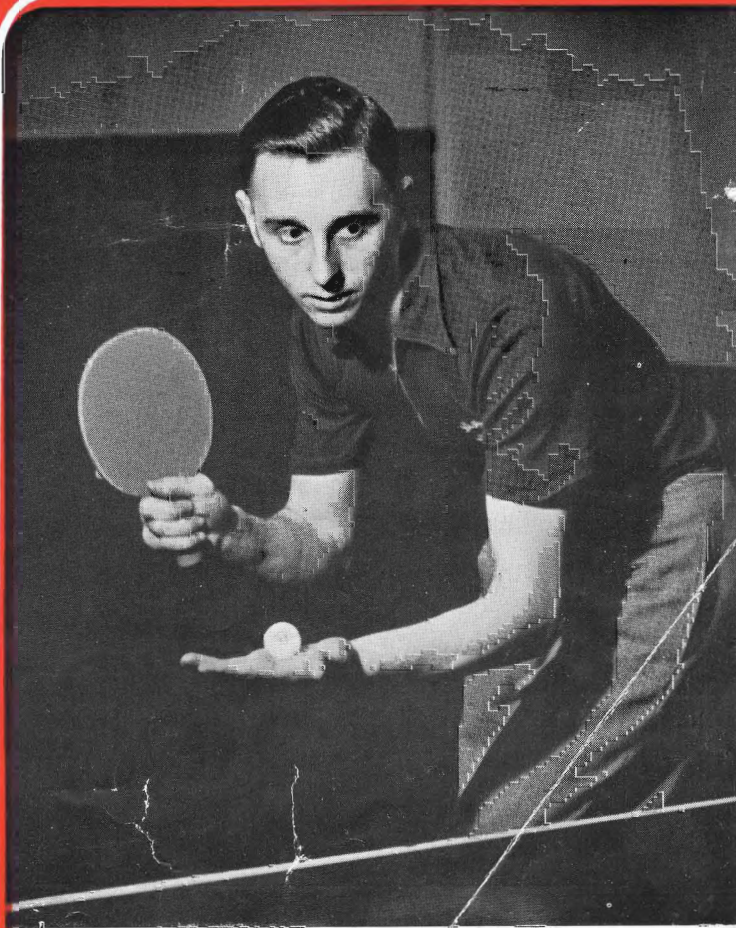


FEBRUARY, 1949

Sixpence

# TABLE TENNIS



**JOHNNY LEACH**  
the new  
World Champion

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

# TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine  
of the  
**ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS  
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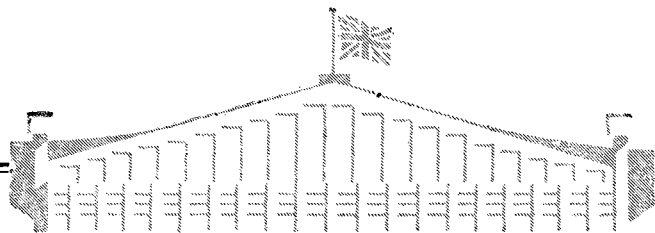


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Edited by **JACK CARRINGTON**

Vol. VII. No. 6

FEBRUARY, 1949



## **ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1949**

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# W E M B L E Y

## **THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS** 16th-19th February, 1949

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12.30 to 5.0 p.m. on 16th February; 9.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. on 17th, 18th, 19th February  
(These count as one session each, prices as above)

## ENGLAND 7, WALES 2

[At Patti Pavilion, Swansea, 15.1.49]  
Before an enthusiastic audience of optimistic Welshmen at the Patti Pavilion, Swansea, last Saturday, England beat Wales to the tune of seven matches to two.

An England team with three new Internationals met with a certain amount of criticism, but again the critics were proven wrong. All the newcomers deserve full marks. They showed great promise, playing with a sparkle and zest that was noticeably lacking in the game of their opponents. The brightest star in the Welsh firmament was young John Davies. Playing in his first International he showed little signs of nervousness, mixing his game and attacking with far more venom than any of his colleagues. Experience and a little more control will make him a very tough proposition.

### RESULTS

- K. Craigie beat M. Smith, 20-22, 21-19, 21-19.  
E. Filby beat W. Sweetland, 21-16, 21-16.  
Mrs. J. Crosby beat Miss B. Gray, 21-13 15-21, 21-16.  
R. Sharman beat S. Jones, 21-11, 21-16.  
Miss M. Jones beat Miss A. Bates, 21-13, 21-11.  
R. Sharman and R. Crayden beat M. Smith and J. Davies, 21-17, 22-24, 21-12.  
E. Filby and K. Craigie lost to W. Sweetland and S. Jones, 21-18, 13-21, 9-21.  
R. Crayden beat J. Davies, 21-16, 21-8.  
Miss M. Jones and Mrs. J. Crosby lost to Miss B. Gray and Miss A. Bates, 17-21, 21-15, 17-21.

### Youngsters on the

### Way



## FRENCH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(at Paris, 11th January, 1949)

All titles except one in the French Championships came to England this year. Richard Bergmann won the Men's Singles, beating Guy Amouretti 17, 19, -18, 17 in the final.

His semi-final win over Haguener ran to 5 games. Miss Peggy Franks achieved a triple success, beating Mlle. Yolande Vannoni 9, 9, 15 in the singles final, partnering the same young lady to win the doubles, and claiming the mixed doubles with Bergmann.

Aubrey Simons, the second nominated E.T.T.A. player, lost to Alex Agopoff, and reached the final of the mixed with Mme. Betling, losing to Bergmann/Franks at 18 in the fifth game.

### BERGMANN BEATEN!

Bergmann and Simons represented "An England Team" against "A French Team" consisting of Bordrez and Lansky, in two matches on Davis Cup lines.

In the first meeting, at Bordeaux, we won 4-1, Simons losing to Lansky, a rather severe young hitter.

The second match, at Tours, was also won by 4-1, but provided a minor sensation when Lansky, although yielding Simons his revenge to the tune of single-figure scores, yet proceeded to beat World Champion Bergmann in a 5-game set! Incidentally it is reported that at Bordeaux Bergmann took off his shoes and played in his bare feet, to get a grip on the floor. He beat Lansky that evening, but neglected to take similar precautions at Tours!

Tall Louis Deveraux, spectacled Derek Ellison, and William Pierce in the train with non-playing captain Tommy Sears (back to camera).

# NORTHERNER'S NOTE-BOOK

by STANLEY PROFFITT

**T**HERE was no disguising the smile on Bill Worsley's face as he told me the glad tidings of the junior trials. More than a slice of prestige to the North was restored when the three young men returned from London to their native Lancashire. Two of a possible three had been selected as members of the junior international team and the other one as reserve.

Let me introduce the boys to you.

**DEREK ELLISON** (Bolton) Age 16 years 6 months who has forced his way to recognition not only by brilliant play in the trials but by winning the Birmingham, Merseyside and Bolton junior championships in succession.

Probably below average height and slightly built in accordance with his age, Derek has been playing 3½ years and represents the local lads' club in league matches as well as the Bolton Sunday School inter-league team.

He was early matriculated and holds a position as a clerk in the Co-operative Bank, Manchester. During the summer months plays cricket for Astley Bridge 2nd XI (Bolton League) as a wicket-keeper, and whilst the majority of his colleagues sit around the pavilion on rainy days, Derek indulges in a quiet game of chess to such purpose that he is now considered something of an expert in this department.

\* \* \*

**WILLIAM PIERCE** (Liverpool) Was 17 on the 15th November, average height, and only in his second table tennis season. He commenced by playing for Wallasey Y.M.C.A. Juniors in the West regional division, operating on the Wirral side. This season he assists African Oil Mills, where he is employed. His team holding their position at the top of the Liverpool first division, is due, in the main, to this youngster's natural ability and keenness.

Bill's choice for the junior team is yet another proof of the value of coaching. He was one of a class of 8 that R. E. Roberts (League's official coach) took during the period from June to October last. But it was only at Billie Stamp's express request that Pierce was included in the contingent that went from Lancashire to the trials.

\* \* \*

**RONNIE BAKER** (Manchester) Tall and slight, was 17 on 25th January. Had it not been that Louis Deveraux (Torquay) happened to be on "peak" form during the trials, Ronnie would

have been certain for a place in the team. As it is, he was chosen as reserve.

