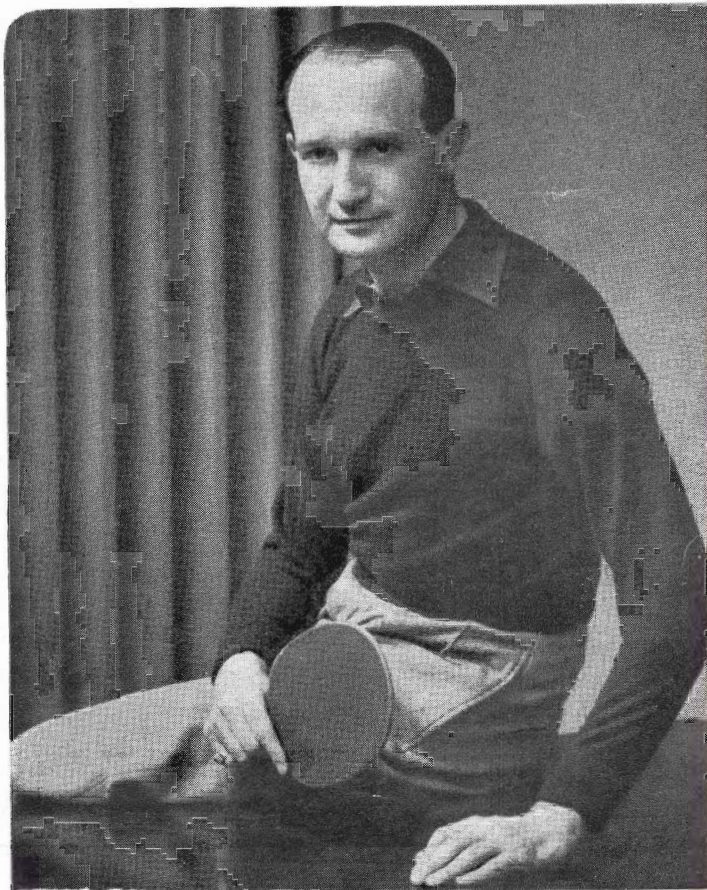


MAY, 1949

Sixpence

TABLE TENNIS

VICTOR BARNA



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

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of the
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MAY, 1949

Victor Barna: The Artist of Table Tennis

THROUGHOUT the world, the name of VICTOR BARNa is known. His personality and his mastery at the table have given to him a fame beyond that of any other player our game has so far produced, and a position among the small band of the truly great sportsmen of any country and any time.

VICTOR BARNa'S contribution to Table Tennis has been particularly great in this country, his adoptive home. The tours which he made in the nineteen-thirties, chiefly with Szabados and Bellak, opened innumerable eyes to a new sport and fired the enthusiasm of thousands of new players. His willing efforts during the war helped the E.T.T.A. to raise thousands of pounds for the Sportsmen's Red Cross Fund and other war charities. Since the war, he has been a valued member of the English Swaythling Cup team, and this season was only narrowly defeated in the final of the English Championships after a match that kept the crowd on the edge of their chairs from beginning to end.

RECENTLY, Barna has announced his intention of giving up serious competitive singles play. This does not mean that we shall not see him in action; there will be doubles events and exhibitions, and, Barna being the man he is, no doubt he will be willing to answer an occasional special call for the next season or two. Nevertheless, this does signal the end of an epoch of some twenty years during which his name has been continuously included in everyone's list of the greatest active players of the world.

AT the E.T.T.A. General Council Meeting in February there was a spontaneous demand that the Executive should arrange a public subscription so that some appropriate presentation might be made to acknowledge the immense service which this great player has done for Table Tennis in this country, and so that a trophy might be purchased upon which his name would be permanently inscribed.

THE feeling at the Annual General Meeting of the Association has clearly shown that the suggestion is one that appeals to table tennis people generally, and the Victor Barna Fund has accordingly been launched. Leagues, Clubs and individuals who would like to contribute should send their donations to the Honorary Treasurer at the E.T.T.A. Office.

OUR PRESIDENT

THE name, "H. Oldroyd, Esq.", has appeared on the official documents of the English Table Tennis Association as President since 1931, but of recent years ill-health has prevented him from making long journeys to attend big events as he always used to. Nevertheless, he has continued to take a deep interest in the game, and to support our Association in many ways by his counsel and influence.

This charming new study of Harold Oldroyd with his grandson conveys, we feel, more than a surface impression of this much-loved northern gentleman. It is, we suggest, a symbol of that happy feature of English sport — the handing-on of high enthusiasms and high qualities from the elder to the younger generations.

"Brian is 3 . . . I'm 73," writes our President, "doesn't it sound awful?" We beg to disagree.

He also says: "I assure you the little chappie is very original." But Brian will not do badly if he copies Grandpa where sport is concerned. Up to 1914 Mr. Oldroyd was one of the fastest bowlers and biggest hitters in the Lancashire League, and afterwards achieved a 2 handicap at golf.

His "ping-pong" memories go back to the vellum-bat days of 1890-odd, with the really serious stuff coming along about 1904



when cork bats were introduced. From 1923-28 his home was an open house to all enthusiasts of the modern game; he had one of the first full-sized tables in the Manchester area.

From the Presidency of the Manchester League he graduated to his present office. And now he acknowledges only one ambition—that is to complete his collection of Wisden's Cricket Annual, of which he has every volume from its inception in 1864 with the exception of 1866, 1868, 1869, 1871 and 1875. If any reader can help, we shall be pleased to pass the information on to Mr. Oldroyd.

NORTHEAST ENGLAND "OPEN"

(at Scarborough 16-18th April, 1949)

Miss Adele Wood was the only competitor to regain a title; to this singles crown she added both doubles. The other little Wood, Shelagh of Leeds, partnered her nobly, and these girls should have a great future as a doubles pair. Adele displayed very sound defence and good judgment in attack.

Best men's match came not in the seniors, but in the Youths' final, when Michael Thornhill stole the honours from Brian Kennedy. Brian, however, claimed the major singles event, in which Thornhill fell by the wayside. Another junior, M. Medd (Hull) impressed by his form in defeating R. Rhodes, of Scunthorpe.

Finals—

M.S.: B. Kennedy (Leeds) bt. D. Shaw (Manchester) 18, 11, 17.
M.D.: Kennedy/A. Thompson bt. M. Sheader/M. Thornhill 16, 17.
X.D.: A. Thompson/Miss A. Wood bt. P. Skerratt/Miss A. Peake 13, —19, 10.
W.S.: Miss A. Wood (Manchester) bt. Miss N. Senior (Sheffield) 18, 17.
W.D.: Miss A. Wood/Miss S. Wood (Leeds) bt. Miss J. Walker/Miss M. Smith (Leeds) 15, 12.

