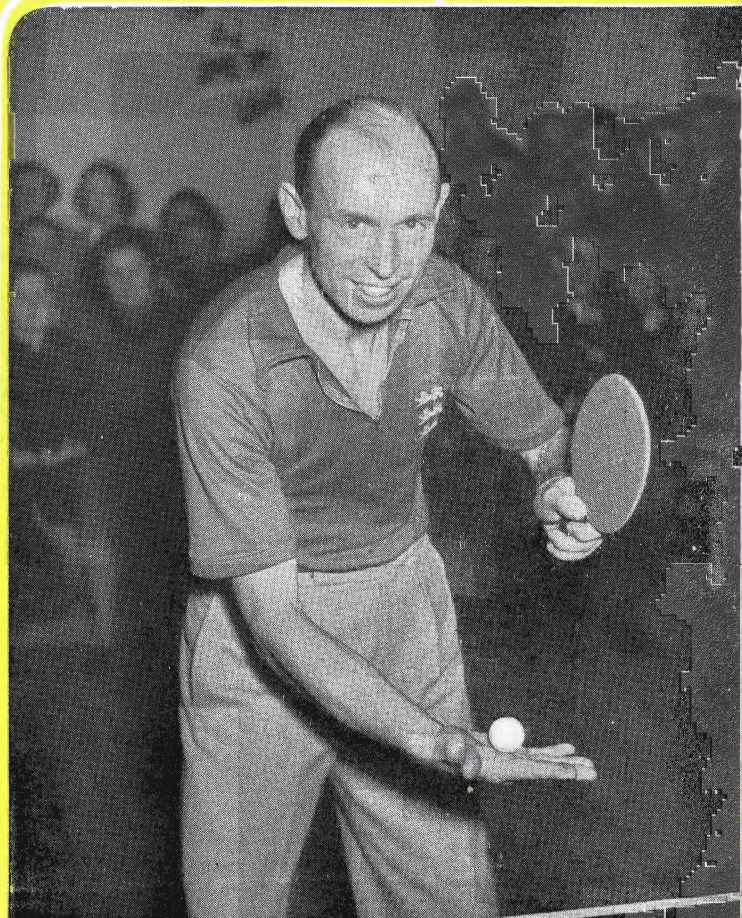


JANUARY, 1949

Sixpence

TABLE TENNIS



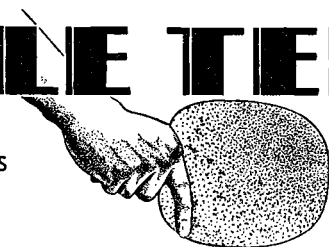
ADRIAN HAYDON.

"Adrian Answers"
Page 7

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
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JANUARY, 1949

AN EXCITING NEW YEAR TO YOU!

THE holiday is over and the great events of the season are almost upon us. While the minds of many will dwell upon the interesting things about to happen in Stockholm in the World's Championships, let us not forget that we shall have almost a repeat performance (with perhaps a few dramatic changes!) in our own English Open Championships at Paddington Baths and Wembley. (*See notice on page 16.*)

Nothing can deter the ambitions of the European and American stars to lay claim to the English titles, and this year is no exception. Straight from Stockholm will come the Czechs, Hungarians, French, Jugoslavs, Americans, and the rest of that colourful crowd.

Who will be the man of the year this time? The bland Andreadis, the jack-in-the-box Koczian, the precise Marty Reisman? Or will the masters Bergmann, Vana, Miles fight it out once again?

Is it possible for one of our own home products, perhaps Leach or Simons or Peggy Franks, to write an English name on the English record?

You can never tell in table tennis. It may be too much to hope that our present top-notchers can "make it," but it may well be that some lad or girl taking part in this year's Championships will make that vital step forward which makes the world-beater of two years' hence.

And by the way, this really is an "open" championship; all affiliated players may enter. There is still time to "have a go" if you will contact E.T.T.A. office before January 15th.

The U.S.A. team to compete in the World's Championships at Stockholm will be:—

Jimmy McClure (captain), Richard Miles, Martin Reisman, Douglas Cartland, Peggy McLean, Thelma Thall and Mildred Shahihan.

The team's original schedule was delayed a little by the New York dockers' strike, and further by the recent damage to the Queen Mary, so the proposed international match versus England has been postponed to a later date, possibly just prior to the English Championships.

Immediately after that they proceed to Sweden for a tour of that country, leading up to the World's events from 4th to 10th February.

After the English Championships they will play a series of matches in the counties between 21st and 25th February.

NEW SEEDING PLAN

The last International Congress decided that seeding *on a merit basis* should in future be permitted, and this season's English Championships will be the first tournament in this country at which this system has been tried. Previously, the only seeding which has been done has been the separation of up to eight nominated singles players of each country, and up to four doubles pairs into different eighths or quarters of the draws. *Thus the two best players in the world might meet in the first round.*

Under the new arrangement, the best players competing will be put in merit order, regardless of nationality, the first two being put in opposite halves, and so on, as in the big lawn tennis events. Few will envy the E.T.T.A. Selection Committee their task of preparing the ranking list.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE



by W. J. POPE

INDUSTRIAL SPORTS LEAGUE

The question of the affiliation of the Birmingham Industrial Sports League to the Association has been the subject of controversy for some years. The position taken up by the Executive Committee has been that, where a league has been functioning in an area for a number of years, another league covering the same area cannot be affiliated unless the established league agrees. This is in the interests of good organisation, and to avoid rival organisations growing up in the same area. It was agreed in this case, however, that as we did not wish to discourage development, the Industrial League should be allowed to affiliate through the Birmingham Association if that body would agree. After lengthy local discussion and negotiation, the Industrial League agreed to this, but asked the Committee to receive a deputation to review the position. This was accepted and Mr. Slater, of the Industrial League, appeared before the Committee to say they still disagreed with the decision we had made and that they still claimed the right to affiliate direct to the National body. He pointed out that Industrial Leagues were being formed all over the country and that it would soon become a National problem. The point of view of the Committee was put fully to Mr. Slater and after lengthy discussion, he decided to accept the decision for a twelve-month trial.

TRAVELLING TO STOCKHOLM

The official party, consisting of players from England and Wales, will travel together to the World Championships at Stockholm, probably leaving London by boat to Gothenburg on January 29th, arriving 31st.

Return will be from Gothenburg on February 12th, reaching London 14th.

Estimated costs: Fares £30, accom-

modation in Stockholm 30s. per day, season ticket for the Championships £2.

Any readers wishing to travel with the party will be welcome; further details from E.T.T.A. office (ABBey 2165).

INSTRUCTIONAL FILM

We are considering the production of an instructional film on table tennis, but first it is important to know to what extent suitable projectors are available in clubs. Enquiries are being made through our leagues; comment or suggestions from readers will also be of interest in this investigation.

WILMOTT CUP

AND J. M. ROSE BOWL

Below are the Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl results to date, in which rapid progress is being made. Already thought has been given to the final stages of the competitions, which Bristol have been asked to stage. This was a most appropriate choice in view of the criticism of the arrangements which was heard from the West Country following last season's finals; but, unfortunately, Bristol have not been able to accept the invitation. An alternative venue in Kent is now under consideration.