—Educated at Salford Technical School he played for the first cricket and football elevens with equal vigour and won the school table tennis tournament during his second year.

At 13½ years of age Ronnie joined the Y.M.R.A. and continues to play table tennis for this club. Since leaving school Ron assists his father in their bedding manufacturing business and belongs to Manchester Y.M.C.A. where in 12 months of membership he made such rapid strides that he is now an automatic choice for Manchester "A" team in the Lancashire Counties Association league.

\* \* \*

**W**HY do I give these facts so much publicity? It is simply this. Just as Thompson and Kennedy, neighbours from across the Pennines, succeeded in gaining junior honours last year, so Ellison and Pierce are following in their footsteps.

This nucleus of youthful talent is indeed encouraging, viewed as it were through a Northern window; to present but a few others likely to hit the headlines and set a real challenge to the post-war Southern supremacy we have Beadles, Shearer, and Shelagh Wood (Yorkshire), Shaw, Costello and Adele Wood (Lancs) and from Lincoln, Skerrett, Rhodes, Davies and Miss Munnings.

**The North v. South friendly rivalry is going to be a big factor in the raising of general standards and I look forward to it with pleasure.**

\* \* \*

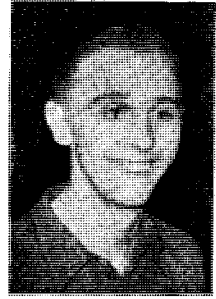
**G**ENEROUS comments are given this month to Cheshire for bulldozing their way up the National County Northern Regional division. Last season they were lowly placed, but up to the time of writing have yet to be beaten.

Mainsprings in the Cheshire success have been Bill Devine and Deryck Heaps, the latter only having lost two game since the competition began two years ago.

*Johnny Leach goes....*



## ... TO SCHOOL AGAIN.



OUR travels as a "demonstration team" of the arts and skills of Table Tennis have always proved interesting, but seldom has a "job" given us so much satisfaction as a recent visit to a well-known college somewhere in Southern England.

Set on a hill in rolling green-wooded country, the old stone manor house appeared to be the last place for such a fast modern game as Table Tennis.

But once inside, we found ourselves the objects of a warm welcome from the staff, and a hero-worshipping curiosity from the pupils. It was a mixed establishment and boys and girls of all ages from 9 to 18 took an active part in the game.

Looking around the classrooms during our tour of inspection, we noticed on almost every desk a pile of books, a pencil box and a table-tennis bat!

Each day when school is finished, the old grey corridors echo with a sound like a mountain torrent bursting its banks, as the young herds stampede towards the four tables in the gymnasium. Masters assured us that pupils frequently lost their pens, pencils and books, but never their T.T. bats. Many indeed carry them around all day as a sort of badge of rank.

Small fans rushed up to carry our bags and towels. When the

exhibition started, it was not necessary to announce the titles and achievements of the players—the audience knew them.

Girls were seated on one side of the gymnasium, boys on the other. Throughout the early games, our eyes were continually wandering to the first two rows on each side. Yes, there was no getting away from it, every one of the spectators in those rows was tightly clutching a bat, and clearly determined to use it upon us.

True, when the time came for these small challengers to "take the table," a sudden stage fright would often assail them as they looked around at the sea of expectant faces belonging to their schoolmates. However, a generous "start" and a few kindly words soon inspired them to show what they could do.

The girls were hardly less accomplished than the boys, but the games master instructed me that we must always give the boys a smaller "start" than the girls. This for the maintenance of the proper social order!

Nor was the team spirit neglected. The school captain, when facing me in the first challenge, afterwards told me, confidentially, that he did not expect to win, so he had played his game to *tire me out as much as possible in the hope that one of his tail-enders might catch me napping!*

### **Surrey v. Gloucestershire**

This National County Championship match will be staged at: Croydon Adult School, Park Lane, Croydon, on 26th February. Information and tickets from K. C. Joyes, 6, Tollers Lane, Old Coulsdon, Surrey.

### **National Civil Service Championships**

will take place from 25th March to 1st April, and finals on 6th April, at King Edward Building (G.P.O.), E.C.1. Details from: G. Glover, 20, Ansell Road, S.W.17.

# Europe Cup . . . We Are West Zone Winners

## ENGLAND 5, BELGIUM 0

(at Herne Bay, 5th January, 1949)

Untroubled this time by the fogs of November, a goodly crowd of fans assembled in the Pier Pavilion to see England win the final of the Western Zone of the Europe Cup contest.

Belgium relied upon two men only, the tall, blonde **Jean Buyens**, and the stocky, spectacled **Georges Roland**.

Opposing Johnny Leach in the first event, Buyens belied his athletic appearance by his almost "standing-still" style; yet by quick switching of his grip he managed to produce a succession of hard, placed, hits on either wing. He had sufficient punch to pass Leach cleanly on several occasions and the Englishman could only claim to be comfortable when he himself took over the attack. Then Buyens countered with half-volley hits which could not always "come off"; he either could not or would not fall back to chop and thus

### Scores:

J. Leach beat J. Buyens 11, 19, 10;  
beat G. Roland 14, —13, 13, —13,  
15.  
A. Simons beat Roland 11, —19, 15,  
14; beat Buyens 13, 17, 6.  
Leach/Barna beat Buyens/Roland 15,  
9, 16.

Leach had merely to hit steadily to build up his leads.

The respective "No. 2s," Aubrey Simons and Georges Roland, watched each other warily, and were equals in many respects. The Belgian was just a little more willing to attack, and every so often fell into the trap of Aubrey's heavily-cut forehand push shot.

Simons had to execute some fantastic defensive returns to stem the improving attacking spells of Roland at critical points in the later games; the final score of 3—1 was a fair result, but our visitor was good value for the game he won.

The doubles match clinched the tie for England, and was notable mainly for some plucky play by the Belgians against superior technique; here Buyens saved many good points by his well-placed driving.

Buyens played without spirit in the fourth event against Simons, who was able to practise his attack without the usual risks.

The quiet young Roland, however, was not going to give in; he fought like a tiger in his last match with Leach and several times fell to the floor retrieving wide balls in "Koczian" fashion. The crowd took him to their hearts and thoroughly enjoyed the fifth game, in which Leach had to play as though Bergmann himself were at the other end of the table.

In fact this crowd was one of the features of the evening—so keen were the spectators that after all the Cup matches they stayed until 10.30 to see the exhibition doubles between Barna/Harrower and Leach/Carrington, concluding with a light-hearted singles between Barna and Carrington.

This victory qualifies ENGLAND to meet HUNGARY, the winners of the Eastern Zone of the competition, to decide who shall challenge the holders, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. These ties will probably be played away from home, after the World's and English Championships.

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# ODD



# SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

**A**PROPOS of this month's article "Johnny Leach Goes to School Again," there is a sad sequel to the story.

Apparently Johnny was seriously thinking about sending his young son John to this school, but when the headmaster mentioned that the most effective punishment in that establishment was "Banning from the Table Tennis Table for One Week"—well, Johnny changed his mind. All agreed that it would be inhuman to expose a Leach to such a fate!

\* \* \*

**R**AISE our hats to Yorkshire captain, George Mitton, and Yorkshire fans in general. They were disappointed when their grand little player, Brian Kennedy, was not selected for the England team to go to Stockholm.

But did they lie down under it? Not they—within a week or two they had raised a fund to send 17-year-old Brian as an independent competitor, so far as finance is concerned. As a result, Brian, nominated as second reserve for our team, will actually be there and will be able to gain all that valuable experience which comes of mingling with the quality.

Well done, Yorkshire . . . and you certainly could not have placed your confidence in a finer young sportsman than Kennedy.

\* \* \*

**A**PART from the phenomenon of a 256 draw for the men's singles, several other items will dwell in the memories of those who spent 13 hours at the tables in that astonishing feast of table tennis entitled "The Hampshire Open."

There was the mighty *Queen Elizabeth* almost alongside the hall, and seemingly illuminated in our honour; there was the burnished "3.7" A.A. gun which served as a court-surround for one of the juniors' tables; and there, at one o'clock in the morning, was that unassuming individual assisting Mr. Decker who popped into the hall, picked up half a Jaques table in his own fair hands, carried it 30 yards to the lorry,

and returned to repeat the feat time and time again.

Dozing competitors blinked their eyes—but it really did happen. Any challengers for this record?

