

Vol. 1

No. 3

**NOVEMBER,**

**1946**

# Table Tennis REVIEW



**NEWS**

★

**VIEWS**

★

**HINTS**

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**BIRMINGHAM  
OPEN**

**SCOTTISH  
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★

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# TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

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## *Well Done, Ladies!*

THE results of the English team's tour of Czechoslovakia (results received just before going to press) fill us with great hopes for our ladies. Their brilliant win over such exponents as M. Ketterova, ex-world champion, and Hruskova, in the international match which was witnessed in Prague by 2,000 people, did much to lift English table tennis to the level which it has not held since the days of F. J. Perry. The individual results in this great win of three games to nil were: Miss E. Blackburn beat Ketterova, 21-16, 21-15; Miss V. Dace beat Hruskova, 21-15, 21-15; Blackburn and Dace beat Hruskova and Furstova, 21-12, 21-10.

In this international match the English men players were unable to emulate the ladies, losing their match by five games to nil, but then the opposition included such world-famous stars as Vana, Slar, and Marinko. Apart from this defeat the men did exceptionally well winning nearly every one of their matches, although these were against provincial players who were certainly not of the Vana class.

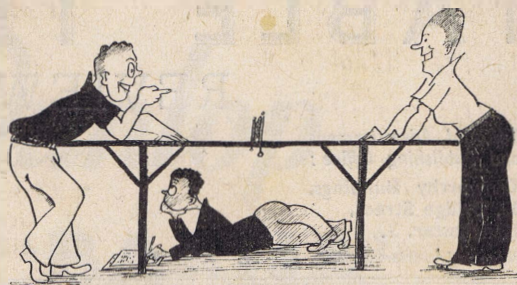
A fortnight's tour playing table tennis matches on foreign soil is an invaluable experience, and though the men's team might have been the strongest we could field at the time, we do not think that the Selection Committee made the most of their opportunity of furthering the technique of our younger players. No gold trophies were at stake and the matches were purely friendly ones.

A lot is being done by League and County bodies to encourage younger players, but this is still not sufficient. After twenty years existence, the English Table Tennis Association has still to formulate some scheme which will discover promising players who are in their early teens, and having discovered such raw material nurse them into the highest class of table tennis. With players like Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann resident in this country, the E.T.T.A. have their chance to show initiative. England needs a progressive governing body that is not content to act merely as a General Secretary to its affiliated leagues. We want to see new ideas put forward and worked upon with vigour. Our future internationals should be found almost as they leave school, before, if possible, and then coached by people who know how.

No business concern ever made much progress without drive and enterprise. The E.T.T.A. should step forward boldly with a *new* post-war plan. Pre-war routine achieved much but it did not win us the Swaythling Cup!

# Down the White Line

By GOSSIMA



THIS month's cover portrait is of Miss Gwen Mace, promising London player, who at the time of going to press is touring Holland, playing exhibition matches with *Table Tennis Review's* international player and writer, Miss Pinkie Barnes. Gwen was coached by Stanley Proffitt, and though she entered for the recent Birmingham Open, an extended stay in Holland prevented her from making an appearance. A postcard from the two girls says they are having a grand time, having played in Tiel, Nymegan, Denbosch, Arnhem and Amsterdam. They have inflicted a number of defeats on the Dutch lady champion, but find the men a stiffer proposition.

We have received a number of letters from English readers asking whether there is any organised body which controls the game nationally! Interested persons should write to the: English Table Tennis Association, 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

A recent promotion in her Civil Service work has resulted in the loss of Miss Betty Steventon to Birmingham, but she makes a welcome addition to the strength of Nottingham.

Mr. Gowland, of Coseley, Staffs, writes: "What has happened to all the magnificent army huts? Have our table-tennis clubs gone to sleep?"

Why didn't they purchase some, or were the prices too high?" The answer to these questions is that these huts were "priceless." You had to be a "squatter" to get one, which should, of course, give some enterprising, homeless club an idea!

In a recent military table-tennis tournament in Nottingham there was quite a unique incident. In the mixed doubles event were two pairs of names which read: "Mr. Batt and Miss Ball, Mr. Net and Miss Let!" Our correspondent assures us that there was nothing "phoney" about this combination of names. The names were actually drawn together out of a hat and printed on the official programme.

