

TABLE TENNIS



40 NATIONS
AT WEMBLEY



7 COUNTRIES
SHARE TITLES



JAPANESE
TRIUMPH
How and Why



RESULTS



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS NUMBER

Table Tennis



Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by **LESLIE S. WOOLLARD**

Published by **Hendon Printing Works Ltd., Victoria Road, London, N.W.4.**

Vol. 12

MAY, 1954

No. 9

SPONGE CONGRESS wisely refused to ban sponge. The sequel would only have been perennially changing regulations to combat synthetic substitutes, one of which is reputed to be even more deadly than sponge! Standardisation is the only practical amendment, but surely only a "last ditch" solution?

Familiarity breeds contempt, e.g., Hong Kong players bash the "spongers" right off the table with ease. Unfamiliarity makes for awkwardness in opposing and a first-time defeat seems to arouse a panic fear. In the last 50 years sponge has been smashed into unpopularity. It can be done again. Don't dodge it fearfully. Meet it, study it, beat it.

Surely playing technique has not so generally deteriorated that we can no longer face those hoary Ancients—Sponge and Penholders?!!

BIRTH OF A NEW ERA THE Future reflects the Past from a different angle. A fascinating pattern has been emerging for some time. Each Table Tennis Era has lasted a quarter of a century with remarkable precision, measuring perhaps the span of active interest of a major player or administrator. Each Era gives birth to the next and enters with stimulating new styles and personalities:

1876-1901 Evolution to the Great Boom.

1901-1926 In England, Percy Bromfield to Founding of the I.T.T.F. In Hungary, T.T. "Father" Mechlovitz who was reigning Hungarian Champion in 1911 the year Victor Barna was born.

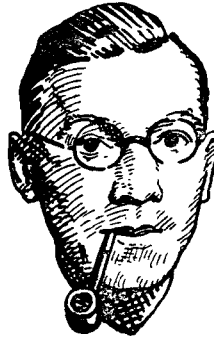
1927-1953 The Classic or Golden Age (see Victor Barna's article on page 173).

1954-???? Sensational triumph of new style Japs.

The number of comparable incidents in each Era is uncanny. Typical is the rise of new young players to triumph over the older. Take Roseanu and Farkas-Gervai from the last 16 of the W.S. in these last Championships, and the remaining 14 average only 21 years. It is less evident in the M.S., but Ogimura (21) is the youngest

Points of View

These views are the **PERSONAL** expressions of the writer.
—Leslie Woollard.



player to have won the title for about 16 years.

Thoughtful study provokes many startling possibilities.

NEW ZEALAND'S TRIUMPH OVER 2 years, England made very heavy weather trying to raise the comparatively small target of £4,000 for the World Fund... In the same period New Zealand (total population roughly equal Essex and a land area that of the U.K.) raised £4,500 odd in hard cash: first for a National Coach, and second to send over the team—the farthestmost country of them all.

Any comments?

What splendid ambassadors these Kiwis were, visibly improving with every match, and earning respect, friendship, and goodwill wherever they went under the splendid leadership of Norm Ballinger. New Zealand should be very proud. Comparatively, theirs was the greatest all-round achievement of any.

WHOSE PROBLEM? ROUGHLY only 3 of every 7 leagues vote!! 1 league in every 7 fails to appoint a representative. Of the remainder, the Poll for 1954-5 showed a 50% return; that means only 1 person in every 2 eligible uses his vote.

4 leagues in every 10 failed to send in particulars for the E.T.T.A. Handbook! The same in the previous year!! Can County Associations improve this bad record?

FAIR COMMENT IT happens in every sport. Once in a rare while a naturally gifted player of exceptional talent rises quickly to the top like cream on milk. Such players promptly become the butt for every sort of spite, envy and malice. Accusations of preferential treatment and exceptionally quick selection are frequent, oftimes wild and woolly in their inaccuracies.

Once it was the Rowe Twins. Now it is Ann Haydon. Mo Connolly was accorded similar backhanded compliments.

What kind of creatures practice these denigrations? Dare they call themselves sports?

Ann Haydon, as many a child of famous parents, started with a tremendous handicap to win public recognition in her own right. She has one of the best records against all-comers in England. Surely the magnificent Women's Doubles results alone are fully eloquent of this incomparable quartet?

In the off-season, I will compile records of Ann Haydon and any other major player similarly attacked. Let us at least start with truth and let us devoutly hope that all of these charming English girls will remain unswayed by the harmful actions of their "friends."

I LOOK at this issue with a deep regret for the so much that has had to be left out (including the Index)... a regret for the ambitious hopes and plans still unfulfilled... a regret for omitted credits...

I CLOSE the volume of another season... a memorable nostalgic hectic year brimming with wonderful occasions, many places, an unending cavalcade of wonderful people, a river of wonderful letters bridging the world... **TO-MORROW** and the next issue of *Table Tennis* (although not out until September 1st, 1954) will begin its life... Many great problems confront us, known and unknown... Meanwhile, check up your subscriptions and write those notes you've intended so long... because **HERE** we have already started the 1954-55 season...

THANK YOU ALL so much for your help, your goodwill, your encouragement and your honest criticisms which makes everything seem so thoroughly worthwhile.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, The Editor.

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● THE 3 GROUPS ●

ENGLAND (holders) made an impressive start in their defence of the trophy with 5-0 wins over Austria, Italy, Pakistan and the U.S.A. (hitherto unbeaten by England in this competition). Miles, without his whiplash forehand, looked average; Bernard Buiet looked the more dangerous. John Davies scored a well-merited win over Aubrey Simons to leave England with a 5-1 victory over Wales.

England's 5-3 win over France was nerve-racking and desperately close. Neither Leach nor Simons played with confidence. Bergmann was the bulwark; his —5, 18/12, 6/5 win over Rene Roothoft almost speaks for itself. It was a match of splendid defences which made every hit a risk. At 5-all in the third (time limit) game with the first-won point deciding game, match and perhaps Cup, Bergmann hit drive after drive from backhand corner to backhand, ending with a brilliant kill that left everyone gasping.

England were leading Brazil's sponge-bat, penholding trio 4-0. Then Simons, leading Ivan Severo 20-19 in the third unexpectedly lost, and Leach lost to brother Hugo Severo 18, 24 to make the result 5-2 for England. A final 5-0 win over Israel saw England unbeaten winners of Group A.

THE young Japanese team surged through Group B with atomic effect, quickly demolishing Rumania, Portugal, Scotland, Netherlands, Spain, Egypt and India. In the very fine Japan v. Hungary match, world champion Sido could not combat the bewildering directional changes in attack, phenomenal speed and amazing power of the Japs, and lost to both Ogimura and Tomita. Japan won 5-2.

Hungary won the important match against Rumania 5-4 at—compared with the Japs—a more pedestrian rate.

Japan clear and worthy winners.

IN THE key match of Group D, Czechoslovakia beat Yugoslavia 5-3 in an excellent and sporting contest. Dolinar beat both Andreadis and Tereba (the latter visibly unhappy every time he faced sponge). Harangozo lost narrowly to both, but beat Stipek.

Germany's young left-hander distinguished himself by beating Dolinar (Y) and Slar (C).

Both Australia and New Zealand did very well and noticeably improved throughout the championships. Murray Dunn (N.Z.) only lost 22-20 in the third to Harangozo. Although Australia lost to New Zealand, both Laza and Jennings beat Grujic (Y).

Group winners: Czechoslovakia.

JAPAN'S SPECTACULAR TRIUMPH

The Swaythling Cup . . . Summaries on page 169

By A. R. Miller

GROUP FINALS

No. 1. JAPAN v. ENGLAND

AFTER as spectacular and as forceful a display of fanatical hitting as can be remembered, Japan beat England 5-2. And how great was Bergmann in defeat!

Japan opened with cautious respect. Left-handed Tomita hit to Simons back-hand and defended or rapidly counterhit the Englishman's drives with an uncanny anticipation to make Japan 1-0. Bergmann, the great defender, can seldom have met opponents with footwork to rival his own. Such was Kichiji Tamusu, with soft rubber bat, but a little over-eager. Amazing retrieving and snap hits brought Bergmann a 2-1 win. Leach fought desperately against Ichiro Ogimura, but though he took the middle game, his defence could not hold the lightning sponge drives, neither could he counter-hit quickly enough.

Tomita came up from behind to win another memorable game over Bergmann on match point, finishing with a terrific, beautifully deceptive cross-court drive. Ogimura overcame Simons tenacity, and England were 4-1 down. John Leach played better than in any earlier match, and scraped home in the third against

Tamusu. Hope gleamed still when Bergmann took the first game from Ogimura at 10, but he was visibly tired. The Jap took the next at 11, and a lead of 17-8 in the third. Tired Bergmann played his heart out with deperate effort and reached 15-17. Some dazzling exchanges and it was 19-20. A killing, unreturnable drive from Ogimura and the game was his. Japan had beaten England 5-2.

JAPAN 5—ENGLAND 2. I. OGIMURA b. R. Bergmann —10, 11, 19; b. J. Leach 10, —18, 8; b. A. Simons 15, —17, 11. **K. TAMUSU** lost Bergmann —10, 23-22 TL, —7; lost Leach 15, —16, —19; **Y. TOMITA** b. Bergmann —21, 13, 17; b. Simons 14, 17.

No. 2

CZECHOSLOVAKIA v. ENGLAND

THE exhausting match with Japan the previous night was too heavy a handicap for England to carry to victory against Czechoslovakia, though they fought doggedly. Leach beat Stipek 2-1 and Simons lost 19, 19 to Andreadis. Tereba led Bergmann 17-12 in the third, only to suffer a typical reversal and lose at 19. After Leach had lost an attractive game to Andreadis, Bergmann made the match score 3-2 in England's favour by



1042 **THE JUBILANT JAPANESE** World Champion Team 1953-4. L. to R.: Kichiji Tamusu, Ichiro Ogimura (holding the Cup pedestal), Kiyotaro Hasegawa (n-p-captain holding the Cup), Yoshio Tomita and Kazuo Kawai. The Swaythling Cup was presented by its donor (Irene 1926), the Dowager Lady Swaythling, President of the E.T.T.A.

beating the powerful Stipek. Then Tereba came into form to beat Simons. It was no great surprise when Andreadis beat Bergmann fairly comfortably, for the immense efforts and strain made by the England No. 1 were clearly visible. Tereba administered the *coup de grace* beating Leach 2-0.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5—ENGLAND 3. I. ANDREADIS b. R. Bergmann 14, 16; b. J. Leach 10, —17, 18; b. A. Simons 19, 19. L. STIPEK lost Bergmann —18, —19; lost Leach 17, —10, —10. V. TEREBBA lost Bergmann —13, 16, —17; b. Leach 19, 19; b. Simons 14, —14, 13.

No. 3. JAPAN v. C.S.R.

A PACKED ARENA saw Japan win a fluctuating struggle over Czechoslovakia by the odd game. Tamusu hit with a speed that completely confounded Tereba, but Ogimura had more trouble with Stipek who occasionally cracked some unreturnable kills before going down in the third.

Andreadis faced Tomita with a calm, almost careless nonchalance, and hit and counterhit the Japanese hitter right off the table in a superb exhibition of early ball hitting which could not be bettered. The audience gave him a tumultuous ovation.

Ogimura inflicted another painful defeat on the sporting Tereba. Andreadis found Tamusu "sticky" but won a desperate counter-hitting match after losing the first and being 20-all in the second. Stipek evened the match score to 3-3 with a brilliant victory over the still unsettled Tomita.

Andreadis completed a splendid hat-trick and put Czechoslovakia 4-3 up by beating Ogimura 2-0. Excitement was mounting to fever-pitch as Tomita stormed his way through Tereba. One match to go—and that the decider. Stipek fought with gallant vigour, but Tamusu was too good. As he hit the winning point, there was an extraordinary scene of jubilation as the Japanese players and officials did a victory dance.

JAPAN 5—CZECHOSLOVAKIA 4.

I. OGIMURA lost Andreadis —13, —19; b. Stipek 18, —17, 14; b. Tereba 14, 15. K. TAMUSU lost Andreadis —13, —19; b. Stipek 18, —17, 14; b. Tereba 14, 15. Y. TOMITA lost Andreadis —12, —14; lost Stipek —15, 20, —21; b. Tereba 15, 10.

JAPAN thus won the Swaythling Cup for the first time. Their victory may be attributed to their hurricane hitting, their incredible speed of footwork, strokes and reaction. They were at once a challenge and a revelation, to which only one player—Ivan Andreadis—had a convincing answer. ●

A. R. Miller

JAP GIRLS BRING OFF THE DOUBLE

The Corbillon Cup . . . Summaries on page 169

By Peggy Allen

JAPAN swept through to top Group A with the loss of only one game, Trudi Pritzi beating Watanabe —10, 18, 19. The ease with which Tanaka (18, 8) and Watanabe (11, 12) disposed of Linde Wertl—the only world-ranking player unbeaten this season—suggested that no other team could beat them.

In Group B, England dropped 2 games. One to Czechoslovakia when Fuerstova Krejcova beat Kathie Best —13, 19, 20 and one to Wales when Audrey Bates beat an unconfident Diane Rowe —12, 22, 18. The Twins were also extended in the doubles by Bates/Gray.

The vital tie in Group C was between Rumania (holders) and Hungary. Roseanu beat (Farkas) Gervai 15, 10 to start a late match. Then Eva Koczian (H), playing against Zellar, personally altered the scoring tablets. Lengthy consultations, no play and nearly midnight found only some 20-30 spectators left. Koczian beat Zellar and then surprisingly defeated the world champion Roseanu (her only loss in this series) by 21, 15. The doubles went to Rumania and Farkas clinched a 3-2 victory for Hungary by beating Zellar 2-0.

No. 1. HUNGARY v. ENGLAND

IN THE first leg of the inter-group finals England made a tactical mistake (with the best will in the world) which, as it turned out, lost us the Corbillon Cup.

