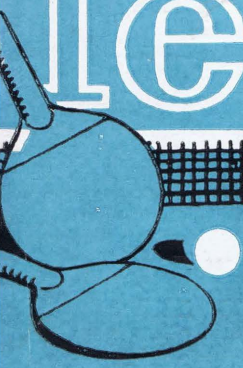


# Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 1 No. 1  
SEPTEMBER,  
1946



NEWS

★

VIEWS

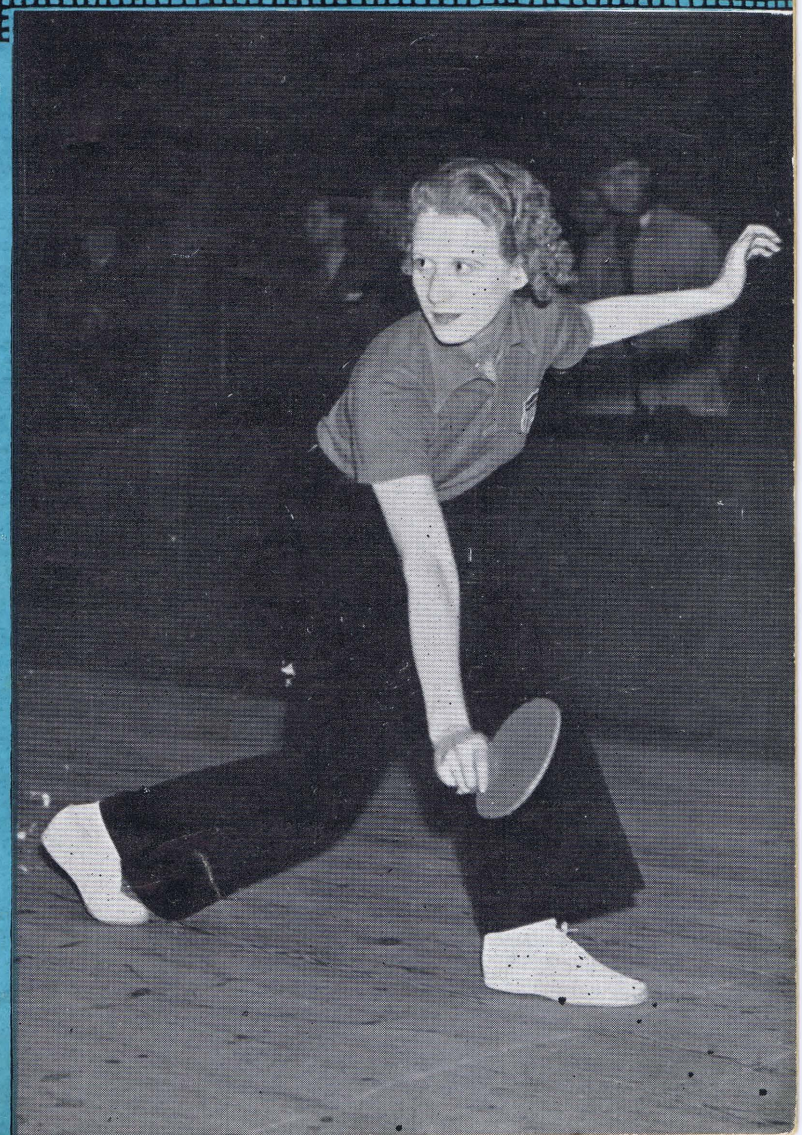
★

HINTS

★

Articles by  
Leading Players

★



6<sup>D</sup>

# Take a LATE Summer Holiday

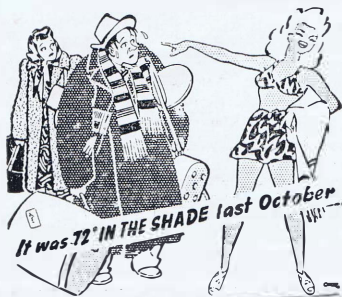
at

## Butlin's

LUXURY  
HOLIDAY CAMPS

by the Sea

**OPEN UNTIL NOVEMBER**



### TABLE TENNIS

is included in the FREE Sports, Amusements and Entertainments at Butlin's Luxury Holiday Camps. Plenty of first-class tables and all equipment are available.

**CAMPS OPEN AT FILEY BAY - SKEGNESS - CLAGTON-ON-SEA**

Late holidays are still real summer holidays at Butlin's, for the complete height-of-season programme of entertainment, amusement and sport continues at full pressure until the day the Camps close. Tariffs are lower, travel is easier and the weather better — remember last year? — Don't be disappointed about that first real peace-time holiday you've been waiting for — book now for Butlin's.

**ALL-IN-TARIFF NO EXTRAS**

Send p.c. for descriptive folder and booking form to Butlin's Ltd., Dept. H.B., 439, Oxford Street, London, W.1, or apply to principal Travel Agencies.

**A NEW Bat, with a NEW Idea, for the NEW Season**

The

## CARRINGTON

Table Tennis Bat

with the Patent

“All-Rounder”

Compensated

Handle

The Key to a sound

2-wing attack

Designed by  
**JACK CARRINGTON**  
English International 1939-46

Official Coach to London  
League, Liverpool League, etc.

Your local dealer  
can now obtain a limited  
supply from the makers:—

**S. W. HANCOCK, LTD.,**  
119, The Chase, LONDON, S.W.4

# TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

Editorial, Advertisement  
and Publishing Office:

Kenworthy Buildings,  
83, Bridge Street,  
Manchester, 3.

Phone: BLAckfriars 0494.

Managing Editor:

**ARTHUR WAITE**  
(1931 International).

Subscription Rate, 7/- per year.

Advertisement Rates sent on  
request.

Vol. 1 No. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1946

Sixpence

## We Introduce Ourselves

SO we have the distinction of being the first post-war British table-tennis magazine! We know that enthusiasts of the game have long waited for such a periodical and had it been possible, *Table Tennis Review* would have appeared much earlier. Not having published a magazine before 1940 we had to wait impatiently for restrictions to be lifted. Others could have brought out a paper, and in fact still intend to do so, but we are delighted to see ourselves first in the field. *And we shall continue to be first in the field!*

Among our many schemes for the future is an organised visit of a *Table Tennis Review* party to the World's Championships which are to be held in Paris, this to be open to all readers. More will be heard of this later.

