

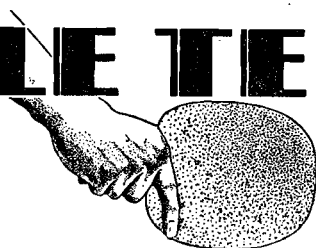
# TABLE TENNIS



THE CZECH  
TOURISTS  
ARRIVING  
IN ENGLAND.

# TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine  
of the  
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
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## THE REGISTERED PLAYERS SITUATION AS IT IS TO-DAY

by IVOR MONTAGU

**N**OW that the Registered Players' Regulations have been revised, the Editor has asked me, for the sake of our post-war followers, to say a few words about the principles underlying this peculiar feature of English table tennis, which we share with no other sport.

**Other sports distinguish between amateurs and professionals; WE DO NOT.**

The reasons for this different outlook are, of course, fairly complicated, but, I suggest, not uninteresting, and in next month's "Table Tennis," I propose to describe the various steps by which we arrived at the above seemingly gloriously simple solution to a difficult problem.

**A person who wishes to receive money for any form of skill at the game must become a "Registered Player" of E.T.T.A. The method of doing this, and the rules he must observe, are, of course, the subject of the Regulations, which I try to summarise later in this article.**

Our regulations are purely domestic, for England. They have encountered anomalies, difficulties, even evasion, but on the whole they have achieved their object.

We permit exhibitions and teaching for money, but not for competing in matches or tournaments.

**Why the one and not the other?** No obscure moral principle is involved, only practical hard sense.

We want to encourage exhibitions (which popularise the game); we want to encourage coaching (which should raise the playing level and hence the enjoyment of the game).

But we are not, generally, strong enough to control and see fair play in paid competition. There is so much money in Cricket and Association Football that an organisation with disinterested whole-time officials can be erected to control them.

**Not so in table tennis, although the unthinking person, confronted with a Wembley crowd, might pardonably suppose the opposite! He would have no idea of the immense combination of voluntary labour and good will which enable the balance-sheet of this amateur-run affair to show a very different set of figures from those which a commercial promotion would have to face.**

So our rules say that our members may earn all they can by exhibition, etc., *but not by competition*, and within the framework of the rules made by officials elected by the numerous supporters of our game to protect the interests of the game and the majority of its English players.

And now, the Regulations themselves as they stand to-day. Note, firstly, that they are the result of a revision undertaken not over the heads of, but in consultation with, those who will have to observe them.

### THE NEW REGULATIONS

**S**PACE does not permit us to reproduce the Regulations in full. They are contained in a 4-page leaflet which has been distributed by E.T.T.A. to all registered players and all affiliated secretaries. A copy will be sent to any other interested party on application to E.T.T.A. office.

(Continued on page 2.)

The main features of the Regulations may be summed up thus:—

**SECTION 1:** Defines to whom and for what payments may be made or received. Defines the principle of "expenses" for match-play and prizes for Open Tournaments, consistent with I.T.T.F. rules. Lays the obligation on Clubs, Leagues, etc., not to pay any except registered players for their services, AND TO REPORT SUCH PAYMENTS TO E.T.T.A. Gives the E.T.T.A. power to sanction payment for competition in closed or invitation events if it should exceptionally deem it advisable. **FORBIDS BETTING IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM.**

*NOTE.*—A player must register to take money from the game, however he exploits his skill, whether he coaches for example with his bat, his tongue or his pen. Nobody has ever paid me to play in an exhibition, but I am registered in order to take money for broadcast talks or book royalties.

Registration therefore is no proof of professionalism; this avoids entanglements in the relations of T.T. players with other sports.

**SECTION 2:** Deals with the method of registration. Chief change is the bigger rôle assigned to County Associations (in line with E.T.T.A.'s general policy).

*NOTE.*—Registration is a privilege, and it is right that it should not be granted, at least without impartial inquiry, to anyone who is at odds with his League or County Association. Of course, there is provision for appeal where an applicant cannot get League or County approval.

**SECTION 3:** Lays down a Code of Conduct for registered players. It enjoins common honesty in respect of authorship and the use of individuals' names; it reminds registered players of their common-sense responsibility to make themselves reasonably available for the major events of the T.T. world.

Of course restraint is expected of both organisers and the "organised." For instance, in the society of to-day, E.T.T.A. would hardly expect a man to perform competently in his country's team if to hold him they had refused him permission to accept, say, a £1,000 contract to play in the Antipodes at that date!

On the other hand, the E.T.T.A. must not be placed in the position of competing with Tom, Dick and Harry for the services of representative players.

"Live and let live" is the principle which oils the operation of these rules.

Under Section 3 comes the most "troublesome" rule, that which insists that exhibitions may not take place on unaffiliated premises without prior sanction from the County body confirmed by E.T.T.A.

This is designed to avoid conflict between "commercial" exhibitions and events organised by Associations, Counties, Leagues, etc. Trouble has sometimes arisen about this, not usually from intent but from laziness.

**SECTION 4:** Quite new. Provides for setting up a special body to represent registered players and give them a better means than in the past of making their ideas known to the Association as a whole.

**SECTION 5:** Also new. Provides for the preparing of panels of approved exhibition players and approved Coaches, for the method of choosing such approved players, and for the circulation of information about the panels.

In the past some people have been misled into believing that "registration" implied skill of a certain level. IT DIDN'T AND IT DOESN'T. It only means the right to take money. *But the new panels will mean skill.*

**SECTION 6:** Provides warnings against overlooking these regulations, and especially against transgressing the rules of the "host" country when playing abroad. ("Abroad" includes Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Channel Isles, which all have their own governing Associations).

**WE** know the wording of these regulations is imperfect; of that we are only too painfully aware. But the problems to be dealt with are very complex.

We think their underlying principles are right and meet the special needs of our own game. We ask everyone to learn them and observe them. And, of course, we ask critics to send suggestions for improvement; such suggestions will be particularly valuable when based not on conjecture but on experience.

