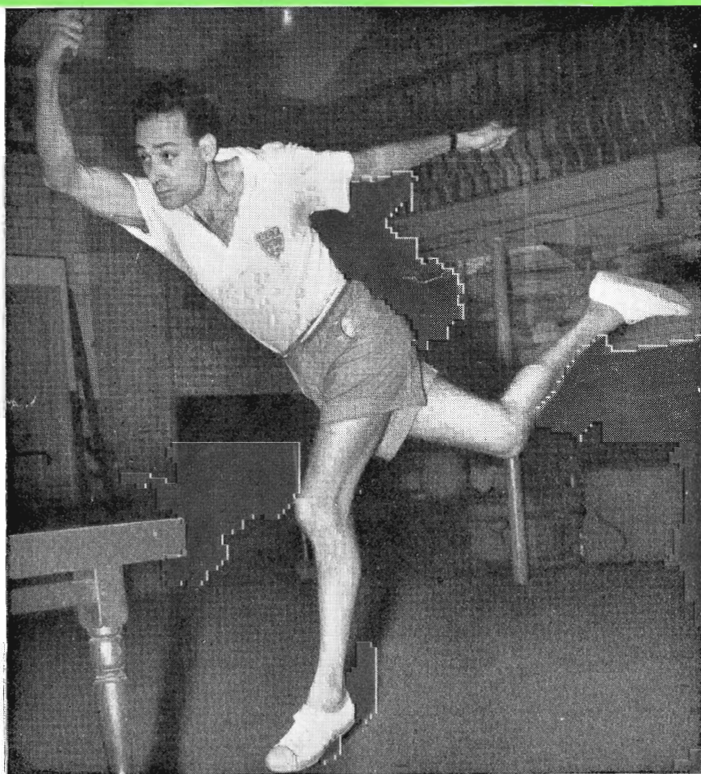


MARCH, 1950

SIXPENCE

# TABLE TENNIS



**MICHEL HAGUENAUER**  
France

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**TOMMY SEARS**

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**LESLIE BENNETT**

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# TABLE TENNIS

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of the  
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## THE ACHILLES HEEL OF TABLE TENNIS

**T**HE amazing and successful metamorphosis of Table Tennis from parlour game to world stadium is because of one reason and one reason only: it has captivated mass popular support.

Table Tennis, at its best, is a sport of thrills, of spectacle, and high nervous tension; it has the suspense of unpredictability and the shocks of surprise; it demands perfect fitness, mental and physical, and the speed of lightning; it calls for the gallantry, the colour and the courtesy of knightly lists. It has all the ingredients that attract support from lesser competitive elements, and while it retains such, it will flourish.

But like the glorious and heroic Achilles it carries from its childhood one vulnerable and mortal spot. The "Achilles Heel" of Table Tennis is variously termed "Pushing," "Chiselling" or "Unenterprising" play!

We, who know the game, and can so often find justification for a "chiselling" match, must beware of overlooking the dominant point. We perceive the subtler shadings of the battle of wits and wit and technique; we may tend to laud the player who stone-walls his way to bring the deciding game to a victory

for our team. We know, in fact, the *raison d'être* for negative games, and so have tended to tolerate them. But supporters, the audiences who collectively pay for the big matches, are not so tolerant; they have paid to be thrilled, shocked, excited and awed, and like it or not, they are the customers who are always right. You may "sell a pup" once, but you will never sell a litter.

Ever since "The Great Chisel" of 1936, higher and wiser administration has been profoundly conscious of the "Achilles Heel" and this concern has been reflected in clumsy, awkward and sometimes inequitable laws which please no one.

We are doubtful whether laws or even the height of the net will eliminate chiselling entirely, although it is a matter of conjecture whether conditions, e.g., table surfaces, and speed, etc., may not be partially responsible and deserving of the consideration of players and legislators.

In any case, it is essential that everyone in the game should realise the tremendous importance, the imperative necessity of ensuring that all matches open to the public are such that will bring "repeat orders." This, in itself, will also solve many local financial problems. How this shall be done is not so easy to decide, but it starts with wise counsel and inspired leadership and calls for an improved technique from the players.

## IS THE PATTERN CHANGING ?

**A**T the time of the English Open Championships, it is topical for us to look over the record. Since Bromfield won the Men's Singles title in 1924, the title has only once been again held by an Englishman, Richard Bergmann, in 1948.

We believe, however, that the pattern of events is destined for a change. Post-war table tennis has taken a little while to pick up lost ground, and pre-war giants have continued their interchange of crowns and held with varying success the fierce onslaughts of the young battalions. Nevertheless, the pendulum is swinging again to youth.

Nothing could have been more encouraging than the performance of the Anglo-Swedish Juniors Internationals at Aylesford. In the whole match there was not one example of conceit, bad temper, or giving up. The matches were lively and attractive, and showed a really promising level of tactics and technique. The splendid staging by the Aylesford Paper Mills Sports Club set a hall-mark of excellence on an evening which holds confident promise of a bright future.

The outstanding performance of LASSE PETERSSON and the generally improved play of the Swedish lads, should clearly show us the necessity of redoubling our work in developing future world-beating players.

Incidentally, we wonder if our present Junior Girls (which include two full internationals) have not justified a tour for themselves, and feel that a matching against senior national ladies' teams would provide valuable match experience at the right level.

**W**E must be careful what we write about MICHEL HAGUENAUER.

When we described him in last year's Wembley programme as "The old warhorse of France," he jokingly protested:

"A horse? Maybe. A warhorse? Well, O.K. . . . But Old? Nevai-rre!"

Nevai-rre-the less, this tall Frenchman has been a "pillar" of the international table tennis scene since 1935.

He is at his best in team matches, especially when France is losing. In big tournaments he specialises in giant-killing. In 1935, it was Barna, English Open holder. In 1949 it was Leach, World holder. No champion is safe until Michel is beaten—a process which he may himself accelerate by his surprising carelessness against lesser opponents.

Holds the bat in "hammer" fashion—i.e., four fingers round the handle, allowing a heavy wrist action in chop defence; uses his long reach and stride to produce a ferocious forehand hit from the back-hand corner.

Our photo shows his whole-hearted forehand action. You are unlikely to see a Haguenauer backhand drive unless he is leading by 12 points—or losing by 12!

OUR  
COVER  
PICTURE

**England v U.S.A.**  
**at Luton, 5th March**  
**RESULT: ENGLAND WON 9—0**  
 (English players first)

Miss M. Jones beat Mrs. M. Clouther, —15, 19, 21.  
 M. Thornhill beat G. Barclay, 6, 11.  
 J. Leach and Miss M. Franks beat J. McClure and Mrs. R. K. Monness, 17, 8.  
 A. W. C. Simons beat W. C. G. Gundlach, 14, 11.  
 Miss D. Rowe and Miss R. Rowe beat Miss M. Shahian and Mrs. M. Clouther, 15, 14.  
 Miss D. Beregi beat Mrs. R. K. Monness, 16, 16.  
 J. Leach beat J. H. McClure, 16, 15.  
 Miss M. Franks beat Miss M. Shahian, 13, 17.  
 A. W. C. Simons and M. Thornhill beat W. Gundlach and G. Barclay, 12, —15, 22.

**England v Wales**  
**at Cheltenham, 20th February**  
**RESULT: ENGLAND WON 9—0**

**ALTHOUGH** England had an easy win, assisted by Richard Bergmann (World Singles Champion), and Aubrey Simons, of Gloucestershire, as captain, it seemed that Wales would win at least two of the sets; but they were thwarted by the fighting ability of the English team.

Rosalind Rowe had a hard tussle with the Welsh Champion, Audrey Bates, who was unlucky to lose the first game at 22-20. When, in the second game, Miss Bates outplayed her opponent to win 21-14, it seemed to the Welsh fans that a victory was in sight, but Rosalind Rowe pulled that little extra out of the bag to win the third game 21-16.

The other occasion when a Welsh win seemed in sight was when Ron Crayden and Brian Brumwell met Michael Jones and Monty Smith. The Welsh pair took the first game 21-17 and were only narrowly defeated in the second game 21-18, but in the third game England won easily 21-9.

**B. Brumwell beat M. Jones 15, 16.**  
**R. Crayden beat M. Smith 15, 8.**  
**A. Simons beat S. Jones 15, 17.**  
**R. Bergmann beat W. Sweetland 11, 13.**  
**Miss D. Rowe beat Miss A. Bates 20, 14, 16.**  
**Brumwell and Crayden beat M. Jones and Smith 17, 18, 9.**  
**Bergmann and Simons beat S. Jones and Sweetland 10, 18.**  
**Misses D. and R. Rowe beat Miss J. Beer and Mrs. V. Rowe 17, 15, —15.**

Probably the best ladies' doubles pair in the country, Rosalind and Diana Rowe, put up a great display, both in their singles and doubles games. They completely outclassed the Welsh pair, Miss J. Beer and Mrs. V. Rowe, winning easily at 21-7, 21-15.

Aubrey Simons played a captain's game when defeating Stan Jones, 21-15, 21-17, while Brian Brumwell, making his first appearance for England showed good form when beating Michael Jones, 21-15, 21-16.

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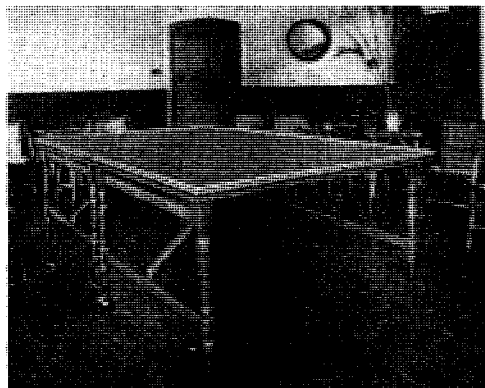
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# ENGLAND'S NARROW VICTORY OVER SWEDEN

## Lasse Pettersson defeats all English boys

Aylesford, 16th February

### The Preliminaries

A **S**PLENDID hall, superb lighting, an electric scoring machine, exemplary conditions, ample room, and an audience of 500 made the perfect venue for the most exciting junior international yet staged.