The Lancashire County Association is having a spot of bother with the Manchester internationals. The County body has imposed a regulation which forbids any affiliated club within its borders from paying a fee exceeding one pound per player for exhibitions, plus third-class travelling expenses. We should be interested to hear the views of Registered Paid Players and other County Associations on this matter.

Victor Barna, winner of sixteen world titles, tells us that he is of the opinion that the time has come for the net to be highered. The game is being made too easy for the "blind-striker" remarked Victor.

IRELAND v. SCOTLAND

## Helen Elliot's Brilliant Play

IN what proved to be a closely contested match, played at Belfast on October 18th, Miss Helen Elliot commenced the evening's play against Ireland's No. 1, Mrs. Cooper. Undaunted by a first game defeat of 21-12, Miss Elliot, the Scottish Champion, then settled down to win the next two games in grand style. Right from the first point, Mrs. Cooper endeavoured to dominate the game with a powerful attack, but Helen's defence could not be broken and after a ding-dong struggle the first event went to Scotland.

Ireland then took the lead when Miss Minshull and Miss Buchanan had comfortable wins against their respective opponents, Mrs. Norrie and Miss Pithie. A surprise came when Mrs. Norrie, displaying a good knowledge of tactics took the last two games of her set with Mrs. Cooper on "deuce," bringing Scotland on level terms once more.

Then for the second time in the match, Helen Elliot put Scotland in the lead with an easy win over Miss Buchanan. The match result then standing at 3-2 in favour of Scotland.

After this, the match swayed to and fro, and prior to the final event the score stood at 4-4. Miss Elliot then went to the table to play against the Irish girl Miss Mina Minshull. The Scots girl was in excellent form and her forehand and backhand attack proved her to be a really top-class player. Miss Minshull put up a gallant struggle, but the game and match result went to Scotland, final score being 5-4.

The Scottish ladies will now meet the winners of the Netherlands v. Switzerland match.

## TABLE MANNERS

By CAVIARE

Please to remember the month is November, The tournament season is hot, The T.T. officials are now on the job, So spare a kind thought for their lot.

YES, the table-tennis officials are folk who also "serve." They make mistakes and may not always serve the best fare, but do grant them, collectively if not individually, full marks for sincerity of purpose.

Tournament rules have been designed to ensure equitable treatment and smooth operation. You would not think of breaking a rule of the game when in play, so do not break a tournament rule and hope to get away with it. An important point is to arrive on time. It is grossly unfair to be late.

Tournament entry forms are simple enough so complete them as neatly as possible, posting them before the closing date and enclosing your fee. Don't ask favours for you may only create unnecessary correspondence.

I do not subscribe to the opinion that the "whales" of the game are necessary for the success of Open Tournaments, excepting the National Opens, of course. It is the unknown player whose epitaph usually is, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here," who is the mainstay of such competitions. In any case, the biggest fireworks sometimes turn out to be damp squibs.

Finally, a word to organisers. Don't be dictatorial. Apply the spirit of the rule and try to give them all a square deal.

As tournament and match results are now making big calls upon our space we have decided to discontinue for a time the series of instructional articles entitled, "Bunny Britton Learns Table Tennis."

# Barna Wins Birmingham Open

IF open table-tennis tournaments are to be made a form of public entertainment then something superior will have to be served up than was offered at the Birmingham Indoor Sports Stadium on October 12th. Saturday evening is a night when most people like to pay their 2s. 6d. or 3s. 6d. for a comfortable seat at the cinema or theatre, and it was a pretty poor substitute to sit on a form without any back-rest and then go through two hours of dull and uneventful table tennis. The audience were even asked to deprive themselves of the pleasure of smoking on account of the low ceiling which created a smoke-haze in the playing arena.

Apart from the public's comfort, playing conditions were practically perfect, especially the lighting which was really first class.

The afternoon's play was well organised and kept well to schedule, and a useful tournament regulation was, "the losing player in each set shall remain at the table to umpire the following set on that table."

One disappointing result was the defeat of the 14-year old Manchester star, Adele Wood, by Mrs. D. Smith (better known as the international, Dinah Newey). Adele continually attacked and was much the better player, but the extra-cautious play of Mrs. Smith added another victory to the ranks of the "chisellers." Scores were: 17-21, 21-18, 21-16 in favour of Mrs. Smith.

The ever popular Victor Barna progressed from round to round without any difficulty, beating Ron Sharman, 21-13, 21-19, and R. Merrett, 21-12, 21-8.