## **NEXT MONTH**

Ivor Montagu describes

### **The Growth of the "Amateur-Pro" Problem in Table Tennis History**

and discusses the very topical question

**"How much Money is there in Table Tennis?"**

# ENGLAND PROGRESS IN EUROPE CUP (Men)

## ENGLAND 5, HOLLAND 0

DETAILS (English names first)

J. Leach beat Cor Pelser 22—20, 21—14, 21—15; beat Cor du Buy 21—15, 21—16, 21—17. A. Simons beat Cor du Buy 21—15, 21—11, 21—17; beat Cor Pelser 21—17, 21—14, 21—18. V. Barna and Leach beat Cor du Buy and Willy van Zoelen 21—8, 21—14, 21—15.

This first-round match at The Hague on 5th October resulted in the expected clear-cut victory for our men, but not without very respectable opposition from the greatly improved Dutch representatives.

Simons, playing his first European match, started a trifle nervously, but soon got the feel of the table and proved himself the master of both "Cor's" (du Buy and Pelser).

Cor du Buy is well known in England as a stylish all-rounder with a marked preference for attack, the type against which Simons excels. The lesser-known Cor Pelser is a tall aggressive forehand exponent, given to sudden blitzes rather on the style of Roy Markwell. One such "blitz" brought him a 20—14 lead over Leach, but our No. 1, in some manner known only to himself, managed to pull out and win in straight sets.

The combination of Leach and Barna proved much too strong for the Dutch partnership of du Buy and young Willy van Zoelen.

In the next round ENGLAND will be opposed by ITALY, and played at Larkfield, Kent.

## ESSEX COUNTY NOTES

New-comers to the league line-up are BILLERICAY and LAINDON, neighbouring towns whose strength lies in the tremendous enthusiasm of their youth clubs.

COLCHESTER have a useful acquisition in Cecil Weintroub, from Bradford. Weintroub thus returns to his pre-war county (he represented Southend) and will qualify next February.

Bill Parker, of Ilford, is running the county news-bulletin entitled "Nine By Five."

New Hon. Secretary of Essex County T.T.A. is:

Mr. Harold G. Philbrick, 9, Fladgate Road, London, E.11.

IRELAND beat WALES 4—1 at Belfast, a very creditable performance considering the capabilities of Sweetland and Stan Jones. Both Victor Mercer and Harry O'Prey achieved two singles wins,

although running to five games against, respectively, Sweetland and Jones. Wales' solitary gain came in the doubles, the above-named players defeating Martin and O'Hara by 3—1.

BELGIUM beat SCOTLAND 5—0 at Brussels.



THE  
HOLIDAY  
CAMP  
CHAMP

"Keep your eye on the ball," says Miss Em All.

## SURREY COUNTY NOTES

Surrey's confidence in their second team of Head, Venner and Hurlock was well confirmed by a 9—0 victory over Kent at Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. The team appeared very smart in maroon shirts and county badges, and played up to them.

What a contrast the following day! The first team lost 2—7 to Essex, the only sparkle in the Surrey side coming spasmodically from Crayden. Surrey supporters were not only depressed by the play but also by the turn-out of their representatives.

Not for the first time in table tennis history, the ladies are the main headaches for the Selection Committee. Vera Dace Thomas unable to play; Pinkie Barnes temporarily incapacitated; these make a gap in the ranks which Mrs. George, who seems to be the best of the remainder, cannot be expected to fill at once. Mrs. Atherton, who was a strong forehand hitter, is not yet playing confidently, and Miss Plater has to become more certain when facing heavy chop, although her general play is improved.

Surrey County Secretary's address is now:

Mr. R. Atherton, 173, Wimbledon Park Road, London, S.W.18.

# THE BIRMINGHAM "OPEN"

(Finals played 9th Oct., 1948)—by "Inkspot"

The presence of Swathing Cup aspirants and "possibles" at the Birmingham Indoor Sports Stadium gave this year's first major meeting a special interest.

Invasion by no less than 80 "foreigners" placed a heavy strain on the organisers of this one-day tournament (midland entries having been eliminated heavily by the Saturday morning). However, the old firm, led by Morris Goldstein, Adrian and Doris Haydon, Mackay senior, etc., piloted things through until the pleasant evening's session ended about 10.15 p.m. in time for most competitors to go their separate ways over the midnight rails and roads.

Notable event was the men's singles final—it found a new opponent for Johnny Leach, and one indeed worthy of his skill; I refer to it as the first Leach-Simons final because I feel sure we are going to have quite a few more, and the Londoner will always have a fight on his hands.

**It was a fight this night, brothers, believe me. By his severe and disguised chop, and by some subtle impression of imperturbability, Aubrey Simons induced the experienced Leach to play a stubborn losing game of continuous attack until the score read 2 games to 0.**

Two good match temperaments opposed each other; the short stabbing backhand chop of Simons held the hard baseline hits of Leach. Points usually came to Simons when Leach tried to swing a harmless-looking ball down "forehand alley" . . . the bat turned too far over the ball suggested slight over-eagerness on the hitter's part.

Third game, and Leach was alert to the danger; he curbed his dash and proceeded to tempt Simons with short dolly-drops, the same tactics as used by Sharman in his two wins over Simons early this year. This brought to light the only weakness in the westerner's play . . . he doesn't seem to know too well how to construct his own point-rallies. Left to take the initiative he makes mistakes which he usually deludes his opponents into making.

Slowing the pace enabled Johnny Leach to surprise Aubrey more often when hitting, and at the same time to hold the latter's sudden drives more effectively. Eventually Leach found a short and long rhythm which gave Simons no opportunity for breaking in, and finally fatigued him into making

needless mistakes. A fine tactical win and yet a fine try by the loser, whose whole play at the moment looks as though it may benefit rapidly by widening experience.

**Semi-finals:** Simons apparently convincingly beat Benny Casofsky, of Manchester, who is normally one of our best bets for beating the defensive experts. But after seeing the Leach victory, let us not be unfair to Casofsky. Had it been a 5-game final, it is possible that Casofsky, too, would have realised his errors and got "stuck into it" with the good old short-and-long, at which he has few rivals.

