

JUNE, 1948

Sixpence

# TABLE TENNIS

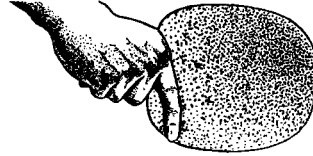


Corbillon Cup Star  
in the making . .

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

# TABLE TENNIS

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



Publishers:  
VAWSER & WILES  
(LONDON), LTD.  
Guardian House,  
London, E.17

Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. VI. No. 9

JUNE, 1948

## "Any Complaints?"

This magazine has on occasion been criticised for not freely giving space to contributions expressing severe criticisms of E.T.T.A. actions or arrangements.

Let us say here that the exclusion of critical—as of any—matter is usually due, not to disagreement with the contents, nor to the wish to shield responsible parties, but to one of the following simple reasons:—

**1. Lack of space.** A critical article usually needs to be printed in full or not at all; it is obviously difficult to shorten it without spoiling the balance of the writer's arguments or affecting his meanings.

**2. Lack of general interest.** Sometimes the critics pick on quite small or technical points and by repeating their main point several times in different word-forms, pad the thing out to a dreary length.

**3. Criticism out of date.** Sometimes a contribution arrives just too late for one issue, and by the time the next issue is printed, topicality has been lost. To raise the controversy again would be rather like giving an injection to a "k.o.d" boxer in order to knock him down again.

Sometimes, too, the criticism is out of date because the matter complained of has already been righted—a fact which may be known to the Editor but not to the contributor.

**4. Unfair or muddled arguments.** These are sometimes due to the penning of the article in moments of stress or disappointment. But most often due to a lack of full knowledge of both sides of the case—and occasionally to a refusal to recognise the good points of the opposition.

So much for the reasons dictating the exclusion of criticisms or complaints. What sort of reason would prompt the inclusion of such matter?

First, we would say, interest and originality, either in the opinions or the manner of writing. For example, the first writer to demand "A Lower Net" would be interesting and original.

But the 500th writer on this subject might not get such a warm welcome! On the other hand, if the 500th critic happened to be an Eskimo who plays in the Swaythling Cup for Madagascar, the same theme would assume a new interest.

Secondly, where public thought needs to be stimulated on a debatable matter, as a guide to the authorities in making their decisions.

Publication may also be deemed advisable in the interests of an easily-recognised common justice. A possible example would be in a case where a person or organisation is compelled to criticise another as the only means of defence against criticisms already made public by the other.

\* \* \*

We have always said that criticisms will be welcomed, and this is literally true. For remember, not one of the unpublished contributions is wasted; all are brought to the attention of the officials concerned. Thus either action will be taken, or at the very least, the existence of the school of thought which prompted the criticism is recognised.

And now we invite you to turn to page 10, where an example of a critical complaint is published and analysed.

# A PEEP IN THE PURSE

of the E.T.T.A. Treasurer, Mr. A. K. VINT

The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts is an item which appears with unflinching regularity on the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Association. Owing to the tremendous growth of the Association since the original rules were envisaged the financial year and the season for table tennis are not synonymous.

In the days gone by one could assume that by the end of April the Association could have collected all moneys due and practically paid all bills, and generally speaking all serious table tennis had been finished with until the following season so that we knew by the Annual Meeting more or less how we stood. Administration is now an all the year round job and because of this our expenditure is being incurred during the whole of the twelve months and we must have sufficient income to pay our way.

## Discrepancy of Dates

The financial year ends on the 30th June in each year and as the Annual Meeting is held at the end of April a "Receipts and Payments account" has to be submitted. This cannot take into account amounts to be collected and paid before the financial year ends, with the result that it is not possible to examine in detail how we have fared during the season. To overcome this difficulty the Income and Expenditure accounts are published in the official handbook during the following season.

The accounts for the year ended the 30th June, 1947, reveal a satisfactory state of affairs. It gave us the highest income on record—£5,935—and of necessity the highest expenditure in the history of the Association.

## The "Ins" and "Outs"

Let us look at some of the items. Affiliation fees produced £1,509. What a contrast to the figure of £553 received in 1937. The National Open Championships provided a surplus of £674 in spite of an expenditure of £938 to run this event. Carrington and Leach made a tour of England which brought to the coffers of the Association a sum of nearly £100. Administration took £1,828 covering wages of the staff, rent of the office, travelling expenses of the Committee, printing and stationery, etc.

An austerity handbook was published at a cost of £134.

To take our place in the table tennis world is no mean item in our spendings. We sent teams to Paris to compete in the World Championships at a cost of £259 in addition to spending £111 on teams in the Europe Cup Competitions. A tour of Czechoslovakia by our players incurred an expenditure of £169. Trial matches of players from all parts of England accounted for no less than £115.

In spite of increasing costs of travel, printing, wages, etc., we managed to balance our budget and show a surplus of £131. This added to our previous balance gave a total of £857 in hand. This is indeed a small capital to keep a mammoth organisation of nearly 5,000 clubs and 100,000 players going. We are gradually building up financial stability but we have to contend with an unknown position for the future.

We are far from the dreams we hoped to see come true. We visualised our own building containing offices, committee rooms, club facilities, etc., permanent coaches on our staff available for leagues requiring them. Perhaps we should stop in case these things never come true. Nevertheless we still live in hope.

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## THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1948/49

### A CORRECTION

We regret that the wrong dates were indicated in our last issue (page 1). Instead of 8th or 9th February, the probable dates for the conclusion of our National Championships should read "18th or 19th February, 1949."

Readers will bear in mind, of course, that the dates will not be definitely decided until the dates of the World Championships at Stockholm are confirmed.

### OUR COVER PICTURE

Purposeful young lady-with-the-bat is Miss Jean Harrower, here seen explaining some knotty point of technique to Geoffrey Harrower, all-England player, Middlesex County Secretary, etc., etc.—but just plain "Daddy" to Jean.