Diane Rowe (perhaps because of her uncertain previous form) was rested and replaced by Ann Haydon. Young Ann played well but not well enough to beat a determined Farkas (who later beat Ros Rowe also). Ros beat Eva Koczian in a hard fight. We should have won the doubles, but didn't. True, Diane played badly, but we shall never know how much may have been due to disappointment or insufficient "warming up." Rosalind fought hard before being beaten by a Farkas in magnificent form 19, —15, 18.

HUNGARY 3—ENGLAND 1.

G. (Farkas) GERVAI b. A. Haydon 18, 12; b. R. Rowe 19, —15, 18. E. KOCZIAN lost R. Rowe —14, —19; KOCZIAN/SIMON b. D. & R. Rowe 18, 21.

No. 2. ENGLAND v. JAPAN

WHEN Tanaka had beaten Ros Rowe 17, 20 and Watanabe had beaten Di Rowe 13, 13 and the Jap pair had taken the first game of

the doubles at 9, most spectators had accepted defeat. Then, with a magnificent exhibition of doubles play the Twins rallied to take the next two games 16, 17. Remembering Wertl our hope was dim. Then, with a dramatic change, Ros played like one possessed. Darting, jumping, hitting, scraping, diving, fighting, defending—not just getting them back—but placing the ball cleverly. For the first time the imperturbable little Japanese was unsettled. A superb 22, —18, 16 win for England.

In the deciding tie, a steadier Diane lost on match point in the first to Tanaka. Then, we who know this impulsive twin, realised the superhuman effort she was making to curb her natural impetuosity. Time and again she achieved impossibilities. At 20-20—with 2 points to decide the issue—we dared not breathe until, miraculously, Diane clipped home the two odd points. England had beaten these whirlwinds 3-2; surely their greatest victory. What an ovation they had!

Nervous strain or Oriental remorse perhaps, but the little Jap girls wept copiously back in their seats, where their compatriots had hardly yet realised that certain victory had become swift defeat.

ENGLAND 3—JAPAN 2.

D. ROWE b. Y. Tanaka —20, 17, 20; lost K. Watanabe —13, —13. R. ROWE lost Y. Tanaka —17, —20; b. K. Watanabe 22, —18, 16. D. & R. ROWE b. Tanaka/Watanabe —9, 16, 17.

No. 3. JAPAN v. HUNGARY

FARKAS took the first game for Hungary with an 18, —18, 17 win over Tanaka. Then it was Watanabe's turn for heroism. She played 3 matches in a row—winning all—with the last against the great Farkas (when almost too tired to stand) winning 17, —16, 8 to give Japan a magnificent 3-1 win over Hungary and regaining the Corbillon Cup.

And England, the only team to beat these tornado's, finished 3rd. We could hardly have been nearer. Yet how far away! ●

Peggy Allen

JAPAN 3—HUNGARY 1.

Y. TANAKA lost G. (Farkas) Gervai —18, 13, —17. K. WATANABE b. G. Gervai 17, —16, 8; b. E. Koczian —16, 19, 12. E. EGUCHI/K. WATANABE b. Koczian/A. (Almasi) Simon —18, 15, 12.



1041 HAPPY JAPANESE Girl Students bring Japan a remarkable World Championship "double" for the women's team trophy, here being presented by the donor, M. Marcel Corbillon of France. I. to R.: Hideko Goto, Kijiko Watanabe, Yoshiko Tanaka (captain) and Fujie Eguchi. The Japanese team leader Mr. Koji Goto is in the background. The Japanese Ambassador, Mr. S. Matsumoto, watched the double triumph and then congratulated the teams in their dressing rooms.

● MEN'S EVENTS ●

By A. R. Miller

SINGLES

FIRST of the few real surprises in the singles was Harry Venner's quickfire dismissal of Czech stylist Tereba. The Czech's defeats of Leach and Simons in the Cup matches showed him still to be a force, but Venner exploited his weakness against the quick hitter. In the next round, the Surrey man made defending champion Sido work hard for his 3-0 win. Jackie Head, after a good win over Brazilian sponger Dagoberto Midosi, lost to the Portuguese Carvalho in the second round. Andreadis took a close 3-1 win over Brian Kennedy in an attractive match.

Richard Bergmann, noticeably slower after his magnificent work for England in the team matches, took 70 minutes to win a 5-game battle (with 4 time limits) against young Helmut Hanschmann (Germany) who, at one time, was leading 2-1. Meanwhile Rene Roothoof beat the defensive young Rumanian Tiberiu Harasztozi and went on to beat the Japanese No. 4 Kazuo Kawaii (who had earlier beaten Ken Craigie 3-0 in a spectacular counter-hitting match). Roothoof then beat teenager Laszlo Foldi (H) 3-0 (2 time limits) before losing

to Flisberg in a keen quarter final. The unspctacular Foldi had beaten both Freundorfer (5-0) and Johnny Somael (3-1).

Left-handed, high-speed Yoshio Tomita (J) soon removed the seed Slar (CSR) and—after being 0-2 down—Richard Miles. The latter had beaten Zarco Dolinar (Y) by low chop returns which the burly Yugoslav appeared unable to kill. Vilmer Harangozo suffered at the hands of Heribert Just of Austria.

After reversing his Swaythling Cup defeat by Hugo Severo, Johnny Leach looked in better form but lost in 3 quiet games (2 at 19) to Toma Reiter, Rumanian champion with an unwearying preoccupation for chop. In his next round Reiter had another good win by ousting 19 year old Kichiji Tamasu 3-1 in a pushing type of match. In the quarter final, Reiter essayed an occasional forehand drive to break up Andreadis' majestic attacking rhythm but the Czech, although taking time to pick his winners, achieved a comfortable victory in the careless fashion of a rich man distributing alms to the needy.

Meanwhile Simons had lost to Bernard Bukiet, U.S.A. No. 2, who attacked consistently to Aubrey's back-

hand and retrieved surprisingly well. Hungary's "mass production" hitter ploughed through various opponents (including young Josef Posejpal, CSR) to meet Bergmann in the 5th round. This was a fierce 5-game affair with Bergmann demonstrating his familiar powers of retrieving against great driving force. After losing the first 2 games, Gyetvai fought back tremendously to equalise, only to lose 18-21 in the 5th. One memorable point occurred at 18-16 when Gyetvai made a terrific smash which bounced so high that the bounding Bergmann had to leap very high and returned the ball with an overhead tennis stroke which the Hungarian netted with an utter amazement.

In this round, the title holder Ferenc Sido was routed in 17 minutes by the speedy Japanese Ichiro Ogimura who switched his continuous attack from corner to corner in a dazzling fashion which completely baffled the champion. The burly Ladi Stipek (CSR) eclipsed Brazilian sponger Ivan Severo 3-0 and took the first 2 games from Tage Flisberg before surrendering 17, 16, 12. Had he won, the title may well have gone elsewhere.

In the Bergmann v. Tomita quarter final both men appeared tired and nervous. Bergmann won mainly by his still unique backhand half-volley (a wonderful shot) and by a triumph of mind over matter. Tomita won the 3rd game after Bergmann had converted a 15-18 deficit to a 20-18 lead.

THE SEMI-FINALS

Once again Andreadis missed his chance for the title when he failed to regain his Cup form against Ogimura, by over-relying on defence against the lively Japanese. After losing the first two games 19 and 12, Andreadis snatched the 3rd by more confident hitting, but Ogimura hit 2 fine kills to win at 22 in an exciting and deciding 4th game.

Bergmann without doubt would have rather faced any other player but the Swedish Tage Flisberg. Richard never looked confident. Flisberg (a leader in the economy of effort movement) showed all his old ease and beauty of stroke. The power and speed he previously lacked was now provided by sponge. He pushed and rolled, and the quick drive of the thick, lively, silent sponge did the rest. Bergmann made an incredible number of errors against easy-looking push returns. Attack appeared to be his only chance of success, but perhaps the severity of his earlier clashes with Gyetvai and Tomita had been too much for him to sustain a quick attack. Flisberg won 19, —16, 17, 13. After so many great games. Bergmann's noiseless execution was a sad affair.

OGIMURA v. FLISBERG

This was the first time that sponge bats have contested a world singles final, and it was the worst men's singles final I have seen anywhere. Ogimura won the first game 21-7 in 6 minutes; the 2nd game 21-12 in 5 minutes; lost the 3rd —21 in 7 minutes and won the 4th 21— in 6 minutes. 29 minutes of a one-sided final devoid of rallies with a continuous series of errors by the Swede.●

MEN'S DOUBLES

HIGHLIGHT of this event was the remarkable achievement of Victor Barna who (having first won this title in 1928-9), yet now in his 40's and playing with 38-year-old Haguenauer yet succeeded beating the No. 2 seeds Bergmann/Leach and in reaching the final. A truly great effort. Haguenauer's dislike of sponge forced Barna to receive Dolinar's deadly hits. A disappointing finale to the great players after a tremendous bid which had displayed once again the Champion's still smoothly executed back-hand and agile footwork in picking up drop shots and returning outright smashes. These were particularly notable in the thrilling games against Bergmann/Leach (won 17 in the 5th) and with Slar/Tereba, won 3-1. Barna is the only player I have seen in whose hands a T.T. bat becomes both rapier and violin bow.

Lanskoy/Roothoof defeated Ehrlich/Flisberg in an astonishing marathon 16, —18, 16, —29, 20 and then quickly vanished before Ogimura/Tomita (victors over Craigie/Rhodes) and losers to Dolinar/Harangozo. The other Japanese pair Kawai/Tamasu lost narrowly to Brazilian spongers Midosi/Severo and the Czech pair Posejpal/Stipek surprisingly defeated No. 1 seeds Andreadis/Sido. Kennedy/Simons won a hard struggle against the Czech pair but went out to Dolinar/Harangozo 3-0 in the next round. The Yugoslavian pair won the title without dropping a single game—a truly wonderful performance.

MIXED DOUBLES

An event with a full quota of nerve-racking struggles. Holders Sido/Roseanu were beaten by Stipek/Mrs. Eliska (Fuerstova) Kerjцова (CSR) in the second round, scores —10, —16, 20, 11, 19. Surrey tactician Ron Crayden and titanic hitter Jean Winn finally bowed to Simons/Helen Elliot only at 18 in the 5th. Bernard Crouch/Doreen Spooner beat Jackie Head/Joy Seaman and went on to extend Andreadis/Gervai (Farkas), in a very good effort in which the young English girl distinguished herself. Kennedy/Best lost a hard fight to Andreadis/

ROWE TWINS CELEBRATE 21st BIRTHDAY

IN MEMORABLE ALL-ENGLAND FINAL

Women's Events By Peggy Allen

MOST MEMORABLE was the astonishing and triumphant progress of Kathie Best and 15 year old Ann Haydon in the W.D. on their way to the Final. They successively beat Goto/Tanaka (J) 10, 10, —19, 12; seeded pair Helen Elliot (Sc.)/Leah Neuberger (U.S.) 12, —16, —19, 14, 16; Shirley Jones/Vera Rowe (W) 17, 16, 4; and then, in the semi, the World Champions G. (Farkas) Gervai (H)/A. Roseanu (R) —17, —24, 18, 17, 19. It was a superb performance with consistent hitting with beautiful length and controlled power.

Meanwhile, the Rowe Twins were having a strenuous time: 3-2 over B. Isaacs (E)/E. Zellar (R); 3-1 over the van Meegen sisters; and in the semi, 7, 11, —18, 18 over Eguchi/Watanabe (J).

The first all-English world's final event was the best of the evening. There was some tremendous hitting and counter-hitting with the crowd working up to a mad excitement as the match reached its great climax in the fourth game. And so the Rowe Twins—on their 21st birthday—regained their world title, but no two losers ever received a more enthusiastic roar of approval, admiration and affection.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

EARLY shocks in the singles began with Lauber's (Austrian No. 3) 3-1 defeat of Watanabe. Trudi Pritzi fell to the French champion Watel. Kathleen Best won a very hard-fought match at 21-19 in the 5th against Leah Neuberger (U.S.A.) and later defeated Helen Elliot 3-0. Betty Isaacs reached the last 16, taking a game from Koczian.

Gervai and Venner/Ann Haydon lost gamely to Dolinar/Wertl after beating Gyetvai/Ilonka (Solyom) Kerekes.

The more forceful Tomita/Eguchi beat Leach/D. Rowe 3-1 and Dolinar/Wertl 3-1. Stipek/Krejцова (C) ousted Ogimura/Watanabe 3-2 and were then beaten in the 5th of a mighty battle by Barna playing splendidly with Rosalind Rowe, who had already beaten Slar/Almasi-Simon. Barna/Rowe lost in 3 close games in the semi-final to the ultimate winners, Andreadis/Farkas-Gervai.

The X.D. Final (with the W.D.) provided the best matches on finals night. In a fast excellent game, with the Farkas backhand working well and a none-too confident Andreadis snapping some fine placed winners (which evoked some excited yelps from Fujie Eguchi), the Czech./Hungarian partnership had a good win over Tomita/Eguchi.●

A. R. Miller

SHIRLEY JONES, 18, dynamic bundle of energy from Wales, blasted her way through French Champion Christianne Watel 16, 17, 16, to reach the quarter-final. Watel changed her bat in desperation but to no avail. Shirley fought hard and put many winners past Roseanu in the quarters before being edged out by the determined World Champion.●

¹ Watel had actually broken her bat.—Ed.

In the 4th round, Tanaka accounted 3-1 for the seeded Linde Wertl; Roseanu ousted the volatile Goto 3-0 by solid defence; Farkas was completely outclassed by Fujie Eguchi 3-0. This was the first time since the war that Gizi has not figured in a World Championship singles final. She was winner 1946/7 and 1947/8, and runner-up to Roseanu in succeeding years.