Ken Stanley met Leach in a match where the Londoner looked a sure winner if he kept his patience. Ken showed us some fine streaming drives, of pace and consistency, but marred them with a real gambler's backhand. He seemed puzzled to know why some went on and some off; from the sidelines it seemed that they went off when taken off the back (left) foot, but went on very soundly when taken off the hitter's right foot.

Previously Ken had overcome Geoff Harrower, a hurdle rendered more difficult for the young Mancunian by unfortunate (and surely unnecessary?) disputations over umpire's rulings.

**Women's final:** Bates v. Steventon could never be a pretty game of table tennis. Let us be satisfied that we had a game of vigour and enthusiasm. Birmingham-born Betty took the trophy back to Nottingham deservedly; Welsh international Audrey Bates showed improvement over last year's form and may not be an easy victim for our own stars later this season.

**Men's Doubles:** The inclusion of two items in the evening programme reflected the public's interest in good "four-somes."

The regulars, Leach-Carrington, faced a strong semi-final challenge from Casofsky-Stanley, but fell quickly into their familiar attacking style. The two games went to the England pair before the northerners could work out a counter-attack.

Simons-Mackay, at first sight rather a "mixed" team, had sufficient severity to snatch the middle game from their possibly over-confident opponents. This spurred the Londoners to "show the flag" in good style in the decider, when the combination of long drives by Leach

**The Birmingham Open—continued.**

and short backhand kills by Carrington overwhelmed the Middle-West partnership.

Casofsky and Miss Bates shared a compensating success in the Mixed, thanks largely to one of those unaccountable Mackay lapses from a winning position.

What of the juniors? The absence of Kennedy and Thornhill left the door open for new-comers. This was a good thing, as it gave experience to two good lads in Ellison, of Bolton, and Maurice Leach, of Cheltenham. Ellison, a calm and confident left-hander, was good value for his 2—0 win and should make a mark before long in Lancashire circles. The diminutive young Leach, at 15, already shows that he has more of the attributes of his illustrious namesake than merely the name.

Steton, as also young Bill Reilly and M. Leach, came to Birmingham at the expense of their home league, Cheltenham.

With the town's No. 1, Bob Griffin, storming the fancied Keith Hurlock off the table, Cheltenham may well feel satisfied at their youngsters' response to such encouragement.

Most attractive early clash was between Bernard Crouch, fresh from his East of England triumph, and Aubrey Simons.

Crouch's early attacking style gave Simons little time to mix his chopped returns, and for most of the first game the Ashford hitter mastered the table. Over-excitement on Crouch's part—and praiseworthy calm on Simons'—led to a 20-18 lead becoming a lost game. With the first danger over, Simons took charge more and broke up Crouch's attacking gambits before they could develop (23-21, 21-14).

Junior winner Ellison deserves a credit for his senior victory against the experienced Airey.

**RESULTS:**

**Semi-Finals—**

- J. Leach beat K. Stanley 21—15, 21—17.
- A. Simons beat B. Casofsky 21—12, 21—19.

**Singles—**

- Leach beat Simons 13—21, 12—21, 21—14, 21—15, 21—16.
- Miss E. M. Steventon beat Miss A. Bates 21—16, 14—21, 21—15.

**Doubles—**

- Leach - Carrington beat Simons - Mackay 21—13, 16—21, 21—11.
- Miss J. P. Mackay-Mrs. D. Smith beat Miss Steventon-Mrs. M. Allen 21—16, 22—20.

**Mixed—**

- B. Casofsky-Miss Bates beat Mackay-Miss Mackay 6—21, 21—18, 21—11.

**Junior—**

- D. Ellison beat M. Leach 21—13, 21—16.

**MIDDLESEX NOTES**

So many entries have already been received for the Middlesex Closed Championships that even the Paddington Baths may be too small to accommodate the final total, bearing in mind that entries do not close until November 23rd. No less than nine events will be run.

It appears that every club in Middlesex wants to see the Senior Touring Team, and Secretary Geoff. Harrower is still struggling with the applications. Preference is being given to youth clubs, and groups of youth clubs, but other clubs catering for young players will not be overlooked. Briefly, the scheme offers a two-hours' exhibition demonstration of strokes and advice on all aspects of the game to young players by a team of internationals and county players, so it is not hard to see why it is very popular.

When the junior touring team was announced, it was hoped to play matches against the leading senior clubs, and it is surprising to see a number of youth clubs who think that they stand a very good chance of beating the rest of the county! It is spirit like that which makes the future champion, and these would-be world beaters will get their chance of proving what they can do.

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# THE HARTLEPOOLS OPEN

## EAST LONDONER DEFEATS KENNEDY

The Hartlepoons Open Championships, organised by the Hartlepoons Table Tennis Association, took place on Saturday, 16th October, in St. Paul's Hall, Murray Street, West Hartlepool. A record number of competitors took part.

Play began at 1.30 p.m., and although eight tables were in full use the whole of the time, the last game was not completed until nearly midnight. A high standard of table tennis was witnessed by a large number of spectators and the final results proved to be a triumph for young **Brian Kennedy**, the Junior International from Leeds. Throughout the afternoon Brian's cool, confident and brilliantly executed stroke play was a source of delight to spectators and opponents alike, and gained for him the following successes:—

- (1) The Youths' Singles Final, in which he gained a comfortable 2 set victory against **G. Kelly**, of Bradford.
- (2) The Men's Doubles Final, when, partnered by **A. Thompson**, also of Leeds, they were successful against **R. A. Punshon** and **L. Kurtzman**,

of Newcastle, by 2 sets to 0, after easily disposing of the Durham County players, **T. H. Jeal** and **N. Roberts**, of Stockton, in the Semi-final.