\* \* \*

In the Danube Cup international team tournament held at Bratislava on 16th January, HUNGARY came out winners in a field which included France, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Italy.

Hungary actually beat Czechoslovakia 5-2, Sido beating both Vana and Andreadis, and Soos beating Vana.

To cap this, the two Hungarians Sido and Koczian contested the final of the Czechoslovakian Championships!

Sido again beat Vana over 5 games, while young Koczian disposed of

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| "Special" model, double rubber  | 5/9  |
| Made to own specification       | 7/6  |
| Re-rubbered                     | 3/6  |
| Fast or Med. Rubber (2 squares) | 2/-  |

7 days delivery, reduction for dozens

## TABLE TENNIS TABLES

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|                             |              |
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| 1/2" tops with folding legs | 18 gns.      |
| 1" " " " "                  | 28 gns.      |
| Turned legs                 | extra 2 gns. |

Finished in Cellulose or Lead base Paint

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

**JOHN G. TOMS**

18, Norbett Road, Arnold, Notts.

Andreadis to the incredible tune of 21-10, 21-8, 21-10! Sido thereupon defeated Koczian 21-6, 21-17, 21-23, 20-22, 21-19 so he surely deserves the "medal of the month."

\* \* \*

**T**HE Americans always have a busy time when they come to Europe. It is unavoidable, since they must play as many fixtures as possible to recoup their enormous travelling expenses.

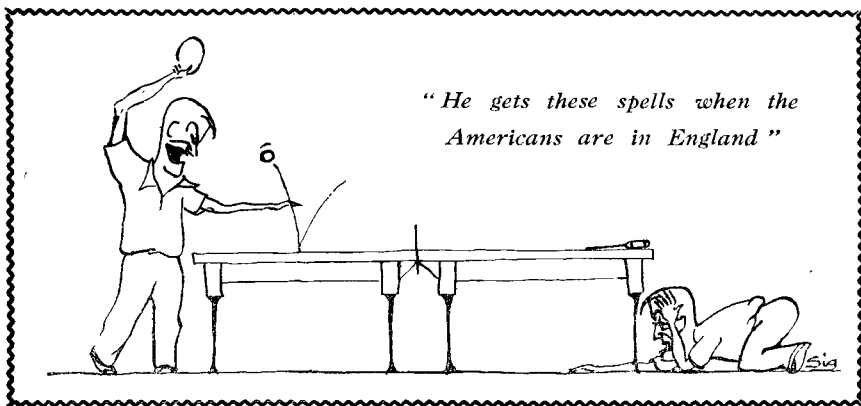
This time, however, they are surely cutting it fine; they are actually playing in Southampton on the evening of 25th February, so that they will be on the table until an hour before their steamer sails for New York!

(For other American fixtures see page 20).

## ENGLAND 8, SCOTLAND 1

England scored a comfortable victory over Scotland on Thursday, January 13th, 1949, by 8 matches to 1. Scores:—

- Men's Singles—  
 B. Kennedy beat Ross Young 21—9, 21—6.  
 Women's Doubles—  
 Miss A. Wood and Miss Steventon beat Helen Elliott and B. Pithie 21—15, 21—10.  
 Men's Singles—  
 K. Stanley beat R. Forman 21—12, 21—18.  
 Men's Doubles—  
 B. Kennedy and A. Shepherd beat Ross Young and A. Glass 21—13, 21—16.  
 Women's Singles—  
 Miss A. Wood lost to Miss H. E. Elliott 14—21, 14—21.  
 Men's Singles—  
 A. Shepherd beat A. Glass 21—12, 21—12.  
 B. Casofsky beat V. Garland 21—11, 21—17.  
 Women's Singles—  
 B. Steventon beat B. Pithie 21—15, 21—10.  
 Men's Doubles—  
 B. Casofsky and K. Stanley beat V. Garland and R. Forman 21—16, 16—21, 21—12.



"He gets these spells when the Americans are in England"

## WHAT'S IN A WORD?

Bert Meyern, the Chairman of the Wembley League, writes pleading for a ruling for the use of the words "tie" and "set" in table tennis.

He does not, of course, refer to the word "tie" meaning "an equal result," but meaning a meeting between two teams in a knock-out competition. We all know that if the Rangers team meets the Rovers team one of the teams will win the "match" and yet each meeting between two individual players is also described as a "match."

In one of the "matches" between individuals in the "match" a Rangers player may beat a Rovers player by two "games" to one, and this result may be described as "a real good game." On the other hand, some reporters may state that the Rangers player won by two "sets" to one, and we suppose that this might be described as "a good set-to!"

Have we made ourselves perfectly clear? . . . No? Well, confidentially, we thought not, but at least all this does seem to support Mr. Meyern in his plea for a ruling.

After consulting experienced administrators, the balance of opinion seems to be:

**A Tie** is a meeting between two teams in a knock-out competition.

**A Set** is a meeting between two individuals or two pairs and may consist of one, three or five games

**A Game** should obviously be simply one unit of 21 points.

This leaves us with the word "match," which need not be vague, as it ought to be used only for a meeting between teams; however, no doubt it will continue to be used to describe the individual events forming part of that match.

Your turn next, Mr. Meyern!



# ANOTHER ENGLISH WORLD CHAMPION

By Jack Carrington

Stockholm, 10th February.

WE have just left some extraordinary scenes of enthusiasm, with everyone fighting to shake Johnny Leach by the hand after that great victory, over Bohumil Vana which has made him the first native Englishman to win the World Singles title since Fred Perry won in 1929. Twenty years—but this was a victory well worth waiting for.

Johnny had never before beaten Vana, twice winner and once runner-up in this event in previous years, but he went on to the table confident that he could wear down Vana's attack with his long-range defence. Returning hit after hit, however widely angled, high to the base line, Leach was clearly out to undermine Vana's confidence and patience. By these tactics, he built up a lead of 19-14 in the first game, only to relax too soon and let his opponent pull up to 19-all before clinching the game at 21-19.

A little dazed by this success, perhaps, Leach was noticeably sluggish in the next game, which went to the Czech comfortably at 11; but the pace quickened in the third and points went alternately up to 11-all, when Johnny leapt ahead to lead 16-11 and took the game at 17.

After the regulation 5-minute rest, Vana seemed to have a new lease of life and hit confidently to all corners of the table. With Leach returning far too many shots tamely into the net, Vana levelled the games at 21-14.

In the fifth, Johnny set out to drive Vana back, but at 6-all he made three mistakes and then needed a supreme effort to get on terms again. Nobly he made that effort, levelled at 9-all, and forged ahead to 15-11. Vana now made his last bid, and with alternate hits and dropshots aimed at getting Johnny on the wrong foot, pulled up to 14-16 and 15-17. Leach held firm, though, and finished the game without losing a further point, using some masterly hitting on both wings.

\* \* \*

What of the matches that went before? First headline, of course, was Barna out in the first round. An unkind chance in the draw set him Amouretti as his first hurdle, and that was that. Others out in the first round were Sears, Boros, Sherman, Haydon (drawn against Leach) and Ken Hurlock (who fought a brilliant battle against the stubborn Soos, of Hungary, to draw level after being two games down and lost the fifth only to 17). In the second round, Harrison, Ellison, Pierce and Kennedy went out, the last named also to Leach, and at the next hurdle Simons was at the losing

## RESULTS

(More detailed results will be published in the next issue)

**Men's Singles:** J. Leach beat B. Vana, 19, —11, 17, —14, 15.

**Men's Doubles:** Tokar and I. Andreadis beat B. Vana and L. Stipek, 18, 18, 21.

**Women's Singles:** G. Farkas beat K. Hruskova, —19, —18, 8, 9, 9.

**Women's Doubles:** H. Elliot and G. Farkas beat L. R. Barnes and J. Crosbie, 10, 11, 13.

**Mixed Doubles:** G. Farkas and F. Sido beat K. Hruskova and B. Vana, 13, 15, 17.

end of a five-game tussle with Varkonyi, Hungarian fourth string.

Meanwhile, Stipek, McClure and Flisberg had all been eliminated. A bigger shock was to come, however, when Richard Bergmann went out to the clever Soos. Playing a stern defensive game, Ferencz Soos quickly made it clear that the game was to be a test of endurance, and the first game ended in his favour when the time limit was imposed at 18-17. The second game was finished within the 20 minutes at 21-17, and Soos slowed things down even further in an effort to clinch things in straight games. Seventeen minutes took the game to 11-10, with Soos that all important point ahead. Then the ball broke, and ten minutes was spent in picking another. Then Soos hit like a demon, and took the score to 20-14 before time was up.