The playing of the Swedish Anthem and the breaking of the Swedish flag,

by Tommy Sears

we hardly dared to breathe. To our horror, Gustafsson got a net cord, but Peter, undismayed and fighting hard won the next 3 points to make the England score 3-1 instead of 2-all. Probably the turning point of the match.

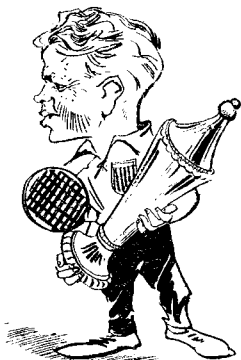
We all expected Jimmy Lowe to hold Pettersson, but in a masterful style the Swedish boy hit through Lowe with comparative ease. Jimmy just wasn't given a chance to get into action, and his defensive footwork was not quick enough for the speedy drives.

Burridge took JAN HELLGREN comfortably, and Peter Smith went out to meet PETERSSON determined to stop him taking the whole three, and when he won the first 21-8, we thought that was that. Then the match became really thrilling. Pettersson won the second game 23-21, and apparently becoming even stronger, led Peter 15-11 in the third. Peter played splendidly, used his head and tried for everything, mixing topspin with chop in clever variation. He took the lead at 18-17, and they both fought it out to 20-all, for Pettersson to finally gain the two vital points. Both lads played splendidly, and the Swedish boy deserves high praise for his moral courage and self-control.

### SCORES :

- J. LOWE (Ashford) lost to L. Pettersson 14, 17; beat R. Gustafsson 18, 17; beat J. Hellgren 9, 15.
- P. SMITH (Essex) lost to L. Pettersson 8, 21, 20; beat R. Gustafsson 13, 19, 20; beat J. Hellgren 14, 17.
- D. BURRIDGE (Middlesex) lost to L. Pettersson 16, 17, 21; lost to R. Gustafsson 16, 15; beat J. Hellgren 14, 17.

## HERO OF THE EVENING



was preceded by a welcome in English and in Swedish by Mr. W. R. Nichols and Mr. B. Warburton respectively. Col. Reed presented plaques to both teams, and tokens were exchanged between the two non-playing captains, Karl Rabon and myself.

### The Match

JIMMY LOWE, with calm deliberation took the first game from ROY GUSTAFSSON, and was leading 11-4 in the second when he was surprised by a stream of winners that took Gustafsson into a lead of 14-12, when Jimmy recovered, to win 21-17.

With England 2 up, Junior Champion, left-handed LASSE PETERSSON was matched against DEREK BURRIDGE. From the first point both went to the attack, and by first-time hitting and running round his backhand, Derek won the first game. Pettersson was now settling down, and won a bright game with a fine blending of attack and defence. In the third game, he faltered at 20-16, which Derek, to loud applause, evened to 20 all, only to lose.

PETER SMITH, after a first win against Gustafsson, met an inspired opponent in the second game, who outplayed him at his best. The final of this was a desperate affair with the score creeping up point by point to 20-all, and

## GUNNAR OLLEN

proposes

## 4-Nation Coaching Scheme

**D**ENMARK, Finland, Norway and Sweden all competed in the first Scandinavian Championships in Copenhagen. Sweden took the titles not only in the team events for Men and for Women, but also all the individual events, but Dr. GUNNAR OLLEN, Vice-Chairman of the I.T.T.F. says:

"We, in Sweden, look forward to the time when we shall be strongly challenged by our neighbours. To bring this about the sooner, we are embarking on a joint 4-nation Coaching Scheme."

The titles went to: **M.S.:** Tage Flisberg; **M.D.:** Flisberg/Cederholm; **W.S.:** Iris Persson; **W.D.:** I. Persson/E. Ericsson; **X.D.:** Cederholm/E. Ericsson.

Next year the Scandinavian Championships will be held in Helsinki, Finland.

## CUMBERLAND DO WELL

The Swedes encountered unexpectedly tough opposition in their match versus Cumberland at Millom on 17th February.

They won five singles out of six, but T. Edwards (Harrington) nearly scored a second win for Cumberland. He led Pettersson 20-12 in the first game, only to lose to an inspired counter-attack at 23-25, 22-24.

Cumberland's victory came when F. E. Downey beat the redoubtable Pettersson 21-19, 22-20.

## Valkommen varmt Svenska vänner



LASSE PETERSSON, 16, of Stockholm. Swedish Junior Champion, 1950.



ROY GUSTAFSSON, 17, of Huskvarna. Junior Finalist, 1948; semi-finalist 1950.



JAN ERIK HELLGREN, 17, of Stockholm. Swedish Junior Champion, 1949. semi-finalist 1950.

# LANCASHIRE LINES

By STANLEY PROFFITT

## Tight-fisted Manchester

**T**HIS month we've got a few "niggles" to explode upon readers. I think it's not far short of a catastrophe. Others consider it disgraceful that Lancashire, such a high-light in the table tennis world, did not send more than two for the Junior International Trials in London.

Maybe the date, in the interim of BILL WORSLEY'S retirement and NORMAN COOK'S accession had something to do with the tangle. On the other hand, maybe it was lack of interest. Whatever the cause, there was no excuse for the Manchester League, who, with over a 1,000 affiliated members and with full knowledge of the Trials, would not contribute to the expenses of any players. To my mind this tight-fisted grip on the exchequer is a short-sighted policy. Manchester, with a wealth of young talent and a bank balance lying comfortably on the credit side, would have reaped the benefit in the years ahead if they had sent, say half a dozen youngsters on the trip.

## Well Done, Oldham

Full marks to the Oldham League. Though a comparative speck on the table tennis map, they had the foresight to send down 14-year-old GEOFF PULLER. Geoffrey, an all-round sporting type (schoolboy soccer star and Werneth cricketer), appeared more interested in train numbers en route. Once settled down in the University Hall however, he

surprised me and those selectors present with his temperament and ability. Tall and proportionately built, he earned high commendation and is earmarked as a future international. With three more years to go as a Junior he is certain to make the grade.

Not such a happy picture was presented by PHIL STRULOVITCH, a Mancunian invited at the E.T.T.A.'s expense. Phil, on normal form, was an even-money chance of selection. Unfortunately, against the quick-fire attack of his opponents he appeared cumberseome. A great pity, for only the previous week he had given Jimmy Lowe, the best player on view, a tough struggle in the Lancashire Open Junior Final.

Nevertheless he takes a philosophical view and says: "I've enjoyed every minute of the season and intend to put my back into it during the summer months." Well said, Phil, and if you are willing to take advice from me: a little less weight might do the trick. (Maybe I, too, should practice what I preach!)

Bouquets to our over-the-border friends, BRIAN CARTWRIGHT (Sheffield) who came up on the post. His selection as a reserve was well merited.

## "Slide-Rule Efficiency"—BUT

A pat on the back here. The slide-rule efficiency with which Lancashire County and the Manchester League handled the North of England Championships had much to be admired. In fact, it is doubtful if any other Provincial Tournament could have coped with an entry of over 700 competitors and have the event

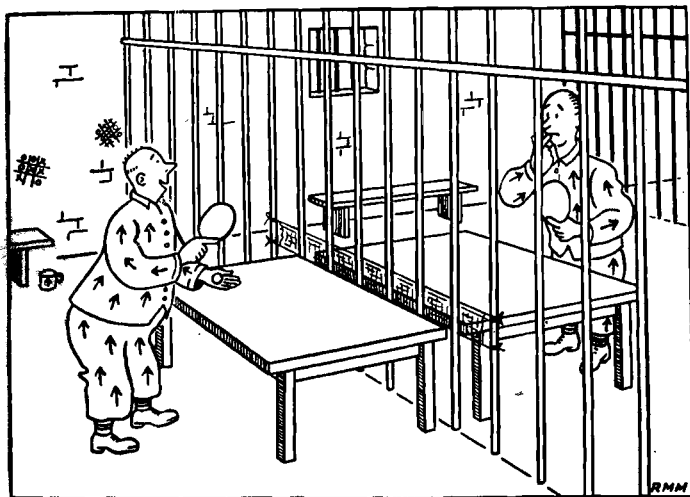
concluded at a reasonable hour.

To accomplish this task, however, somebody had to suffer. To my mind it was the players. During the preliminary rounds, and indeed, the early rounds proper, there appeared to be a continual stream of competitors scurrying to and from the tables. Those already in play were not only hampered by this, but had insufficient space to allow whole-hearted concentration to the game on hand. It matters less to the seasoned campaigner, but there were occasions when youthful singles were upset by being sandwiched between doubles games. Few could have given their best on the evenings of Thursday and Friday or on Saturday afternoon.

## That Tournament Controversy Again

One would not go so far as to say that such a huge entry was accepted purely as a money-spinner. Indeed, the officials, who give their time and services free, are only too pleased to accommodate entries, proud in the knowledge that the tournament is attracting country-wide attention. Thus the time-worn controversy arises again! Should entries be restricted or tournaments graded? Yorkshire experimented by playing the Senior and Junior events on two distinct dates, but even this did not quite fill the bill.

Snag is that so few cities are equipped with suitable halls at the right hire price. Consequently the only solution to meet the needs henceforth appears to be the Grading System. Even this entails more honest work for the officials. It's a teaser, but Grading is worth a trial.



"We'll soon get used to it."

[With acknowledgements to "The Sporting Record."]

## University T.T.

### Oxford draw at Cambridge

**T**HE annual Table Tennis match between Oxford and Cambridge celebrated its coming of age by making a public debut in the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, on Saturday, February 11th.

