

TABLE TENNIS



No. 758

The Daily Mirror Finals

TABLE TENNIS TELEVISED
FROM THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

TELEVISION &
TABLE TENNIS

★

"News of the World's"
LATEST

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Personality Parade

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County Championships

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PICTURES ★ CARTOONS
REPORTS ★ NEWS ★ VIEWS
of The Table Tennis World

Table



Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by **LESLIE S. WOOLLARD**

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AS England and English table tennis approaches its supreme testing before an audience of all nations, we believe that not one who knows the colossal risks and problems involved will be laggard in their help. Breathes there a soul who dare confess he did nought, gave nought, when the game was at its greatest need? Every single enthusiast can help in some way; by playing, by serving, by officiating, by fund raising, by spectating. In the vital urgency of this call we have invited our Chairman to use this treasured page as our Guest Leader Writer.

The EDITOR ●

THE GREATEST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS are now but a few week ahead.

It is a far cry from 1926, six teams and a few hundred pounds turnover at the Memorial Hall.

This year, at Wembley, there will be more countries taking part, and greater players, from further corners of the world, and before larger audiences than ever before. Teams will come from every quarter of the world: from China, New Zealand, Brazil, from Japan, India, U.S.A., from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and from many other countries. There will be old champions and young champions, veterans and newcomers, men and girls, chisellers and hitters, orthodox and sponge, penholders and "shake-hands."

This is an event never likely to be repeated in our generation.

Table Tennis has attained such a scale that proposals are already being made for biennial championships, continental qualifications, and the like. It is a great compliment to English Table Tennis that they have been granted the opportunity to stage this last Great "Climax" Championships, as we staged their beginning.

No player with aspirations will wish to miss having taken part. No enthusiast will wish one day to have to think and say, "I missed a chance to share!"

We are defending a high position and reputation. Here is one game at least in which England really stands "on

top." Not merely in the limited sense of standing among the champions (although we do on both the men's and women's side of the game), but because of the high general standard of the sport in our country in its EVERY aspect: the standard of play, the quality of equipment, the fairness and competence of umpiring, the efficient organisation, the sober judgment in congress and council—(with national pride but without national prejudice)—and the sincerity of our friendship for all. For all of these things are we known and respected.

I believe we will sustain the reputation of England in the tremendous challenge to all our resources, which we face entirely unsubsidised. I believe that the courage and imagination of the Annual Meeting that endorsed this project will be justified. We shall pull it off because we shall have your help.

Thousands of seats have been bought. The peak nights are filling rapidly. The rallying of supporters (simple club members to great organisations) around the Guarantee Fund is outstanding in its generosity. The number and quality of the volunteers who are giving up holiday time, and even wages, to cope, entirely unpaid, with the innumerable complexities of umpiring, stewarding, interpreting, feeding, escorting, duplicating, distributing, back-rooming, and just running about, could be matched by no other country of the world.

We are not yet out of the wood. The greatest test is yet to come. We may make mistakes. We may make a muddle. In more matters than our nerves will stand, we shall have to HOPE that "it will come out all right on the night." "Tis not in mortals to command success . . ."

BUT, if your support continues as it has begun—and it is not too late to join the team—and if we all pull hard together—as surely we shall—then the miracle may come to pass in April. Together we shall strive, and we may humbly hope, to make good.

IVOR MONTAGU, Chairman,

The English Table Tennis Association.

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SPECIAL EDITIONS

A Special Edition comprises a COMPLETE full-size *Table Tennis*, PLUS the official journal of the particular area (which is edited and organised in that area and is complete with local details, news and notices). It is TWO magazines in one for little more than the price of one, and every player in such an area should certainly be a subscriber. Enquiries should be made DIRECT to the appropriate local officials.

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SUSSEX EDITION. Mr. KEITH WATTS, 6, Windsor Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

BIRMINGHAM EDITION. Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham.

Table Tennis warmly invites news items, opinions, suggestions, ideas, pictures, criticisms, etc., from everyone, everywhere. We invite your help in making *Table Tennis* the most lively, instructive and entertaining sports journal in the world. **Keep it SHORT.**

Post it EARLY.

Send **DIRECT** to The Editor :—

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,
12, CAMPBELL ROAD,
BEDFORD



TABLE TENNIS AND TELEVISION

Table Tennis made its T.V. debut in the 1936-37 season with exhibitions by Victor Barna, Jimmy McClure, Ruth Aarons, Kettnerova and W. J. "Bill" Pope as referee and expert. In the last year or so, we have become forcibly aware of an immense popularity for Table Tennis among viewers. We regret that our intended review of T.V. and T.T., dealing authoritatively with method, effect, presentation and personalities was not complete in time for press. Meanwhile here are 3 varied views. Perhaps you have some ideas on the subject?

● Lady Docker

as T.V. Guest Critic, "The Evening Standard," 8th Jan., 1953

TELEVISION last night brought us a series of table tennis matches. One of these, a men's singles, was a thrilling occasion to me, a keen and—I am told—a fairly good table tennis player myself.

In fact this game gave me the thrill of the television week—and the biggest disappointment. For the two men having each won a game, did NOT play the deciding game.

Television chopped them off to bring on the next pair—two girls. This convinced me on one point I needed no convincing about. That is that women can never be the equal of men in any field. And that includes table tennis.

The girls were slow and dull after the men. Why women try to compete with men I don't know. They can never claim equality. I didn't try when I had to earn my living. I wouldn't try now and I don't see why other women should. Let them be women and let the men be men. That has been a pretty successful arrangement so far. Why alter it?

So I was disappointed that we were not able to see the two men table tennis players finish their thrilling battle. ●

Lady Docker

"I Watched the Clock . . ."

The arranged friendly exhibition match from Glasgow, on Dec. 11th, 1953.

"THE next time they show 45 minutes of table tennis on TV I hope it is my choir practice night. It seemed it would never end last night. I watched the clock more than the screen."

H. de Winton Wigley,
News Chronicle.

BLACK MARK, UMPIRES!

3,000,000 people, it is estimated, have watched recent table tennis programmes on T.V., surely the finest medium for publicity and prestige building any organisation could ever hope to have. The cause is not helped by depriving it of dignity, such as on two occasions when the umpires repeatedly addressed and referred to players by their christian names.

Two horrible examples were the "You're serving, Johnny," during the England v. France match, and the "Ros serving" used in a telecast from the Metropolitan Open.

Imagine such a thing happening at Wimbledon!!

And is it really necessary for players to chase and pick up the balls themselves? Let us take another example from Wimbledon and provide ball-boys, particularly when we are "ON SHOW." ●

Peter Madge



No. 964

John Warburton

JOIE DE VIVRE

might be another name for JOYCE FIELDER (Kent), 16-year-old runner-up to Ann Haydon and Jill Rook for junior international honours, and now in full chase of the *Daily Mirror* senior national title. She won the junior title last year, and ranks as No. 2 senior for Kent County.

Joyce IS quite an acrobatic player at times, but we are a shade suspicious of this door-high leap for a return...!! No doubt about the smile... we once overheard a judge-sober boy say incredulously, "But you CAN'T be all that good, because you're always smiling!"... May Joyce go on smiling and winning, and may she always keep that modesty that is one of her most winning charms...

Great-uncle, Arthur Fielder, by the way, was the great England and Kent fast bowler of the 1900's... He once took all 10 wickets in a Gentlemen v. Players cricket match. ●

Ken Craigie's Secret Weapon?

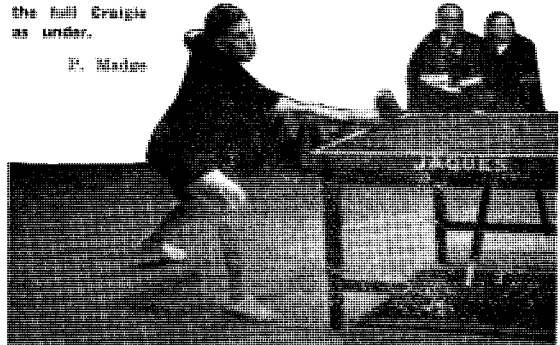
No. 965 Photo: L. Montgredien



KEN CRAIGIE (left), the gay cavalier of T.T., caught demonstrating his Frying Pan Drive at a Kingston exhibition. (Is this permissible under the Laws of the Game?) In summer time, Ken wields the lawn tennis racket for Cambs. County and the Civil Service. When it is match T.T. before, the Mayor, however, its shorts, a real bat, and the Ken Craigie fireworks, as earlier.

No. 973

P. Madge



BRING BACK THE GROUPS

A 4-Point Plan for Better Tournaments

By **GEOFF COULTHREAD**

TOURNAMENTS, long a popular feature of T.T., may dwindle from the T.T. calendar because of economic circumstances. It may be a survival of the best, but I want to stimulate a return to the tournament habit coupled with the guarantee of a financial success to the organisers. (N.B. These are honorary—the money goes back into the game). **NOW** is the time to face up to this problem; action **NOW** may save a tournament from extinction. The application for holding an Open Tournament in 1954-55 (next season) must be in the office of the E.T.T.A. by next May, so everyone with the interest of the open tournament should speak up **NOW**. . . . The result may also help the E.T.T.A. Open Tournaments Sub-Committee in their considerations.

The problem is to balance the budget; Income must at least equal the Costs. What does this involve?

COSTS

- PRINTING.**
 - Entry Forms.
 - Notifications.
 - Handbills.
 - Posters.
 - Draw Sheets.
 - Score Sheets.
 - Programmes.
 - Tickets.
- POSTAGES.** Mainly on (a), (b) and invites to officials (e.g., Guests, County Umpires, etc.).
- HOSPITALITY.** Refreshments for invited officials.
- PRIZES** for Winners and Runners-up.
- HIRE** of Tables and Equipment, etc.
- BALLS.**
- HIRE OF HALL(S).**
- MISCELLANEOUS:** Telephones, Stationery, Transport, Insurance, Gratuities or payments to permanent staff, Advertising and Publicity.

INCOME

- ENTRY FEES.** (A percentage must be paid to the E.T.T.A.; sometimes also to the County Association).
- ADMISSION CHARGES** (Tickets), usually only for finals night.
- PROGRAMMES** (Sale).
- ADVERTISEMENTS** (sometimes).

A tournament involving a 1,500 entry form issue will need a hall for

one week; the cost in the neighbourhood of £150. Say half of this cost is to be met by entries and half by the finals "gate," £75 must be raised from each source. This means an audience of 450 at an average admission of 3/6d. and an entry of 300 at an average of 5/-.

Note, however, that juniors and those who only enter one event bring only a small entry fee, and must be balanced by more entering in all events. Similarly, all the higher priced seats must be sold.

My 4-Point Plan to solve the Problem is:

- Return to the Group System.**
- Increase entry fees for singles BUT give a**
- Free ticket for all nights, including Finals, for each singles entrant.**
- All Open Tournament entry fees to be standardised by the E.T.T.A.**

On the Group System, every player would be guaranteed 3 games (4 in a group) and feel more satisfied than with the frustrating experience of losing in the first round. The free ticket (exchangeable for a better seat at reduced price) would maintain their interest until the last stages, instead of only one night as at present happens only too often.

Singles entry fees vary from 3/- to 5/-. I would like to see these standardised by the E.T.T.A. and the cost of the "free" seat be deductible from the percentage of fees payable to the E.T.T.A. Where I have suggested above (2) that singles entry fees be increased, this is only to bring the lower fees to a higher standardised fee. ●

Geoff. Coulthread.

Win by Attack

Extracted from a presidential message in the Essex County Handbook 1953-54, in which **CORTI WOODCOCK** draws a parallel between cricket and table tennis.