At about 5 o'clock in the afternoon unexpected trouble arose. It was decided that all defeated competitors would have to pay 2s. 6d.

or 3s. 6d. to witness the final events. Here was something without a precedent. Most players had entered for three events at a cost of 5s., and to ask them for a further payment for admission to the finals gave one the impression that the tournament was being run for mercenary reasons rather than to further the interests of table tennis. We should like to make it clear that the Tournament Secretary, Mr. Maurice Goldstein and others of the committee were not in favour of the decision and were very much concerned.

An immediate and informal meeting of the competitors brought forth the suggestion that a "sit-down strike" should be arranged which would, of course, have solved the problem very speedily. Without any further play there would have been no final events or evening's entertainment for the 800 people who had booked their seats. However, Mr. Goldstein averted the crisis by saying that when the competitors had booked their tickets the Birmingham T.T. Association would immediately refund their money in full, although this did not apply to local players. A farcical situation, but it seemed that somebody had to have their pound of flesh!



ADELE WOOD,  
14 year old Man-  
chester star.

And so the final events commenced at 8 p.m., and the audience sat quietly for two hours without being raised to any pitch of great excitement. A. A. Haydon, who did not enter for the Singles event, partnered V. Barna in the Men's Doubles, and though they won the title they did not show any form which made one optimistic of their chances in the World's Doubles which they are to enter together. Haydon's peculiar style has slowed down with the years, and his inability to defend made him an easy victim of Casofsky's drives whenever he happened to be receiving from that player. In the third and deciding game Barna increased the strength of his shots, giving Casofsky no chance of continuing his beating up of Haydon.

The Ladies' Singles event between Peggy Franks (London) and Betty Steventon (Birmingham) sadly lacked long and spectacular rallies, although Miss Steventon did prevent the audience from falling asleep by giving vent to a terrific yell when one of her shots missed the mark. Peggy Franks was the winner.

The Men's Singles final was appropriately enough the best match of the day. Barna is still a pleasure to watch. His backhand flick is as accurate as ever, and together with a forehand drive he can still be counted among the world's best. His defence, however, is just that fraction of a second slower which makes all the difference to that type of defensive play which brings the audience to its feet. Benny Casofsky of Manchester put up a good game and several times beat his opponent with swift forehand strokes, but he was no match for the ex-world champion.

## RESULTS WERE:—

Men's Singles—Semi-final:—Barna beat Collar, 21-8, 21-9; Casofsky beat Cromwell, 21-18, 21-8. Final:—Barna beat Casofsky, 21-16, 21-15, 21-15.

Ladies Singles—Semi-final:—Miss Steventon beat Mrs. Smith, 21-10, 21-16; Miss Franks beat Miss Bence, 21-16, 21-9. Final:—Miss Franks beat Miss Steventon, 21-9, 21-14.

Junior Singles—Final:—R. E. Wilson (London) beat E. Earp (West Bromwich), 21-14, 21-10.

Men's Doubles—Final:—Barna and Haydon beat Casofsky and Litten, 21-11 11-21, 21-8.

Ladies' Doubles—Final:—Mrs. Smith and Miss Franks beat Misses Patterson and Purves, 21-15, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles—Final:—Ron Sharman and Miss McBryde beat Ron Hook and Miss Franks, 24-22, 21-14.

## LEAGUE NOTES

### NOTTINGHAM

Formed in 1943 the league now consists of 57 teams, which is an increase of nearly 50 per cent. on last season. Teams have been entered in the Midland Counties League and the North Midland League. Last season Nottingham was top of the northern section of the M.C.L. and became joint holder of the shield along with Birmingham.

### OLDHAM

Last season the league had only 40 registered players, but the line-up for the coming months is 28 teams and nearly 300 players. A county match between Lancashire and Yorkshire is to be staged in Oldham, on Saturday, November 9th. Two local players won tournaments at Butlin Holiday Camps, the players being, A. Cook and R. Lees.

### RADCLIFFE

Radcliffe has now made a grand start with a record entry of 20 teams, 10 in each division. Matches should have been commenced on October 7th, but upon receiving a late entry from an "old club" that had disbanded during the war years, the Secretary applied for permission to re-draw the fixtures. One team has been entered in the Lancashire County League and Radcliffe looks forward to meeting old and new friends.