It was a thrilling evening for varsity fans. The interval score was 4 wins to a jubilant Oxford and only 1 win to Cambridge. Then came the Cambridge assault. Their first doubles pair, Burrows and King, produced the surprise of the evening by beating the strong Oxford combination of Hurst and Gilbert. This inspired Cambridge to further endeavour and to finally round off the evening with a draw of five wins all.

Scores (Cambridge first):

P. J. Burrows (Trinity) beat J. Hurst (University) 16, —17, 16; lost to S. W. Gilbert (Wadham) —18, —19.

G. E. King (Trinity) lost to J. Hurst —15, —13; lost to S. W. Gilbert 19, —12, —13.

N. T. Roderick (Caius) lost to W. P. Wolf (New) —14, —13; beat D. W. Tyler (Trinity) 18, —12, 14.

S. G. Whitehall (Christ's) beat W. P. Wolf 21, 14; beat D. W. Tyler 22, —16, —14.

Doubles: Burrows/King beat Hurst/Gilbert 20, 12; Holmes/Roderick beat Wolf/McHugo 18, 15.

# Open Tournament Reports

## Fighting Eileen Grimstone Wins Again

North of England Open

February 11th

By STAN PROFFIT

ALTHOUGH Johnny Leach retained his title his form was only a shade to that which won him the world's singles title in Stockholm last season. Possibly the strain of Budapest was telling its tale. More than once he might easily have fallen by the wayside, and there was always danger in the determined efforts of Ken Stanley and Benny Casofsky in the final and semi-final respectively. Both men gave a great-hearted display. Casofsky with cute dropshots and Stanley's never-say-die attitude often had the champion worried and the crowd cheering.

Full marks to Eileen Grimstone who, after out-smarting international Adele Wood went on to crown a grand evening's work by winning her second Open Tournament this term. The popularity of her win was a tribute to the hard work she has put into the game in the post-war years. Margaret Crust (Spalding) is to be commended for reaching her first final.

Best entertainment value of the night, however, was the thrilling mixed doubles final between Johnny Leach/Mrs. Peggy Allen and E. Power/Miss Eileen Grimstone. Roars encouraging the local couple must surely have been heard for miles around.

Fifteen-year-old Dorothea Munnings again made a good impression. So did young Robinson of Stockton who, although he was the loser against Peter Smith in the Junior Final, performed creditably. Others noted were Ingber (Manchester), Booth (Bolton) and Carter (Oldham).

M.S. J. Leach bt. K. Stanley 19, 12.  
W.S. Miss E. Grimstone bt. Miss M. Crust 6, 10.

M.D. B. Casofsky and K. Stanley bt. J. Leach and L. Cohen 14, 17.

W.D. Miss K. Benson and Miss I. Mansell bt. Miss D. Jamieson and Mrs. J. Braddock 11, 13.

X.D. J. Leach and Mrs. P. Allen bt. E. Power and Miss E. Grimstone 14, —16, 19.

## Three More for Rosalind

Middlesex (Herga) Open

February 13th-18th, 1950

By AUDREY FOWLER

MIDDLESEX players shared all titles in the Middlesex (Herga) Open held at the Herga Lawn Tennis Club, Harrow, where entries had to be limited to 290 which included 58 Juniors. Despite the lack of run-back, play reached a high standard, the only surprise in the Men's

Singles being the win over Maurice Bergl by young Colin Russell in the first round. Ron Sharman had difficulty in disposing of Eric Marsh and Jackie Head, on his way to the Final. In the doubles Leo Thompson and Jimmy Lowe scored a creditable win over K. Beamish and P. Smith, who had previously disposed of the Hurlock/Head combination.

In his semi-final with Ron Sharman, Ken Craigie showed that he is rapidly regaining his old confidence, while Michael Thornhill proved too lively for Dennis Miller. The Final between Sharman and Thornhill proved to be a battle of wits, interesting but not spectacular.

Semi-Finals:

M.S. R. Sharman beat K. Craigie —23, 16, 14.

M. Thornhill beat D. Miller 19, 10.

Finals

M.S. Thornhill beat Sharman 15, —13, 18, 15.

L.S. R. Rowe beat D. Rowe —12, 18, 16.

M.X.D. Sharman/R. Rowe beat Craigie/D. Rowe 12, —18, 14.

L.D. D. Rowe/R. Rowe beat P. Cantor/P. Piper 11, 7.

M.D. Sharman/Craigie beat Thompson/Lowe 18, 13, —17, 24.

Junior Boys J. Lowe beat D. Burrige 16, 8.

Junior Girls D. Spooner beat S. Smith 10, 19.

## The Surrey Open

at Epsom Municipal Baths,

1st-4th March, 1950

Excellent conditions rewarded the 540 entrants in this tourney and inspired a good standard of play.

Results went very much "according to the book," but three young ladies made a special impression.

Fifteen-year-old Doreen Spooner reached the women's senior final and won the first game from international Joyce (Roberts) Miller.

Doreen, however, was herself beaten in the junior singles by her Ashford rival, Sheila Smith. Sheila, mainly a defensive player, summoned up a strong attack for this occasion.

The third young lady to impress was Peggy Piper, of Surrey, who played with perfect composure against the might of Leach and Franks in the Mixed final.

M.S. Semi: R. Crayden beat H. Venner: 17, 19.

J. Leach beat K. Hurlock: 9, 15.

Final: J. Leach beat R. Crayden: 11, 16, 15.

W.D. Mrs. George and Mrs. Miller beat Mrs. Heading and Mrs. Baxter: 14, 12.

M.D. Leach and Carrington beat Sharman and Craigie: 11, 17, —19, 20.

X.D. Leach and Miss Franks beat Sharman and Miss Piper: 17, —19, 14.

W.S. Mrs. Miller beat Miss Spooner: —15, 13, 7.

J.B.S. D. Burrige beat J. Lowe, 13, 17.

J.G.S. Miss S. Smith beat Miss D. Spooner: 14, 16.

## The Midland Open

at Birmingham,

24th-25th February, 1950

Evidence of the keen following built up by the Birmingham Association was seen when 650 people crowded into the Indoor Sports Stadium for the "Midland" finals.

In a field of very useful and experienced competitors, 20-year-old Michael Thornhill fully earned his place in the final. He did well to beat Wally Poole (20, 18) who was attacking more strongly than usual. Facing Leach for the first time in his career, he lacked that little extra severity necessary to worry a world-class player, yet he did all the right things and went down fighting, leaving a suggestion of "more to come."

Best of the early matches was Walton v. Hurlock. Walton's half-volley and counter-drive stood up well to some flashing forehands from the Surrey lad, and brought victory to Birmingham (15, 20).

Dennis Walker (Ashbourne) usually beats at least one good man per tournament. This time it was Wally Hall, in spite of the latter's recent run of success.

The ladies' play was not very inspiring; the junior boys, however, gave the crowd ample compensation. Maurice Leach, of Cheltenham, impressed everyone by his compact defensive game and well-chosen sallies. He beat Burrige (19, 15) and made Jimmy Lowe work hard in the final.

The Open Junior Doubles gave us the strange sight of two boys playing two girls. "Blind dates" are rather fun—and no seeding!

M.S. Semi: M. Thornhill beat J. Head, 13, 11.

J. Leach beat L. Adams, 16, 21.

Final: J. Leach beat M. Thornhill: 16, 13, 16.

W.S. Miss M. Franks beat Miss E. Stevenon: 8, 13.

M.D. Leach and Carrington beat Haydon and Mackay: 13, 11.

W.D. Franks and V. Rowe beat Cumberbatch and Hall, 13, 19.

X.D. Leach and Franks beat Mackay and Mactay, 17, 9.

J.B.S. J. Lowe beat M. Leach: —20, 15, 15.

J.G.S. Miss A. Jones beat Miss D. Spooner: 18, 15.

## A JUNIORS ONLY TOURNAMENT

**A** LARGE entry is expected for the Yorkshire Junior Open Championships to be held at Brightlington, near Bradford, on March 4th, 1950. The finals are to be staged at the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford. Several well-known Northern Internationals, together with local players are to complete the programme with an exhibition.

The Mechanics' Institute, Bradford, is a concert hall capable of seating some 700 spectators on ground floor and balcony. In recent years it has not been possible to obtain a renewal of the dramatic licence thus making the Institute more readily available for the presentation of sporting events. Realising the glorious opportunity, the Bradford Association caused an extension to the stage to be constructed, which enables table tennis to be played in first-class conditions. The expense incurred seems to have been justified in that the Mechanics' Institute is gaining recognition as the venue for all important table tennis events.

### Kennedy in form

**YORKSHIRE** were no match for Surrey in the premier division match played at Pontefract on January 21st last. Brian Kennedy, however, played well enough to deserve a victory over Crayden and there was little to choose between Carrington and Kennedy. A husband and wife combination is always an added attraction particularly when a high standard of play is attained, such as the Carrington's provided. The Bishops of Hull are a Yorkshire combination which promises to develop into a partnership of marked success.

### Graded Internationals?

Is it easier to become an international player when one lives nearer E.T.T.A. headquarters than Yorkshire? This question was frequently asked after the Yorkshire—Essex match at Bradford on February 4th. New international Brumwell scraped home against Britton by the narrowest of narrow margins, lost fairly easily to Brian Kennedy and was on the losing side in the mixed doubles to a scratch combination. McCave looked to be easily the best player in the Essex side. I think international status could be graded, thus enabling the E.T.T.A. to recognise many table tennis players who at the moment seem to be "out of sight and out of mind."

A win over Lincolnshire on February 18th at Huddersfield will give Yorkshire the Midland Division Championship. This is particularly satisfactory when one considers that the Premier Division team of the future is to be built from the young players trained in the Midland nursery. It cannot be denied, however, that there is a big gap between the divisions and, more markedly, between North and South. The need for readily accessible coaching on a national scale is quite definitely indicated.