Under 19 Youths—

Thornhill bt. Kennedy 16, —14, 16.

THAMESIDE "OPEN"

(at Plaistow, 2-7th May, 1949)

Surprise visitor to East London was Miss Margaret Fry, who played with tremendous spirit to beat Winnie Dakin, of Southend, after the latter had out-hit Birmingham's Jean Mackay. Miss Fry proceeded to pull off a "forlorn hope" in the final against Pinkie Barnes, in spite of trailing 5—10 at the change-ends in the 3rd game. Her tight defence saved the Bristol girl but it is fair to say that Pinkie lacked her usual fire in attack.

In the absence of thrice holder Johnny Leach, the men's field was very open; Jack Carrington showed considerable resource in overcoming the varied styles of internationals Craigie, Sharman and Harrower in turn to win the singles.

Details—

M.S.: J. Carrington bt. R. Sharman 15, —15, 18.
G. Harrower bt. R. Langner 16, —22, 15.
Final: Carrington bt. Harrower 16, 18, 6.
M.D.: Sharman/Craigie bt. Harrower/Mackay 15, 18.
W.S.: Miss M. Fry bt. Miss L. Barnes 15, —17, 17.
W.D.: Miss R. Rowe/Miss D. Rowe bt. Mrs. E. Adams/Miss P. Cantor 19, 19.
X.D.: D. Miller/Miss J. Roberts bt. Langner/Miss Fry 17, —17, 12.
Junior Mens': P. F. Smith bt. M. Isaacs 18, 21.

THE WILMOTT CUP AND J. M. ROSE BOWL

Manchester's Dual Triumph

ALTHOUGH played on Easter Saturday, with 84° in the shade and all that, the Wilmott Cup semi-finals and final, held in conjunction with the *Sporting Record* Schools tournament (see elsewhere) attracted an audience of over 200, and they certainly had value for money.

As generally expected, Manchester retained the trophy, but I am sure that they will be the first to yield pride of place to the 44-year-old Bristol veteran, Charlie Dawes, who, in no uncertain fashion, put paid to the strong challenge of the all-Surrey County South London League side.

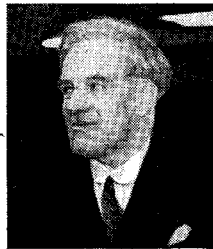
It is not putting it too strongly to say that he outclassed the Internationals Ron Sharman and Ron Crayden. Neither of these leading players had any answer to his soft sponge rubber bat game, with the awkward side-spin, and quick "bash." No doubt the two Rons have now received plenty of advice to the effect that all their side spin does not take on sponge rubber, but only comes back to them, but they certainly didn't know it on Easter Saturday. Crayden, too, was in great form, and won a thriller against Swaythling Cup player Aubrey Simons in the opening match.

In the other semi-final, Manchester proved too good for the Southampton Civil Service, although the "pride of Hampshire," Muller, did well to beat Les Cohen.

THERE was never really any doubt as to the result of the final, especially as Benny Casofsky continued his recent brilliant form, just beating Aubrey Simons in the best match of the day, and showing how Dawes should be disposed of. Nevertheless, Charlie still had kick in him, and Les Cohen made no more impression than the South London players had before him.

So Manchester took home the trophy for the fifth time, and the scene changed to Croydon, and the question "could Manchester pull off the double?" And pull it off they did, in no uncertain fashion, beating Wembley and Harrow 5-1 in the semi, and then Croydon 5-0 in the final. Although assisted slightly by the fact that Audrey Fowler, down with fibrositis, could not play for Wembley, they were clearly the best all round side on view, and thoroughly deserved their success, especially as one of their players, Doreen Watkins, played

A. J. WILMOTT,
Donor of the Cup,
paid tribute to
veteran Dawes.



with a heavily bandaged ankle which obviously gave her great pain.

Most exciting match was the other semi-final, between Croydon and Central. Central started as strong favourites, led by Corbillon Cup star Pinkie Barnes, but Pinkie's team mates had an off day, and the Croydon team, playing steadily, well deserved to appear in the final.

In view of the summery weather on both days, the question of earlier finals will have to be investigated thoroughly. In past years it has proved impossible to arrange because of the clash with Open Tournaments, but it is hoped that next season the finals of both competitions can be staged during March.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

Semi-finals: Manchester bt. Wembley 5-1; Croydon bt. Central 5-3. **Final:** Manchester bt. Croydon 5-0. **Details:** Miss Wood and Mrs. Taylor bt. Miss D. Gearing and Miss C. Weightman 21-18, 21-13; Miss D. Watkins bt. Miss D. Plater 21-10, 23-21; Mrs. V. Taylor bt. Miss Gearing 21-15, 21-14; Miss Watkins bt. Miss Weightman 21-11, 17-21, 22-20; Miss A. Wood bt. Miss Plater 23-21, 21-17.

WILMOTT CUP

Semi-finals: BRISTOL 5, SOUTH LONDON 4 (for Bristol, Simons bt. Sharman bt. Head lost Crayden; Dawes bt. Crayden bt. Sharman bt. Head; Pickett lost Crayden, Head, Sharman).

MANCHESTER 5, SOUTHAMPTON CIVIL SERVICE 1 (for Manchester, Casofsky bt. Welsh, Saunders; Lurie bt. Saunders, Muller; L. Cohen bt. Welsh, lost Muller).

Final: MANCHESTER 5, BRISTOL 2. Casofsky bt. Simons —11, 16, 17; bt. Dawes 14, 17; bt. Pickett 13, 12. Lurie bt. Pickett 8, —19, 12; lost Simons 18, 14. Cohen bt. Pickett —14, 18, 7; lost Dawes 18, 10.

VERA DACE THOMAS

A daughter, weight 7½ lbs., was born on Monday, April 25th, to Mrs. Vera (Dace) Thomas at Bromley.

Vera has, of course, been out of the game this winter, but, like our other left-handed international star, Dora Beregi, plans to return to serious competition in time for next season.

EUROPE CUP CHALLENGE ROUND

Men Win

For the final match against Czechoslovakia "B" the Selectors decided to rely upon the same team which has been nominated for our earlier successful rounds (v. Holland, v. Italy, v. Belgium, all 3-0, and v. Jugoslavia 3-1).

This was:

J. Leach (Essex), V. Barna (Middx.), A. Simons (Gloucestershire), J. Carrington (Surrey).

But as our two leading men were fit, only Leach and Barna were called upon to make the air trip to Bratislava on May 7.