WILMOTT CUP

2nd round results:

Southend 2	Central 6
Civil Service ... 5	Chelmsford ... 1
London Banks ... 4	East London ... 5
London Postal Reg. 0	Fellows Cranleigh 9
Wembley 2	Staines 7
Leatherhead w/o.	South-West
	Middlesex scr.
Wilkesden 7	Slough 2
Byfleet 8	Maldenhead ... 1
Croydon 4	South London ... 5
Beckenham 9	Sutton Valence ... 0
Leighton Buzzard 4	Watford 5
St. Albans 3	Luton 5
Southampton	Grosvenor
	C/S Club 7
	Sports Club 2
Horsham 1	Brighton 8
Cambridge 7	King's Lynn ... 2
Spalding 2	Lincoln 7
Grimsby 8	Peterborough ... 1
Nelson 0	Manchester ... 9
Blackpool 1	Birmingham ... 8
Ellesmere Port scr.	Bolton
	Sunday Schools w/o.
Huddersfield ... 2	Halifax
	Red Triangle 7
Northumberland ... 6	Sunderland ... 3

J. M. ROSE BOWL

2nd round results:

Central 8	South London ... 1
Civil Service ... 8	Medway Towns ... 1
Woolwich 4	North-West Kent 5
Beckenham 4	L.B.H.A.S.A. ... 5
Wembley 5	St. Albans 2
Wanstead	
and Woodford 2	Watford 7
North Middlesex ... 9	Barnets 0
East London ... 3	Wilkesden 5
Staines 4	Croydon 5
Salsbury 2	Bournemouth ... 7
Ipswich 5	Bedford 4
Spalding scr.	Lowestoft ... w/o.
Blackpool 8	Huddersfield ... 1

OUR MEN IN SWEDEN

by JOHNNY LEACH

From December 6th to 15th our team, consisting of Ron Sharman, Aubrey Simons and myself, were right royally received and looked after during our most interesting tour of Sweden. Our programme included one full-scale international match versus Sweden, in Gothenburg, and several provincial matches of varying strength.

Dealing first with the international match, on December 8th, it would be idle to say that we were not terribly disappointed to find both Simons and Sharman unable to call upon the excellent form we have come to know and respect them for in England. Nervousness and lack of ball control on the big occasion gave Sweden a 5-2 win in a match which on paper gave us just more than an even chance of winning.

Actually our hosts specially requested me to play my third match, against Grive, and as this was a clear-cut win for us, and their No. 1, Flisberg, had played his three matches, the played score read 5-3. Thus, with a slightly different order of play the result might have looked much more favourable to us. Of course, we were not playing "mugs" by any means; we all know Tage Flisberg's great record, and even their No. 2, Bengt Grive, can count victories over Reisman, Nash, Sido, Amouretti, and such.

My own match with Flisberg came my way mainly by dint of persistent hard counter-hitting, which seemed to suit me on the fast Swedish table. Liss Larsson, third string, gave me a hard fight in the opening encounter.

The first shock came when young Grive dealt contemptuously with the Simons' chop and sent him off with 12 and 9 before the Bristol man could warm up. Sharman having lost to Flisberg (although achieving a deuce second game), it fell again to Simons to take over at the important stage of two-all.

After winning the first game, all seemed well for Aubrey at 19-16 in the second, when a fighting-mad spurt by Larsson retrieved the game for Sweden. This not only shook Simons to such an extent that he conceded the third at 14, but probably also inspired Grive to face Sharman. Grive again hit around the table in most confident fashion, allowing 20 points only in the two games.

In later matches Simons and Sharman recovered their poise and claimed

revenge over Flisberg—in his own home town of Malmo—and Liss Larsson in Boras.

THIS "HIGH-LIGHT" WAS A
"LOW-LIGHT"!

That Malmo evening had two "high-lights"; one was Sharman's defence against Flisberg's fine hitting, and the other was the moment when the 500-watt centre lamp crashed down to the table between Simons and Flisberg, spreading glass and confusion all round. When the rubble was cleared, a blitzed net and two shaken players were left in the middle!

ENGLAND 2, SWEDEN 5

Scores:—J. A. Leach beat L. Larsson 15, 16; beat T. Flisberg 15, —19, 16. R. Sharman lost to Flisberg —7, —20; lost to B. Grive —9, —11. A. W. C. Simons lost to Grive —12, —9; lost to Larsson —16, 20, —14; lost to Flisberg —8, —13.

PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION MASTERED

The remaining fixtures of the tour involved lots of travelling through some beautiful scenery, and hospitality which was definitely unbeatable, but the table tennis served up did not always come under that heading. Apart from some enterprising efforts by determined Swedish juniors we had little to test our strength.

Other Swedish towns visited, in which all matches were won against the local opposition, except one singles lost by Sharman, and one doubles by Simons/Sharman, included:—GRAVARNE, UDDEVALLA, MALMO, BORAS, KARLSTAD, LIDKOPING, VARBERG, HALMSTAD.

ON TO DENMARK

On December 16th a short ferry trip took us to Copenhagen, in which delightful city we played our international match with Denmark. The Danish standard is considerably lower than that of their neighbours, say about the same or slightly better than the Italian team which played in Kent last month.

ENGLAND 5, DENMARK 0

Leach beat Juhl 20, 13, beat Sorensen 5, 14.
Simons beat Runchel 21, 16.
Sharman beat Juhl 7, 8, beat Runchel 16, 7.

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THE WELSH SCENE

THE WELSH OPEN

Christmas came as a welcome respite after a hectic fortnight in Welsh table tennis circles. As recently as November, it looked as if we should not be able to run the Welsh "Open," but somehow or other we got over the obstacles, and, strangely enough, I think the event was more successful than ever.

It is true that our own Welsh players were called upon to make a greater sacrifice as the tournament started on the Thursday, and a trip to Cardiff to qualify for Saturday's play involved time and money. But it was all done with good grace. 128 men were reduced to 64 for Saturday, which included 35 from "outside," whilst the women's entry numbered 47. In all, we had 44 internationals competing, including **Richard Bergmann**, playing his first tournament of the season in defence of his title, and the strong Austrian contingent.

EARLY THRILLS

From early Saturday morning, when **Bobbie MacKay** played brilliantly to take a game from Bergmann, right up to the closing stages of an unusually good Mixed Doubles event, there was plenty to be thrilled about.

Casofsky was obviously in grand form, and beat the Austrian, **Just**, in a hard, hitting battle to qualify for the semi-final. **Bergmann** beat **Monty Smith**; Welsh champion **Stan Jones**, failed disappointingly against **Eckl**, and **Sweetland**, last of our hopes, ought really to have beaten the Austrian, **Bednar**, but missed two easy backhands at 19 in the third.

In the women's section, **Trudi Pritzi** reached the semi-final fairly comfortably, though **Audrey Coombs** played well against her. **Manchester's Adele Wood** beat **Jean MacKay** in the third round in one of the best games of the day, but then lost to Welsh International **Audrey Bates**, 20—22 in the third.