Our policy is, of course, to further the interests of table tennis in whatever land we may be read. We are independent of any Association, and though we shall not necessarily agree with the views of our contributors, we reserve the right to print articles of criticism of any person or administrative body. *Table Tennis Review* invites contributions dealing with all angles of the game, and its pages are yours for the expression of your views.

We shall be able to offer you the best because we are prepared to pay for the best. All feature contributors to our paper will receive a fair rate of remuneration for their toils, because we believe that table-tennis journalism should rank equally with all other branches of the writing profession. A magazine that does not pay its contributors can only be third-rate. Authors, artists, and photographers are assured of every consideration.

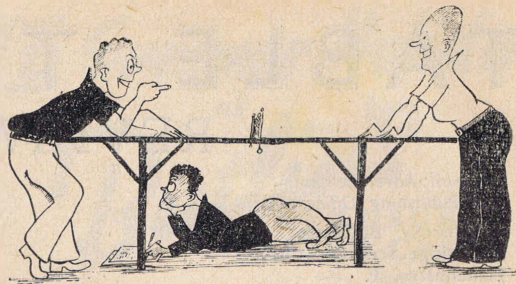
We feel proud of the fact that the *Review* has survived the many preliminary difficulties and our thanks go to those who have helped to compile these pages, and also to a great number of league secretaries who have promised their support. Through our own resources we have succeeded in building up connections that are now reaching out into all parts of the world.

We go to press at a moment when there is every prospect of paper restrictions being eased, and the very near future should see our pages increased in number. We also go to press at a time when the door is opening upon a new era for table tennis. We are going to cross that threshold with confidence and courage, and we hope to serve your interests faithfully in this splendid game which is about to reach a degree of world popularity that has never before been achieved in the history of table tennis.

THE EDITOR.

# Down the White Line

By GOSSIMA



## Johnny's New Title

We hear that Johnny Leach is holding a feeding-bottle in the open style, but then Johnny has only been doing this since July, so he has plenty of time to realise that the pen-holder grip is the one acknowledged by old hands. Johnny took up table tennis eleven years ago, no doubt as a result of his father's keenness for the game. History does repeat itself you know. Our hearty congratulations go to Mrs. Leach for presenting Johnny with his best title yet.

## The Lady Won't Tell

You are going to hear a lot from Miss Pinkie Barnes in the pages of *T.T. Review*; and you are also going to see her quite often in the closing rounds of major open tournaments, but we do wish she would tell us her real name! We know that her colourful complexion earned her the nickname "Pinkie," but nobody seems to know her christian name. Pinkie is most tantalising about it, and while she says it is shrouded in mystery she does mention that the nearest clue is that it's a "common erb." It can't be Daisy, can it? A Daisy isn't an "erb" but merely a menace to gardeners. Readers please note that no prize is offered for the correct answer—but we would like to know.

## Star for Exeter

Do Exeter people know that they now have living a short distance away one of England's leading international men players? Manchester parted with C.W. (Dibs) Davies with much regret when he left the city to take up a business appointment near Exeter. He is one of the most pleasing personalities of the game and wears a smile in both defeat and victory. Just before he left Manchester he succeeded in winning the Closed Singles Championship, and considering Manchester's talent that is quite a feat.

## Equipment Prospects

The firm of John Jaques & Son, Ltd. have informed me that the supply of table-tennis equipment for this season will be better, although things are still going to be extremely difficult. Nets and posts will be reasonably easy to obtain, and the supply of rackets, although inferior to pre-war manufacture, should be fairly plentiful. Balls too will be available in sufficient quantities to enable leagues to function, but they are still likely to be "under-the-counter" goods.

The most important item, which is tables, is going to be just as difficult as ever. There is no supply of suitable timber in the country, or at least allocated to the trade, and although tables are being made of  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. ply with folding legs,

the quality is far inferior to that of pre-war tournament models. This is no doubt due in no small measure to the inability to obtain supplies of the special cellulose paint used for spraying the playing surface. Even these tables can be supplied only to holders of Board of Trade Permits (this restriction is expected to be removed later in the season). It should be clearly understood that these tables are of the utility type and not really suitable for tournament or even league use.

## Cover Girl

Our first cover photograph is of a world's champion, do you know her? She won the world's ladies singles title at Baden in the year 1937. The year after she won through to the final but the match was never finished because the umpires disqualified both contestants for their monotonous style of play. Timid and cautious methods of play, known in some quarters as "chiselling," has long been a headache for administrators of the game. From our photograph, Ruth Aarons of America does not look like a "chiseller," does she?

In attempts to put the "chiseller" at a disadvantage the net was lowered to 6 in., but at an international conference held this year, the Hon. Ivor Montague, Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, said, "What about re-lifting the net to 6 $\frac{3}{8}$  in.? I am not proposing it, although I favour it myself. Indeed, England is against me on this, I am quite sure." Another suggestion was that 6 $\frac{3}{8}$  in. should be the right height, but after a little discussion the point was closed and the net remains unchanged.

## Go-ahead Denham

The Denham and District League have been planning to secure premises to act as headquarters of

the league. If a suitable place is found they intend using it for coaching, practice for registered players, and the staging of tournaments and exhibitions. I have no doubts that in a few years from now most leagues will have premises such as the Denham officials visualise, but we must hand it to them for being one step ahead of anyone else—or are they?

Most leading players do not get sufficient practice between themselves, the majority of their time being spent with club-mates. Facilities for intensive practice among leading players should be widened beyond the boundaries of a local league, and I should like to see some enterprising County Association obtaining suitable premises for a monthly or fortnightly meetings of all its best players. In fact, this is something which the E.T.T.A. might have been able to arrange a long time ago.

A series of Invitation Tournaments, limited to eight players, and played in various provincial towns would achieve much the same results. Star players would acquire valuable practice with one another, the game would be popularised still more throughout the country, and quite a good financial return could be shown. What do you think E.T.T.A.?

## A Twenty-first Birthday

Happy birthday to the Liverpool and District League which is about to celebrate its twenty-first anniversary. Mr. Leslie Forrest, now residing in Bradford should surely be the one to cut the cake. He was the league's founder and secretary for ten years. It would be very fitting if a Liverpool player could win the Merseyside Open this season, but we shall have to be more than satisfied if an English player manages to carry off this major event.