# Northern Teamwork Triumphs

Reported by

GEOFFREY JAMES

## “Manchester takes the Wilmott Cup and Northumberland carries off the J. M. Rose Bowl”

That was the result of the National Team Championships after 7½ hours play at Willesden on 8th May, 1948.

The afternoon semi-finals showed one of the most representative gatherings of English teams seen for a very long time.

**The eight teams, hailing from all four corners of the country, were ample proof that good table tennis players are not found only in London and Manchester.**

In fact, the Northumberland ladies may well have given the selectors food for thought even at this late stage of the season.

Coach-loads of loyalists accompanied their teams; all the more pity, therefore, that the general run of the men's play was weak in stroke production. Tactically, no doubt, it was excellent, but the extreme determination with which the final was fought bored all but the most partisan of the small gallery.

**In contrast, the ladies gave a sparkling display of forceful table tennis, and are to be congratulated for never allowing their equally grim battles to descend to the negative play of the men's.**

### WILMOTT CUP

Semi-finals:

**MANCHESTER 5, NORTHUMBERLAND 0**

The superior technique and experience of Manchester's all-International team overwhelmed the game Northumberland trio of Kertzmann, Hewitt and Punshon, who sportingly claimed that they gained a lot of lessons and a lot of leisure to watch their ladies pull off the finest performance of the day in the Rose Bowl.

**NORTH MIDDLESEX 5, BRISTOL 2**

North Middlesex introduced Elsley, a cool and promising newcomer, defensive on the Harrower style. This proved a tight affair and the final score was far from fair to Bristol. Had Shipton managed to beat Harrower, as at one time seemed likely, the West Country might have nosed out with a 5-4 win. Aubrey Simons won 2 sets for the losers with his usual unspectacular efficiency.

Final:

**MANCHESTER 5, NORTH MIDDLESEX 3**

Detailed scores, Manchester first:—  
Lurie bt. Elsley 15, —16, 17; lost to Harrower —13, —15; bt. Miller (D.) 16, 13.  
Cohen (L.) bt. Miller —16, 23, 17; lost to Harrower —23, 18, —16.  
Casofsky bt. Harrower 22, 15; bt. Elsley 13, 14; lost to Miller —10, —16.

Grim and uninteresting. It started in the first match when the calm Elsley nearly accounted for a nervous Lurie in a long drawn-out set. Worse was to come—the Harrower-Cohen match produced such “stonewall” tactics that some felt it might have been started earlier in the day and transferred to the main hall for the last few points.

North Middlesex then pushed on quickly to a shock lead of 3-1, through Miller easily beating Casofsky by delightful counter-hitting, followed by Harrower disposing of Lurie in his usual manner.

Manchester fought back well at this vital stage. Casofsky hit Elsley off the table, while Cohen rather luckily negated Casofsky, but was just not good enough now that Benny had his confidence. In the final set Miller was completely dominated by Hymie Lurie, no longer nervous.

Thus Manchester regained the Wilmott Cup, which they have now won four times. Casofsky, brilliant and weak in turns, Cohen consistent and determined, Lurie patchy but classy . . . quite a redoubtable combination.

**CONGRATULATIONS, NORTH!**

### “J. M. ROSE” BOWL

Semi-finals:

**BIRMINGHAM 3, NORTH MIDDLESEX 1**

Reputations meant nothing to Jean Mackay and Doris Haydon, who both beat England's Peggy Franks. In face of these blows the gallant Eileen Benstead could not expect to win, and in fact only the doubles went to the Middlesex credit column. Birmingham here looked a fine thing for the final, with all their girls playing cleanly and forcefully.

*(Continued overleaf)*

## "J. M. ROSE" BOWL—(cont'd.)

### NORTHUMBERLAND 3, SOUTH DEVON 0

The bare score here does not give quite a fair impression of the considerable opposition put up by the Devonshire lasses against the Northerners who were in such a winning vein this day.

Miss Wyn Dawe, after a deuce loss in the first game, claimed the second against Miss D. Smith, while Miss H. Wiegand took the first from Miss Purves and then fought gamely in the third, only failing at 21—23.

The better team won squarely and fairly, but it was a good match and showed us clearly that South Devon had won their way through to the semi on merit.

Final:

### NORTHUMBERLAND 3, BIRMINGHAM 2

Detailed score, Northumberland first:—

Miss D. Smith bt. Miss J. Mackay 21, 18; bt. Mrs. D. Haydon 16, 19.

Miss J. Purves lost to Mrs. Haydon —16, 19, —17; bt. Miss Mackay 15, 14.

Miss Purves and Mrs. J. Waugh lost to Miss Mackay and Mrs. D. Smith —13, —25.

By steady and varied defence Miss Smith overcame the fluent hitting of Jean Mackay; then the great experience of Mrs. Haydon won for Birmingham a hard scrap against Miss Purves.

Midlands went ahead 2—1 by means of much better combination in the doubles event. And now the fighting spirit of the Northumbrians rose to the occasion. Doris Haydon never gives up a game tamely, but she was outlasted and tempted into errors by Miss Smith.

Encouraged by this, Miss Purves went to the table calmly amidst a rising tide of excitement. Her game proved more adaptable to the tense moment than the somewhat hit-happy tactics of young Mackay and a clear-cut win was the result.

Unlike most competing teams, Northumberland has had no outstanding player to "carry" their team. They triumphed because of a fine team spirit between both players and officials, and an absolute determination to show that the "Far North" can produce players to rank with the best.

This they have achieved in no uncertain manner.

Once more — CONGRATULATIONS, NORTH!

## Kentish Corner

WOOLWICH & DISTRICT T.T.A. have just concluded their most successful season, winning both Men's and Ladies' League Championships of Kent for the first time. The men beat Faversham 5—1 in semi-final, and Folkestone by a similar score in the final. In this affair Sutton Valence very creditably led Folkestone by 4—0 in the semi before losing 5—4.

Woolwich provided most winners in the Kent Closed Individual Championships, J. Tabbenor (M.S.); R. Carrier and Miss Coplestone (X.D.); and Miss J. Ing partnering Mrs. Evans of Maidstone to win the doubles. Mrs. Evans of course won her singles.