The match on May 9 was watched by nearly 2,000 spectators amid terrific excitement. Victor Barna spaced his efforts out wonderfully well to win the vital first match against Tokar in the fifth set. This was a fine performance, as Tokar is one of the finest fighters in the Continental game.

Leach with his medium counter-attacking made sure of the wooden-bat wielder Marinko. On paper our pair should have won the doubles, but the two Slovaks are also good in this department, as they proved last year when winning the trophy. Leach's ensuing struggle with Tokar turned out to be the key match; Tokar's determination was shown by his come-back in the fourth game, in which the English No. 1 had a lead of 13-7.

Results:—

**ENGLAND 3,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA "B" 2**
G. V. Barna bt. F. Tokar —21, 18, 16, —9, 18.
J. Leach bt. M. Marinko 17, 17, 12.
Leach/Barna lost to Tokar/Marinko —17, 17, —19, —16.
Leach bt. Tokar —11, 16, 13, —15, 16.
Barna lost to Marinko 22, —8, —18, —19.

JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL MATCH

England 6, Wales 4

In this match, played at New Brighton on Easter Monday, April 18th, the Welsh boys showed that they had nearly bridged the gap which was apparent last year between them and our own boys.

Louis Devereux (South Devon) came out with 3 wins for England, Bill Pierce (Liverpool) also notched 3, and Derek Ellison of Bolton was a little below par with only one. Derek has no need to be discouraged at this solitary setback after a season of consistently good results.

Women Lose

Before choosing the team to play Hungary in Budapest on May 12th for the challenge round of the Europe Cup (women's competition), the Selection Committee held a trial at the Bishops-gate Police Station, in which five girls, Peggy Franks, Betty Steventon, Molly Jones, Pinkie Barnes and Joan Crosby,



JOAN CROSBY



BETTY STEVENTON

were invited to take part. The girls were told before play commenced that anyone winning three matches would be certain to be selected. (Each girl played all the others.)

Terrific form was shown by Joan Crosby, whose strong attack and counter attack proved too much for all the other girls. Peggy Franks and Betty Steventon also played well, and they constituted the team, with Molly Jones in reserve.

Mrs. Crosby bt. Miss Jones 16, 18; bt. Miss Steventon 13, 11; bt. Miss Barnes 17, —17, 9; bt. Miss Franks 15, 18.
Miss Franks bt. Miss Barnes 11, 9; bt. Miss Jones 16, 14; bt. Miss Steventon 19, 15; lost to Mrs. Crosby.
Miss Steventon bt. Miss Barnes 18, 6; bt. Miss Jones 16, 17; lost to Miss Franks and Mrs. Crosby.
Miss Jones bt. Miss Barnes 16, —20, 17; lost to Miss Franks, Mrs. Crosby and Miss Steventon.

As we go to press comes the news that our team was defeated by five matches to two. Results:—

Crosby lost to Karpathi, 18—21, 14—21; lost to Farkas, 10—21, 13—21; Franks beat Kiraly, 21—13, 21—15; bt Karpathi, 21—18, 22—20; lost to Farkas, 11—21, 13—21; Steventon lost to Farkas, 12—21, 14—21; lost to Kiraly, 7—21, 24—22, 20—22.

DETAILS:

R. Baker lost to D. Edmunds 21—13, 19—21, 16—21.
W. Pierce bt. D. Evans 21—14, 21—11.
D. Ellison lost to A. Morris 21—14, 15—21, 14—21.
L. Devereux bt. M. Jones 21—18, 19—21, 21—18.
Ellison and Baker bt. Edmunds and Evans 13—21, 21—15, 21—11.
Devereux bt. Morris 14—21, 22—20, 21—16.
Ellison lost to Jones 17—21, 18—21.
Baker lost to Evans 12—21, 13—21.
Pierce bt. Edmunds 21—11, 21—10.
Pierce and Devereux bt. Jones and Morris 21—15, 21—19.



NEWS from OVERSEAS

FRANCE

ENGLAND men beat France 7—2 in Paris on April 5th, despite a surprise loss by Leach in the first match of the encounter. Our No. 1 possibly underestimated the capabilities of the young all-rounder Gaston Roothoft, playing in his very first international match. Aubrey Simons and Dennis Miller, thus warned, duly beat the giant-killer when their turn came.

Simons came out unbeaten and Miller did well to overcome the experienced Agopoff, but could not quite control the fluent attack of Michel Lanskoj.

The flavour of this first post-war victory against France was dulled by the absence of Hagenauer and Amouretti, who have played such a big part in our previous losses. They were away on "exhibition duty" in Indo-China.

Scores:—

J. Leach bt. Agopoff 22, 17; bt. Lanskoj 10, 15; lost to Roothoft —18, 18, —14.
A. Simons bt. Agopoff 9, 14; bt. Lanskoj 15, 13; bt. Roothoft 10, 14.
D. Miller bt. Agopoff 14, —18, 19; bt. Roothoft 17, 17; lost to Lanskoj —16, —16.

AFRICA

ACCRA T.T.A. has, with the permission of the International T.T. Federation, applied for attachment for one year to the E.T.T.A. Accra is the capital of the Gold Coast, and the players of its youth centre planned to make a 120-mile trip over Easter to play a challenge match at Cape Coast, where they hoped to introduce the new service and demonstrate the doubles game.

HUNGARY

JOSEF KOCZIAN finished up his good season in a blaze of glory.

Not only did he win the Hungarian National Championship, beating Marinko in the final by 21—11, 21—15, 20—22, 21—14, but he also followed this up with a triumph in the Roumanian Open National Championships. There he defeated Bo Vana (his Stockholm conqueror) in the semi-final, leading him 16—1 at one stage, and went on to beat

Sido in the final. Angelica Roseanu is apparently playing as well as ever, as she defeated Hruskova, the world finalist, in 3 straight games to win the Roumanian title.

OLD INTERNATIONAL ON TOP

THE Moscow Cup, contested by 145 men's and 39 women's teams, attracted fifteen hundred spectators to the Sportsmen's Club, Moscow, to see the finals. In the women's finals, the Central Athletic & Gymnastic Institute beat the "Wings of the Soviet" Physical Culture Society 3—1. In the men's final, which the newspaper *Trud* (Labour) team won 3—2 from the "Dynamo" factory, Duskesas, who has held the Moscow individual title for the last three years, won both his singles matches and shared the doubles victory to clinch the contest. Pre-war a Lithuanian Swaythling Cup player, Duskesas competed in the World Championships in London in 1937-38 and in Cairo in 1938-39, when he won the Consolation Singles.