Joan Crosby beat **Mollie Jones** in straight games, but lost to **Peggy Franks** in the semi-final. **Audrey Bates'** semi-final game with **Pritzi** was a good battle without the issue ever being in very much doubt.

FINALS NIGHT

The Finals were staged at the Assembly Rooms of the Cardiff City Hall, and we could have filled the place twice over.

The men's semi-finals saw **Casofsky** repeat his tactics of the morning, beating the Austrian, **Bednar**, to the attack every time. The other semi-final between **Bergmann** and **Eckl** was a tedious affair, with the World Champion using exaggerated top spin to get in an occasional hit against a defensive player who has no semblance of attack.

Bergmann v. Casofsky was a good game from the spectators' point of view, but

THE AUSTRIAN TOUR

Whilst Welsh players were battling in the prelims. on Thursday, the Austrians had arrived at Milford Haven, where they played an exhibition game after being officially welcomed by the Council of the West Wales fishing town.

On the Monday after the Welsh Open, we played Austria in an international match at Treorchy, where, once

BERGMANN IN TRIALS

"TABLE TENNIS" understands that **Richard Bergmann**, present holder of the World's Singles Championship, has stated that he is available for selection for the England Swaythling Cup team if required, and has accepted the invitation of the English Table Tennis Selectors to take part in the Trials on 8th January.

again, we had a "sell out." The first three matches were closely fought out, with **Sweetland**, **Jones** and **Monty Smith** just not able to gain those few points required to turn a close thing into a victory. We fell away a bit then, and the game eventually ended in a 6—0 defeat, but the huge crowd had had their money's worth in the early battle.

During the evening **Gerald Chugg** played an exhibition match with **Trudi Pritzi**, giving the ex-World Champion plenty of opportunity to display her retrieving powers.

The Austrians left us on the Tuesday. Life has become a little quieter, but not for long, for now we must prepare for our game with England on January 15th at Swansea, and for our World Championship trip to Sweden.

disappointing to those who expected fireworks. The Manchester player seemed resigned to the fact that he could not win, and did not go full out in attack, at which I believe he would have been no less successful than he was, and would most certainly have looked better.

The Pritzi—Franks game confirmed the view that the English girl is not decisive enough in attack to hit through Pritzi, whilst Franks' attempts to get the Austrian to take the attack brought no response.

The doubles were very good, with **Just** and **Bednar** very much in the ascendancy against **Bergmann** and **Casofsky**. **Eckl** and **Pritzi** were much too steady for **Bednar** and **Mollie Jones**, and the women's doubles saw **Franks** and **Adele Wood** beat **Pritzi** and **Audrey Bates**. **Adele** was extremely good in this event, but

(Continued on page 13)

NORTHERNER'S NOTE-BOOK

by STANLEY PROFFITT

LANCASHIRE aim to counter the threat of full-time professionalism in the table tennis world before it filters into the county boundaries.

This was revealed by the Lancashire Association's attitude to a proposition that a local boxing promoter be permitted to stage exhibitions. The Association approved the proposal on the basis that the Registered Players taking part, the local league in which the show is held and the Lancashire Association each take an agreed part of the profits.

SHOULD this venture be a success—a near certainty unless some short-sighted local officialdom interferes—twice-weekly shows are to be held at widely situated venues in the county for the rest of the season. Plans are under way to prevent clashes with tournaments there and about; thus the broadminded view adopted by the officials holds the possibility of all concerned being satisfied with the deal.

And it holds even more important possibilities, inasmuch that the star will undoubtedly endeavour to step up to tip-top form for the big occasions and aid the amateur events by entering whenever possible. Consequently the younger set, apart from gaining valuable experience by playing against the cracks, will have a worth-while aim in striving to emulate the chosen few in order that they themselves may appear in the circus at a future date.

That is one way, at least, to improve the general standard without friction.

* * *

DESPITE the fact that the E.T.T.A. has one-third of the world-wide membership, our front-rank standards are low compared with the Continentals; thus the need for expert tuition has never been more apparent than it is at the present.

Meanwhile, Yorkshire are searching the broad acres for early teen-agers to place in the capable hands of Stan Rosenberg (who is said to be grooming one potential star in Wendy Blades). In fact Yorkshire post-war planning of an all-out bid to find young talent is beginning to show dividends. Not being as

fortunate as some counties in having ready-made stars to hoist their table tennis prestige, they decided to dispense with the majority of well-tried players to give youth its chance.

The results were that they finished at the bottom of the National County Championship table. But the venture has been worth-while, for two of their young aspirants, Brian Kennedy and Ron Thompson last season received representative honours with Brian holding the distinction of being the first-ever player to gain a junior and senior international in the one year. (Thompson has been temporarily thwarted in pushing further ahead due to Forces call-up). They tell me there are a number of others on the threshold of representing the county, so it may not be long before the White Rose are at the right end of the championship table.

* * *

NONE of the established northern internationals enhanced their Stockholm claims in the Merseyside Championships on November 27th. Benny Casofsky was only a pale green replica of the man who won the Yorkshire Open titles and Ken Stanley again fell by the wayside: this time to young Monty Smith from Wales. It's quite the thing to say, these days, that honours fell to Douglas Ellison (Bolton), on this occasion he was closely followed by fellow-townsmen Fred Daly; 16-year-old Adele Wood's performance in defeating Mrs. George (Surrey county player), and international Betty Steventon, is a pointer that cannot possibly be ignored by the selection committee.

Congratulations to Billie Stamp and his Liverpool officials for their enterprise in staging the Merseyside finals in the Philharmonic Hall, the most magnificently appointed venue I have ever seen.

PROFFITT TAILPIECE. I predict we are destined to hear more from the young doubles pair, Seneschall and Hinchcliffe, of Huddersfield.

PROFFITT JOINS SELECTORS

Our popular Northern Correspondent, Stan Proffitt, an ex-Swaythling Cup player, has been co-opted to serve on the Selection Sub-committee of the English Table Tennis Association.

Adrian

answers . . .

England's captain, A. A. Haydon
invites your questions

No. 1. THE NET

Would you like to see any change in the existing height of the net?

Yes, most emphatically I would. I would like to see the net raised again, if not to the old height of 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " certainly to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This may seem a strange statement coming from a player like myself with a game over so many years of continuous attack.

I don't agree with the 6" net because it takes away the science of table tennis.

To elaborate: in the old days a player had to work and scheme hard before he got the ball returned high enough for a kill, whereas now he can slash at the ball, one might almost say with his eyes shut, and stand a very good chance at getting it on the table. In other words, the clean strokes and follow-through of the first class player (essential for a 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " net) and relying, as he does, on complete accuracy and perfect timing—now tends to give way to the pull and cross smash hit which can be executed by a mediocre player with a far greater degree of success than hitherto.

Therefore, surely the great player is to an extent giving away a handicap when he meets opponents of the latter type?

I certainly feel there isn't the same thrill of achievement in doing that which is easier (and the 6" net is easier) than that which is infinitely more difficult and requires a higher degree of skill.