- (3) The Mixed Doubles Final, in partnership with **Miss S. J. Wood**, of Leeds, who is only 16 years old. They disposed of another Leeds pair, **Miss M. I. Lightfoot** and **A. Thompson**, by 2 sets to 0. The success of this youthful pair was very popular with the spectators, and the steady play of Miss Wood proved to be a good foil for her more brilliant partner.

The semi-finals of the Men's Singles brought together **T. H. Jeal**, the Stockton and Durham County player, against **R. A. Punshon**, Newcastle and Northumberland County, and **Brian Kennedy** against **J. Parish**, of the St. Mark's Club, Walthamstow, London. In the first game, Punshon rather surprisingly easily defeated Jeal, and in the other game, after an exciting match, **Parish inflicted on Kennedy his only defeat of the day in a 3-set match.**

The final, which was the best of three games; owing to shortage of time, between Punshon and Parish, proved to be a thriller. Punshon won the first set, 21—18, and seemed set for victory in the second set when leading 15—6, but his opponent staged a wonderful recovery and managed to win 21—17, to square the game. **The third and final set saw both players hard at it. Parish by a series of brilliant shots ran up a 17—12 lead, and seemed certain to win, but Punshon fought back magnificently and by brilliant play won the set and game, 21—18.**

**Miss J. Purves**, of Newcastle, repeated her success of last year by again winning the Ladies' Singles, her opponent in the final being her club colleague, **Miss D. Smith**, who only went under after two very close games. The Ladies' Doubles result was also a repeat of last year. **Miss J. Purves** and **Miss M. Waugh**, of Newcastle, defeating **Miss M. Paxton** and **Miss E. Dodds**, of Stanley, in the final by 2 sets to 0.

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### CANDIDLY SPEAKING

The Editor regrets that lack of space has compelled the suspension of this feature this month. Next month, under this title, Mr. Kurtzman will express his views on the new Registered Player Regulations.

# NORTHERNER'S NOTE-BOOK

by STANLEY PROFFITT

**A large bouquet to Douglas Ellison, and one a trifle smaller to Douglas Shaw, would be my presentation to Northern players for their display in the Birmingham Open Championships recently. Other than this the form of the remainder was far too bad to continue.**

Ellison held high the traditions of the North by running through the Junior competition faster than a "Fire engine up High Street." Pity he has only the lease of the present season before he moves over to the Senior ranks. Though Douglas Shaw has a long way to go before reaching representative status, it was gratifying to witness his exciting tussle with international Geoffrey Harrower. Had he not been over-anxious to finish off after cleverly engineering an opening, the narrow loss of 19 in the third game might have been reversed. By and large, however, not one of our Northcountrymen's younger set played anything like. If we possessed a teen-ager such as Crouch, the Middlesex protégé, there'd be something to shout about.

Benny Casofsky managed to scrape through a few rounds, though neither he nor Ken Stanley blazed the trail, as it were. Nor for that matter did Adele Wood, who unfortunately met the canny Betty Steventon early.

An entirely different atmosphere prevailed during the Warwickshire v. Lancashire Premier Division County Championship fixture in the Midlands the following week-end. The home team were completely nonplussed, only managing to notch the mixed doubles in a 9-set match.

**Particularly pleasing was the form of English Junior Champion, Adele Wood, who in two straight sets damaged any hopes Warwickshire might have held of Jean McKay becoming a prospective Corbillon Cup player.**

It may be premature to forecast, but I'm convinced if the Lancashire selections are based on the strongest combination, and not guided by geographical location, they are going to set a real challenge for championship honours to Middlesex this term. Moreover, the assumption is enhanced by the fact that the majority of Southern Counties have suffered severe blows, either by the transfer of crack exponents, or stars being unable to give regular service.

Lancashire on the other hand have

the whole of their top-grade talent available now that Goodman is in the running. Yes, it is whispered that he is likely to have a good season, thus along with Casofsky, Stanley or Lurie (all former Swaythling Cup men) to fill the bill, the combination holds outstanding possibilities, and will be strengthened rather than weakened by the Ladies.

Testing time comes on the 30th October at Liverpool, when they meet Gloucestershire, whose mainsprings are Simons, Dawes, Shipton and Molly Jones. Molly already has the scalp of a Czechoslovakian woman to her credit, whilst Aubrey Simons, second only in the land to Johnny Leach, will undoubtedly set a hot pace. Responsibility for a second victory therefore rests heavy on the seasoned campaigners, Goodman and Stanley. Much interest will be centred on the Wood-Jones women's duel, particularly by a section of the Manchester Press, who in one breath suggest that Miss Wood will have to play better to receive international honours, and in the next breath suggest that she should have been in the English team against the Czechs.

**Good luck to Bernard Hand (Liverpool), making his debut for the home county. It is, however, a risky selection against such stern opposition.**

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## IN THE WEST

The **WESTERN COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**, the well-known competition for inter-town representative teams, this year comprises 18 men's teams and 7 women's.

The great name of Exeter is missing from the Men's 1st. Division, but is found twice in the 2nd Division; reason is that the latter division has been zoned into North and South, and the participation of Exeter in the South section with two teams provides some good matches for Taunton and two South Devon teams who might otherwise stagnate owing to travel trouble.

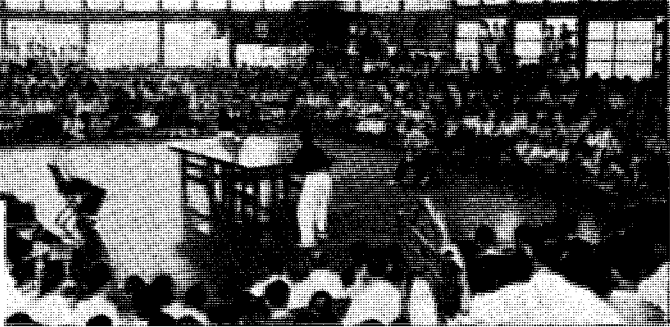
Much the same has happened in the Women's Section, where two squads from South Devon and Torbay will meet two from Exeter, leaving only Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff girls to fight it out in the North section.