### Something Missing

**W**ANTING an additional copy of the January issue of the official magazine, I visited in Bradford, two railway bookstalls and several sports outfitters, but met with no success. In

# Yorkshire Relish

A Piquant County Commentary

By **MAURICE SHAFFNER**

Chairman, Yorkshire T.T.A.

some cases the reply was "never heard of it!" I did notice one copy of a rival publication. It seems to me that the publicity department of the official magazine has lots of virgin territory to explore.



**Partnership of Marked Success?  
Marcus and Norma Bishop (Hull)**

### "Come to the North, Jim Edwards"

**A**LTHOUGH many people were disappointed that Johnny Leach failed to retain his World Title, Bergmann's victory was a popular one and illustrates so vividly, that all important quality of determination. We would, however, like to see these stars more frequently in Yorkshire, without having to resort to expense which we can ill afford. Bergmann and other famous players would do a power of good to the game if perhaps a little less discrimination were shown in deciding which tournament is to have the magnetic attraction of their entry.

To the famous radio star it is often said, "Come home, Jim Edwards." We say to these retiring stars, "Come North and grace our tables."

Hail to thee, Dick Bergmann,  
For thou art truly great,  
Your patience is rewarded  
The year you had to wait.  
They said your game was ended,  
Too slow and lacked a kill,  
The Critics are confounded,  
Their judgments set at nil.  
They also serve who stand and wait,  
Thus the saying goes,  
But you gave of your very best,  
And vanquished mighty foes.  
Naturalised or natural born  
It matters not a jot,  
A forehand drive is still a drive,  
A shot remains a shot.  
Pay tribute to this working man,  
Let all hold out a hand,  
A toast to Richard Bergmann who  
Brought honour to our land.

## HOW TO RANK YOUR LEAGUE TEAM

A Suggestion . . . . by W. C. WINTER

For the second match, rank players on their previous performances. After the second match they would thereafter be selected on their performances in the two previous matches. Thus:—

Player	Ties Played	Games Won	Games Lost
A	4	8	3
B	4	8	2
C	4	8	1
D	4	6	3

The team for the next match would therefore be ranked C, B, A and D.

# Two Memorable Quarter-Finals

## FROM THE 1949-50 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Another Bergmann v. Vana Classic

**B**ERGMANN v. Vana is always a classic. Always the best match of a tournament. Technically it is easy to describe.

It was 80 minutes of perfect control, with Vana playing slow-rolls and push-shots, punctuated by short spells of deep baseline attack.

Bergmann's game was to retrieve everything, chopping more heavily than he does against other opponents and always looking out for faulty dropshots which he would try to smash first time past Vana.

The only variation in Bergmann's game was to indulge in short spells of slow topspin lifting. Surprisingly, Vana invariably chopped these back when one would have expected him to smack the odd one or two into Bergmann's body in order to destroy the latter's confidence in this rather cheeky form of return.

Both men were splendidly fit and apparently unperturbed throughout the struggle. Vana has slowed down slightly which now makes Bergmann the faster mover.

Only twice in the long struggle was Bergmann beaten by a drop-shot.

Vana kept his brow cool with eau-de-cologne; Richard bathed his wrists and temple with water occasionally.

For the first time in their 14 years' rivalry, Vana did not stake everything on his attack. Instead he showed that at last he appreciated that these Bergmann matches are tests of character and nerve (their skills being precisely equal although of different style).

So we saw Vana, "The Electric Man," playing a chess game, deliberately, to show Bergmann that the attacker could wait as long as the defender, and conserve his strength ready for short spells of obliteration-blitzing.

It so very nearly worked. Vana, by the fifth game had certainly tamed Bergmann in the psychological duel. Never has the resilient Richard looked so desperate as when Vana held on to his 1, 2, or 3-point lead right up to 18-14. But in taming Richard, Vana had tamed himself also. Eighty minutes chess concentration had dulled his great attacking instinct, and when danger threatened he could not put the pressure on.

What was in Bergmann's mind at 14-18 down? Just *hope*; no plan. Hope never leaves him. Had he not pulled up in the 4th game from 13-15 to 19-15?

At 18-all in this deciding match Bergmann hit furiously. Only Vana could possibly have got such shots back.

By trying three smash kills in succession at 20-18, he gave Vana a point, 20-19. So what did Richard do? Why he tried three smash kills again, and this time he didn't miss, because he just *must* not miss. That's Bergmann.

There was much sympathy for Bo Vana, because of his unlucky finals record last year, and his perfect table demeanour and sportsmanship.

Richard, too, is perfection in this respect.

To sum up, Richard Bergmann was like a boxer losing on points, who realised that a knock-out in the last round can save him. A boxer, did I say? *A fighter, I mean.*



BOHUMIL VANA

### Defeat of a Champion

**S**EVEN times this season had Johnny beaten this man Haguenauer. Four times in Sweden, twice in England, once in France. It was a brave fight of champions and great sportsmen, with no quarter asked or given.

Michel Haguenauer, older, speedier than Johnny, won the first game at 16 making the most of his running-in forehand hits. Johnny was less fortunate in attack, the tables giving little bite to his strokes. He seemed to have lost his usual snappy backhand cross drive.

In the second game, Johnny opened the throttle for all-out attack which the Frenchman chopped and lobbed back with a marvellous ball control and then would suddenly swoop into a counter-attack, only to retreat again from the fusillade. By aggression, change of length and direction, Johnny was tiring Haguenauer, and won the next two games at 14 each. Johnny up 2-1.

By the fourth game, the Frenchman had his second wind and Johnny was strained by the pace. He might have rested awhile by pushing to Haguenauer's backhand, and given a surprise value to his hitting. But Johnny attacked, and Haguenauer just grabbed a lead to pull out at 21-16. Two games all.

In the fifth and final game, there was no sign of weakening from either, no sign of nerves, no change in tactics, no lessening of force. They reached 9 all together, and then Haguenauer drew ahead to 14-9, and things looked bad. But from hidden reserves, Johnny quickened his game even more, and the gods of chance smilingly rewarded him with 3 edge balls!

Point by jealous point they fought it out. 17-18, 18-all, in the do-or-die deciding match, Johnny forcing a terrific pace. Then suddenly two easy ones from Johnny, and zip, the score is 18-20. With the energy of a first set point, Johnny was just superb, it seemed as though he would win even yet. A point brilliantly earned. 19-20? No—Haguenauer got back a high return which clipped the sideline: untakeable.

Thus the crown which rests so heavily on the head was lifted from our English favourite by a fine sportsman and a great fighter.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### S.A. Welcomes Litten

Hymie Sofer, who was over here during the 1948 World Championships, writes from Pretoria, South Africa:

"In your December issue, you imply that Ron Litten since his arrival in South Africa has claimed to have won 'numerous Continental titles.' Well, I have known Ron ever since he arrived and at no time has he ever claimed to have ever been to Europe, never mind won table tennis championships there. He has never laid claim to any titles which he has not won, and all his statements re his table tennis career in England have been of a very modest nature.

"He has proved, during his stay in South Africa to have been a very fine advertisement for English table tennis and we in this country, I can assure you, wish we could get a few more like him."

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We must confess that this possible interpretation of our December notes escaped our notice.

Our remarks were intended only as a commentary on the local reporting style; it was certainly not our

intention to suggest that the players themselves were responsible.

### Table Tennis Diary?

**R**EADER C. F. Benningwood, Coventry, suggests that the E.T.T.A. publish a Table Tennis Diary. What about it, fellow fans? And what would you like to see in the way of information?

### They're Off Again!

Those inveterate table tennis tourists, Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington, will sail for America in the "Queen Mary" on 15th March.

They are to compete in the U.S. National Championships at St. Louis,

### The "Unknown"

We are still wondering what exactly a correspondent meant who ended the letter: "Viva le Whiff-Whaff and my XXX." Those XXX can mean so many things in Table Tennis!

# TABLE TENNIS TRIALS *of a Photographer*

*Told with a Twinkle*

by

**Peter Madge**

M.R.P.S.

*Our Official Photographer*

**O**FFICIAL Photographer to "Table Tennis." I wonder what sort of picture that conjures for you; a flowing-haired individual wearing an orange shirt, green slacks and sandals? Or a little man in a bowler hat peering nervously about from behind a pair of battered spectacles? To clear up any misapprehensions, the Editor has been persuaded to publish a photo of his picture producer and from personal experience I can assure you that he doesn't wear a bowler hat, even when not playing table tennis.

I suppose I owe some explanation for starting on such a personal note. Well I would rather write as a T.T. fanatic who takes photographs than be imagined as one of those morons, operating for the local "rag," who rush into a tournament and ask the players to play a bit slower "so that I can get the ball in." Honour is satisfied, justice is done. Let's go!

Many people have envied my "appointment" but I have usually managed to convince them that life isn't all a bed of milk and honey even for one who has received the official blessing. True enough, the T.T. Magazine card is an "Open Sesame" to many things, but once inside—!

\* \* \*

Photographing individual players at tournaments is perhaps the most difficult job I have to face.