Perhaps you have never experienced the 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " net; perhaps you might even like to do away with the net altogether!

Of course, one must not lose sight of the fact that the net was lowered to speed up the game and to avoid the farcical pushing matches that we saw



in Prague in 1936. This it has done, but even so I think those games were mainly due to local conditions, i.e. slow tables, and to the extreme over-zealousness of some of the competing nations, who, in their efforts to win at all costs adopted these tactics successfully. Naturally, the I.T.T.F. does not want a repetition of rallies lasting 1 hr. 55 mins. and five set matches lasting approximately 5 hours—and unfinished at that.

I suggest, therefore, that the net be raised experimentally for one season to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and I am sure we should get better table tennis all round.

OUR COVER PICTURE

Left-hander with the eager look and the meagre locks is ADRIAN HAYDON (Birmingham), England's non-playing captain for the World Championships, and himself perhaps the greatest English-born player we have had.

International over a hundred times, dating from 1925, Adrian has been a World Singles semi-finalist and twice a World Doubles finalist, and even now, 20 years after his first entry into the international field, could command a place in most national teams.

But he has voluntarily retired, because he cannot spare the time for continuous training and fighting (you see, to **play**, in the Haydon vocabulary, means to **fight**, all the time), and he never believes in half-measures.

An unorthodox all-out attacker himself, Adrian teaches newcomers to play the modern all-round "tennis" style, although naturally not decrying any special natural shots which can be knitted into the pupil's game.

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

THOSE who know Geoff Coulthard, until recently secretary of South London's T.T. "nursery," Wimbledon Y.M.C.A., would expect him to have a league running within a week if he were stranded on a desert island. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that he has been co-opted on to the organising Council of the Singapore T.T. Association.

Geoff is working for the Admiralty in the "City of the Lion" and has already found a number of flourishing clubs in the area. Players are mainly drawn from the Chinese population, and Geoff was at first shaken by tales of the defeats inflicted on such as Vana, Andreadis and Co.! Further investigations led to the conclusion that the Czech stars did not *actually* lose, but anyway, Szabados was beaten 3-0 by the local champion in 1939 and the news had been brought up to date with possibly just a little oriental colour added.

Nevertheless this must mean that the leading performers are pretty useful and it is to be hoped that the problem of distances will somehow be overcome to enable these eastern enthusiasts to try their strength in Europe.

* * *

A HOODOO TITLE

SCOTTISH fans will tell you that their "Scottish Midlands Open Championship" is subject to a "hoodoo."

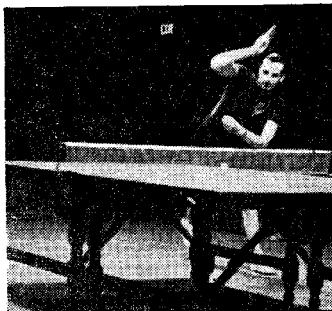
Ever since it was founded in 1935, no Midlands holder has managed to retain the title the next year! Present

holder is Bill Gray of Kirkcaldy, left-handed defender who beat Peter Coia this year.

Incidentally, the singles title was won in 1946/47 by Miss Helen Elliot in open competition with the men.

* * *

MAKING A COME-BACK ?



ERIC FILBY.

Seen at the Central London Open after nearly two years' absence from London tournaments

* * *

MANY correspondents support Bill Parker in his plea for the training of tournament umpires. Mr. A. A. Wall, of West Bromwich, for instance, wants to see them pass a verbal and practical test.

Against this view there is a body of opinion which argues that the number of volunteers is already too small, and would be still further reduced if they had to pass a test.

But human nature does not always work like that. What is now done out of a sense of duty might become a pleasure or at least an interest if the element of competition were introduced, and due recognition given to those who qualified.

GUIDE TO THE WORLD TITLES ?

IN the Prague Tournament, most important of the season in Czechoslovakia, Tokar beat Tereba 2—0 and lost rather badly to Andreadis. Vana went down to Stipek, 19—15!

Andreadis beat Stipek in the final by his usual margin of 3—1.

Fuerstova defeated Hruskova comfortably to win the women's singles, a surprising result to those who saw the great defensive strength of Hruskova in this country a few weeks ago.

* * *

BEDFORDSHIRE ACQUISITION

JIM CODD, live-wire of the Herne Bay district a few years back, is now living in Biggleswade, and in harness with Rom Crummy has helped to found a new league with no less than 21 teams in that small township.

This is typical of enthusiastic reports from the baby county, which expects to add still two more leagues next season; Shefford and Meppershall have already started up.

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ATTRACTIVE new face in the Sussex Open at Hastings was Miss Mabel Brodie, who won the Indian Open Singles title last December in Calcutta, and the Women's Doubles in addition.

She is now playing for the Hollingbury Club, of Worthing, in the Brighton and District League. Possessor of a free-flowing "tennis-y" style, she is the first to admit that the speed of the women's play here is fiercer than she has been accustomed to; nevertheless, we do not think it will be long before she makes herself a force in our tournaments.



MISS MABEL BRODIE

* * *

ANOTHER unusual sight at the Sussex was the appearance on adjoining tables of two "Mother-and-Daughter" doubles pairs, believed to be the only two in the country.

These were: Mrs. and Miss Rind, formerly of Exeter and now living at Brighton, who reached the semi-final; and Mrs. and Miss Evans of Maidstone (the daughter in this case being the "heir" to the English Open Singles trophy won by mama Dolly Gubbins).

* * *

HOLIDAY WITH PLAY

UNDER the encouraging influence of ex-Lancashire Jack Thompson, the Trinidad and Tobago Table Tennis Association are keen to develop along modern lines, with a view to taking their place among the top-ranking countries before long.

They are prepared to pay boat fares, accommodation and board expenses to a first-class player who is willing to spend a minimum of one month in the Island to carry out coaching.

Interested players should apply to E.T.T.A. office stating when they could make themselves available.

* * *

Mrs. Dora Devenney (Beregi), the ex-Hungarian star, who represented England in the Corbillon Cup last year, gave birth to a son on Christmas Eve.

Happy New Year, Dora, and a speedy return to the table!

THE CENTRAL LONDON OPEN

(at Memorial Hall, 13th-18th Dec., 1948)

This year there were few memorial incidents apart from the unfortunate ones which marred the finals night.

The Junior Singles, comprising over 120 youngsters, included one, Roger Davies, from Scunthorpe who, although having been warned that entries had closed, *took a week of his "summer" holiday and travelled up to the Memorial Hall in the hope that there would be a scratching.* He was fortunate—got in and played right through to the semi-final before being beaten by M. Isaacs. One surprise in this section of the tournament was the defeat of Ken Beamish by E. Santer (Manhattan Club) in the fifth round. Santer won 18 and 15, but lost in the next round to Isaacs, 16 and 10.

The girls' junior event provided a surprise in the elimination of Miss R. Rowe in the semi-final by Miss M. Piper, of Surrey.