NAP HANDS

Richard Miles, whom we saw defeated by his countryman, Reisman, in the English Open at Wembley, turned the tables on young Marty in the final of the American Open by beating him 3—0.

Miles thus won his home championship for the fifth time in succession, a performance which we cannot find equalled in the men's record books, although we believe that Miss Mednyansky did this in Hungary in earlier days.

If she didn't, she ought to have done, seeing that *she actually won the championship of the world five years running—1927 to 1931 inclusive.*

"THE FUNDAMENTALS OF TABLE TENNIS"

by Victor Barna

This book repays the trouble of careful reading. It is not really a book for beginners, but for club players like myself. The beginners' section merely shows how we started wrongly—but that is too late now!

Of the many points which struck me, two in particular remain in my mind as not being followed sufficiently by the ordinary player. They are first, the use of the wrist when chopping, and secondly, in doubles, the playing of every ball to help your partner.

Buy the book yourself, beginner or expert, and you will find something of interest to you. Don't read it superficially—study it, for there is much more than first meets the eye.

I can find it in me to wish that there were a few words on clothing, for Victor Barna is an example of tidiness at the table also.

R. A.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The portrait of Victor Barna on our front cover is by Peter Madge, of Sydenham.

INCORPORATION OF THE E.T.T.A.

Report on the Annual General Meeting

THE average club member probably gives little thought to the complexity of the work which has to be done by the English Table Tennis Association; but a little reflection will give anyone who has been to Wembley on finals night, for example, an idea of the size of some of the enterprises carried through each year. It may come as a shock, therefore, that the legal position of the Association under its present constitution is such that it cannot as an Association enter into any contract or agreement, but that one or more of the officers has to sign any legally binding document on the E.T.T.A.'s behalf and, in an extremity, would have to bear the legal and financial consequences.

The reason for this is that the E.T.T.A. is not, in the eyes of the law, a corporate body; and the remedy lies in legal incorporation of the Association. Such a step was in the minds of our administrators for some years before the war, and post-war developments have made it more than ever desirable. During the past twelve months, the details of the question have been thoroughly investigated, and at the Annual General Meeting of the Association on April 30th, the Executive presented a report to the members and was given authority to proceed with incorporation. This will mean a Special General Meeting, probably towards the end of June, when the proposed constitution of the incorporated Association will be put before the members for approval before it is submitted to the Board of Trade as required by the Companies Act.

OTHER business at the Annual General Meeting included the receipt of the National Executive's report on the past season's activities, discussion of the tribute to Victor Barna which had been suggested by members of the General Council, and a lengthy list of resolutions proposed by the Executive, Counties and Leagues. One important decision was that, for E.T.T.A. County Administration purposes, there should be no County of London; the Executive will now have to split up the L.C.C. area between Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey. In future, too, Leagues with more than ten Clubs in membership will be able to appoint two Council members to vote at E.T.T.A. elections, whilst leagues with twenty-six or more Clubs will appoint three Council members, the object of this change being to level up a little the voting powers of large and

small bodies in elections—it does not affect voting for other purposes.

* * *

A VETERANS' event for women was added to the National Championships programme, and the National Executive was authorised to run the National Junior Championships separately from the main events and to include junior doubles and mixed doubles. The age for juniors in Open Tournaments was brought into line with the international rule, and it was announced that a Junior County Championship will almost certainly be run next season.

A suggestion that the affiliation fees should be raised slightly so that a rebate could be given for prompt payment was referred to the Executive for consideration, but it was agreed that in future a Club which belongs to more than one League should pay only 5/- E.T.T.A. affiliation through each League, instead of the full 7/6.

* * *

THE Officers for next season are unchanged (Ivor Montagu, Chairman; W. J. Pope, Secretary; A. K. Vint, Treasurer). The new Executive Committee members are:—

N.E.—E. Reay.

N.W.—W. Stamp, E. Worsley.

Yorkshire.—L. E. Forrest.

Midlands.—M. Goldstein, D. J. Rowley.

East.—C. Richards.

S.W.—H. J. Amery.

London.—G. R. Harrower, E. G. White.

South.—F. G. Mannooch, Miss L. Ferguson.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

END-OF-SEASON REVIEW by GEOFF. HARROWER

CHESHIRE'S CHALLENGE FAILS

CONSIDERABLE interest was aroused when, after just winning the Northern Division on games average, Cheshire challenged Yorkshire, wooden spoonists of the Premier Division, for their place in the forthcoming season. Yorkshire, as the challenged county, had the choice of venue, and the match was played in Bramley, Leeds, on April 30th. Unfortunately, one of the Cheshire players, Miss Banks, mistook the starting time, and arrived for a seven o'clock kick-off instead of four o'clock, but Yorkshire sportingly agreed to play a men's doubles, in order that the full programme should be played.

The sting was taken from Cheshire's challenge by the comparatively poor showing of the No. 1, Heaps, from whom much was expected. He had an off day, and lost comfortably to both Rosenberg and Kennedy. W. Devine, however, had one of his best days, and had good, if close wins over both Kennedy and Mitton. Miss Grimstone put up a creditable performance against the more experienced Nora Senior, and only lost two close games 21—23, 19—21. So Yorkshire won 7—2, and remain in the Premier Division.

When reviewing the season, pride of place must be given to Middlesex, who although losing Peggy Franks, and playing two matches without Victor Barna, won the **Premier Division** by an even clearer margin than last season. True, it was still two points, but the games average was also clearly superior whereas last season Essex had the best games average. One reason for this was the success of the second and third men's strings, Harrower and Bernard Crouch, the first named having a 70% average and Crouch 66%. Apart from the opening match, at least four out of the six men's singles were won in every match, sometimes five or six. Other leading averages in this division were (playing in three matches qualifies):—Johnny Leach 100%, Aubrey Simons 90%, Victor Barna 87%, Benny Casofsky 80%, Maurice Kriss 70%. with Crayden, Sharman and Goodman

THE GREAT UNDEFEATED

J. LEACH (Essex)
D. HEAPS (Cheshire)
K. CRAIGIE (Middx. 2nd's)
W. MULLER (Hampshire)
MISS M. JONES (Gloucester)
MISS D. SMITH (Northumberland)