Our last, and greatest hope, went when Eva Koczian (H) outfought Rosalind Rowe to win in the 4th game. Koczian could not repeat her Cup win over Roseanu who won 3-0, pulling the 3rd game "out of the fire" after being 20-15 down. The other semi was a prolonged counter-hitting match won by the more accurate Tanaka over her team mate Eguchi.

In the final Tanaka attacked Roseanu's backhand with strong consistency. The Rumanian defended brilliantly with an occasional quick hit. At one game all, there came a wonderful exhibition with this remarkable champion retrieving the impossible. The plucky little Jap. girl must surely have despaired, but she seemed to hit even harder kills as she fought desperately against this Queen of Champions, who flashed and darted like a graceful dragonfly, and eventually emerged the decisive winner, and—for the 5th successive year—a truly worthy and magnificent Champion of the World.●

Peggy Allen

DOUBLE TALK... W. STEINITZ

Rosalind's brilliance—and Di's—has for years now enchanted our eyes. now wherever they go, they're the rage with their wonderful coming of age. How I would like to watch these two dears for another, say, twenty-one years, but although I may think what I will they grow up, and life doesn't stand still. I imagine them soon taking trips for two mixed doubles life-partnerships (where it doesn't much matter who wins). And before very long—they'll have Twins. But from now I had better restrict my most fabulous gifts to predict; 'though I hope I can dodge just about one big left- and one right-handed-clout.

DIANE and ROSALIND ROWE just don't know how to begin to thank everyone for the hundreds of congratulations and goodwill messages on their 21st birthday and in winning the Women's Doubles Championship of the World. It would be impossible to write to everyone... please, will they take a great BIG THANK YOU.

JAPANESE

TABLE TENNIS

● AT WEMBLEY ●

By LESLIE S. WOOLLARD



REALISM RATHER THAN MODESTY

WHEN Japan won both the Swaythling and the Marcel Corbillon Cups (a double victory previously achieved only by the U.S.A. in 1938), their players said:

"We were very lucky. We know our standard of play and we don't think we are that good. Normally both England and Czechoslovakia, and perhaps Hungary, would beat us. Their players are very, very good..."

FIRST NOTES

1. The Japanese success was NOT (repeat NOT) due to sponge rubber. ALL authoritative opinion agrees on this. Triumph was due to the very high speed, force, and a completely new style with which opponents were unfamiliar.

2. ONLY ONE (repeat ONE) of the 8 Jap players—Ogimura—uses a sponge bat. Tamasu uses 5 m.m. thick, very soft rubber. Close observers are convinced that the use of either material made little difference to the results.

3. The Japs are NOT—repeat NOT—penholder STYLE players. They use a "penholder" grip and have adapted this to a modified orthodox style. Seen from a distance the Japanese appear to have the complete "modern style" of game. This is particularly noticeable when it can be compared with a penholder style player on an adjacent table.

For the forehand drive the bat commences its swing from behind the waist and the follow-through carries it right above the head (as shown in the sketches), sometimes right across the body. This imparts varying side spin to the very hard drives—a similar vicious effect to that achieved by Adrian Haydon. The Japs prefer to "run round" their forehand. The grip obviously makes for an awkward backhand. Tomita and Watanabe particularly have a peculiarly individual, and deadly, "swipe" backhand when need arises.

The Jap game (vaguely reminiscent of Vana at his peak) is essentially so quick-moving that the stroking is oftentimes done "on the run," which adds, of course, to the spin effect complications.

EIGHT tiny featherweight flying whirlwinds from Japan have given table tennis the biggest fillip since Zoltan Mechlovitz and his Boys did much the same more than 25 years ago. They brought dynamic life, fast-moving excitement and new thrills to a game which had in latter years—face it—a somewhat tired look. This stuff looks like the pep pill we needed.

The sensations of one generation are the contempt of the next. While some people stamped before the first cars and thousands suspiciously disbelieved early aircraft, sensible and far-sighted folk looked into things more objectively . . .



1045

"LIGHTNING" IMPRESSIONS . . . WEMBLEY SKETCHBOOK

PLAYING TACTICS

Tactics also are not dissimilar from those of Vana. The Japs vary in height from 60 to 66 inches and naturally prefer to operate from the sides of the table where their long stroking action can be most freely used. At the first opportunity they get to their backhand corner. From here they dominate the game and are positively dangerous. Most of their points were scored—say won, rather—from this position. From it, they have the best of both worlds: the swift deceptive directional changes of the penholder and the power of the orthodox drive.

These were favourite tactics in doubles also. It left, however, a vulnerable blind spot and 75 per cent of the doubles points scored against them went through here. Opponents with the skill and observation to exploit this (for their winning shots) were able to win.

Several players possessing a good two-wing game and rather close to the table style looked fully capable of beating the Japs.

SERVICE

All the Japs serve or receive service from a crouching position, free hand touching the bat which is held penholder style. The knees bent and in a constant flexing which gives an impression of the body being on springs. The weight is on the fore-sole ready-sprung for—if necessary—the leap of a mountain goat. The girls pairs rather accentuate this knee-flexing, both rising and falling together while awaiting to receive.

The Jap service (nearly always backhanded) is what such players as Bergmann, Andreadis, Sido, Stipek and Tereba found most difficult, particularly when first encountered. It was very difficult, they all said, to anticipate the length, direction, spin or power and any uncertain return to the Japs was promptly killed or smashed.

Tamasu, before serving in doubles, nearly touches the floor with his free hand, indicating to his partner, *sub rosa*, the direction of intended spin.

(Continued on page 175)

MEN'S SINGLES EVENT . . . THE LAST 32

		* Seeded Player. Initial, 2nd Column, Country			
*R. Bergmann	E	R.B. 15, 12, 4	R.B. 10, 17,	BERGMANN	13, 20, —20, 16
J. M. Pales	Sp		—20, 17, 18		
E. Gyetvai	H	E.G. 13, —18, —19, 16, 12		BERGMANN	
J. Posejpal	C				
P. Shead	E	P.S. 11, 11, —18, 14	Y.T. 17, 13,	BERGMANN	
H. Schneider	C		—17, 15		
R. Miles	US	Y.T. —21, —16, 17, 11, 11		BERGMANN	
Y. Tomita	J				
*T. Flisberg	S	T.F. 9, 18, 17	T.F. —9, —17,	FLISBERG	18, 16, —20, 14
J. Vogrine	Y		17, 16, 12		
W. Van Zoelen	N	L.S. 9, 15, 14		FLISBERG	
L. Stipek	E				
L. Foldi	H	L.F. 12, 18, —16, 19	R.R. 21/20 TL,	FLISBERG	18, 16, —20, 14
J. Somael	US				
K. Kawai	J	R.R. 16, 20, —19, 12		FLISBERG	
*R. Roothoof	F				
*I. Andreadis	C	I.A. 16, —17, 13, 13	I.A. 15, 20, 18	ANDREADIS	16, —19, 11, 10
J. C. Sata	F				
H. Just	A	H.J. 19, —17, 20, 9		ANDREADIS	
V. Harangozo	Y				
K. Tamusu	J	K.T. 7, 12, 12	T.R. —12/13	ANDREADIS	
M. Haguenaer	F				
T. Reiter	R	T.R. 19, 15, 19		ANDREADIS	
*J. Leach	E				
B. Bukiet	US	B.B. 15, 7, 10	B.B. —16, 17,	OGIMURA	11, —16, 12, 12
M. Carvalho	Sp				
Y. Yyas	I	J.G. 16, —12, 10, —13, 19		OGIMURA	
J. Gabric	Y				
B. Crouch	E	I.O. 11, 15, 13	I.O. 18, 11	OGIMURA	
I. Ogimura	J				
M. Lanskoy	F	F.S. 9, 12, 13		OGIMURA	
*F. Sido	H				

WOMEN'S SINGLES EVENT . . . THE LAST 16

*A. Roseanu	R	A.R. 20, 9, 9	A.R. 17, 18, 10	ROSEANU	9, 15, 20
H. Goto	J				
S. Jones	W	S.J. 16, 17, 16		ROSEANU	
C. Watel	F				
*E. Koczian	H	E.K. 18, 16, —19, 8	E.K. 8, —21, 21	ROSEANU	
B. Isaacs	E				
G. Simon	H	R.R. 18, 16, 14		ROSEANU	
*R. Rowe	E				
*G. Gervai	H	F.E. —15, 18, 13, 17	F.E. —15, 18,	TANAKA	14, 10, 19, 14
F. Eguchi	J				
P. Mortimer	E	D.R. 17, 16, 14		TANAKA	
*D. Rowe	E				
K. Best	E	K.B. 10, 10, 14	Y.T. 13, 14, 9	TANAKA	
C. Rougnagnou	F				
Y. Tanaka	J	Y.T. 16, 12, —18, 10		TANAKA	
*L. Werlt	A				



★ THIS IS IMPORTANT ★

This Issue of *Table Tennis* completes Volume 12, but although the next issue is not due until September 1st, the work must still go on. It is this period which does so much to make the next season's success, so let the Editor have your ideas NOW. AND—Check Your Subscription.

FINALS: INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MEN'S SINGLES—St. Bride Vase (Donor: C. Corti Woodcock):

1. ICHIRO OGIMURA, Japan: 2. TAGE FLISBERG, Sweden, 7, 12, —18, 10. 3. Ivan Andreadis, CSR, 19, 12, —18, 22. 4. Richard Bergmann, England, 19, —16, 17, 13.

WOMEN'S SINGLES—G. Geist Prize (Donor: G. Geist):

1. ANGELICA ROSEANU, Rumania: 2. YOSHIKO TANAKA, Japan, 15, —14, 17, 9. 3. E. Koczian, Hungary, 9, 15, 10. 4. Fujie Eguchi, Japan, —14, 10, 19, 14.

MEN'S DOUBLES—The Iran Cup (Donor: H.I.M. The Shah of Iran):

ZARCO DOLINAR/VILIM HARANGOZO, Yugoslavia, bt. G. V. Barna/M. Haguenaer, England/France, 15, 11, 10.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES—The W. J. Pope Trophy (Donor: W. J. Pope):

DIANE ROWE/ROSALIND ROWE, England, bt. KATHLEEN BEST/ANN HAYDON, England, 15, —14, 17, 9.

MIXED DOUBLES—The Heydusek Prize (Donor: Ing. Zdenek Heydusek):

IVAN ANDREADIS, CSR/GISELLE (Farkas) GERVAI, Hungary, bt. Yoshio Tomita/Fujie Eguchi, Japan, 17, —19, 15, 21.

JUBILEE CUP—(Donor: Dowager Lady Swaythling). For those who competed in W.Ch. 21 or more years ago:

1. M. HAGUENAUER, France: 2. T. HAZI, USA, —10, 12, 14. 3. A. D. Brook, England, 10, 9. 4. M. Finberg, Israel, 10, 16.

Men's Consolation Singles: 1. K. FREUNDORFER, G. 2. B. Merrett, E, 7, 16. 3. M. Gantner, R, —21, 17, 9. 4. H. Bednar, A, 15, —19, 8.

Women's Consolation Singles: 1. Mrs. E. (Fuerstova) KREJCOVA, C. 2. Dr. A. (Almasi) Simon, H, 18, —8, 20/18 T.L. 3. P. Gall, E, 14, 12. 4. J. Winn, E, 14, 12.

SOUVENIR BADGE

A replica souvenir badge (as issued to players and officials) is also available at 2/-.

Apply the E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.1.

72-PAGE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAMME

The 48 pp. Programme of the 21st World Championships together with a 24 pp. Supplement giving complete details and scores of all matches sold, is available at a charge of 2/6d. Post Free.

SWAYTHLING CUP

	E	US	F	Bz	A	W	Is	P	It
1. ENGLAND	●	5-0	5-3	5-2	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0
2. U.S.A.	0-5	●	2-5	5-1	5-4	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-1
3. FRANCE	3-5	5-2	●	2-5	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-1
4. BRAZIL	2-5	1-5	2-5	●	5-2	5-0	5-0	5-1	5-0
5. AUSTRIA	0-5	4-5	1-5	2-5	●	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0
6. WALES	1-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	●	5-0	5-1	1-5
7. ISRAEL	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	●	5-3	5-3
8. PAKISTAN	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	0-5	1-5	3-5	●	5-3
9. ITALY	0-5	1-5	1-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	3-5	3-5	●

	J	H	R	I	Eg	N	Sp	Po	Sc
1. JAPAN	●	5-2	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0
2. HUNGARY	2-5	●	5-4	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0
3. RUMANIA	0-5	4-5	●	5-4	5-0	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-0
4. INDIA	0-5	1-5	4-5	●	5-2	5-3	5-1	5-1	5-0
5. EGYPT	0-5	0-5	0-5	2-5	●	5-3	5-2	5-1	5-1
6. NETHERLANDS	0-5	0-5	0-5	3-5	3-5	●	5-2	5-1	5-0
7. SPAIN	0-5	0-5	1-5	1-5	2-5	2-5	●	5-0	5-1
8. PORTUGAL	1-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	0-5	●	5-1
9. SCOTLAND	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	0-5	1-5	1-5	●

	C	Y	S	G	Ir	B	NZ	Au	Sw
1. CZECHOSLOVAKIA	●	5-3	5-1	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0
2. YUGOSLAVIA	3-5	●	5-3	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-2	5-0
3. SWEDEN	1-5	3-5	●	5-3	5-3	5-2	5-0	5-2	5-1
4. GERMANY	1-5	1-5	3-5	●	5-0	5-3	5-0	5-2	5-0
5. IRELAND	0-5	0-5	3-5	0-5	●	5-1	5-1	5-4	5-3
6. BELGIUM	0-5	0-5	2-5	3-5	1-5	●	5-0	5-1	5-2
7. NEW ZEALAND	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	0-5	●	5-3	5-2
8. AUSTRALIA	0-5	2-5	2-5	2-5	4-5	1-5	3-5	●	5-3
9. SWITZERLAND	0-5	1-5	1-5	0-5	3-5	2-5	2-5	3-5	●