# Choosing the Welsh Teams

By Mrs. H. ROY EVANS

(General Secretary, Table Tennis Association of Wales)

BY the time these words appear the Welsh team to oppose England in the European Cup will have been chosen. Playing an international match so early in the season brings its own problems, and it will be understood that the selection of our three for this match must be based mainly on last season's results. The general opinion seems to be that Sweetland will again be our No. 1 and Stan Jones No. 2, but both these two have weaknesses, the eradication of which would mean greatly improved form and the bettering of our chances, nevertheless, they have produced better results than the others. As to the other aspirants it seems to me that the third place will be chosen from Roy Hammett, Ken Milsom, and Dewi Lewis.

Hammett and Milsom are not exactly youngsters and they have both had previous opportunities without showing up to any striking advantage. Even so, they are still capable of playing a good game. From what I have seen of Dewi Lewis he is playing extremely well at the moment, and he is undoubtedly the most successful of the pen-holder players. Unlike most pen-holder exponents, Lewis has a remarkable defence, but I sometimes think that he unwisely neglects to force home an attack by indulging in spells of defence. I am prepared to think, however, that he will make a strong challenge for inclusion in the team.

After these three, one could suggest a large number of men who

are worthy of encouragement, but a line must be drawn somewhere, and so I will refer to only two others who may possibly fill the bill. First of these is Narduzzo, of Newport, who last season impressed me as being a player of great potentialities, and the other is Gerald Chugg, of Penarth. Chugg has the right temperament for big games, and it is far from improbable that he will continue his international appearances this season.

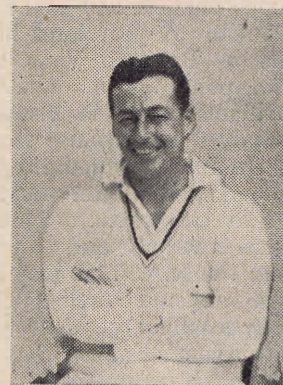
So far as the women's game in Wales is concerned, the lack of more than two or three aspirants for international honours from among the younger players is most disappointing. Audrey Bates, who won our Open Championship last season is by far our most promising player, and she possesses the right temperament for success in higher circles. She was good last year, but having spent the summer being coached she is now even better still.

Of the other ladies, Jean Beer is likely to merit serious consideration, while Dorothy Day and Nell Jenkins are playing well again. The large Swansea league seems to possess a lot of talent with Betty Grey, Mrs. Morris, and Elsie James all showing good promise. As regards myself, I naturally speak with some diffidence. I first represented Wales in 1929, and last season's defeat by Dora Beregie was my first in this series. With the work of the Welsh Association increasing I had thought of announcing my retirement from serious play . . . but maybe I can be useful for one more season.

## Improve Your Game

### THE GRIP OF THE RACKET

THE universal grip is to hold the racket handle in the palm of the hand with the thumb resting on one side of the blade and the forefinger spread slantwise across the other. Rarely do experts deviate from this, although there are odd



STANLEY PROFFITT

individuals who prefer two fingers on the blade, but this is apt to interfere with finger movements. The old-time pen-holder grip gradually faded away as the control of spin became essential.

### BASIC FOUNDATION

The half-volley is of major importance, for it is the *vital link between attack and defence*. Very few of you younger people know what it is or appreciate its true value. The half-volley is generally played in the back-hand position, with the racket held close and parallel to the table, the idea being to smother the speed and spin of your opponent's drives. For breaking up a sustained attack, or by employing it when your own drive has been counter-hit, you get the true value of the half-volley.

Miklos Szabados when on the defensive would make a vicious chop, then move closer to the table to take the next heavily top-spun drive on the half-volley, and then proceed to take the initiative. The play of Eli Goodman, of Manchester is another excellent example. His ability to run in utilising the stroke as a quick interchange between defence and attack undoubtedly determined his successes in last season's Northern tournaments.

Adeptness at half-volleying will open up uncountable strategic manoeuvres, so go to it and build up a rock-like foundation, forgetting the more glamorous strokes until such times as the basic principles are mastered.

### SPIN

Topspin is acquired unconsciously by the correct stroke player, for as the arm sweeps in the forward and upward movement the brushing effect on the ball rotates it away from the striker. Heavy topspin causes the ball on occasions to literally "kick" off the opponent's half, similarly to a severely spun cricket ball.