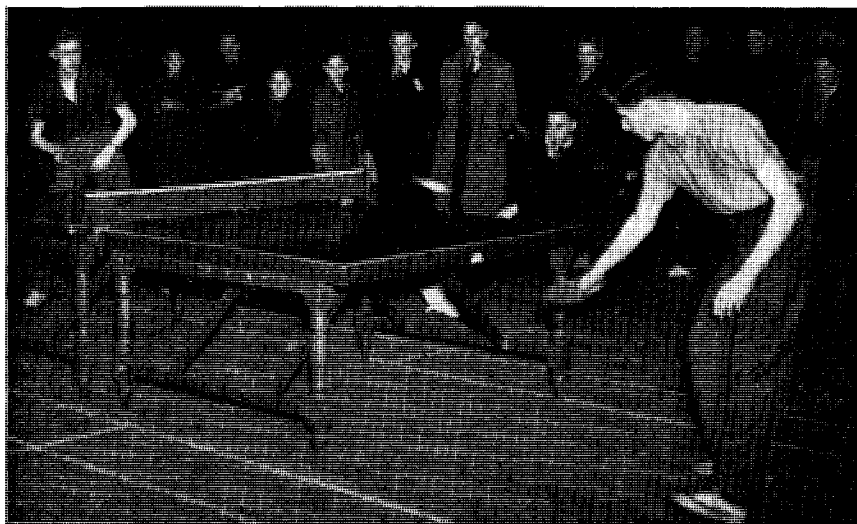
on the 66% mark. Amongst the girls, Molly Jones played in every match and kept her 100% record, including a win over Peggy Franks, a percentage also gained by Pinkie Barnes, who, however, was not available against Essex and Gloucestershire, so did not play Franks or Jones.

In the **Northern Division** there were few good individual performances, all else being overshadowed by the close fight for the leadership. However, much of the credit for Cheshire's eventual success must go to Heaps, who kept a 100% record, playing in every match, whilst other men with good averages were Alan Thompson (Yorkshire 2nds) 87% and N. Roberts (Durham) 83%, whilst Miss D. Smith, the Northumberland player, had a 100% record for five appearances.

In the **Home Counties Division**, the Middlesex International, Ken Craigie, went through the season without defeat, whilst Michael Thornhill had only one loss and averaged 83%. Of the other counties, the leading player was Leo Thompson, his 80% average being a first class performance for a player over 40. The Bucks girl, Sylvia Flax, won 4 out of 5 ladies' singles.

Hampshire, who swept the board again in the **Southern Division**, supplied the only two players with good averages in that section, Muller having 100% and Minter, who missed one match, 80%. With the threatened retirement of some of their players, Hampshire will have to fight hard next season against the young Surrey hopes.

Although Derbyshire finished as wooden spoonists of the **Supplementary Division**, failing to record a win, one of their players, D. Walker, won 7 out of 8 games, a most encouraging performance, and shared the leading position in the averages with E. G. Anderson, of Nottinghamshire. J. Alcock, of the same county, also lost only one match, but had two fewer appearances on the table. English International Betty Steventon easily won the three singles in which she played.



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Continued from page 8

FOR THE FUTURE

IT will be recalled that last season 15 counties entered 19 teams in three divisions, whereas this year 19 counties entered 24 teams in five divisions. Next season will see a still further increase, and it is possible that seven senior divisions will be in operation.

In the West Country, Devon are extremely keen, and have applied, failing the formation of a Western Division, to play in the Southern Division! *What about it, you lagging counties in the West?* Don't force Devon to undertake tremendous journeys because you are slow to organise.

Note that I mentioned seven "senior" divisions. Mainly due to pressure by Kent, several junior county matches have been played towards the close of this season, and there has been a demand for a junior division, or divisions. It seems most probable that the four home counties, Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey, will enter Junior teams, and it is hoped that other counties will also be able to encourage their youth.

I hope in our next issue to be able to give further news of developments towards a bigger and better Championships. Readers from areas where there is as yet no county organisation, and who are interested in the Championships, would be doing a service to the County Championships Executive by indicating their interest to League Secretaries.

CAMBRIDGE COLTS

Cambridgeshire County Selectors, instead of aiming for a "respectable" average position in the Home Counties Division, decided to build for future years and plunged three juniors into their county side. Here you see two of them, JOHN CORNWALL (left) and JOHN THURSTON (right), who learned so much from their experience this season that they met in the final of the Senior County Singles Championship. Cornwall won the title, after several deuce points in the deciding game.

SPORTING RECORD SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Youngsters Show Good Form

By arrangement with the English Table Tennis Association, the final of the *Sporting Record* National Schools Competition was played off on Easter Saturday at the Polytechnic Extension, at the same time as the Wilmott Cup final. This achieved the dual object of providing perfect conditions for the boys, and also enabling them to watch some of England's best players in action.

The standard of play put up by all four schools was extremely high, although it was perhaps fitting that the school, who included two boys well known to the E.T.T.A. and tournaments, should win the magnificent trophy. By sheer determination, coupled with the experience gained in tournament play, they won through in the final against much older, and indeed, more stylish players. In fact, two eminent judges of the game gave their opinion before the final commenced that Bournemouth were "certainties."

Sporting Record are to be congratulated upon sponsoring such a fine tournament, and it is understood that they will again organise the event next season, when it is anticipated that the entry will be more than doubled.

Semi-finals: Borden G.S. bt. Rhodda Tech. School 3—2. Bournemouth School bt. Oldham High School 4—1.

Final: Borden G.S. bt. Bournemouth 3—1.

TABLE TENNIS IN RUSSIA

TABLE Tennis in Soviet Russia appears to be in the same stage as it was in this country about the year 1930. The journal *Soviet Sport* published a description of a friendly match between the Spartacus Sporting Club and a large engineering factory, using phrases strangely reminiscent of those days when we still had to persuade people to come to watch table tennis.

The chief engineer (one might call him the Comrade Director?) was rather surprised to find that the "spectators were fascinated" and that the "participants turned out in sporting kit with gym shoes." There is the usual reference then to the "primitive game which one played on the dining-room table" or—here is perhaps a Soviet speciality "*in the foyer of a cinema.*" We really must talk to Mr. Rank about this!

Our director saw with amazement that the little celluloid sphere could

be struck "*with such force that the eye could hardly follow it,*" and noted how "*after driving the defender fifteen or twenty feet back from the table with a series of smashing strokes, the attacker would unexpectedly place a short ball barely over the net.*"

Such was the mastery of skill over mere muscle that the star of Spartacus, a speed-man of lacrosse and a long-distance skater, sportingly admitted that he was just not in good enough training to cope with the leader of the factory team. (He did mention, too, that his wrist was bad, but we have heard Western players do this before now.)

The evening had a happy ending because—but how did you guess?—the Director himself became an enthusiastic table tennis fan, and very soon "*ping-pong tables were installed in all the Red Corners.*"

TABLE TENNIS COMES OF AGE by Sol Schiff

With an introduction by
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This book tells you how the game is played from the first stroke right on to the finer points of strategy and tournament play.