CORBILLON CUP

	J	A	B	Eg	Y	US	Sa	D	Sw
1. JAPAN	●	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0
2. AUSTRIA	1-3	●	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-1
3. BELGIUM	0-3	0-3	●	3-1	3-2	1-3	3-1	3-0	3-0
4. EGYPT	0-3	0-3	1-3	●	3-2	3-2	3-0	3-0	3-0
5. YUGOSLAVIA	0-3	0-3	2-3	2-3	●	3-2	3-0	3-0	3-0
6. U.S.A.	0-3	0-3	3-1	2-3	2-3	●	3-0	3-0	3-0
7. SAARLAND	0-3	0-3	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	●	3-0	3-0
8. DENMARK	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	●	3-2
9. SWITZERLAND	0-3	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	2-3	●

	E	C	W	F	N	S	Po	It
1. ENGLAND	●	3-1	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	—
2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1-3	●	3-0	2-3	3-0	3-0	3-0	—
3. WALES	1-3	0-3	●	3-0	3-1	3-1	3-0	—
4. FRANCE	0-3	3-2	0-3	●	3-1	3-0	3-0	—
5. NETHERLANDS	0-3	0-3	1-3	1-3	●	3-0	3-0	—
6. SWEDEN	0-3	0-3	1-3	0-3	0-3	●	3-0	—
7. PORTUGAL	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	●	—
8. ITALY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	H	R	I	Sc	G	Ir	Fd	Bz
1. HUNGARY	●	3-2	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	—
2. RUMANIA	2-3	●	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	—
3. INDIA	0-3	0-3	●	3-1	2-3	3-1	3-0	—
4. SCOTLAND	0-3	1-3	1-3	●	3-1	3-1	3-0	—
5. GERMANY	0-3	0-3	3-2	1-3	●	3-1	3-0	—
6. IRELAND	0-3	0-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	●	3-0	—
7. FINLAND	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	●	—
8. BRAZIL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

● Swaythling Qualifying

Qual. GROUP X	NZ	P	Sa	Fd
1. NEW ZEALAND	●	5-1	5-2	5-1
2. PAKISTAN	1-5	●	5-3	5-4
3. SAARLAND	2-5	3-5	●	5-2
4. FINLAND	1-5	4-5	2-5	●

Qual. GROUP Y	It	Sc	D	L
1. ITALY	●	5-0	5-2	5-2
2. SCOTLAND	0-5	●	5-0	5-0
3. DENMARK	2-5	0-5	●	5-2
4. LEBANON	2-5	0-5	2-5	●

Qual. GROUP Z	Sp	Au	Ny	Jy
1. SPAIN	●	5-2	5-0	5-0
2. AUSTRALIA	2-5	●	5-2	5-0
3. NORWAY	0-5	2-5	●	5-2
4. JERSEY	0-5	0-5	2-5	●

INTER-GROUPS FINALS

	P	W	L	M	G	Pts.
MEN						
1. JAPAN	2	2	0	10-6	24-17	869-710
2. C.S.R.	2	1	1	9-8	21-20	738-758
3. ENGLAND	2	0	2	5-10	16-24	703-842
WOMEN :						
1. JAPAN	2	1	1	5-4	14-11	489-441
2. HUNGARY	2	1	1	4-4	11-10	377-401
3. ENGLAND	2	1	1	4-5	9-13	409-433

● Swaythling Cup Consolation Pool ●

	Sr	Fd	D	L	Ny	Jd
1. SAARLAND	●	5-2	5-1	5-3	5-0	5-1
2. FINLAND	2-5	●	5-4	5-2	5-2	5-2
3. DENMARK	1-5	4-5	●	5-2	5-1	5-0
4. LEBANON	3-5	2-5	2-5	●	5-1	5-3
5. NORWAY	0-5	2-5	1-5	1-5	●	5-2
6. JERSEY	1-5	2-5	0-5	3-5	2-5	●

Inter - Group Results

Details on pages 163-4

SWAYTHLING CUP

Japan 5—England 2. Czechoslovakia 5—England 3. Japan 5—Czechoslovakia 4.



CORBILLON CUP

Hungary 3—England 1. England 3—Japan 2. Japan 3—Hungary 1.



H. ROY EVANS (Wales) unanimously re-elected Secretary of the 70-member International T.T. Federation.

THE SPONGE BAT ASSOCIATION

After the Farewell Dance, Zarco Dolinar and Tage Flisberg had a semi-private and convivial meeting. "We are forming a Sponge Bat Association," Dolinar said. "I am to be President, Flisberg is to be Chairman, Ehrlich the Treasurer and Mary Detournay the Secretary."

MINISTER of "The Interior" was "catered" for by bluff **BILLIE STAMP**, with zealous relish (and, of course, the incomparable Nan) . . . more than 9,000 meals double-checked to account . . . 2.30 A.M. finish one morning!

JUST DROPPING IN

On Sunday morning players were suddenly startled by a fall of glass—in the only space it could fall and **JUST** miss anyone. Looking up to the 100-foot high roof they saw someone had fallen through and had just managed to hang on to the frame. It looked like a player, but the whole affair was a mystery.

Actually it was a 14-year-old schoolgirl anxious to get (literally) a bird's eye view. She got away with a slight cut, but "Don't tell Mum where I was," she pleaded.

RICHARD THE WIZARD

Multi-lingual Richard Bergmann, party entertainer of many parts, entranced the French team (and others) by adroit and dramatic conjuring. "Abracadabra . . ." he intoned, and a half-a-crown changed to a penny or the Wanted card turned up from Nowhere. Pretty Claude Rougagnou just couldn't believe it!

A good performance any time, but at 4 a.m. in the morning!! Well, it was just "wizard."

"**FLISAN**" Tage Flisberg looks like a venerable archdeacon of T.T., but he is full of good-humour and is the complete all-round sportsman, splendidly fit and with the knowledge of how to best apply brain and steely strength . . . It took him nearly a year with many hours practice **EVERY** day to master the sponge bat technique, he told me . . . "You know my old style—the stroke was made forward—**SO**" (with the top edge of the bat tilted forward). "To obtain a similar effect with sponge, I take the bat the other way. There—like this." (With the top edge of the bat tilted back towards you).

"I have never been able to practice so much as I have in this year," he continued. "It is my business now, you see . . . I am a manufacturer of these bats." The quick flash of that charming, almost whimsical smile. "Now I put a lot into it . . . more than I could before. I have played Bergmann 26 times in the last 6 months and I have won 19 of those matches . . . But even when I used the rubber and was not full-time in play, I beat Richard once or twice . . ."

"I have been always called an attacking player . . . that is a reason I like sponge. You **MUST** be a good attacker to win with it (against class players) . . . Sponge bats might end time-limit games."

I asked how his 12-year-old son was getting on at T.T. "Not too badly," he mused. "Does he use sponge?" I gaged as I left.

"But, **OF COURSE**," smiled Flisan.

"**THERE** have been no international matches of any class where a sponge bat has been involved in a **Time Limit**," declared Alex Ehrlich to me later. (???)

"Everybody's Chamber of Horrors"

GUIDE to Room 1 Exhibits

(See Sketches)

A. Miniature Pistol, see note on page 171.

B. Zarco Dolinar has cut down that Extra-Outside wooden bat to halfsize. On the batting face he has glued sponge rubber. On the reverse side is a skull and crossbones and the names of his victims. Every W.S. Champion since 1938 (except Satoh) is included!!

C. A Clock! Time? 'Nuff said!

D. The court Surround. Bergmann was not the only player to be handicapped. When power-hitting is done across the table, a larger minimum court is necessary to give the defender a fair chance.

E. The Sponge Cloud prevents the victim from defending himself with his normal skill.

F. The Ball that Keeps Coming Back, even when you kill it with unreturnable hits. It undermines your self-confidence. Probably a 3 Star-chamber Bergmann Special).

G. The Edge Ball. One of those that your opponent so frequently uses. Should they be banned? Or included in the Coaching Syllabus?

H. The Japanese glass phial for Metapolin B. A most ingenious psychological weapon for encouraging defeatism in an opponent who thinks he may have to face an Injected Superman.

X. The "Stamped Formula" (Japanese symbols for Table Tennis). Drive as fast as you can and if anything looks like catching up—accelerate. Not many folk realise when they're stamped out of their easier rut and get into a panic-state that the opposition is just too, too good.

WANTED—Old publications, records, books, cuttings, programmes, hand books, photographs, etc., dealing with Table Tennis. Write c/o The Editor.



BANG-HO!

WHEN Hungary's "Hitting Machine," Elemér Gyetvai was leading Yoshio Tomita 18-17 in that very vital Cup match, there was a sudden sharp bang, audible throughout the Stadium. A pistol shot? Could be with nerves taut as an E string. With dramatic intensity Gyetvai strode round the table with eloquent arm gestures to high heaven. In the end he lost 20-22...

Playing Control promptly pinpointed the pistol owner—a popular player of international repute and a boyish sense of fun. He "took the can" and the official warning with his customary good sportsmanship in not disclosing that someone else had actually done the "deed."

See the pistol itself and it's easy to see what could have happened. It is only about 1½ ins. long and looks like a silver brooch with tiny cartridges hardly thicker than a pin and 1mm. in length. WHO would believe that such an "ornament" could be heard all over the Stadium!! What a temptation for the credulous or curious!

* * *

3-Star Typists (by Courtesy of Dunlop, Halex and Spaldings), office machinists, translators, etc., in the Typists Pool ("Vortex" more applicable) ably backed burly IVOR EYLES in prompt deliveries... 39 foolscap bulletins with every game detail and scores of I.T.T.F. matter (translating into 3 languages)... more than 44 reams of paper used... 15-hour day for Ivor... once 18½ hours!



"All right... all right... you can play in the team next week."

ROLL ALONG...

A fleet of 12 luxury coaches linked the 12 miles Royal Hotel to Wembley for about 18 hours daily... a "Valiant" service... some 480 odd round trips... 2,000 miles... not counting the 8-coach Sightseeing Tour Round London... Morris Brown (hotel) well-nigh frantic with tongues, times and transport headaches... **LES BROMFIELD (Wembley)**. Control calmly and contentedly coping (A.D.C. Mr. Mackey).



1043 **GEOFF. HARROWER** P. Madge
W.Ch. Org. Sec. caught in action in his office at the Empire Pool.

A true record of any achievement (as we said last month) can come only AFTER the event. In this issue we can only touch facets of the colossal undertaking. Just as a great film is the co-ordinated teamwork of 40 kinds of specialists, so in 2 years of steadily mounting effort has this memorable apotheosis of united endeavour been attained. THAT IS ITS GREATEST WONDER AND ITS CROWNING GLORY. Contrastingly different—and often conflicting—personalities of many walks and degrees submerged themselves to become united in a determined team with a common goal.

For 2 years Bill Vint has progressed and co-ordinated and Geoff. Harrower has been steadily building up the organisational framework. In the last 2 months Geoff. worked anything up to 18 hours a day with tireless energy, inspiring superhuman efforts from his contacts. Oftimes there were hitches, let-downs and "last-minute-only" worries; but Geoff. kept a tight personal control of every item throughout. Sometimes this policy proved an invaluable insurance and sometimes (where experienced executives controlled), it was a severe irritation. Geoff. Harrower, however, was the Field Commander responsible to England and took whatever course he believed necessary for success, within the wide authority the W. Ch. Committee had vested in him. Few men could have worked so hard; none could have done more. Let all due credit go where due, but particularly to those on whom criticism would have fallen in a failure. To Geoff. Harrower, then, and to all Heads of Departments, "Congratulations on a Magnificent Achievement."

SAARLAND T.T. Team created envious admiration when they arrived in one of the marvellous new 12-seater Car-bus... little larger than a car, ample space, radio, representative pennants and the "STTB" painted on the side...

* * *

THE German team arrived similarly. They haven't actually bought one yet, but Dr. Eckhardt tells me that after their experience with this one, "it shouldn't be long now" before they have their own.

THEY MADE IMPRESSIONS!

KUDOS for the Wembley G.P.O. folk who ran the T.T. Post Office right next to the tables... 3,124 letters were posted there and franked with the special **TABLE TENNIS** date stamp. (A photo of a postcard thus marked has been printed page-size in a German magazine)... An estimated 6,000 stamps were sold and scores of telegrams, home and overseas out, and an in delivery to players, etc... Well done, G.P.O. and Wembley G.P.O. in particular.

UMPING (under Geoff. James) was well-nigh faultless, impressed everyone mightily, and only a rare twiddler (like Horace) nodded. Playing Control seemed to us a calm and quiet perfection... but then this superb, long-experienced team (all top business executives) have that comfortable capacity of converting other peoples mountains into mole-hills... A. Lewis, P. Hyde, F. Milligan, A. Clewer, L. C. Bulport and H. E. Pearce.

* * *

AT the Royal Hotel, Bill Goldfinch was stuck daylong in an office... Jack and Elsie Carrington, Hosts-in-Chief (recruiting all the pretty girls available), impartially gave everyone that smiling nothing-too-much-trouble attention popularly accorded only to rich relatives... One Continental gallant pointed Elsie out to us: "The pretty blonde girl with the smile and the wonderful perfume... You will tell me her, yes?"... About 3 a.m. one morning we felt sure that Elsie was asleep as she walked! She was so tired... C. Ruhamanian, one of Walter Steinitz' interpreters, had at least one all-night session... but was enchanted by it all and the nearly 50 different badges given him...