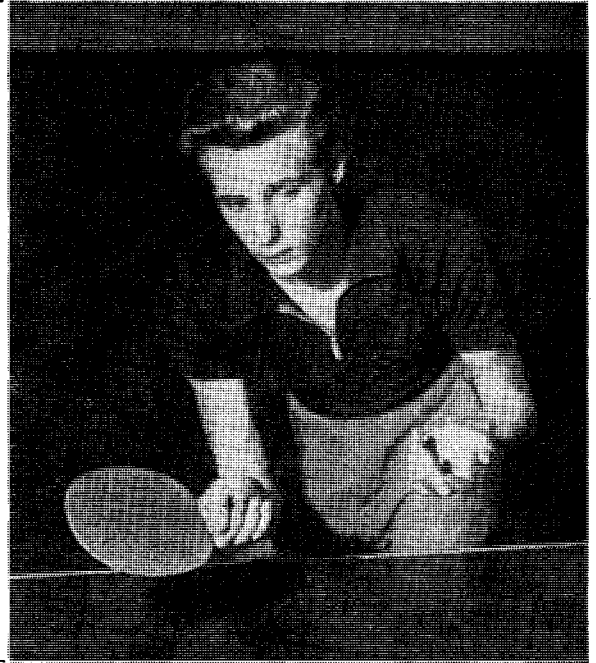
At every "Open" there are always a few players who are well known in their own spheres but seldom seen away from home. These, plus the usual crop of promising unknowns and incidental shots of the stars make quite a large order to be fulfilled in one afternoon and evening of the average two or three-day tournament.

My first action on arriving at the hall (after reporting to the referee, of course!) is to find a temporary studio. Unfortunately this usually means consulting a caretaker. Why unfortunately? Well, I just don't know why, but I seem to antagonise caretakers on sight. I have met them in all shapes and sizes, in broad daylight and in those dark subterranean cubbyholes that seem almost as much a part of a caretaker's natural existence as a nest is of a bird's.

★

This is Peter Madge, photographed by himself, but while he's always ready to talk Table Tennis, he won't tell us how he took this or which category he places himself.

★



I have even tried speaking to them on house telephones from a few yards away, but the effect is always the same, a hard core of resistance and suspicion. However, at one tournament I found one who was quite embarrassingly helpful. When I had explained my requirements he said he knew "just the thing." Just the thing turned out to be a small room with about four square feet of available floor-space, the rest piled to the ceiling with folding chairs. Apart from this it was on the fourth floor, exactly five floors removed from the tournament in the basement! At the other end of the scale was the Bucks Open last season. Here a vast hall, dressing rooms and a fully equipped stage complete with flood and spot lighting were placed at my disposal.

Some of you may wonder why I use a separate room instead of taking shots at the tables in the hall of play. For reasons which will be explained in a later article I prefer to be alone. With reservations of course.

A note here for fellow photographers. Do you know anything of stalking or trapping? Perhaps you are a Scout or a Commercial Traveller. If so, you are assured of success at tournaments for persistence is half the battle. I have trailed prospective victims for quite half an hour and time and time again had them snatched from my grasp and trans-

ported to a table by a steward. There is only one thing more annoying and that is to be pounced upon and transported myself just as I have sighted my own quarry.

Of course, my ideal is to get my victims to my home club where I usually have plenty of time, space and peace. No stewards to harry me or my subject and, above all, NO caretakers!

Table tennis players are a queer species, especially so when they are being photographed, and for my own amusement, not to say convenience, I place them in one of three categories:

1. The Mannequin;
2. The Genuine Genius;
3. The Violet.

The Mannequins usually arrive clad in the newest shirts, the biggest and brightest badges, lurid windcheaters and snow-white footwear. After a hair-do, a brief manicure and a general inspection they announce their readiness to proceed. Throughout operations they keep up a steady flow of instructions and suggestions about their "best sides" and "best shots."

A far easier proposition is the Genuine Genius. In this category fall those who really merit the title, and those to whom it is a continual source of wonder that they are not recognised as such.

*(To be continued)*

# Table Talk from Budapest

Collected by Jack Carrington

## Sur-Prizes

**I**N one respect certainly, the Budapest Championships were the best ever: in the matter of trophies.

In almost every case, handsome prizes for "keeps" were awarded to winners, in addition to the trophies returnable at the end of a year. (How short a year seems to a World Champion!)

Another innovation was the provision of prizes for the semi-finalists of all events. It was a complete surprise to our Swaything Cup team when they were called out to receive medals as runners-up in Group B.

## All On Edge

**W**HEN you score your first point with a nice kill in the centre of the table, it is disconcerting to hear the umpire call "Edge." But we soon found that in Hungary, every game starts with an "edge," this being the pronunciation of *egy* (meaning "one").

Six is called "hot" and ten "tiz." The English girls, starved of their traditional beverage, were always vulnerable when the score reached 10-6, and the umpire announced, "Tea's Hot"!

## Those Regulations

**"WATCH YOUR STEP"** they told us before we left home. "the police in these foreign countries are terribly strict." Outside the Hotel Astoria, for the whole time of our stay, a car was parked, resplendent in last week's snow. It was 20 yards from the traffic lights and neatly stationed against the "No Parking" sign!

It takes three days to get the precious grey card which permits its favoured owner to cross the Russian Zone from Vienna to Budapest. "Guard it with your life," they said. So we put it under our pillow for safety on catching the midnight train from Vienna. Next morning we were in Budapest—and the grey card was still safe—under our pillow!

## Gambit Declined

**M**ENTION of the giants of yesterday is normally a good conversational opening amongst T.T. players. If you haven't seen them, you can always say "Yes," "No" or "Really." But one such attempt at international goodwill bogged down rather quickly.

"You know Szabados, of course?" we asked. "Oh yes, sure!" was the reply, "I been there often."

## High And Low

**T**HERE were many misgivings about the lighting. Only three lights per table, all central, giving

much lower candlepower in the defensive corners than we are accustomed to in an average county match here.

The lights were slung rather high too, 10ft. from the table, not from the floor. This was so that they should not obstruct the view of the spectators "up in the gods."

But they still weren't high enough for one young lady, who lodged a formal complaint that they did not allow her to play her normal style.

Remind me to send her name to Gilbert Marshall for His Higher Net Reform League.

## The Good Excuses Department

**A** CITIZEN of one of the more romantic countries explained his 3-0 defeat. "Ah, it was so unfortunate. My opponent was a good

sisters under the skin. I stick to zip-fronted pullovers in future!

**Delaying Tactics or Push as Push Can**  
**T**HE superior skill of the continental girls in pushing or waiting play has often lost our British girls many a game.

Audrey Bates, Welsh International, playing against Madame Delay, of France, was losing 12-18 in the second game. She settled down to pushing play, at which her opponent is an expert, and won that game 22-20!

Said Audrey, "I learned something by entering that consolation singles. I learned how to 'push' when in trouble. It was worth the 12 Forints entry fee!"

## The Andreadis Overarm Stroke

**W**HILE the mixed party including French, Poles, Austrians and Czechs, were walking through the ruined buildings of Old Buda, on the hill overlooking the Danube, a friendly snow-fight developed.

The energetic young Austrian lassie, Linda Wertl (who informed us that we could call her "Mickey Mouse"), quietly found her way up to the battlements. From there she conducted a private war, attacking both sides impartially with high-level bombing.

She was herself outflanked by Ivan Andreadis. With the air of an intervening god, he sent just *one* enormous snowball sailing 25 yards through the air in a typical Andreadis curve. It caught "Mickey Mouse" clean in the whiskers.

The great man wiped his hands, acknowledged the applause, and murmured: "I never throw another one. I've retired!"

## Bald Facts

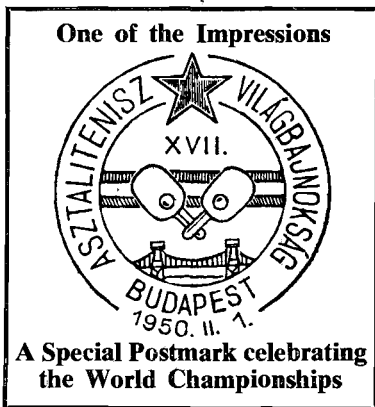
**D**URING this same ramble we looked in on the famous hot-water swimming baths on Margareta Island. Through the steam we saw Hungarian championship aspirants training most diligently, and in most impressive style.

A Hungarian whispered that habitue's of these baths were inclined to lose their hair rather quickly. Szabados and Bellak, he said, spent hours in the water here . . . and just look at them!

We were still thinking this over sceptically when along came Adrian Haydon, the England captain.

"Oh, I remember these baths," he said. "Had quite a few swims in there, pre-war." We took a quick look at the skipper's scalp—and said nowt!

## One of the Impressions



player, but when I was losing 0-2, a so-beautiful lady came to sit by the table and so—I have no chance any more."

## Ladies, Beware!

**T**ALKING of so-beautiful ladies, one of them gave the crowd a short-lived sensation.

You know how the fashion is to start playing in a sweater, and put it off when one is warmed up—(or when one's in trouble!)

Well, one ladies' doubles pair applied teamwork to this task. They danced to the umpire's table; partner A stood with arms up-raised while partner B peeled her sweater off.

So far, so good. Now it was B's turn to be peeled.

Up with the arms and off with the sweater. Hey, what's happened? Miss A, intent upon getting back to the table, was just too thorough and whipped off two layers instead of one!

Ah well, as Kipling said, they're

# County Championships

## MIDDLESEX WIN TRIPLE CROWN

Yorkshire faced with several challengers for Premier Division place

**A**FTER a struggle made more exciting by the overwhelming 8-1 win of Gloucestershire over Surrey, Middlesex won the Premier Division title on games average over Essex, who had little difficulty in beating Gloucestershire in the key match, in which victory for Gloucestershire by a convincing margin would have secured them the championships. As Middlesex also won both the Junior and East Anglian Divisions, in each case without dropping a point, they became triple champions.

At the other end of the Premier Division table are Yorkshire, wooden spoonists for the third successive season. It will be recalled that last season Yorkshire were challenged by Cheshire for a place in the Premier Division, and won 7-2. Well, this season it looks as though they will be challenged right and left, if a favourable interpretation is placed upon Rule 3.

This rule says, in effect, that the leading team in any division, not being a second team, can challenge for a place in the Premier Division. What needs clarifying is whether a team finishing second to a second team can challenge! For example, Cambridgeshire, who finished second to Middlesex 2nds in the East Anglian Division, are very keen to get into the Premier Division, and the whole question will be decided at a meeting of the Championships Council on March 12th.