40 Illustrations

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Adrian answers . . .

A. A. Haydon replies to your questions



?

Please put in plain English about the way in which you are allowed to serve in doubles? I have

had an argument with the rest of the Club over the method of serving in the second or succeeding games.

I say that you can change your positions as you think best after the opposing pair have decided who shall serve.

The rules are quite clear on this point. The team which receives service at the start of ANY PARTICULAR GAME is entitled to decide which player shall receive from which.

That order of receiving then holds good throughout that game of 21 points, unless it happens to be a deciding game of a match. The "deciding" game may obviously be the 5th in a best-of-5, or the 3rd in a best-of-3, or the only game of a single-game match (now happily becoming a rare event).

In any such deciding game, the first "choice-of-order" only holds good until one or other pair reaches the score of 10.

The choice then passes back to the other pair, i.e., the pair who served first in that particular game. They are entitled to ask their opponents to change order of receiving from that point until the game and match is finished.

Don't forget that the "change-of-order" must be chosen at the score of 10—afterwards it is too late. The umpire does not have to remind you, so it is up to you to know your rights and exercise them.

Remember that the order-of-serving never changes, it is always the order-of-receiving which is changed. So, if you are serving when the score of 10 is reached, for example, you may be losing 4—10, you then ask your opponents to change round, while you carry on serving.

In a matter which can so seriously

affect the result of the match, you might expect every doubles player to know the ruling throughout. Yet you have only to look in on "Doubles Night" at a tournament to see several matches thrown away through lack of knowledge or lack of planning on this point.

Frequently the pair have not given any thought to it until the umpire asks them what they wish to do at 10 in the deciding game, and then they cannot think quickly enough. Even more often do you see a pair start the game without realising which player is going to receive from which opponent.

A small point of interest is that when the deciding game reaches deuce score, no further change of order takes place. The score may reach up to the 30's which means that the pair which chose the order from score of 10 have had twice as much advantage as the pair who chose first. This is one of the factors which supports the fashionable dictum: "always serve first if you win the toss in a double match." The other important factor is that your opponents may help you by making what proves to be a wrong decision in that first game; you can then hold them to the same order in the second game when it is your choice.

On the other hand, if you are up against an obviously better pair, storming tactics may be better for you. In that case you would give them service and choose the favourable order of receiving, relying upon snatching the first game and upsetting their morale.

Of course even the best-regulated of doubles teams may make the wrong decisions about the playing order, in spite of discussions and arguments for weeks in advance! But that is part of the fun of the game.

ALEC. BROOK

DEPARTURE of Victor Barna to tour Australia with Richard Bergmann this summer leaves Alec Brook without a stage partner for a time. As Alec always likes to be prepared for anything, he would be glad to hear of a possible "understudy." Whilst applicants need not be quite so good as Victor, an ability to return a few balls safely on the table is clearly indicated!



NO CODDLING FROM THIS MOLLY

Scottish Open Championships

(at Edinburgh, April 16th - 17th, 1949)

CHIEF features of the Scottish Championships were the storming attempt of Miss E. Pithie to wrest the women's title from the firm grip of Miss Elliot, and the dominance of the Welsh in the men's events.

Miss Pithie showed remarkable benefits from her experience at Stockholm, and her close approach to the Elliot standard must rank Scotland as serious contenders for the Corbillon Cup next year.

The Wales team (mixed) had on the previous day beaten Scotland 5-3 at Dunoon, all Scottish points being scored by their girls. The Welsh men did not, of course, expect to prevent Richard Bergmann from winning the singles, but one of them, Monty Smith, came mighty close to doing so. It was only by virtue of a time-limit score of 19-15 in the third game that the ex-world champion overcame the defensive tactics of Monty; while Stan Jones and John Davies beat Bergmann and the fourth Welsh boy, Glyn Morgan, in the doubles final.

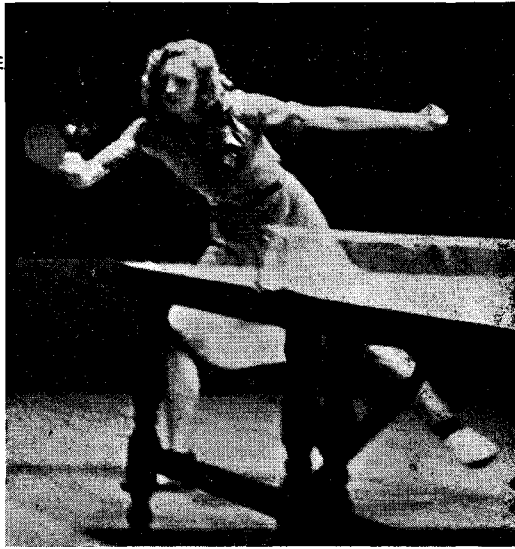
The eager John Davies prevailed over his "bogey," Stan Jones, in the semi-final 2-1; and in addition to his men's doubles success, partnered Nancy Roy Evans to victory over Helen Elliot and her Polish partner, Zajac (adopted by the Scottish crowd as "Zig-Zag"!).

M.S.: Bergmann bt. J. Davies 3-0.

M.D.: J. Davies and S. Jones bt. Bergmann and Morgan.

W.S.: Miss H. Elliot bt. Miss E. Pithie 2-1.

W.D.: Miss Elliot and Miss Pithie won.



MOLLY JONES, whose claims to Corbillon Cup rank were considered so strong by Gloucestershire T.T.A. that they tabled an official request for an enquiry into the methods and policy of the International Selection Committee. The National Executive passed a vote of confidence in the selectors' work.

At the same time, it was agreed that, whenever possible, future women's trials should be held separately from the men's, to allow more exhaustive tests to be made.

Molly, although no stylist, is a very determined fighter, and can point to victories over touring American and Czech internationals, as well as most of the leading English girls.

MIDDLESEX (HERGA) OPEN

AUBREY SIMONS was in good form at Herga Club, winning three events. His 3-0 victory against Ron Sharman showed how much his attack has improved; previously Sharman had been able to neutralise it by his agile defence.

Michael Thornhill made a plucky attempt to pass Simons on the way to the semis, and is obviously learning a lot from recent hard matches.

Miss Pauline Cantor, of Broadstairs, known to us until now as a hard-smashing junior, surprised everyone by winning a sticky senior's final against Peggy Veal, of Willesden. The recognised favourites—Mace, Lentle, Adams, the Fowler sisters and the Rowe twins—all fell by the wayside in this topsyturvy event.