# Once I Thought I was a World Champion

By STANLEY PROFFITT  
(English Swaythling Cup Player)

TO each and everyone of us on the threshold of a career looms an ambition, a summit to reach, a goal to acquire. Many years ago my personal "resolve" was to acquire the World's Table Tennis Singles title. If my innermost thoughts appear premature, bordering on the egotistical, please do not lay the blame entirely on me, but rather on the network of circumstances surrounding those early days of youthful adolescence.

T'was in the season of 1928, and we were young, strong and passionately fond of the game. Tireless in our energies to obtain results, we practiced assiduously in the provincial suburbs of Lancashire.

These northern towns stricken by the cotton slump, enabled us to have ample time for practice. Even then the days appeared all too short, and on many occasions H. C. Cooke and I slashed the white celluloid across the table at 5 a.m., stealing precious hours before going to the office. Lunch-times and evenings were spent in this earnest pursuit, and if at night the club's lamp burned low, its replacement was by a galaxy of candles—not a minute's delay—such had the fever got a hold on us.

Such enthusiasm has its reward, and I took the first Lancashire Open Singles, defeating club colleague Cooke in the final, quickly following up with victories in minor tournaments within a few months.

The tentacles of the English Association had not spread, and the press did not collaborate, hence news but filtered through. To be

perfectly honest, we assumed ourselves to be the "know-all" and "end-all" at this game.

One day the "buzz" got around that a southern contingent had entered for the Pontefract teams-of-three tournament, so we perspired, trained, and restlessly awaited the event.

We fought, won the trophy, coming out well on top, and I, not reasoning, took it for granted that these Londoners were their strongest representation.

With this combination of achievements, our drawing-room richly graced with silver cups, I was more or less in my own little world, "Cock of the North." In stating this I crave your indulgence—remember my tender years—youthful, seventeen years old, with a series of successes behind. In truth, if you were to dwell on the tournaments, I did have a small justification for these assumptions.

It so happened that almost on the eve of the World Championships England was floundering for a team. Frantic telegrams scorched the wires, apparently Fred Perry of lawn tennis fame, Charlie Bull, the late Kent and Worcester cricketer and Adrian Haydon, for some unaccountable reason could not make the crossing to Berlin. I was unaware of this at the time, in any case their names didn't mean a thing to me. Not having lost a single game, I took it that I was justifiably selected on merit as the No. 1 in the English Swaythling Cup Team, which in our game is the equal of the Davis Cup of lawn tennis. Far too

excited to concentrate with a rational mind, I was, sort of surf riding on the crest of a tidal wave.

After an enthusiastic send-off by officials and press photographers I arrived at the Metropolis flushed with excitement, already visualising a triumphant reception on return to my native town.

Treading cautiously through the dumb roar of the traffic, across Euston Road to Woburn Place, I reported in the sumptuous lounge of the Royal Hotel. Important officials extended a sympathetic hand, and I was introduced to my team mates. There was incessant chatter with players' names recurring which were not as yet in my vocabulary. Dinner was served with the Hon. Ivor Montagu presiding. The whole topic of conversation centred around who would take the World's Singles Title. Names unknown to me such as Viktor Barna, Sandor Glanz, Laslo Bellak, Szabados, cropped up at frequent intervals and this jarred on my attentive ears, t'was irksome in the extreme—who were these people? "Never 'erd of 'em." What's more, Mr. Montagu didn't seem to realise my capabilities. Seething with indignation I retired early, resolving to "show 'em" once on the other side of the water.

## Berlin Here I Come

Then the twenty-four-hour journey to the German capital, and on the way the general trend of names poured out again. To a dumb listener it required the uttermost control not to put your own viewpoint forth. What a surprise I had in store for them! They would be supplementing my own name before long.

Third-class continental travelling—even under cheerful conditions—is not in the least comforting. We were greeted cordially, but the harsh

guttural voices did not add to my demeanour. At long last we reached the Stuttgart Hotel, and with a set plan of campaign I escaped to the confines of my room, and so to bed. Arising to a given call much earlier than anyone else, and after coffee and rolls, I slipped away quietly, to acquire some practice so to be "on-song" for when our party arrived.

The tournament was held in Weiteim's famous stores, evidently a great crowd of spectators had arrived early—t'was barely nine o'clock. With no room in the lifts I decided to run up the staircase. At the hall entrance queues were forming, I could hear the sound of the ball. Surely, play had not commenced at this unearthly hour. With the robustness of youth, I unceremoniously pushed to the front, it was only natural to cast an eye on the early beginners, they could not possibly be any more than small fry.

The years grow vague during the lapse of time, but the scene I witnessed, stood in front of the crowd, still lingers vividly in my memory. It was the Czechoslovakian—Hungary cup match; there behold the suave, aquiline-featured Barna, rhythmically flashing his now famous back-hand flick; Malecek nimble as a fencing master, retrieving the ball 10, 15, 20 ft. away from the table end.

What is this? Surely it is not the game I play. To this day I can almost feel my leadened gait retreating to a secluded table, gesticulating humbly to a nearby player to have some practice—I needed it!

My tail completely down I resolved that at least one day I would give these people a reasonable show by learning to play this game called Table Tennis.

*Next Month Stanley Proffitt commences a series of Instructional Articles*

# JACK SARL *(London Sports Writer)*

REVIEWS

## THE LONDON SEASON—1945-6

*Creditable Performance* by JOHNNY LEACH

ALTHOUGH it may often take as much as half the season before some players find their best form, there was not much lacking in the show of Johnny Leach in the first major open tournament of the season at Ilford, on October 13th. In the men's singles final he defeated Allen of Southend. The ladies entry was particularly strong on this occasion, and Betty Steventon disposed of both Peggy Franks and Dora Beregi, only to crumble at the very capable hands of Vera Dace in the final. Peter Grant, of Exeter caused a minor uproar when he beat Carrington in a quarter-final.