IT is not that we lack technical accomplishment in our batsmen and bowlers; not that they don't try hard; not that they haven't the guts. The trouble is not merely that our best fighting spirit is shown only in defence, but that our teams inevitably adopt a "backs to the wall" attitude, even before a ball is bowled. We read of our crack batsmen shuffling like flat-footed old women and treating half-volleys, full tosses and long hops as if they had been bowled by Old Nick himself instead of treating them for what they are—rubbish—which ought to mean a free gift of a boundary 9 times out of 10.

Bailey's 4 hours (or was it 6?) may have been a fine exhibition of concentration. It may also have enabled his side to avert defeat. But **WHO** wants to avert defeat that way? In table tennis we have even had to legislate against such dreary business by introducing the alternative "20 minute" and "expedite" rules.

I am perfectly certain that the great majority of sportsmen would far rather lose a match—even a Test—playing the game as it is meant to be played, than by putting up the shutters and playing for time. That's not cricket: nor it is, in spirit, table tennis either.

Let our players, be they of high or low degree, always seek the initiative and WIN—if they possibly can—by ATTACK and AGGRESSION.

The quality of the brave, bold spirit in gamesmanship runs a very close second to Sportsmanship, without which there is no savour in human relations. ●

Corti Woodcock

TOMS for the Finest Table Tennis Tables on the Market



TOURNAMENT T.T. TABLE

- *1" Birch Ply top
- *8 folding legs
- *A superfast, defect free surface
- *Self aligning stubs and plates fitted
- *Rigid when erected
- *Can be stored in a space 5' x 4 1/2' x 7"

£30

Club model, 1/2" top ... £20

H.P. Terms from 3/6 per week
Rental Terms from 2/- per week

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

JOHN G. TOMS

18, NORBETT ROAD,
Arnold - - - Notts.

The Audience Takes the Cake at S. London

South London Open, Clapham Baths Hall, 16th January, 1954

21 YEARS ago, the late King George (and Patron of the E.T.T.A.) opened the fine building which held the super venue of this tourney. In the very same year, the South London League was founded. The entire finals night audience joined the League's anniversary celebrations by eating the mammoth Table Tennis 21st Birthday Cake, cut by the League's President. Mr. E. A. W. Cast.

IN this most excellent of tournaments, Topsy and Turvy gaily turned over the Form Book and most of the seeds were "Gone With the Wind." Top juniors, Michael Maclaren and Ray Dorking, direct from France, illuminated their paths through the senior event to reach the semi-finals. On the way Maclaren edged out Len Adams 17, —16, 18 and Dorking eliminated Ray Hinchliff 17, 18. Jackie Head and the rampant Ron Turner shaded junior final hopes by almost identical scores and giving no chances. Jackie reached home first—a Head before Turner!—in the race of hit-and-counterhit that was the M.S. final.

The W.S. ended with several matches of "final" attractiveness. Joy Seaman reached the centre court via Joyce Fielder 14, 12; Audrey Bates 19, 13; and Shirley Jones —13, 15, 16. Betty Gray travelled via Milbank —15, 22, 25 and Joyce Roberts —19, 20, 8, and arrived with the confidence of recent wins over Di Rowe and Jean Winn. Seaman brought Joy to her many supporters by wedding a new confidence to her always attractive play, and beat the formidable Betty at her own game. It needs a very good player to do that.

Joy Seaman won a second title (with Jean Winn) with a narrow W.D. win over Audrey

Bates and Betty Gray, but her bid for a triple win (with Jackie Head) in the X.D. final was blasted sky-high by an Essex hurricane pair, Bobby Stevens and Yvonne Baker in a combination of furious attack which could do no wrong.

Ivor Jones cut new notches in his jester's wand by reaching another X.D. final with Shirley Jones and (with Alan Sherwood) winning the M.D. title in a match which introduced a new high in nervous tension.

Interesting to note how the Welsh girls reversed their defeats of the recent international match . . . 24 year-old Terry Kirby (Putney) repeated his Sussex Open triumph when he beat Derek Burridge 21, —17, 22.

By-the-Way: **M.S.:** A. R. Miller bt. J. Carrington 16, 18; bt. B. Brumwell 9, 18; lost to Head —19, —20. L. Jones bt. A. Sherwood 18, 16. **R. TURNER** bt. Spychalski 17, 13; bt. K. Hurlock 13, 19 (bt. P. Pudney —13, 18, 16); bt. R. Crayden 13, 20. M. Maclaren bt. R. Markwell 19, 14 (bt. E. Filby 12, 21); bt. L. Adams. **R. DORKING** bt. T. Kirby —7, 20, 11; bt. I. Jones —10, 21, 17; bt. R. Hinchliff 17, 18. **W.S.:** S. JONES bt. E. Carrington 9, —19, 13; bt. J. Winn —13, 15, 16. A. Bates bt. Y. Baker 17, 7. J. Roberts bt. V. Rowe 19, 17; bt. B. Isaacs —18, 17, 14 (bt. P. Gall 18, 18). **X.D.:** P. Pudney/J. Winn bt. D. Burridge/P. Piper 16, 13.

FINALS

M.S. J. HEAD bt. (sf) M. Maclaren 17, 14; bt. R. J. TURNER —15, 13, 16 (bt. R. Dorking 18, 14).

W.S. Y. J. SEAMAN bt. (sf) S. Jones 14, 16; bt. B. GRAY 18, —14, 14 (bt. J. Roberts —19, 20, 8). **M.D. I. JONES/A. SHERRWOOD** bt. R. Raybould/R. Stevens —12, 21, 22.

W.D. Y. J. SEAMAN/J. WINN bt. A. Bates/B. Gray 19, —19, 18.

X.D. R. STEVENS/Y. BAKER bt. J. Head/J. Seaman 19, —12, 9.

B.S. T. DENSHAM bt. (sf) K. Shoaib 18, 12; bt. E. PETER 14, —11, 14 (bt. M. Hains 16, 18). **G.S. J. FIELDER** bt. J. Hodson 14, 13.



No. 967 Mrs. JOAN WILLCOCKS, attractive Devon and Plymouth star with an attractive, vigorous style which has brought her 2 Open Singles and a R-U title, plus several notable wins. All too rarely seen in tourneys outside the West.

There are not a lot of sports, to-day, in which England can claim to lead the way. Table Tennis is one of them. Let us show the World that we appreciate this fact, and make our resolve . . . **WEMBLEY SHALL BE FILLED EVERY DAY.**
See pages 110-111

Exciting Matches for Last Rounds of National League Champion

ONCE AGAIN, the Great National T.T. Cup Competitions to find the Champion League Teams of England approach their climax, hiding in their summary many new names, new triumphs, and raising the stan-

dards and the status of all who took part. These Competitions are the Cup Finals of T.T. . . . they are something in which EVERY League—including the humblest—can, and should, take part.

Wilmott Cup

(Men's League Team) Championship

Holders: SOUTH LONDON		Z.F.	Q.F.	S.F.
Round 3	Winners and Scores			
Leatherhead	Croydon 9-0 Bournemouth	}	}	}
N.W. Kent	Folkestone 7-2			
Woolwich	Staines 8-1	}	}	}
Halifax	Huddersfield 6-3			
Grimsey	Lincoln 7-2	}	}	}
Liverpool	Potteries 5-4			
Bolton	Manchester 9-0	}	}	}
Central	Wandsworth 7-2			
L. Civil S.	{ S. London 6-3	}	}	}
S. London				
E. London	Ilford 5-2	}	}	}
Barnets	Bedford 5-2			
Coventry	Birmingham 6-3 Cambridge	}	}	}
Maidenhead	Reading 5-4			
Cheltenham	Gloucester 5-4			

J. M. Rose Bowl

(Women's League Team) Championship

Holders: BIRMINGHAM		Z.F.	Q.F.	S.F.
Round 3	Winners and Scores			
Barnets	Bedford 5-1	}	}	}
Leicester	Birmingham 8-1			
	London Bus. II. S. London	}	}	}
	Plymouth			
High Wycombe	Oxford 5-1	}	}	}
	Maidstone			
Southampton	Brighton 5-4	}	}	}
Manchester	Manchester Blackpool			
	Northumberland Grimsey	}	}	}
	Kings Lynn			
E. London	Ilford 5-3	}	}	}
Sutton	Wandsworth 9-0			
Thames Valley	Staines 7-2			

The Zone Final

The Zone Finals must be played by January 24th.

The Semi- and Finals will be played on Saturday, 27th February, 1954.

The WILMOTT CUP FINALS (and semis) at Romford, and the J. M. ROSE BOWL FINALS (and semis) at Southampton.

The METROPOLITAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Polytechnic, London, 4-9th Jan., 1954

THE super-elegant, streamlined, iconoclastic MET. lived up to its reputation in a sparkling parade of exciting matches.

"There will be no Time-Limit games," declared referee Jack Kurzman, pointing to the Expedite Rule. (Is this the only Open bold enough to operate the Alternative Rule?)

Players from some 15 counties competed; 8 were represented in the finals by 19 different players. The absence of England's top players in France and Belgium still left a high and exciting excellence of play.

Outstanding, perhaps, were Terry Densham, Joyce Fielder and Peter Shead. In the M.S. Terry beat Bobby Raybould —9, 17, 17 and Vic Atterano 18, 20 before losing at 17, 14 to Ron Crayden. In beating junior international Brian Barr in the B.S. final to retain his title, Terry was magnificent. After losing the first game 17, he went "wild," but it was a beautifully controlled wildness of hit, counterhit and agile defence that stopped aggressive Barr at 10 and 9. Terry Densham has for long shown promise; here he showed inspiration.

Junior Joyce Fielder ended a fine "senior" performance when she lost to international star Peggy Franks —19, 13, —21. Oh, to serve off at game point! A little more calmness at the crucial time could bring Joyce handsome elevation. In the J.G., Joyce angled and hit well against the slower tempo of Wendy Blades, to gain several excellent winners through the latter's backhand.

Brighton's 24-year-old Peter Shead enhanced his reputation immeasurably by beating internationals Len Adams —8, 12, 15 and Micky Thornhill 8, 19 and fought extremely well in the semi-final to hold Harry Venner to 19, 19.

Yvonne Baker won her first senior title by beating Franks 19, 20; Joyce Roberts 14, —10, 15; Barbara Milbank 16, 13 and, finally, Margaret Cherry 8, 13. Milbank beat Jean Winn in another of their sparkling encounters. Cherry surprisingly shaded Joy Seaman.

After beating Ron Crayden in the M.S. semi-final, Alan Rhodes slipped out for a quick snack not realising that the M.S. final was to be played (as it should be) before the doubles events. It nearly disqualified him, but he atoned for his misdemeanour with a brilliant hitting match against Harry Venner to win 14, —17, 16. The M.D. and the X.D. finals were as tight, fast and exciting as the scores indicate. ●

Other By-the-Way Results: M.S. Dr. H. G. Levinge bt. P. Pudney —18, 15, 17. A. R. Miller bt. E. Filby —14, 10, 15. B. Crouch bt. P. Morecroft 13, 7; bt. K. Hurlock 13, 14. R. Turner bt. P. Cruwys —16, 9, 19. L. Adams bt. J. Carrington 10, 17. R. GRIFFIN bt. E. Bubley 16, 19; bt. D. Burridge —13, 13, 19 (bt. H. Rosen 11, 21). H. VENNEN bt. B. Brunwell 12, 14; bt. Crouch 19, 14; bt. G. Bebb —20, 9, 16. Brunwell bt. I. Jones 18, —19, 17; bt. L. Thompson 14, 8. M. Thornhill bt. R. Turner 17, 18. R. CRAYDEN bt. R. Griffin —15, 13, 19; bt. S. Taylor —24, 8, 17; bt. D. Eagles 6, —20, 13. A. RHODES bt. J. Head —17, 17, 13; bt. P. Pizey 20, 15. M. Darlington bt. R. Stevens 17, 17. W.S. P. Franks bt. V. Rowe 18, —27, 19. B. Milbank bt. J. F. Page —22, 16, 17; bt. J. Winn —18, 15, 19. D. Ellis bt. T. Carruthers 18, 9; bt. B. Carter 20, —13, 18; lost P. Gall —15, 16, 15. M. CHERRY bt. M. Rhodes 15, —17, 9; bt. Y. Seaman 19, —11, 17; bt. P. Mortimer —19, 18, 19; bt. B. Bassett 14, 17. P. Mortimer bt. J. Mackay 15, 12; bt. P. Gall 16, 15. C. Rose bt. W. Blades —15, 12, 21. D. Hughes bt. B. Harrower 16, 18; lost J. Winn 5, 15. W. Bates bt. A. Freeman 16, 15.

