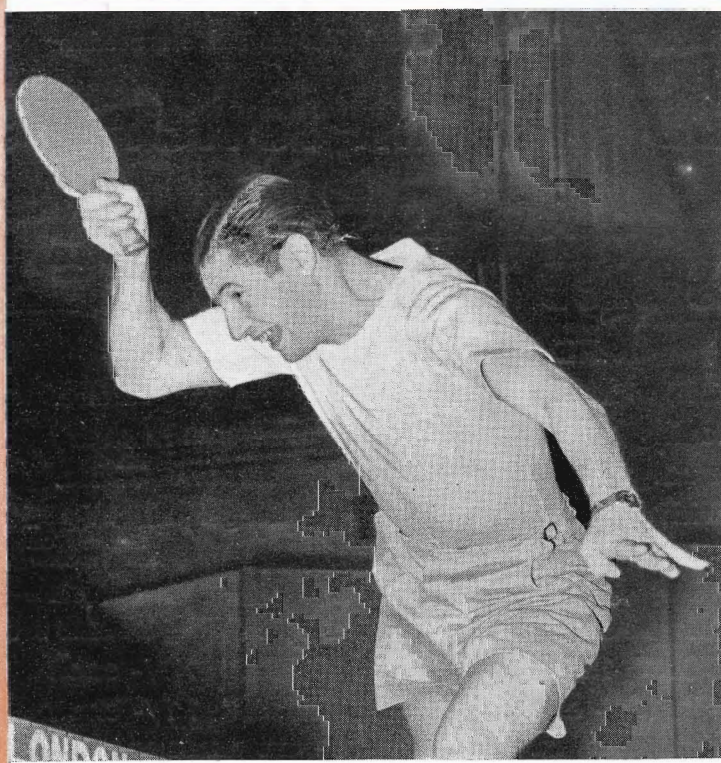


MAY, 1950

SIXPENCE

# TABLE TENNIS



**RICHARD BERGMANN**  
Present World & English Champion

*Contributors include:*

REBA MONNESS

TONY MILLER

AUDREY FOWLER

GEOFF. HARROWER

STAN PROFFITT

ROY EVANS

MAURICE SHAFFNER

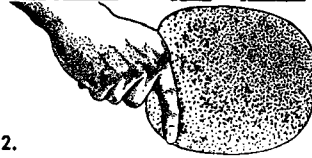
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Vol. VIII. No. 9

MAY,  
1950

# TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine  
of the  
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
214 Grand Buildings,  
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## Your Annual General Meeting

### Bill Pope Seriously Ill

There were many old friends, and some new ones, amongst those who met at Caxton Hall, London, on April 29th for the Association's Annual General Meeting. One who was missing, however, was General Secretary Bill Pope, dangerously ill and in hospital. Everyone was a little sad about this, and there were many expressions of sympathy and hopes for his speedy recovery.

The meeting started with the announcement of the election results, and thanks for past services were given to the three members of the National Executive who had not retained their seats, Miss Ferguson, and Messrs. Worsley and Richards. They have all given much assistance in national affairs and the meeting was, as usual, very ready to acknowledge this.

### Provocative Topics

Chief among the matters which provoked discussion were the progress made towards incorporation of the Association; proposals made by Gloucestershire relating to County affairs; the constitution of the National Executive Committee; Trials arrangements; Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl competition arrangements; and tournaments promoted by newspapers.

### Internationals Criticised

Strong views were expressed about the harm done by International players who do not observe the service law correctly (chiefly by throwing the ball back from the table instead of straight up vertically in the air) and who are copied by others who watch them in tournaments and exhibitions. It was the general opinion that this problem needed tackling by direct approach to prominent players concerned, as well as by the projected scheme for qualified umpires who, with a badge to vouch for their ability, should feel less diffident about asserting their authority when the rule is flouted.

### Pushing Play

Great interest was also shown in the international rules dealing with pushing play. For open competitions and international events it is obligatory to apply one or other of these rules (generally known as the time-limit rule and the expedite rule respectively), but they have never been adopted by the E.T.T.A., as compulsory for closed events, league

competitions, and so on. Any League or Association may, of course, decide for itself to adopt either rule for its own internal competitions. The wording of the time-limit rule is at present being revised in accordance with a decision of the last I.T.T.F. Congress, and both rules will be published in the September *Table Tennis* for general information. Meanwhile, readers may like to know that the change in the time-limit rule is that, instead of each game in every match being limited to twenty minutes, in future once one game of a match has been stopped at twenty minutes, the subsequent games of that match will be restricted to ten minutes, and the match may be removed to another table so that

spectators may not be wearied with a long session of tiresome chiselling.

### Assistant Secretary

It was announced during the meeting that the National Executive had appointed Mrs. Pegg to act as Assistant Secretary during Mr. Pope's illness. Mrs. Pegg and her assistant in the E.T.T.A. Office also received warm commendation from the meeting for their loyal and valuable service to the Association.

FOOTNOTE: The answer given to the question "Why do we not play girls' junior international matches?" was that we have not so far been able to find any opponents strong enough. What have our overseas readers to say about this?

## The Meeting and The Magazine

There is a paragraph about *Table Tennis* magazine in the National Executive Committee's report each year (you can turn it up in your E.T.T.A. handbook), and the discussion of this report at the A.G.M. gives Leagues a special annual opportunity to tell the people who run the magazine what they think about it. Of course, anyone can write to us at any time to criticise or even to commend—and some people do—but we do like to hear also from League representatives all over the country, when they come together once a year at this meeting, just what their opinions are.

In recent years it has been very disappointing to find that no one has had any comment at all to make about the magazine on these occasions. This year there was a welcome change. One or two had very nice things to say, and we were very pleased to hear them. More important, though, a number of delegates had constructive criticism to give us; during the summer we shall be thinking over these points to try to give you even more of what you want next season.

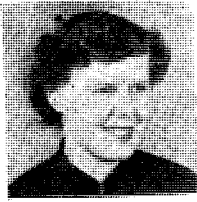
There was an interesting discussion on the merits of the big page (this season) and the small page (last season), and a show of hands indicated that opinion on this point was pretty evenly divided. Geoffrey Harrower explained why we can give you more reading matter for your sixpence with the larger page, and Morris Rose pointed out the advantages of being able to present all sides of a controversial question on one page, or on two pages side by side, without irritating requests to turn to the next-page-but-three. Strong point made on

the other side was the convenience of the smaller publication for carrying in the pocket, but we suggest that if everyone bought their own copies instead of borrowing, there wouldn't be so much need for carrying magazines around in pockets.

A very gently administered kick came from Tom Blunn, who wanted to know why we didn't check up on all the statements of contributors before we printed their articles, referring particularly to Stan Proffitt's pungent criticism of Manchester representation at the Junior Trials (March issue). It is now quite clear to us that Proffitt's comments on this matter were very wide of the mark and the slur on Lancashire and Manchester officials was quite unjustified; we are glad of this opportunity to say so publicly and to offer apologies on behalf of ourselves and Stan Proffitt.

On the general question involved, however, we should explain that if we checked up on every statement made by every contributor, articles would be very much out of date before we could get them printed. Also, if we never allowed anyone to criticise anything in our columns, we think that the magazine would make very dull reading.

No doubt most readers will understand that articles we print — unless clearly stated otherwise — represent the personal views of the writers and should not be taken as indicating the views of the Magazine Committee, the N.E.C., or anyone else. If you disagree with anything said, you will help everybody by sending along a letter or an article giving the other point of view, when we will do our best to print it.



# PERSONALITY PARADE

Two players who are making the headlines now. Watch their progress next season.



EILEEN GRIMSTONE,  
(Cheshire and Manchester).

EILEEN, the Northern Tornado, is a charming girl who won't ever acknowledge defeat and plays the game with the vigour normally attributed to a man, going right out to the last point. To the 3 Open Singles titles won, she has also notched the Manchester "Evening Chronicle," W.S. and 3 titles in her county closed, and is now all set to go places.

Once during the season, she nearly succumbed to the "chiselling" type of game which seemed to be a winning one, but fortunately she just couldn't keep it up, and now plays a storming, forehand attack which raises the roof on Finals nights.

She only took the game up seriously in 1947 after 4 years' service with the A.T.S., and was fortunate to get Frank Andrews as friend-trainer-coach to enforce the necessity of perfect physical condition and consistent accuracy. As instance of what goes to make a champion, Frank and Eileen once spent three solid hours in getting just one shot right.

ANDREE JONES  
(Liverpool).

We first noticed Andree at the Midland Open, where she reached the final of the W.D. (with Miss E. Weaver), and was beaten only in the third game by Dorothea Munnings. In the Birmingham Open a little later, with improved confidence and form, she did well in brilliant company. Then in the Irish Open, after winning the Girls' Singles easily, she was defeated by only the narrowest of margins in the semi-final of the W.S. by Miss C. Egan (the eventual winner), after leading 20-18 in the third and final game. She has now celebrated her last year as a junior by finalising in the "Daily Mirror" Tournament against redoubtable Diane Rowe.

She has been coached by Bobby Roberts (Liverpool), who was modelling her game on that of Johnny Leach (at that time World Champion).

## OUR COVER PICTURE

WE are proud to complete our season's Cover Picture Gallery with this new shot of RICHARD BERGMANN, who has just completed a season in which he has established himself once again as the world's top-ranker. To win both the World's and the English Open Singles titles is record with which there can be no argument.

But Richard's style of play continues to provoke more argument than any other player or topic in the game. He uses his natural gifts of beautiful footwork and serene patience to win his matches, less spectacularly than his opponents lose them! Ever since Richard won his first World Singles in 1937 (this year's is his fourth), critics and fans have been arguing about him. Some consider that his defensive play "ruins" the game, others that it is a spectacle in itself.

The strange thing is that Richard himself never argues about it, nor do you find any of his rivals complaining about his play. They all know that he is the most sporting opponent one could wish for. He is good company too, and a most considerate travelling companion, but when he's out there on that table, it's Richard Bergmann against the World. His attitude is quite simple: "You know how I play—come and beat me!" To Richard the most important "stroke" in the game is this one . . . 21—.

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## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

The result of the postal ballot for Election of Officers and National Executive Committee of the E.T.A., which was announced at the Annual General Meeting, was as follows:

Chairman:

\*I. Montagu, 162 votes, elected.  
A. E. Richards, 44 votes, not elected.

Hon. Treasurer:

\*A. K. Vint, elected unopposed.

Hon. General Secretary:

\*W. J. Pope, 163 votes, elected.  
I. C. Eyles, 43 votes, not elected.

National Executive Committee:

The following were elected:

N.E. Region:

\*E. Reay (unopposed).

N.W. Region:

\*W. Stamp, N. Cook.

Yorkshire:

\*L. E. Forrest (unopposed).

Midland Region:

\*M. Goldstein, \*D. J. Rowley.

Eastern Region:

L. S. Woollard.

S.W. Region:

\*H. J. Amery.

London Region:

\*G. R. Harrower, \*E. G. White.

Southern Region:

\*F. G. Mannoch, W. G. Goldfinch.