In the same round, Johnny Leach beat the massive Sido in four games, slowing down his fierce driving in a

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

masterly fashion. After that, Johnny seemed an inspired player. Miles, in the semi-final, had two match points in the fifth game after Johnny had twice held a game lead; returning Miles' hardest drives from all corners, occasionally turning on the pressure himself, and quite unperturbed at moments when things seemed to be going wrong, Leach pulled the game out of the fire at the end. After that, he had to change his style completely against the slower Ferencz Soos. Taking two games by all-out attack, he lost the impetus of his first rush and the match levelled at two games all. In the fifth, he felt his way along till, leading 15-11, he staged a well-timed blitz to bring him to 20-15. Soos saved the next three points, but that was all he could do and on went Johnny to Vana, the final, and the title.

\* \* \*

The women's singles were disappointing, for the last remaining British representatives, Peggy Franks and Helen Elliot, were eliminated in the quarter finals, Peggy taking one game off Gizi Farkas and Helen losing in straight games to Hruskova, of Czechoslovakia, who later went on to contest the final which Farkas won after being two games down.

\* \* \*

The women's doubles provided three British players out of four, Joan Crosbie and Pinkie Barnes being matched against Helen Elliot (Scotland) and Gizi Farkas (Hungary) after the American favourites, Thelma Thall and Peggy McLean, had surprisingly gone down to the Welsh pair Audrey Bates and Mrs. Roy Evans. The English pair couldn't get going at all, and Scotland got a share in a world title for the first time after a three-game match with wide margins.

\* \* \*

In the men's doubles, Leach and Barna could find no answer to Tokar and Andreadis (Czechoslovakia) and lost their quarter-final in straight games. Bergmann, partnered again by the Swedish Flisberg, reached the semi-final only to lose to Vana and Stipek, the holders, who were themselves beaten by their Czech team-mates Tokar and Andreadis in the final.

\* \* \*

The mixed doubles saw Johnny Leach once again at his best. Partnered by Peggy Franks, who seemed inspired by her partner's form, they beat the holders, Miles and Thelma Thall (U.S.A.) in the first round and carried all before them until they came up against the Hungarian pair of Sido and Miss Farkas, the

eventual winners, in the semi-final, when they were unable to take even one game.

## SWAYTHLING CUP

This year, with Hungary, the Americans, and France drawn in the opposite group, the only serious hurdles our team had to surmount to reach the final were Sweden and Czechoslovakia; and, as Sweden are still unable to find strong support for their one star, Flisberg, we could feel fairly confident of that match too.

The first day hardly tested our players—victories over Brazil, Denmark, and Holland, and in straight games, did little more than warm them up and accustom them to the conditions. Saturday's matches against Italy and Austria were more or less the same, and even Sweden were only able to extend one of the sets to the full three games before we had got home another five-love victory on Sunday afternoon. Flisberg went down in straight games to both Bergmann and Leach, his second game against Johnny being remarkable for the sequence of 20 winning points with which the Londoner romped home after being 1-4 down.

So far, our team had done all that was expected of them. Sunday evening showed them unable to do the unexpected and eliminate the Czech holders of the trophy. Andreadis beat Bergmann and Barna with his usual appearance of ease, though he dropped a game to each. Vana beat Barna and Leach comfortably in straight games. Stipek gave us our solitary set in a three-game match with Bergmann, and only saved the second game in his set with Leach after being 15-20 down.

Meanwhile, in the other half, the Americans had been slow to settle down on the first day and seemed quite unable to reproduce their startling form of last year's London meeting. Meeting Hungary on the first evening after a solitary match with Norway which had given them little practice, they received an early shock when big Sido beat Richard Miles, strongly tipped for the Singles Championship once again, to 15 and 13. After that, they never recovered and Hungary, confirming their recent European form, ran out at 5-2. France, as expected, were not quite good enough to beat either the Americans (though they went close at four sets to five) or the Hungarians, who beat them without dropping a set, and thus the Hungarians joined the Czech team in the final.

The final on Monday night (which we shall report more fully next month) was

a thrilling ding-dong affair in doubt until the last set, ending with Hungary the odd set ahead and once more in possession of the trophy which, from 1926 to 1935 they had regarded as almost their own.

### CORBILLON CUP

The English girls—all, except our No. 1, Peggy Franks, new to Corbillon Cup matches—survived an early threat on the Friday evening in beating the French team 3—2, after which they had a fairly easy passage until they met Austria on the Sunday. Austria, however, failed to put up the opposition expected, and our team went through to the final with another 3—0 victory.

In the other half, the Americans,

headed by a new star Peggy McLean, and the Hungarians with World Champion Gizi Farkas, backed up by a much improved Rose Karpati, provided the strength. When they met on the Sunday evening, Hungary picked up two out of the first three matches, and with Farkas still one match to play, things looked all over for the U.S. team. Peggy McLean thought different, however, and, stimulated by her colleague's victory, Mildred Shaihan, U.S. second string, went on to clinch matters in the final set. From then on, the Americans didn't look back, and the final against our girls (Peggy Franks and Pinkie Barnes) gave them a clear victory by three sets to one.

### SWAYTHLING CUP

#### Group One (Won by Hungary).

| Versus        | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | Matches Won. |   |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|---|
| 1. Finland    | ... | 0-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | 4-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | ...          | 0 |
| 2. France     | ... | 5-0 | 5-2 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 0-5 | 4-5 | 5-0 | ...          | 5 |
| 3. Jugoslavia | ... | 5-0 | 3-5 | —   | 5-0 | 0-5 | 1-5 | 5-0 | ...          | 4 |
| 4. Luxemburg  | ... | 5-0 | 0-5 | 0-5 | —   | 5-2 | 2-5 | 0-5 | ...          | 2 |
| 5. Norway     | ... | 5-4 | 0-5 | 0-5 | 2-5 | —   | 0-5 | 0-5 | ...          | 1 |
| 6. Hungary    | ... | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-2 | 5-0 | —   | 5-2 | ...          | 7 |
| 7. U.S.A.     | ... | 5-0 | 5-4 | 5-1 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 2-5 | —   | ...          | 6 |
| 8. Wales      | ... | 5-0 | 0-5 | 0-5 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 0-5 | —   | ...          | 3 |

Egypt and Poland scratched.

#### Group Two (Won by Czechoslovakia).

| Versus            | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | Matches Won. |   |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|---|
| 1. Brazil         | ... | 5-2 | 0-5 | 3-5 | 3-5 | 3-5 | 5-3 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 1-5 | ...          | 2 |
| 2. Denmark        | ... | 2-5 | —   | 0-5 | 1-5 | 4-5 | 4-5 | 5-2 | 0-5 | 1-5 | ...          | 1 |
| 3. England        | ... | 5-0 | 5-0 | —   | 5-0 | 5-1 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 1-5 | ...          | 8 |
| 4. Holland        | ... | 5-3 | 5-1 | 0-5 | —   | 5-4 | 5-1 | 0-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | ...          | 5 |
| 5. Italy          | ... | 5-3 | 5-4 | 1-5 | 4-5 | —   | 5-4 | 5-0 | 1-5 | 0-5 | ...          | 4 |
| 6. Switzerland    | ... | 5-3 | 5-4 | 0-5 | 4-5 | 4-5 | —   | 5-4 | 1-5 | 0-5 | ...          | 3 |
| 7. Scotland       | ... | 3-5 | 2-5 | 0-5 | 1-5 | 0-5 | 4-5 | —   | 0-5 | 0-5 | ...          | 0 |
| 8. Sweden         | ... | 5-1 | 5-0 | 0-5 | 5-0 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-0 | —   | 0-5 | ...          | 7 |
| 9. Czechoslovakia | ... | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | —   | ...          | 9 |
| 10. Austria       | ... | 5-1 | 5-0 | 0-5 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 3-5 | 1-5 | —   | ...          | 6 |

### FINAL: HUNGARY BEAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5-4

### CORBILLON CUP

#### Group One (Won by U.S.A.).

| Versus            | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | Matches Won. |   |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|---|
| 1. Denmark        | ... | 0-3 | 0-3 | 3-0 | 0-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | ...          | 1 |
| 2. Holland        | ... | 3-0 | —   | 0-3 | 3-0 | 1-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | ...          | 2 |
| 3. Jugoslavia     | ... | 3-0 | 3-0 | —   | 3-0 | 0-3 | 0-3 | 1-3 | ...          | 3 |
| 4. Norway         | ... | 0-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | —   | 1-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | ...          | 0 |
| 5. Scotland       | ... | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-0 | 3-1 | —   | 1-3 | 1-3 | ...          | 4 |
| 6. Czechoslovakia | ... | 3-0 | 3-0 | 3-0 | 3-0 | 3-1 | —   | 1-3 | ...          | 5 |
| 7. Hungary        | ... | 3-0 | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-1 | —   | ...          | 6 |
| 8. U.S.A.         | ... | 3-0 | 3-0 | 3-0 | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-2 | —   | ...          | 7 |

Egypt scratched.