FINALS

M.S. A. RHODES bt. (sf) R. Crayden —18, 14, 14; bt. H. VENNEN 14, —17, 16 (bt. P. Shead 19, 19).

W.S. Y. BAKER bt. (sf) B. Milbank 16, 13; bt. M. CHERRY 8, 13 (bt. P. Mortimer —19, 18, 19).

M.D. B. CROUCH/P. CRUWYS bt. (sf) V. Barna/M. Thornhill —21, 19, 18; bt. L. ADAMS/R. CRAYDEN —20, 20, 20 (bt. J. Lowe/H. Venner 22, —17, 15).

W.D. Y. SEAMAN/J. WINN bt. (sf) E. Carrington/B. Milbank —17, 16, 17; bt. Y. BAKER/M. PIPER 15, 10 (bt. M. Franks/J. Roberts 12, 12).

X.D. J. HEAD/Y. SEAMAN bt. (sf) P. Pudney/J. Mackay 18, —16, 16; bt. R. GRIFFIN/Y. BAKER 15, —13, 19 (bt. R. Crayden/J. Winn 15, —13, 19).

B.S. T. DENSHAM bt. (sf) L. Landry 9, 12; bt. R. BARR —17, 10, 9 (bt. K. Shoab —17, 15, 15).

G.S. J. FIELDER bt. W. Blades 12, 19.

BENTALLS 2nd SCHOOL-CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kingston-on-Thames, 9th Jan., 1954

OVER 2,000 games were played over the week by the 400 entrants, and a first class final was enjoyed by a capacity audience. Star match was that in which Terry Densham beat Laurence Landry 15, 18. Jacqueline Hemus (last year's 12-14 Champion) advanced successfully to the 13-16 class by beating Madeleine Brindle 16, —14, 17. The Organiser, Tony Miller, played an exciting exhibition match with Alan Rhodes before the presentations were made by the Mayor, Alderman G. Lines.

Ages.

11-13 (Boys): T. SHARP bt. M. May.

(Girls): C. BAGSHAW bt. M. Vines.

13-16 (Boys): T. DENSHAM bt. L. Landry.

(Girls): J. HEMUS bt. M. Brindle.

11 16 (Boys): DENSHAM/LANDRY bt. J.

(Dbls.) Edney/M. Rains.

(Girls): M. BRINDLE/F. PURKISS

bt. J. Robson/G. Champion.

BETTY GRAY, popular Welsh international, has twice in recent weeks turned up at a major English Open tournament—as the title holder—to find that she has not even been seeded! She hasn't complained, but friends (on both sides of the border) have "taken a dim view."

Table Tennis understands that a probable cause of these occurrences is that the officers responsible have rigidly followed the Guide for Seeding issued by the E.T.T.A. and this guide has, of course, included only English players. Being a title-holder does not, of course—except by common custom—qualify for seeding, but we understand that a more satisfactory solution is to be found.

COUNTY MATCH FIXTURES—FEBRUARY

PREMIER DIVISION:

Sat. 13th Feb. Yorkshire v. Gloucestershire, St. John's Ambulance Drill Hall, Anlaby Road, Hull, 7 p.m.

Sat. 13th Feb. Lancashire v. Sussex, Preston League H.Q., Bairstow St., Preston, 7.15 p.m.

Wed. 17th Feb. Surrey v. Essex, St. Saviours Hall, Woodbridge Road, Guildford, 7.15 p.m.

Fri. 19th Feb. Lancashire v. Essex, Y.M.C.A., Bolton, 7.15 p.m.

Fri. 19th Feb. Yorkshire v. Surrey, Attercliffe Hall, Attercliffe Rd., Sheffield, 9, 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 24th Feb. Middlesex v. Essex, McLarens, Thorpe Road, Staines, 7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH:

Wed. 17th Feb. Middlesex v. Surrey, Methodist Church Hall, East Finchley, N.2, 7.15 p.m.

Sat. 20th Feb. Kent v. Devon.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH:

Sat. 13th Feb. Warwickshire v. Northumberland, Parish Church Hall, Vicarage Street, Nuneaton, 7 p.m.

Sat. 13th Feb. Durham v. Lincolnshire, Sunderland.

SOUTHERN DIVISION:

Wed. 17th Feb. Berkshire v. Buckinghamshire.

Sat. 20th Feb. Oxford v. Hampshire, Oxford & Dist. Women's Cons. Club, 21, George Street, Oxford, 7.15 p.m.

EASTERN DIVISION:

Fri. 19th Feb. Cambridgeshire v. Norfolk, New Chesterton Inst., Holland St., Cambridge, 7.30 p.m.

Sat. 20th Feb. Hertfordshire v. Suffolk, Town Hall, Waltham Abbey, 7.30 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION:

Sat. 13th Feb. Staffordshire v. Worcestershire, Dudley, 7.15 p.m.

Sat. 13th Feb. Leicestershire v. Derbyshire.

Sat. 27th Feb. Derbyshire v. Staffordshire.

JUNIOR DIVISION:

Sat. 20th Feb. Kent v. Middlesex, Town Hall, Sittingbourne, 3 p.m.

Sat. 20th Feb. Bedfordshire v. Sussex, Beaudesert School, Leighton Buzzard, 7 p.m.

Sat. 20th Feb. Suffolk v. Surrey, I.C.I. Canteen, Stowmarket, 7.30 p.m.

Sat. 20th Feb. Essex v. Hertfordshire.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

PREMIER DIVISION

MIDDLESEX, the Champions, were given a really hard fight by Glamorgan, and a 5-all draw would not have been unfair to the Welsh County. Their stars were Betty Gray and Walter Sweetland. Walter found the form that made him such a force several years ago and had excellent wins over Derek BurrIDGE and Len Adams, whilst Betty really went to town in beating Diane Rowe 21-17, 21-12.

Gloucestershire had a comfortable win over Sussex. Peter Shead, the 24-year-old Brighton boy, is fighting almost a lone hand for Sussex, and he was not disgraced in taking a game from Brian Merrett and running Aubrey Simons to 20 in the second game.

Essex beat Yorkshire 8-2, but Yorks. were without Brian Kennedy (in India) and Kathleen Best, who was indisposed. Essex also had troubles, as Bobby Stevens was held up in the fog—Jack Carrington also arrived late for the same reason, but was not worried as he was only down to play in the doubles, only to find worried Essex officials rushing him into the hall to play singles as well!

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

THE only match of the month in this section served to record Kent's first win in their new higher sphere—and that after Peter Holroyd had opened the score for Bedfordshire with a good win over Ray Syndercombe. Kent took the next nine matches, the last six in straight sets—a fine performance.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

WARWICKSHIRE will have to work overtime if they are to regain their place in the Premier Division, and only outright wins in their last three matches will be of any use. Cheshire were not let down by E. Johnson in their match against Lincolnshire. A last minute substitute for Bill Pierce (ill), he easily won both his singles and shared in a men's doubles success with D. Schofield. Improving junior Wendy Blades did well to run Eileen Grimstone to three games.

Meanwhile Warwickshire, with a weakened team, only just drew with Yorkshire. It was good to see Yorkshire junior, Jackson, win both his singles, as did R. Dove, whom I am told plays with (hush) a sponge rubber bat.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

THERE is a battle royal here between Hampshire and Berkshire, with the odds on the former county, who have twice previously won this division.

Review by GEOFF HARROWER

Berkshire made no mistake against Oxfordshire, although the losers put up an improved showing, E. Minns being particularly unlucky in just losing both his singles by the narrowest of margins.

EASTERN DIVISION

THERE is no denying Herts. in his section, and their latest success, against Norfolk, gives them a commanding lead. For the losers H. Fleck did well to beat A. Rogers, and share in a doubles success with G. Whittaker. The former Kent Junior, Janet White, won both her matches for Herts.

MIDLAND DIVISION

DERBYSHIRE are making a great effort to gain their first ever title, and they gained a thrilling success over Worcestershire to go into the lead on games average. There was tremendous excitement when, with the score at 5-4 to Derby, A. T. Bird gained both points for his county with a 21-23, 21-17, 23-21 win over M. Hawkins in the final match. All credit to Worcestershire for fighting back after losing the first four matches.

Meanwhile, Staffordshire made no mistake against luckless Northants, who forced five matches to three games without winning one of them. All the Midlands now awaits the Derby/Staffs clash on the 27th Feb.

JUNIOR DIVISION

IT IS obvious that the match between Sussex and Surrey on the very last day of the county season (27th March) will decide the Championships, and it would be a bold man who forecast the result. Notwithstanding the non-arrival of Jill Rook, due to fog, Surrey blasted their way to a 7-3 win over Kent, but Sussex were hard pressed to beat the improving Hertfordshire team, for whom junior international Brian Barr put up a fine performance to win both his singles and share a boys' doubles success with "Mousey" Cartwright. ●

LEAGUE TABLES
(Made up to the 9th January and therefore not including the following results:—

Warwick v. Durham (2nd North); Suffolk v. Cambs. (Eastern); Staffs v. Leicester (Midland) and Middx. v. Essex (Junior).

PREMIER DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Essex	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Surrey	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Gloucesters're	4	1	2	1	23	17	4
Glamorgan	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Lancashire	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Yorkshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Sussex	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Surrey	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Kent	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Devon	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Cheshire	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Yorkshire	3	1	1	1	19	11	3
Warwickshire	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Northumb'd	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Lincolnshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Durham	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hampshire	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Berkshire	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Buckingham.	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Oxfordshire	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

EASTERN DIVISION

Hertfordshire	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Suffolk	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Cambridge.	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Derbyshire	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Worcesters're	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Staffordshire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Leicesters're	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Northampton.	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

JUNIOR DIVISION

Sussex	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Surrey	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Kent	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Hertfordshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Essex	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Suffolk	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Middlesex	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

SUMMARY OF RESULTS — JANUARY

PREMIER DIV.

Glos. 9—Sussex 1
Glam. 3—Middx. 7
Essex 8—Yorks. 2

DIV. II—SOUTH

Beds 1—Kent 9

SOUTHERN DIV.

Berks. 7—Oxon 3
Hants. 6—Bucks. 4

DIV. II—NORTH

Yorks. 5—Warwicks. 5
Lincs. 1—Cheshire 9
Warwick. 10—Durham 0

MIDLAND DIV.

Northants 0—Staffs. 10
Derby 6—Worcs. 4
Staffs. 6—Leics. 4

EASTERN DIV.

Norfolk 2—Herts. 8
Suffolk 6—Cambs. 4

JUNIOR DIV.