\*Those starred are re-elected to the positions which they held during the past year.

## "PLANE" THOUGHTS ON WORLD RANKINGS

ON the charter plane returning from the World Championships, the Hon. Ivor Montagu organised a World Ranking List poll. The voters included representatives of the English, Scots and Welsh Associations.

The poll, taken immediately after the championships, reflects the eye-witness opinion of the time. Both Miles and Reisman had to be ineligible, but Peggy McLean was allowed.

The figures indicate percentage placings in the poll:—

Men	Women	
Bergmann	1.2	Roseanu 1.0
Vana	3.8	Farkas 2.05
Sido	4.0	McLean 3.3
Soos	4.3	Elliott 4.9
Tereba	4.5	Pritzi 5.7
Leach	5.7	Karpati 6.1
Andreadis	5.75	Koloszvary 6.6
Koczian	7.6	Hruskova 7.1
Ehrlich	8.0	Thomas and
Simons	8.4	Franks 8.0

# Checking-up on the Stars

## Where Have all the Open Titles Gone?

**B**EFORE the glories and triumphs of the season fade into dusty records, *Table Tennis* has prepared an analysis of results of this season's Open Tournament winners received up to 15th April.

To add to the interest we have adopted a system of points, viz., World's Singles and Doubles titles, 20 and 10 respectively; National Tournaments 5 and 3; Open Tournaments 2 and 1, so that the final tabulation will be something of an "Open Tournament" Ranking List.

Note particularly that this is quite unofficial. Caution should also be exercised in considering the final ranking, for although some distinction has been made between National and Open Tournaments, no distinction whatever has been made between different opens, relative playing standards, etc. Furthermore, some players who have a low rating may not have been able to enter many; Bergmann, for instance, was out of the country for half the season, Vera Thomas only came in at the tail end, Casofsky and Stanley were limited in their efforts.

The final results, however, do appear to justify the work of the National Selection Committee, and indicate other players whose future performances will be closely watched by the selectors.

† Indicates International; \* Indicates International awarded first cap this year.

"J" signifies Junior, used with one of the above signs.

	M.S.	M.D.	X.D.	Total Titles	Including National	Tournament Points
†J. Leach	8	8	8	24	9	53
†R. Bergmann	7	—	—	7	4	44
				(world's)		
†A. Simons	4	4	2	10	2	21
†J. Carrington	—	6	—	6	2	10
†R. Crayden	2	2	1	5	1	9
*M. Thornhill	2	2	2	6	—	8
L. Adams	1	2	2	5	—	6
†B. Kennedy	2	1	1	4	—	6
*R. Allcock	2	—	1	3	—	5
*H. Venner	1	2	—	3	—	4
†B. Casofsky	—	3	1	4	—	4
†K. Craigie	—	2	2	4	—	4
J†L. Devereux	1	1	—	2	—	3
K. Park	1	1	—	2	—	3
†B. Crouch	—	3	—	3	—	3
J*J. Lowe	—	2	1	3	—	3
*D. Miller	—	1	2	3	—	3
†R. Sharman	—	2	1	3	—	3

HONOURS: 2 points each:

\*W. Poole; J. Head; †K. Stanley; D. Heaps.

	W.S.	W.D.	X.D.	Total Titles	Including National	Tournament Points
†P. Franks	6	1	5	12	3	21
†D. Beregi	1	2	—	3	1	13
*R. Rowe	3	8	5	16	—	19
*D. Rowe	2	8	2	12	—	14
†A. Wood	2	3	2	7	—	9
†V. Thomas	2	—	1	3	2	9
*J. Roberts	3	2	—	5	—	8
E. Grimstone	3	1	—	4	—	7
M. Fry	1	4	1	6	—	7
†E. Steventon	2	2	—	4	—	6
N. Bishop	1	2	1	4	—	5
†L. Barnes	—	2	3	5	—	5
P. Allen	1	—	1	2	—	3
†J. Crosby	—	2	1	3	—	3
S. Wood	—	2	3	3	—	3

HONOURS: 2 points each:

R. Atherton; J. McKay; N. Senior; D. Smith; J. Smurthwaite; E. Weaver.

# Yorkshire Relish

By MAURICE SHAFFNER

Chairman, Yorkshire T.T.A.

## Leeds Conference to Plan Future

BY the time this article is in print, Yorkshire will know whether they are to remain in the Premier Division or whether they are to face what may prove a difficult task, to gain promotion from a lower division.

The County's future policy and programme was to be mapped out at a conference to be held in Leeds on May 6th.

## Refreshing Change to see the Stars

IT was a most refreshing change to see such a galaxy of talent at the N.E. England Tournament, where a reasonably successful attempt was made to run on a pre-arranged time basis. Being a two-day tournament, the organisers had no difficulty in dealing comfortably with a record entry.

There was no one capable of extending Bergmann, and it was mostly a question of who was able to provide the most attractive knock-up for him. He played with less success in the doubles events, and in neither can it be said that his partner let him down.

Generally speaking, the table tennis at



Diane Rowe, who was beaten by Marjorie Lightfoot (Leeds) in the semi-final.

Scarborough was of an entertaining and at times high standard, and there is reason to hope that this tournament will become increasingly popular.

## National Lottery for E.T.T.A. ?

THE need for funds for national table tennis is ever present. It seems to me that a lottery organised on a national scale could easily be instrumental in raising a considerable sum which could be applied to the many varied purposes, amongst which coaching readily suggests itself.

I suggest that serious consideration be given to this matter by the N.E.C. The lottery would, of course, have to be confined to members of the many associations within the general framework of the E.T.T.A., which would thus include scores of thousands of players and interested persons.

Because of the large number of our youthful supporters, money prizes could be replaced by tables and other equipment now so lacking in many quarters.

## International Caps for Encouragement

WRITING a recent article, Victor Barna comments that international recognition has been granted by the Scottish Table Tennis Association to players by way of "encouragement."

Cannot we follow the example of our Scottish friends by following a similar course on a somewhat wider basis than has hitherto been the case? At one time people used to be hanged *pour encourager les autres*; perhaps more attractive measures may have a like effect!

## SOUTHAMPTON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Blighmont Drill Hall, 29th Jan., 1950  
RESULTS

### Semi-Finals:

M.S. L. Adams beat R. McKay 16, 8.  
J. Lowe w.o. R. Forrest scr.  
W.S. Miss McKay beat Miss Browne 10, 12.  
Miss Beer beat Miss Hewlett 20, —18, 8.

### Finals

M.S. L. Adams beat J. Lowe 7, 10.  
W.S. Miss McKay beat Miss Beer 21, —22, 11.  
M.D. S. Minter and L. Muller beat L. Adams and R. McKay —17, 16, 20.  
W.D. Mrs. Atherton and Miss Piper beat Mrs. Rowe and Miss Beer —15, 13, 13.  
X.D. J. Lowe and Mrs. Atherton beat R. McKay and Miss McKay 19, —11, 19.  
J.B.S. J. Lowe beat D. Copperthwaite 14, 12.  
Y.S. P. Skerratt beat M. Sheader 18, 15.

## TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS and FINALS

### THE SCORES

#### WILMOTT CUP

##### Semi-finals:

#### South London beat Central 5-0

R. Crayden beat E. Marsh 18, 12; beat L. Adams —9, 18, 11.  
J. Head beat A. R. Miller —20, 20, 14; beat E. Marsh 17, —14, 19.  
H. Venner beat L. Adams —8, 15, 19.

#### Birmingham beat Woolwich 5-1

M. Kriss beat R. Bush —17, 17, 13; beat E. Ridout 16, 16.  
W. Hall beat R. Syndercombe 17, 16; lost to R. Bush 10, —19, —14.  
W. Poole beat E. Ridout —20, 18, 16; beat R. Syndercombe —22, 18, 13.

##### Final:

#### South London beat Birmingham 5-0

R. Crayden beat W. Poole 12, —19, 6; beat M. Kriss 9, 4.  
H. Venner beat M. Kriss —15, 11, 16.  
J. Head beat W. Hall 13, 11; beat W. Poole 15, 15.

#### J. M. ROSE BOWL

##### Semi-finals:

#### West London beat Bristol, 7-2 (West London names first):

R. Rowe beat T. Pomroy 21, —13, 16; beat M. Fry 21, —13, 6.  
D. Rowe beat J. Collier 21, —11, 16; beat M. Fry 21, —15, 17.  
D. Ellis lost to T. Pomroy —8, —13; lost to J. Collier —20, 14, —12.  
D. Rowe/D. Ellis beat M. Fry/J. Collier —21, 16, 11.  
R. and D. Rowe beat M. Fry/T. Pomroy —13, 13, 17.  
R. Rowe/D. Ellis beat T. Pomroy/J. Collier 25, 19.

#### Liverpool beat Brighton 7-2 (Liverpool names first):

E. Mansell beat Mrs. B. Rind 14, 9; beat Mrs. R. E. Bromfield 10, 13.  
L. May beat Mrs. R. W. Bass 21, 15; beat Mrs. Bromfield 18, —17, 13.  
K. May beat Mrs. Rind 16, 14; lost to Mrs. Bass —18, —13.  
L. and K. May lost to Mrs. Bromfield/Mrs. Bass —15, 13, —19.  
E. Mansell/L. May beat Mrs. Bromfield/Mrs. Rind 12, —22, 17.  
E. Mansell/K. May beat Mrs. Rind/Mrs. Bass 12, 20.

##### Final:

#### West London beat Liverpool 8-1 (West London names first):

R. Rowe beat E. Mansell 20, 10; beat L. May 12, —14, 14.  
D. Rowe beat E. Mansell —13, 11, 11; beat K. May 14, 17.  
D. Ellis beat L. May 16, 19; lost to K. May —10, —18.  
R. Rowe/D. Ellis beat L. and K. May 17, 21.  
R. and D. Rowe beat E. Mansell/L. May 14, 10.  
D. Rowe/D. Ellis beat E. Mansell/K. May 18, 15.

# TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

## Men: The Wilmott Cup

### SOUTH LONDON'S GREAT WIN

THE South London League team of Harry Venner, Ron Crayden and Jack Head brought the Wilmott Cup back to the south in great style, beating Central League 5-0 and then Birmingham by the same score in the final.

The semi-final (and virtual final) between the Central League and South London was, as the scores indicate, a tense and interesting affair with the luck favouring the winners. Marsh, Adams and Miller all came within a point of victory and all the matches produced table tennis of a high order.

In the other semi-final, Birmingham v. Woolwich, Kent player Ray Syndercombe registered Woolwich's only success by beating Hall, and also showed promise in taking a game from Poole, but not enough attention to points.

In the final, all three South London players, and especially Crayden, played

with great confidence and skill in contrast to their opponents.

The only evenly contested match, Venner v. Kriss, was a near repeat of their English Open encounter, Kriss keeping a heavily chopped, immaculate length, and Venner hitting with great care and respect and little subtlety. At one stage it appeared that Kriss might pull it off, but with the first game won, he relaxed momentarily and Venner, seizing on the respite, regained equality. Kriss's failure to hit in the third game allowed his opponent too much scope.