Obviously not content to rest on his laurels, Leach again showed fine form in the Central London Open on December 15th. With stiffer opposition this time, from Eric Filby, he won the singles final 3-1, and shared another doubles victory with Carrington in beating Langner and Markwell. The star of the evening, however, was Peggy Franks, who gained a triple success, beating Mrs. Miles 2-0 in the singles, and also won both doubles events, teaming with Pinkie Barnes and Ken Merrett. A no-knocking-up rule was introduced by the committee in this tournament, presumably with the idea of saving time. This did not appeal to the celebrated Ernie Buble, who, after reaching the third round, took off his gloves and went home. The Central London also marked the first appearance in open events of R. S. Cooper from Bombay. Decidedly unspectacular but very difficult to beat, he reached the semi-final only to fall to Filby.

Two days later, Leach, Carrington and Vera Dace left the London scene for a twelve-weeks tour on the Continent. Stationed mostly in Italy, with occasional trips to Vienna and elsewhere, they entertained vast numbers of troops and were an enormous success.

In the first week of the New Year the Polytechnic staged the Metropolitan Championships, and this time it was Eric Filby's turn to wear the triple crown. Beating Merrett 3-1 in the singles, he partnered his victim in the men's doubles and disposed of the Harrower/Pazdirek team in straight games. With Dora Beregi he also won the mixed event. Miss Beregi beat Peggy Franks 22-20, 21-19 in the ladies' singles, and in the doubles the Barnes/Franks combination added yet another trophy to their already groaning mantelpiece.

The first Sunday in February saw the final International trials in South London. Some choices caused mild outbreaks of astonishment, especially in the men's selections, but if table tennis internationals were played with 33-a-side instead of 3-a-side, there would still be people asking why so-and-so was left out, and why somebody else was put in.

### Continental Dominate

With March came the first post-war English Open Championships, and London became much more table-tennis conscious than it had been for some time. Barna was in devastating form, and led a great Continental assault on the

English hopes. The last eight in the men's singles were made up of three Czechs, a Hungarian, a Pole, a Belgian, a Frenchman and an Austrian . . . truly an international gathering. Messrs. Leach, Filby, Carrington and Co. were simply reduced to the roles of onlookers. At Wembley, where 10,000 people crammed the Empire Pool for the finals, Vana became the new men's champion by beating Bergmann 3-0, and Elizabeth Blackburn lost the ladies' singles title to Dora Beregi, after toppling the reigning Vera Dace from her throne in a great semi-final.

Before the superb Czech contingent left London, they played an English trio in one or two London *v.* Prague matches. Only Johnny Leach had any success of note in these games, scoring one victory over Slar and one over Andreadis. The Czech team was too strong, however, and Vana never even looked like being beaten.

The season's final attraction was, as usual, the Wembley Open Tournament at the magnificent Wembley Town Hall. Johnny Leach wound up a highly successful year by beating world champion Richard Bergmann 15-21, 22-20, 21-17, 17-21, 24-22, an achievement which brought the house down. Miss Blackburn beat Peggy Franks in straight games for the ladies' title, while Beregi and Carrington beat Blackburn and Litten in the mixed doubles, 2-1.

In passing, however, there are youngsters worthy of mention who may well be champions in the space of a few years. One remembers that when Bergmann and Vana first appeared over here they were in knickerbockers. D. Miller (Essex), the present English Junior champion and R. Smith (Middx.) may have discarded their knickerbockers, but their appearances during the past season have been very impressive.



English Open Championships at the Empire Pool, Wembley.  
B. Vana and Miss D. Beregi, winners of the Men's and Women's Singles Finals with their trophies.

# Charm School Chatter

By PINKIE BARNES  
(English International)

Boys, don't pass this article by. There is a point here which should interest you.

NOW that Autumn is on the way, keen table-tennis types are to be seen, the light of battle in their eyes, practising diligently for the coming season. This is just as well, after the summer break, for about a month before the start of the season it is wise to begin training. I notice, however, that men predominate among these enthusiasts. Why? I can only attribute it to the fact that women are still not given sufficient encouragement to warrant any enthusiasm for serious pre-season practice.

Not enough is done to help keen women players by the men in their clubs. Not enough is done for women in any sport in England—look at the Wightman Cup fiasco. In that particular case the main reason put forward for the American girls' success was that they practised *against men*; some of the girls served even harder than our own men. What can we do about this urgent problem? I appeal to all the lads reading these words to take them to heart and give the girls a leg up. They need it! There is a great deal of talent among girl table-tennisists going to waste because they are unable to obtain the right type of practice. I am not suggesting that women should practice solely against men, for I have learnt from my own play that women's is a much closer game and if I have constant practice with men only, it is apt to put me off my balance when I come up against one of my own sex. But for toning up a player's game, making her quick on her feet and able to stand the pace, a man is ideal

to knock with. When it comes to point-getting, however, it is not always the best course to play against a man, for it is very difficult to get him to take the game as seriously as he should, especially if his opponent is easy to beat, so that in the early stages it is best not to struggle for points. Play a serious game when you know you stand a good chance of winning—your male opponent will then be less inclined to give away points to you. However, it takes some time to reach this happy state of affairs and for the time being, if you have say, half an hour to spare before the next couple want to play, divide it up as follows:—

Ten minutes forehand defence.

Ten minutes backhand defence.

Ten minutes all round play, keeping the rallies going.

The amount of hard work put into the first twenty minutes will be proved during the last ten, for in keeping the ball going to achieve long rallies you will be delighted to find that the strokes just practised will come much easier in this "all over the table" play. The next session can be tried as follows:—

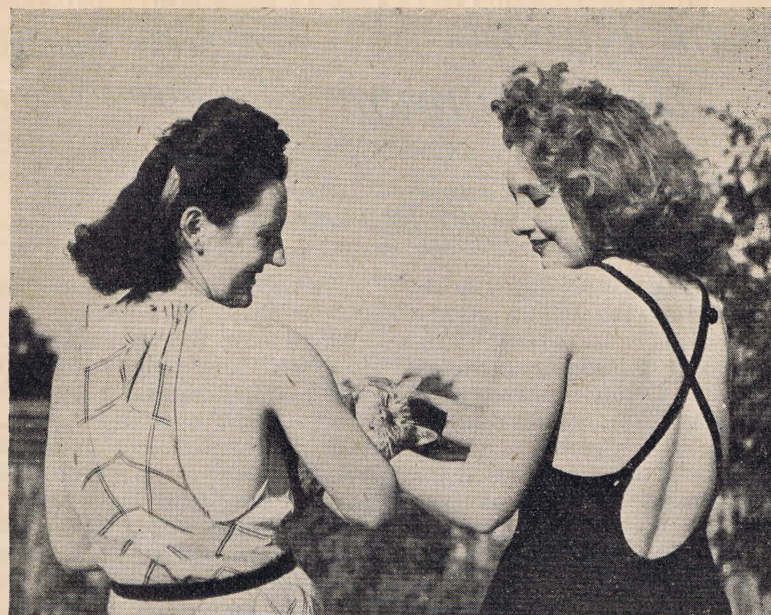
Ten minutes forehand attack.