Beds. 2—Suffolk 8
Surrey 8—Kent 2
Sussex 6—Herts. 4
Middx. 8—Essex 2

Sensational Preview of World Championships in French and Belgium Tournaments

THE recent continental championships, a thunder-and-lightning storm of shocks and sensations, gave a brief preview of the tremendous excitements that can be expected at the World Championships. British players played well but with little success, only the Rowe Twins taking the W.D. title and Ann Haydon retaining her French junior title. The full dramatic story and by-the-way results in next month's *Table Tennis*.

THEY SAY —

"I should like to order 36 issues of *Table Tennis* . . . I have never seen a copy but have heard that *Table Tennis* is an excellent periodical for fans and players . . ."

United Nations Club, U.S.A.

"... Give me a price on a year's subscription . . . as you really put out a wonderful magazine."

Waterloo, Iowa, U.S.A.

"... Please make sure we get these copies by airmail, as the game wouldn't be complete without your splendid magazine."

Australia

"... To send if possible by immediate post as we take great interest in it."

Netherlands

"Please make sure I have a copy every month . . . and I would like to write for you occasionally."

Ferenc Sido,

Triple World Champion.



SELECTION COMMITTEE NOTICES

IRELAND v. ENGLAND (Mixed), Dublin, 21st Jan., 1954. L. G. Adams (Middx.), K. Craigie (Surrey), B. Merrett (Glos.), H. Vanner Surrey, Miss C. K. Best (Yorks.), Miss B. Milbank (Essex), n.p.c. A. Thompson. (5th Jan., 1954.)

FRENCH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, Paris, 10th-13th Jan., 1954. R. Bergmann (Middx.), K. Craigie (Surrey), J. Leach (Essex), B. Merrett (Glos.), A. W. C. Simons (Glos.), R. Dorking (Essex), M. Maclaren (Surrey). **Misses**—C. K. Best (Yorks.), D. and R. Rowe (Middx.), A. Haydon (Warks.), J. Rook (Surrey). (31st Dec., 1953.)

FRANCE v. ENGLAND, Bordeaux, 14th Jan., 1954. R. Bergmann (Captain), J. Leach, A. W. C. Simons. (31st Dec., 1953.)

FRANCE v. ENGLAND (Junior Mixed), Lille, 14th Jan., 1954. R. Dorking, M. Maclaren, Misses A. Haydon and J. Rook, n.p.c. Adrian Haydon. (31st Dec., 1953.)

BELGIUM v. ENGLAND, Antwerp, 14th Jan., 1954. K. Craigie, B. Merrett, H. Vanner, n.p.c. G. Harrower. (31st Dec., 1953.)

BELGIAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, Brussels, 16th-17th Jan., 1954. K. Craigie, G. R. Harrower, B. Merrett, H. Vanner, Misses C. K. Best, A. Haydon and J. Rook. (31st Dec., 1953.)

FRENCH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Paris, 10-13th Jan., 1954

M.S. R. ROOTHOOF (F) bt. (sf) K. Craigie (E) —17, 19, 9, 20; bt. T. FLISBERG (SW) 14, 20, —14, —22, 8 (bt. M. Haguenauer (F) 14, —19, 14, —18, 15).

W.S. L. WERTL (AU) bt. (sf) C. Watel (F) 15, 10, 23; bt. A. ROSEANU (RU) 17, —12, 17, —16, 19 (bt. T. Pritzi (AU) 8, 7, 14).

M.D. M. LANSKOY/R. ROOTHOOF (F) bt. R. Bergmann/J. Leach (E) —16, 15, 21, —15, 18.

W.D. D. & R. ROWE (E) bt. T. Pritzi/L. WERTL (AU) 14, 20, 10.

X.D. T. HARATAZI/A. ROSEANU (RU) bt. V. Barna/R. Rowe (E) 18, —20, 12, 23, 16.

B.S. K. FREUNDORFER (G) bt. R. Dorking (E) 12, 16, 11.

G.S. A. HAYDON (E) bt. E. Thorsson (SW) 18, 14, 13.

ENGLAND 9—BELGIUM 0

Antwerp, 15th Jan., 1954

(England names first): K. CRAIGIE bt. J. Demollins 14, 10; bt. P. de Kemper 13, —13, 10; bt. J. Buyens 18, —14, 11, H. VANNER bt. Demollins 16, 20; bt. de Kemper 13, 17; bt. Buyens 19, 17. B. MERRETT bt. Demollins 19, 13; bt. de Kemper 19, —16, 19; bt. Buyens 21, —6, 13.



OVER TO YOU

I was interested to read the results of the Australian Championships in the November issue of *Table Tennis* and most surprised at the substantial victory of Phil Anderson over Miklos Szabados.

It was in Sydney in 1945 that I met Miklos and at that time there was no one in Australia to touch him. His handicap in a game of 31 was —85 whereas Phil Anderson's was only —40.

Miklos might be interested to know that I am running a monthly tournament along the lines of the ones he used to run in Sydney. Each player plays one game of 31 up on a knock-out basis. The good players are handicapped at —30 up and the "rabbits" at +25 down. Each entrant pays 6d. entry fee and there is enough money in the kitty to purchase a silver cup for the winner. Handicaps in subsequent tournaments are suitable adjusted.

My kindest regards to Miklos and all the other players I met during the enjoyable evenings I played at his Academy in Sydney.

F. Chevallier, Flt. Lieut., R.A.F., Northern Ireland



tiTtle—
taTtle •

EARLY in December BRIAN KENNEDY flew to India for a Coaching engagement (sponsored

by a wealthy and princely T.T. patron). He is due back in late March ● At the English Open at Belle Vue in November, the main trophies were presented by the EARL OF STAMFORD Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire . . . junior trophies were presented by Mr. A. T. FINNEY, and the Victor Barna Award was presented to AUBREY SIMONS by the Hon. Ivor Montagu

● On December 12th, cheerful Eddie Spielberg of Barons Court and an ex-T.T. varsity champion married popular SHIELA SMITH of Ashford (in Staines League) ● Birmingham's MAURICE WOODBINE (now a London sports writer) also joined the matrimonial stakes last October ● Geoff Harrower's 10 year-old daughter JEAN—likely bombshell in future women's play—has already played in the G.S. of 3 Opens . . . and done well too! . . . She knocked us out—literally—with a verbal back-hand. It was (with for it) . . .

FLOCCINAUCINIHLIPILIFICATION!!! Oh yes, it's in the dictionary—if its a large one ● Meanwhile, Ron Crayden's pretty 3½ year-old daughter LYNDA has the disconcerting habit of walking on to the court during play, but NEVER, avers Ron, when he's losing ● International BERNARD CROUCH has been a regular goal-scorer for Staines F.C. . . BOBBY STEVENS (Essex), now out of R.A.F. has had a tempting offer to become a soccer pro ● BOBBY RAYBOULD has another RAFish year to go . . . at his present progress, he will be near the top when he comes out . . . he tells me that NORMAN WILDING has made the R.A.F. rep. team ● BILL GALLAGHER (Warwicks), now in his N.S., manages to keep his hand in by playing for his regimental team in the

(continued bottom col. 2., page 112)

★ ★ The GREATEST EVER! ★ ★

23 men's teams and 17 women's teams competed in the 1951 World Championships in Vienna. This was the highest number, in the history of the tourney, just beating the 22 and 16 who played in London in 1948.

How small these figures seem when we learn that 38 men's and 27 women's teams have signified their intention to compete in the 21st Championships at Wembley. Although it may well be that several of the Associations who are hoping to come will find the financial strain too much, it is certain that over 30 men's and over 20 women's teams will visit these shores in just two months' time.

Merely weight of numbers do not make a thrilling Championships, but we have more than numbers. When

it became obvious to the International Federation that entries in 1954 would far surpass anything ever known, fresh Rules were drawn up, and a qualifying competition was legislated for if the entry in either team event exceeded 27. (How right they were!)

In order that an equitable system would be used to decide who should be exempt and who should have to qualify, Countries were ranked in order of merit, and fans in England will immediately realise what a treat they have in store when I tell them that ALL THE FIRST SIXTEEN RANKING MEN'S TEAMS AND ALL THE FIRST FOURTEEN WOMEN'S TEAMS ARE AMONGST THE PROBABLE COMPETITORS.

● ALREADY — THESE are coming! ●

Here is a complete list of the Associations who have indicated they are coming, with their World Ranking position in brackets after the names:—

MEN'S TEAMS

England (1); Hungary (2); Czechoslovakia (3); Hong Kong (4); Japan (5); Yugoslavia (6); France (7); Rumania (8); U.S.A. (9); China (10); Sweden (11); Germany (12); Vietnam (13); Austria (14); India (15); Netherlands (16); Belgium (18); Chile (19); Brazil (20); Switzerland (21); Wales (23); Singapore (25); Egypt (26); Israel (27); Ireland (28); Australia (29); Argentina (30); Spain (32); Denmark (33); New Zealand (36); and (unranked):—Finland, Jersey, Lebanon, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Saarland and Scotland.

WOMEN'S TEAMS

Rumania (1); England (2); Japan (3); Austria (4); Hungary (5); Wales (6); Czechoslovakia (7); U.S.A. (8); Scotland (9); France (10); Belgium (11); Hong Kong (12); India (13); Yugoslavia (14); Germany (16); Sweden (17); Chile (21); Brazil (22); Egypt (23); Israel (24); Netherlands (25); Switzerland (26); Ireland (27); and (unranked):—Denmark, Finland, Jersey and Saarland.

Of the above, Argentina, Australia, Lebanon, Nepal, Saarland and Spain have never yet competed; Hong Kong, Japan, Pakistan and Singapore have never played in Europe; and China has never yet visited England.

Every Day a Day of Memorable Matches

THE competition proper in both the Swaythling Cup (men's team Championship) and the Marcel Corbillon Cup (women's team Championship) will be divided into three groups. The method is that of division by strength. Thus in the men's event England, Hungary and Czechoslovakia will go into three different groups: The next three teams will be drawn, one each to a group; then the next three teams, and so on.

This means that from Tuesday morning, 6th April, until Friday afternoon, 9th April, many great battles will be fought, and arrangements are being made so that some of the greatest matches will be seen on the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 6/7th April. For example, on Wednesday evening, England will play either Hong Kong, Japan or Jugoslavia (whichever is drawn in their group), whilst on the Tuesday evening they could play U.S.A. or China.

At the same time Hungary and Czechoslovakia will be engaged against the other leading teams in their groups, and the English women's teams will be battling away against such as Austria (with Linde Wertl and Trudi Pritzi) or Hungary, with the great Gizelle Farkas. Therefore, make sure that you come along on these first two days and watch this great feast of first-class play. Each night you will get twenty International matches, not just one, and at bargain prices, too.

Another page of "News of the World's" on opposite page

■ Have you read the "Guest" Leader on Page 101 ?



No. 972 Photo: A. Pickford
Brian Brumwell making his unusual and speedy back-hand drive.

OPINION "Keep Open Finals Entertaining"

pleads Essex International BRIAN BRUMWELL

PLAYERS themselves must keep tournament finals entertaining and spectacular. When a person is playing for either their country or their county it is their duty to WIN, even if it means "chiselling" to do so, BUT in the individual events of open tournaments every player is playing for him (or her) self, and on finals night they owe it to their reputation to keep chiselling to a minimum.

Then I suggest organisers might aim for more local publicity, such as by posters. With so many counter-attractions people need more than a week's notice.