Peggy Franks this time beat Joyce Roberts—18, 16, 16, after Joyce, who was losing 2—9, took 10 points to Peggy's 1 to lead 12—10. Gwen Mace repeated her performance of last year when she beat Pinkie Barnes—20, 18, 16, and should have won the final against Peggy. After winning the first game by steady defensive play, and leading in the second, she suddenly, when within a few points of winning, went over to an erratic attack, lost that game and never recovered.

In the Men's singles, Ron Litten (of Exeter) reached the semi-final at the expense of Jack Carrington. Barna also reached the semi-final, eliminating Crouch and MacKay on the way, but unfortunately was taken ill on the Saturday with suspected food poisoning and had to scratch, thus giving Litten a walk over into the final.

E. J. Filby, making his first appearance in London for almost two years, reached the other semi-final, but had a tough quarter-final match with his fellow tennis player, Howard Walton. Walton had previously beaten Micky Thornhill, the English Junior Champion—10, 21, 18. Ernie Bubley also reached the semi-final after beating Ken Craigie, who took the first game off him at 18, and Geoff Harrower.

Bubley appeared to have difficulty in settling down in his semi-final match against Filby, and lost the first game at 17. He found his form in the second game and won this and the third at 11 and 13.

The final, against Litten, who has seldom played better, was spoiled by certain incidents when after a protest by one of the players against his opponent's service—both players were warned by the umpire, Steve Addison. Both Litten and Bubley were obviously on "edge" and Litten, after having a "let" called against him served three consecutive faults. Bubley also received a "let" warning and was subsequently "faulted."

Litten, after being 13—17 down in the second game, recovered—won eight points in a row to win at 17, and won the third game also at 17.

In the men's doubles, Barna and Harrower reached the semi-final without much difficulty,

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-Finals—
R. F. Litten v.o. G. L. Barna (scr.).
E. Bubley beat E. Filby.
Men's Singles Final—
Litten beat Bubley 13, 17, 17.
Women's Singles Final—
Miss M. Franks beat Miss G. Mace —16, 19, 11.
Men's Doubles Final—
Thornhill/Crouch beat Litten/Filby —15, 16, 15.
Women's Doubles Final—
Miss Barnes/Miss MacKay beat Miss Franks/Miss Mace —13, 16, 16.
Mixed Doubles Final—
G. Harrower/Miss Barnes beat R. Litten/Mrs. P. Milburn 11, —17, 19.
Junior Singles Final—
M. H. Thornhill beat M. A. Isaacs 9, 15.
Girls' Final—
Miss M. Piper beat Miss P. Cantor 15, 11.
(Age limit was 18 in these Junior Events)

but then had to scratch to permit Crouch and Thornhill, who had beaten Langner and Markwell and Miller and MacKay, to reach the Final. Here they met and defeated Filby and Litten, who had beaten Crayden and Merrett in the other semi-final.

The ladies' doubles once again saw Pinkie Barnes partnered by Jean MacKay, but they had a tough journey. They only succeeded in beating Audrey Fowler and Rene Lentle 20, 22, 14 and then had another three-game match in the final.

Harrower and Barnes met little opposition in the mixed doubles until their final match against Litten and Milburn. They beat Crayden and Lentle in the semi-final, but Litten and Milburn created the surprise when they beat Hook and Franks in the other semi-final.

With a record entry, it is a great pity that the organisers were over optimistic about the Saturday afternoon's play and consequently found themselves starting the finals almost thirty minutes late.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OPEN-HAND SERVING

The season is now well advanced, and I have seen and played in many matches, some of the players being Internationals or near International standards, and I am very disappointed at the effort most of the players have made to use a fair service. If the good players cannot set an example and adhere to the English Table Tennis rule regarding service, how can one expect the players of a lower standard to do so? Some players resent being told about their service, and refuse to try and remedy same, thus penalising the players using the correct service.

To my mind there are three alternatives. I am convinced (and I feel very strongly about this) that the service must be either:—

- (1) Rigidly enforced by umpires fully conversant with the rule.
- (2) Altered. Here I suggest that the player be instructed to throw the ball up into the air only, instead of dropping the hand. This last method seems to be a failure, as players are turning their hands and brushing the ball off the palm.
- (3) Cut out altogether. Players being allowed to use whichever service they prefer.

I do not agree with the third alternative, but feel that there is a stalemate at the moment, and that something must be done, and quickly, to rectify matters, as I can foresee much bad feeling between players if present methods obtain.

L. THOMPSON

THE MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(at Liverpool, 26-27 November, 1948)

A fine gathering of players converged on Merseyside this year, and the quality was such that it almost merited the title of the "English Closed Championships."

This, however, would hardly do, for it would take no account of those excellent "foreigners," Helen Elliot of Scotland, who won the women's singles title, and young Monty Smith and Davies of Wales, the former of whom defeated northern hope Ken Stanley by his powerful defence and sudden back-hand flicks.

The presence of the Surrey team in Lancashire for the county fixture brought several southern stars to the notice of Liverpool fans for the first time. Ron Crayden, who had beaten Casofsky but lost to Stanley in the county match, played well in the singles rounds and comfortably beat Smith after the latter had put Stanley out. Sharman, who had beaten Stanley in the county meeting, proved his worth by removing Benny Casofsky from the tournament in two games. Shepherd, Carrington and Crayden made a respectable show against

Barna; on the other hand most fans thought that the long day's exertions materially reduced Barna's chances against Johnny Leach in the final. Yet Leach, who had convincing wins over Sharman and Ronnie Rumjahn, found his older opponent playing as briskly as ever when they met on the stage of the swanky Philharmonic Hall for the final.

Here a distinctly nervous-looking Leach was out-maneuvred over the best-of-three final, in spite of a gallant and improbable recovery from 11-19 to deuce in the third game!

Pat on the back for Birmingham's Wally Poole who ousted Aubrey Simons at his own game of close chop and sharp hits.

Medal-of-the-month to Eileen Mansell, that game fighter from Liverpool whose path to the final included the seasoned Pinkie Barnes. Alas, "finals night nerves" prevented her from doing justice to her form when facing Mrs. Helen (Elliot) Dykes.

(Full scores appeared in the December issue of "TABLE TENNIS").

AT LONG LAST . . .

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

Owing to pressure of space and the inclusion of divisional tables, it will only be possible this month to give a general review of the position.

YORKSHIRE BEAT ESSEX

The Premier Division Championship has been thrown wide open, by the fine 7-2 win of Yorkshire over Essex. This match reads like a fairy story, for Yorkshire, wooden spoonists last season, and previously without a win this, were opposed by Essex, already conquerors of Surrey and Middlesex. True, Essex were without Leach and Peggy Franks, and that many of the matches were very close, going all the way in the third game, but this should not detract from Yorkshire's fine performance.

A glance at the table would make Gloucestershire favourites, but they have yet to play Essex, Surrey and Middlesex. In fact, the entire Championship may be decided on the last match of the season, when Gloucester play Essex, and it appears very probable that goal average will decide.

The Champions, Middlesex, in the odd position of bottom, play four matches during January, at home to Surrey and Yorkshire, and away to Gloucestershire and Lancashire. The importance of these matches need not be stressed. Essex, too, need to win their January matches against Lancashire and Warwickshire by good margins to improve their games average.