Ten minutes backhand attack.

Ten minutes all round play, keeping the rallies going.

The main thing, of course, in those last ten minutes is to *get the ball back on the table*.

The reason why one player has a good style and another has a bad one is due to the former learning the correct strokes and the correct footwork right from the start, and therefore applying it to any particular



Two Internationals, Pinkie Barnes (left) and Peggy Franks do a little Sunbathing.

shot, while the latter, without any groundwork to rely on, gets the ball back in her own peculiar fashion, and it often looks very ugly indeed. I quite agree that some people with no style at all can become good table-tennis players from the point-getting aspect, but so far I have never seen a world champion with a bad style, which rather proves that starting off correctly in the first place is half the battle.

Now I believe psychology plays a big part in this game, hence what a girl wears and how she looks is most important. The theory that women have to give up all their glamour if they want to become good at a sport has been squashed long ago. "The better I look, the better I play" should be every girl's motto for the new season. E.T.T.A. rules put some restrictions on colour, but slacks or shorts in blue or grey can be very attractive and a bright shirt

is allowed. Our own English shirts are a very fascinating Mediterranean blue.

Take to heart all that the beauty experts say about hair, and brush it till it gleams. As it is apt to get unruly when you play, wear a ribbon round it to match your outfit. Doubles pairs should dress alike—it helps their morale and makes more of the team spirit. Some girls look better in slacks some in shorts. Look at yourself critically in either and wear what suits you best. By all means use some make-up, but don't plaster it on. A player looks better with it than without it, especially if she reaches a final and has to play under the very strong lights used for the occasion.

I find with my own sex that woman is more confident in her ability to do anything *if she knows she looks her best*.

# From Rabbit to Champion

## A Series Suitable for Beginners

By INTERNATIONAL

Here is a complete course on Table Tennis written in a novel form and intended for beginners. Follow in the footsteps of Bunny Britton in his quest to reach stardom.

**B**UNNY BRITTON had a hobby—it was table tennis. Bunny also had a secret ambition—it was to become a top-class table-tennis player. But Bunny was very much of a “bunny” for he was a complete novice. He wasn’t even a member of a club, and the only times he had really played the game was on somebody’s drawing-room table, and once at a holiday camp during the summer.

It was that holiday camp which had fired Bunny’s ambition. Knocked out in the first round of the camp tournament he had sat and watched the more superior competitors battle for a lovely silver cup.

The holiday camp had a professional table-tennis player in attendance, and Bunny asked him what he should do to take up the game seriously.

“Join a good club,” was the reply. “If you are to make speedy progress you must practice with players who are better than yourself.”

So Bunny Britton went home and immediately joined a local club, where two tables were available every night. He felt very satisfied with this first move because the club had two teams in the district league and appeared to have some fairly good players.

“Obtain a racket covered on both sides with pimples rubber,” the camp professional had told him. Bunny bought a good racket and that same night set off for Westoaks T.T. Club for his first evening’s practice.

He had a reasonable idea how to get the ball over the net, but he realised only too well that he was merely a “ping-pong” player. That first evening was far from being a success. His opponents seemed to take a savage delight in punishing very severely his pat-ball style of play. Poor Bunny had started that disheartening term of apprenticeship when one acts as ball-boy for more skilful opponents.

Our budding champ muttered a few humble “goodnights” and began to make for the door, but there he was stopped by a pleasant-looking fellow who was none other than the club captain.

“A bit of a beginner aren’t you?” he said.

Bunny nodded sheepishly.

“My name’s Jack,” the club captain said with a smile. “Come an hour earlier tomorrow night and I’ll give you a few hints.”

Britton was there the following night fifteen minutes before the arrival of Jack. He donned his rubber shoes which had heels almost as deep as his everyday shoes. “Always wear rubbers that have heels,” had been the advice given at the holiday camp. “When you play table tennis you don’t want to feel that you have shrunk a couple of inches, it upsets your angling of shots.”

When Jack arrived he set to work in a businesslike manner and his first words of advice were how to hold the racket.

“Grip one of the shoulders of the racket well down at the base of the first finger and thumb,” Jack explained, “and then close the remaining three fingers round the racket handle. When making the actual shots be sure you maintain a firm grip.”

Bunny took up his racket and held it in the manner shown, then Jack went on to explain how the first finger and thumb were used to obtain top-spin and back-spin.

“I will tell you more about how to acquire this spin in another lesson,” added the club captain. “Spin is most essential in modern table tennis, that is why you use a racket which is covered with pimples rubber. The old style of cork and sandpaper coverings do not impart anything near the amount of spin required.”

The two players then took up their positions at the table, but before the ball was set in motion Jack said, “For this first lesson I want you to get used to the method of holding the racket and also the bounce of the ball. Don’t attempt any attacking strokes but be content to get the ball back over the net. Stand fairly close to the table and play the majority of shots with your backhand for the time being.”

## Future Events

### OPEN TOURNAMENTS

Oct. 5—Thameside (London).

Oct. 26—Lancashire (Manchester).

Nov. 16—Hull.

Nov. 23—Central London.

Nov. 30—Merseyside (Liverpool).

Dec. 7—North Midland (Mansfield).

(In each case the date given is the last day of the tournament).

\* \* \*

World’s Championships — Paris,  
Feb. 27 to March 4.

English Open Finals—March 15.

The club captain started the game and Bunny returned the ball successfully but rather high. Instead of keeping the ball in motion Jack picked up the ball and shook his head. “This ball is no use,” he grunted. “Always be sure that the ball is perfectly round. It is no use trying to improve your game if the ball wobbles like an egg.”