There was a very large crowd for the Eastern Suburban finals; a very small one at the Central. I think this was because Leach, the Rowe Twins (and commonly believed, Victor Barna) were known to be playing in the former. Bergmann and Leach are always public attractions, but have so many commitments that they can rarely spare the time involved in playing in the preliminary rounds. Would it be possible in such cases to engage them to play an exhibition match on Finals Night? Or in their absence, Victor Barna, who is always a big draw, or some similar personality. ●

Brian Brumwell

3 Team Finals !

Each a "Great"

TICKETS have been selling extremely well for the Saturday night, 10th April, and this is described as "finals night." But this is not entirely true, for Friday, 9th April, is also "finals night." The reason is that with three groups there are three teams in the final of each competition, the first of these being on Friday evening, the second on Saturday morning and the third and final one on Saturday evening.

Please remember that—

Members in the provinces cannot easily come down on nights other than the Saturday, so please, enthusiasts in or near London, make a mark at Friday night or Saturday morning, leave the remaining Saturday tickets for the provinces. Or at least give them the opportunity of buying them.

Assuming the top teams win through, there is a better than even chance of seeing either England v. Hungary or England v. Czechoslovakia on the Friday night, yet, so far, over ten times as many tickets have been sold for the Saturday night !

The Individuals:

All-Star Tuesday

IT WILL be obvious that almost all the World's leading players will be in the Individual events. You have read all about the Japanese and the Chilians. Those of you who could get to Wembley on the 25th November were thrilled by the Hungarians, as were others who saw them on tour. The Czechs. have been in hard training for over three months already.

Tickets for the Individual finals are almost sold out. Indeed, it may be that by the time this appears in print they may all have gone. BUT . . . do you realise that on the Tuesday night, 13th April, you can see the following programme:— **Semi-Finals of the Men's Singles; Semi-Finals of the Men's Doubles; Semi-Finals of the Women's Singles; Semi-Finals of the Women's Doubles.**

Yes, eight great matches, as against the five you can see on finals night the following evening. At the time of writing eight times as many tickets have been sold for the Wednesday as have gone for the Tuesday.

There is no play on the evening of Thursday, 8th April.

100 World Star

Matches in Programme

ON MONDAY, 12th April, there will be no semi-finals or finals, BUT there will be great battles in the third and fourth rounds of the men's and the women's singles, and with all the great world ranking stars competing we must realise that a third or fourth round match is the equal, or more than the equal, of the final of any other tournament. On this Monday night nearly 100 battles will be fought. Just think of it—**NEARLY A HUNDRED BEST OF FIVES FEATURING THE GREATEST PLAYERS IN THE WORLD!**

Really there is only one answer—**buy a season ticket before they are all sold.**

* * *
BILL VINT, that tower of strength who has done more than any man to guide the fortunes of the Association, firmly believes that England CAN NEVER AGAIN AFFORD TO RUN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. Certainly we shall not be able to afford to do so for a great number of years. THEREFORE THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SEE MANY OF THE GREAT PLAYERS IN ACTION. ●

21st WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

EMPIRE POOL AND SPORTS ARENA, WEMBLEY

6th — 14th April, 1954

ALL THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS ARE TAKING PART

(Teams and individuals from at least 40 countries are expected)

Tickets are still available as follows:—

10th April, 7 p.m.	.....	.....	.....	The Finals of the Swaythling and Marcel Corbillon Cup competitions.
				21/- 15/- 10/6d. and 6/6d.
14th April, 7 p.m.	.....	.....	.....	The Finals of the Individual Events.
				21/- 15/- 10/6d. and 6/6d.
				(All Sold)
6th, 7th April, 7 p.m.	.....	.....	.....	Team matches in the groups.
				15/- 12/6d. 10/6d. 7/6d. and 2/6d.
9th April, 7 p.m.	.....	.....	.....	Team matches in the groups.
				15/- 12/6d. 10/6d. 7/6d. and 4/-
12th April, 7 p.m.	.....	.....	.....	Preliminary Rounds of the Individual Events.
				15/- 12/6d. 10/6d. 7/6d. and 2/6d.
13th April, 7 p.m.	.....	.....	.....	Closing Rounds of the Individual Events.
				15/- 12/6d. 10/6d. 7/6d. and 4/-

EARLY APPLICATION IS ADVISED

For tickets and details of special party rates apply to:—

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

TELLING TALES OUT OF TOUR

with Peterfi. The coach speeds swiftly through South London. Ivor Montagu, speaking in German, is engrossed (up in front) with the officials. Sido sits like a protective father over tiny Eva Koczian who has disappeared from view behind the seat and her giant companion. Conversations proceed in 3 languages. Sweets, photographs and *Table Tennis* magazines are passed round . . . A holdall falls from the overhead rack and is deftly caught by Sido. Presently, another bag falls, but a shrill cry from Peggy Piper can't stop it falling on top of Sido.

"It is going to be 21 DOWN" he says in German with an amiable grin. It is all very friendly in the coach. A halfway stop is made for tea and cakes. Agnes Almasi (Mrs. Simons), small, dark and shy, curls deep in her seat. She does not feel too well. Tommy Sears organises the "help-yourself" tea queue. There is soon a happy, informal, inter-mingling group. Sido dashes out first to take photographs of the party coming from the tea pavilion.

Sido, (whose other interests are reading and music), asks us particulars about long-playing gramophones . . .

No. 959

GIZI FARKAS,
blonde
austerity
hides personality . . .
58 internationals.



Sido calls for a response by signs. Peggy Piper dubiously leads it . . . hardly anyone knows all the words, and all our popular songs seem to lack the swing of the Hungarians. Peggy works hard. Then Sido has a brain wave. He slaps his knee."

"Hokey-Cokey," he cries with a genial grin. "Hokey-Cokey," and demonstrates the actions. And so it was, with most of the coach load getting very near to an active performance of the Hokey-Cokey, that the coach rolled to a stop before the Queen's Hotel, Hastings. Everyone was good friends.

Mr. Rymill, Mayor of Hastings (and President of the Hastings T.T. League), resplendent in good humour and chain of office, made a singularly warm civic reception. (He was, incidentally, the Mayor when the Hungarians made their last visit). When he heard of the Hokey Cokey episode, he demonstrated his own version to Sido to the delight of the lounge audience, before leading the way to the best meal the Queen's could provide, beautifully arranged, and to the initiated, hall-marked with the touch of the ubiquitous Bill and Nora Vint. Everyone was thoroughly mixed up. It became more of a celebration party. The Mayor welcomed, and Ivor Montagu and the Hungarian leader exchanged very



No. 961
ZSUZSA FANTUSZ,
dark, petite
. . . tenacious in play.

cordial representative greetings, each being translated . . . Then the bustle of the autograph hunters . . .

(Up to date, our reluctant journalist had not even looked at the title page of his book.)

(continued in Col. 3, page 117)



No. 970 **Ferenc Sido**, triple World Champion with 86 international appearances . . . "behind him stand a battalion of other titles and trophies . . ."

THE RELUCTANT JOURNALIST

HE was keen enough as a journalist. He liked T.T. well enough, played it, but couldn't see the point of using up a jolly good Sunday with T.T. folks and not even getting a game himself. He had brought an exciting book to relieve the tedium.

* * *

Lazlo Varkonyi, is the shrewd, brown, wiry 46-year-old Hungarian coach and n.p. captain. He was No. 3 Hungarian ranked player last year. He seems always alert, wary; a captain to respect. Ferenc Sido, suavely tailored in russet brown, looks down from his 6 foot massive aloofness, and he softens to a warm, gentle smile of recognition and firm hand-clasp . . . This courteous, gentle and modest giant is triple world champion—behind him stand a battalion of other titles and trophies. He has played for Hungary 86 times. Gizi Farkas seems austere, distant, then suddenly glows in recognition. It changes her entire personality. She has played for Hungary 58 times. These are Magyar aristocrats, world celebrities. Around them circle newcomers to England . . . quiet, diffident. All (except 17 year-old left-handed Miklos Peterfi) are international players.

Outside the Waverley Hotel, London, the coach slowly fills. Although many of the Hungarians are bi-lingual, none it seems, speak English, so conversation is limited. Happily an interpreter (from the Legation) is present. He went to first school



No. 960 **Kalman Szepesi,**
elegant stylist . . .



No. 962 **Elemer Gyetvai,**
the "Hitting Machine" . . .

We learn that Peterfi is at "middle" school training to be an engineer. He has another 4 years of university and technical training before graduation. . . . A wistful, lilting Magyar song, first very very soft, rises from invisible Eva Koczian. She is singing to herself. Conversations hush, smiles are exchanged. The English girls applaud. Eva's square, determined, pale face and roguish eyes appear over the back of the seat inquisitively. Then, with an impish grin she calls her compatriots, and leads a gay rollicking, lilting programme of popular Hungarian songs. There is the famous national sports song, with its ringing chorus "SPORTAS . . . SPORTAS" echoing like Coronation "Vivas." Some songs are amusing, some have actions, "The Man with the Tie in Front" and "The American Man Who becomes Rich and has many servants . . ." etc.

My T. T. "OSCARs"

By HAROLD EVANS

in *The Manchester Evening Chronicle*

IF T.T. had a New Year's Honour List, I should recommend the following Awards:

THE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: KEN CRAIGIE—largely for one memorable match. It's not just that Ken managed to take 2 games from Harangozo; Johnny Leach did that in an encounter we want to forget... Ken showed that T.T. can still be a thrilling spectacle—how much the finals would have been enlivened by hitting of this quality.

Brian Kennedy has been too "bitty" and at times has lacked courage as when he skied balls against clubmate Ray Hinchliff in the Yorks. Open. Harry Venner loses marks for his performance against Bergmann in the English.

THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE YEAR: JOHNNY LEACH. Not for his play but his unusual cries of self-pity are not expected from a former world champion.

OUTSTANDING FOREIGNER: "CONNY" FREUNDORFER, Germany's 17 year-old champion... won the English Junior title for the 3rd successive year—a feat only once previously accomplished by Lancashire's Ken Stanley.

THE OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR: NORMAN COOK, who spent months organising the English Open, fought off illness while they were on, then collapsed when the finals were over.

THE TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR: THE ENGLISH OPEN, because it was smooth-working for the players. Criticisms of planning of early rounds when the important matches did not begin until the spectators were ready to go home... then the irony that so many good matches were on at the same time, and spectators didn't know which way to look. ●

Harold Evans

SWANSEA OPEN

Swansea, 9th Jan., 1954

M.S. S. JONES bt. (sf) A. Morris 21, 5; bt. G. MORGAN —14, 20, 16 (bt. J. Davies 16, —11, 17).

W.S. B. GRAY bt. S. Jones 17, 19.
M.D. S. JONES/W. SWEETLAND bt. D. Phillips/K. Pittard 18, 19.

W.D. M. COTTON/G. HOLDEN bt. R. Beynon/S. Jones 20, —12, 13.

B.S. G. MORRIS bt. C. Ponting —20, 13, 16.

G.S. S. CUSZAN bt. N. E. Joy —16, 15, 16.

DEVELOPMENTS IN RUSSIA

THE ALL-U.S.S.R. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Winter Stadium, Leningrad, Dec., 1953

THE All-Russia Championships were this year organised on much broader and progressive lines than hitherto, reflecting the expanding interest of the sport and its development on a more nationalistic basis instead of representative industry teams. Players from all the Union Republics participated, with the exceptions of Kirghezia, Kazakhstan, Tadjikistan and Turkmenia. A notable feature was that each competing republic in the team championships was represented by a mixed team of 3 men and 2 women.

It is difficult to assess comparative standards of play. Hitherto, pre-war Swaythling Cup players from the Baltic Republics have dominated, but these are now being eclipsed by new names and younger players. A. Saunoris, who again won the title, for instance, is a 25 year old student at Vilna University. Also interesting, is the emergence of women players. The final placings in the W.S. had to be decided on proportion of wins and losses (in games).