Tabbenor, however, had been unable to claim the Woolwich Association's own singles; he lost to A. Nokes who in turn lost to the winner N. Adams.

\* \* \*

The new Kent Junior Closed Champion also hails from Woolwich. R. Syndercombe won this title from over 100 boys at Sittingbourne on 4th April. Plans are ahead for forming a Junior League for the coming season.

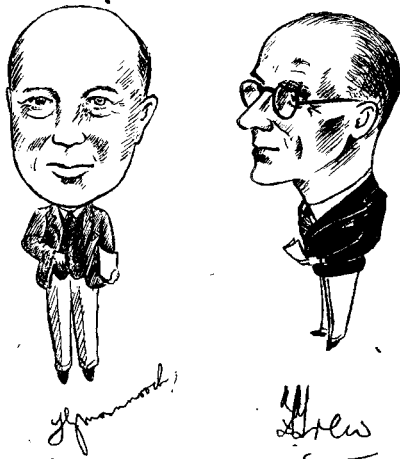
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Near neighbours of Woolwich are the BECKENHAM & DISTRICT T.T.L. Only founded in 1945, their story is one of rapid progress, due undoubtedly to the tremendous energy and attention to detail of their Secretary Cecil Burton.

Nearly 600 attended their 3rd finals night, amongst them many distinguished sporting and civic figures. Led by the old stalwarts Meads, Coles and Straker, the League reached the Zone Final of the Wilmott Cup, beating Redhill, Maidstone and Thames Valley to nil scores and disputing the full 9 matches with Leatherhead.

Three men's and two women's divisions cater for 400 registered players, and more recruits are expected next year.

And all this started when Mr. Burton wrote a letter to the local Press 3 years ago! Enthusiasts in other "barren" areas, please note.



CANDID CARTOON shows two well known T.T. Men of Kent. On the right, Mr. F. G. Trew, Chairman of Woolwich T.T.A.; on left, Mr. F. G. Mannoch of Sittingbourne, the County Secretary and representative for the Southern Region on the E.T.A. Executive Committee.

# CHISELLING THROUGH THE TROPICS (II)

by Leslie Bennett

*Ex "R.A.F. type" Leslie Bennett is one of a famous sporting trio of Grimsby brothers. Served on the National Executive of E.T.T.A. before the war.*

A colourful personality training with me was twenty-two year old handsome Grischa Levendis (seen at Wembley this year with the Greek team). After a fortnight in Egypt, I reached England early in July, 1944. I had little chance to renew my contact with English table tennis, for I was drafted again in December to Cairo. From there a B.O.A.C. flying-boat conveyed me via Khartoum to Kisumu on the Kenya side of Lake Victoria, and thence I went by train through central Africa to Nairobi. Here the N.A.A.F.I., as in most places, proffered an unattractive table, though in many remote camps they did well to purvey one at all.

## EAST AFRICA

Soon my crew was posted to a squadron at Diego Suarez in Madagascar, from where we visited Mombasa, in Kenya, lovely Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika, the French Comoro Islands and the British Seychelles Islands. Table tennis in these stations was confined to the Services institutes, though when we removed to Mombasa in May, the paper printed results of an inter-military league. Mombasa is near the Equator and always sticky at night. I did not have the chance to investigate this league, for soon we were despatched to the Far East.

On the way we were halted for a fortnight in the Seychelles Islands, nine hundred miles off the coast of East Africa. With glorious palm beaches and a kindlier climate, they provided us with an idyllic respite. Apart from a few British and French families, the inhabitants are Creoles with one or two Chinese shopkeepers. There is a lazy, carefree atmosphere which charmed us. Yet I was not deprived of a knock, for Maurice Walter, the Met. Officer, gave me a surprisingly good game, considering that he had never been acquainted with any sort of competitive play. But then he was one of the finest golfers, tennis players and cricketers of Nairobi, and ball sense was instinctive to him.

## CEYLON

Our next base was in a swampy district of southern Ceylon. When a notice on orders stated that those interested should contact Corporal Bennett, I discovered

that Norman Bennett, my namesake, was a very keen member of the South London League. A polished player, he successfully organised two teams from our squadron in the station league.

He told me an interesting story. His station table tennis side opposed another service team, one of which insisted that he was French champion. After Norman Bennett had beaten him easily, he was asked whether Bergmann was not French champion. This brought a strong denial; Bergmann was a piece of duff. Richard happened to be in the audience and did not need much persuading to meet this fellow incognito after the match. Bergmann carried on in heavy boots, selected a wooden bat and won 21—3. The poor chap was never seen that way afterwards.

However he was one of a type we have all met in the Services, though not so annoying as the blighter who constitutes his own rules—such as "you must serve into the opposite corner" in singles—and then enquires what you know about the procedure when you remonstrate.

When the squadron called for cricketers, I put down my name for wicket-keeper only to find that one P. A. Gibb was also interested in cricket. Hearing that I had kept wicket, he refused sportingly to do so, and instead bowled. Norman and I introduced him into the station table tennis league, and although he had never even seen a first-class exponent, his control and temperament were so good that he did not lose a rubber.

A trip carried me to Rangoon, but in that shattered city there was no sign of the game. When VJ Day arrived, I was temporarily in the Cocos Islands, halfway to Australia and five hundred miles south of Java. Even there the airmen and soldiers had a table in the recreation room.

I was lucky enough to obtain leave for 3rd to 6th September to enter for the All-Ceylon Championships at the Y.M.C.A., Colombo. It was a great thrill to compete again in a well-run

## FRIENDSHIP MAIL

From Peter W. Roberts  
(Official Historian of U.S.T.T.A.)

Please send me Souvenir Programme of your great International World's Championships . . .

The feeling on this side of the Atlantic is that your folk have all done a marvellous job—nobody could do it better or as well.

Had a long letter recently from Elisabeth Blackburn; I feel she has quite a hard task on hand, to finish her studies in two years. At any rate, her letter was all about her work—nothing about table tennis!