A better ball was found and the training continued. Bunny was told not to worry too much about the service for a while, although Jack said he should serve with the forehand side of the racket, playing the ball a little over half-way down his own side of the table endeavouring to place it deep in his opponent’s half.

The club captain seemed a tower of patience, and while the game must have been exceptionally monotonous for him he gave Bunny invaluable practice in the timing of the ball. When the hour was up he said, “Come again tomorrow night at the same time and I will show you one or two strokes.”

\* \* \*

Make sure of being with Bunny at his next lesson. Order your copy of *Table Tennis Review* now.

## Table Tennis at Butlins

At the Butlin’s Skegness Camp, Benny Casofsky, the English International acts as coach.

A knock-out tournament is run each week and attractive prizes are given. The average number of entries being between two and three hundred. The table-tennis equipment is of pre-war manufacture. During the month of July Victor Barna and Alec Brook gave their table tennis stage-act at the Butlin’s Skegness Theatre.

# League Brevities

By HON. SEC.

*In the near future we hope to allow more space for League news, but for the time being we should be glad if contributors will keep their notes as brief as possible.*

## ALDERSHOT

The best performances during last season were by Mr. E. R. Laithwaite and Mr. R. T. Cavill, the latter winning the Closed Championships. In a friendly match against the North Middlesex League, Mr. D. Webb won the only two games for Aldershot and District, the match result being 7-2.

## BECKENHAM

Born only twelve months ago the Beckenham and District League had a most successful season. Eleven clubs took part in a league programme and the season closed in April with the finals of the Individual Championships. Other neighbouring clubs are invited to take part and interested secretaries should contact Mr. C. H. Burton, 92, Hayes Chase, West Wickham, Kent.

## CRADLEY HEATH

The League Secretary, Mr. J. R. Smith, 40, Maybark Road, Nether-ton, Dudley, Worcs., would like to hear from all table tennis clubs in the district who are not already members of the league.

## CENTRAL LEAGUE

R. Drake won the Men's Singles Individual Championship, and the Ladies' Singles was won for the third year in succession by Miss Pinkie Barnes. Also for the third year in succession the Board of Trade won the League Team Championship.

## DENHAM

President of the league is Mr. David Jones, a former English captain and No. 1 player. Mr. Jones gives coaching to promising league players, and great pride is

taken in the rapid improvement of the younger players. The Bell Punch trio, Clarke, Jobbing and Dean helped to put their club at the head of the final league table. Jack Miles of the Cowley Wardens deserves great credit for bringing on such players as Johnnie Cox, Johnnie Hinkesman and Brian Mason.

## EXETER

The final of the English Open Ladies' Singles at Wembley was an all-Exeter event, with Miss Dora Beregi, a nationalised Hungarian beating Exeter's own favourite Miss Elizabeth Blackburn. Elizabeth followed this near miss by winning the Cardiff, Wembley, Exeter, and Dorset Open Singles Championships. The league is keen to find promising youngsters so that its popularity may be further enhanced.

## ILFORD

Victor Barna, who has won 16 World's Championship titles, is the President of the Ilford Table Tennis League. What a distinction for Ilford! Cranbrook Castle won the Men's 1st Division Championship, the team being: J. Pickard, H. J. Anker, W. J. Parker; reserve, R. Newman, while the Cranbrook ladies team won the championship of their league, the players being: Mrs. Pickard, Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Tweed and Miss Rudd. Ken Harding won the Individual Championship, the runner-up being Derrick Barton, one of England's lawn tennis stars.

## LEEDS

Excellent performances were given last season by Miss M. I. Lightfoot

(Education Offices), Mr. C. Bedford (Bedford T.T.C.), K. Park (Central Y.M.C.A.) and W. Harrison (Central Y.M.C.A.). Miss Lightfoot was selected for the international trials.

## LONDON BUSINESS HOUSES

The London Business Houses Amateur Sports Association are open to receive applications for membership of the table tennis section from business houses within an area of 25 miles from the Stock Exchange. Time is short, however, for the closing date is September 6th. Applications should be sent to Miss R. Burke, 1, Bondway, Vauxhall, London, S.W. 8. Last season's Men's Team Championship was won by Gaslight (Fulham), with the B.B.C. ladies' team winning their League Championship. The Men's Individual Singles was obtained by Mr. Etheridge (B.D.V.), and the ladies' event by Miss P. Hodginson (Lensbury).

## MANCHESTER

Two of the most outstanding events of the past season were both International Invitation Tournaments. The first featured eight of Manchester's own internationals, being won by Stanley Proffitt, and the second included World Champion Richard Bergman, J. Leach, E. Filby, J. Carrington, and four from Manchester—namely, George Goodman, Andy Millar, Les Cohen, Benny Casofsky. The outstanding local player for the past season was undoubtedly George Goodman who acquired many open titles.

## NORWICH

For the coming season the league will consist of 48 clubs, divided up into four divisions. The Redwin Cup Competition (a knock-out contest) and Individual Championships will be run. The playing season commences the last week of this

month and finishes at the end of March.

## NORTH MIDDLESEX

This league is the largest in England, consisting of 93 teams taking part in twelve divisions. The leading men's player is the English International, Geoffrey Harrower. The league was undefeated in inter-league matches, a very attractive match being arranged with an Irish international team, North Middlesex winning by 5-2.

## WEST BROMWICH

The 1945-46 season was the thirteenth of the West Bromwich District T.T. Association, and it is pleasant to report that they reached the highest point yet in numbers, prowess and prestige. The Central England's Junior Championship was taken by K. Williams of West Bromwich. Miss Williams was selected to take part in the London international trials.

## WORCESTER

In last season's Men's Singles final of the Worcester Championships, Harry Hewlett (Y.M.C.A.) and Jack Giles (Malvern Hall) had a very exciting tussle. After each had won two games the decider went to a score of 31-29 in favour of Hewlett. The Orphanage Tournament was won by J. Lawrence (Hall Green), runner-up John Lloyd (Air Ministry).

## WOLVERHAMPTON

Since 1939 the Wolverhampton and District T.T. Association has won all the 24 inter-league games it has played. At the end of the past season Wolverhampton headed the newly-formed South Staffs Association league table. Ray Walker holds the record number of appearances for Wolverhampton. F. D. Harris won the Men's Singles, but the player with the most consistent war-time record was J. Hayward.