Lincolnshire, who won the North Midland Division, have already emerged with their firm challenge, whilst there is quite a possibility that Devonshire will also be in the "Premier Division Stakes." Such competition is a healthy sign.

Once more the old bogey of lack of space has risen its ugly head, so there are only very brief summaries of each division this month, I am afraid, together with results and league tables.

### PREMIER DIVISION

Essex made a poor start to the month by only beating Yorkshire 5-4, a result which virtually put them out of the race for the championships. This was followed by a 6-3 win by Middlesex over Warwickshire, and the following day Gloucestershire beat Surrey 8-1, putting them back into line if they could beat Essex 7-2 the following week. It was 7-2 all right, but the other way round, and a big pat on the back to Bill McCave for

### Geoffrey Harrower's Monthly Review

knowing how to beat Charlie Dawes with no nonsense about it. At the foot of the table, Lancashire beat Yorkshire 7-2, and rose above Warwickshire by the narrowest margin of one game.

Middlesex	6	5	1	37	17	10
Essex	6	5	1	34	20	10
Gloucestershire	6	4	2	32	22	8
Surrey	6	3	3	27	27	6
Lancashire	6	2	4	23	31	4
Warwickshire	6	2	4	22	32	4
Yorkshire	6	0	6	14	40	0

### JUNIOR DIVISION

Last month's report gave prominence to Kent's performance in beating both Surrey and Bedfordshire 9-0, putting them in line for the Championship if Middlesex slipped up; but they didn't. In fact, they beat Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire both by 9-0 themselves, to finish comfortable winners. Kent, however, still retain the services of their leading youngsters for next season, whereas the whole of the Middlesex team will be over age. Kent must therefore start strong favourites.

In the other two matches played, Essex recorded two good wins, 8-1 over Hertfordshire and 7-2 over Bedfordshire, to finish in third position.

Middlesex	5	5	0	40	5	10
Kent	5	4	1	34	11	8
Essex	5	3	2	29	16	6
Surrey	5	2	3	15	30	4
Bedfordshire	5	1	4	11	34	2
Hertfordshire	5	0	5	6	39	0

### NORTHERN DIVISION

Northumberland finished their programme in a blaze of glory, beating Durham 8-1 and Yorkshire 7-2, to win the divisional championship for the first time. In the only other match played, Cumberland proved no match for Durham, although in this instance 4 of the 9 matches went to 3 before they lost 9-0. A reply is at present awaited from Northumberland as to whether they wish to challenge for the Premier Division.

Northumberland	6	6	0	44	10	12
Yorkshire	5	3	2	26	19	6
Durham	6	2	4	28	26	4
Cumberland	5	0	5	1	44	0

### NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION

Another county to win a divisional championship for the first time were Lincolnshire, who defeated Yorkshire



### HE NEVER MISSES!

Ron Crayden, one of Surrey's Internationals, is proud of the fact that he has now completed three seasons of County Championship play without missing one game for his County.

6-3 and Derbyshire 7-2. Lincolnshire are challenging for a place in the Premier Division and they certainly have an up and coming youngster in P. Skerratt, who won all his matches, singles and doubles, in the above two vital matches. Yorkshire were close runners-up, losing only on games average. During the month they secured a 7-2 win over Leicestershire, who become wooden spoonists by the narrow margin of one game, after they had lost 3-6 to Derbyshire. This was Derby's first win in the competition. Leicestershire were unfortunate to lose Bradley for this match.

Lincolnshire	6	5	1	43	11	10
Yorkshire	6	5	1	36	18	10
Derbyshire	6	1	5	15	39	2
Leicestershire	6	1	5	14	40	2

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Surrey have still to play their return match with Devonshire, and the table below will show just how important this match is. The two counties could hardly have fought a closer battle.

One of the features of this section has been the comparative fall of Hampshire, although no one can say they have had the best of luck.

(Continued at foot of page 11)

# THE SPIRITS OF THE GAME

With grateful acknowledgments to London Opinion and F. C. James

"COME round to the hospital and play me a game of table tennis," invited my new medical student friend, a redheaded young man named Steve. "We'll have a little something on it, if you like."

I liked. Modest though I am, I can't help feeling that table tennis is my game. I may not be a Bergmann, or a Johnnie Leach, or an Aubrey Simons, but, well . . .

The table was in a large, empty room next to the pathological laboratory—empty, that is, but for about two dozen glass cases on the walls. I hadn't time to look at them before we started playing.

"Each set best of five games, half-a-crown a set?" Steve suggested. "Five shillings, if you like," I said grandly.

"Right. Play for service."

It was as I expected. He was a pretty good player, but . . . I won the first two games 21-13, 21-8.

As we were changing ends for the next game Steve gave his bat a Barna flick towards one of the cases.

"Ever seen anything like that?" he

inquired. I never had. "That" looked like a piece of purple rubber. Horrible.

"Owner of that lung was a heavy pipe smoker," said Steve. "Used to get through an ounce a day. That's the result. What's your tobacco consumption?"

"A-about an ounce a day," I faltered.

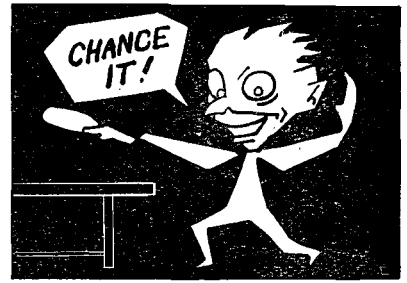
Steve looked grave. He won the next three games and the first set.

But I set my teeth, pulled myself together, and had the second set in my pocket when Steve insisted on showing me the finer points of a liver that had come to a shocking end through too close an association with whisky. I like whisky. I lost the set.

I lost the third to an overloaded stomach, the fourth to a fatty heart, and the fifth to the queerest looking pair of kidneys you ever saw.

As I left I sadly asked: "Do you ever lose at this game?"

"Away, I sometimes lose," said Steve. "At home—never."



## Wilmott Cup

### CAMBRIDGE'S FINE WIN AT GRIMSBY

by Leslie Bennett

Visiting Grimsby in the area final of the Wilmott Cup, the young Cambridge side surpassed itself with a clean sweep of 9-0 against the home team. Yet every member of Grimsby played splendidly, and the blank tally of rubbers did not do justice to the hard fight each one gave.

Ken Craigie, the English International and Middlesex representative, pleased with some crisp forehand punching and lively all-round tactics. Yet at times he was troubled by Ingham's shock pen-grip and half-volley, and was no doubt satisfied to defeat him in two games. He encountered Runchman in brilliant defensive mood, and had to pull out some spectacular winners in order to clinch the third game at 18.

Eighteen-year-old J. A. Thurston provided the surprise and the weightiest influence on the issue by winning his three matches with the loss of only one game, to Ingham. A little more reserved in stroke-play than his mates, Thurston chopped and moved to the ball very efficiently, punishing the loose ball just as effectively. At the end of a close game he had the knack of sorting out the right ball and annexing the important points.

To the unconcealed delight of the public, the unassuming Albert Hall turned out for this one after eighteen months of retirement.

#### SCORES :

Hall lost to Cornwell 17-21, 17-21, Thurston 21-23, 12-21, Craigie 17-21, 19-21.

Ingham lost to Craigie 18-21, 18-21, Cornwell 21-18, 5-21, 13-21, Thurston 8-21, 21-17, 13-21.

Runchman lost to Thurston 17-21, 18-21, Craigie 21-14, 21-23, 18-21, Cornwell 21-19, 13-21, 19-21.

**STOP PRESS:** Cambridge followed this up with a brilliant 5-4 win over the strong Birmingham team; Ken Craigie beating Wally Poole, Wally Hall and Maurice Kriss.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS—Cont.

During last month they lost to Surrey, Kent and Devonshire, all by the same narrow margin, 4-5. Kent were particularly pleased to record their first victory; new player Etheridge had a lot to do with this.

Other results during the month were: Sussex 4, Surrey 5; Kent 2, Hampshire 7.

Surrey	7	7	0	43	20	14
Devonshire	7	6	1	43	20	12
Sussex	7	3	4	32	31	6
Hampshire	7	1	6	25	38	2
Kent	8	1	7	19	53	2

## EAST ANGLIAN DIVISION

Chief interest in this division centred in who was to be runners-up to Middlesex, and this honour fell to Cambridgeshire, who made certain with a narrow 5-4 win over Norfolk. The return of Thurston from the Forces, and the continued improvement in young Cornwell's play have turned Cambridge into quite a force who could worry the best if only their ladies showed some improvement. Cambridge also did well to lose only 4-5 to Middlesex, Cornwell lowering Adams' 100 per cent. record. Norfolk and Suffolk still have to play their final match for the distinction (?) of

finishing at the foot. Other results: Suffolk 2, Middlesex 7; Norfolk 1, Middlesex 8.

Middlesex	6	6	0	44	10	12
Cambridgeshire	6	3	3	26	28	6
Norfolk	5	1	4	16	29	2
Suffolk	5	1	4	13	32	2

## HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

Essex 2nds finished unbeaten in this section, but not before they had two narrow squeaks against Bucks and Beds. Actually a weakened Essex team did extremely well to beat Bedfordshire 5-4, after being 4-3 behind at one stage. With the score 4 all Langner beat Ironmonger by the extraordinary scores 20-22, 21-19, 21-4. Three other counties, Beds, Herts and Bucks, all finished with 2 wins and 2 losses, Beds taking second position on games average. Berkshire were rather outclassed, but tried hard throughout.

Other results: Buckinghamshire 1, Bedfordshire 8; Hertfordshire 2, Essex 7; Berkshire 1, Buckinghamshire 8.