From RUSSELL ALGIE,  
c/o M.V. WAIPAWA,

At Sea, April, 1948.

I feel I must write to thank you for the hospitality showered on me by all connected with table tennis during my trip to England.

I was made to feel at home right away, and the crowning event at Wembley more than fulfilled my highest expectations.

I believe that my experiences will prove beneficial to the game in New Zealand, and I look forward to the time when my country will be regularly competing in the International Cup contests.

My best wishes for the future and in particular for the English teams at Stockholm next year.

championship, and the Y.M.C.A. was very much like its British prototype with gymnasium, reading and billiards rooms. The Ceylonese were true enthusiasts and in Mr. M. Balaji possessed an efficient and progressive secretary. Conditions were good and the crowd large and appreciative. The Ceylonese ladies turned out in their long, picturesque but cumbrous saris.

After an easy passage in the first round, I met a wooden bat stonewaller in the second to be outstayed 3—1. After this ignominious dismissal, I remarked to my opponent, Wickrematunga, that I was not as young as I used to be. "I was forty-one last birthday" was the well-merited reply, and indeed he had won the Ceylonese Championship five times running in the thirties.

At the tournament I met Shilco from Grove House who gave me the pleasant tidings that Hymie Lurie had recovered sufficiently from his wounds to resume the game. U.K. representatives who showed up well were Myers of Swansea, and Leal and Barrel from Southern England.

In November our squadron moved to Hong Kong, from where we ventured into more territories. Once we were held up at the port of Samah on the south Chinese island of Hainan. Japanese sailors there awaited repatriation and some of our boys spotted them on a home-made table in one billet. Apparently these Japanese were useful players, but I could not attach much esteem to the reporters' opinions.

(To be Concluded Next Month.)

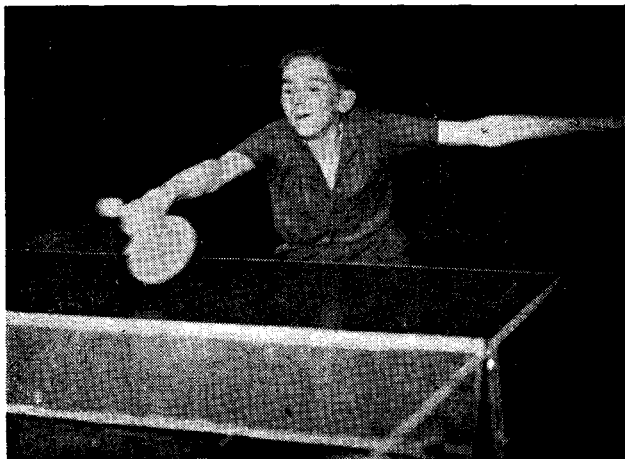
### YOUTHFUL DETERMINATION

clearly shown in this picture, is, in fact, the main weapon in the armoury of Junior Champion

MICHAEL THORNHILL  
of Ashford.

Technically, his game is rather a "jumble" at present, but maturer physique should bring the necessary precision.

Note left arm flung out to balance the forward rush.



# Astronomy - - the study of the Stars

by Jack Carrington  
(English International)

HAS A NEW PERSONALITY  
COME TO BIG-TIME TABLE  
TENNIS ?

It seems so, say those who have witnessed the "coming-out" of *ANDREADIS*, the Czech front-ranker.

Ivan (christened "*Oh-so-Easy!*" by this journal), despite disappointing losses in World Championships, shows a convincing mastery of the game in its modern style. Originally suspect as a poor fighter in a tough match, he has in late months come through victorious in 5th game crises against Vana, Leach, Sido and others.

Only Bergmann has rattled him, in the English and World's Championships. Ivan's friends claim that every man is allowed his bogey (and what better bogey than the current World Champion?). They say that the tenacity which was lacking previously is now taking root in his game.

If this be really so, then *let me tell you* we have a great player with us.

For he of the musical name—it makes a little song . . . *IVAN ANDREADIS* or *IVAN "OH-SO-EASY" ANDREADIS*—has also a melodious game.

## He's got Rhythm

Grace and rhythm flow through all his strokes. Classical backhand and forehand drives and chops, are enlivened suddenly by startling variations in side-spin. When he reaches for a drop-shot, or executes his famous sliding-sidespin backhand push, his touch is that of an Academy artist lovingly touching up his masterpiece with a delicate varnish on "opening day."

Unfortunately for Ivan, he has been inclined to carry this finesse beyond its proper bounds, and to neglect the good honest old-fashioned "flat kill" in favour of some ingenious sidespin curving-away shots. This tendency, a logical result of standing too solidly square to the table, undoubtedly lost him chances against Bergmann in the 1946 Wembley, and again in 1947. Bergmann soon spotted, the weakness and fed *Andreadis* with high balls in the centre of the court.

Ivan is a big fellow; some 14-stone



THE LANGUID PHILOSOPHER. A little less Fatalism; a little more Fight, and he can be "Ivan the Great."

weaves its way daintily about when he is in action, and it is absurd that he who so easily manoeuvres openings should not have a finalising kill. There are signs that he is simplifying his game into a recipe of "close-defence-chop, plus side-spin short touches, plus full body-work flat kill on the forehand."

## That "lazy" Defence

Incidentally, quite experienced fans have been heard to describe his defence as almost an over-the-table affair. This is far from correct: it is the result of Wembley's vastness combined with *Andreadis'* lazy style. Actually one step-



# "If I Had My Way...!"

To be in the fashion, I have opened with the well-known words of a song. Everyone to-day seems to have a theme song. I expect that the E.T.T.A. will now use "*I'm twenty-one to-day*," whilst, I am glad our genial Secretary has not been compelled to use "*Now is the hour for me to say Good-bye*."

However, to be more serious, if I had my way I would certainly make a few changes as regards the E.T.T.A. Let me hasten to add, my criticisms are of a constructive nature. I have been connected with

by E. F. CHRISTOPHER.  
President Bristol T.T.A., etc.

sport far too long not to realise it is so easy to offer destructive criticism.