## LATEST NEWS FROM ABROAD



JAPAN  
FINALS



### JAPAN

**J**APANESE table tennis has been reorganised, and a big tournament was held recently for three sports simultaneously—lawn tennis, "soft-ball" tennis, and table tennis. The trophies, for annual competition, were presented by General MacArthur, the American governor, and specially autographed by him.

After nation-wide preliminaries sixteen teams contested the final knock-out rounds. The ties were remarkable for the unusual variety of matches; each meeting involved best-of-nine events, made up as follows:—

- 2 Men's Singles, 1 Women's Singles,
- 1 Boys' Singles, 1 Girls' Singles,
- 1 Veterans' Singles, 1 Men's Doubles,
- 1 Women's Doubles, 1 Mixed Doubles.

Champion team of Japan proved

to be KYOTO, who beat TOKIO in the final by 6—3.

### HUNGARY AGAIN

**L**ITTLE Josef Koczian, apparently to reproach us for not mentioning him in last month's reference to rising Hungarian hopes, proceeded to beat the Czechs Vana, Andreadis and Stipek all in one match! Thus BUDAPEST beat PRAGUE 5—4 on 18th September.

### U.S.A. ROMANCE

**C**CHEERY Leah Hall, who led the United States womens' teams over here during the past two seasons, is now married to Mr. H. Neuberger, a well-known New York player. It is reported that her ring is adorned with two table tennis bats in diamonds.

### SPAIN, SOUTH AFRICA, AND JAPAN AGAIN

The I.T.T.F. have received applications for affiliation from Spain and Japan. It had already been decided that if Germany or Japan applied it should be referred to the A.G.M. at Stockholm unless the Peace Treaty had been signed. There was no legal bar to the admission of Spain, although some countries may object, and the matter is being considered by the Advisory Committee. The possibility of sending a team to South Africa next summer is a subject of correspondence with that country.

#### *It's Sound Tactics*

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# CZECHOSLOVAK TOUR OF ENGLAND

When you read this our Czechoslovakian guests will have left for home once more, leaving with us a fine glow of friendship for their simple good-natured sportsmanship, and of appreciation for their superb skill on the table.

From all quarters of England we have received enthusiastic reports of their performances; the selections printed below will serve to give you some idea of their tonic impact on table tennis circles in this country.

Perhaps it would be fair to say that the scores of the local matches, although interesting, should not be taken too strictly as a means of comparison between various English players, as our brilliant visitors may have allowed themselves to relax a little more on some occasions than on others!

## Oct. 18: v. Gloucestershire at Cheltenham

The Mayor, Alderman D. Lipson, headed the 900 crowd at the Town Hall to watch the first match ever played by the County of Gloucestershire.

Twenty-year-old Bob Griffin of the home town, though obviously outplayed, did much to justify his inclusion.

Aubrey Simons, diffident by contrast with his recent performances, was below his best against Tokar, but quite unlucky to lose to Andreadis by a net-cord shot at 19 in the 3rd game.

Molly Jones defeated Hruskova fairly comfortably; a dull spectacle, but none the less a good solid achievement.

Better doubles understanding underlined the Czechs' winning score, but a spirited Mixed effort was made by Miss Jones and Bob Griffin in taking the second game to deuce against Hruskova and Tokar.

### DETAILS:

Miss Jones and R. Griffin lost to Hruskova and Tokar, 12-21, 20-22.

Miss Jones and A. Simons lost to Hruskova and Andreadis, 18-21, 13-21.

Simons and Griffin lost to Andreadis and Tokar, 11-21, 11-21.

Simons lost to Andreadis, 11-21, 21-14, 19-21.

Simons lost to Tokar, 9-21, 21-19, 13-21.

Griffin lost to Tokar, 18-21, 15-21.

Griffin lost to Andreadis, 10-21, 14-21.

Miss Jones beat Hruskova, 21-17, 21-18.

## Oct. 19: v. Surrey at Manor Place Baths, London, S.E.

Nearly 500 spectators, including the Mayor of Walworth, saw the tourists win 7-0 in an enjoyable match. Andreadis again had to concede a game, this time to Ron Sharman, who abandoned his "traditional" defensive tactics and surprised the stylist with some unlikely but very effective backhand flicks. These, combined with the persistent chasing of the ball by Sharman, reduced Andreadis to the rare state of working for every point. The score reflects a good struggle.

Surrey "borrowed" Miss Gwen Mace to provide tougher opposition, but in spite of plucky play she could not pass the

stern chop defence of Hruskova (presumably more in form than on the previous night).

Crayden made a brave show facing Tokar, yet notched few points; of Ken Merrett it can only be said that he is far from true form still.

## Oct. 19 v. Durham at Hartlepool

The touring team showed their undoubted all-round strength and won with something in hand against the county team, who, however, faced them gallantly. Extra matches brought Miss Helen Elliott into action, and the crowd was thrilled at a 2-1 Scottish victory over the dainty Eliska Fuerstova, after a great set-to. Vana and Stipek first amused with their trick play and finally settled down to a serious exhibition game of wonderful table tennis.

## Oct. 20 v. Durham at Bishop Auckland

Durham county champion, T. H. Jeal, and Norman Roberts, of Stockton, again met the tourists this evening, supported as before by Mrs. Dodds (of Stanley); in addition a chance was given to young Alan Carter, of Bearpark, the county's junior champion. Carter played Stipek and partnered Roberts against the world doubles champions, Vana-Stipek, and will, no doubt, learn much from his matches.

Mr. J. Sproull, president of the Durham County T.T.A., again looked after the Czech players, who were welcomed by Ald. Middlewood, of Bishop Auckland, as "Diplomats of Sport."

Fuerstova, playing far better than on the previous evening, took revenge on Miss Helen Elliott with a decisive 2-1 win.

Details: Jeal lost to Stipek, 17-21, 18-21.

Carter lost to Stipek, 8-21, 7-21.

Roberts lost to Vana, 12-21, 6-21.

Roberts/Carter lost to Vana/Stipek, 14-21, 18-21.