#### Group Two (Won by England).

| Versus     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | Matches Won. |   |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|---|
| 1. England | ... | 3-0 | 3-2 | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-0 | 3-2 | ...          | 6 |
| 2. Finland | ... | 0-3 | —   | 0-3 | 1-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | ...          | 0 |
| 3. France  | ... | 2-3 | 3-0 | —   | 3-1 | 3-0 | 3-0 | ...          | 5 |
| 4. Italy   | ... | 0-3 | 3-1 | 1-3 | —   | 0-3 | 0-3 | ...          | 1 |
| 5. Sweden  | ... | 1-3 | 3-0 | 0-3 | 3-0 | —   | 1-3 | ...          | 2 |
| 6. Wales   | ... | 0-3 | 3-0 | 0-3 | 3-0 | 3-1 | —   | ...          | 3 |
| 7. Austria | ... | 2-3 | 3-0 | 2-3 | 3-1 | 3-0 | 3-1 | ...          | 4 |

Rumania and Switzerland scratched.

### FINAL: U.S.A. BEAT ENGLAND 3-1

# “End This Hypocrisy”

## IRELAND PREFERS TO BUILD-UP

### “Resting” from Swaythling Cup this year

The game continues to flourish over here, and membership is expected to show a further increase this season. Ireland, for administrative purposes, is divided into the Four provinces of Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. Connaught is not, as yet, formed into a Branch, but

By **NORMAN WILSON**,  
Hon. Secretary, Irish T.T.A.

a number of recent contacts have been established in the west for the purpose of completing this essential step in our organisation.

The decision that Ireland would not compete in the World's Championships at Stockholm was taken at the Annual General Meeting last May.

In Ireland, where there is a rather limited field of talent, immense calls are made each season on the small group of players of international standard, and in the past it has been found that time has not permitted some of them to compete in some of their own Association events. **So long as large areas of our country remain undeveloped so far as table tennis is concerned, it is the duty of the Association to assist by sending exhibition players, officials . . . in other words, by spending money on missionary work.**

Table tennis districts in Ireland are so scattered as to constitute grave difficulties by reason of inadequate transport, resulting in only rare occasions when the leading players meet together. Efforts are now afoot to extend an experiment which was successfully tried by the Ulster Branch, which brought together the sixteen leading players in the province. The top-ranking four were appointed captains and the remaining twelve players were drawn to give four teams of one captain plus three. These teams then played each other on Swaythling Cup lines.

Forthcoming programme includes: —

**Irish Open Championships—**  
Dublin, 21st-26th February.

**Irish Close Championships—**  
Bangor, 3rd-5th March.

**England v. Ireland—**  
Liverpool, 11th March.

**Scotland v. Ireland—**  
Scotland, 25th March.

says **BILL PARKER**

I was impressed by the obvious sincerity of Leo Thompson's letter regarding the “new” Service Rule, published in the January issue of “TABLE TENNIS.”

Leo hits the nail on the head first time, in his summing-up; there is no doubt that a player who uses a fair service is disturbed in his concentration when his opponent uses foul services throughout a match. I would, in fact, say that *the player who is trying to observe the rule is handicapped more, mentally, than if he were facing a “pre-1947” spin-service.*

I doubt whether 10 per cent. of all players fully comply with the rule—and I am quite sure that less than 10 per cent. of umpires pay due regard to it.

The time has come to end this farce, upon which officials seem to gaze with blind eyes. I agree with Leo Thompson . . . either

- (a) the rule must go entirely, or
- (b) the ball must be thrown into the air not necessarily with flat open hand.

**(The use of finger-spin should, I feel, still be disallowed).**

Play would be brightened and games would not last so perilously near to the time-limit as often occurs now in top-class matches, since players would once again use their service to work up for a “winner.”

As one who never possessed a finger-spin service, I would say emphatically that even the “Finger-spin Age” was preferable to this present “Hypocrisy Age.”

**I was one of those who was in favour of giving the “new service” a trial—now it has had that trial and must go.**

## INTERESTING NORTHERN EVENTS

Spectators at the **ENGLAND v. IRELAND** international at Liverpool on **Friday, 11th March, 1949**, will be able to “do” the match in comfort.

All seats in the Philharmonic Hall are booked, and every one has a fine view. Prices: —

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Boxes (to seat 6) . . . . .       | 30s. 0d. |
| Platform . . . . .                | 5s. 0d.  |
| Stalls and Upper Stalls . . . . . | 3s. 6d.  |
| Balcony . . . . .                 | 2s. 6d.  |

The North-East England Open claims to be more than “just another tournament”; rather should it be described as a “holiday with table tennis.”

Play will take place at Scarborough, in the All Saints' School, on Easter Saturday and Monday, April 16th and 18th, with definite breaks in the timetable for competitors to relax and enjoy their meals. Sunday will, of course, be a free day.

Accommodation can be reserved by application to the tournament secretary, Mr. S. Waller, 2, Sydney Street, Scarborough.

# TOURNAMENT

## THE METROPOLITAN OPEN

(at the Polytechnic, London,  
3rd-8th January, 1949)

ALL records were broken this year; never so many entrants, never such crowds every night of the week, and surely never so many international selectors and candidates for places gathered together in an "ordinary" tournament?

The seeding process was supposed to have been applied to help the selectors in their arduous decisions, but as things worked out, the direct bearing between tournament results and ultimate selections was not very apparent.

Nevertheless there were some excellent matches, especially on the crowded Friday when the provincial players joined the Londoners.

World Champion Richard Bergmann patiently played his way through the "groups" on Tuesday evening, and forged steadily to the final, improving all the time as his tournament touch returned.

Eric Filby, ex-Swaythling Cup man and Wimbledon tennis player, showed glimpses of his old style, especially in beating Craigie and taking Leach to a tight finish in the third game.

Aubrey Simons used his sudden smashes cleverly to tax Bergmann's nerve in the semi-final, but, as usual, Bergmann somehow proved equal to all emergencies, and thus the crowd settled down to watch the first Leach-Bergmann duel since the latter won the World Singles at Wembley last February.

It proved worth waiting for. To most of us Leach seemed to be playing better than last year—more punch to his hits, more guile in his drop shots, and quicker in his reaction to the sudden forehand drives of Bergmann. Yet the champion won 3-2 and this must give some measure of his great form.

Lancashire's Adele Wood lost to Joyce Roberts of Middlesex; Betty Steventon and Molly Jones played well, but Peggy Franks and Pinkie Barnes showed definitely better class in their play—much more likely to win Corbillon Cup matches.

ASSOCIATED with the "Met" tournament, although not part of it, were the Trials staged in the same hall on the Saturday morning. It was not

expected that the men's positions would take long to fill, but the selectors obviously gave several "possibles" a chance to assert themselves and confirm previous flashes of promise.

**No big sensations resulted, but Brian Kennedy's defeat of Ernie Bublely marks the first loss of that stern match player to anyone of the new generation.**

It was the women's team which caused the longest sessions in the committee-room, especially as various doubles combinations had to be tried out for Stockholm.

In the long run Miss Adele Wood's form and youth tipped the scale for her, while Mrs. Joan Crosbie, of Exeter, showed progressive improvement to earn her place by what must have been the narrowest of margins over Miss Steventon and Miss M. Jones.