Maurice Kriss offered the only stern opposition but, after losing to Venner, was utterly outclassed by Crayden, who won 9 and 4 with ease.

Altogether, the whole day was a splendid triumph for the South London League whose team, most worthy winners, will take a good deal of beating when the challenge is renewed.

(Results on page 4)

A. R. MILLER.

## Women: The J. M. Rose Bowl

### MAY TWINS MEET ROWE TWINS IN UNIQUE FINAL, but ROSE BOWL becomes ROWES' BOWL

JUST as the Wilmott Cup finalists went out of Town this year—to Birmingham—the play-offs for the Rose Bowl were also staged outside London, thanks to the enterprise of the Southampton League. N.E.C. member Miss Lena Ferguson, the Southampton Hon. Secretary, made excellent arrangements, both as regards playing conditions and hospitality: and everyone felt that the long journeys had been well worth while.

The semi-finals, played simultaneously, found West London paired with Bristol, Liverpool with Brighton. Oddly enough, they ran similar courses, both produced a winning margin of 7-2, and finished within a minute or two of each other. Neither winner was in the slightest danger at any time. On paper, the West London/Bristol clash was virtually the final, as it seemed clear that the winners should prove too strong for either of the other semi-finalists.

Though this proved to be so, both losers, Bristol and Brighton, fought extremely pluckily and never gave up. The high-light was perhaps the feat of the Bristol pair, Fry and Pomroy, taking a game to 13 from the Rowe sisters after being behind at 4-9. Fry/Collier won the first game against D. Rowe/Ellis and later on, Pomroy/Collier only just lost to R. Rowe/Ellis, 27-25, 21-19.

The three matrons from Brighton cheered themselves up by winning the opening doubles, but then dropped four singles in a row—each two straight. The following doubles went west, too, though only in the third, so Brighton had “had it”; but Mrs. Bass made the score sheet look a little healthier with a good win against Miss K. May, 21-18, 21-13.

(Results on page 4)

The final went according to plan—it was really only a question how much West London would win by. All the same, Liverpool can feel proud of their girls' performance. Eileen Mansell played a real No. 1's part, hitting hard and often on both wings, and encouraged the comparatively inexperienced May twins to give of their best. Right well they responded, too, if perhaps a little shy of trusting their backhands. Liverpool saved the “whitewash” when K. May beat Ellis 21-10, 21-18, and in the following tie her sister took a game off Rosalind Rowe to 14. Earlier Mansell had won her first game against Diane 21-13, but then faltered when her opponent speeded up her attack. All the other ties were two straight in favour of West London, who finally emerged victors to the tune of 8-1.

From beginning to end, the whole day's play was spirited and entertaining. Though showing occasional signs of end-of-season staleness (and what a season they've had), the Rowe twins nevertheless gave further proof of their rapid advance towards world class. Now that their defence is tightening up, quality shows in everything they do; and their court manners are in the Victor Barna tradition. One can't say more. Their No. 3, D. Ellis, has a fine table tennis sense and only needs good coaching, particularly as regards footwork, to bring her right into the front rank. Much the same can be said of the Bristol No. 1, Margaret Fry, who also has a game which promises big honours in the near future.

CORTI WOODCOCK.

## Schools:

### The "Sporting Record" Trophy

#### BORDEN TURN THE TABLES

FIRST holders of the *Sporting Record's* School Table Tennis Championship Trophy, Borden Grammar School, Sittingbourne, went down to last year's losing finalists, Bournemouth School, in brilliantly fought-out games, by three games to nil.

All the schools taking part in the semi-finals gave excellent performances. High-lights leading up to the final were spirited exchanges between W. Knight (Northampton) and N. Wilding (Bournemouth) and the team work of D. Eagles and D. Ainge (Sittingbourne) in doubles play. Here too, Armstrong and Taylor (Whitley Bay), while at times over-eager, made some good shots.

First of the singles games in the final between S. Davies (Bournemouth) and D. Eagles (Sittingbourne), showed national promise. Both players got in unexpected shots, but the two years advantage of the Bournemouth player told in the end. Eagles, at one time losing by nine points, made a great recovery and caught up from 11-19 to 20 all, with a final result of 22-24.

In the doubles match, play was fast, with good shots by both sides, but N. Wilding and S. Davies (Bournemouth) playing well together, made the better combination.

Trophies and medals were presented to all boys taking part by Mr. W. J. Pope, honorary secretary of the English Table Tennis Association, who stressed the value of the Schools' Tournament to table tennis.

Matches took place in the Indoor Sports Stadium, Birmingham, by the kindness of Mr. C. W. Mackay. Arrangements made by M. Goldstein, of the Birmingham and District Table Tennis Association, contributed to the smooth running of the tournament.

RAY MARLER.

#### DETAILS:

##### Semi-Finals:

BORDEN G.S., Sittingbourne, beat WHITLEY BAY G.S., 3-2. D. Eagles beat W. Armstrong 14, 6; beat W. Taylor 7, 9; N. Baker lost to J. Taylor -18, 17, -20; lost to W. Armstrong -23, 14, -14; D. Eagles/D. Ainge beat W. Armstrong/J. Taylor 16, 15.

Bournemouth Sch. beat Northampton G.S., 4-1. N. Wilding beat C. Hogg 13, -15, 17; beat W. Knight -17, 12, 12; S. Davies lost to W. Knight -17, 16, -14; beat C. Hogg -19, 12, 11; N. Wilding/S. Davies beat W. Knight/B. Adams 13, 17.

##### Final:

Bournemouth Sch. beat Borden G.S., 3-0. S. Davies beat D. Eagles 25, 22; N. Wilding beat N. Baker 14, 8; N. Wilding/S. Davies beat D. Eagles/D. Ainge 19, 18.

# LEACH BRINGS U.S.A. TITLES TO ENGLAND

by JACK CARRINGTON

**P**ERHAPS you expect to hear of myriads of players, of colossal crowds, super-organisation and exciting new playing techniques.

Sorry we have nothing like this to report—in table tennis, anyway—England is still the home of the superlatives. The fans in U.S.A. have the same happy, give-and-take fraternity that we know and love here. But distances are a handicap to rapid development.

A good provincial team in England may have to travel 20 miles to find worthy opposition. The equivalent journey in U.S.A. would probably be 200 miles. In England, a good report of table tennis on the radio reaches some 20 million listeners. To get equal coverage in U.S.A. you would have to sell the table tennis idea to probably 40 small radio stations.

Mr. ELMER CINNATER, president and key-man of the U.S.T.T.A., lives at St. Louis (pronounced SAINT Lewis!), 700 miles from New York. That's something like Bill Pope trying to coordinate Birmingham table tennis activity from Switzerland. It's not so surprising, then, to find that differences of opinion between New York and the Middle West centres of the game take rather a long time to heal.

Table tennis, therefore, thrives in rather tighter circles in the States than we are accustomed to. Perhaps because of this concentration, a new player reaches a high standard more quickly than is the case here. But the American temperament, brought up on "quick results," is inclined to become disheartened more easily when progress becomes slower, as it inevitably does.

The lively attacking play that we attribute to visiting American teams is not to be seen on their own, slower, tables. RICHARD MILES, in America, is feared for his chop, not his attack. MARTY REISMAN pursues his flat-hitting policy, but the result is something less than the "Reisman forehand" of which so many of our youngsters still dream.

By the time we were leaving America, there were signs that these two brilliant players might be released from the suspension which was imposed upon them after their European trip of 1949. Reisman at least has taken the first necessary steps . . . and if Reisman comes, can Miles be far behind?

SOL SCHIFF, LOU PAGLIARO and LAZLO BELLAK were other stars who came to renew friendships with us. They are not playing so seriously just now, but not so badly either, and "class" is still written all over them.

## Johnny Warms Up

After a few trial runs during the exhibition matches in different towns Johnny Leach, as always, began to adapt his game beautifully to the tables. A good thing he did, because he had to



meet a string of 5 internationals to win the National title.

## American "Match of the Year"

The semi-final against JIMMY MCCLURE was the "Match of the Year" in America. Playing in shorts and no hair, the U.S. captain looked fit and drew confidence from his 3-0 Wembley win. Away he went with his old "One-Two" slogging tactics. Johnny—also in shorts, for the first time—tried to stand his ground and break up the attack, and found himself 2 games behind before realising that a fast rate of scoring was what his older opponent was praying for.

Leach now had to fight off the awful memory of 5 lost games in succession against this opponent, just as Bergmann had to do in his World final against Soos. He now staked all on trading his defence against McClure's attack.

How Johnny pulled back those sudden passing hits to the wide backhand, how he held on when McClure had match-point at 21-20 . . . these are things it is useless to ask. They just happen to champions.

2—all. It soon became apparent that McClure couldn't hit his way through a tight 5th game, but the old campaigner was not done yet. He resorted to chopping to tempt Johnny into a change of tactics, and there followed many a long rally of watchful sparring. At 15-14 Leach felt confident enough to offer a few "loose" balls to the forehand and the resultant exchanges showed that the whip had finally changed hands.

**Thus Leach bt. McClure —18, —20, 17, 21, 15.**

This match really won Johnny Leach the singles title; after it he was so thoroughly battle-trained that he made hardly a mistake against BILL HOLZRICHTER in the final.

**Final: Leach bt. Holzrichter 11, 18, 20.**

## Nothing the Doubles for England

In the Men's Doubles, Johnny and I progressed without hitch, but not without excitement. Considerable opposition came from Bill Price and his surprisingly good 13-year-old pupil, AL HOLTZMANN, the Boys' Champion. The semi-final spelled danger with "That Man" again. Jimmy McClure (three times World Doubles winner) was supported by TIBOR HAZI, the Hungarian who reached the World Singles semi-final at Wembley in 1938. They ran us around plenty!

In the other half Holzrichter and Levy had proved too steady for Nash and Lasater, the two St. Louis shock-troopers. We rather care for steady pairs and were able to take the final comfortably.

**Leach/Carrington bt. McClure/Hazi 18, —18, 17, 10.**

**Leach/Carrington bt. Holzrichter/Levy 15, 15, 6.**

SALLY GREEN (Mrs. Prouty), a fragile high-stepping beauty, originally of Indianapolis, turned out to help Johnny Leach win the Mixed. It was soon evident how she had won 5 National singles in succession (1940-44). Her clean, wide hitting was a revelation.

## Reba's Revenge and Reward

Sally rests from singles now, on doctor's orders. It was REBA MONNESS' turn to win her first National singles. Holding the ball down on the slower tables better than she has done in England, she turned in 3-0 wins over MILDRED SHAHIAN (revengeing the English Open final), and LEAH THALL NEUBERGER. Glamorous Reba sprang several feet into the air when that last winning point came her way and consoled the gallant Leach with a big kiss.

Then, showing a neat line in footwork she contrived to "bag" two of the three table officials before they reached the sanctuary of the sidelines! Still, her victory was a good feat, and none too early

recognition for a player who has performed consistently well in top company.