(at Harrow, April 4th - 9th, 1949)

Results:

M.S. Semi-finals:

Simons bt. Craigie 18, -16, 16.

Sharman bt. Harrower 13, 14.

M.S.: Simons bt. Sharman 15, 12, 17.

M.D.: Simons/Harrower bt. Sharman/Craigie 18, -17, 20.

X.D.: Simons / Miss J. Roberts bt. Glickman/Miss A. Fowler 15, 14.

W.S.: Miss P. Cantor bt. Miss P. Veal -15, 20, 13.

W.D.: Misses R. and D. Rowe bt. Misses Mace/Mullender 17, 19.

Boys': D. Marco bt. J. Cornwall 15, 12.

Girls': Miss R. Rowe bt. Miss M. Marston 12, -12, 12.

The prizes were presented by the ever-popular Mrs. Jean Bostock, who as Jean Nicoll first took to table tennis and lawn tennis in the Herga Club. Jean was playing an exhibition lawn tennis match on the club courts.

Looking Around

with George White

OPINIONS of the white dress experiment which have so far reached the magazine suggest that the majority are against the idea. Laundry troubles and the soap shortage are mentioned by one or two; others feel that, whatever the opinion in the United States, white shirts cannot help but interfere with the play of the man at the other end of the table. The people with washing worries say that the conditions in which one has to change and play at many open tournaments would make it quite impossible to turn out in clean whites for every match. All right for finals, perhaps; but if colours are worn for the preliminaries, there will be an added strain to play in finals — as well as two lots of kit to carry home afterwards.

* * *

ANOTHER man with a grouse writes from the United States. He is Irving Levitatz, who has been doing well in State tournaments over there recently and sends a subscription to *Table Tennis* because the U.S. magazine, *Topics*, hasn't enough space to carry all the European news he would like. His complaint is that U.S. newspapers don't give enough publicity to the game, a piece of news that comes as a surprise to us over here, where we imagine that those huge American papers must have room for everything. No doubt Mr. Levitatz would be amazed at the space which our austerity newspapers have been able to give to *Table Tennis* recently. The recog-

MIDDLESEX NOTES

A thrilling struggle was seen in the final of the men's team Championships, before West Ealing, strongly represented by Ron Sharman, Ken Craigie and Len Adams, just got home 5-4 against Gallants Farm, who fielded Geoff. Harrower, Jack Glickman and Stan Sterlini. At one time Gallants Farm led 4-2, aided by Glickman beating Craigie and Harrower defeating Sharman. In the ladies' competition, Herga were worthy winners, beating Wembley Institute in the final, the winners being represented by Mrs. Milburn and the Misses Fowler and Ingram.

North Middlesex retained the Norman Pegg Trophy given for the Premier Division of the Inter-League Championships, but only after a play off with Staines, in which they were successful by 6-3. Willesden won the East Zone and West London the West Zone. Willesden winning the play-off 7-2. In challenge matches for a place in the Premier Division next season, Willesden just beat Wembley 5-4, after an excellent match, whilst West London have still to play Central.

West London became the first champions of the Junior Championships, beating Willesden, the East Zone winners, by 6-3. Nine Leagues competed in this junior competition, and it is hoped to increase upon this number next season. Medals are to be awarded to both West London and Willesden.

dition given by the press to the wide public interest in our game has, indeed, been one of the outstanding features of a season noteworthy in many other respects also.

* * *

MAGAZINES on table tennis seem to be springing up everywhere nowadays. Those run by individual Leagues, however, are rarities and it is good to see such an excellent production as that published by the enterprising **Lowestoft** officials. Good luck to *Bat Chat* — but I hope players Lowestoft way won't forget to read *Table Tennis* as well.

Those who don't run to printed publications are taking up the idea of regular news-sheets. From a recent issue of *Bedford County Notes* comes the following:—

The Committee deprecates the prevalent custom of electing Vice-Presidents mainly for a monetary consideration, and is resolved that the essential qualifications for a Vice-President shall be related to the services applied to the benefit and promotion of the sport.

Could it possibly be said better?

* * *

ANOTHER interesting publication which has come my way recently is a very nicely produced history of the North Middlesex League. As far as I know, this is the first effort of this kind. Editor Jack Dale has filled it with interest, and sales should bring in a worth-while sum for the League's "Promising Players Fund."

Mr. and Mrs. Dale (previously League champion Miss Vi Weavers) have been playing and working for the League since 1934, but Jack has been able to lift the curtain on the "dark ages" of 1931, when the League started as Enfield and District T.T.L.

[EDITOR'S NOTE. — *George White* has overlooked the *League history* which may claim to be the first ever. That was "Twenty-One Up," describing 21 years in the life of the *Manchester and District T.T.L.* When reviewing this we suggested, by way of leg-pull, that in the stream-lined future *Manchester* might find themselves an extension of the *North Middlesex League!* Oh, well, there's still time; and after all, it would be one way of bringing the *Wilmott Cup* down *South again!*]



JOHNNY LEACH

World Champion

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TENNIS EVERY WEEK**

IN ..

**OUT ON
FRIDAYS**

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Reveille
FOR THE
Weekend

ESSEX HONOURS LEACH

at the Closed Championships,
April 16th - 18th, 1949

ADDED interest was given to the Essex Closed Championships at Southend when the County Executive decided to make finals night the occasion of the presentation to Johnny Leach of an inscribed plaque and an accompanying cheque, representing the contributions of well-wishers from all over the county.

When formally handing over the "trophy," the chairman, Mr. Corti Woodcock, emphasised how proud Essex folk were that such a typical son of Essex as Johnny should have achieved the feat of bringing the World Championship title to England.

The Leach family were the guests of the County Association for the day, and the presence of three-year-old junior John suggested that there will be a good man to carry on the Leach standard when Johnny settles down to gardening.

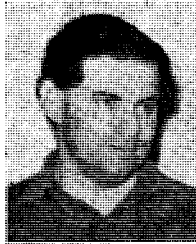
Meanwhile, as neither Leach took an active part in the play, Essex supporters were heartened by some fine displays from the other county stars, some young and some not-so. It was a very well-known "not-so," Ron Langner, who took the men's singles and thereby set the seal on a long run of consistently good results in tournaments and county matches.

The prize could—indeed, should—have gone to the other Ron, Ronnie Hook, when the latter led in the final by 2 games and 20—18. Langner's half-volley backhand driving had, until then, been unable to pierce the newly improved chop-defence of Hook, now adopting the Miles style of defence.