## THE HAMPSHIRE OPEN

FIVE minutes after midnight on January 16th, Jack Head plodded wearily back to the table at the Blightmont Drill Hall, Southampton, to play off the men's singles final against W. Muller, of Southampton. Head, who had then been playing since noon and almost continuously for most of the evening, was faced with the prospect of five more matches one after the other—singles and doubles finals, then quarter, semi, and final rounds of the mixed. Small wonder, perhaps, that he was on the winning side in only one of these matches, the mixed quarter-final.

This should not, however, detract from Muller's outstanding performance in winning the title. It was a triumph of limited stroke play, imposed by his penhold-grip style, linked with unlimited concentration and determination, which accounted successively for Thornhill, Carrington and Head.

Mrs. George, Surrey's fast improving discovery, took another stride forward to win the women's title from Miss Benstead, and went close to winning the women's doubles too, partnered by Mrs. Atherton, only going down after a hard battle with the Salisbury representatives, Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Wilson.

The remaining doubles titles were somewhat spoiled by the tiredness of the competitors and the lateness of the hour at which they were played. Langner and Markwell won their doubles by some inspired hitting.

# TOPICS

## THE LANCASHIRE OPEN

### Great Gathering in Manchester

Victor Barna's withdrawal from the singles meant that the Lancashire Open Championships at Ardwick, Manchester, really was a very "open" event.

Benny Casofsky again demonstrated to the fans that he is a great player, especially by the way in which he outmanoeuvred Ken Stanley in the semi-final, the latter having previously defeated the much-fancied Hymie Lurie.

International pairing Harrower and Barna, of Middlesex, took the Doubles final easily from the left-handed Rumjahn brothers, of Liverpool, but in an earlier round were given quite a scare by the young Lancashire combination of Doug Shaw and Ken Holland.

Betty Steventon was in grand form; ignoring her recent disappointment at the international trials in London she defeated the new "cap," Adele Wood, and gave Scotland's leading lady, Helen Elliot, many anxious moments in the final.

Consolation came to Adele when she scored in the doubles with Helen Elliot, and the Girls' Singles in which the losing finalist was another Miss Wood—the time Sheilagh, from Leeds.

All eyes were on Mrs. Margery Cumberbatch, whose West Bromwich supporters claim that she has reached international level. Alas, she was outclassed by the cool Peggy Allen, of Blackpool.

Most exciting match for spectators was the Junior final. With the score 1-game to each boy, Fred Daly, of Bolton, stood away 14-6 from Ronnie Baker, of Manchester. Somehow Baker managed to steady up and overhaul his man, then suddenly forced the pace to win at 21-19.

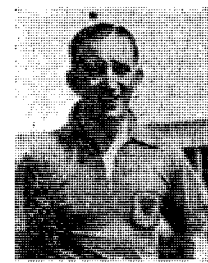
**Novel idea was the staging of a junior match Lancashire v. Lincolnshire, during the course of the tournament. Lancs won this one 8-1.**

**Stan Proffitt, England selector, was responsible for this excellent scheme. Said Stan:—**

*"This way I can study the lads while they are up against their natural competitors. And they get the extra match experience even if they have had an unlucky break in the senior tournament."*



PEGGY FRANKS



BENNY CASOFSKY

## — and the Results

### METROPOLITAN

- M.S. Semi-Finals—  
Leach beat Bublely 12, 11.  
Bergmann beat Simons 18, 18.
- M.S. Final—  
Bergmann beat Leach 13, —17, —19, 9, 16.
- W.S.—  
Miss P. Franks beat Miss E. Steventon 11, 10.
- M.D.—  
Leach/Carrington beat Simons/Mackay 18, 11.
- X.D.—  
Leach/Franks beat Barna/A. Wood 15, 13.
- W.D.—  
Franks/Barnes beat Wood/M. Jones 16, 17.
- Boys—  
P. Smith (Leyton) beat A. Santer (Manhattan Club) 4, 10.

### LANCASHIRE

- Men's Singles :  
B. Casofsky beat G. Harrower, 16, 12.
- Women's Singles :  
Miss H. Elliot beat Miss E. Steventon, 14, —19, 12.
- Men's Doubles :  
V. Barna/G. Harrower beat R. and E. Rumjahn, 16, 17.
- Women's Doubles :  
Misses A. Wood/H. Elliot beat Misses E. Mansell/J. Roberts, 11, 13.
- Boys' :  
R. Baker beat F. Daly, —18, 20, 19.
- Girls' :  
Miss A. Wood beat Miss S. J. Wood, 13, 9.

### HAMPSHIRE

- Men's Singles :  
Muller beat Head 20, —22, 15.
- Women's Singles :  
Mrs. George (Weybridge) beat Miss Benstead (Finchley) 17, —12, 21.
- Men's Doubles :  
Markwell/Langner (Essex) beat Carrington/Head (Surrey) 14, 19.
- Women's Doubles :  
Mrs. Horn/Mrs. Wilson (Salisbury) beat Mrs. George/Mrs. Atherton (Surrey) —12, 12, 14.
- Mixed Doubles :  
Suggitt (Aldershot) and Mrs. Horn beat Venner and Mrs. Heading (Surrey) 11, —19, 16.
- Junior Boys' :  
A. England (Bournemouth) beat D. Matthews (Morden) 17, —17, 11.

# Adrian Answers . . .

England Captain, A. A. Haydon, invites your questions

? *Can you turn the hand over to release ball when serving—under New Service rule, of course?*

NO. The ball must leave the hand vertically upwards or the hand may be withdrawn vertically downwards, according to the latest instructions to umpires.

Several prominent players have been faulted for turning the hand, especially when attempting a back-hand service, and I shall not be surprised if a special conference of players has to be called to explain this point, before the start of the English Open this month.

\* \* \*

? *Is it a foul to serve the ball so that it leaves the opponent's court by going over the side lines or must it leave by crossing the base line?*

No, it is quite legitimate for the ball, on its second bounce, to cross the

opponent's sideline. In fact this is a very useful service in certain cases, but it is not too easy to do it now that the rules prevent any great amount of spin being applied to the service.

When "finger-spin" was allowed it was quite common to see a ball kick away over the side-line with an "Off" or "Leg" break as in cricket. Now it can only be done by ensuring a very short bound of the ball, combined with such amount of side—or cross-spin as can be applied with the bat after the ball has been vertically thrown up from the palm of the hand without spin.

The danger is that in attempting to place the ball well out to your opponent's left or right, you will be tempted to stand too far over to your own right or left (respectively) and thus will make a foul service, i.e. the ball may be outside your own sideline (or its imaginary continuation) when you throw it up.

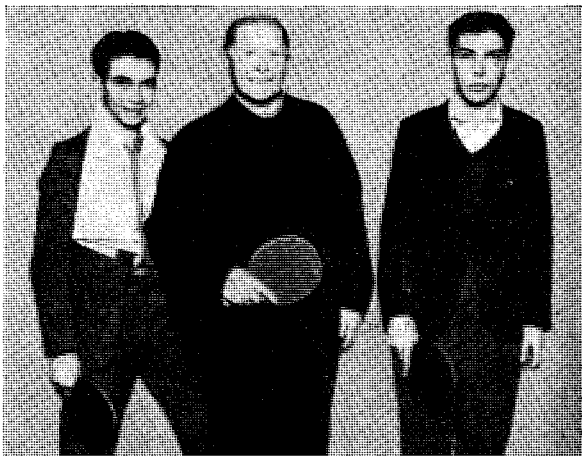
## THREE YOUNG SPORTSMEN OF TABLE TENNIS

The small laddie with the towel around his neck is **RON PARMENTER** of Romford Y.M.C.A. Club which discovered Johnny Leach. He is now serving in the R.A.F.

His determined partner is **JOHN CRISPIN** of Willesden, who was just beginning to "break through" in the tournaments last season but has gone to Gibraltar for a spell of duty with Cables and Wireless.

Youngest of them all in spirit is the old gentleman in the centre, **ARTHUR KELLY**. This London Irishman started the game at 67 and at 77 is still practising. The doctor occasionally sends him to bed for a rest, but it usually ends up with a "best of three" between the doctor and the patient, after which the doctor goes to bed for a rest!