Backspin, otherwise known as "chop," is obtained with a "chopping down" action of the racket, and it is generally accepted as being the best method of replying to a topspin drive. A point which is not universally understood is that a chopstroke *does not kill topspin but accelerates it* and consequently this does not involve any great risk. A ball returned with backspin should skim the net, whilst the bounce clings to the table presenting a low "drag" effect. Remember that the harder the drive the easier it is to return with a chop stroke.

# Is There a Border Line in Table Tennis?

By BILL PARKER

Editor of English Championships Programme—Wembley, 1946

FROM time to time we hear of statements by leading players, officials and sports writers, that Table Tennis is a young man's game, and that a player is too old at twenty-four or thereabouts. Now, while I concede that modern Table Tennis is primarily a young man's game, I challenge the right of anyone to fix a "border line" age at which one's game begins to deteriorate.

Take for example, that great player, Victor Barna. Victor was champion of the world at the age of nineteen, and his backhand "flick" and marvellous defence were famous throughout the Table Tennis world. He was still champion, when in 1935, he broke his arm and there were many who said that Barna would never "come back." To-day, at the age of thirty-five, Barna is once again among the world's best. The plate has been removed from his arm and he finds that his easy action backhand "flick," now practically as deadly as before his accident, saves him a great deal of energy, while his defence is still magnificent. But Victor, not content to "stay put," has improved his forehand play and makes more winners on that wing than in the past. In this year's English Championships he proved that he is in a splendid physical condition in journeying between the Stoll Theatre, Kingsway and the Shepherd's Bush Baths, four times a day in a race against the timetable, and even under those trying conditions reaching the semi-final

of the Men's Singles and final of the Men's Doubles.

Richard Bergmann won the 1937 world title mainly as a result of his marvellous defence and sound forehand attack. A year later he lost his title to Bohumil Vana whose main weapon was a devastating forehand smash, which his terrific speed enabled him to use from all angles. In 1939 Bergmann regained his title and has not been called upon to defend it since. However, Bergmann is very fit and despite his service in the R.A.F. his play seems to have suffered little—this he proved by reaching the Men's Singles final in this year's English Championships when his conqueror was Vana once again, although eight years had passed since the Czech won the world title. Vana, at the age of 26 retains all his old speed and the forehand kill and has in addition developed a very fine backhand. Whereas once his only backhand stroke was an early half-volley, he now retrieves apparent certain winners and against any but the highest class he will flick. He has also added to what was eight years ago a useful range of services, and it is difficult to visualise a list of world's leading players which does not include Vana, for several years to come.

Similar instances are presented by the English players, Carrington, Harrower and Proffitt. In the last pre-war season Jack Carrington won his international cap on his doubles play, but was never seriously considered for singles. During the war

he was able to obtain good practice and he improved at a time when many people had "written him off" as being the wrong side of thirty.

Geoffrey Harrower was a good-class club player who might run off with a closed tournament occasionally, but on medical advice he had to switch from right to left handed play. This, however, did not deter him from trying to scale new heights and he finally overcame the handicap so completely, that he is now one to whom our international selectors are regularly turning—and Geoff is thirty-five.

Stanley Proffitt, another in the middle thirties, has had no wartime publicity having spent most of his period of service abroad. However, Proffitt was the winner last season of an invitation international tournament held in Manchester, which is a great feat for a man who played his first game for England sixteen years ago.

The players I have named—and others besides have come out best in a hard match with *Anno Domini*. But what, one might ask, apart from the obvious one of keeping fit, are the requirements of a first-class player who is to retain or perhaps even improve his standard of play over a number of years? He must have fighting spirit, sound strategy, be willing to learn all the time—and last but not least—he must have the powers of endurance and will to play on, when, as is so often the case in tournaments, he has not eaten for hours and had scarcely a break between matches.

The players I have mentioned possess all these qualifications and any other player, who in having reached the top, has acquired them, need, providing he keeps fit, have no qualms about that approaching twenty-fifth or even thirty-fifth birthday.

## Lancashire Open Results

Played October 26th, 1946.

Men's Singles: E. Goodman (Manchester) beat R. Sharman (London) 18-21, 21-17, 21-17.

Ladies' Singles: Miss Helen Elliot (Edinburgh) beat Miss E. Mansell (Blackpool) 21-23, 21-14, 21-16.