* * *

THE PRESS ROOM

was well-named... Wit with a pencil added "ASPIRIN ALLEY" text "Pressehellen"... seemed the only hectic hotspot. 15 phones, typewriters and teleprinter in constant use... All leading T.T. correspondents in permanent attendance, including Ron Willis, *Evening News*; Peter Laker, *Daily Mirror*; Sam Leitch, *Daily Express*; Leslie Woollard, *News Chronicle*; Roy McKelvie, *Daily Mail*; Lance Tingay, *Daily Herald*; Laurie Pignnan, *Daily Sketch*; Ross McWhirter, *The Star*; Bill Edwards, *Sports Press*; augmented by about 60 foreign correspondents, most top sports writers, news men, columnists, feature writers, sports editors, cartoonists such as Tom Webster and Roy Ulyet... Even Lord Rothermere looked in... A continuous relay of overseas calls... Stockholm, Bratislava, Prague, Rotterdam, Tokyo, New York, Budapest, Paris, Hamburg, etc... one occasion, 6 such calls at ONE time!... Unanimously voted the toughest sporting assignment yet!...

E.T.T.A. Press Officer, Stan Kempster and the Liaison Staff: Bert Etheridge, Ron Sykes, Margaret Rowntree and Bob White worked a non-stop "miracle" service and several tokens of appreciation were made.

PROBABLY keenest German present was 18-y-o student Siegfried Buch... He hitched and hiked all the way from Hamburg and back, staying at Youth Hostels in London while here.

* * *

STREATHAM (St. Leonards) T.T. Club—a new centre—is to open shortly if Tom Wernham, the Secretary, can get enough enthusiasts. His target is 100 members; 25 had applied in early March. If successful it will operate from clubrooms adjoining St. Leonards Hall, Tooting Bec Gardens, London, S.W.16.

ROYAL SALUTE ● NOT even the greatest of all world championships could hide the golden, glowing genius of Victor Barna, the Living Legend of Table Tennis, in the shining triumph of his last competitive appearance. Here again was all the magnetism, the exciting vitality, the superb showmanship, and the graceful artistry of the impeccable master craftsman around which Table Tennis has flourished.

Barna played in his first tournament 30 years ago. He was Hungarian Junior Champion in 1927. In 1928, a schoolboy of 17, he won the first of his 18 world titles: the M.D. (with Szabados). In 1935, the 24-y-o Barna, already with 5 World Singles titles, smashed his playing arm so badly that doctors said he would never play again. Yet this perennial miracle again won the World's M.D. title in 1938! And been world-ranked since the war! Yet, NEVER FORGET (despite the brilliance you have seen), that you could NEVER have seen the true, natural, almost miraculous genius UNLESS you saw him before that accident of TWENTY YEARS AGO.

In a royal salute to this Prince of Sportsmen we publish his brief record of the 3 phases of the Second Era mentioned in our leading article.

By Victor Barna

WHEN I began to play, more than a quarter century ago, Dr. Jacobi, Zoltan Mechlovitz, Dr. Pecsí and Maria Mednyansky ruled the T.T. World, using a long-handled wooden bat. But their attacking strokes were very much the same as those used to-day. Dr. Pecsí, a left-hander, had a beautiful forehand and Mechlovitz, with his penholder grip, had a very reliable one. Dr. Jacobi and Mednyansky both preferred to use the so-called 'forehand-backhand'—(a backhand executed from the forehand side)—a stroke which Perry, Szabados and Thum frequently used with success. In this, the "Mechlovitz Era," defence consisted of only the Half Volley, therefore the game was played at a sharp pace and required speedy reflexes and keen anticipation.

When we came along (chaps like Szabados, Bellak, Glancz, Kelen, Hazi and Liebster) our seniors taught us

1. Ball Control
2. How to Hit Winning Points
3. The Half Volley (Close) Defence.

Added to this armoury, however, we also had youth and speed. We had the agility to be able to retrieve the ball very much farther from the table and yet still be quick moving enough to to get back to the net for a drop shot. We were pioneers in the development of Long-range Defence which has since become known as the "Modern Game." I believe there is little, if any, difference between our game of the early 1930's and the game as it is to-day. Such differences as there may be are due to changes in the rules. Fundamentally, the technique is the same.

Rubber-faced bats were introduced to improve attacking strokes and baffle the half-volleyer. The sequel was the counter-measure of long-range defence. The new type of spin



1044 JOY SEAMAN (Middx.)

Tournaments seem happier places when you see pretty girls and smiles like this decorating the corners. Don't you agree? Why not the magazine too then? Usually this hard-hitting Amazonian sportswoman with the beau stratagem looks positively dangerous at the other end of the table. With JEAN WINN, Joy has reached 11 W.D. finals in open tournaments this season, 7 firsts and 4 seconds, and a cavalcade of trophies in other events.

developed a need for a new kind of playing style.

To-day, I realise that rubber, with its capacity for heavy chop, has improved DEFENCE far more than Attack. So much so, in fact, has it influenced play, that it must be held

substantially responsible for the menace of Time Limit games which threaten to ruin table tennis. Time Limit rules will never eliminate "chiselling." The solution must be found in equipment which gives greater advantage to the attacker than it does to the defender.

The third phase developed an increasing reluctance to use an offensive backhand. It could be well-called the Bergmann-Vana Era since these two men were the most outstanding players of those 12 years.

In 1935 the height of the net was lowered from 6¾ inches to the present 6 inches to encourage more enterprising play. Up to the outbreak of the war in 1939 it had shown little effect. To-day, however, it is all too apparent that the youngsters are taking full advantage of the lower net. I would call these youngsters the Bashers because, all too often, the blind swiper is enabled to get the better of the more scientific player. Old stagers like me take a poor view of this. We are just as keen to see this crude "bashing" checked as we are to eliminate "chiselling." ●

Victor Barna

Welcome from Viscount Swinton, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations to all players from the Commonwealth.

On this occasion of the 21st World Table Tennis Championships I would like, as Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, to send my good wishes to you and to all members of the Commonwealth teams who have come to Britain.

The many thousands of miles which you have all travelled for this contest are a significant indication of the importance which Table Tennis has now assumed. Never before have there been so many countries taking part under one roof in a Table Tennis Championship, and it is fitting that this Championship should take place in London, which has been its home since the game began.

Competitors from more than thirty countries are taking part in this contest. The more men and women from all over the world can find common ground and good companionship in sport, the better will be the understanding between our peoples in every sphere of life.

5th April, 1954.

Swinton.

WHAT OFFERS ??? Mrs. Doris Heading is rightly one of the most popular players in Surrey County. She is a member of the Surrey and the Croydon Councils, County Executive, Selection Committee, Magazine Sec., News Sheet Editor, County Match Caterer, Ticket Seller, does a daily job of work; looks after a home, and (time permitting and D.V.) plays T.T. Some healthy young Surreyites ought to be ashamed of themselves. Rally round and help out with some of the chores.

It May Sound CRAZY, BUT —

By Herbert Stoneley

THUS, by mere chance, evolved the queerest game of Table Tennis ever known. Or so we claim! Yet with a great amount of joy and most beneficial to one's game.

For years we have had table tennis in our Church Institute, which, since it is recognised as the finest of its kind in England is a point in favour of the game. Unfortunately (awaiting a larger hut) our restricted playing area precludes our joining the local league. The space is so limited that the ball frequently strikes against a partition, a nearby wall, or the soft drinks bar. This was a nuisance, until :

"Why not make rules about the walls?" one of our best players asked. "Bounce the ball against each and make it return into play, counting a point for each time it is done!"

LAUGH? We howled!

The player who had suggested the idea had such a reputation for practical jokes that we all paused, but for once he was serious. Someone suggested that he demonstrate. He did so willingly. He hit the ball through his opponent's bat (if you know what one means) with such force that it hit the far wall, came back on to the table, over the net and was returned in the usual way.

"Extra point to me," he declared seriously.

Daft, was our first thought, yet the idea caught on with some of our best players and has continued ever since. Most of these players are in works' teams and play in our local league, and use this strange method for prac-

tice, in a manner similar to that in which a professional footballer uses the surrounding wall to practice various shots.

In our T.T. Section, you will find a single player practising shots, spinning one this way, getting a rebound that way, and so on. The ordinary game of these players has improved greatly, for they can take shots in an amazing number of directions as a result of their practice with this crazy form of the game.

Crazy? Is it really that? Far too many of our players only practice the usual shots of their game "over the net" by an opponent and when an opponent is not available, they have no practice. Not so our best players. The balls bounce to them from all angles and from no angles at all, and have become more than usually expert at returning shots which, a few months earlier, would have been impossible to cope with.

The idea could be adapted for your club by playing your balls from a small portable table (e.g. a card table) against a wall. Mark a line on the wall and return balls from over and under the line. It may be outside the strict rules of Table Tennis, but is decidedly IN the rules or good, unusual, and constant practice.

You will speed up your game enormously and will be able to play the most impossible shots as a matter of course, for no player on earth will return the ball at the angles, and heights, or depths, that this practice wall returns them. BUT from a table, please. That makes all the difference.●

Herbert Stoneley

OBITUARY

LORD LYLE, on March 6th, aged 71, from a heart attack. Lord Lyle, president of the famous sugar firm of Tate & Lyle and the originator of "Mr. Cube." As a young man he was an international Lawn Tennis player (once partnering Suzanne Lenglen) and his daughter the Hon. Nancy Lyle became a Wightman Cup player. As Sir Leonard Lyle and M.P. for Epping, he became in 1932, Chairman of the Lawn Tennis Association and a little later a Vice President of the English Table Tennis Association.

FRANK ROBERTS, of Watford, on October 31st, 1953. Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. from 1934 and President of Herts. T.T.A. Mr. Roberts' love for T.T. was born when he played with vellum rackets in 1901 (a few years ago he presented these actual rackets to the T.T. Museum of the Swedish Association, and received a handsome Certificate from the Svenskabordtennis). His club at Watford was a founder member of the E.T.T.A. in 1926, and Mr. Roberts continued to take a prominent and benevolent interest in T.T. until his illness. Indeed, he actually caught the severe chill responsibly when attending the Watford League finals of 1933. This Grand Old Gentleman of Table Tennis will be long remembered with affection and respect.

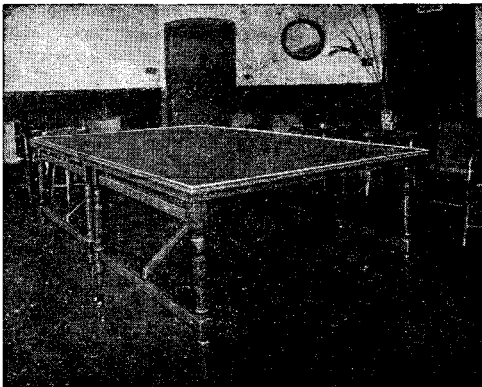
R. A. DRISCOLL, on 13th February. Vice President of the E.T.T.A. since 1936.

PERCY BROMFIELD. Born April, 1886. Won the All-England M.S. title in 1904, in 1920-1 and in 1924-5 (since when no natural born Englishman has won this title). He introduced rubber-faced bats about 1902-3, developed the "flick," and for 25 years was one of the great players and the natural pioneer of the modern game. He was one of the main powers in the revival of 1920; Chairman of the T.T.A. 1925-6, and a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. (serving on the Selection Committee) up to the outbreak of the late war. He represented and captained England in the first international match in 1922 and in the 1st World Championships in 1926; in fact, his international playing record covered 1922 to 1928 (when he was 42 years old!) His tradition then continued with his daughter, Miss V. Bromfield, who won the W.S. (and the X.D. titles) in 1930-1, and represented England from 1930 to 1935, being in the Corbillon Cup team in 1934-5. Several efforts to locate Mr. Bromfield since the war were unsuccessful until some months ago, when it was clearly established that this truly great Table Tennis protagonist died in 1947. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lillian Bromfield.

A. E. TICKNER, in March (?). Assistant Manager of Wembley Stadium for 20 years, and who co-operated so whole-heartedly with the E.T.T.A. in this period.

P. MADGE, on 22nd April, after a two-year illness. Father of Peter Madge, the Table Tennis photographer.

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 4½' x 7"
- £30

Club model, ½" 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 SMASH HIT

The development of the smash hit has been carried a stage farther by the Japs. It is an important feature of their game (and will be dealt with among other features in a future article). It starts (in training) by taking the ball very early from all positions and developing the game until a power hit can be made even when standing, moving or jumping, at some distance from the table.

MATCH-PLAY TACTICS

The match tactic is a strong attack. Strong and quick as lightning. Then only with the very top players does one ever need defence. By comparison, the Jap defence is somewhat pedestrian. A Jap player will attack like a berserk Fury when he is behind and he plays his most fast, hard and furious game when he is at match point against or on the brink of defeat. 19 times out of 20 this policy paid handsomely (but only, I suggest, because of the splendid grounding in reflex training and accuracy). At a certain stage of a game, usually between 10 and 17, the Jap accelerates his pace and power, working up to a tremendous tempo. In earlier stages of the Championships particularly, the "acceleration point" was signalled by the team captain F. Hasegawa.

WIN-POWER OF CAPTAIN

A great captain can make a great team. Zoltan Mechlovitz was the greatest of all time. To-day, only the most knowledgeable can appreciate the high value of team captains of the quality of Adrian Haydon, Laszlo Varkonyi and, not far behind, Raoul Bedoc. They are rare. Hasegawa has earned an entry to such elect. He knew all the play and the weaknesses of every major opponent, and he guided and handled his team accordingly like a master chess-player.

ADAPTION TO CONDITIONS

The Japanese quickly adapt themselves. They played themselves in with several easy matches and visibly improved with every game. When they met the Big Fellahs they were on the upsurge of unchecked success, while the Big Fellahs were nervy and worried about Sponge and, except for sporadic periods, failed to produce the spells of inspired brilliance of which they are capable.

Do not, on this account, belittle the Japanese success. It was a brilliant performance, dazzling and dynamic, and fully deserved. In fact, the Japs won a double victory, for this party proved themselves models of court etiquette and impeccable sportsmen. Umpires declared that they were the most perfect mannered team in the championships.

Japanese Table Tennis

By **LESLIE WOOLLARD**

(Continued from page 167)

Those Pep Injections

What a to-do about the Jap "pep" injections! Front page news leading off on the Sunday, and giving to Table Tennis the news importance accorded a major sport.