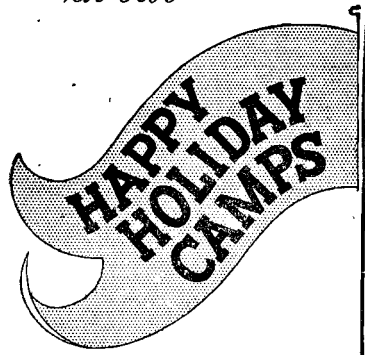
"Uncle Arthur" Kelly founded the all-



conquering Tottenham Liberal Club just before the war and spent most of his time and money ferrying hard-up competitors to the tournaments in his private shooting brake.

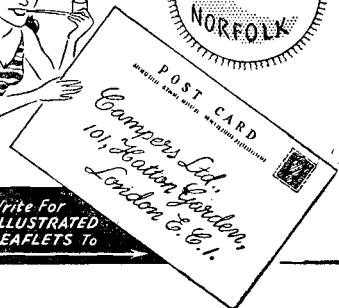
When the E.T.T.A. Office was blitzed to the ground in 1940, Arthur Kelly was first in the field with gifts of office furniture to put the Association into action again.

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



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

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



Write for  
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# Looking Around

with George White

**T**HAT thorny subject, the service rule, is still responsible for many of the letters which reach the editor each month; and most of the writers seem to feel that there is something wrong with things as they stand. Certainly if one watches what goes on at league matches and tournaments, little doubt remains that the rule is more often ignored than followed strictly, both by players and by umpires. Strange, indeed, since the rule was supposed to have been changed mainly to assist umpires.

Latest to comment on the service rule is Bill Parker, who has some strong and well-reasoned words to say about it elsewhere in this issue.

\* \* \*

**T**HIS is the stage in the season when so many unbeaten records begin to disappear. Still preserved so far, however, is that of the Willesden League, zone finalists in the Wilmott Cup and the J.M. Rose Bowl, and heading Senior and Junior zones in the Middlesex Inter-League. Familiar names amongst their players are Jack Glickman and Gwen Mace, support coming from Harry Rosen (remember him at all the tournaments pre-war?), Keith Lipscombe and Bill King. Best achievements are those of Rose Bowl team-members Una East and Peggy Veal in beating Joyce Roberts and Eileen Benstead respectively—each in straight games—in putting North Middlesex out of the Rose Bowl.

A good example to other leagues keen on helping the juniors along—Willesden are paying the entrance fees for the English Junior event for likely lads. Amongst these is Ron Bernstein, whose father took part in the first (1926) World Championships and won the Jubilee Cup at Wembley last year.

\* \* \*

**T**ALKING of juniors, East London have been giving their youngsters good experience in inter-league matches whenever their established stars have not been available. So far, Secretary Eagle is well satisfied with the results—two victories in which not a single set has been dropped, with players aged from sixteen to twenty. It looks as if the Wilmott Cup may be finding a home down in East London in a few years' time. It is good to hear of some London youngsters doing well, too, in view of the way in which the provincial lads swept the board at the recent trials.

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

## AMAZING MIDDLESEX RISE

In the Premier Division Gloucester and Essex, having both lost two matches in January, fall to fourth and sixth respectively, whilst Middlesex, from being firmly on the bottom, advance even more firmly to the top, and appear in an unshakable position. Warwickshire, too, have had two excellent wins, and are now a good third.

Middlesex, in fact, have much to thank Warwick for, as their two wins were over Gloucester and Essex. Against Gloucester, Warwick just got home, after suffering a severe shock in the second set, when Bobby Mackay succeeded in losing to Griffin after leading a game and 5-4! Essex preferred Collar to Brumwell at No. 3 against Warwick, but he lost both his sets, and with the absence of Peggy Franks and Eileen Adams turning all the girls' games against them, they suffered another reverse, notwithstanding two wins by Johnny Leach. Another loss for Essex against Lancashire has put them right out of the running.

Middlesex played four matches in just over a fortnight, starting shakily and finishing in great style. Surrey were overcome by 5-4, after a win for Surrey appeared likely when they led 4-2; a good win away against Lancashire 6-3 was accomplished mainly by Joyce Roberts taking a comfortable win over Adele Wood, and the new "cap," Alan Shepherd, losing to both Harrower and Crouch.

850 people packed the Cheltenham Town Hall and saw one of the best matches of the season. Bob Griffin, playing before his home crowd, thrilled everybody with his fine display against Victor Barna, and Victor had to pull out all he knew before winning 21-18, 22-20.

Yorkshire made the long trip South to play Middlesex and Surrey in one week-end, but went home without any points, although George Mitton put up a good show with a narrow win over new International Ron Crayden. Sensation of their trip, however, was the defeat of the hitherto invincible Nora Senior and Marjorie Lightfoot, by a new Middlesex combination in Rene Lentle and Margaret Bennett, who, in fact, had never played together before.

## HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

Middlesex 2nds consolidated their position by a good 8-1 win over Cam-

bridge, this match being played before an enthusiastic crowd of over 200, a record attendance in Cambridge.

Both their closest rivals were successful, Essex 2nds succeeding 6-3 away to Buckinghamshire, but not before Leo Thompson had recorded another two victories, and Bedfordshire winning by a similar score at home to Herts, for whom Bebb played well to beat Randall in straight games. However, Middlesex will have to lose their final match against Hertfordshire by a big score to give either Beds or Essex, who meet this month, a chance of winning the division.

## NORTHERN DIVISION

Only a really bold prophet would care to risk a forecast on the eventual winner of this division, as a glance at the league table will show. As in the Premier Division, upsets were the rule, last month's leading counties, Lancashire 2nds and Durham, both falling from grace. Durham's defeat at the hands of Lincolnshire was sensational, Lincoln not having previously recorded a win this season. Lancashire 2nds were shattered 9-0 by Northumberland, who now have a terrific games average, but many of the Lancashire players were released to play in the Manchester closed tournament, and an experimental side could not hold their own against the experienced Northumberland players, although five of the sets went to three games.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

Positively no charge is made to Kent for my suggestion to play the 19-year-old Syndercombe (see last month's issue)! This lad appeared at No. 3 for Kent against Hampshire, and won both his games in great style, with the result that the potential wooden spoonists at one time held a 4-3 lead over potential champions Hampshire.

Surrey 2nds kept within striking distance with a good 6-3 win over Sussex, and the match between Surrey and Hampshire this month will decide the championships, although it will be seen that Surrey must win 7-2 to succeed.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DIVISION

Nottinghamshire demonstrated their superiority over Midland rivals with a good 8-1 win over Leicestershire, and should prove easy winners of this division.



**CLASSIFIED RESULTS**

|                                |   |                 |   |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>Premier Division:</b>       |   |                 |   |
| Warwickshire                   | 5 | Gloucestershire | 4 |
| Lancashire                     | 3 | Middlesex       | 6 |
| Surrey                         | 6 | Yorkshire       | 3 |
| Middlesex                      | 9 | Yorkshire       | 0 |
| Warwickshire                   | 6 | Essex           | 3 |
| Middlesex                      | 5 | Surrey          | 4 |
| Gloucestershire                | 2 | Middlesex       | 7 |
| Essex                          | 3 | Lancashire      | 6 |
| <b>Home Counties Division:</b> |   |                 |   |
| Middlesex 2nds                 | 8 | Cambridgeshire  | 1 |
| Bedfordshire                   | 6 | Hertfordshire   | 3 |
| Buckinghamshire                | 3 | Essex 2nds      | 6 |
| <b>Northern Division:</b>      |   |                 |   |
| Durham                         | 3 | Lincolnshire    | 6 |
| Lancashire 2nds                | 0 | Northumberland  | 9 |
| Yorkshire 2nds                 | 6 | Lancashire 2nds | 3 |
| Lincolnshire                   | 3 | Cheshire        | 6 |
| <b>Southern Division:</b>      |   |                 |   |
| Surrey 2nds                    | 6 | Sussex          | 3 |
| Kent                           | 4 | Hampshire       | 5 |
| <b>Supplementary Division:</b> |   |                 |   |
| Nottinghamshire                | 8 | Leicestershire  | 1 |

**DIVISIONAL TABLES**

**Premier Division**

|                 | P.  | W.  | L.  | F. | A. | Pts.      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----------|
| Middlesex       | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 4  | 1 29 16 8 |
| Surrey          | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 3  | 2 24 21 6 |
| Warwickshire    | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 3  | 2 20 25 6 |
| Gloucestershire | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 2  | 2 19 17 4 |
| Lancashire      | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 2  | 3 23 22 4 |
| Essex           | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 2  | 3 22 23 4 |
| Yorkshire       | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 1  | 4 16 29 2 |