Junior Singles: A. Thompson (Halifax) beat K. Tirebuck (St. Helens) 23-25, 21-14, 27-25.

Men's Doubles: E. Goodman (Manchester) and R. Markwell (London) beat H. Lurie and L. Cohen (Manchester) 22-20, 18-21, 21-18.

Ladies' Doubles: Miss Elliot (Edinburgh) and Miss Mackay (Birmingham) beat Misses Marshall and Wood (Manchester) 21-13, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: L. Thompson (London) and Miss Elliot (Edinburgh) beat L. Cohen (Manchester) and Mrs. Smith (Birmingham) 16-21, 21-8, 21-8.

LANCASHIRE v. YORKSHIRE.  
To be played on November 9 at Oldham Y.M.C.A. Ladies' Match in the afternoon. Men's Match in the evening. Leading internationals taking part.

## Salisbury League

The league has five singles, one doubles and a women's division, this includes 57 teams from 22 clubs which is an increase of 50 per cent. on pre-war figures. Salisbury with Bryant, the English Veterans' Champion, Burt, an ex-Southampton Champion and Spray, of last year's city team, may have to struggle for either the singles or doubles title with St. Osmunds and Revenue, who have secured Roper, one of the pre-war discoveries. In the women's section the chief challengers should be Friary who have a number of promising young players.

## New Officials

Messrs. S. C. Bailey, A. Crofts and A. E. Haskew were appointed as selection committee and inter-league sub-committee. A. E. Haskew was again appointed non-playing captain.

# Splendid Prospects of Scottish Ladies

By R. G. MORRIS,  
Hon. Sec. Scottish T.T.A.

THE Scottish international trials at Perth on September 28th proved that we shall have an excellent Women's team, led by our brilliant star, Helen Elliot, and we confidently expect them to go far in the Europe Cup. The team to play Switzerland in this contest will be chosen at the final trials in Edinburgh on November 2nd. Arrangements for this match are on the biggest scale yet attempted for any table-tennis event in Scotland, and the large St. Andrew's Hall in Glasgow has been booked for Friday, November 22nd. Tickets obtainable from Mr. R. G. Morris, 106, Novar Drive, Glasgow, W. 2. A crowd of about 1,500 is confidently expected.

Our international match with Ireland with a mixed team of six players has been fixed for December 13th, to be played at Greenock, and this is likely to be a "needle" match after our defeat of 7-4 in Ireland last season. Wales will be visiting us for the first time on January 14th, and here again a closely contested match is likely. The match against England will probably be played towards the end of the season.

Altogether Scotland has prospects of a very bright season. The organisation of the game has reached a new level, and the number of affiliated clubs has already been doubled. We expect to reach the 200 mark in the near future. When the National Championships come along in the second week of February we shall be looking to our players to reveal a much higher standard of play than they have previously attained. It is hoped to put over the

Scottish Championships on the same level as similar events of the other home countries, finally establishing the game as a leading indoor sport in Scotland.

## REPORT ON SCOTTISH TRIALS.

In spite of poor tables and bad lighting, the ladies showed up well, far better than the men. They all really tried to hit the ball. Outstanding amongst them being Miss Helen Elliot, of Edinburgh, who was definitely the best player at the trials—male or female. The men would profit by studying her game. Mrs. Norrie has a good forehand attack and quite a useful defence. Miss Pithie is another lady with a strong forehand drive, while Mrs. Joseph deserves mention for her sound defence.

The men as a whole have a lot to learn, the leading players being: B. Chernock, a half-volley player with a topspin hit, C. Henderson, defensive player, P. Coia, who angles the ball well, Ross Young, with a fairly good forehand defence and attack, T. Brown and McRobbin, both defensive players, and also Garland and Burns. My advice to these men is to acquire more speed and snap. They should learn to use both their brains and their feet.

L. THOMPSON,  
London League Player.

There is only a limited number of copies of *Table Tennis Review*. Place a regular order with your newsagent NOW.

Extracts from My Diary

# Prague, 1935!

By STANLEY PROFFITT

THE selected players for the English team were stunned when Mr. Ivor Montague, in the season 1935-36 announced that the World Championships were not to be held in Yugo-Slavia. A last moment withdrawal shirking the responsibilities had placed the I.T.T.F. in a quandary.

Disappointment soon changed to joy, at least from a personal viewpoint, when the venue was switched to Prague. I had previously played there in 1932 and knew the Czechoslovakian capital to be a delightful spot.