**E.T.T.A. HAND-BOOKS.** Why the long list of "Further Amendments and Additions?" Why cannot they be embodied in the actual rules?

**UMPIRING.** A tightening up of this is very desirable. Even well known players serve outside the imaginary line, or "cup" their hand when serving. I have suggested in a previous article an examination, and certificate for those who pass, in regard to umpiring.

## "OH-SO-EASY" IVAN (Continued)

and-a-reach by him brings the actual chopping-point to roughly the same distance from the table as a normal defender's stroke.

If the Artist can indeed streamline his talents, and if that (Oh-so-Necessary!) fighting spirit has come to stay, then indeed we have with us the first of the Post-war Great.

## "Box Office" Charm, too

For Andreadis has the manners and charm of the young Barna, and contrives to appear as though every match is a pleasure (although he confided to me that most of them meant a real strain), with the result that the crowds find themselves sighing for his victory against all but their own particular champions.

Socially Ivan is a genius, making himself quietly popular on a very few words of (Oh-so-Basic) English! My favourite memory of him concerns a cold night on the Holyhead mail train.

He and Stipek had acquired some new football kit, of which they were so proud that they decided to use it as night attire in their 3rd-class sleeper. Remembering some query or other, Ivan took it into his head to walk the corridors to find my compartment, and I happened to spot him as he met up with the sleeping-car attendant.

*I shall never forget the expression on the face of that stolid L.M.S. employee when he saw this huge figure bearing down on him, clad in shorts, black-and-white vertically striped jersey, and stockings to match!*

**PROFESSIONALISM.** I think the word "player" should be dropped, and if a person makes money from the game he/she should be definitely classed as a professional. I would certainly not bar any professional player from a tournament, or penalise him in any way as compared to the amateur.

**HANDICAP.** I consider all well-known players should have a handicap as in Golf and Lawn Tennis. This would make Tournaments more open and interesting.

**GETTING TOGETHER.** I should like to see more opportunity for meeting officials and players, by Annual Dinner or such-like, or alternatively occasional visits of E.T.T.A. officers, including the President, to the Provinces. It should never be forgotten that the man who arranges the lights or tables is as much an asset to Table Tennis as the "stars," and might appreciate an opportunity of meeting an E.T.T.A. official.

**QUESTIONNAIRE.** It would probably be helpful if the E.T.T.A. asked once a year for a reply to the following question: "Have you any suggestions for the improvement of the game?" This could be requested when the notices of the Annual General Meeting are sent out.

**"TABLE TENNIS."** This being in inverted commas refers to the excellent monthly publication. I should like to see some advertisements of Hotels who cater for Table Tennis. This would not only be a source of revenue, but would enlighten visitors to London and the Provinces.

# SHOULD THIS BE ... Be Your Own Editor!

On page 1 we discuss the question of printing complaints received by this journal. Here is a practical example of a criticism submitted for publication by an experienced West Country official.

It is well known that the contributor has only two motives, namely, a great desire to see table tennis flourish, and a natural pride in Bristol's efforts to that end. Read his criticism. At first sight it seems almost unanswerable—just a terrible "bad show" by London and E.T.T.A.

Then read the reactions which, we suggest, might run through your head if you were the Editor.

## 1. THE CRITIC LASHES OUT Ivor C. Eyles calls it ANOTHER WILMOTT AND ROSE BOWL FIASCO

On Saturday, 8th May, 35 happy people left Bristol en route for London to give battle in the Wilmott Cup Semi-finals. After a very enjoyable run, with various stops to refresh the inner man, and games of darts, London was reached.

Whilst we in Bristol have great difficulty in procuring suitable halls for table tennis matches, one assumed that the Great Metropolis has no such trouble. It was, therefore, a little surprising that arrangements were not exactly 100% perfect. After the Wembley Championships with all its perfect organisation, the view was expressed on all sides that we were not "stars," only the critical provincials.

4The hall chosen for this important

### WESTERN COUNTIES T.T.L.

FINAL TABLES				
	Men's Section, Division 1			Points
	Played	Won	Lost	
Cardiff†	13	11	2	22
Newport†	13	10	3	20
Bristol	12	8	4	16
Birmingham	12	6	6	12
Exeter	12	5	7	10
Worcester	12	3	9	6
Gloucester	12	0	12	0
Cardiff beat Newport in deciding match.				
Division 2				
Swindon	12	10	2	20
Cheltenham	12	9	3	18
Bath	12	8	4	16
Oxford	12	6	6	12
Bristol	12	5	7	10
Weston	12	4	8	8
Forest of Dean	12	0	12	0
Women's Section				
Birmingham†	9	8	1	16
Exeter†	9	7	2	14
Cardiff	8	3	5	6
Bristol	8	2	6	4
Swindon	8	1	7	2
Birmingham beat Exeter in deciding match.				

match was totally unsuitable, having a composition floor and windows on either side for the whole length of the room, setting up cross lights across the table. No attempt was made to welcome and introduce the Bristol party, and no evidence of any E.T.T.A. officer in the person of the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

We arrived at 3 p.m. and were informed that our match would start at 4.30 p.m. and finish at about 6.30 p.m.

No arrangements had been made for refreshments, and with my party coming such a long distance, this was to say the least unreasonable.

The charge of 5s., with no concessions made for Provincial visitors who had heavy road/rail fares, was too high, but it was lucky that we paid same as there was little evidence of any London public thinking it attractive enough to support. On top of this all the Bristol officials, including the President, who is also a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A., had to meet this charge of 5s. After a life-long interest in the game, this was the last straw. Officials who have had some standing in the game, coming with their team and paying at the gate, and what made it more aggravating was the fact that people wandered in and out without paying. No one asked the driver of our coach to pay, so what a ludicrous position!

The umpiring of the matches was excellent, and this made up for some very uninteresting play . . . and some of the players were only a shadow of what we knew before the war. When will they face up to anno domini?

My general impression was that these matches were played too late in the season, and the new idea of playing gent's and ladies' matches hopeless. The conditions for the girls were very inferior to those for the men. Bristol in the past has always made a success, financially, of its cup matches, but these

# PUBLISHED?

matches must have been a heavy financial burden for the E.T.T.A. to bear.