# A Citadel of Table Tennis—

FLEET STREET in the twilight is a fascinating place; walking down it from the Strand end, past the Law Courts towards Ludgate Circus, one almost expects Mr. Pepys or Dr. Johnson to come out of the shadows. Nearing Ludgate



"Pop" Moorat

Circus one comes to the enormous glass-fronted *Daily Express* building. Across the road from this is another group of newspaper offices, and behind this is St. Bride's Church, a constant reminder of Hitler's blitzkrieg, for its gutted remains stand out against the darkening sky. Just to the left of the old church is St. Bride's Institute, founded by the Charity Commissioners in 1893, and a hive of all kinds of fascinating pursuits. They have a photographic section, a debating section, a chess section, a gymnastic section, a swimming section and above all a *Table Tennis* section.

St. Bride's had a Table Tennis Club long before the war—in fact, its table-tennis history goes as far back as after the last war, when the all-England Club was formed. Percival Bromfield, one of the early figures in the game, helped to bring the all-England Club to St. Brides, and in those days the names which made news there were Fred Perry, R. C. Dawson, Valerie Bromfield and Phyllis Moser. Miss Moser is still a member of St. Brides and is employed on the staff there. She no longer plays competitive table tennis, though even now the up and coming

players could learn a great deal from her. During her heyday she played for England five times and ranked as England's No. 3.

Returning to present days, if a stranger went into St. Bride's Institute any time during the week from 10 a.m. in the morning to 10 p.m. at night, he would be sure to find somebody practising diligently in the table-tennis room. St. Bride's kept open during the worst of the blitz and provided pleasant recreation for many war-weary souls. Admittedly, they could only provide two tables during the war—a couple of them were damaged during the raids—but many of the big names in table tennis to-day have found it very useful for practice.

One enthusiast is definitely worthy of mention. He is "Pop" Moorat, the beginner's favourite and the veteran's fear. There are many young and successful people in table tennis who are very grateful to Pop. He will never refuse to give a keen type some practice, and never once has he been heard to complain that his game might suffer in consequence. Pop is tall, grey-haired, lean and studious-looking. In private life he is a Professor of music, but on taking a peep into the bag he carries about with him one is amazed to find not music paraphernalia but invariably table-tennis equipment. When "Pop" is not playing the piano he is playing table tennis, and it is difficult to discover which has the closer tie. Many of us will not forget "Pop's" boundless energy and enthusiasm during the most difficult war days. At the time of the doodle bugs he often had to be ordered downstairs just before a flying bomb fell, sometimes only a short distance away. If by any

chance "Pop" has arrived at the club before anyone else, he will improvise some arrangement on the table whereby he can practice by himself rather than waste precious time. League matches and friendly matches are all arranged by "Pop" and he is found to be most reliable and helpful. "Pop" is ageless, the spirit of eternal youth and epitomises all that a true sportsman should be.

The gloved Ernie Bublely comes in for practice; the old stagers, Barna and Brook, come up in between shows. Eric Filby is a member, so are Ken Merrett and Geoffrey Harrower (1946 internationals); also Dennis Miller (England's Junior Champion), Ron Smith (another notable junior), Vera Dace, Jack Carrington, Dennis Offer, Peter Grant, Gwen Mace, Violet Paterson, Kieth Collier, Ron Sharman, Leo Thompson. The noted doubles pair, Pinkie Barnes and

Peggy Franks (1946 internationals) are also members and other names known to the table-tennis world are to be found there.

A ladder competition works very successfully in the club. Anyone is entitled to put his name on the ladder and can challenge the first or second person above, so that there is always the opportunity to play someone better than yourself.

Genial Jack Perriman, majordomo of the Institute, hopes to have five tables in play during the coming season which will allow more time for practice and accommodate the ever-increasing membership. At the moment two tables are in constant use, and players are confined to the best of three games, with very little knock-up. However, this restriction so far does not seem to affect form and when they get better facilities for playing they will stand a good chance of taking top place in the London League.

## Don't risk a miss!

A limited number of copies of *Table Tennis Review* appear on the bookstalls each month, and the only sure way of becoming a regular reader is to fill in the form below.

To *Table Tennis Review*,  
28, Kenworthy's Buildings,  
83, Bridge Street,  
Manchester, 3.

Please send me *Table Tennis Review* for the next six or twelve months for which I enclose a remittance of 3s. 6d. or 7s.

Name.....

Address .....

.....Date .....

A PAN PRESS PUBLICATION



A unique magazine with a large appeal

## RECREATION CANOE & SMALL BOAT

*Britain's Outdoor Magazine*

Not necessarily to boat-lovers only but to all those who indulge in recreation of any description, indoor or out.

Price  Monthly

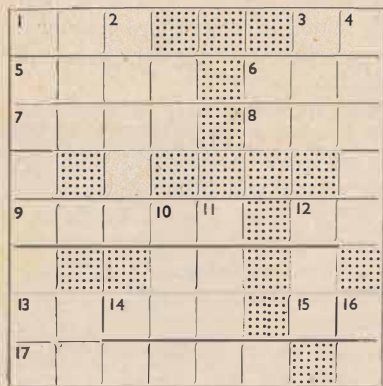
of all Bookstalls and Newsagents or by yearly subscription, 13/- including postage

PAN PRESS PUBLICATIONS LIMITED  
King William St. House, Arthur Street,  
LONDON, E.C.4

'Phone: Mansion House 1955-1956, 7327

## Crossword Competition

Half a guinea will be sent to the sender of the first all-correct solution opened. Closing date for entries September 30th.



### CLUES ACROSS

- Many T.T. cyclists belong to this.
- Rank in which many T.T. players served.
- The "has been's" excuse?
- Same as 3 down.
- Well known Hungarian player.
- Chiselling can do this to a game.
- What the "uninitiated" may call the expert who examines the net.
- County Association.
- Former world champion.
- Sounds like words used when unwelcome guest arrives.
- Most championships are held this often.

### CLUES DOWN

- Partnered Bergmann in English Open.
- T.T. strokes that would raise Mr. Strachey's eyebrows.
- Maybe the name of your MxD. or L.D. partner.
- Has nearly always lived up to his christian name.
- Very few evening matches go on as long as this.
- One of the star Czechs.
- Anagram on what we hope your captain does "on you."
- "Little Miss Rabbit's" expression when she hears that she's "love."
- Cherchez . . . . . femme!
- T.T. expression meaning "leading."