Hook, an ex-Kent champion himself, could thank the angels for his escape from Brian Brumwell's onslaught when the latter led by 17—11 and 20—17 in the semi-final.

FINALS:

- M.S.:** R. Langner bt. R. Hook —19, —17, 20, 14, 16.
W.S.: Mrs. E. Adams bt. Mrs. M. Davis 11, —14, 18.
M.D.: K. Beamish and P. Smith bt. R. Langner and R. Markwell 16, 19.
X.D.: A. Payne and Mrs. Adams bt. B. Brumwell and Miss Bassett 21, 16.
W.D.: Mrs. Davis and Miss Dakin bt. Mrs. Adams and Miss King 20, 15.
Boys': P. F. Smith bt. S. Olive 10, 18.
Girls': Miss A. Bruckman bt. Miss P. Hope 16, 18.
Veterans: J. Pickard bt. F. Chapman 15, 19.



RON LANGNER

In one week became Essex Closed Champion and London League Champion.



ARTHUR HAYNES

For 25 years the Competition Secretary of London League

CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Adams takes another step forward

IN the finals of the Civil Service Championships on April 6th the sound defence and judicious counter-hitting of L. G. Adams (Middlesex) proved just too good for A. G. Scarsbrook's non-stop forehand attack. The women's final was less exciting, and Betty Steventon made no mistake this time after her surprising defeats in the previous years.

The biggest surprise in the doubles' finals was the defeat of the Mixed holders, Miss Steventon and Bolton, by the War Office pair, Haywood and Miss Dakin. The chief factor was the way Haywood's counter-hitting of all Miss Steventon's shots kept Bolton purely on the defensive. Russell and Tabbenor, both of Woolwich, won the Men's doubles, the clean hitting of Russell being a feature.

Jean Malget (Junior Girls) was the only player to retain a title, and the high standard of the Junior Boys' competition, won by K. Wharton, was marked by the early eclipse of the holder, F. Hopkins.

RESULTS

M.S.—L. G. Adams bt. A. G. Scarsbrook 19, 12, —21, 13. **W.S.—**Miss E. Steventon bt. Miss M. French 9, 14. **M.D.—**R. R. Russell and J. H. Tabbenor bt. I. G. McMillan and A. G. Scarsbrook 18, 19. **W.D.—**Miss W. J. Dakin and Miss E. Steventon bt. Miss J. Malget and Miss J. W. McCulloch 17, 19. **X.D.—**G. E. Haywood and Miss W. J. Dakin bt. R. T. Bolton and Miss E. Steventon 17, —18, 18. **J. S.—**K. Wharton bt. D. C. Burridge 19, 12. **G.S.—**Miss J. Malget bt. Miss B. E. Dabner 17, 12. **V.S.—**A. F. Hellings bt. F. J. Purvis 20, 19.

Preliminary rounds of this competition were staged in Birmingham as well as London, and the response was so great that a "Southern Zone" will probably be necessary next year, centred at Portsmouth or Chatham.

MORE EQUIPMENT HINTS FROM DECKER

I thank correspondents for the many kind and encouraging letters and enquiries I received after my last article. I propose in this article to deal with club premises.

The very minimum width for a club room is 30 feet. There should be no chairs along the walls as this involves risk of injury to players. Thirty-five feet gives quite a comfortable run back, but the ideal

Up to quite recently light clothes were very strictly banned. In 1922 when the organiser wanted to give "tone" to a certain international match, he persuaded some of us to turn up in evening dress. Before playing we had to don black alpaca jackets which completely covered our expanse of shirt front.

We had a devastating win, mainly because our opponents obstinately clung to their plain wooden rackets, and claimed that the new-fangled rubber-faced rackets were unfair and unsporting. I am glad to say they have long since seen the light and their successors are doing very well nowadays in the international field. On several occasions Editors in want of something to fill a corner, have published the photo of our resplendent team and accused us of having dazzled our opponents with diamond studs and dazzling shirt fronts, so I would like to reiterate once and for all, that our shirt fronts were respectably covered.

There has recently been an agitation to remove the ban on light clothing and in my opinion, anything but dead white has very little effect on an opponent. Many years ago a bright young lady used a hand-mirror as a racket in a tournament with dazzling effect, but history does not record how far she got.

This is the last issue of "TABLE TENNIS" for season 1948/49. Our next number will appear on September 7th to start the new season's series.

All unexpired subscriptions will be carried over to the new season's series.

**If you are not already a regular subscriber, why not make sure of getting quickly off the mark next season by reserving your own personal copy right now! A postal order for 3s. 6d. (six issues) or 7s. 0d. (12 issues) will bring the official journal of table tennis direct to your door every month. Remit to
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width is 40 feet. The space between the tables should be not less than five feet and seven feet from the end walls.

There is a passion these days for reducing everything to a formula, so in order to estimate how many feet can be given between each table, here is a formula:—

Where l = the length of the hall in feet and t the number of tables.

The number of feet between each table = $\frac{l-5t-4}{t+1}$

For example, with a hall 98 ft. long and using 8 tables, your sum is

$$\frac{98-40-4}{9} = \frac{54}{9} = 6$$

You will, therefore, have 6 ft. between each table and 8 ft. each end.

THE background should be as dark as possible but one can play against any background providing it is not dead white.

WESTERN COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

MEN'S SECTION

Division 1

BIRMINGHAM	...	10	10	0	20
Cardiff	...	8	6	2	12
Newport	...	8	4	4	8
Bristol	...	10	4	6	8
Worcester	...	10	3	7	6
Swindon	...	10	1	9	2

Women's Section (North)

BIRMINGHAM	...	4	3	1	6
Bristol	...	4	2	2	4
Cardiff	...	4	1	3	2

Women's Section (South)

S. DEVON B.	...	6	5	1	10
S. Devon A.	...	6	4	2	8
Exeter A.	...	6	3	3	6
Exeter B.	...	6	0	6	0

Birmingham beat S. Devon B. 8—1 in Women's Championship play-off.

Division 2 (North)

BRISTOL	...	12	10	2	20
Oxford	...	11	7	4	14
Bath	...	11	6	5	12
Cheltenham	...	12	6	6	12
Weston	...	11	5	6	10
Gloster	...	11	3	8	6
Swindon	...	12	3	9	6

Division 2 (South)

EXETER A.	...	8	8	0	16
Exeter B.	...	8	6	2	12
S. Devon A.	...	8	3	5	6
S. Devon B.	...	8	3	5	6
Taunton	...	8	0	8	0

Exeter A. beat Bristol 5—4 in Division 2 Championship play-off.

(A few matches remain to be played, but all championships are settled.)