## Oct. 21: v. Derbyshire at Derby

Seven hundred attended at the King's Hall to see a very encouraging display by the home players. After overcoming the first nervous tension, the Derbyshire team "had a go" and even surprised themselves occasionally.

D. Walker aroused the first hopes by taking 19 from Andreadis in the first game, and then leading 18-17. His backhand flick down the tramline had the Czech on the wrong foot, coming as it did after a series of defensive shots. The tension grew at 19-17 to Walker, but Ivan increased the power of his drives and played off the danger.

Rhodes, the county cricketer, and Walker made a respectable showing in the doubles without ever threatening a sensation.

(Continued on page 11.)

# CZECHOSLOVAKIA 8, ENGLAND I.

THE INTERNATIONAL MATCH      Reported by our Northern Correspondent

In the Stadium, Liverpool, on October 23rd, there was the buzz and hum of high power electricity. Under the arc lights equally electrifying movements were on view during the Barna-Leach, Vana-Stipek doubles classic.

This game, the last on the evening's programme, and England's lone win, whetted the appetites of the 2,500 spectators sufficiently for the Liverpool Association to be assured of a "full house" on the next occasion they stage a major international match here.

I'll have to go back many years before recalling anything like this game. How the victory-starved enthusiasts roared at every exchange from the agile Stipek to the polished Barna; Leach and Vana adding just the right amount of pep for their respective partners. The unimpeachable footwork in such rapid interchanging would have made the pioneers of ping-pong rub their eyes. A well-deserved triumph over the world champion combination.

Though the singles scoreboard records a nil result for the home team, there was any amount of entertainment value. The best undoubtedly came when Victor Barna opposed Frantisek Tokar. They produced a touch of old-time table tennis. So refreshing, coupling long top spin rallies with fiery aggressiveness. At times the maestro brought out delightful

*(Continued from page 10.)*

Guest star, Johnny Leach, was below his usual standard in his exhibition matches against Andreadis and Tokar. His defence was as sound as ever, but he missed many attacking openings.

Details: D. Walker lost to Tokar, 8-21, 14-21; lost to Andreadis, 19-21, 19-21.

A. Rhodes lost to Tokar, 13-21, 15-21; lost to Andreadis, 10-21, 8-21.

Rhodes/Walker lost to Andreadis/Tokar, 15-21, 15-21.

## Oct. 21 v. Yorkshire at Leeds:

"Outplayed, but far from disgraced," is the local verdict. The 600 crowd perhaps appreciated most of all Miss Norah Senior's great fighting effort against Fuerstova, the Yorkshire girl only going down at 23-25 in the second set, having once had vantage point. Brian Kennedy again impressed by good all-round play and earned a spontaneous compliment from Stipek.

Stipek's crushing backhand flick failed to disturb Vana's machine-like forehand drive in a final exhibition, which left the crowd clamouring for more.

Details: Kennedy lost to Vana, 13-21, 14-21; lost to Stipek, 16-21, 16-21.

Rosenberg lost to Vana, 13-21, 18-21; lost to Stipek, 9-21, 18-21.

Miss Senior lost to Miss Fuerstova, 13-21, 23-25.

## Oct. 25 v. Middlesex

The tourists won by eight matches to one.

### SCORES (English names first):—

J. Leach lost to I. Andreadis, 11-21, 18-21.

Miss M. Franks and Mrs. Lentle lost to Miss Fuerstova and Miss Hruskova, 14-21, 16-21.

A. C. W. Simons lost to B. Vana, 15-21, 13-21.

G. V. Barna lost to F. Tokar, 21-18, 18-21, 11-21.

Miss Steventon lost to Miss Hruskova, 17-21, 21-12, 11-21.

J. Leach lost to B. Vana, 15-21, 22-24.

A. C. W. Simons lost to I. Andreadis, 10-21, 17-21.

Miss M. Franks lost to Miss Fuerstova, 9-21, 21-23.

G. V. Barna and J. Leach lost to B. Vana and L. Stipek, 21-12, 16-21, 21-17.

artistry enforcing the big Slovak to use all the available space to retrieve his famous back-hand flick. Tokar, however, came up time and again compelling Barna to retreat. The amazing pace caused the great showman to tire somewhat in the third set, totalling only 11 out of the 21 points.

A pity Betty Steventon and Miss Hruskova had to follow such an exhibition. Their game commenced tame in comparison, but few could have followed with any effect. Betty displayed the right tactics in confining play to her opponent's backhand, thus the game dragged on until Miss Hruskova veered round to finish the rallies with a flat forehand hit. The other ladies' singles between Peggy Franks and Miss Fuerstova caught up with the public rather more. Particularly the second game, when the English girl had shed her nervousness.

For the remaining Englishmen's singles, Leach and Simons, there's plenty of praise, despite a reverse on each occasion, and mark you, despite a selector's comments. **My theme is that if Johnny had packed a cute drop shot in his bag instead of the push, neither Andreadis nor Vana could have shown such complacent ease in switching over to attack.** This was more apparent against Vana when the little Czech essayed the "dead" drop and had Johnny scurrying to one angle of the table, leaving wide open spaces vulnerable, whereas Vana was never at such a disadvantage when a similar opening occurred to Johnny.

Aubrey Simons stood up well. One must commend him on his coolness in facing such opposition. **If there was a fault, and most possess one, he was too often on the wrong foot when attempting a snap hit.** This may be due to lack of first-class practice.

# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS MATCH

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*on*

*Wednesday, 24th November, 1948*



Action picture of the venue taken during the match Kent v  
Czechoslovakia on Wednesday, 27th October, 1948

# NATIONAL COUNTY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

by GEOFF. HARROWER

## Essex and Lancashire Make Good Start

Last season, in the opening match of the Premier Division, Surrey just got the better of Essex by 5-4, after a terrific struggle. This season, the boot was very much on the other foot, with Essex recording a convincing 7-2 win. It should be recorded, however, that Surrey were without Pinkie Barnes (ill).