### 2,500 Miles to Compete

Magda and a covey of young Californian fans drove 2,500 miles to compete at St. Louis. Roughly equivalent to E.T.T.A. members having to come from Constantinople!

Other long-distance entries (apart from our own) were KEUN CHANG CHOI from Korea, and Lieut. PAUL RIVEROS from Chile. Strangely enough these two far-flung rivals exploited similar styles, relying upon a penholder grip forehand drive with a tremendous lifting action which threatened the integrity of their shoulder-joints. Both are a little panicky when boldly counter-attacked.

The young Choi, Korean champion, told us that he beat the leading Japanese players 2 or 3 years ago, but he believes there has been a phenomenal improvement in Japan recently.

The Japanese entered the U.S. Open but could not raise the dollars for travelling (a common complaint).

### Retrospective Notes

American "Juniors" age-group is 16-18. Below that there are the "Boys" and "Junior Misses." This, I think, is a good system. The standard of play was about the same as our own similar age-classes, the number of entrants rather less.

Players had to wear white clothing. Some clearly didn't include shoes under the heading of clothing. On first view the all-white spectacle was refreshing, but it quickly became the reverse. The spectating eye became tired, and one missed the sense of personality and easy identification which the traditional colours bring to our game.

Look out for JACK CARRINGTON'S American Anecdotes in September "Table Tennis."

## ADAMS IN FORM AT W. MIDDLESEX

West Ealing, April 12-22

by TONY MILLER

**L**EN ADAMS, of Middlesex, scored a great success in beating Harry Venner after a lengthy struggle of painstaking defence against slow top-spin attack. The match was not spectacular but was always interesting, especially in the fourth game, when Venner fought back from 12-18 to 20-20 only to lose. Adams' earlier victims were somewhat kinder, Dennis Miller experimented with his backhand flick and lost in a jiffy and the usually consistent Crayden

seemed completely out of touch in the semi.

Keith Hurlock showed his best form to date in beating Ron Sharman, —13, 20, 18, playing patiently and not despising defence but found Venner too much of a handful in the other semi. Eric Filby scratched from the tournament in rather doubtful taste after beating Derek Burridge, 19, 19, and all but beating Crayden. The promising Burridge might have profited from the experience of playing Crayden, and the latter had to find a new doubles partner in Eric Marsh.

Sharman and Craigie scampered home by a short chop in the Men's Doubles by defending better than their opponents hit. In an innocuous women's entry, Diane Rowe disposed of Margaret Fry and then was beaten by sister Rosalind, who triumphed in three events. The Junior Singles allowed David Eagles (Kent) to show his promise and Yvonne Baker successfully to top-spin against stylish Doreen Spooner in another surprising final.

### RESULTS

Semi-Finals:

M.S. H. Venner beat K. Hurlock 18, 17.

L. Adams beat R. Crayden 16, 13.

Finals:

M.S. L. Adams beat H. Venner —12, —17, 18, 20, 15.

W.S. R. Rowe beat D. Rowe 19, 13.

M.D. R. Sharman/K. Craigie beat H. Venner/L. Adams —16, —11, 21, 13, 19.

W.D. R. and D. Rowe beat Mrs. Heading/M. Fry 10, 17.

X.D. D. Miller/R. Rowe beat K. Craigie/D. Rowe 13, —13, 19.

J.B.S. D. Eagles beat W. Smith 14, 12.

J.G.S. Y. Baker beat D. Spooner.

### American National Championships At St. Louis, Missouri, Mar. 31—April 2, 1950. Scores of Finals:

M.S. Semi: J. Leach beat J. McClure, —18, —20, 17, 21, 15.

W. Holzrichter beat W. Price, 10, 19, —14, 14.

Final: J. Leach beat W. Holzrichter, 11, 18, 20.

M.D. Semi: Leach and Carrington beat McClure and Hazl, 18, —18, 17, 10.

Holzrichter and Levy beat Nash and Lasater, 10, 14, 20.

Final: Leach and Carrington beat Holzrichter and Levy, 15, 15, 6.

X.D. Final: Leach and Mrs. Sally Green Prouty beat W. Price and Mrs. Reba Monness

W.S. Semi: Mrs. Monness beat Miss M. Shahlan, 17, 20, 12.

Leah Thall Neuberger beat Magda Rurac, 10, 20, 20.

Final: Moness beat Neuberger, 14, 12, 22.

W.D. Final: Rurac and Shahlan beat Peggy Ichkoff and Joan Van de Houten, 11, 18, —13, 14.

S.D. (over 35): Final: Carrington and Hock beat MacAvoy and Varga, 19, 20, 13.

S.S. Final: T. Hazl beat Varga, —18, 14, 22, 16.

## A CHALLENGE AND INVITATION

By Leslie S. Woollard, Associate Editor

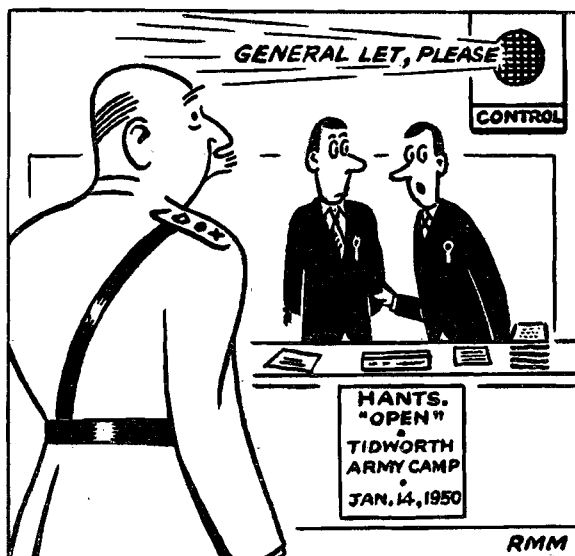
**T**WO months' breather to start 1950-51 with a really cracking September number, prelude to a record-breaking circulation volume. I am inviting and challenging table tennis enthusiasts everywhere to help "decorate our national shop window."

First, every progressive county and league should have an Hon. Magazine Secretary, preferably someone not tied up with official duties. Then I would like to see healthy inter-league competition between these secretaries as to who can organise the best distribution *proportionate to league membership*. For those counties or large centres issuing their own news sheet, *Table Tennis* has a first-rate co-operative scheme. Ask us about it if you don't know.

Secondly, I want to know the names and addresses of those prepared to act as our correspondents in different areas. That goes for anywhere in the world. If they write I will tell them what we have in mind.

Thirdly, I want to hear from anyone who has got *anything* to say. This magazine is open to all comers and to all opinions. A season's free subscription goes to the best letters received in the next couple of months.

I believe that the increased spread of table tennis in any area will inevitably lead to increased local development. I want to know of local areas where players have difficulty in getting copies. I want us to reach those few thousand extra copies circulation which will enable us to have a liberal display of new pictures and increase the news and feature content, which has this year, regrettably, often had to be cut.



"Explain to General Lett that it's not him we want..."

## YORKSHIRE AGAIN MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION

### Big Win Over Cambridge

Once more Yorkshire have been successful in withstanding a strong challenge to "unseat" them from the Premier Division, on this occasion by the convincing margin of 8—1. This big win came as an anti-climax to the two previous hard-fought and exciting matches.

Regular readers will remember that the draw for the earlier challenge matches resulted in Lincolnshire playing Devonshire, with the winners to play Cambridgeshire.

In the first match Devon just beat Lincoln by 5—4, with everything depending on the final rubber in which the two number 1's, Squire and Merryweather, played at the top of their form. When Merryweather won the first game at 19, it looked as though the tremendous Lincolnshire revival, which had begun when they were 4—1 down, was going to be successful, but Squire fought back with great determination, just took the second game at 18, and ran out a winner in the final game 21—13. This was a meritorious win for Devon, especially as their leading player, Devereux, was unable at the last moment to get leave from the Forces.

For their match with Cambridge, Devon were strengthened by the return of Devereux, and I hope Cambridge supporters will forgive me for saying that they started with a decided advantage in the girls' games. However, Cornwell, Thurston and Mills had other ideas, and succeeded in winning five of the six men's singles, a great performance. In fact, it was left to the Devon No. 3 to win their only tie, against Mills.

Once more the score was 4-all, but in contrast to the previous match this decider was virtually a walk-over, Cornwell beating Devereux 21—9, 21—10. Devereux was obviously short of practice, and also lost comfortably to Mills, whilst Squire revealed nothing of the form which had upset Lincs. Nevertheless, Cambridge took their chances, and were worthy winners.

And so to the final match; and as this was not played until the 6th May, readers will appreciate that I have no report (in fact, the Magazine is being held to include the result), but it appears from the scores that Yorkshire once more responded nobly to the threat against their Premier status, and most of the games were won by a convincing margin.

Scores (Yorkshire first) : B. Kennedy

lost to J. Cornwell —18, —20; beat E. Mills 10, 8. G. Mitton beat Cornwell 19, 13; beat J. Thurston 19, 19. S. Rosenberg beat Thurston 22, —16, 9; beat Mills 11, 11. Miss J. Smurthwaite beat Miss M. Lawrence —18, 7, 11. Kennedy and A. Thompson beat Cornwell and Thurston 22, 10. Mitton and Miss M. Lightfoot beat Mills and Miss Lawrence 14, 12.

### SURREY CLAIM

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION !

An incident without precedent in table tennis circles, and probably in any other sport, occurred when the Surrey Committee, having had their attention drawn to the circumstances of the Sussex/Devon match, claimed the Southern Division Title. Readers will remember that Devon and Surrey tied on points, and the games average shown last month was: Devon, for 48, against 24; Surrey, for 47, against 25.

Devon secured this average by means of a 7—2 win over Sussex, the match being played for four points, by decision of the Executive Commit-

### Geoffrey Harrower's Monthly Review

tee. At the time, no decision had been taken regarding the actual games played, and normally this would have been only of academic interest. It fell to me as Secretary of the Championships to do something about it, and I considered that the logical course was that if you double the points you double the scores, and the win was therefore recorded in the records as 14—4.

Keen mathematicians will be able to work out that, with the score of 7—2, Devon's final games position would be: for 41, against 22, which, by the veriest fraction, is inferior to Surrey's 47 against 25. The Surrey Executive contended that the Championship should not be awarded on games which were never played, whilst Devon retorted that they could hardly win a match 0—0, and that the Secretary's action was the right one.

At a specially called meeting of the Executive Committee, it was unanimously decided that the action taken in doubling the scores was the correct one, and that it was, therefore, confirmed that Devonshire had won the Southern Division. At the same time,

it was also felt that Surrey had taken the correct course in drawing the attention of the Committee to the position.

### NEXT SEASON'S RULES

No less than eight rules have been amended, and one fresh rule introduced. Space being short, I will dispose in a bulk of what might be termed administrative rules, by saying that there are several changes designed to tighten up the regulations, and in future counties not obeying the regulations will have to pay small fees. Examples are that if counties do not notify the Secretary of fixtures it will cost them 5s., and a similar sum will be forfeited if fixtures are not arranged to time. Another administrative rule deals with notice being given of proposed amendments, whilst the Finance Rule has again been altered in an endeavour to find the ideal division of the spoils.