The preparation is in a little glass phial and is known as Metapolin B. It is regularly taken in Japan as an antidote to tiredness and as an energy stimulant in a similar way to our own players liberally use glucose.

We don't call it a drug. We call the Jap speed, aggression and quickness a TONIC for Table Tennis.

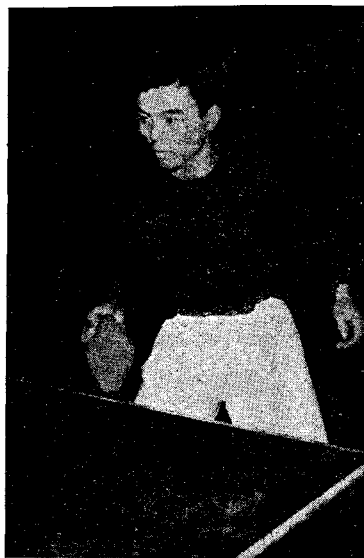
SUMMARY AND OPINION

The Japanese success is a triumph of youth, attitude, absolute fitness, and

the shock effect of a high-speed new style. It is by no means as invincible as might appear, but it brings back to the game a necessity for future champions to be two-wing, all-round players with complete ball-control and the quick agility and fitness of youth. Champions-to-be must know and be able to cope with sponge, penholders and any other style which comes, and the game will be immensely better for this need. Let coaches take especial care to ENCOURAGE the individual stylist rather than encourage production to a pattern.

The Japanese style we have seen has several weaknesses, but it is a new style that has jolted us out of the rot of 25-year-old conceptions. Don't follow blindly. Let us seek out a dynamic, colourful clashing variety of our own. A new and exciting era is possible. In it, let us be our own leaders, and, in the process, hear the sweet harmony of clicking turnstiles. ●

Leslie Woollard



New World Champion

ICHIRO OGIMURA

Nihon University, Japan

Age 21. Height 65 ins. Weight 120 lbs.

ICHIRO (meaning first-born) was always a very keen sports all-rounder. Took up T.T. at school in 1948 (when 15). Natural ability attracted attention of T.T. coach Yamamuta. Much sought after to represent University in Soft Ball, Japanese Wrestling, Table Tennis and Real (or Royal) Tennis. Brief record: 1952 All-Japan Soft Ball Champion; 1953 (Sept.) No. 5 for Japanese T.T. team in 2nd Asian Chps. Did so well, earned current ranking All-Asia No. 2 (jointly with Tomita). 1953 Won M.S. and M.D. Student and National titles. 1954 Ranked All-Japan T.T. No. 1. 1954 Won M.S. Championship of World.

A typical sporting undergrad. Black mop of untidy hair, looks the least "Oriental" of the team. Sense of fun, very shrewd and applies considerable thought to play. Always learning by watching and experience. Used to practice several hours daily, but studies (he plans to be a film director/producer), now limit to 2 or 3 days a week. Most important is perfect fitness: always does his special keep-fit exercises daily, particularly flexing and arm strengthening exercises to meet the abnormal arm-strain of his style. Has the real champion's ability to be able to completely relax when not playing. ●

THE WORLD CHAMPION'S WEMBLEY RECORD

P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	F.	A.
25	24	1	56	12	1333	995

ICHIRO OGIMURA LOST to Andreadis, C. —13, —19; his only defeat.

He BEAT: Andreadis 19, 12, —18, 22; Bergmann, E. —10, 11, 19 (52-51 points); Bukiet, US. —16, 17, 19, —14, 17 (93-95 points, loser scored most!); Burridge, E. 12, 13, 16; Crouch, E. 11, 15, 13; Dunn, NZ. 10, 11, 13; Elashmawy, Eg. 14, 13; Figueroa, Po. 11, 8; Foldi, H. 18, 13; Flisberg, S. 7, 12, —18, 10; Gantner, R. 19, 20; Gyetvai, H. —16, 11, 11; Harasztozi, R. 15, 16; Hinchliff, E. 13, —19, 14, 13; Leach, E. 10, —18, 8; Pales, Sp. 13, 15; Sido, H. 10, 16 and 18, 11, 13; Scheffer, N. 7, 12; A. Simons, E. 15, —18, 11; Still, Sc. 15, 14; Stipek, C. 18, —17, 14; Tereba, C. 14, 15; Vyas, I. 11, 6. Opponents representing 13 countries.

(Initials after name indicates country.)

NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR 1954-5

More Candidates but only 50% Vote

RESULTS of the Election of Officers and Executive Committee for 1954-5 (conducted by The Proportional Representation Society) were declared on April 24th as follows:—

OFFICERS

Chairman: Hon. IVOR MONTAGU (Unopposed).
 Hon. Treasurer: A. K. VINT (Unopposed).
 Hon. Secretary: A. K. VINT, 265, elected.
 C. F. Joyce, 52.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

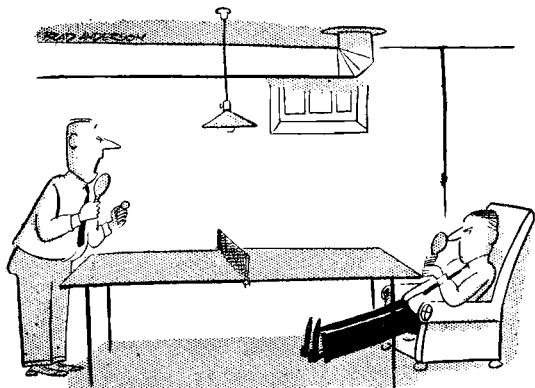
EASTERN (2): L. S. WOOLLARD, 30. H. WALKER, 19. No change. Poll: 41 of 102. E. J. Fairhead, 12. J. Browne, 8. H. Levine, 8. F. C. Larter, 3. C. Bean, 2.
LONDON (2): G. JAMES, 37. D. P. LOWEN, 26 (new Member). Mr. Lowen replaces E. G. White, who did not seek re-election. Poll: 56 of 105. G. Coulthead, 19. J. Forrest, 15. R. St. Good, 15.
MIDLAND (2): M. GOLDSTEIN, 42. M. E. SCOTT, 37. No change. Poll: 50 of 99. D. J. Rowley, 11. G. Alford, 10.
NORTH-EASTERN (1): A tied ballot: E. REAY, 7. J. R. WAUGH, 7. Poll: 14 of 22. Another postal ballot will be conducted in this Region. In the event of equality, the seat will be accorded by the vote of the National Executive.
NORTH-WESTERN (2): N. COOK, 50. W. STAMP, 50. No change. Poll: 54 of 70. H. W. Marsden, 8.
SOUTHERN (2): F. G. MANNOOCH, 26. W. G. GOLD-FINCH, 19. Mr. Goldfinch, a former N.E.C. Member, replaces Miss L. Ferguson. Poll: 49 of 102. Miss L. Ferguson, 17. L. M. Bromfield, 12. F. Betts, 11. L. Thompson, 10. K. Grace, 3.
SOUTH-WESTERN (1): H. J. AMERY, 25. This Region has lost one Seat, and Mr. Eyles stood down from contesting Mr. Amery and stood for one of the two "national" vacancies. Poll: 32 of 55. P. H. Northcott, 5. A. Parsons, 2.
YORKSHIRE (1): L. E. FORREST. No contest. No change.
NATIONAL BALLOT (which replaced Co-option). 2 Seats, 30 nominations accepted, 9 of which also contested in their Regions. J. CARRINGTON, 114. G. I. HARROWER, 102. No change. Poll: 313 of 606. 6 papers were invalidated because marked for only ONE, instead of two, candidates. I. C. Eyles, 66. T. Blunn, 65. L. W. Jones, 36. Miss L. Ferguson, 27. N. Ruston, 21. M. E. Scott, 21. The remaining candidates received less than 20 votes.
 Scrutineers: D. W. Poupard and G. W. Decker.

Dated 21st April, 1954.



1040 FIRST of its kind at any World Championships was the Special Branch of Lloyds Bank, staffed and equipped for all services, actually inside the Empire Pool Stadium and but a few yards from the playing courts. This was a unique service much appreciated by many players and officials. Can you recognise the very famous personalities here seen taking advantage of the facilities?

KEN STANLEY has now opened a splendid T.T. Hall and Club Centre (to include coaching) in St. James' Row, BURNLEY... 7 Jaques Tables and a full-time service ● A 3-boy England Junior team has been invited to Bremen for a week in July ● A Hastings team visits Dordrecht in August ● Peter Skerratt (Lincs.) was demobbed on April 14th. He won the M.S. titles of the B.A.O.R. for both 1953 and 1954. ●



1009 "Maybe you'd rather do something else, Fred?" Grateful acknowledgments to the "Saturday Evening Post."

AU REVOIR, GEORGE WHITE

GEORGE WHITE by declining nomination for the National Executive Committee for 1954-5, places what we hope is a comma (and not a full-stop) to an outstanding term of service in national administration. Before the war he found his greatest love in *Table Tennis*. In the post-war re-organisation he was one of the first forward-looking backroom boys, editing the official handbook and officiating at countless functions. He was one of the most ardent working members of the County Umpires Scheme and the National Coaching Committee among others, where experience as a C.S. executive was invaluable, particularly in phraseology. A protege of England and World's Referee under Morris Rose, George rose to high distinction in his own right in this field, culminating in the crowning glory of being Director of Play of the greatest of all championships. George's C.S. casuistry and extreme diplomacy occasionally irritated some colleagues who failed to recognise his prepotent desire of judging an issue with scrupulous impartiality.



FIRST home Open Tournament for next season, the Annual Get-Together at Skegness for the East of England, is proposed for September 18-19th. Mrs. F. Merryweather, c/o Ruston-Bucyrus Ltd., Lincoln, is Org. Sec.

West of England Open

Exeter, 20th March

HANDSOME entry and entertaining. Devon smiled. So did Ole Man Sol. Tables a little shy for any combustions, and smiling only for those prepared to stay long enough. It was V-1 Day of Spring and Mr. Shock chased Miss Surprise all through the early rounds. Defeat found you in aristocratic company... Just look at these few results.

By-the-Way: D. Woodcock bt. I. W. Jones —10, 24, 23. P. Cruwys bt. J. Hunt 19, 17; bt. J. Head 15. —16, 22. R. Wood bt. A. Sherwood; bt. R. Morley 18, 16. Roger Haydon (Bristol) bt. R. Jackson (NZ) —13, 13, 23; bt. P. Shead —22, 18, 18; bt. Campat (India) 15, 15. Sampat bt. Venner 18, —11, 15. M. Maclaren bt. Thackersey (India) 16, 18; bt. W. Jaine (NZ) —18, 9, 18. Spongebatt Barry White bt. Bruwys 11, 12; bt. T. Densham —23, 18, 19; bt. J. Carrington 13, 13. **W.S.** J. WINN bt. B. Gray —16, 14, 15; bt. S. Jones 14, —23, 11; bt. J. Crosby 18, 9. Y. J. SEAMAN bt. B. Milbank —18, 13, 19; bt. J. Willcocks 17, 16. M. Fry bt. A. Bates 15, 14.

Query. How did all the Welsh girls come to be in one half, and the Australians in one eighth?

Final audience, large and appreciative, justified the Mayoral interest. The finalists justified the audience. The B.S. final was a rip-snorting cocktail of a match with high-powered kicks sparkling nearly 2 to the minute.

All 4 M.S. semi-finalists were Glos. yeomen in the "heavyweight" class. Merrett hit Roger Haydon into frustration, 8, 14 and Aubrey Simons showed his mastery of sponge by putting out the persistent enterprise of Barry White—albeit in 3 games. Merrett showed the potential danger of his hitting power when he took first blood from Simons, but he faltered and surrendered the initiative when Simons tightened up.

Jackie Head and Harry Venner shaded Ivor Jones and Alan Sherwood out of the M.D. with a business-like 10, 16 and no messing. Ivor had to wait (with Shirley Jones) for the X.D. final—against the winning excellence of Simons and Margaret Fry—to get the audience in guffaws at his oh so-deadly-serious antics. Good stuff in this match; the comedy was jam for the cake!

Looking cool and competent in sapphire shirts, Jean Winn and Joy Seaman showed little outward appearance of a strenuous day that had followed little more than 3 hours sleep. They mastered the non-stop, vigorous Welsh aggression of Audrey Bates and Betty Gray in a jumping-jack encounter. In the W.S. final, both girls had another of their terrific, evenly matched battles that titillate the nerves and raise the cheers. Both had to fight tiredness as well as each other. It was well done.

M.S. A. SIMONS bt. (sf) B. White 17, —17, 15; bt. B. MERRETT —14, 17, 12 (bt. R. Haydon 8, 14).

W.S. J. WINN bt. B. Gray —16, 14, 15; bt. Y. J. SEAMAN —19, 17, 13 (bt. B. Milbank —18, 13, 19).

M.D. J. HEAD/H. VENNOR bt. I. Jones/A. Sherwood 0, 16.

W.D. Y. J. SEAMAN/J. WINN bt. A. Bates/B. Gray 13, —22, 14.

X.D. A. SIMONS/M. FRY bt. I. Jones/S. Jones —18, 10, 11.

B.S. M. MACLAREN bt. T. Densham 13, —16, 22.

G.S. M. FRANCIS bt. M. Eyles 18, 13.



U.S.A. NATIONALS, 1953-4

Cleveland, Ohio, 21st March

M.S. 1. R. MILES. 2. J. SOMAEL. 3. W. Holzrichter. 4. L. Pagliaro.

W.S. 1. M. SHAIHAN. 2. S. G. Prouty. 3. P. Robinson. 4. L. Neuberger.

M.D. B. BUKLET/T. HAZI bt. W. Holzrichter/S. Schiff.

W.D. L. NEUBERGER/M. SHAIHAN bt. L. Flam/P. Robinson.

B.S. B. GUSKOFF bt. E. Klein.

G.S. S. KRIZMAN bt. C. Liechty.