Essex	4	4	0	26	10	8
Bedfordshire	4	2	2	25	11	4
Hertfordshire	4	2	2	19	17	4
Buckinghamshire	4	2	2	19	17	4
Berkshire	4	0	4	1	35	0

It is hoped next month to review individual players' performances.

# RICHARD BERGMANN

## Final Match Revives "Chisel" Controversy

Since Budapest, there has been a revival of the old chiselling controversy; some who saw the Bergmann-Soos final have criticised the tactics employed by the finalists. Others have been equally outspoken in condemning the rules and conditions of play which lead world-class players to adopt purely defensive tactics in these critical matches.

It should be emphasised that no one criticises the conduct or sportmanship of either player. Indeed, Richard Bergmann has received widespread praise in this respect, and also for the determination and power of concentration which he displayed throughout the tournament.



### THE CRITIC

Below is a resumé of an extempore broadcast interview between C. Corti Woodcock (pictured on left) and Howard Marshall.

**HOWARD MARSHALL:** In the studio tonight we have Mr. Corti Woodcock, a past Chairman of the E.T.T.A. and donor of the World's Singles championship trophy, who has just returned from the World Table Tennis Championships at Budapest. Now Corti, what were your impressions?

**CORTI WOODCOCK:** Well, Howard, I collected a great number of impressions. In general, the cold, the high cost of living, and the warmth of our welcome. As regards the tournament, the excellence of the organisation, the noisy partisanship of the crowd, the efforts of the squads of interpreters to cope with a dozen languages, and the slow tables. As you know, the World's Singles title was brought back to this country—the third year running we've had it—by Richard Bergmann, now a naturalised Englishman. But my own most vivid recollection is of our defending champion, Johnny Leach. He was magnificent—as glorious in defeat as Bergmann was not-so-glorious in victory.

**H.M.:** Can you explain that a little more? I gather there's something behind your remark—something probably of a rather controversial nature?

**C.W.:** Yes, Howard, I expect it will be regarded as controversial. It's just my own personal opinion, of course, but I feel strongly that Johnny showed the quality and spirit one expects of a worthy world champion: and Richard did not. Even though he lost, we were all immensely proud of Johnny when Haguener, the Frenchman, unexpectedly beat him in the fourth round.

He'd beaten Haguener several times recently, but this time the French boy really played above himself and with great tenacity. Some of us thought it would have paid Johnny better to have quietened down when he led by 2 games to 1. But not a bit of it. No time-limit nonsense for Johnny! Even in the last few points of the decisive game he was still hitting out bravely, with all the defiance of a Cockney during the blitz of London.

**H.M.:** That's grand. But what do you mean by Bergmann being "not so glorious in victory?"

**C.W.:** Well, Richard Bergmann went out to play that Final against the Hungarian, Soos, at 11.13 p.m. and it lasted until nearly 1 o'clock in the morning. Now, a best-of-five match usually takes 30 to 40 minutes, yet Soos didn't make his first score from an attacking stroke until the 48th minute after the match started.

**H.M.:** Was there any special reason for this performance?

**C.W.:** Yes, there was. For one thing, the patriotic element. The crowd got very excited and wanted their man Soos to win at all costs. This feeling was so strong that when Soos was already two games up and at last made a winning attacking shot, there were hundreds of anxious cries telling him to steady down and not take chances. And then, the finalists themselves were scared of each other and didn't dare to attack. They just waited for the other to make a mistake and were content to keep the ball safely in play. They scratched and fiddled like a couple of centenarian violinists. To my mind it was a disgraceful exhibition.

**H.M.:** I see, but in many other sports, this matter of tactical defence is often considered praiseworthy. I gather you don't think this applies to Table Tennis?

**C.W.:** No I don't. The players' attitude towards the game, in that final, reduced it to a farce. For a man to strive to win a World title by trying to snatch a lead of a point or two and then sit back on his heels and play pat-ball to win on the time-limit rule, is not my idea of sport.

### BERGMANN'S OWN WORDS

"THE opportunity to avenge my lamentable defeat (time limit) at the hands of SOOS on the occasion of last year's championships at Stockholm was eagerly welcomed by me. Play at first produced negative tactics, not least caused by the peculiar surface of the table, which greatly favoured defence. Try as I might, I could not get my attack going, and finally gave it up as a bad job. The attempt cost me the first game, but the process of attrition continued, and with two games down (the latter on time limit) and no reasonable hope of retrieving the fallen fortunes, disaster loomed large . . . come to the conclusion that attack was out of the question."

### CARRINGTON COMMENTS

Though this match was naturally not everybody's dish, to the objective and serious student of the game it was an enthralling battle.

The spectator who goes to a World Championship final should be satisfied with the drama of the fight; he must not expect the technicolor which admittedly adds to the picture on less serious occasions.

### IVOR MONTAGU

#### REVIEWS THE MATCH

(Reprinted from the English Championships Programme)

Bergmann—Soos; what could they do but push? In both the first two games, after terrific many-stroke battles, Soos got an early lead. Bergmann could only hit to catch up and, fast as his hit is, Soos would get it back. In the third, again Soos led. But two up and 3—0 he became venturesome. Richard led for the first time in the match, 4—3. This was the turning point, and cost Soos the title. Now Soos must force the game, Soos must watch the clock. And force he did, not with so hard a hit as Richard, but with infinite variety, and Richard running to keep the ball in play.

Usually between giants, for all the fireworks, nothing is decisive till around seventeen. In this match, the first three or four points of each game decided, the rest each time was the victim struggling in octopus toils.

Richard recovered his title, almost out on his feet, flat with exhaustion, after a final which was one of the most interesting and exciting ever played—though certainly not the most beautiful—and after a personal display, throughout the tournament, of single-minded and good-humoured concentration.

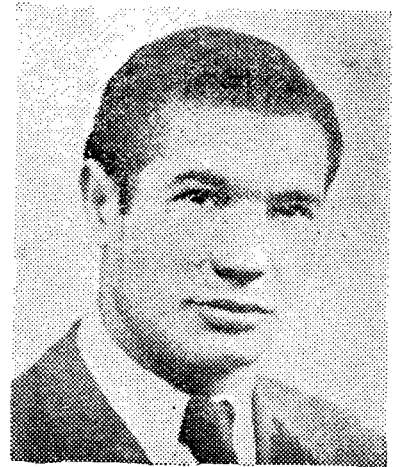
# — WORLD CHAMPION

## FROM THE BERGMANN RECORD

1938. Wembley: Vana led 2—0 and 15—12. Bergmann won.
1946. Paddington: Andreadis led 2—1 and 20—17. Bergmann won.
1946. Paddington: Slar led 2—1 and 20—18. Bergmann won.
1948. Wembley: Andreadis led 2—0 and 19—16. Bergmann won.
1949. Utrecht: Haguenuer 2—2 and 18—11. Bergmann won.
1950. Budapest: Turnovsky 2—2 and 11—4. Bergmann won.
1950. Budapest: Vana 2—2 and 18—14. Bergmann won.
1950. Budapest: Soos 2—0. Bergmann won.



WORLD SINGLES CHAMPION  
1937 (above), 1939, 1948, and  
1950 (below)



## LUCK OR LEGEND?—Jack Carrington Sums Up

**W**HAT happens to Bergmann's opponents? **TURNOVSKY**, a first-class Czech hitter, winning 11—4, in the fifth game, finished nowhere.

**VANA**, a World Champion, winning 18—14 in the fifth. Finished with 18.

**SOOS**, two games up in the final, by chopping and placing and feinting. Starts the third game as a flashy attacker and ends up as all flashy attackers do against Bergmann—fizzled out.

What's the explanation? "Bergmann fights so hard," they say.

What of it? Don't you fight; doesn't Vana, doesn't Soos, doesn't anybody fight when they're 14—18 down?

"Richard's defence is so good," they say. So it is, but how did these others get their leads of 18—14, etc.?

Bergmann luck, say some. But every champion admits it needs luck to win. By never throwing a single game away in the whole 15 years of his career, he has sown doubt in the minds of his rivals. Danger threatens the leading player whenever Bergmann is within 3 points of defeat. Look at the record shown above and think what must be in the minds of

his opponent.

Where Bergmann is unsurpassed is in his immaculate play once he has overhauled his opponent—providing the score is 17 or over at that time. He just never puts a ball wrong after that.

After having analysed dozens of his games, I find that the actual equalising of the scores is almost always due to his opponents. They play feebly, crudely or carelessly; they completely change winning tactics.

And mark you, Richard has very little luck in the way of edge-balls, or net-cords. The margin on his returns is too big for those accidents.

It must just be that from long habit, 14—18 or 15—19 sounds like a winning score to him.

Richard himself calls it "instinct." "I just feel that the other chap is not sure of himself," he says.

I've been playing my table tennis all wrong. I try to get 18 or 19 before the other bloke does. In future my opponents can have 18—14 on me—well, say 18—15 for the really good ones. Then I'll show 'em!

## THIS "FLEA" COULD BITE!

by W. STEINITZ

Returning to Vienna in 1933, I could not keep away from Table Tennis very long. So one evening, rather early, I walked into Flussmann's Table Tennis Saloon. Old Flussmann, former Austrian champion, was there himself to welcome me back, but when I asked him for anyone who could give me a game, he said: "Sorry old boy, I'm tied up at the desk, and there is none of the chaps in just yet who could give you a decent game," then, noticing my disappointment, he added: "well, there is one about, only a small boy, mind you, whom I am training but I think he can beat you."

"That's good enough for me," said I,

so he started shouting all over the place; "*Floh, Floh!*" (which means "flea" in German) and presently a diminutive figure appeared from between the tables.

I was rather embarrassed because I am 6 foot 2 inches tall and there was a frail boy of 15 who looked like 12, but very intelligent. I felt rather sorry for him at first, because he had really to jump about like a flea in order to get to and away from the ball, but somehow he always managed to get it back.