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

Middlesex 2nds took the lead in this division with a very close win over Buckinghamshire. In fact, at one stage Bucks led 4-3 and 21-20 in the third game of the eighth tie. Hard luck, Bucks! Leo Thompson lost his unbeaten record to Ken Craigie, leaving Craigie the only 100 per cent. man. Middlesex seem assured of the title, but should they slip up, then the match between Essex 2nds and Buckinghamshire this month (Aylesbury, 21st) assumes importance. Bedfordshire, too, stand a chance, and they will be all out to beat Essex on February 12th at Chelmsford.

NORTHERN DIVISION

This division looks more open even than the Premier Division, and only Lincolnshire and Cumberland appear out of it. Northumberland have the most peculiar record, having won two and lost two, 24 games for and 12 against! This has been secured by winning 8-1 each

time, and losing 4-5. The Champions, Lancashire 2nds, have by far the best goal average, and unless they try out all their youngsters, should manage to secure first place again. One slip on their part, however, and Durham, Cheshire and Yorkshire 2nds are all well placed to take advantage.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hampshire secured a comfortable 7-2 win over Surrey 2nds in the key match in this division, and are strong favourites for the title, as last season. It is to be hoped that they will feel able, this season, to challenge for a position in the Premier Division, to give their players more experience. Sussex are the problem team, as potentially they should be as good as any other counties, but their players never seem able to be on form all together. Kent badly need the services of an outstanding man, and it may well be that the 19-year-old Syndercombe, if given his chance soon, may prove to be the player for whom Kent are looking.

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

Premier Division:			
Surrey	6	Warwickshire	3
Yorkshire	7	Essex	2
Home Counties Division:			
Hertfordshire	2	Bedfordshire	9
Essex 2nds	7	Middlesex 2nds	5
Cambridgeshire	0		
Buckinghamshire	4		
Northern Division:			
Yorkshire 2nds	5	Lincolnshire	4
Cumberland	2	Durham	7
Cumberland	2	Yorkshire 2nds	7
Lincolnshire	1	Northumberland	8
Cheshire	4	Durham	5
Southern Division:			
Surrey 2nds	2	Hampshire	7
Sussex	1	Hampshire	8
Kent	2	Surrey 2nds	7
Supplementary Division:			
Leicestershire	6	Derbyshire	3

DIVISIONAL TABLES

Premier Division		P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Gloucestershire	2	2	0	13	5 4
Essex	3	2	1	16	11 4
Surrey	3	2	1	14	13 4
Lancashire	3	1	2	14	13 2
Yorkshire	3	1	2	15	12 2
Warwickshire	3	1	2	9	18 2
Middlesex	1	0	1	2	7 0

Home Counties Division

Home Counties Division		P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex 2nds	3	3	0	20	7 6
Essex 2nds	3	2	1	17	10 4
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	14	13 4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	2	15	12 2
Hertfordshire	3	1	2	9	18 2
Cambridgeshire	3	0	3	6	21 0

Northern Division

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Durham	3	3	0	17	10	6
Lancashire 2nds	2	2	0	14	4	4
Northumberland	4	2	2	24	12	4
Cheshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Yorkshire 2nds	3	2	1	15	12	4
Lincolnshire	3	0	3	6	21	0
Cumberland	4	0	4	8	28	0

Southern Division

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Hampshire	4	4	0	23	8	8
Surrey 2nds	4	3	1	23	13	6
Sussex	4	1	3	13	23	2
Kent	4	0	4	8	28	0

MIDDLESEX NOTES

It seems strange that Middlesex do not open their home programme in the Premier Division of the Championships until January, but the game with Yorkshire was postponed to enable Yorkshire to play Middlesex and Surrey in the same week-end. Yorkshire will be welcome visitors after their smashing win over Essex, and this match will be played at the Bell Punch, Uxbridge, on Saturday, 29th January.

Jack Carrington, who, it was understood, would only play for Essex, is a surprise choice for Surrey against Middlesex at Rotax, Willesden, on Tuesday, 11th January. Others in the Surrey side are Ron Sharman, Ron Crayden and Pinkie Barnes, whilst Victor Barna will be playing for Middlesex.

The Closed Championships at the Paddington Baths had a crop of surprising results, chief shock being the straight games defeat of Bernard Crouch by Tony Miller. Miller in turn lost to his namesake Dennis, who went on to win the title with an easy win over Geoff Harrower, the holder, Harrower having equally convincingly disposed of Ken Craigie.

Craigie, partnered by Adams, put up a fine performance in beating Crouch and Thornhill, the new Central London champions, in straight games, but they were no match in the final for the Barna/Harrower combination. Barna secured his second title in partnership with Joyce Roberts, Crouch and Mrs. Bennett having an off day in the final.

Very good play was seen in the Junior events. Isaacs, South of England Junior Champion, confirmed his form with a good win over Lipitch in the final. These two boys were sent to the International trials as the first two boys of Middlesex, so for once the selectors were right! Rosalind Rowe, as expected, won the girls' singles, but her sister, Diane, lost in the semi-final to the other Middlesex prodigy, Marian Marston.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The excellent Cover Picture of Aubrey Simons which appeared in last month's "TABLE TENNIS" was the work of Mr. Peter Madge, of Sydenham.

PROFFITT INJURED

Our contributor, Stan Proffitt, had a "tough" Christmas. His car skidded on an icy road, and Stan developed considerable topspin before executing a neat drop-shot against a telegraph pole. His right arm was badly torn, but Stan writes: "It's not so bad—I bowl with my left!"

REGISTERED PLAYERS

The National Executive Committee of E.T.T.A. have approved the Registration of the following players (in accordance with the "Regulations for Registered Players") for Season 1948/49.

W. V. Hall, 51, Yarningale Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, 14; G. J. D. Alderton, 399, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13; Miss D. Beregi, 7, Imperial Street, Redhills, Exeter; L. Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks; A. E. L. Elliott, 7, Waverley Road, Southsea, Hants; W. J. Parker, 37, Hamilton Avenue, Barking-side, Essex; G. Mitton, 78, Catherine Street, Elland, Yorks; Miss M. E. Franks, 57, Blackhorse Road, E.17; J. D. A. Rogers, 1, Lovelace Villas, Stornoway Road, Southend-on-Sea; R. Markwell, 61, East Avenue, Manor Park, E.12; H. Daniel, 7, Algers Close, Loughton, Essex; A. Waite, 94, Light Oaks Road, Pendleton, Salford, 6; S. Proffitt, 13, Walton Road, Victoria Avenue, Blackley, Manchester; L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Burnage, Manchester, 19; B. Casofsky, 92, Bellott Street, Manchester, 8; F. Cromwell, 51, Parsonage Road, Withington, Manchester, 20; A. G. Millar, 54, Plymouth Street, Manchester, 13; H. Lurie, 12, Elizabeth Street, Manchester, 8; E. Goodman, 53, Bell Street, Cheetham, Manchester, 8; R. G. Gearing, 17, Duchy Avenue, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs; L. Cohen, 15, Cavendish Road, Salford, 7; T. Blunn, 26, Harrow Avenue, Oldham, Lancs.