In conclusion, it is obvious that the higher affiliation fees are being frittered away by bad management, and it is hopeless to expect good games when there are such conditions. The E.T.T.A. statement that they were prepared to lose £1,000 on the World's Championships and the above, show an attitude which is, in our opinion, defeatist.

For the love of Mike, please let Bristol organize next season these Cup matches.

## 2. And now, do you agree with these

### EDITORIAL REACTIONS?

Numbers refer to main points in the text of Mr. Eyles' article.

- SOME assumption, this! Undermines the whole argument.
- How can any large function be EXACTLY 100% PERFECT?
- But Wembley was a VERY SPECIAL EFFORT involving 30 nations.
- Not "TOTALLY," surely? It was roomy and airy, and lighted by 10 Decker lights. Light across the table is not so bad as light behind the table (which was in fact a drawback at the so-called "perfect" Wembley).
- Fair criticism.
- But in fact the Chairman of E.T.T.A. attended the final session; also Mr. Wilmott the donor of the Cup; and Mr. G. R. Harrower, the E.T.T.A. official in charge of these two competitions, was present from the start.
- Needs checking.
- Five shillings allowed admission to TWO sessions.
- Fair comment. But at what point should the line be drawn? In our experience Presidents and the like do not wish to have free entry while youngsters pay.
- Not so ludicrous—the driver was there through no fault of his own!
- Oh, dear—anno domini again. Are players expected to stop trying at a certain age? Which players would the critic have cut out of this day's play? Would the resulting teams have (a) played better, or (b) attracted a bigger gate?
- Entitled to opinion.
- It is not obvious to this editor. The Annual General Meeting congratulated the E.T.T.A. Executive on their financial handling of the World Championships and their resulting complications. But some doubt was felt about the English Open losses—staged in a provincial city instead of London.
- Fair opinion; but in fact only a small sum was lost when all accounts were made up.
- Ah! A constructive criticism, that's what we want. And one which will stimulate other centres to assert their claims, too.

Well, Reader, how do you like being in the Editor's shoes? Would you have published it?

E. PINK, of North London, says . . .

## Give 'em a Chance!

What a good youngster needs is OPPORTUNITY. That is all a good youngster has ever needed. Then, assuming he has the necessary character—another name is GUTS—he will get to the top.

Coaching schemes are fine, even ideal, but they take money, and time. In our little Cinderella game it seems the organisers haven't got the money, and the experts haven't got the time, to do much detailed coaching.

Well that can be improved gradually, I've no doubt. But meanwhile, with or without Coaching, the youthful player needs opportunity to practise, and to study good play. But most important is the actual practising.

What cramps the opportunity to practise? Why, it's simple—the lack of tables to practise on. There just are not enough tables for the players of this country.

Some may be knocking around in private houses or even stand in derelict clubrooms.

So the first step should be for E.T.T.A. to stage a minor appeal campaign, through local Press, etc., for everybody who knows of an old table, to dig it out. Just like we dug out our binoculars in 1940.

Next step, calls for real action by the association. It should make the strongest representation to the Board of Trade for a bigger supply of tables.

Backed by the trade and the Educational Authorities, surely something could be done?

We cannot grumble if today's tables are occupied now by moderately good players of 25 and over. They missed a lot of good play during the war. But we can ask them to give a little more OPPORTUNITY when they do see a young and deserving player of talent.

Let him or her play, give him an occasional ticket for the big match, play doubles with him, introduce him to stronger players and persuade them to give him a game.

Executive committees in London or Manchester, planning and scheming, may find us a world champion—but it is far from certain.

What is certain is that one thousand good-hearted clubmen can help ten thousand youngsters in a hundred small towns, by a little unselfish effort.

That is how it was always done, and we will do it again.

# ODD



# SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

The South African Table Tennis Association, unable at present to be accepted into the International T.T. Federation because of the "Colour-Bar" rules, is very keen to develop the game properly in their territory.

In this they will be helped by the considerable number of young players who are emigrating from England at this time and will inevitably "pep up" the competition out there.

The South African representative at the World Championships, Hymie Sofer, brought with him not only the formal applications to the I.T.T.F.—now the subject of official correspondence between the two bodies—but also a very generous invitation for an English team to tour South Africa in their next winter season (which to us means summer of 1949).

What a pleasant gesture! Let us hope that all formal difficulties will soon be resolved, to allow our sport to flourish in this great country of the future.

\* \* \*

## Night Work

A famous London Old Boys' Club, distressed by a plague of burglars who had been helping themselves to the sports equipment, not to mention the stocks behind the bar, solved the problem by asking its members to take turns at "mounting guard" in the Pavilion, two to sleep there each night.

It has been noticed that the most eager volunteers are married members of the table tennis section; one of them confessed that he is rapidly returning to the form he thought he had lost for ever when the Home Guard was disbanded!

\* \* \*

## Watch Wall

Midlanders may look for some bright ideas from their new Executive member, Mr. A. A. Wall—his home league, the West Bromwich

T.T.A. has always been noted for progressive methods.

Last two seasons they successfully ran a Ladies' League during the summer, and now they have launched a Summer League for Junior Clubs, with two divisions of six teams each.

In this year's Finals Evening programme, West Bromwich staged an "Exhibition by Youngest Competitors." Players were H. Wilcock (13) and V. Nock (12). The younger man won, and our sympathies go to his brother, D. Nock, who at 16 is Junior Champion of the League and yet must be beginning to feel like a veteran!

*Well, Midland towns, don't say we didn't warn you if you find that West Bromwich boys have stolen a march on your lads by 1948 or '49.*

\* \* \*

## Boy Meets Girl—New Style

Apropos the Cheshire Open Tournament, reported by Stanley Proffitt in last month's "TABLE TENNIS," Chester secretary Stan Dutton tells us that Miss Adele Wood defeated three boys in the Junior competition.