**Home Counties Division**

|                 | P.  | W.  | L.  | F. | A. | Pts.      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----------|
| Middlesex 2nds  | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 4  | 0 28 8 8  |
| Essex 2nds      | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 3  | 1 23 13 6 |
| Bedfordshire    | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 3  | 1 20 16 6 |
| Buckinghamshire | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 1  | 3 18 18 2 |
| Hertfordshire   | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 1  | 3 12 24 2 |
| Cambridgeshire  | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 0  | 4 7 29 0  |

**Northern Division**

|                 | P.  | W.  | L.  | F. | A. | Pts.      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----------|
| Northumberland  | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 3  | 2 33 12 6 |
| Cheshire        | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 3  | 1 21 15 6 |
| Yorkshire 2nds  | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 3  | 1 21 15 6 |
| Durham          | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 3  | 1 20 16 6 |
| Lancashire 2nds | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 2  | 2 17 19 4 |
| Lincolnshire    | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 1  | 4 16 30 2 |
| Cumberland      | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 0  | 4 8 28 0  |

**Southern Division**

|             | P.  | W.  | L.  | F. | A. | Pts.       |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|------------|
| Hampshire   | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 5  | 0 33 12 10 |
| Surrey 2nds | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 4  | 1 29 16 8  |
| Sussex      | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 1  | 4 16 29 2  |
| Kent        | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 0  | 5 12 33 0  |

**Supplementary Division**

|                 | P.  | W.  | L.  | F. | A. | Pts.     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----------|
| Nottinghamshire | ... | ... | ... | 2  | 2  | 0 15 3 4 |
| Leicestershire  | ... | ... | ... | 2  | 1  | 1 7 11 2 |
| Derbyshire      | ... | ... | ... | 2  | 0  | 2 5 13 0 |

**WILMOTT CUP**

**3rd Round results**

|                       |     |                      |      |
|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|------|
| Central               | 5   | Civil Service        | 4    |
| East London           | 1   | Fellows              |      |
|                       |     | Crangleigh           | 8    |
| Staines               | 8   | Leatherhead          | 1    |
| Willesden             | 8   | Byfleet              | 1    |
| South London          | 6   | Beckenham            | 3    |
| Watford               | 3   | Luton                | 5    |
| Southampton           |     |                      |      |
| C/S Club              | w/o | Brighton             | scr. |
| Lincoln               | 6   | Grimsby              | 3    |
| Manchester            | 9   | Birmingham           | 0    |
| Bolton Sunday Schools | 5   | Halifax Red Triangle | 4    |

**J. M. ROSE BOWL**

**3rd Round results**

|                 |   |               |   |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| Central         | 6 | Civil Service | 3 |
| North-West Kent | 5 | L.B.H.A.S.A.  | 4 |
| Wembley         | 9 | Watford       | 0 |
| North Middlesex | 3 | Willesden     | 5 |
| Croydon         | 5 | Brighton      | 4 |
| Ipswich         | 6 | Lowestoft     | 3 |
| Blackpool       | 3 | Manchester    | 6 |

**ZONE FINALS**

|           |   |                 |   |
|-----------|---|-----------------|---|
| Central   | 7 | North-West Kent | 2 |
| Willesden | 2 | Wembley         | 7 |

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tournaments marked thus \* include events specially for Juniors.

| Date            | Tournament or Event     | Venue                                  | Tickets or Information from:                                       |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Feb. 21         | U.S.A. v. ....          | Town Hall, Cheltenham                  | D. L. Thompson, 59, Rodney Road, Cheltenham.                       |
| Feb. 22         | U.S.A. v. Home Counties | Eltham Baths, S.E.9                    | F. H. Derbyshire, 55, Rennets Wood Road, S.E.9. Tel.: ELTham 6919. |
| Feb. 23         | U.S.A. v. A Welsh Team  | City Hall, Cardiff                     | Mrs. H. Roy Evans, 16, Tymawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.               |
| Feb. 24         | ENGLAND v. U.S.A.       | Aylesford Paper Mills, New Hythe, Kent | L. Sadler, Aylesford Paper Mills T.T. Club.                        |
| Feb. 25         | U.S.A. v. ....          | Blighmont Hall, Southampton            | Miss L. Ferguson, 20, Atherley Road, Southampton.                  |
| *Feb. 24-26     | Midland Counties Open   | The Indoor Sports Stadium, Birmingham  | M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 15.                   |
| *Mar. 1-4       | Surrey Open             | The Baths Hall, Epsom                  | C. A. Bourne, 46, Elm Park Gardens, Selsdon, Surrey.               |
| Mar. 11         | ENGLAND v. IRELAND      | The Stadium, Liverpool                 | W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 18.                        |
| *Mar. 19        | West of England Open    | Exeter                                 | H. J. Amery, 12, Kennerley Avenue, Whipton, Exeter.                |
| *Mar. 19        | Grimsby Open            | Cleethorpes                            | J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby.                           |
| *Mar. 21-26     | West Middlesex Open     | West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, W.13    | J. Joyce, 7, Croft Gardens, W.7.                                   |
| *Mar. 31-Apr. 2 | North of England Open   | Manchester                             | E. Worsley, 13, Nursery Road, Prestwich, Manchester.               |

## WESTERN COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

### Men's Section, Division 1

Results :

Worcester 2, Bristol 7; Swindon 1, Cardiff 8; Swindon 2, Newport 7; Bristol 3, Birmingham 6; Newport 7, Worcester 2.

|            | P. | W. | L. | P. |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| Birmingham | 6  | 6  | 0  | 12 |
| Cardiff    | 5  | 4  | 1  | 8  |
| Newport    | 6  | 4  | 2  | 8  |
| Bristol    | 6  | 2  | 4  | 4  |
| Worcester  | 7  | 2  | 5  | 4  |
| Swindon    | 6  | 0  | 6  | 0  |

### Division 2 (North)

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

|            | P. | W. | L. | P. |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| Bristol    | 8  | 8  | 0  | 16 |
| Bath       | 7  | 5  | 2  | 10 |
| Oxford     | 6  | 4  | 2  | 8  |
| Cheltenham | 8  | 4  | 4  | 8  |
| Gloucester | 7  | 2  | 5  | 4  |
| Weston     | 8  | 2  | 6  | 4  |
| Swindon    | 8  | 1  | 7  | 2  |

### Division 2 (South)

Taunton 3, S. Devon A 6.

|            | P. | W. | L. | P. |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| Exeter A   | 4  | 4  | 0  | 8  |
| Exeter B   | 5  | 4  | 1  | 8  |
| S. Devon A | 4  | 2  | 2  | 4  |
| S. Devon B | 4  | 1  | 3  | 2  |
| Taunton    | 5  | 0  | 5  | 0  |

### Women's Section (North)

Bristol 3, Birmingham 6.

|            | P. | W. | L. | P. |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| Bristol    | 3  | 2  | 1  | 4  |
| Birmingham | 3  | 2  | 1  | 4  |
| Cardiff    | 2  | 0  | 2  | 0  |

### Women's Section (South)

S. Devon A 8, Exeter B 1; Exeter A 2, S. Devon B 7; Exeter A 3, S. Devon A 6.

|            | P. | W. | L. | P. |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| S. Devon A | 4  | 3  | 1  | 6  |
| S. Devon B | 3  | 2  | 1  | 4  |
| Exeter A   | 4  | 2  | 2  | 4  |
| Exeter B   | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0  |

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### E.T.T.A. GENERAL COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the General Council of the English Table Tennis Association on Saturday, 26th February, 1949, in the Kent Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1, starting at 6 p.m.

All affiliated leagues and bodies are entitled to send one representative to the Council. The National Executive will render a report to the meeting, and important matters relating to the election of Officers will be decided.

**OFFICIAL HANDBOOK.** The annual handbook of the E.T.T.A. is now ready and a copy should be in the possession of all affiliated clubs by this time. Secretaries who have not received theirs should enquire from their League Secretary.

This booklet contains 158 pages, full of information about local clubs, official bodies and general news relating to tournaments and matches all over England.

A few spare copies are available from the E.T.T.A. office, 68, Victoria Street, S.W.1; price 1/9d., including postage.

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