Scores:—J. Leach beat R. Sharman 15, 20; beat R. Crayden 13, —20, 12. R. Langner lost to Sharman —18, —18; beat K. Merrett 12, 16. B. Brumwell lost to Crayden —12, —10; beat Merrett —18, 17, 14. Miss M. Franks beat Mrs. George 8, 8. Miss G. Patterson and Mrs. E. Adams beat Mrs. George and Miss D. Plater —17, 15, 21. Leach and Miss Franks beat J. Head and Mrs. D. Atherton 6, 16.

Warwickshire proved no match for Lancashire at Birmingham, only the Iranian Champion, Mohtadi, putting up a show amongst the men. Warwickshire's solitary success was in the mixed doubles, where the Mackays proved once again that they are a formidable force in doubles. For Lancashire, Adele Wood put up one of her best singles performances by beating Jean Mackay in straight games.

Scores (Lancashire first):—B. Casofsky beat W. Hall 14, 15; beat R. Mackay 12, 18. H. Lurie beat Hall 14, 9; beat F. Mohtadi 13, 21. L. Cohen beat Mackay 8, 14; beat Mohtadi 14, —18, 21. Miss A. Wood beat Miss J. Mackay 20, 13. Miss Wood and Miss E. Mansell beat Mrs. D. Smith and Mrs. D. Haydon 18, 21. Casofsky and Miss Mansell lost to Mackay and Miss Mackay —18, 15, —15.

## HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

My notes last month mentioned that the Cambridgeshire players were not well known in London. This has brought forth an interesting letter from their Secretary, Leslie Constable, throwing out a challenge to play any county a junior match, with players of sixteen or younger.

Bedfordshire played their first match in the Championships against Middlesex 2nds, and are still wondering what hit them. The Middlesex side of Bernard Crouch, Ken Craigie, Jack Glickman and Gwen Mace had only one idea, and that was attack. The Bedfordshire players, Ironmonger, Randall and Holdroyd, also wanted to attack, and it would have done Stanley Proffitt good to have seen some of the rallies. The greater power of the Middlesex hitters prevailed, and even Ironmonger became a defensive player from time to time!

## NORTHERN DIVISION

Cumberland were very much the wooden spoonists last season, but came

up smiling again for their opening match against Northumberland, taking the long journey to Newcastle full of hope, and it is pleasing to report that, although losing 1-8, they also took a game in three other matches, which is a more encouraging start than last season.

Lancashire 2nds, champions of this division, beat Lincolnshire soundly by 8-1, Lincs. being unfortunate to take the field without their leading player, A. Hall, whom, it will be remembered, had a 100% record in this division last season. Lancs. fielded a very strong side, including Shepherd and the Rumjahn brothers. For Lincoln, Merryweather played extremely well, beating Shepherd and running Ronnie Rumjahn to three games.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

The Champions, Hampshire, opened their season with a good 6-3 win over Sussex in a match which saw many closely contested games. In fact, only the turn of a few points would have been needed to make the result read the other way. Charlie Seaman lost both his singles in straight games for Sussex, but they were very close, as he lost to Muller at 23 and 19, and Minter at 20 and 19, whilst Fretwell also did well for Sussex, beating Whiten and losing only at deuce in the third to Muller.

Surrey 2nds made no mistake in beating Kent 9-0, but here again there were a number of close games, seven times the score being 19 or 20 against Kent before Surrey emerged the winners.

## CLASSIFIED RESULTS

<b>Premier Division:</b>			
Essex	7	Surrey	2
Warwickshire	1	Lancashire	8
Manchester	3	Gloucestershire	6
<b>Home Counties Div.:</b>			
Bedfordshire	0	Middlesex 2nds	9
Cambridgeshire	2	Essex 2nds	7
<b>Northern Division:</b>			
Northumberland	8	Cumberland	1
Lincolnshire	1	Lancashire 2nds	8
Durham	5	Northumberland	4
<b>Southern Division:</b>			
Hampshire	6	Sussex	3
Surrey 2nds	9	Kent	0

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# From the Secretary's Chair

## W. J. POPE REPORTS ON THE LAST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

**I** GIVE here a brief report of the last meeting of the Committee and have only included matters of general interest—many other items on the agenda I have passed over as only affecting routine business and ordinary day-by-day administration.

It is our ambition to get everyone interested in the functioning of the Association, to understand the pros and cons of National problems and from this report I think all our readers will see that a Committee meeting periodically in London has to sit long and patient hours to make decisions in the interest of the game.

### THE 1948/49 FIXTURE LIST

The meeting had a hefty programme in arranging matches for the coming season. The first item was the tour of the Czechoslovak players and the approval of arrangements which had been made for them to visit 15 centres and to play an International match at Liverpool.

It was reported that the Irish, Welsh and Scottish Associations had invited a team of Austrians to tour their countries and had offered us two dates, November 29th and 30th. It was agreed that Cheltenham and Wolverhampton should have the first options, and Hartlepool's the next chance.

Our next match in the Europe Cup (against Italy) has been offered to the Aylesford Paper Mills Club at Maidstone. If we qualify for the West Zone semi-final, the match will be offered to Sittingbourne League.

The England v. Scotland match was allocated to Carlisle.

The Junior International match was allocated to Yorkshire, and discussions about the date are taking place.

### SPECIAL WOMEN'S TRIAL MATCH

This has now been definitely fixed for Newcastle on November 22, and the teams are being selected. It will be a vital match and there will be keen competition for positions in our Corbillion Cup team; Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Devenny and Mrs. Bostock not being available.

### ABROAD

A team of three players with a non-playing captain, will tour Sweden from

December 8 to 18, playing an International match at Gothenburg. Our juniors will also tour Sweden, reciprocating the visit of their youths to us last year. This tour starts January 17, the players remaining to take part in the World Championships which begin February 4, in Stockholm.