The rising young players would benefit enormously from competitive experience outside and of a higher technical skill than in their present sphere, and would then almost certainly show a rapid rise in their international status in this sport. The

sports teams which Russia has sent out in the post-war years have, in defeat and victory, conducted themselves in the best traditions of sporting etiquette and have aroused the friendly respect of all who have witnessed it. Russia has never sent out more successful ambassadors. Table Tennis, with its universal fraternity of more than 60 national associations, has yet to enjoy the participation of a representative Russian team, whether in international matches or better still in the World Championships. Nothing but good, we feel, could come of it for all concerned. It would be a fine thing if they could make their debut at the meeting of all nations at Wembley, but alternatively, we hope to see international matches in the not too distant future.

TEAM PLACINGS: 1. LITHUANIA (L). 2. Estonia (E). 3. Moscow A (M). 4. Armenia (A). 5. Russian Federation A. 6. Moldavia. 7. Latvia (LV). 8. Leningrad. 9. Moscow B. 10. Ukraine. 11. Azerbaijan. 12. Georgia. 13. Russian Federation B. 14. Byelorussia. 15. Uzbekistan. 16. Karelo-Finnish Republic.

M.S. A. SAUNORIS (L); 2. F. Duskesas (M). 3/4. A. Akopyan (A) and V. Variakojis (L).

W.S. E. LESTAL (E); 2. S. Arakelyan (A).

M.D. AKOPYAN/DUSKESAS; 2. A. Celvan/M. Levitanus (LV).

W.D. B. BALAISJENE/O. DJILEVICIUTE (L).

X.D. AKOPYAN/ARAKELYAN; 2. Lestal (E)/Magi (L).

OF ALL LEADING

SPORTS OUTFITTERS



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winner of the following titles:

World's Women's Doubles 1949/50

Scottish Women's Singles 1945/53

Scottish Mixed Doubles 1949/53

Scottish Women's Doubles 1946/53

English Open Mixed 1950/51

Miss Elliot wears "UMBRO" table tennis wear

X THIS IS A GRAND ARTICLE

by Michael Maclaren. I hope EVERYONE (as well as the juniors) will read it. It is all the more outstanding because it is written with sincerity by a top junior player of To-day . . . and thus, we hope, a Leader of tomorrow. **THE EDITOR**

MANNERS ON COURT

By MICHAEL MACLAREN

IN ANY kind of competitive play, displays of bad manners are far too frequent, and apart from looking foolish, they give a thoroughly bad impression to the onlookers. Bad manners occur either because of ignorance or an inability to control one's feelings.

I have set down here the things I believe, in the hope that they may be helpful to others.

ON MANNERS

There is an art even in the shaking of hands after a match. We all know those extreme types: the one who, having lost, shakes hands wearing an expression of misery or disgust and the superior type who toys with his opponent and shakes hands patronisingly. The best handshake is the one which the spectator does not unduly notice—pleasant, quiet and firm—irrespective of who has won.

A point that is often overlooked is that of thanking the umpire at the end of a game. When the match is a final or is played before an audience, I think it better to shake hands with one's opponent before the match and with the umpire after the match.

On those occasions when a ball from your opponent has gone past you, and you have retrieved it to return for him to serve, do this carefully. Don't bang the ball back with the bat from the distance of the surroundings. It is even worse to return it so inaccurately that your opponent has to make an abnormal effort to catch it. Return to the table and throw the ball gently across the net.

A bad habit of many players is that of picking up the ball at the end of a game before shaking hands. Walk round and shake hands immediately the last ball has been played. Then thank the umpire. After that, you can think about retrieving the ball.

When you have beaten a young or an inexperienced player, please do not merely shake hands and walk away. Add a few friendly words of comment, encouragement or advice.

When you are playing a comparative beginner, always give the game your full attention. When you can afford to, let him use his best shot occasionally. Although you may beat some players to a very low score, remember that you are probably the only person who will be impressed by such a performance! NO player is



Mr. MICHAEL MACLAREN (center) emphasizes a point in his article on the ruse through it with his close friend PETER MADGE. "As a player," says Peter, "Michael needs no introduction to Spotlight on Youth Page . . . but that calm exterior hides some strong convictions . . . some of which he has set down here. Welcome to a new and — I hope frequent contributor."

ever too good to show respect to an opponent.

ON TEMPERAMENT

We all have those games during which many nets and edges are scored against us. The last thing you should do is to betray any annoyance. If it is evident that you are getting rattled it may encourage your opponent and dishearten you. A calm exterior can have exactly the opposite effect. Admittedly, it is easier to say "keep a poker face" than to actually "do it, but it really is worth a big effort to do so. Force yourself to appear quite calm on the outside and it will eventually become second nature inside.

There are some players who, having lost a point, indulge in theatrical gestures of rage or despair. These exhibitions are in the worst of taste, unsightly, unnecessary and unforgivable.

Happily, players with really bad tempers are almost non-existent in table tennis, but there are a few. To them, I would say:

Give up the game. We don't like you, and you—apparently—don't like us.

The most widespread example of bad manners is, of course, The Excuse for Losing. For, make no mistake about it (and even if it is true), any form of excuse IS bad manners. Nobody ever really believes an excuse anyway. So next time you suffer a defeat and feel like saying "I played badly," remember that there was someone at the other end of the table who was there to make you do just that.

Above all, always remember that table tennis is a game, and that games are usually played for pleasure and the amusement they give. I don't like to see table tennis (or any other game) turned into a grim and desperate war of life and death. Do you? ● **Michael Maclaren**

IN adding a loud "HEAR-HEAR" to all that Michael has written, I notice that he has assumed (presumably for convenience) that the opponent is always masculine. Some readers may think the comments apply with equal force to females. I am not so sure. I think the ladies can teach the men a lot! In fact, offhand, I cannot think of a single girl who indulges in wild gestures, etc., during play . . . but I COULD produce quite a lengthy list of excitable "gentlemen"! Nevertheless, (although girls have a much more philosophic outlook to the game) they do not miss an opportunity to have a sly dig at each other's attire or appearance, but isn't that the Eternal Feminine? Or is it Natural History? **Peter Madge**

* * *
A LONDON evening newspaper recently reported a Surrey official as having said that his county was in need of more County Umpires "in order to correct the many faults committed by young players."

Precisely what faults is an umpire qualified to correct? An umpire penalises transgressions of the Laws; he does not correct them.

Since the player loses points by such transgressions, I am sure that HE will make the first effort to eliminate them.

The County Umpires' Scheme was a big step forward and it has helped to raise the prestige of table tennis immensely, but I hope that we shall not see the efficiency of officials rating a higher importance than the efficiency of younger players. ● **Peter Madge**

MANCHESTER CLOSED

Manchester University, 9th Jan., 1954
From FRANK GEE (Abd.)

PHIL Strulovitch and Eric Johnson made a welcome first finals appearance, the former earning great credit for his performance against Ron Allcock, who won the title. Adele Wood and Eileen once again proved their local supremacy in the W.S. Harry Jones (a founder-member of the League 27 years ago), beat ex-international Freddy Cromwell 16, 18 to win the Veterans title.

M.S. R. ALLCOCK bt. (sf) E. Johnson 15, —14, 12; bt. P. STRULOVITCH —25, 13, 13 (bt. B. Casofsky —12, 14, 20).

W.S. A. WOOD bt. E. Grimstone 13, 18. J.S. B. HARDMAN bt. P. Jones 18, —18, 13.

M.D. J. INGBER/P. STRULOVITCH bt. E. Johnson/D. Schofield 14, —17, 16.

W.D. J. BRADDOCK/E. GRIMSTONE bt. D. Wilkinson/A. Wood 18, 16.

X.D. A. HOLLAND/D. WILKINSON bt. B. Casofsky/E. Grimstone 17, —17, 16.

Cup for Team Sportsmanship, Appearance and Punctuality

NEW ZEALAND has local "Associations" as the equivalent of our "Leagues" which are affiliated to the national association. Since 1940, the New Zealand T.T.A. has run 2 association team championships (comparable to our Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl): The Kean Shield for men's teams and the Herbert G. Teagle Shield for women's teams.

A noteworthy addition, however, is the award of an ADDITIONAL trophy—the Victor Barna-Dunlop Cup. We perceive the deep thought of the great sportsman himself underlying the conditions of presentation. Of these, throughout his career, he has been a paragon of example. We commend the thought to the world. The official description for the award is:

"The Cup is awarded annually in recognition of those qualities by which, in addition to technical skill, the prestige and reputation of table tennis are established.

The Cup is awarded to that Association whose team competing in the annual Inter-Association Teams Championships . . . excels in the following qualities:

1. **SPORTSMANSHIP**, characterised by modesty in victory and cheerfulness in defeat; table etiquette, and a ready acceptance of umpires' decisions.

2. **APPEARANCE**, by which is meant neat, uniform dress kept at a uniformly high standard throughout the tournament.

3. **PUNCTUALITY**, this being in attendance at advertised times, prompt reporting to play in succession, and readiness to co-operate with the management."

My World Ranking

By JOHN CORSER

BASED on last season's performances in international matches and major championships my World Ranking List is:

1. Sido. 2. Andreadis. 3-4: Bergmann and Roothoof. 5. Harangozo. 6. Simons. 7. Stipek. 8. Dolinar. 9-10. Leach and Vana.

Sido is indisputable No. 1. In Bucharest Andreadis lost only to Bergmann and Sido (in the singles

final). Bergmann lost only to Sido and Stipek. Against this parity, however, Bergmann lost (elsewhere during the season) to Harangozo (twice), Dolinar, Sala, Ehrlich and Roland.

Both Harangozo and Roothoof had impressive victories, but had more defeats than Bergmann. Harangozo lost to Roothoof 3 times in 5, and to Bergmann 3 times in 5, and Roothoof lost 3 times to Bergmann. Harangozo was only beaten by players of world class; Roothoof's worst defeats were by Lansky and Alan Rhodes, but he won 2 titles against one each for Bergmann and Harangozo in the championships of Yugoslavia, France, Netherlands and Austria. Our national hero Aubrey Simons lost to Sido and Andreadis at Bucharest but had some wonderful victories, marrying a good season by losing to Agopoff, Reiter and Merrett. Stipek's one achievement was to reach the World's semi-final (including a sterling win over Bergmann).

Johnny Leach had a season of mixed success: Wins—Harangozo (twice), Koczian, Amouretti, Dolinar, Marinko and Gyetvai. Losses—Roothoof (3 times), Sido, Andreadis, Tereba, Vana, Merrett, Haguenaer, Tokar, Gabric and Sala.●

John Corser, Watford.

SOME SUGGESTIONS . . .

- ★ Books as prizes instead of the less appreciated medals and plaques. We have thousands of new books suitable for sports prizes or libraries. These books are less than half the published price.
- ★ Sponge and Crepe covered bats. More and more players use them, viz., Flisberg and Ehrlich. Crepe or Sponge 10/- each.
- ★ Club T.T. bats. Rubber both sides 4/6d. each.
- ★ Badges—Wire or Silk—at low cost.
- ★ Learn the rules the easy way. Know your table tennis, past and present—Alec Brook Quiz Book 1/6d.

