.R. troops in Hanover are running a flourishing league of 22 teams. Joint leaders at time of writing are "29 British Military Hospital" and "31 L-of-C Independent Sqdn., Royal Signals."

Derbyshire T.T.A. have accepted the offer of the Derbyshire Business Houses Amateur Sports Association to sponsor a Derbyshire Challenge Cup competition open to all table tennis clubs in the county. Details from the Organiser, Mr. J. T. Davies, 37, Upper Moor Road, Allerton, Derbyshire.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS. (Late Results).

Surrey 6, Lancashire 3.
Middlesex 6, Lancashire 3.
Lancs II 5, Lincoln 4.
Lancs II 6, Yorks II 3.

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

ENGLAND 9, WALES 2, at Bath, 9th January, 1948.

R. Litten and Miss D. Beregi beat C. Jones and Miss B. Gray, 21—13, 21—13; J. Leach and D. Miller beat W. Sweetland and K. Milson, 21—18, 21—14; Miss L. R. Barnes and Miss D. Beregi beat Miss A. Bates and Miss B. Gray, 21—16, 19—21, 21—12; D. Miller lost to G. Chugg, 21—23, 15—21; Miss L. R. Barnes beat Miss A. Bates, 21—19, 21—18; A. Simons and R. Litten beat G. Chugg and M. Smith, 21—12, 21—15; J. Leach beat W. Sweetland, 21—15, 21—11; A. Simons beat S. Jones, 21—14, 17—21, 21—17; Miss D. Beregi lost to Miss B. Gray, 15—21, 17—21; R. Litten beat M. Smith, 21—15, 21—18; A. Simons and Miss L. R. Barnes beat W. Sweetland and Miss A. Bates, 21—16, 14—21, 23—21.

Non-playing Captains — A. A. Haydon (England), H. Roy Evans (Wales).

Referee—D. H. Thompson (Wales).

ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND at Glasgow, 12th January, 1948.

V. Barna beat J. Edwards 21—8, 21—15.
Miss Elliot beat Miss Beregi 15—21, 21—16,
21—18.

J. Carrington beat J. Hillan 21—12, 21—11.
Miss Franks beat Mrs. Norrie 21—21, 21—10,
21—16.

Carrington and Barna beat Edwards and Hillan 21—16, 21—17.

Beregi and Franks beat Elliot and Norrie 21—7, 21—8.

H. Lurle beat R. Burns 21—17, 21—17.

K. Stanley beat H. Baxter 21—12, 21—15.

Barna and Franks beat Edwards and Elliot 21—16, 21—13.

Lurle and Stanley beat Burns and Baxter 21—12, 21—17.

Stanley and Beregi beat Hillan and Norrie 21—18, 16—21, 21—9.

Two widely differing personalities wore the England badge for the first time in these matches. Against Scotland our team included Victor Barna, five times World Champion. The first result of the E.T.T.A.'s decision to allow naturalised citizens to represent England was that the veteran of the fiercest international matches of the last 20 years, the holder of every table tennis honour, took the field against the weakest of our home countries. A pleasant compliment to our enthusiastic neighbours.

Interesting in a different way was the appearance of 18-year-old East Londoner Dennis Miller against Wales. He is the first to emerge from the junior grades since the war, and his recent efforts fully justified his selection.

ENGLAND 5, SWEDEN (Women) 0, at Varberg, 10th December, 1947.

Mrs. V. Thomas beat Miss M. Halling, 21—10, 21—8; Miss M. Franks beat Miss M. Winquist, 21—8, 21—8; Mrs. Thomas beat Miss Winquist, 21—8, 21—7; Miss Franks beat Miss Halling, 21—9, 21—11; Thomas and Franks beat Halling and Winquist, 21—4, 21—7.