"The things we are praised for in this world, our 'successes,' are exactly the things for which we do not deserve credit; successes are easy, they come by grace. It is our failures that go sadly by without recognition of the effort and talent we have put into them; single-handed we hammered them out, but inspiration left us in the lurch."

Neville Cardus

ESSEX CLOSED, 1953-54

Southend-on-Sea, 19th April

M.S. 1. R. STEVENS (3. L. Sawyer —15, 12, 16); 2. B. BRUMWELL 6, 21 (4. J. Carrington 19, —16, 19).

W.S. B. MILBANK bt. Y. Baker 15, 21.

M.D. R. RAYBOULD/R. STEVENS bt. J. Carrington/S. Norton 15, —11, 17.

W.D. Mrs. E. CARRINGTON/B. MILBANK bt. Y. Baker/J. Page 11, 16.

X.D. R. STEVENS/Y. BAKER bt. P. Pudney/Mrs. E. Carrington —18, 19, 18.

B.S. J. BRADFORD bt. D. Wiggins 16, —14, 19.

G.S. S. PICKARD bt. E. Wells 21, 11.

B.D. J. BRADFORD/T. CORNELL bt. H. Gaunt/R. Meeling.

V.S. S. H. SUGARHOOD bt. R. Markwell.

10th DERBYSHIRE CLOSED

Matlock, 13th March

M.S. A. T. BIRD bt. T. Howie 15, 17, —19, 9.

W.S. J. WALKER bt. P. Bannister 16, 16.

M.D. A. T. BIRD/G. LITHERLAND bt. R. Hallsworth/E. Tranter —14, 13, —20, 21 17.

W.D. P. BANNISTER/J. WALKER bt. Mrs. J. Jackson/B. Slater 8, 6.

X.D. A. T. BIRD/J. WALKER bt. R. Hallsworth/B. Slater 16, —21, 14.

J.S. A. HUNT bt. W. Eccleshall 13, 10.

V.S. F. MOODY bt. J. Ridgard 9, 13.

IRISH OPEN, 1953-54

Limerick, 26-27th March

M.S. S. THACKERSEY (I) bt. I. Jones 10, 15, 18.

W.S. J. OWENS bt. C. Griffin 9, 8.

M.D. I. W. JONES/S. THACKERSEY bt. J. Christie/T. Seacy 10, —14, 17, 17.

W.D. D. FEARON/J. OWENS bt. M. A. Bessinger (US)/M. Lyons 20, 14.

X.D. W. PAPPIN/J. OWENS bt. I. W. Jones/V. Higgins 15, 15.

B.S. M. BEHAN bt. J. Lewis 17, —21, 11.

RAF All-England Chp's.

Finals, Slough, 19th Mar., 1954

TROPHIES and prizes were presented in the afternoon by Air Vice-Marshal R. G. HART, President of the R.A.F. T.T.A., who has declared that:

"Table Tennis is a good game and a satisfying, healthy sport... I am delighted to see the increasing popularity and the improving standards of the Service Tournaments..."

TEAMS : Command: (R.A.F.)—FIGHTER CMD. bt. Tech. Trng. Cmd. 5-4; (W.R.A.F.) —BOMBER CMD. bt. Home Cmd. 5-4. **Station: (R.A.F.) HQ(U) TECH. TRG. C.S.** bt. West Kirby 5-4; (W.R.A.F.)—COMPTON BASSETT bt. Winslow 7-2.

M.S. L.A.C. MOSELEY bt. L.A.C. Hillyer 20, —14, 18. (Plate) L.A.C. Logan bt. L.A.C. Kinchen.

W.S. Sqn.-Off. PADDOCK bt. S.A.C.W. Slater 14, —7, 17. (Plate) Cpl. Wilkinson bt. Gt. Nash 18, 16, 18.

M.D. A.C. JOYCE/L.A.C. SUGDEN bt. L.A.C. Gazeley/L.A.C. Vincent.

W.D. Cpl. CLARK/Sqn.-Off. PADDOCK bt. L.A.C.W. Boyd/S.A.C.W. Slater 18, 19, 17.

X.D. L.A.C. MOSELEY/S.A.C.W. ROGERS bt. L.A.C.W. Raybould/Cpl. Slaten.

A record number of some 200 stations and 500 individuals competed, earlier rounds being zoned. In the official 1952-3 figures for the W.R.A.F. service, Table Tennis ranks second in popularity, being only 6 points behind Netball.

Representative matches this season have been played on County Match basis with mixed teams. Results: lost to Civil Service 3-7; to Kent 2-8; to London Bus. Hses. 4-6; beat London Banks 7-3 and Acton League 6-3. R.A.F. players engaged were: (Men) R. Stevens, Draper, R. Raybould, S. Brocklebank, Hillyer, Hill, Dimascio and Sugden. (Women) Sqn.-Off. Paddock, Cpl. Aitken, Boyd and Slater.

Officers of the R.A.F.-T.T.A. are Sqn.-Commander L. R. Ridley (Chairman), Sqn.-Off. E. M. Ashley (Sec.), Sqn.-Ldrs. R. H. Shaw and R. Cahill, and Flg.-Off. S. Crowe.

SURREY CLOSED

Wimbledon, 2nd-5th April

M.S. 1. A. R. MILLER. 2. K. Hurlock 18, 16, 16. 3. M. Maclaren —17, 12, 14.

4. K. Spychalski 15, 17.

W.S. 1. J. WINN. 2. M. Piper 17, 13.

3. B. Isaacs 2-0. 4. J. Rook 2-0.

M.D. R. CRAYDEN/J. HEAD bt. J. Harrington/G. Taylor 20, —17, 20.

W.D. M. PIPER/J. WINN bt. P. Gall/J. Rook 18, 6.

X.D. J. HEAD/J. ROOK bt. R. Crayden/J. Winn —21, 14, 16.

B.S. M. MACLAREN bt. T. Densham —18, 14, 16.

G.S. J. ROOK bt. M. Casswell 5, 11.

POLICE U.K. CHAMPIONSHIPS

1953-54

Bristol, 25th March

THE 12 Zone Finalists of the Annual Police Championships of the U.K. met at Bristol for the Finals. Sir Charles Maly, C.B.E., presented the prizes. Aubrey Simons umpired ALL the finals!

Holder, P.C. S. Hedges, Metro., was K.O'd before the zone final.

The M.S. title was won by Bernard Finerson (P.C. 25, Grimsby) who defeated P.C. J. Kent, Glasgow 2-0; P.C. T. Light, Metro. 2-0; sponge bat P.Sgt. K. Wearing, Metro. 2-1; and in the final, P.C. S. Fortt, Glamorgan 3-2.

GLOS. CLOSED, 1953-54

M.S. B. MERRETT bt. R. Griffin 17, 17.
 W.S. M. FRY bt. E. Pomroy 17, —19, 17.
 M.D. R. GRIFFIN/B. MERRETT bt. A. Dimambro/D. House 18, 24.
 W.D. J. COLLIER/E. POMROY bt. M. Fry/Mrs. M. Pickett 14, 17.
 X.D. B. MERRETT/S. DAVIS bt. B. J. Bucknell/M. Fry —16, 16, 18.
 B.S. I. HARRISON bt. K. Tarling 9, 15.
 G.S. P. DAVIS bt. A. Yates —9, 11, 12.
 J.D. J. DAVIS/S. FIELD bt. M. Filer/M. Wring 15, —16, 15.
 V.S. D. JONES bt. S. Brooks 18, 11.

LONDON BUS. HOUSES CHAMPIONSHIP 1953-4

Southwark, 2nd April
 M.S. B. CROUCH bt. R. Crayden 18, —8, —17, 20, 14.
 W.S. B. ISAACS bt. J. L. Slade 13, 13.
 M.D. L. MGLACHLAN/A. OLDER bt. L. Sawyer/J. White 11, 20.
 W.D. M. HILL/B. ISAACS bt. Mrs. A. Clifford/J. Fabian 10, —18, 13.
 X.D. J. DAWSON/P. FRIEND bt. G. Hogg/J. Latty 15, 20.

BURMA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rangoon, 10-19th Feb., 1954
 M.S. M. TOON SIONG bt. C. Gwan Pook —13, 11, 20, —17, 16.
 W.S. LEE EE LAN bt. Poi Yn —18, —16, 18, 19.
 M.D. S. PAICK SIONG/M. TOON SIONG bt. Dawoodjee/Moosajee —13, 19, —8, 18, 16.

N.E. ENGLAND OPEN

Scarborough, 19th April
 M.S. 1. Z. DOLINAR (Y) (3. B. Kennedy 16, 15); 2. K. CRAGIE 9, 15 (4. J. Leach —15, 12, 23).
 W.S. 1. D. ROWE (3. J. Winn); 2. Y. J. SEAMAN —15, 18, 13 (4. B. Isaacs).
 M.D. B. KENNEDY/M. THORNHILL bt. Z. Dolinar/J. Leach —18, 21, 19.
 W.D. Y. J. SEAMAN/J. WINN bt. P. Mortimer/J. Rook 9, —20, 7.
 X.D. Z. DOLINAR/A. WOOD bt. K. Craigie/J. Rook 16, 19.
 J.S. R. DORKING bt. R. Jackson —18, 20, 15.
 Y.S. R. DORKING bt. M. Dunn (NZ) 16, 11.
 V.S. W. C. T. CRYER bt. D. F. Atkinson.

SCOTTISH OPEN

Glasgow, 26th April
 Full details not available. A triumph for New Zealanders in the men's events.
 M.S. GARRY FREW bt. Owen Jaime.
 W.S. H. ELLIOT. M.D. O. JAINE/JOHNSON bt. R. Kerr/E. Still —16, 18, 9.
 W.D. H. ELLIOT/H. HOULISTON. X.D. R. Kerr/H. Elliot. B.S. E. Lethern. G.S. H. Houliston.

THAMESIDE OPEN

Plaistow, 1st May, 1954
 M.S. 1. K. CRAIGIE—(3. K. Hurlock 11, 15); 2. K. BEAMISH 15, 9 (4. B. Brumwell —16, 18, 18).
 W.S. 1. S. JONES—(3. Mrs. E. Carrington 15, 16); 2. B. MILBANK 7, 18 (4. J. Winn 14, —18, 17).
 M.D. J. CARRINGTON/J. LEACH bt. B. Brumwell/R. Dorking 18, 12.
 W.D. Y. J. SEAMAN/J. WINN bt. B. Gray/S. Jones 15, 19.
 X.D. J. LEACH/D. ROWE bt. R. Crayden/J. Winn 15, 18.
 B.S. M. MACLAREN bt. R. Dorking 18, 19.
 G.S. J. FIELDER bt. S. Pickard 13, 18.
By-the-Way: M.S. C. Frecker bt. A. R. Miller 18, 17. Dorking bt. Frecker 18, 10; bt. M. Maclaren 18, 10. K. Hurlock bt. J. Head 6, 10. R. Stevens bt. J. Carrington 12, 18. B. Brumwell bt. T. Kirby 17, —17, 8; bt. D. Burridge 9, —16, 14; bt. Stevens 15, 16; bt. L. Sawyer 13, 16. K. Beamish bt. A. Payne —17, 10, 19; bt. J. Leach 10, 17.
 W.S. S. Jones bt. J. Fielder 9, —18, 11; bt. Y. J. Seaman —20, 17, 19. B. Milbank bt. D. Spooner 21, —16, 14; bt. B. Gray —12, 16, 13.

The Grand Finale to a Memorable Year

The Daily Mirror's Super Show

On THURSDAY, MAY 13th . . . At The ROYAL ALBERT HALL

A ROYAL SEAL to end a royal season. Here in this famous hall of famous people is the focus of 12,000 ambitions! Of the 12,000 T.T. enthusiasts (a four-deep, mile long army!) who entered *The Daily Mirror* National T.T. Tournament 6 months ago . . . only 16 remain to fight with young and eager zest for that first step on The Ladder of Fame. For the 4 eventual winners it will be the Greatest Moment of their lives . . . never to be forgotten . . . never to come again. This is a Programme charged with human drama and brightly alive with the vital eagerness of youthful endeavour . . . You may see the emergence of a future world star . . . You will see the polished technique of those international stars who, only a year or so ago, themselves competed here . . . And you will see the Grand Masters of 3 countries in exciting world-class table tennis . . . There it is . . . a "champagne and caviare" banquet to end this most memorable of seasons.

Semi-Finals, 2 p.m. 4 Area Winners (4 events)

GRAND FINAL, 7 p.m. PROGRAMME INCLUDES

1. FINAL : Men's Singles.
2. FINAL : Women's Singles.
3. FINAL : Boys' Singles.
4. FINAL : Girls' Singles.
5. MIXED DOUBLES : LEN ADAMS/ANN HAYDON v. EDDIE STILL/DIANE ROWE. All Past *Daily Mirror* Champions.
6. INTERNATIONAL STAR MEN'S DOUBLES : RICHARD BERGMANN/JOHNNY LEACH v. MICHEL LANSKOY/RICHARD MILES.

REDUCED PRICES for Box Seats and Stalls for E.T.T.A. Affiliates, 8/6 to 5/-. Apply the E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square. ALL OTHER SEATS (from 1/6 to 10/6) from Box Office, Royal Albert Hall ONLY.

THE FINALISTS ARE (Average Age 19 years) :

M.S. Alex Culloch, Paisley, 20. Brian Pennington, Halifax, 17. Basil Bucknell, Bristol, 31. David House, Bath, 18.
 W.S. Helen Houliston, Edinburgh, 16. Beryl Waterson, Liverpool, 27. Gretta Holden, Cardiff, 24. Dorothy Ellis, Hayes, 26.
 B.S. Pat Tindale, Gateshead, 15. Derek Finan, Dunningfield, 17. Derek Backhouse, West Bromwich, 16. Eddie Hodson, Hornsey, 15.
 G.S. Helen Houliston, Edinburgh, 16. Florence Wright, Barnsley, 16. Dorothy Worrall, West Bromwich, 14. Sheila Ball, Southsea, 16.