Of direct interest to readers, however, are the following changes :

- (a) In future ten rubbers will constitute a match, and not nine.
- (b) The additional match will be a men's doubles, which will mean that the old option of playing men's or women's doubles is discontinued, and that in future both types of doubles will be played.
- (c) Automatic relegation from the Premier Division is the fate of the county finishing at the foot of the table.
- (d) A player once having played for his first team can no longer again play for a second team unless there are special circumstances.

For three seasons Yorkshire have finished at the foot of the table, whilst Middlesex have been champions. It would be ironic if next season Yorkshire won the title whilst Middlesex finished at the bottom !

### PLAYERS' AVERAGES

I regret that, owing to a printer's error, Derek Merryweather's average in the North Midland Division was shown as played 4, won 3, lost 1, whereas, of course, he played regularly in every match, and it should have read played 10, won 8, lost 2, average 80 per cent. Additionally, I credited young Peter Skerratt with a match which he lost, and his statistics were, therefore, identical with Merryweather's.

Now for the three remaining divisions.

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS—Continued

## HOME COUNTIES' DIVISION

AVERAGES (MEN)			%	
R. Langner (Essex)	6	5	1	83
D. Ironmonger (Beds.)	8	6	2	75
D. Randall (Beds.)	8	6	2	75
C. Wilson (Bucks.)	8	6	2	75
C. Crowe (Beds.)	4	3	1	75
R. Hook (Essex)	4	3	1	75
G. Bebb (Herts.)	6	4	2	66
L. Thompson (Bucks.)	8	5	3	62
L. Robey (Bucks.)	6	3	3	50
F. Holdroyd (Beds.)	4	2	2	50
C. Mortlock (Essex)	4	2	2	50
R. Islip (Herts.)	8	3	5	37
R. Forrest (Berks.)	4	0	4	0
P. Morecroft (Berks.)	4	0	4	0
R. Sackl (Herts.)	4	0	4	0
W. Wheeler (Berks.)	4	0	4	0
K. Egginton (Berks.)	8	0	8	0

WOMEN			%	
Mrs. C. Bridgen (Herts.)	4	4	0	100
Miss B. Milbank (Essex)	2	2	0	100
Miss O. Swales (Beds.)	3	2	1	66
Miss W. Dakin (Essex)	2	1	1	50
Miss S. Flax (Bucks.)	2	1	1	50
Mrs. K. Egginton (Berks.)	4	0	4	0

## EAST ANGLIAN DIVISION

AVERAGES (MEN)			%	
L. Adams (Middx.)	12	11	1	92
J. Thurston (Cambs.)	6	5	1	83
D. Lowen (Middx.)	10	8	2	80
J. Cornwell (Cambs.)	12	9	3	75
S. Eisle (Middx.)	12	9	3	75
E. Filby (Norfolk)	12	8	4	66
F. Tilbrook (Cambs.)	4	2	2	50
E. Mills (Cambs.)	12	4	8	33
G. Whittaker (Suffolk)	12	4	8	33
C. Bean (Suffolk)	10	3	7	30
C. Welntroub (Suffolk)	12	3	9	25
T. Williams (Suffolk)	8	2	6	25
W. Minors (Norfolk)	4	1	3	25
H. Fleck (Norfolk)	6	1	5	16

WOMEN			%	
Miss E. Benstead (Middx.)	4	4	0	100
Miss B. Sadler (Norfolk)	4	4	0	100
Miss M. Marston (Middx.)	2	2	0	100
Miss V. Martin (Suffolk)	4	2	2	50
Mrs. B. Harvey (Cambs.)	2	0	2	0
Mrs. R. Hawkey (Cambs.)	4	0	4	0

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

AVERAGES (MEN)			%	
R. Turner (Surrey)	8	7	1	87
C. Seaman (Sussex)	14	12	2	86
K. Hurlock (Surrey)	6	5	1	83
A. Miller (Surrey)	16	13	3	81
L. Muller (Hants.)	16	13	3	81
F. Grigg (Devon)	10	7	3	70
J. Head (Surrey)	14	9	5	64
A. Squire (Devon)	14	9	5	64
S. Moore (Sussex)	14	8	6	57
B. Fretwell (Sussex)	14	7	7	50
L. Devereux (Devon)	8	4	4	50
R. Mole (Devon)	6	3	3	50
R. Etheridge (Kent)	4	2	2	50
F. Saunders (Hants.)	6	2	4	33
E. Gilbert (Hants.)	8	2	6	25
F. Holman (Kent)	4	1	3	25
J. Tabbenor (Kent)	4	1	3	25
K. Spychalski (Surrey)	4	1	3	25
C. Parry (Kent)	14	3	11	21
F. Bradley (Hants.)	6	1	5	16
S. Minter (Hants.)	6	1	5	16
C. Whitren (Hants.)	6	1	5	16
R. Bush (Kent)	8	1	7	12
R. Syndercombe (Kent)	12	1	11	8

WOMEN			%	
Miss D. Beregl (Devon)	6	6	0	100
Miss J. Ing (Kent)	4	2	2	50
Miss M. Piper (Surrey)	4	2	2	50
Miss D. Plater (Surrey)	2	1	1	50
Mrs. R. Bromfield (Sussex)	2	1	1	50
Mrs. G. Horn (Hants.)	5	2	3	40
Miss P. Cantor (Kent)	3	1	2	33
Miss S. Sacker (Sussex)	3	0	3	0

## THAMESIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS Middlesex Players Again Do Well, Leach Beaten

**SEMI-FINALS:**  
M.S. K. Craigie beat J. Leach 15, 18, —18, 14.  
M. Thornhill beat H. Venner 16, —18, 14.

**FINAL:**  
Craigie beat Thornhill —17, 12, —18, 18, 18.

**SEMI-FINALS:**  
W.S. Miss J. Roberts beat Miss R. Rowe 14, 11,  
Miss D. Rowe beat Miss M. Franks 17, 13.

**FINAL:**  
Miss Roberts beat Miss D. Rowe 18, —15, 17.  
M.D. Leach/Carrington beat Brumwell/Collar 16, 14, —13, —19, 15.  
W.D. D. Rowe/R. Rowe beat M. Franks/M. Fry 17, 13.  
X.D. Craigie/D. Rowe beat D. Miller/R. Rowe 14, —15, 21.  
J.B.S. D. Burridge beat I. Barnett 10, 14.  
J.G.S. Miss D. Spooner beat Miss S. Smith 17, 12.

## Craigie beats Adams in Civil Service Finals

### FINALS—LONDON, 28th APRIL

With 900 entries from various parts of the country—over 100 from Birmingham alone—it was perhaps natural to have a number of unexpected results in the preliminary rounds. Amongst them were the elimination of Yorkshire County player Thompson by Leeks; and Mace, who in the post-war years must have only just missed International honours, in the semi-final of the singles by an inspired Dakin in the semi-final of the ladies' doubles in partnership with County player Malget by Wiegand and Swatman, and in the quarter-final of the mixed doubles in partnership with Thompson by Morton and the rapidly improving Sims, who previously had beaten the holders, Dakin and Heywood.

International Steventon from Nottingham came through to three finals, beating Wiegand in the semi-final of the singles, in partnership with Bolton from Lincoln beating Sims and Morton in the semi-final of the mixed doubles, and in partnership with Dakin beating in the semi-final of the ladies' doubles Emdin and Fowler, who had previously been given a hard game by the promising youngsters Hart and Francis. County player Adams reached the final of the men's singles with powerful and controlled hitting against Sawyer in the semi-final, but International Craigie had to fight hard to beat Peck in the other half.

On finals night, before an enthusiastic and distinguished crowd, the attack of Steventon and Bolton was too strong for defensive Malget and Sawyer in the mixed doubles. Junior International Burridge's superior all-round play gave him the boys' title against Pratt. The women's singles match produced the brightest match of the evening, Dakin refusing to submit to Steventon's attack and counter-hit brilliantly, only to fall to Steventon's steadiness in the deciding game. Craigie and Thompson won the men's doubles against Adams and Burridge, being superior in both attack and defence. Steventon won her third title in partnership with Dakin in the ladies' doubles, overhauling a big lead in the second game against Wiegand and Swatman. The final of the girls' championship was exciting only as regards the final score of a deuce in the third-game win by Smith over Lucas and there is scope for improvement in this section of C.S. table tennis.

Adams has been an advancing player this season, and many expected him to beat Craigie, but the final of the men's singles disclosed a Craigie who had recovered some of the hitting power he had last season and who had acquired a steadiness which prevented Adams from fully developing his attack. A win for Craigie in the fourth game was a fair reflection of the play. The veteran's singles was a good game, Vilches making some extraordinary retrieves against Hellings, the holder, but never recovering from a bad start in the deciding game.

DENIS OFFER.

(See P. 14 for full scores)



A. R. (Tony) MILLER  
(Surrey and Central League)

Meet Tony Miller, our candid critic and prolific tournament reporter. He "knocked off" a seaside hotel "Closed" in 1939, but didn't take Table Tennis up seriously until his demob. in 1947, but, now possessor of a strong chop defence and swerving backhand flick, merits his place in Surrey Southern and Central League teams.

In spare time from being husband, reporter and playing Table Tennis, Tony also plays Cricket, Soccer, Rugger, Badminton, Golf and Lawn Tennis and Chess. He says his motto is to "Keep an imprudent mind and a prudent tongue," and is a man of decided likes and dislikes; his pet hates include unbalanced hero-worship, square balls and net-cords at deuce.

# LANCASHIRE LINES

By **STANLEY PROFFITT**

**T**HIS month's honours are shared equally between **DERYCK HEAPS** (Stockport), **CLIFFORD BOOTH** (Bolton), **EILEEN GRIMSTONE** (Marple), **ANDREE JONES** and **RONNIE RUMJAHN** (Liverpool).

**RONNIE ALLCOCK'S** form this year has been puzzling, but he is the only new cap this side of the Birmingham line, and we remember cheering ourselves hoarse at the end half of the old year. At his recent 21st birthday celebrations, his many friends joined hands in wishing him the best of luck for 1950/51. So say all of us.

Still in his middle twenties, **KEN STANLEY** deserves a medal of merit for raising the drooping prestige of the Lancs County team off its weary knees. A certain high authority in London ranks him No. 3 British-born player. He has yet to lose to either Ron Crayden and Harry Venner.

## Deryck Heaps in Devastating Form

**I**T gives me real pleasure to record **DERYCK HEAPS'** first ever Open win at Grimsby. Deryck, a diehard enthusiast who suffered the horrors of a Japanese prison camp during the war, was tickled pink about it. He confided to me afterwards, that had he not been successful, he intended to hand his racquet to his young son.

We shall see Deryck for some seasons yet, and let's hope he'll maintain the

same devastating form, for on that day defeating an opponent was like shelling peas. Dougie Shaw must have thought he had been caught in a whirlwind when Deryck beat him in the semi at 12, and 3, and then stymied Ronnie Allcock in the final at 14, and 17. Great stuff for a 34-year-old youngster.