The Axis Hotel, Prague, with luxurious rooms designed in modern tubular furniture held all to be desired in comfort, in fact, from the balcony, one could sip delicious coffee and watch the bathers performing in the marble swimming pool below.

However, once inside the Licerne Hall, we found the tournament layout did not support the outside environment. Possibly, we expected too much after the sumptuous settings of the Albert Hall just a year ago. The gloom certainly spread as we saw rows of soft, warped tables. Just one English manufactured table stood silhouetted in this grim spectacle. Granted the authorities had been burdened with the full force of this important event at little notice. Willingly enough as sportsmen we accepted this, but the crude administrative organisation was inefficient and entirely incapable of handling the unfortunate situations that were to follow.

Unhappily, I figured in the first unpleasant incident. T'was in the Czecho-England Swaythling Cup match, Vana and I were fighting the

issue. We were level when my forehand drive down the white line deflected appreciably off the edge and the automatic scoreboard signalled 15-14. At this the crowd demonstrated, the umpire altering the score to read 14-15. Those spectators on the ground floor and in alignment with the path of the ball (mostly competitors) raised a hue and cry occasioning the board to revert to the original score. Play had ceased and the people situated on the balcony began to rain down programmes, orange peel and the like, whilst ground-floor spectators crowded the playing area. French accents mingled with pronounced gutteral Czecho-Hungarian tongues: There was such a pandemonium. Serenely, however, Mr. Montague entered the +hron, quickly subsiding the hooliganism. Which way the score read on commencing I couldn't tell you, but I do know, that the match went against us and Vana apologised profusely, nevertheless, it wasn't a promising start.

Late in the week worse followed! though it had a decidedly humorous trend, and to-day often brings a smile to my lips.

The Rumanian contingent were really to blame, for quickly sensing that forceful play under these adverse conditions would not pay any dividends, they adopted a non-aggression policy, that is, wholly chop defence closer if anything to the baseline than normal. Their plan in operation snatched victories over stronger nations who endeavoured to play in their accustomed style.

This proved irksome and irritated the free-style players. The matches became long and drawn out upsetting the time schedule, thus in the

early hours of the morning, competitors wearily made their way back to the hotel, health and temper badly frayed.

Alofsy Erlich, the Polish captain freely made it known that when they (Poland) met the Rumanians, he personally would counter them at their own game.

Thus it happened, that when Erlich was about to commence the Polish-Rumanian cup match against Paneth the opposing No. 1 player, he turned dramatically to the on-lookers and said with strict continentally sentimentality, "If I drive the ball first, I will cut off my right hand."

Arranging his unruly hair this brilliant all-rounder, true to his word imitated the tactics to Paneth. The Rumanian was just as determined to carry out this farcical, non-productive play. Not a smile came from

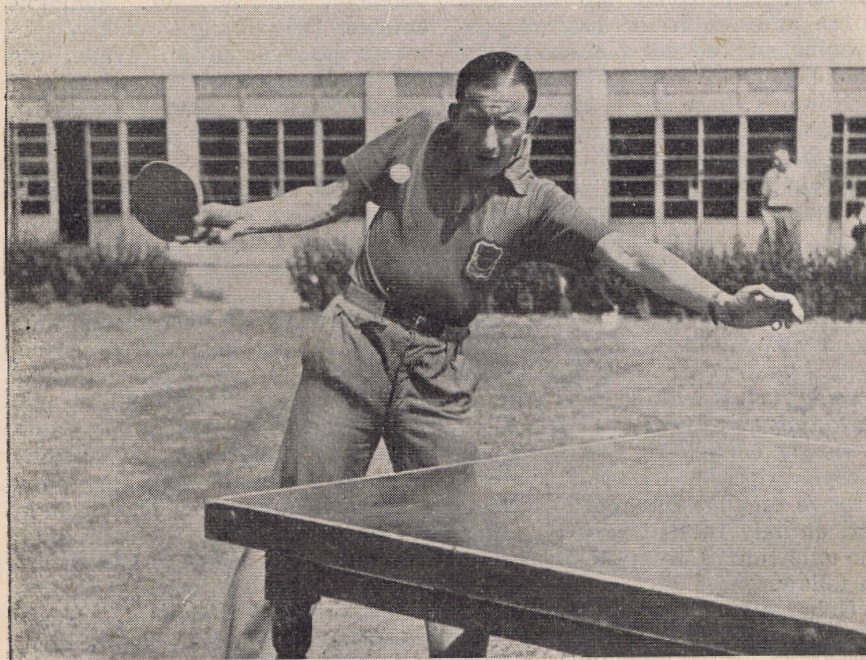
either face, and the cat-calls from the galleries did not undermine these exponents.