The Swedes have decided to apply the new rule regarding "junior" age (*under 17, on previous July 1st, entitled to compete the whole of the subsequent season*). This will rule out some who played against the Swedes last year, and thus I anticipate strong competition among the remaining juniors for this long and pleasant trip.

### THE JUNIORS' GAME

The question of developing the Juniors' game was again considered by the Committee, and it was agreed that we should do everything possible to encourage promising Junior players to enter open tournaments. It was also agreed to ask all leagues for a list of local juniors of promise, whether facilities were provided for them to practise, and what plans leagues had adopted to help them. When this information is received, the whole position is again to be considered.

**It being reported that the effort to run a separate national junior championship had failed, it was decided that the junior events should be incorporated in the National Championship as usual.**

### THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

As a result of correspondence with the Wembley Authorities, it was found that they were very dissatisfied with the financial results of running our championships there. They proposed drastic increases for future bookings and, after negotiations, charges were decided upon and an agreement reached to hold the semi-finals and finals there, on Friday, February 18th, and Saturday, February 19th, 1949. This will necessitate an up-grading of some prices, which have not been altered for many years.

Mr. J. M. Rose was appointed referee, and it was decided to run the preliminary rounds at Paddington Baths. The London members of the Committee, with the officers, will again be the sub-Committee responsible, and they were

instructed to negotiate with British Railways to try to arrange special half-day excursion trains to Wembley from some of the chief cities.

**Provincial members are to have priority in the allocation of reduced price club tickets on the Saturday evening.**

**VISIT OF U.S.A. PLAYERS**

It was reported that it now seemed possible that the U.S.A. team will not, after all, visit Stockholm for the World Championships. It was agreed it was important that U.S.A. players should be in London for our Championships, and it was left to the chairman to contact the U.S.A. to try to negotiate satisfactory terms for them to make the journey to Europe. This would involve them in a series of matches in this country.

**THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AT STOCKHOLM**

**It was agreed that an effort should be made to organise a party to travel to Stockholm for this event. (February 4 to 10, 1949.) Any "fans" interested should write to me.**

**COUPONS FOR CLUB PLAYERS' CLOTHING**

Considerable correspondence was reported with the Board of Trade in the effort we have been making to obtain special coupons for club players to obtain table tennis clothing. This has not been successful and, after considering all the circumstances, it was decided not to proceed further with the matter.

**FINANCE**

A financial report was presented to the Committee by the treasurer, giving the position as at the end of September. **The final report of last season's working was also considered from which it transpired that our loss at the World Championships was £255.** Taking into account that if we had sent a team abroad for these events it would have cost more than that sum, the Committee thought this result not too unsatisfactory.

It was decided to print the financial statement in the Official Handbook, and to show comparative figures for last season by the side of each item.

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# YOUR SEASON'S DIARY

Tournaments marked thus \* include events specially for Juniors.

It is hoped that all young players will take every chance of gaining experience in these events.

Date	Tournament or Event	Venue	Tickets or Information from :
*Nov. 12-13	Yorkshire Open		
*Nov. 20-21	South of England Open	"Acc & Tabb.," Aurlia Road, Croydon	C. Bourne, 46, Elm Park Gardens, Selsdon, Surrey.
*Nov. 24-27	Merseyside Open	Gordon Institute and (finals) Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool	W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 18.
*Dec. 3-4	Pontefract Open	Town Hall, Pontefract	H. V. Preston, 1, Argyle Avenue, Pontefract.
*Dec. 10-11	WELSH OPEN	City Hall Assembly Rooms, Cardiff	Mrs. Roy Evans, The Rise, 16, Tynamawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.
*Dec. 13-18	Central London Open	Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.	G. R. James, 17, St. Ann's Villas, London, W.11.
1949			
Jan. 3-8	Metropolitan Open	The Polytechnic Annex, Little Titchfield Street, W.1.	Mr. C. McKenna, The Polytechnic, 309, Regent Street, London, W.1.
*Jan. 15	Hull Open	East Hull Barracks	H. Flint, 28, Albert Avenue, Anlaby Street, Hull.
Jan. 15	WALES v. ENGLAND	Swansea	Mrs. Roy Evans, The Rise, 16, Tynamawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.
*Jan. 16	Hampshire Open	Blighmont 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.

## SOME LATER LANDMARKS

Feb. 4-10	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Stockholm).
*Feb. 16-19	THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (in London).
* 24-26	Midland Counties Open.
*Mar. 1-4	Surrey Open.
11	ENGLAND v. IRELAND (at Liverpool).
*Mar. 19	West of England Open.
* 19	Grimsby Open.
* 21-26	West Middlesex Open.
*Mar. 31-	
April 2	North of England Open.
*Apr. 4-9	Middlesex (Herga) Open.
* 16-18	N.E. England Open.
*May 2-7	Thameside Open.
* 21	Bucks Open (finals).

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Premier Division :—	Venue
Nov. 18—Essex v. Middlesex	Romford
Nov. 20—Gloucestershire v. Yorkshire	Gloucester
Nov. 26—Lancashire v. Surrey	Oldham
Dec. 4—Surrey v. Warwickshire	
Dec. 11—Yorkshire v. Essex	Leeds
Home Counties Division :—	
Nov. 22—Hertfordshire v. Buckinghamshire	Watford
Nov. 23—Middlesex 2nds v. Essex 2nds	Enfield
Nov. 24—Bedfordshire v. Buckinghamshire	Luton
Northern Division :—	
Nov. 27—Cumberland v. Durham	Carlisle
Dec. 11—Lincolnshire v. Northumberland	Grimsby
Dec. 11—Cheshire v. Yorkshire II	Guide Bridge
Dec. 18—Cumberland v. Yorks 2nds	Barrow
Southern Division :—	
Nov. 13—Sussex v. Surrey 2nds	Brighton
Nov. 20—Hampshire v. Kent	Portsmouth
Nov. 21—Kent v. Sussex	Woolwich
Dec. 11—Kent v. Surrey 2nds	Canterbury
Supplementary Division :—	
Nov. 23—Derbyshire v. Nottingham	Buxton

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