## Outstanding Youngsters

**S**PECIALLY noteworthy are the performances of **CLIFFORD BOOTH** (14 years) and **ANDREE JONES** (17 years) in reaching the semi-finals of the *Daily Mirror* tournament. In the Zone Finals at Bradford, Clifford showed himself a remarkable tactician for one so young, and you can pencil his name in for future honours.

Much the same can be said of Andree, who, in her first serious season is making the big-wigs raise their eyebrows. She uses her height and long reach to advantage, and even more important, unlike most of her age, she has an excellent match temperament. To defeat Catherine Best and then Gladys Holmes in three straight is no mean feat. Merseysiders are so pleased to think that she might well help restore Liverpool playing standards to their rightful place.

Billie Stamp hasn't had a good night's rest since Ken Hyde shelved his bat, and with Bill Pierce in the Forces, only the Rose Bowl team are showing a brave front.

During the Liverpool Closed, four left-handers appeared in the Men's

Doubles Final. I cannot at any time in my career ever remember such a coincidence happening. Peter and Ronnie Rumjahn were on the winning side, and Ronnie by also winning the Singles, created high jinks in the Rumjahn household that evening, preparatory to his convincing win of the Men's Singles of the North Wales Open on April 15th.

## Eileen Grimstone makes the grade

Eileen Grimstone also further distinguished herself by winning the W.S. of the North Wales. Eileen has had a grand season with three open championships and the super *Evening Chronicle* cup, she's got something to shout about.

Present-time standards are not comparable with our pre-war. Benny Casofsky, due to pressure of business, has not given the form we know he is capable of. There are high hopes, however, that **HYMIE LURIE** is likely to be back, and with Ken Stanley, raise the Lancs challenge to the great. Only Dereck Ellison, who recently won the Lancs and Cheshire Closed, Allcock, and possibly Ronnie Baker are doing anything to close the gap.

## Manchester knocked off their perch

**A**T all times when a championship changes hands it is a good thing for the game, but specially so when one team has been perched on top since the foundation. This has now happened in the L. & C. Leagues where the proud Manchester "A" have had at last to bow their heads to a young Bolton team.

## Topsy-Turvy Form at Bucks Open

**SLOUGH, APRIL 1st-2nd** ....

**E**ACH year the Bucks Open provides us with staggering results and temporary upheavals of form. This year was no exception, due mainly to the various types of tables and the mixture of daylight and artificial lighting.

Little-known Ray Moore counter-hit Swaythling Cup player Bernard Crouch off the table 15 and 10; Derek Burridge beat Ron Sharman 18, 18, then lost to John Thurston of Cambridge, who then fell a victim to the rampant Moore. Surrey County player, rugged Roy Turner, hit through International Dennis Miller, and Eric Marsh played very well indeed against Michael Thornhill, blending attack with defence in his usual stylish vein, but later lost to Jack Head, who did well to reach the semi-final.

The Welwyn Garden whirlwind, Glyn Bebb, came within an ace of beating Harry Venner, winning the first at 16, and only losing the second at 19. Venner later beat Ken Craigie but had no ideas against Simons, hitting desperately and losing quickly. Simons had pursued his usual efficient point-careful path, beating Brian Kennedy, 19, 10,

### Reported by **TONY MILLER**

after being 12-18 down in the first. 17-year-old Ivor Barnett, of Luton, produced fluent hitting in beating Eric Filby, 19, in the third. Later, Barnett remained unperturbed by his opponent's moustache in the Junior Boys' Singles Final and won comfortably.

Richard Bergmann having set the seal of greatness firmly on his career in once more winning the World's and English championships, retained his title in another stimulating tussle with Simons. The Bristol man fought hard and hit brilliantly at great speed, if more recklessly than in the English, but Bergmann's defence and confidence prevailed. Simons showed again the great improvement he has made this season and kindled hopes that he has not yet reached his peak.

In the ladies' events we did not have so many upsets. Margaret Fry, reproducing the form which she showed in the Thameside last year, surprised Joyce Roberts, and nearly repeated the performance on Diane Rowe, who finally

won 23, 19, after an astounding struggle. Miss Fry led 20-8 in the first and Diane, deciding that the game was lost, started hitting everything. Miss Fry confidently waited for one to go off and did not worry overmuch until 20-17, when both realised that the game was still in the balance! In the second game Miss Fry trailed 15-19, recovered to 19-19, only to lose. A truly remarkable affair.

Pearl Swales took a game from Rosalind and Elsie Weaver showed a crisp determined forehead in taking a game from Peggy Franks who dealt with both twins in summary manner. The men's doubles gave birth to a new duo in Peter Lowen and Jack Glickman who, playing steadily, reached the final, where Kennedy/Thornhill carried too many guns for them. A notable surprise in this event was the defeat of that competent couple Sharman/Craigie by the New Zealanders, Crossley and Brightwell. Mr. Leo Thompson, the organiser, is to be complimented on battling with an immense entry in a short space of time.

*Final Results were published in last month's "Table Tennis Magazine."*

# THE 'DAILY MIRROR' TOURNAMENT

## GOOD PLAY AT ALBERT HALL

THE *Daily Mirror* National Table Tennis Tournament, 1949/50, reached its climax in a colourful spectacle at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on April 25th.

From early morning, London's famous hall, fondly remembered as the scene of the 1938 World Championships, was once again given over completely to table tennis. The afternoon's semi-finals were followed by a neatly staged demonstration of mass instruction entitled "Focus on Table Tennis."

Amongst distinguished onlookers were Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, and Sir Malcolm Sargent, the conductor.

For the evening session the Albert Hall was packed to its 4,500 capacity, and the B.B.C. televised over an hour of the play. Mr. Corti Woodcock was the compère.

Space does not permit us to describe the matches in detail. There was no denying the supremacy of Diane Rowe, winner of both Girls' and Women's events, and of Len Adams, who has recently started to defeat rivals of international rank. Jimmy Lowe, English Junior Champion, won his Junior final decisively, but his opponent, Clifford Booth, was the "find" of the tournament.

With three more years in the junior class, 14-year-old Clifford from Bolton has the intelligence and fighting powers to become a really great player.

Peter Skerratt from Scunthorpe, only 18, captured many hearts with his courageous style, and is another whose skill is just ripe for blending with wider experience.

Mr. Bob Stewart, president of the Scottish Association, expressed his pleasure at the good showing made by three of his members on their first appearance in London. Their rapid improvement augurs well for the standard of the Scottish game. In fact, every one of the provincial visitors stood up well to severe tests; they should quickly feel the benefit of the free coaching course for which all semi-finalists qualify. Clubs and leagues nominated by the winners will receive

£200 worth of cash vouchers for table tennis equipment.

### HAGUENAUER BEATS LEACH AND BERGMANN

During the evening three fine matches were played by Richard Bergmann, Victor Barna, Johnny Leach and Michel Haguenauer, competing for the *Daily Mirror* International Invitation Trophy. Haguenauer, hitting better than he ever used to, beat the 1949 and 1950 World Champions in turn to win this trophy and the admiration of the crowd.

### SCORES

#### Men's Singles

Semi-Finals:

P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe) beat F. Hill (Birmingham) 17, 16, 18.

L. Adams (W. Ealing) beat P. Hutchison (Kirkcaldy) 14, 9, 14.

FINAL:

ADAMS beat SKERRATT 16, 11, 9.

#### Women's Singles

Semi-Finals:

Diane Rowe (W. Ealing) beat Pearl Swales (Luton) 15, —17, 12, 19.

Phyllis Lammin (Grimsby) beat Lillian Dickson (Edinburgh) 11, 13, 20.

FINAL:

DIANE ROWE beat PHYLLIS LAMMIN 16, —22, 7, 13.

#### Boys' Singles

Semi-Finals:

Jimmy Lowe (Ashford) beat Alex Morton (Hamilton) 19, 13, 13.

Clifford Booth (Bolton) beat Ivor Barnet (Luton) 15, 11, 16.

FINAL:

LOWE beat BOOTH —15, 19, 16, 12.

#### Girls' Singles

Semi-Finals:

Diane Rowe beat Valerie Harvey (Bristol) 11, 7, 12.

Andree Jones (Wallasey) beat Philomena Heppell (Hexham) 11, 18, —20, 13.

FINAL:

DIANE ROWE beat ANDREE JONES 14, 19, 9.

### INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TROPHY

Semi-Finals:

R. Bergmann beat V. Barna 14, 7.

M. Haguenauer beat J. Leach 19, 18.

FINAL:

M. HAGUENAUER beat R. BERGMANN —19, 7, 11.



LEN ADAMS

(Middlesex, Central League and Civil Service)

LEN ADAMS' consistently improving form will certainly bring him a long way towards achieving his great ambition: an international cap. In addition to being "Daily Mirror" National Champion, 1949-50, he has won 2 Open Tournament Singles and several open doubles titles, and has been finalist or runner-up in many more, as well as holder of many "closed" titles.

He has won 16 out of 19 county games for Middlesex 11's and in matches or tournaments this season has had one or more victories over such internationals as Venner, Bubleby, Crayden, Thornhill, Harrower, Filby, Kennedy and Brumwell.

Single and still in the early 20's, Len has known Table Tennis since he was 11 years old, but never concentrated until his demob. from the R.A.F. (where he had the splendid record of more than 1,000 flying hours as Navigator with Transport Command). As an all-rounder, has won many prizes for gymnastics, boxing, athletics, chess, billiards, tennis, soccer and cricket. With a full soccer blue (Southampton University) he temporarily retired from the Dulwich Hamlet soccer team this year to concentrate on Table Tennis with the success you see. His motto is, "Never play matches in practice—never practise in matches," and any observer of Len's progress through the season will report improving tactical play.

Len's style is based on a solid but fluid defensive game, blending with an orthodox forehand attack of increasing strength, executed in a somewhat unorthodox manner.

## DORA BEREGI

MAYBE it doesn't help our export drive, but England's flow of T.T. enthusiasts overseas certainly aids useful strength to where needed. We hear that DORA BEREGI (English International and current world's women's doubles champion) is emigrating to Australia soon, with husband Mr. Devenny and 15-month-old son John. England's loss will be Australia's gain, and let us hope we shall soon see an Australian Corbillon team.

## TABLE TENNIS

The next issue of the Magazine will be published on  
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**ORDER YOUR COPY NOW**

Circulation Manager: G. R. HARROWER

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# American Bat Chat

by airmail from

**Reba Kirston Monness**

We are pleased to welcome the U.S. National Champion, glamorous and provocative REBA MONNESS, to our team of distinguished correspondents. Reba Monness is an outstanding performer in nearly every sport open to a woman, a particularly good lawn tennis player, and knows U.S. table tennis from the inside, from the basement to the penthouse. Readers are invited to ask us for any information they would like on the U.S. game.

SOMEONE said, somewhere, some time: "Do not explain. Your friends do not need it, and your enemies will not believe you," but this writer is complying with the request of Leslie Woollard, so, in Rabelaisian fashion, may you gaily read with ease and rest of reins and may something carry you off if you disown me after having read me . . .