In the end he did beat me just as Flussmann had predicted and at the time I felt rather silly to get beaten by a little boy of this size. But a few years later

The author of this little memory of those carefree days between the wars is a member of West London's Essendine Club

A pleasant sequel occurred at the Empire Pool, Wembley, during the last Championships, when Richard Bergmann spotted his one-time challenger and greeted him at once by name.

Such a feat of memory, our contributor says, "surely puts every elephant in the shade!"

that little boy won the world's championship and to-day I can proudly tell anyone who cares to listen that I played Richard Bergmann and although he won, I made "The Flea" hop around.

# Time for a Change

urges

IVOR EYLES

Gloucester T.T.A. Secretary

## Alice in Wonderland Tangle!

**O**THER than finding a County team for the Championships and organising the County Tournaments, I am quite convinced that County bodies are of little use *under the present constitution*. We are overdue for an overhaul of the organisation and a straightening out of an Alice-in-Wonderland-like tangle. We need better consideration from the E.T.T.A.

Right now, before the Annual Meeting, I most strongly urge county administrators to think out these things most carefully.

## Ignorance is NOT Bliss

**P**POINT 1 of my big grouses is that the "powers that be" ignore the county body when calling players for selection or trials, etc. Often the first I hear that one of my players has been selected by the E.T.T.A. is from the player himself or by reading it in the newspaper! How can an organiser arrange matches, etc., when he can never be certain if his players will be available? It won't do, E.T.T.A. Counties should be the first to be advised.

## The Most Ridiculous Rigmarole of All

**P**POINT 2. E.T.T.A. Rules 4 to 6 require a league to be first affiliated to the E.T.T.A. before it can affiliate to its county. This procedure ought to be reversed. I find it a positive hindrance to maximum growth. There are hundreds of players and organisations willing to join the county association but who are not interested in a remote E.T.T.A. nor prepared to go to the trouble of approaching them.

Even if they do affiliate, then comes the most ridiculous rigmarole of all! The County Secretary has to work out and agree with the E.T.T.A. the number of clubs and additional teams in each of its leagues, in order to claim the rebate. Thus money passes from league to E.T.T.A.; some more passes from league to county; then the county has to run after some of that which has already been paid to the E.T.T.A.

How very much simpler for all concerned if any league merely paid one composite fee to the county, who, in turn, deducted its own fees and the rebate, and finally sent one cheque to cover all affiliated members of the county.

## Minorities in Power

**P**POINT 3. Now look over Rule 11 dealing with the General Council. A County is allowed one representative on the Council, but *each* league is allowed 1, 2 or 3 according to its size. This means that it is possible for minorities in a county area to overrule

a majority decision of a County Executive. This applies not only for nominations for the Council, but also to such other business as the Council may transact.

I suggest a collective line of election should replace this: (a) Leagues nominate their representatives to the County Executive; (b) County Executives nominate their representatives to the General Council; (c) General Council (as at present) nominate representatives to the National Executive Committee.

Thus voting papers would be sent *only* to the County body who would cast the votes for the whole of its membership, so that on this and all points it would be the democratic vote of the county in keeping with the duly recorded decision.

**P**POINT 4. My next point follows on directly from there, for I am firmly convinced that the best solution to the problem is to amend the E.T.T.A. Constitution so that ALL communications must flow through definite channels, viz., from E.T.T.A. to County; County to League(s); League(s) to Club(s); Club(s) to Player(s) and in reverse, flow upwards.

## Money is the Root of Good

**P**POINT 5. When county administration becomes weak or inefficient, the structure collapses, and chats with E.T.T.A. officials suggest that they are somewhat apprehensive about there being sufficient really good county officials.

Criticism of honorary officials, whose goodwill cannot be questioned, may on occasions be helpful, but it also tends to be invidious. Paid officials, on the other hand, *must* deliver the goods. As a parallel illustration, payment to exhibition players promotes the highest standards of exhibition play with increased benefit to everyone concerned.

Organise, then, in a businesslike manner. First, a paid and full-time Secretary and staff at the E.T.T.A. followed by paid County Secretaries, or even Area Secretaries, similar to the Area Organisers of the C.C.P.R. I do feel that the higher level of table tennis in this country is substantially due to some players beginning to make a living out of the game.

I am convinced that a few highly successful English Opens, plus others in the Provinces, would provide a sound nucleus for a fund to be devoted to such development as I have visualised.

LESLIE WOOLLARD

Bedfordshire T.T.A. Secretary

Agrees  
to Differ

**I** BELIEVE a thing is never so well done but that it could be done better. Consequently, I just love honest critics with the guts to say what they honestly believe to be in the interest of a common cause. Over-tactful friends do not help progress so much as the questioning of dreamers and rebels.

You may not agree with the critic, but if you listen, the odds are you'll get at

least one good idea and a much wiser understanding.

When, about two years ago, Ivor first mentioned clearing up the "rigmarole" of claiming rebates, I was with him all the way. In fact, I agree wholeheartedly with many of his views. Suppose we take 'em one by one, briefly.

**O**N POINT 1. The responsibility is that of the National Selection Committee as distinct from the E.T.T.A. H.Q. I am told that in future, notifications will be sent to Counties as well as the player, so that was one good point worth mentioning which has brought prompt action.

**O**N POINT 2. Don't agree. The Omnibus Rule 17 is the Charter for County bodies, and in clause (f) gives them "complete autonomy in organising and administering the game in the county." In several cases in my own county, the E.T.T.A. Affiliation business and initiation has come from the league, *through me*, and then to the E.T.T.A. I have forms ready in my office and am ready to sign up any new league at the shortest notice.

Now, that rebate matter. It certainly seems to be screwy. From my own, and obviously Ivor's, viewpoint, his suggestion would seem to simplify things. But a big BUT. As my activities have broadened to a more national sphere, I've been forced to realise that what might suit us locally, would be disastrous if applied nationally. This is such a case. I can enlarge on this a little by commenting

**O**N POINTS 3 and 4. I couldn't disagree more. I believe the concentration of power in too few hands is not in the best interests of the game. "All power corrupts" even the most honest. Already there are too many self-electing bodies. I dislike the rigid Line of Communication Ivor suggests. It is not only bureaucratic but would stultify freedom of expression; it would cause hopeless delays.

I sincerely believe that direct contact between League and the E.T.T.A. is vitally essential to our democratic unity.

The same is true of elections. Any system which would bar a league from free exercise of its constitutional right to vote, would be most UN-democratic. The block system of voting which Ivor suggests is a collective control that leads to dictatorship or abuse. From my view, I would be very much happier in knowing that any league who did not agree with either my committee or with me had, at least, the privilege of publicly disagreeing with no fear of the consequences, with the added advantage that brave new blood might be introduced. There is no monopoly of good men.

Under good administration, "bad rebels" would never prosper. Nevertheless, just as even the best of boilers must have their safety-valves, so even in the best of counties, I must stoutly uphold the right of individual leagues to have direct access to the E.T.T.A. It is the foundation of our success.

**O**N POINT 5. No comment. I'm just off to see what my bank manager thinks of the idea.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1950	Event	Venue	Details and Tickets from
Mar. 17-18	... West of England (JBS, JGS)	Palace Hotel, Torquay	... T. I. Gill, "Ellington," Shirburn Road, Torquay, Devon.
Mar. 25	... Grimsby Open	Pier Pavilion, Cleethorpes	... J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby, Lincs.
Mar. 25	... "Daily Mirror" Area Finals	Y.M.C.A., Romford, Essex	... D. Pigeon, c/o Y.M.C.A., Romford, Essex.
	Do.	Birmingham: Indoor Sports Stadium	... M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 14.
	Do.	Glasgow	... R. W. Stewart, 45, Hope Street, Glasgow, C.2.
	Do.	Bradford	... G. Lodge, 202b, Keighley Road, Frizinghall, Bradford.
Apl. 1	... JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL MATCH:	Wales	... Mrs. Nancy R. Evans, The Rise, Ty-mawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.
	Wales v. Eng.		
Apl. 1-2	... Bucks. Open (JBS, JGS)	Community Centre, Slough	... L. Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Braysbury, Bucks.
Apl. 8-10	... N.E. England Open	Scarborough	... S. Waller, 2, Sidney Street, Scarborough.
Apl. 12-14 } Apl. 17-22 }	... W. Mddx. Open (JBS, JGS)	W. Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, W.5	... J. Joyce, 7, Croft Gardens, Hanwell, W.7.
Apl. 25—2 p.m.	... "FOCUS ON TABLE TENNIS" and "Daily Mirror" Semi-Finals	Royal Albert Hall, London, W.	... "Daily Mirror," Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4.
7 p.m.	... "Daily Mirror" Finals with International Invitation Tourney	Royal Albert Hall, London, W.	... "Daily Mirror," Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4.
May 1-6	... Thameside Open (JBS)	Hydro Hall, Plaistow	... L. R. Norminton, 31, Acacia Avenue, Romford, Essex.

"SOME LATER LANDMARKS" left out—no room!

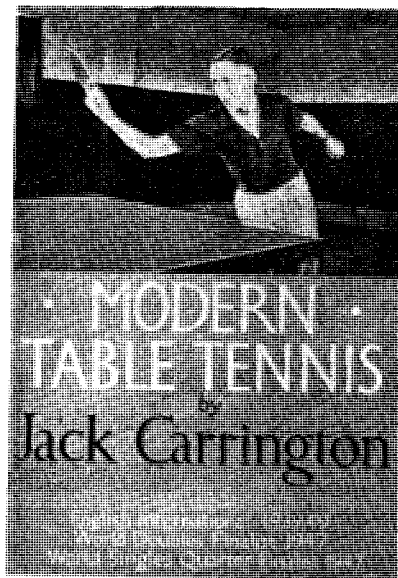
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