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 For Juniors: Grey, Sky, Turquoise and White 7/6d. each
 Zip-cheaters: Full length, T.T. colours 35/6d.
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 Shorts: Tailored Grey worsted 46/6d.
 Rayon 25/6d. Khaki 23/6d.
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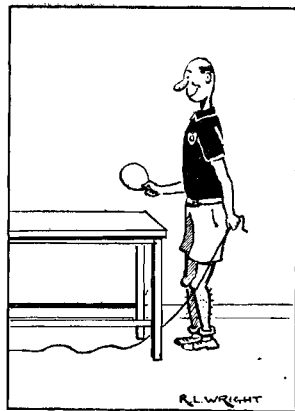
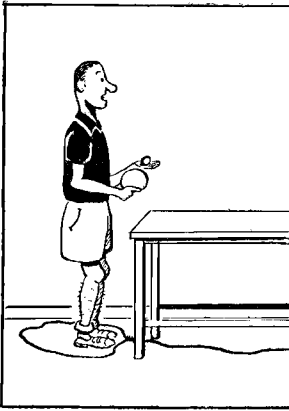
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Tied Up Quite Happily



"You seem surprisingly confident at match point, Mr. Hinks!"

TO ENSURE PUNCTUAL PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION, *Table Tennis* now goes to Press about the middle of the month preceding. Will all contributors please note—All material for publication should be sent direct to The Editor, Leslie Woolford, 12, Campbell Road, Bedford.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR COPY of *Table Tennis* by placing a regular order NOW... Many outstanding features are planned for the next three great issues. **ONLY** with a regular order can you be **SURE**...

CLUES ACROSS

1. English international, 1935-36; founded national team competition (7).
6. Affects players in tight matches (6).
11. A "counter measure" between games (3).
12. Might be Miles or Bergmann (7).
13. A first name becomes last for an international coach (7).
15. First half of first winner of the Victor Barna Award; not so simple either (6).
16. Sol Schiff has a supposition (2).
17. You must have at least one to play T.T. (3).
18. Vana loses his Victoria and Albert (2).
19. Law 2 says there shall be two; also suggests formality or frivolity (5).
23. Notts. Table Tennis Association has lost half its tea ration (3).
24. A this of tables is usually needed for an open tournament (9).
27. Stimulant for organisers (!) but not players; beware of the trap (3).
28. Preferred to "all" by some umpires, even impartial ones (4).
29. Always gives a devilish little tail to Colonel Blimp (3).
30. We do this for most of our officers (5).
31. An 8-day festival, a stanza, musical note or even a wine cask, but not at the same time (6).
32. The heart of Slough league turns back here

and sounds like a debt (2).

33. Style that improves the ladies' chances but not necessarily their play (4).
34. Actually exists and might go towards paying your entry fees in Spain (4).
37. It might be the majority (4).
39. Must be practiced by many open tournament players; double significance in numismatics (6).
42. Although always at the heart of the Isle of Sheppey League it may refer only to Excess Profits (2).
43. Common with daddy, ginger and weasel (3).
45. Something which should always be kept on the ball (3).
46. A helpful pull? Sometimes (3).
48. An accident might do this to you and stop you playing (7).
51. He first won the St. Bride Vase in 1937-38 (4).
52. The time of Vera Dace (3).
53. A creel will hold one, however slippery (3).
54. 33 loses its head, and with cups might result from overdose of 43 (3).
55. It's all sixes but no sevens; had an historic height in 1935 (3).
56. This, alas, might be descriptive of some tables in our league (10).

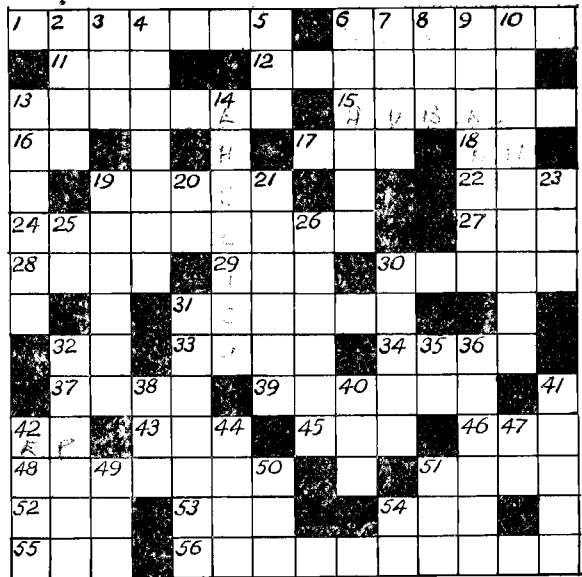
CLUES DOWN

2. The organisation that makes the Laws of the Game (4).

TABLE TENNIS QUIZ CROSSWORD

Compiled by W. G. BRIXTON of Ipswich
(With Additional Complications to the Clues)

Solution next month



Unless you tell him, The Editor will never know whether you like a feature of this kind, or whether you have better suggestions. Whether (without cheating) you found it too easy or a pleasingly absorbing puzzlement between games. Or even a waste of space. It would be so nice to know.

3. Johnny may be twice world champion, but here he's lost a high honour (3).
4. Protagonist of junior competitions has lost a letter (7).
5. Always do this to win at T.T. (4).
6. Even notable players are this before big occasions (6).
7. Veteran Austrian international said to have developed the T.T. drop shot (4).
8. The "Greatest Name in T.T." has lost his tail and moves backward, but surely not to here? (3).
9. The Hon. Fixture Sec. must this his fixtures (7).
10. As twins, Diane and Rosalind are said to be (9).
13. The one you always miss! (6).
14. World Singles finalist 3 times and "hero" of The World's Greatest Chiselling Match (1935) (7).
19. Bird whose habits should be discouraged in T.T. clubs (6).
20. It occurs in every fluke, and initially embraces the territory of 4 national associations (2).
21. "Tottim" might sound like a masculine bird (6).
23. Wantage loses salary and leaves this behind (3).
25. Vera Dace surrounds the gunners (2).
26. Formerly found in Paris back streets and was red in North America; epithet sometimes applied to rough-mannered player (6).
30. Strange or weird (5).
31. The T.T. season is in full swing this month (in the northern hemisphere) (7).
32. "County" precedes the best but the initials should follow the name (6).
35. Inside left (2).
36. Must be strong, they say, for good defence (6).
38. In Spain you might find a spring that is attached to many towns (3).
40. Cereal; used to make bread in some countries (3).
41. A spectacular or surprising game may leave audience or opponent this (5).
42. Anthony might make "need" of the first public park but so might Len Adams in a singular way (4).
43. League secretaries add a "d" to describe how they are always asking for the co-operation of club secs. (4).
47. In France it might only be a little one, but initially has world-wide significance (2).
49. "Oh, No?" "No Oh!" With exclamation out, the world champion with the sponge-bat had a restful time (3).
50. U.S.A. Champion Thelma Neuberger has a typically English tree (3).
51. Victor Barna half way to victory? Not half! (3).
53. Might be half a laugh or half a half (2).

"... of Most Thrilling Events I can Remember"

said Sir Arthur Elvin

A WRITER, more illustrious than ourselves, has spoken of the "pleasantly disarming confusion of loyalties all round" concerning the visit of the Hungarian sports teams to England, and the "sportsman's pleasure in the sheer beauty and elegant dexterity of the visitor's play."

The evening Empire Pool at Wembley Stadium was, it seemed, full of Hungarians with a new found pride. Smog covered London like a funeral pall over English soccer. Gloom-fully, fearfully, quietly, in an anguish of hopefulness, English eyes rivetted on the T.T. court. Resurgent hopes on Simons winning the first match, changed despairingly as the England chances dwindled to vanishing point . . . 1-2, 1-3, and finally 1-4, only one more loss to bring the double defeat. It was Hungary Night triumphant. From the radio transmission in the Press Box 3 excited Hungarian commentators could be heard right across the arena, earning more than one reproachful glance from the Umpire.

More than the Press seats were empty at that moment of imminent defeat. "Would you say this was the blackest day for English sport?" one famous sports-writer asked us. "Never!" we averred stoutly, and then—with perhaps more hope than confidence—"Don't forget that in table tennis, only the deciding point—and the deciding match!—counts. Wait . . ."

But there was no need to wait. Diane Rowe was splendidly stopping the rout in that vital game against Eva Koczian which made Bergmann's magnificence against Sido worthwhile. All seats were full for the Sido v. Bergmann epic (except that of a dubious Raymond Glendenning!) And what a stupendous, thrilling,

spectacular occasion it was . . . Never has such applause echoed and rocked the Stadium . . . people yelled, stood, stamped, threw hats in the air, and even tore scarves in their hysterical emotion. Even the ranks of Tuscany—the impartial Press box—could not forbear to cheer.

Sir Arthur Elvin, Managing Director of Wembley Stadium, good friend of table tennis, thought the whole match was exciting, but "the men's singles was one of the most thrilling sporting events I can remember watching."

The Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, M.P. (Captain of the British Olympic Team at Helsinki) wrote:

"I must also write to say how enormously I enjoyed the match, and must pass on to you what was said to me by Sir Arthur Elvin. 'The table tennis people,' he said, 'organise better than anyone else. It is all done by volunteers and it is always an absolutely first-rate show in every way.' From Sir Arthur Elvin, who has such a vast experience of every kind of sporting spectacle, this is indeed high praise.

Congratulations on your victory last night and all good wishes for the future."

On such a memorable occasion, it is extremely gratifying to know that those present included representatives of the following organisations:

Army Sports Control Board; Royal Naval Sports Control Board; R.A.F. School of Physical Training; British Olympic Association; C.C.P.R.; Badminton Assn. of G.B.; B.A. for Physical Training; Amateur Basket Ball Assn.; All-England Women's Hockey Assn.; School Athletic Assn.; Nat. Council for School Sports; National Club Cricket Assn.; Soviet Embassy; Rumanian Legation; Japanese Embassy; Nat. Fed. Community Assns.; Nat. Playing Fields Assn.; Women's Cricket Assn.; Amateur Swimming Assn.; Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation; Y.W.C.A.; and numerous youth and allied organisations. ☺

INDIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1953-54

TEAMS (Men): BOMBAY bt. (A) Madras 5-4; bt. BENGAL 5-0 (bt. Mysore 5-3).
(Women): HYDERABAD bt. Bombay 3-1.
M.S. THACKERSEY bt. (sf) Vyas —16, 17, 19, —18, 10; bt. TIHRUVENGADAM 13, 10, —15, 19 (bt. Banarjee —20, —9, 13, 20, 13).
W.S. S. SULTANA bt. Mrs. Pillai 12, 16, 11.
M.D. CHANDARANA/SOMAYYA bt. Banarjee/Bhandari 20, —18, 12, —22, 18.
W.D. V. RAJAGOPALAN/S. SULTANA bt. M. Parande/I. Samuel 15, 15, 14.
X.D. BHANDARI/SULTANA bt. Chandarana/V. Rajagopalan 16, 13, 13.
J.S. SOLOMON bt. Mahmood 12, —13, 15, 12.

TALES OUT OF TOUR

(continued from page 113)

It was a wonderful opening for the Tour. A faultless, flawless, friendmaking triumph for Mr. A. K. "Bill" Vint and his magnificent lieutenants of the Hastings League. Even what so few T.T. organisers ever think of it, facilities for the Press telephones, etc., were arranged especially well. The big Press Bouquet.

You have already heard about the actual match at the White Rock Pavilion. A buffet supper at the Queen's followed before the long journey home—a journey made short by what must have sounded like a party of revellers. Having perfected a united Hokey Cokey, an entertaining variety programme followed. Best feature of this was a rollicking Hungarian chorus by everyone. "Per-cussion" Peterfi achieves all the effects. Then a host of fingers would point to a victim, who then had to make up and sing a verse about someone else, after which they had the privilege (wait for the chorus) of selecting the next victim. Jimmy Lowe put his head on Betty Isaacs shoulder and slept through the lot. The English players were content to sing a verse of anything. Harry Venner, in a resonant baritone, gave "Mother Machree," Len Adams had a stab at "The Old Sow" and our journalist friend (who was as party-minded as any) remembered his home town with a spirited "I belong to Glasgow." It was all jolly good clean fun and only reluctantly hushed as the coach reached the Waverley at nearly 2 a.m. in the morning.