THE hospitality of the E.T.T.A. and the Austrian T.T.A., and of all of our British and Austrian friends, was deeply appreciated. The functioning of the E.T.T.A. is colossal. The tournaments are run beautifully. I wish that all Americans could see the English Open in progress at Wembley!!! If only the U.S.T.T.A. would become sufficiently powerful as to be able to invite teams from all of the countries affiliated with the I.T.T.F. to participate in International matches and to be hosts to the World's Championships!!! This would help t.t. to be more recognised and respected in the U.S.A.

Here in the East (get out your maps), there are no more than one or two major tournaments per year. We compete against the best Western players once or twice annually in the girls' East v. West matches. In these the highest nationally ranked females of the Eastern states, usually about ten, are invited to participate in a round-robin event. The four who win the most matches are members of each team. A similar event is held in the area of the Western states for the Western team.

The men compete in Inter-City team matches; and the other time we meet is at the yearly U.S. Open Championships around the first of April. In the West, many many more tournaments are held throughout the year.

WITHIN New York, there is just one t.t. playing establishment, which is called "The Broadway T.T. Courts,"

where there are twelve tables. At five tables, where most of the beginners or "ping-pongers" play, there is not much space. Dick Miles, Marty Reisman, Sol Schiff, Douglas Cartland, Bellak, Glancz, Ed Pinner, John Somael and many other well-known t.t.'ers practise here.

You have asked about Reisman and Miles. Dick has a sun-lamp tan, looks very well, fuller faced, and seems to have gained weight. Marty may have grown an inch or two. He has applied to have his suspension lifted and hopes to go to Australia this year to play exhibitions with Szabados.

They are two decidedly different types of male. Both intelligent and sensitive and both interested in improving their cultural outlook. Miles likes classical music, is frequently seen at concerts or reading a book. Reisman is increasing his vocabulary and loves to use many-syllabled words.

The first time I saw Marty play, he was a lilliputian 14-year-old, and I wrote then in the U.S.S.T.A. magazine that he was a coming champion. I know them both well, and despite—*très, très beaucoup*—the millions of times I could have assassinated them, I am still fond of both. Dick is the better match player, to date, he concentrates more.

When we played in the English Open in 1947, a very very short, and very very young lad was one of my constant companions. His charming manners and sincere solicitude endeared him to me—yet I never knew his name. Several times did I ask the American players who were in England in '48 and '49 if they saw this boy but I did not know how to describe him. During the 1950 International match at Luton, a face (attached to an elongated body) suddenly peered into mine and said: "Remember me?" Surely, I recalled that countenance, yet so tall had he grown!!! Then he told me that he also was playing in the International that evening—and when he did play (and wonderfully well, at that!) I was really thrilled because I never even knew that MY wee Mickey Thornhill had ever held a table tennis racquet in his hand. Yes, Mickey was that same gentleman of '47 . . . but

alas, I noticed that I have keen competition for M.T.'s heart!

Richard Bergmann is one of the greatest match-players of all. In fact, when he is competing, an inexplicable something about his person commands attention.

For several years this person pleaded with the U.S.T.T.A. to adopt compulsory all-white wearing apparel, and now it does my heart good to witness this, although the subject is yet a moot one with you folks. From every point of view, white is the best colour. Shall I go into detail? Well, from the spectators' eyes, wearing white gives the players more dignity (perhaps even chastity!) and freshness and makes table tennis players appear more athletic. After all, table tennis is a sport. Then the colour of playing costumes being the same; WHITE, the spectators, newspaper reporters *et al* can observe the individuality of each competitor (strokes, personality, various movements, etc.). In my opinion, all colours other than white tend to keep table tennis on a much lower level than warranted. And white is also more photogenic in EVERY way. Thoughts are so strong about wearing all white, and I can assure you that it will be a definite aid to the E.T.T.A. and the I.T.T.F. (Do not shoot, wait until you see the whites of my eyes!!)

## In brief . . .

In the U.S.A. top-notch players are "on their own." There isn't any personal interest or table tennis grooming, which I notice is prevalent with the E.T.T.A. and all European countries . . . I think there are more top-notch female players in America than in England or any other country . . . I continue loving Victor Barna, his courtesy and discernment, and think his advice helped me to win the U.S. Singles Championship . . . It would be better for team players if exhibitions could be arranged AFTER tournaments for players travelling abroad . . . Would like to see universal currency, universal table tennis balls and universal tables. Your tables are wonderful . . .



# Just Talking

with Audrey Fowler

**AUDREY FOWLER**, ace umpire of the English Open, pre-war Ice Hockey International, semi-finalist World's Ladies' Doubles, 1948, had to fight spinal trouble for 4 years before becoming Wembley League's leading lady player-cum-organiser-cum-umpire.

**L**ITTLE is ever said about the also-rans in any Tournament. Such was the case in the English Championships. A salute, therefore, to the gallant three from Portugal who paid their own expenses from Lisbon in order to play. Despite language difficulties, **FERNANDO RAMOS**, **FRANCISCO CAMPAS**, and **CARLOS GALLIANO**, numbers one, five, and ten respectively in their own country, made themselves very popular amongst the players and officials, and although perhaps a little below international standard, the fact that Ramos took Micky Thornhill to five games bodes well for their future. May we have the pleasure of their company again.

**MORE** sisters in the news, this time **DOOREEN** and **BERYL SPOONER**, of Staines. Doreen, 15 years old, already has four Junior Championships to her credit and has still two years to go in the Junior ranks. Twelve-year-old Beryl, besides being an up and coming T.T. player is also a keen horsewoman. Proud owner of a pony which answers to the name of "Vanity," Beryl took 44 Rosettes and four cups in various Gymkhanas last year and on Easter Monday took a further two cups and a third and fourth place.

**MINOR** sensation in the West London Tournament was the defeat of **PEGGY PIPER** by little-known **PAT INGRAM** of the Wembley League. Nineteen years old, tall and left-handed, Pat is not able to give as much time as she would wish to the game as she is studying hard. Taken in hand, she could prove a real find.

**A** YOUNG fan wants to know if Dennis Miller wears a shirt under his pullover or if the collar is just camouflage. Apparently, he has never seen Dennis remove the first tier. How about satisfying his curiosity, Dennis?

**ENTHUSIASM** plus. 16-year-old **JOHN USHERWOOD** spent a Sunday afternoon bussing from Croydon to Plaistow in order to enter the Thameside Open. From the Tournament venue he was directed to the Secretary's address, but found that he had moved. Calls on a couple of other houses in the district eventually found him at the new residence where he waited for two hours.

All to hand in his 1s. 6d. entrance fee to ensure his entry being accepted.

**A** SHOCK awaited a certain Tournament Committee when they turned up for an evening session to find their tables extremely shiny and greasy. Investigation showed that a well-meaning helper had found the tables dusty and with every good intention, had washed them over with **PETROL**.

**ERIC MARSH** tells this story against himself. Leaving a Tournament very late one night, he and a friend missed their train, had an hour to wait for the next and decided to take advantage of a long table in the waiting-room to obtain a little practice. So, at 1 o'clock in the morning, they draped their towels across the table for a net and then proceeded to have a knock. Their play was interrupted by a young lady who looked in, gasped and rapidly disappeared. Only when the two stalwarts left the waiting-room to catch their train, did they notice the sign on the door. **LADIES ONLY**.

**F**INALLY, record hunters are at it again. The Maccabi Club are proud of the fact that they have won the Willesden League for the third year in succession. The Herga Club can easily beat that record. In the Wembley and Harrow League, they have just completed the double of winning the League Championship and the Elvin K.O. Cup Competition for the fourth year in succession. And the amazing point is that the Club has, throughout that period, been represented by the same trio, **LES SPARKE**, **TOM DREW** and **JIMMY BAILEY**.

CIVIL SERVICE FINALS SCORES	
M.S.	K. Craigie beat L. G. Adams —14, 18, 16, 17.
W.S.	E. M. Steventon beat W. J. Dakin 16, —19, 10.
M.D.	Craigie and A. Thompson beat Adams and D. C. Burridge 24, 14, —15, 17.
W.D.	Dakin and Steventon beat H. Wiegand and S. W. Swatman 13, 19.
X.D.	R. T. Bolton and Steventon beat W. J. Sawyer and J. Malget —15, 14, 17.
B.S.	Burridge beat W. Pratt 13, 15.
G.S.	B. Smith beat S. Lucas 13, —14, 20.
V.S.	A. F. Hellings beat L. A. Vilches 13, —18, 15.

## LUXURY AT SCARBOROUGH

N.E. ENGLAND OPEN  
8-10 APRIL

**N**EW records in entries and attendance added further laurels to this splendidly organised tournament, which reflects high credit on the Scarborough League and particularly on Sid Waller, Organising Secretary.

The excellent arrangements and conditions, even to that desirable luxury of hot and cold showers, evoked the appreciative comments of most contestants. With the final event finishing at 9.45 p.m., some idea of the admirable timing is given, a point which seldom receives the attention it deserves. Altogether, a model tournament which, if it can maintain this standard, will deservedly continue to increase in popularity.

The North-East England is of added interest and value because it provides an excellent battleground for the meeting of northern and southern stars, and if it were only for this reason, is something to be encouraged.

Of the northern players, **MARJORIE LIGHTFOOT** (Leeds) and **PETER SKERRATT** (Scunthorpe) were outstanding. The former beat **DIANE ROWE** in a tight three-game of duce points in every one. Young Skerratt has the makings of a champion and would benefit enormously from top match play; he is a courageous and determined fighter and did not wilt in his final against the masterly and experienced Bergmann. Diane and Rosalind, as usual, delighted the spectators with their crisp, clean aggression. (Who said the ladies' game cannot be attractive?)

The Mixed was a lively battle with the result in doubt until the last score.

The presentation of the trophies and prizes was made by Mr. Maurice D. Shaffner, Chairman of the Yorks T.T.A.

### RESULTS

- Semi-Finals:  
M.S. P. Skerratt beat J. Watts 19, 8.  
R. Bergmann beat B. Kennedy 15, 8.  
W.S. Miss M. Lightfoot beat Miss D. Rowe 21, —24, 21.  
Miss R. Rowe beat Miss J. Walker.  
Finals:  
M.S. R. Bergmann beat P. Skerratt 8, 14, 10.  
W.S. Miss R. Rowe beat Miss M. Lightfoot 19, 6.  
M.D. K. Hurlock and D. A. Miller beat R. Bergmann and M. Shearer —16, 15, 20.  
W.D. Miss D. Rowe and Miss R. Rowe beat Miss M. Lightfoot and Miss D. Munnings 11, —19, 19.  
X.D. D. A. Miller and Miss R. Rowe beat R. Bergmann and Miss E. Robson 11, —19, 19.  
J.B.S. M. Mackley (Hull) beat G. Knowles (Pontefract) 15, 17.  
Y.S. P. Skerratt beat M. Shearer 18, 15.