WELSH OPEN—continued from page 4.

Bates found it difficult to play with a partner who makes no attempt to hit winners when an attacking position has been made.

The Welsh pairs had done quite well during the day. Sweetland and Jones lost to Just and Bednar in one semi-final, and Smith and Chugg were eliminated in the other by Bergmann and Casofsky. Stan Jones and Betty Gray had a terrific quarter-final tussle with Eckl and Pritzi, only losing 19-21 in the third. Sweetland-Bates were put out by Bergmann and Franks, who were in turn beaten by Bednar and Mollie Jones. Chugg and Jean Beer lost in the quarter-finals to Casofsky and Wood, who then lost in the semi to Eckl and Pritzi.

RESULTS

- Men's Singles Semi-Finals—
Bergmann beat Eckl 18, 19.
Casofsky beat Bednar 17, 17.
- Men's Singles Final—
Bergmann beat Casofsky 10, 20, —19, 17.
- Women's Singles Final—
T. Pritzi beat M. Franks 17, 10.
- Men's Doubles Final—
Bednar/Just beat Bergmann/Casofsky 16, —23, 14.
- Women's Doubles Final—
Franks/Wood beat Pritzi/Bates 11, —15, 14.
- Mixed Doubles Final—
Eckl/Pritzi beat Bednar/M. Jones 8, 13.
- Junior Singles Final—
L. Devereux beat P. Morgan 15, —20, 6.

LOOKING AROUND

West Bromwich Player knocking at England's door?

Margery Cumberbatch, West Bromwich champion, stepped a little nearer to the English team, her ultimate ambition, when in the Woodfield Tournament at Wolverhampton she met the pick of the Midland players and won their popular competition.

In the quarter-final, Mrs. Cumberbatch beat Jean MacKay, who last year was England's first reserve, by 21-17, 11-21, 21-18, while in the final she beat Mrs. Smith, the Birmingham inter-league player by 21-17, 21-14. She has also braten both these players before and is young enough at 23 to improve for a few more years.

EXETER & DISTRICT T.T.L. plan to sponsor a trainload of enthusiasts from South Devon to the English Open at Wembley on 19th February. Meanwhile, Devonians' attention is focused on the Devon Championships to be held at Torquay on 22nd January.

LONDON BUSINESS HOUSES A.S.A. table tennis leagues are practically back to pre-war strength, with 14 sections in operation. Leadership of the Premier division is contested between Lensbury, Hay's Wharf, Gaslight Central, and W. H. Smith.

Three special women's sections are run; the Association's individual championships will take place in March. Firms or players interested should communicate with: P. A. Sommers, 67, Browning Road, E.11.

Kent Closed Championships

Despite dense fog, almost every entrant turned up at the Aylesford Paper Mills Club, on November 28. From 10 a.m. until midnight, the battles went on, but long before the close it was realised that transport would be immobilised by the "pea-souper." Two hundred fans, among them the county secretary and chairman, were stranded, and spent the night in the hall, sustained with tea, cakes and chips by the heroic efforts of the canteen manageress and staff.

Winners: M.S.: N. Adams; W.S.: Miss Ing; M.D.: Eaglestone/Bush; W.D.: Ing/Skelton; X.D.: Tabbenor/Ing

NEW LIFE IN LONDON LEAGUE

After delays due to the difficulties of finding a successor to that hard-working secretary, Ted Vennell, the historic London League has now resumed its activities and will work to a short programme for this season, with good prospects of a return to normal strength next year.

St. Bride's appear to be favourites at the moment, having beaten Manhattan 5-4, notwithstanding Buble's three wins.

Interested clubs or players should apply to the new secretary: Mr. M. Ross, 225, Dumbarton Court, Brixton Hill, S.W.2.

BECKENHAM & DISTRICT T.T.L. continue to flourish, and the standard of play is improving, stimulated by such stalwarts as Stan Coles, Stan Straker and Frank Meads. They have reached their Zone Final in the Wilmott Cup for the second year running.

Kia-Ora, Bill Baillie

SAD is the news to The Hartlepoons Table Tennis Association that Mr. W. Baillie, Secretary since 1933, with the exception of one year, is to emigrate to New Zealand in the New Year.

Hailing from Sunderland "Bill" Baillie, as he is known to all in the North-East, naturally received a good introduction to the game, and commenced his days with St. Paul's Boys' Club in 1922, when wooden bats were the vogue, the net was 6½ in. high, and net cords all counted. Moving to Hartlepool in 1932, "Bill" found there was a certain amount of enthusiasm for the game, and in 1933 founded the Association. He and Jim Grocott, a fellow club player, are the only founder-members playing League table tennis to-day.

For the first year Hartlepool clubs only were allowed, but in 1934 West Hartlepool and District joined in, admitting such well-known players as T. Dobing (for a long time our Chairman, and now in Canada), J. Kay and S. J. Carlsson (now our Registrar, and still playing well). Other long service members include N. K. Dollin and W. Bowlt, who still more than hold their own against our younger players.

The Ladies' section, formed in 1936, proved an immediate success, and goes from strength to strength each season, the most notable long service players being sisters M. J. Carr and J. Carr (Mrs. Dennis), the first mentioned being the present champion. From one trophy in 1933, the Association are now proud owners of twelve.

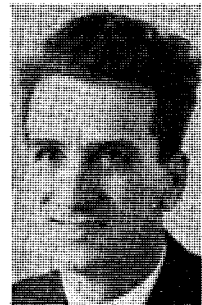
Due greatly to the efforts and remarkable organising ability of Mr. Baillie, the membership of the Association has risen from six clubs to its present strength of 27 clubs, operating 56 Men's teams and 18 Ladies' teams, playing in 6 divisions.

Included amongst Mr. Baillie's many enterpris-

ing promotions is the Hartlepoons Open (1937), Hartlepoons Open (1948/9), the first "all-Ladies' Open" to be held in the North-East (1947/8), a Red Cross exhibition match in 1940, and "Durham v. Czechoslovakia" in October, 1948.

In recognition of his services for the Hartlepoons he has been made, very fittingly, an Honorary Life Member of the Association.

The one redeeming feature of his departure is that our irreplaceable loss is New Zealand's gain. "Bon Voyage." We shall not easily forget "Kia-ora Bill!"



South of England 6 Austria 2

(at Hastings, 30th November, 1948)

In their second match against a strong South of England team led by **Victor Barna**, the Austrians were defeated by a clearer margin than in the previous game. The fixture was played on the Hastings pier, and in spite of the dense fog drew a crowd of 400.

Ernie Bublely opened against the

The accompanying report of the match between the Austrian touring team and a South of England team gives a fair impression of the strength and style of the visitors. All of them were seen at Wembley in last season's World Championships, and the men won their group of the Swaythling Cup matches.

Most of their trip was devoted to play in Wales, Ireland and Scotland; their clear-cut victories over the very useful international sides of Ireland and Wales reflects favourably on the strength of our own representatives, playing in the two "South" teams.