In fact the ultimate winner, Douglas Shaw, was quite relieved to come out with the male flag still flying from his quarter-final match with Adele; score 14—21, 21—19, 16—21.

## A Famous Name Re-appears

Older followers of cricket will always remember the name of G. L. O. Jessop, the mighty hitter of Somerset. Amongst his scoring records were:—191 runs in 90 minutes for the Gentlemen v. Players in 1907. This innings included 5 sixes and 30 fours!

The famous "Croucher" now lives quietly at Dorchester, but his son, whose name is also the Reverend G. L. O.

Jessop, takes an active part in the Dorchester and District Table Tennis League. Encouraged by secretary Mr. J. E. Mills, he is concentrating on developing the youth of the league—and, indeed, of the county.

During a recent coaching visit, international Jack Carrington opined that the ten selected under-17 pupils were well above average form, and noted in particular the name of John Dowden, who plays and looks astonishingly like the Vana of 1935.

Present Dorchester champions are the Rogers brothers, whose chief spur is the strong form of Weymouth's leader, E. J. Dale.

\* \* \*

The Press reports that Joe Louis is playing table tennis daily as part of his training for his return bout with Jersey Joe Walcott in New York on 23rd June.

Good for Joe (Louis, we mean)—and it might be good for some of our young hopefuls if they were to visit a boxing gymnasium to learn something about speeding up their footwork.

One of the most successful works clubs must surely be that of the B.T.H. (Willesden) factory. No less than 29 teams entered in their inter-departmental competition; can this record be beaten?

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Interesting points from recent I.T.T.F. deliberations:—

**Swaythling and M. Corbillon Cup Contests:** Groups will be made, larger, and national teams will be seeded and ranked, to ensure plenty of good matches in each group and play-offs.

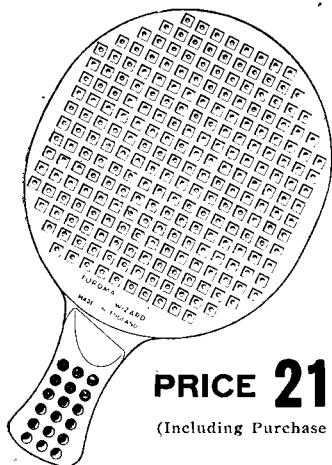
**World Championship Individual Events:** 8 Singles players and 4 Doubles pairs to be seeded according to strength, and irrespective of nationality. (Up to now it was theoretically possible for the 8 best players, to eliminate each other down to 1 in the first 3 rounds).

**White Clothing:** U.S.A. delegates maintained that there was a case for white clothing, and all countries have been invited to try out one tournament with players dressed in white. Reports to be considered at next Congress.

**New additions to the International Federation:** Greece, Trinidad, Canada, Mexico, Singapore, and a "South American Group" (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay). Malta and Ceylon have been accepted as "attached" to E.T.T.A.

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# WHAT'S IN A VERB?

More weighty wisdom from

THE PROFESSOR.

Have you, Mr. Smith, ever won a smashing victory over a hated rival, by 21—2, 21—3? That night when your backhand flick was unstop-pable, your chop deadly, and your drop-shot invisible? You have? And what did the Table Tennis magazine say about it?

"Smith beat Jones" . . . . .

That's all.

And have you, Mr. Smith, ever experienced one of those unlucky nights when Fate conspired against you—when, notwithstanding heroic efforts on your part, the umpire confused the score, your leg came on to hurt, and that fellow Jones contrived to sneak the match off you by two outrageous edge-balls at deuce in the 5th game?

You have? . . . And what did the Table Tennis magazine say about that?

"Jones beat Smith" . . . . .

That's all.

Well Mr. Smith, you have our sympathy. For a long time now we have felt that the printed word did not convey anything like a fair impression of your remarkable victories or your rare but undeserved losses.

**But now here comes a new idea. From America, of course; from the little-known township of Oshkosh arises a new table tennis reporter—a man of real sensitivity.** Not for him the unfeeling words "beat" or "defeated"; something more graphic is called for, in his opinion.

So, in the course of his quarter-final results, he tells us that:—

Holton **upset** Maule.

Gollish **edged** Kasten.

Peregrine **mastered** Soucy.

Sorensen **downed** Sgarlata.

Reading also that a chap named Gazerawitz was neatly "trimmed"

by another chap named Janssen, it seems clear that they have much more exciting tournaments over in Oshkosh than we do in Chislehampton.

We too have our artistic feelings. We too would like to do more justice to your results, and so this American reporter has our sympathy. But we haven't quite cottoned on to his system yet.

For in the final match, in which the winner lost the first 2 games and went on to win the next 3, the last score being 21—6, we learn that

Sorensen "**shaded**" Holton!

There would seem to be great possibilities in this new style of reporting results . . . we can visualise a few examples such as

A out-talked B; C reduced D to his own level; E managed to limp past F; G produced some excellent excuses against H, etc., etc.

If readers will send me their suggestions for sympathetic phrases I will present them to the Editor of "TABLE TENNIS" so that sensitive plants like Pothunter need never know when they are "beaten!"

## TWIN WIN

15-year-old twin sisters met in the Junior Girls' final of the West Middlesex Open in April. They were Misses Rosalind and Diane Rowe, who have only been playing a few months.

Rosalind won—this time.

Other winners:—

M.S.: R. Sharman; W.S.: Miss E. Benstead; M.D.: Craigie and A. R. Miller; W.D.: Mrs. Heading and Miss J. Roberts; X.D.: B. Crouch and Mrs. M. Bennett.

## DERBYSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE

Final Table

	P.	W.	L.	Sets.		Pts.
				For	Agst.	
Derby Institutes	8	7	1	43	29	14
Chesterfield	8	6	2	43	29	12
Ashbourne	8	5	3	47	25	10
Buxton	8	2	6	30	42	4
Matlock	8	0	8	17	55	0

# CHESHIRE "CHAMPS" and CHESTER CHAPS

by Stanley

Proffitt

(English International)



*Photo by courtesy of "Chester Chronicle."*  
Jack and Bill Devine \*

By staging the Cheshire Open Championships the venerable city of Chester has been securely placed on the table tennis map. Behind its old Roman walls the interest has been spread by Ron Juler and Bob Hughes who, in 1933, unselfishly shelved their own rackets and formed a local league. Late came Stan Dutton, the present secretary, and the trio have administered with such care that the original 50 members comprising of one Division of 6 teams has leaped to 300 members, two men's and one women's Division. Not an amazing performance true, but considering that all activities ceased during the war years it is praiseworthy to note the post-war figures now stand higher than at any time of the League's existence.

And it all came about, so the record book tells us, when a group of former Y.M.C.A. enthusiasts got together to organise the City Club in the district during the middle 1920s.

Chester owe much to the abilities of the brothers Jack and Bill Devine who play in a style totally dissimilar, though equal in character. Somewhat of a veteran, medium height and sturdily built, the fair-haired Jack at 38 years old is as fully immersed in the game to-day as he was when first picking up a racket at his father's instigation. Born of Scottish parents, the first 13 years of his life were spent in Dublin where he excelled on the running track as a hundred yards sprinter.

On coming to Chester Jack might easily have been lost to table tennis, for he was well above average skill on the

soccer field for the Cheshire County team. Burnley scouts on numerous occasions approached with tempting offers for this high-speed youngster to turn professional footballer, but a family conference decided he was to follow the trade of his parents as a tailor's cutter. To-day, he is managing director of Albert Henderson Ltd., Liverpool.

A remarkable feature is that Jack has won the Chester singles table tennis championship five times and been a partner in the doubles on each occasion the event has been played for.

Bill Devine, age 25, has set himself the task of emulating his brother's achievements on the table and thus adding to the laurels of the family sports album. In fact, it was whilst toddling about in rompers watching the versatile Jack that the ambition first bit him. By way of being the first step on the ladder, he won the junior title at Rhyl, a season before the Air Force called him to the colours. Now in Civvy St., grappling with the problems of Chester Town Council affairs, he is recognised in both style and capability as the leading light in Cheshire's National County Championship team.

Bill is tall and slight as against Jack. It's "odds-on" that he gains a regular place this summer on the County Lawn Tennis team. When asked about his chances, he modestly admits, "Well, I've yet to drop a set on the appearances I've made."

Latest success on the table is winning the Chester Closed tournament last month.

# Thank You, England!

—Says Swedish Leader

## YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Benny Casofsky's Triumph

Drighlington, near Bradford, ancient Battle of the Roses setting, was on this occasion the scene of the Yorkshire Open Championships. The day-long impact of racket and ball must have disturbed the spirits of the old-time warriors underground, but not even the humid atmosphere or the rattle of the crockery from the upstairs restaurant had any effect on Benny Casofsky. Yes, it was Benny on "peak" form and most of you realise what that means. Young Keith Hurlock did extremely well to reach the men's singles semi-final in his débutant Northern tournament, but a more subdued though craftier Casofsky than hitherto simply toyed with him. First catching the Londoner with a cute drop shot, then an "exhibition" back-hand smash would ricochet off his opponent's territorial half. Hurlock need not be dismayed for even Johnny Leach had no answer to this avalanche in last year's event. In fact, Keith's muscular energy holds the promise of a rosy future.

Alan Shepherd enhanced his reputation by a fine semi-final win over Swaythling Cup player Ken Stanley. It happened to be the best all round game of the evening for Casofsky, in textbook fashion, easily defeated Shepherd in the men's final, thus retaining his title.

All that has been said about 16-year-old Adele Wood may still be recorded. The women's final, in which Nora Senior displayed experience with skill, brought out qualities in the young Lancashire girl's armour that frankly I didn't think she possessed. I'm referring to a deceptive forehand smash down the white line. After Adele had won the first game 21—17, Nora countered to level the score. Henceforth either one might have returned winner and it was Nora who eventually notched the set 21—19.

Men's Singles Final: B. Casofsky beat A. Shepherd 21—13, 21—17.

Women's Singles Final: Miss N. Senior beat Miss A. Wood 17—21, 21—12, 21—19.

Men's Doubles Final: B. Casofsky and K. Stanley beat C. Whiteley and G. Mitton 21—16, 21—14.

Mixed Doubles Final: K. Stanley and Miss M. Allen beat G. Mitton and Miss N. Senior 21—14, 21—19.

STAN PROFFITT.

Now is my chance to thank the English Table Tennis Association for all you have done for me and my boys during our long but interesting tour.

The organisation was extraordinarily good in all towns. In West Bromwich Mr. Wall took care of us the whole time, and in Wolverhampton Messrs. Scott, Beattie and Haskeew did everything for us.

In Nottingham Messrs. Draper and Nicholls followed us the whole time, and showed us three big factories and a lot of youth clubs. Especially the youth clubs interested me; perhaps the boys will be forgiven if they found after all the most interest in a football match between Arsenal and Nottingham!

In Hastings the programme was most variable—the best holidays we could imagine. And of course it always was Mr. Vint who helped us with everything; he take Tore Pal to a dentist; he had always a car waiting for us and always helped us so we come in good time according the programme.

In Surrey accompanied us Messrs. Preston and Swetman, and we got a chance to look on a couple of Schools. Just to come and live in an English College which I have heard so much about interested me specially much but even the boys found it interest and specially they had funny (sic) when they were playing with the boys of Charterhouse College on a brown table of oak, one foot too long and one foot too narrow!

**We were unhappy that the boys disappointed themselves in the most important match of the tour, the Junior International, but we know the best boys won.**

The World Championships impressed us all; we only shirked one session.

On Thursday after the World's we and three Swedish senior players were to Luton, where we met Swedish friends. This day at the Whipnade Zoo and at the Electrolux factory was one of the best we had in England.

**Altogether from the first day in West Bromwich to the last night at Eton Manor Club the tour was useful and a pleasure. We shall do everything to see that your boys will get the same friendly reception here in Sweden during the return visit next season.**

(Signed) ALLAN ERIKSSON.