# NEWS FROM WALES

by H. ROY EVANS

## The Welsh Closed

**STAN JONES** (Newport) regained his singles title in the Welsh Closed over Easter by beating young Michael Jones in the semi-final and his old rival, Walter Sweetland, in a two straight Final. Sweetland, making something of a come-back, beat G. Bebb, a New-

bridge-born player, now living in Welwyn, in the semi-final, after the latter had provided the surprise of the tournament by beating Monty Smith.

In the Final, Sweetland played cleverly, but without the power necessary to beat Jones, who was in excellent defensive form.

The Women's title went to Betty Gray, Swansea, who, since she won the English Open Consolation, has been in great form. Her opponent in the Final was holder Audrey Bates, who attacked consistently, but lacked a winning shot.

Winner of the Boys' Event was fourteen-year-old David Phillips, Seven Sisters, who beat Swansea's Ian Hunter quite convincingly. Phillips impressed in the Junior International against England, and is undoubtedly a star of the future. Incidentally his club now has the Welsh Open and Closed Junior Champions, provided three of the Junior Welsh team, and all of the side which won the Junior Welsh League Championship for Dulais Valley.

Monty Smith and Gerald Chugg beat Walter Sweetland and Stan Jones to take the men's doubles, and Betty Gray and Betty Crews were too good for the off form Audrey Bates and Mrs. Roy Evans in the Women's Doubles.

Young Shirley Jones, Llanelly, diminutive but determined, followed up her earlier successes by beating Cardiff's Margaret Cotton to take the girls' event.

## North Wales Open

Up in North Wales, the first North Wales Open since the war was held at Holywell, and proved very successful. Manchester and Liverpool players were always enthusiastic supporters of the North Wales events, and it was very pleasing to see a coach-load of them again turning up.

Ronnie Rumjahn beat his brother Peter in one semi-final, whilst Heaps, Chester, beat Devine, also of Chester, in the other. Ronnie took the final 21-14, 21-16, to become the first holder of the Montagu Burton Challenge Cup.

Eileen Grimstone added another title to her collection, beating Mrs. I. Keeling (Rhyl) 15-21, 21-14, 21-12, to win the Lord Mostyn Challenge Bowl. Mrs. Keeling is to be congratulated on taking a game from the improving Manchester girl.

The Men's Doubles title went to Heaps and Devine, who beat Watts and Wine 21-19, 21-14. And in the Women's Doubles, J. Adderley and V. Taylor beat D. Banks and Eileen Grimstone. B. Airey and Mrs. V. Taylor took the Mixed Title, beating the old Welsh International Horace Needles and his partner, Miss Pat Davies, in the third.

The Jack Glazier Challenge Cup for Juniors was won by E. Pullar, Oldham, who beat Caldwell (Chester) in the semi, and C. Birtwhistle (Ellesmere Port) 21-14, 21-16 in the Final.

The prizes were presented by Nigel Birch, M.P.

## We are told . . .

**MR. BERNARD TELTSCHER, M.A.,** B.Sc., tells us that the Cambridge University League was formed MORE than three years ago, and claims that the standard must have been every bit as good as to-day (*vide January Magazine*).

He should know, because he was President of the C.U.T.T.C. when it was founded in 1945/46, with Mark Pryor as Match Secretary, and Miss M. Stevenson as General Secretary. The team included J. BALCH, former eleventh ranking U.S.A. player, and beat Oxford 10-3. Representative matches were also played with Cambridge and London University, and the Trinity College team won the Cambridge Town championships.

## MEMORIAL TROPHY

*Wembley and Harrow beat Croydon 6-3 in the fourth of this annual series which is played in commemoration of Cyril Merrett (Croydon) and Bob Mackey (Wembley), who lost their lives in the war. All proceeds are devoted to charity. It was a most enjoyable match, with the home league represented by W. McCave, L. Sparke and J. Bailey, and Croydon by K. Hurlock, R. Rurner and K. Merrett.*

## WORLD T.T. CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR DEAF?

Sam Kirkwood tells us about the second All-England Open T.T. Tournament for the Deaf held in London recently, and of a hope that it will be possible to stage a world championship for the deaf next year.

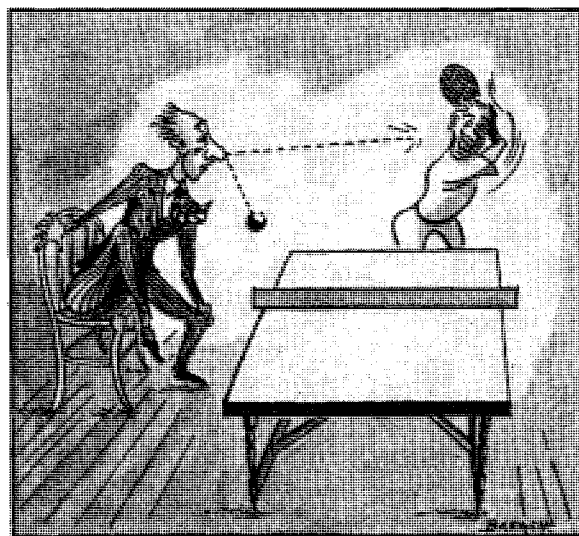
"Abby" WEINSTEIN (Manhattan) retained his singles title against the good but inconsistent attack of DAVID BERRY (Croydon), and BETTY LLEWELLYN (Cardiff) beat M. LITTLE (Salisbury) in the fifth game.

Do you remember Rex Marshall's cartoon in the November issue showing two natives debating the "All-White Dress Controversy" outside the "Bulawayo T.T.A."?

Believe it or not, there is such an organisation, and we have a four-page letter from Bulawayo to prove it. L. F. NUNN, Secretary of the Rhodesian T.T. Union, tells us of the big developments in that area where players travel 450 miles for the championships, and 200 miles for an inter-regional match. Bulawayo is actually one of the two main centres in Rhodesia, Salisbury being the other.

## At The Backhand Flicks

## Interrupted Journey



Director: KEITH WATTS

Producer: BREACH

¶ Two topics in which great interest was shown at the E.T.T.A. Annual General Meeting were neglect of the flat-hand service rule, and the cost of equipment. Here are articles on both these subjects.

## LET'S ALL SERVE PROPERLY

says Sam Kirkwood

*the well-known Journalist and Sports Editor, who again throws down the gauntlet to those who like things to stay exactly as they are.*

**T**HE trouble with us table tennis players is that once we get used to things—be they relevant to playing conditions, clothes, or regulations—we like them to stay exactly as they are and peacefully gather the dust of ages. A change, or even a proposed change, rouses us to fury and puts our backs up. That's why the lowering of the net from 6½ in. to 6 in. in 1938 met with such severe criticism; that's why the 20-minute time-limit ruling was thought to be a harsh one; and that's why the proposed wearing of white is turning many faces blue. That is also, why, so far as I can make out, the flat-hand service rule is proving the reverse of popular.

The vertical projection of the ball upwards from the open palm of the hand is the simplest thing in the world to execute and negatives all attempts at sly spin, yet I have met no one who has a good word to say for it. I could understand this attitude if we all had highly developed spin serves which could win us points, or at least make things darned awkward for the party at the other end of the table, or if the flat-palm serve were difficult to operate. But neither case applies. It's just that too many of us loathe being thrown out of a comfortable routine.

Do I consider the 1949 amendment an improvement on the previous rule, which permitted the ball to be released from the fingers so long as spin wasn't imparted? You will have gathered by this time that I do. Most definitely. It was obvious that, under the old ruling, smart-aleck exponents were breaking regulations by covertly imparting spin. The fingers covered the ball from the sight of the umpire, and by slick manipulation, spin was given to the sphere prior to its projection into the air. **So expert had some become in this nefarious practice, that the no-spin rule was fast becoming the laughing stock of the table tennis world.**

The amendment has altered this. With the ball held in a flat palm, so that the umpire has a clear view of it throughout, it is quite impossible for even the cleverest of tricksters to indulge in a spot of "fiddling." There's no question that the new rule, properly applied, can cut all suggestion of underhanded spin and thus benefit all players and the game, and it really is a pity that so many of us are not giving it the support it so richly deserves.

In league games I have played in this season to the date of writing I have seen only one player observe with strict decorum the service regulation. All the others have, without exception, released the ball from cupped hands or else struck it without first throwing it into the air. Club umpires know that these are infringements, yet refrain from penalising the offenders as they fear this would spoil the evening's sport. Is this condoning of the breaking of a definite rule desirable, and is it good for players to be allowed to practise services which will almost certainly be queried when they play in open tournaments? The answer is only too obvious.

I should like to know what players have against the flat-palm service. So far as I can see, there is absolutely nothing to be said in opposition to it. Why do so many hate it and, worse, ignore it?

## THE COST OF T.T. BALLS

by a representative of the Manufacturer

Under pressure of rising costs, especially since devaluation, we have reluctantly had to increase the price of match grade Table Tennis Balls to 9d. (two star) and 1s. 3d. (three star) as from January 1st, 1950. These prices include purchase tax.

We are sorry we had to greet the New Year in such stern fashion, and would like to assure all table tennis players that as soon as conditions allow any concession, it will be passed on to them.

We fear, too, that the best grade ball will still be in short supply for some time to come. At this point the player must be tempted to repeat the question we have heard so often . . . "If we are willing to pay the price for the pleasure of having the best balls, why don't the manufacturers make more of them, and less of the 9d. grade?"

**The answer is that the best qualities cannot be made to order—they are simply the "cream" of the production.**

In making hundreds of thousands of balls to the very precise standards laid down by the E.T.T.A., some variation in quality will be inevitable. Some proportion will naturally fall below par. These are rejected as being unfit for match play.

Some proportion will prove on test to be above average, i.e., nearer to perfection, and of these some, after additional tests, are passed as "Three Star" balls. The proportion of these is so small that we feel they ought to be reserved for tournament play only, and not used for everyday practice.

Law 3 of Table Tennis says ". . . the ball shall be spherical." Your true scientist will say that no perfect sphere has ever been made—still less would it be possible to turn out perfect spheres by the thousand from a machine.

Nevertheless, unscientifically, but not unfairly, a well-known player has put it like this: "The perfection of a match table tennis ball is one of the unsung romances of industry. . . . The uncouth, the ill-balanced, the over-and-under-weights, these go to do the odd jobs. For you, the budding table tennis player, only the fittest survivors are considered. . . . And remember, the English Table Tennis Association gets busy, with microscope and calipers and balances, before it will permit even the most well-bred chips off the old celluloid block to receive the cachet "Approved by E.T.T.A."

This still leaves the question open, "What can be done to improve the breed, to bring the standard 9d. ball nearer to perfection?" We can only say we are doing all we can, by most carefully checking the quality of raw material, by using dies cut with the highest precision known to modern engineering, by giving most scrupulous attention to the tiniest details of plant maintenance, and by applying strict tests at every stage of manufacture.

Naturally every additional process adds to the cost of manufacture, but we feel players would rather pay a little more than put up with a poorer standard of quality.

The ball now offered as being of the highest quality represents the best that can be achieved to-day with the latest equipment in a modern factory, and we are constantly striving to improve upon it.