* * *

Taking our journalist friend home, we listened with delight to his fulsome praise of the Spirit of Table Tennis. He was no reluctant journalist. In this worthy unwasted day he had become as enthusiastic as any of us about this game which glowed with a universal goodwill that easily bridged man-made barriers. ●

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(continued from page 109)

Aldershot League ● ● NORMAN COOK asks us to thank everyone for their kind enquiries and messages on his recent illness. He is now getting on very well ● The Editor makes a similar acknowledgement in connection with the car smash in which he was involved ● Dr. M. F. ("Monty") MOHTADI, Persia and Warwicks, reached the quarter finals of the Amateur Squash Rackets Championships last month ●

SOME VIEWS on TIME LIMITS

(see Page 61)

WHEN the Time-Limit Rule has been enforced the game has been ruined, ending in extreme dissatisfaction. Here is a simple solution that by increasing the difficulty of strokes after a game has lasted, say, 15 minutes, demands more skill from the players. . . . Require them to play the remainder of the game with bats much reduced in size: handles as at present but blades 5 inches long by 1 inch wide. It would greatly add to the gaiety of nations.

Thirty years ago, armed with my old sponge rubber bat, I would have taken on Richard and Johnny thus handicapped, with the utmost confidence. Skill would be as important for victory as ever.

P. E. Warden

* * *

A basis towards solution?

All games to be played to a finish. After the first 10 minutes of play lower the net by $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch for 5 minutes. Continue lowering $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch each time at 5-minute intervals.

F. Vernon Davies

* * *

IN no other sport is the public treated so badly as in table tennis. . . I, a keen T.T. fan, have lost much of my former keenness through so often having to leave before the end and before the most important match of the evening has been played. Friends drop out because T.T. "finishes too late."

A concrete example, an important county match billed to start at 7 p.m. started at 7.30 p.m. The interval at 9 dragged to 9.30. I had to leave at 10.40 p.m. (half the audience had left or were leaving when I went). A women's match was then in progress with the highlight match of the evening yet to come. . . .

(Many similar letters received.—Ed.)

I do not agree with your remarks on women's matches. Most ladies are hardly up to men's ordinary club standard. . . my interest is men's singles, and I think this goes for the great majority.

W. G. Smith

* * *

I congratulate you on your eloquent editorials. . . they give a welcome and much-needed positive lead to both organisers and players. . . I am sure that you will have the goodwill of the great majority solidly behind you in your efforts to keep the game worthy of public interest. . . and sustain its continued development. I couldn't agree more about overlong

and late-finishing programmes; along with the un-enterprising play they are nails for the coffin of table tennis. . . More power to your pen.

S. Wills, London.

* * *

I suggest a simple amendment to the rule which could probably be improved upon.

Give the umpire a similar authority to the referee in "boxing." In practice; if the game is entertaining let it go the full distance; if it is evidently going to be a "chisel" throughout the umpire can warn that it shall be curtailed (to best of 3); or that any game (first, second or third, etc.), shall be limited to 10 minutes. However, should the play enliven, the umpire can permit it to run its natural course.

P. G. Harris, R.A.F., B.A.O.R.

WORCESTERSHIRE started the season well beating Northants and Leics. and drawing Derbyshire. . . John Osborne (who was married on Dec. 19th) has excelled himself and shown a great fighting spirit. . . Louis Devereux also, although temporarily lost to "Z" Reserve. . . Bobby Goode has certainly strengthened the doubles sections, but we lost him to the Army on Dec. 10th. He will be stationed at Norton Barracks, Worcester, however, so fingers crossed—we might be lucky. Beryl Steed has maintained her usual good form, while newcomer Molly Hough has done extraordinarily well in the doubles.

Pat Moss.

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Bergmann-Leach Tour

MUNICH. 20th Nov. J. LEACH bt. K. Freundorfer 15, 16, 12; bt. R. Piffl 16, 15, 8. R. BERGMANN bt. Freundorfer 20, —19, 15, 15; bt. Piffl —16, 8, 8, 7. R. BERGMANN/J. LEACH bt. Freundorfer/Piffl 15, 16, 17.

STOCKHOLM. 8th Dec. J. LEACH bt. R. Bergmann 17, 17; bt. T. Flisberg 14, —19, 16 (bt. R. Bergmann/J. Leach 14, —15, 10).

STOCKHOLM. 9th Dec. International Tournament M.S. Final. R. BERGMANN bt. A. Ehrlich 17, —19, 13 (sf bt. J. Leach —17, 10, 10).

LINKOEPING. 10th Dec. International Tournament. R. BERGMANN bt. W. Fredriksson 15, 17 bt.; T. Flisberg 16, —15, 10; bt. J. Legsh 15, 15. (Leach bt. S. Cederholm 15, 19; bt. A. Ehrlich 9, 16).

ESKILSTUNA. 11th Dec. T. FLISBERG bt. J. Leach 13, 18; bt. R. Bergmann 9, —17, 13. A. EHRlich lost to Bergmann —20, 17, —13; bt. Leach 10, 14. Ehrlich/Flisberg lost to Bergmann/Leach 20, —17, —21.

HELSINKI, Finland. 15th Dec. J. LEACH bt. J. Berg 12, 18; bt. A. Huttunen 13, 18; bt. K. Lehtonen 8, 13. R. BERGMANN bt. N. Vehkamo 6, 11; bt. Lehtonen 13, 17; bt. Berg 9, 11. BERGMANN/LEACH bt. Huttunen/Vehkano 11, 16. Exhib.: LEACH bt. Bergmann —16, 17, 14.

YORKS. JUNIOR OPEN

Town Hall, Pontefract, 9th Jan., 1954

B.S. R. JACKSON bt. (sf) J. Spenser 13, 19; bt. P. TINDALE 13, 13 (bt. B. F. Bell 18, 12).

G.S. J. PRESTON bt. F. Wright 17, 15. **Y.S.** B. PENNINGTON bt. (sf) L. Blyth —18, 20, 12; bt. J. BEAUMONT 16, 8 (bt. A. Teal 19, —19, 18).

Y.D. L. BLYTH/R. JACKSON bt. J. Beaumont/B. Pennington 14, 17.

X.D. L. BLYTH/P. INGLESON bt. B. Pennington/J. Preston —8, 11, 15.

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From South London Way

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. E. A. W. Cast, genial South London League President on his Christmas Eve marriage to Miss Joan Bowshall of Peckham. "Ernie" was married at Caxton Hall and will settle down in the Norwood district. Best wishes from us all for the future.

* * *

STILL in Cupid's corner, what do fiancées do when they live in different towns? If they are Table Tennis players they play in tournaments together at week-ends!

* * *

BRIGHT new idea from South London. To celebrate their 21st Birthday they presented a cake at their Open finals on January 16th. Players, officials and past personalities who were present received a slice of birthday cake. It all adds up to a spirit of friendliness which is common throughout the game, but this is the first time I have heard of this idea.

* * *

I HEAR that Mr. & Mrs. (Peggy Franks) Ronnie Hook have moved into a new house nearer the dolls factory which they run. I don't know if there is a table installed but feel certain they will have included some arrangement in their plans.

* * *

WIMBLEDON Y.M.C.A. have won the London League four time in five years and are unbeaten so far this year. Their team, which includes such players as Harry Venner, Jackie Head, Tony Miller, Roy Turner and Michael Maclaren, must be as strong a club side as there is in the game. The London League which was so strong a force in pre-war days is gradually coming back as a league. Though not strong numerically, the playing strength is high and there are many ranked players in the teams competing, and many other county players and non-ranked internationals. Arthur Haynes, the secretary, still plays the game, although his health has not been of the best in recent years. At Wimbledon Club he recently challenged anyone of his age—I offered as a challenger a man of 62, George Hurlock (Keith's father), but the game has yet to be played.●

Geoff. Coulthred

PRAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

5-6th Dec., 1953

M.S. 1. I. ANDREADIS. 2. V. Tereba.
3. L. Stipek. 4. B. Vana.

Energetics Cup, 12-13th Dec., 1953.

M.S. 1. V. SLAR. 2. L. Stipek. 3. Pesej-
pal. 4. Turnovsky.

FIXTURE BOOK

See previous issues for explanations.

Date(s)	Event and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Feb. 3-14	MIDDLESEX (Herga) OPEN Herga Lawn Tennis Club, (Jan. 11) 3 Harrow, Middx.	B.S. 3	Mr. S. W. Martin, 55, Kings Way, Wealdstone, Middx. (Mr. H. Finch).
6	MIDLAND COUNTIES Friends Institute, (Jan. 20) Moseley Rd., Birmingham.	B.S. 12 G.S. 12	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12 (Mr. A. A. Haydon).
18-20	CHESHIRE OPEN (Feb. 6) Chetwynd-Drill Hall, Bidston Rd., Birkenhead.	B.S. 8 G.S. 8	Mr. F. W. Christopher, "Tarbert," Greasby, Wirral, Cheshire (Mr. T. Blunn).
20	*GWENT OPEN. (9th Feb.) Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., Corporation Rd., Newport.	J.S. 10	Mr. G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Rd., Newport, Mon.
23	ENGLAND v. WALES Mixed Juniors		
27	Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl.		Semis and Finals.
26-28	SURREY OPEN (Feb. 6) Municipal Baths Hall, East St., Epsom.	B.S. 8 G.S. 8	Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey (Mr. C. A. Bourne).
March			
1-13	WEST MIDDLESEX OPEN West Ealing Club, (Feb. 8) Mervyn Road, Ealing.	B.S. 4 G.S. 4	Mr. W. J. S. Cox, 27, Sutherland Road, Ealing, W.13. (Mr. W. J. S. Cox).
5	ENGLAND v. WALES.	Mixed	At Bradford.
13	GRIMSBY OPEN, Pier Pavilion and Town Hall, Cleethorpes.	B.S. 11	Mr. J. Browne, 48, Roberts Street, Grimsby. (Mr. W. E. Parker).
20	WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN Civic Hall, (Mar. 1) Queen Street, Exeter.	B.S. 19 G.S. 19	Mr. R. R. North, "Lynwood," Premier Place, St. Leonard's Road, Exeter. (Mr. A. W. Bridle).
20	"DAILY MIRROR" National Tournament. AREA FINALS.		Birmingham.
25-27	NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN Drill Hall, (Mar. 13) 606 H.A.A. Regt. R.A., Norman Road, Rusholme, Manchester, 14.	B.S. 10 G.S. 10	Mr. L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Burnage, Manchester, 19. (Mr. H. J. Sutcliffe).
26-7	*IRISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS.		
	*HUNGARIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.		
	*U.S.A. OPEN.		
April			
	*GUERNSEY CLOSED.		Guernsey.
	*CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMPIONSHIPS.		
3-4	*NETHERLANDS OPEN.		
6-14	21st WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS. See PAGES 110-111.		WEMBLEY.
17-19	NORTH-EAST ENGLAND OPEN (7th Apr.) Burniston Rd. Barracks, Scarborough.	B.S. 10 Y.S. 10 V.S. 10	Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood St., Scarborough. (Mr. W. Wilson).
17-18	*ALL-GERMAN OPEN.		
26—	THAMESIDE OPEN. Hydro Hall, (6th Apr.) Y.M.C.A., Plaistow, E.13.	B.S. 6-8 G.S. 6-8	Mr. L. R. Norminton, 12, Derham Gardens, Upminster, Essex. (Mr. G. James).
13	"DAILY MIRROR" National Tournament. FINALS.		Royal Albert Hall.
July			
1-6	*SOUTH AFRICAN BOARD OPEN.		Cape Town, South Africa.