## Two Rival Counties

The two County Table Tennis Associations, Lancashire and Yorkshire are now well ahead with their plans for the coming season, and at their annual general meetings officials were elected as follows:—

**YORKSHIRE.**—President, H. N. Smith; Chairman, W. Davies (Huddersfield); General Secretary, F. B. Walker (Barnsley); Treasurer, C. Bedford, LL.B. (Leeds); Publicity Secretary, J. Hitchcock (Huddersfield); Match and Competition Secretary, L. E. Forrest (Bradford).

**LANCASHIRE.**—President, H. Olroyd; Chairman, W. Stamp (Liverpool); Vice-Chairman, J. Hoy (Manchester); General Secretary and Treasurer, W. Worsley (Manchester); Press Secretary, A. Waite (Manchester).

Interleague championships are to be run and each county is making arrangements to encourage its young players by the formation of junior leagues.

## H. C. COOKE

(English Swaythling Cup Player 1929-35)

### SPORTS DEPOT LTD.

#### TABLE TENNIS BATS

4/-, 4/6, and 5/-  
(Rubber Covered, 6/6)

#### TABLE TENNIS BALLS

VILLA, HALEX, etc.

T.T. Tables, complete with folding legs, £15/10s.

Table Tennis Nets and Post, E.T.T.A. Shirts, Grey Flannels, Shoes, etc.

Everything for Sport Supplied.

Also Toys, Games, Meccano, Hornby, etc.

26, JOHN DALTON ST.,  
MANCHESTER, 2

(Telephone: BLAckfriars 6985)

# BROMFIELD

THE  
TABLE TENNIS  
SPECIALISTS

## BATS

The "L. M. BROMFIELD" specially designed rubber-faced bat. New post-war model. Speeds:—fast and medium, 8/6 each.

Other rubber-faced bats, 6/6, 7/6, and 8/3.

## SCORE BOOKS

for teams of 3, 4 or 5 players. Including full Rules and Knotty Points. With or without alternate perforated sheets, so can be used by Leagues for result cards. Recommended by Geoff. Harrower (England Captain v. Ireland, 1946). 2/- each.

Tables reconditioned as new.

BAT COVERS, NETS, POSTS, SHADES AND ALL EQUIPMENT.  
OBTAINABLE FROM ALL GOOD SPORTS SHOPS.

Write for Current List.

R. E. BROMFIELD, 5, Edenbridge Road, Enfield, Middx.



## ARE YOU TIED BY "THE OLD SCHOOL TIE"?

When the Power to Speak can Free You!

The road to success—in whatever sphere you choose, business, social life, factory work or the Services—lies indisputably with your ability to SPEAK; not just to say words, but the power to put your thoughts into that forceful, persuasive speech which alone can help you to succeed. You may be able to wear the "Old School Tie," and yet find this one of the subjects your high education didn't touch; you may *not* have had the advantage of a University education and still win your way through to the really Big Things of Life.

### Learn about the New Easy Method

This unique Book, "How to Work Wonders with Words," explains how to acquire quickly the ability to speak effectively, develop poise, personality; how to banish timidity, self-consciousness, and lack of confidence.

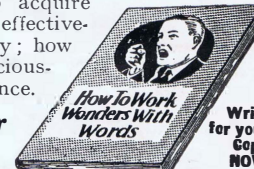
Send 2d. Stamps for  
this Amazing Book

THE SPEAKERS' CLUB Dept. (TTR/ESI),  
MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

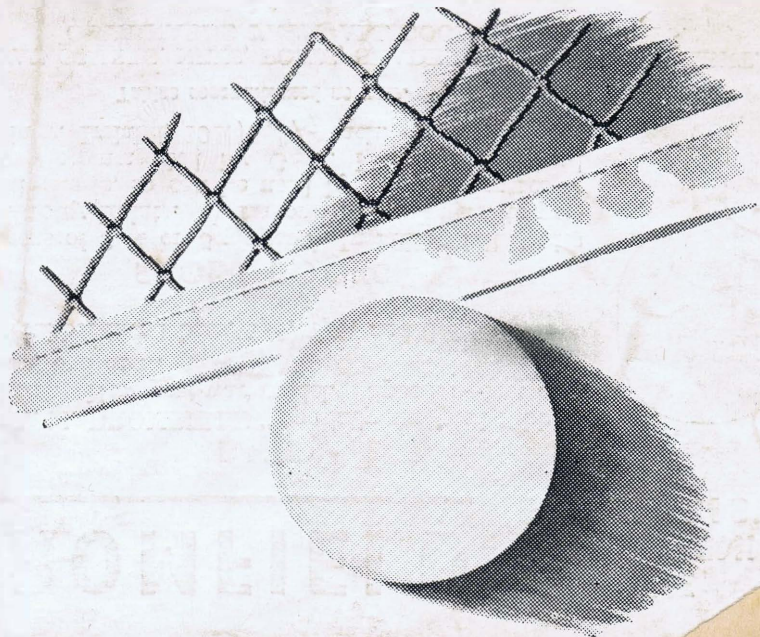


### WHAT THIS BOOK WILL SHOW YOU

- How to write better letters.
- How to enlarge your vocabulary.
- How to develop self-confidence.
- How to acquire a winning personality.
- How to address a business meeting.
- How to promote business through speech.
- How to train your memory.
- How to make the right impression.
- How to propose and respond to toasts.
- How to make an announcement.
- How to overcome fear.



Write  
for your  
Copy  
NOW



## Service from Hale End

We made the great-grandfather of the Halex Table Tennis Ball when the rebels of the nineties grew bored with 'Gossima' and quickened the pace by inventing 'Ping-Pong.' Instead of a ball of cork or solid rubber they came to us at Hale End for a hollow sphere of celluloid. That was nearly fifty years ago and since then we have grown up with the game. Hale End is still the home of Halex Tennis Balls to-day.

# Halex Table Tennis Balls

HALEX LIMITED • HALE END • LONDON • E.4  
HALEX LIMITED IS A SUBSIDIARY OF THE BRITISH XYLONITE CO. LTD.