T.T. SHORTS

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WELSH CLOSED CH'PS.

Cardiff, 19th April
 M.S. W. SWEETLAND (M. Jones 21, 18) bt. D. PHILLIPS 12, 13 (A. Thomas 15, 13).
 W.S. B. GRAY (S. Jones —11, 10, 17) bt. A. BATES 14, 18 (M. Cotton 15, 17).
 M.D. A. LEWIS/A. MORRIS bt. D. Norris/W. Sweetland 19, —18, 21.
 W.D. A. BATES/B. GRAY bt. R. Beynon/S. Jones 17, 12.
 X.D. A. MORRIS/B. GRAY bt. D. Phillips/S. Jones 12, —25, 15.
 B.S. D. NORRIS bt. B. McNaught 16, 18.
 G.S. M. THOMAS bt. B. Wilding 11, 11.

HUNGARIAN OPEN

5th-7th March
 M.S. 1. F. SIDO—(3. J. Koczian 3-1).
 2. E. GYETVAI (4. Dr. Gaal, sponge-bat).
 W.S. 1. A. ROSEANU—(3. A. Almasi-Simon). 2. G. FARKAS-GERVAI (4. E. Koczian).
 M.D. Antal/Morvai. W.D. A. Roseanu/G. Farkas-Gervai bt. E. Koczian/A. & Almasi-Simon.
 X.D. J. & E. KOCZIAN bt. M. Gantner/E. Zellar.
 Josef Koczian's first match appearance since return to play. Ferenc Soos, placed No. 8, was beaten by Dr. Gaal.

LEINSTER OPEN CH'PS.

Dublin, 29th April
 M.S. J. LEACH bt. S. Clerkin 14, 10, —17, 20.
 W.S. S. SULTANA (India) bt. D. Fearon 9, 16.
 W.D. M. PARANDE/S. SULTANA bt. D. Fearon/J. Owens 14, —17, 11.

BIRTHS : LESLEY ANN, a daughter for Geoff. and Betty Coulthead, of the South London and Wandsworth Leagues, at 7.20 p.m. on Sunday, 28th March, at Wier Hospital, Balham. Weight 6 lbs. 13 ozs.

In response to many requests

GLOSSY ACTION PHOTOS

BY PETER MADGE
 can now be supplied of most Leading English Players.

Prices (cash with order) 1/6d. Larger sizes 3/- and 5/-. Postage free on orders of 5/- or over.

Includes Bergmann, Leach, Venner, Simons, Craigie, Miller, Head, D. & R. Rowe, Piper, Merrett, Rhodes, Crayden, Casofsky, etc.

DON'T BAR MINOR COUNTIES

"IN a World Championship a country can only enter ONE representative team. The same principle should apply to County Championships. At present it functions only for the Premier Division. In the best interests of the game and to further the development of the less 'fashionable' counties, surely ONLY ONE TEAM of any county should be able to influence promotion and relegation?"

As an example, in their first season in Division 2 (South) Kent's much improved side (which had won promotion the previous season) beat Essex II, Bedfordshire and Devon, surely a playing strength that should make the Premier Div. their merited natural element. Notwithstanding their notable performance, however, they cannot be promoted because they were beaten by the SECOND teams of Middlesex and Surrey (teams composed of players of international class) and a year-old decision bars from promotion a county that finishes behind two Second teams (even if those teams are of Premier Div. quality).

The rule seems very short-sighted and needs reversing. A strong county (already represented in the Premier Div.) can continue to keep even the most enterprising county to a minor division by means of its strong "second" teams. This principle is unlikely to encourage widespread interest and greater participation by all counties."

Conrad Jaschke, Dartford.

THE LAST LAUGH?

"MATCH results should reflect skill, temperament and stamina of players meeting ON EQUAL TERMS... T.T. equipment has been standardised to ensure such uniformity of competitive conditions EXCEPT for the glaring anachronism of the bat... Despite vehement comparisons with Lawn Tennis, unless the bat is standardised we are liable to face some ludicrous situations in the future."

D. P. Parnham, Hinckley, Leics.
The cartoon accompanying the above arrived too late for inclusion.

PENHOLDER GRIP OR HIGHER NET

"I HAVE been following T.T. since 1900 (when the net was 7 ins. high) and the Penholder style was popular... When Victor Barna came along he was so outstanding in accuracy, defence, attack and grace (he has never been equalled—even by Japan's young men) that he popularised the modern style... When the net was reduced to 6 ins. in height, a revival of the penholder style seemed inevitable... because practically every ball that comes over a 6-inch net can be strongly hit to any angle with this grip... The net should be AT LEAST 6½ ins. high... Sponge isn't worth argument..."

A. T. Finney, Vice-President, E.T.T.A.

KEEP THE CHANGE

"IN VIEW of the heavy costs of future World Championships, e.g., 1956 in Aela, I suggest that if there is any surplus from the Guarantee Fund, the guarantors (having doubtless written the amount off) would be glad to have any balances transferred to such a Fund for ensuring England's continued participation in world events."

Derek N. Tyler, Hastings.

CANDID OPINIONS

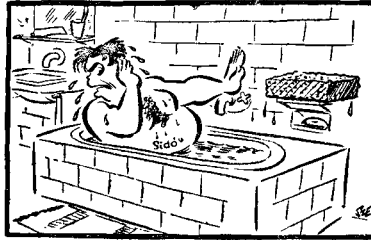
"... WHAT A PITY that British sportsmanship was not more evident when Japan beat Czechoslovakia... the prejudiced attitude of some of the crowd, evidenced by the half-hearted applause given by them was most unsporting and degrading to the name of table tennis... Japan was outstanding in play, manners and fairness... and were an example for any country to follow..."

(Miss) M. R. Raynes, London, S.W.8.

"... I suggest that in future, Mr. Primavesi should stick to *The Times* crosswords and Mickey Mouse cartoons..."

W.A.H., Guildford.

Acknowledgments to Wepsport, Hungary



Sido: Látni sem bírni...

SIDO: "I can't stand the sight of it!"

"... MOST MEMORABLE... the elegant ability of the still brilliant Mrs. Roseanu... two wonderful W.D. semi-finals... Japanese agility and politeness... the one-sidedness of part of the crowd who somewhat unsportingly failed to appreciate some beautiful Japanese play... I feel disappointed about the Corbillon Cup which I believe should have become ours... How sorry I was that the Rowe Twins were not left to tackle Hungary... Wasn't it a mistake to play Ann Haydon in this match? I am not in favour of the way in which Miss Haydon has apparently been pushed... this preferential treatment was emphasized as when the announcer oftentimes named Haydon before Best (not even in alphabetical order!)... the scoreboard likewise (despite the programme)... and newspaper reporters seem also to have been blinded—one even STATED that 'The best player of the four was undoubtedly young Ann. She hit more winners and fewer losers than any of the other three.' I consider this incorrect... must compliment Kathleen Best on her brilliant performances in that semi and final..."

(Miss) L. Murray, Wembley.

FOR NEXT SEASON

"THE Plymouth League's point system outclasses all others. Teams of 3 to 5 players; 3 playing each of 3 others best of 3 and one doubles set. A match thus consists of 10 sets, and points are allocated simply by the number of ties won. A 10-0 win equals 10 points.

The number of points may become a little unwieldy, but the system sustains continued interest throughout the match, and prevents 2 outstanding players from dominating the issue."

C. H. Lambell, Plymouth.

FORGET SPONGE—PROMOTE PENHOLDERS

"... THE World's M.S. Final was disappointing because Ogimura—a PENHOLDER—was never seriously challenged. Don't worry about Sponge, it is a passing phase; NOT SO the Penholder Style. That is here to stay. We must teach the art to our youngsters if they are to compete on equal terms... Note that neither Bergmann (the world's best defender) nor Sido (one of the world's best attackers) could cope with the penholder champion... I am now 46, but when I was over 40 and thus at the close of my playing career (and a penholder enthusiast) beat such players as Hurlock, Crouch, Head, Tony Miller, Dennis Miller, Brumwell, Bubleby, and taken games from nearly all the leading English players... these wins in open tournament play since 1945..."

Ralph B. Dean, Romford.

FROM A T.V. SPECTATOR

"... ONE Japanese girl was barracked by a section of the audience for delaying tactics (e.g., hesitation in service, undue face-towel-ing, slow recovery of balls, etc.)... This cannot be considered unsporting behaviour... Neither the spirit nor the letter of the laws were being broken—EXCEPT BY THAT SECTION OF THE AUDIENCE!... The Jap. girls were models of graciousness and when they went down (although infrequently), they did so fighting—and smiling."

D. P. Parnham, Hinckley.

WITH THE BEST COACHES—FORWARD

THE National Coaching Scheme is now firmly founded, and has quickly earned the approval and active interest of leading coaches of international quality. 34 applications have been received for the E.T.T.A. Basic Coaching Diploma; 9 of these have fully qualified for approval by the N.E.C.'s next meeting. The others are in various stages of qualification varying from newcomers to those "all but" qualified.

One new and immediate problem is a really good design for an Official Coach's badge. A lesser one, for the design of the Diploma. Any ideas?

The Scheme is open to all affiliated players. Full particulars available from County Secretaries or the E.T.T.A.

SUMMER COURSES AND COACHING HOLIDAYS in conjunction with the C.C.P.R., 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, to whom applications should be sent. At the National Recreation Centres as under:—

JULY 17-24th—LILLESHELL, Salop.

JULY 24-31st—LILLESHELL, Salop.

AUG. 28th-SEPT. 4—BISHAM ABBEY, Bucks.

Courses arranged by the Hon. Director of Coaching:

Mr. JACK CARRINGTON.

● BREVITIES ●

"... To attract these young people we need not only to get out of the rut of table tennis and football and cheap dances..." **Donovan Vickers**, in *The Sunday Observer*. ● **James Shrimpton** (ex-Birmingham T.T. Editor) and now with the *Canadian Press*, Alberta, writes that he recently met Dorothy Worthington (who emigrated last autumn). Dorothy played for Southampton and Nottingham. ● Liverpool's Central Div. Oakhill Club have high hopes of-year-old twins who have made a successful league debut this season. They are left-handed **Sylvia** and right-handed **Hazel Farrell**. Remember the names. ● New Zealand tournament announcers are asking for trouble if they call "Miss Bassett" 4 kinds of trouble. Even P. Bassett is bad enough. There are 4 sisters who dress identically in fluffy pink jerseys and grey skirts. Pam and Pat are 16-y-o twins; Phyllis is 21; and up-and-coming Elaine is yet only 11. ● **Mary Jameson** (ex Yorks) is now happily settled in Chicago... celebrated by reaching the final of the Michigan Closed. ● 65-y-o **Austin Harrison**, active veteran chairman of Scarborough is busy practising with Sponge... look out for a Secret Weapon attack on the English! ● We were intrigued by an official report of the Netherlands captain **Joseph von Ridding** in which he signed himself as "non-sleeping-captain"... as it turned out, a jolly good designation too! ● At the Portsmouth Open we met **Mrs. Georgia Veneer**, a petite vivacious, happily married nurse from Maidenhead. She has one weakness—table tennis. "I'd go home to Greece to-morrow, if it wasn't for

T.T.," she declared. She spent £6 odd on taxi fares to get to the tournament on time... she can't get off duty very often. Another weakness is T.T. bats. Georgia has several and selects one according to the mood she is in. ● We regret to hear that Liverpool Chairman **Don Foulis** (Swaythling Cup 1929 and ex-Lawn Tennis International) has resigned from the League Executive because of strong objections to proposed re-organisation schemes. ● We like the habit of the anonymous West Ealing Club home

printer responsible for "taking any mickey"... One printed notice we saw on our last visit read: "Please Note. All enquiries about I. Redfearn (Winner of Area D.2. *Daily Mirror* Tournament) are to be made to A. Lloyd who is now his Manager. Exhibitions Anywhere—Any time." ● And here we go with a right poser. Should there be any limit to the number of leagues a player plays in?? Problem started when the champion of one county won the Closed championship of another. ●

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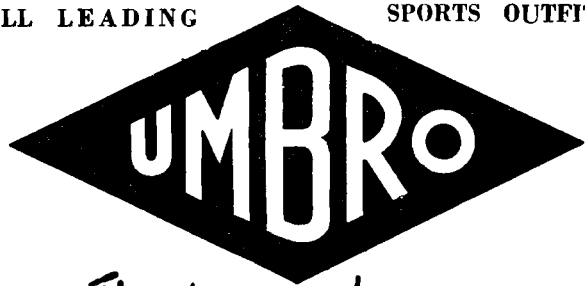
Below

Wembley results of some of the leading Sponge Bat players (names in capitals).

A. EHRLICH bt. L. Sawyer 3-1; lost M. Sebok, H, 0-3. A. AWART, A, lost T. Flisberg 0-3. S. CAFIERO, F, lost J. Buyens, B, 2-3. I. SEVERO, Bz, lost L. Stipek, C, 0-3. H. SEVERO, Bz, bt. T. Kirby 3-0; lost J. Leach, E, 0-3. Dr. D. MIDOSI, Bz, lost J. Head, E, 1-3. T. FLISBERG, S, bt. C. Awart, A; bt. J. Buyens, N; bt. J. Vogrinc, Y; bt. L. Stipek, C. —9, —17, 17, 16, 12; bt. R. Roothoof, F, 3-1; bt. R. Bergmann 3-1. I. OGIMURA, J, bt. Burridge, E; bt. R. Hinchliff, E, 3-1; bt. M. Dunn, NZ; bt. B. Crouch, E; bt. F. Sido, H; bt. B. Bukiet, US, 3-2; bt. I. Andreadis, C, 3-1; bt. T. Flisberg, S, 3-1. MARY DETOURNAY, B, bt. S. Szasz, R; lost D. Rowe.

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