Incidentally, Ken Stanley was invited to play in one of these matches, but could not spare the time to travel; this gave a chance to Bernard Crouch, who recorded a pleasing win at the expense of the somewhat similar hitter, Just.

Only girl to worry Trudi Pritzi was Helen Elliot, of Scotland, who, however, had to concede the revenge match at the second meeting.

Results of the major matches:—

- Austria 2, South of England 6.
(Barna, Sharman, Bublely, Miss Mace)
- Austria 4, South of England 6.
(Leach, Simons, Crouch, Miss Franks)
- Austria 7, Ireland 0.
- Austria 6, Wales 0.
- Austria 5, Scotland 0.

Eckl had nothing new to show us—he seems more than ever qualified for the title of the "Ole' Man River" of table tennis.

Perhaps it was fortunate that Pritzi did not have to meet anyone like Gizi Farkas; last scrap between these two was decided by the score of 11-10 in the 5th game! This was in the Austrian Championships recently, and the winner was Farkas.

22-year-old Just. This player had the most attractive style of the visitors, using a reliable forehand attack with plenty of top-spin, varied with a cross-table backhand drive. However, his greatest asset seems to be his ability to fight back, and after Bublely had forged ahead to 12-5 by steady defence and carefully selecting the right one to kill, Just pulled level by courageous counter-hitting, and was only shaken off at the post by 21-19. The accurate placing of the Englishman gave him the second game 21-15 and his side a 1-0 lead. Next came **Barna** opposed by the Austrian Champion, **Eckl**, who relied almost entirely on a painstaking chop some six feet from the table, and a long reach that enabled him to return the drop-shots. Eckl occa-

sionally took the point with a very fluent and flat backhand drive, which one would have liked to see more often. As it was his defence was unequal to the task of coping with Barna's backhand and the latter won 21-10, 21-14.

Ron Sharman then faced **Bednar**, the most aggressive of the team, who rarely defended but hit everything, mainly with a fierce forehand. Sharman refused to



BEDNAR,
most aggressive of the Austrian team.

be rattled by this attack and coolly returning a succession of drives usually managed to catch the Austrian out of position with an angled forehand. Bednar's reliance on his forehand tended to leave a gap down his sideline, and not having Vana's control of the game he was vulnerable to accurately placed counter-hitting. Sharman's win of 21-9, 21-15 was more decisive than either of his team-mates achieved against Bednar.

The South of England became four up when Barna beat Just, 22-20, 21-12 in the best game of the evening. Barna went ahead in great style and was leading 15-5 when Just staged another great recovery and in an inspired spell of attacking drew level at 16-all. He hung on to reach deuce when he over-hit in his anxiety to win the game. He faded rather in the second game but left a very favourable impression.

Austria checked the run of home successes when the two ladies met, and **Trudi Pritzi** beat **Gwen Mace** 21-7, 21-16. In the first game the relentless defence of the Austrian seemed to worry Gwen, who had difficulty in judging Pritzi's backspin, consequently too many of her drives finished in the net. In the second game Gwen Mace's attack really gained confidence and at one point she seemed to have Pritzi's measure, but the Austrian's persistence enabled her to draw ahead at the vital stage.

The only three-set game followed, between Bublely and Bednar. Bednar's policy of fast returns make him a difficult proposition for the close-to-the-table player and Bublely had to make some good recoveries on his backhand. After a great fight in the third game Bublely made a fine effort to take six of the last seven points and finished the winner by 17-21, 21-11, 21-17.

The first game of the **Sharman-Eckl** clash ended just as Referee **Bill Vint** was about to warn the players that the twenty minutes had elapsed, and that fact really sums up the game. Apart from a few kills by Sharman early on no attacking strokes were made, and Eckl refused to be tempted when Sharman deliberately lobbed him to draw him out. Sticking painfully to his digging the Austrian took the game 21-12, 21-7.

YOUR DIARY

Tournaments marked thus * include events specially for Juniors.

Tickets or

Date	Tournament or Event	Venue	Information from :
*Jan. 15 ...	Hull Open ...	East Hull Barracks ...	H. Flinton, 28, Albert Avenue, Anlaby Street, Hull.
Jan. 15 ...	WALES v. ENGLAND	Swansea ...	Mrs. Roy Evans, The Rise, 16, Tynawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.
*Jan. 16 ...	Hampshire Open ...	Blightmont Drill Hall, Millbrook Road, Southampton	Miss L. Ferguson, 20, Atherley Road, Southampton.
*Jan. 20-22 ...	Lancashire Open ...	Drill Hall, Hyde Road, Manchester	Mr. E. Worsley, 13, Nursery Road, Manchester.
Jan. 30 ...	Kent Open ...	R. E. Gymnasium, Brompton, Chatham.	S. E. Groves, 12, Lancelot Avenue, Strood, Rochester.
Feb. 4-10 ...	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	Stockholm ...	E.T.T.A. Office.
*Feb. 16-19 ...	THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS	See Special Notice below.	
*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 Philharmonic Hall, 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 ...	The Pier Pavilion, Cleethorpes	J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby.
*Mar. 21-26 ...	West Middlesex Open ...	West Ealing T.T.C., Mervyn Road, W.13	J. Joyce, 7, Croft Gardens, London, W.7.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

Premier Division :—	Venue	Northern Division :—	Venue
Jan. 11—Middlesex v. Surrey	Rotax, Willesden	Jan. 8—Yorkshire 2nds v. Lancashire 2nds	Keighley
Jan. 15—Warwickshire v. Essex	Birmingham	Jan. 8—Lancashire 2nds v. Northumberland	Nelson
Jan. 21—Lancashire v. Middlesex	Bolton	Jan. 29—Lincolnshire v. Cheshire	Boston
Jan. 24—Gloucestershire v. Middlesex	Cheltenham	Jan. 29—Cheshire v. Cumberland	Macclesfield
Jan. 29—Middlesex v. Yorkshire	Bell Punch, Uxbridge	Feb. 5—Northumberland v. Yorkshire 2nds	Newcastle
Jan. 30—Surrey v. Yorkshire	Leatherhead		
Home Counties Division :—		Southern Division :—	
Jan. 21—Buckinghamshire v. Essex 2nds	Aylesbury	Jan. 9—Kent v. Hampshire	Sheerness
Jan. 26—Bedfordshire v. Hertfordshire	Luton	Jan. 21—Surrey 2nds v. Sussex	Croydon

THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

16th-19th February, 1949

Early Rounds at

PADDINGTON BATHS HALL, Queensway, London, W.2

TICKETS (at the door only) :

Evenings.—16th, 17th and 18th February, 4s. 0d., 2s. 6d. and 2s. 0d. (standing)
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)

Semi-finals and Finals at

THE EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY STADIUM

on FRIDAY, 18th, and SATURDAY, 19th February, 1949

Reserved : 21s. 0d., 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 6s. 0d. and 3s. 6d.

From E.T.T.A., 69, Victoria Street, S.W.1, or from Booking Office, Empire Pool, Wembley