Still the first point of the match dragged on. Excited officials were at their wits end to stop this pat-ball, the difficulty being that Erlich was also his country's representative on the I.T.T.F. Council, hence, until free to attend a conference, little could be accomplished.

The crowd sensing an intrigue, intermittently yelled in jocular hysteria or shouted in angry protest, but it did not perturb these iron-nerved contestants, who were still intent on merely pushing to and fro.

There is, they say, in all situations an emergency way to overcome a crisis. Well, the Executive Committee decided to sit close enough to the table, thereby allowing the Pole his rights to confer whilst he kept the ball in motion.

*contd page 15*

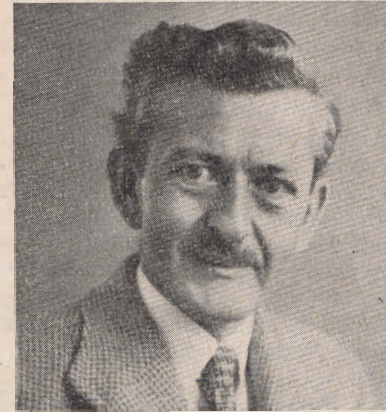


Benny Casofsky, English International, coach and exhibitionist at Butlin's Holiday Camps.

INTRODUCING  
YOU TO—

## Leslie Forrest

HERE is a man (*yes, Leslie, I think you had better take your "Review" in some quiet corner because I know you are going to blush as you get farther down the page*), who has done as much as anybody to



LESLIE FORREST

make English table tennis what it is to-day. Twenty-one years ago he founded the Liverpool and District League, commencing with seven clubs of approximately forty members, and for eleven years that league flourished under his leadership until its membership exceeded one thousand players.

Leslie Forrest put a great deal of hard work into those early days, for remember, the game was then unrecognised by the press and was struggling valiantly to throw off the stigma of "ping-pong." After eleven years Merseyside lost its popular secretary for he took up the post of Assistant Secretary to the E.T.T.A. in their High Holborn office.

Pre-war league secretaries will remember the friendly and prompt assistance rendered by Leslie Forrest from the Central Office, but after a

time he decided, for personal reasons, to go North again. He is now resident in Bradford where table-tennis enthusiasts have hailed him as one of their leaders. He occupies the post of Hon. Match and Competition Secretary, and E.T.T.A. Representative for the Yorkshire T.T.A.

We remember Leslie in those early days in Liverpool. He was quite a good player himself, and with the aid of a terrific pen-holder drive he won many valuable games in the old "derby" matches of Manchester v. Liverpool.

Here is a man who has worked hard and long for table tennis. He has put as much into it as any star player ever did. Here is an administrator who is "Honorary" in the truest sense of the word. *Table Tennis Review* has a certain amount of sympathy for those "star" players who feel that their efforts should bring remuneration, but when we think of a few players who, having won two or three open tournaments, now only think of the game in terms of cash, then we blush for them. We see standing by their side Leslie Forrest in all his unselfishness, and magnificent achievements.

PRAGUE, 1935—*continued.*

This indeed held the humorous touch, for Erlich still "stonewalling" in the same rally, discussed and gesticulated with his free hand to his fellow members of the committee.

After two hours and a few minutes Paneth pushed the ball over the table confines. Imagine two solid hours for one single point! Erlich then proceeded to hit his opponent off the table, much to everybody's relief.

Subsequently the 20-minute ruling came into being.



# League Brevities

By HON. SEC.

*League Secretaries are invited to send in brief notes, month by month of their activities.*

## ALTRINCHAM

Trials were held in order to select the team to take part in the Lancashire County T.T. Association fixtures. The final choice resulted in R. Beddow, the pre-war No. 1 who re-established himself with an unbeaten performance, C. G. Smith, and the brothers Ray and Arnold Shepherd. The league programme has already commenced, and in an effort to encourage doubles play the match procedure has been altered to nine singles and one doubles set.

## ASHTON

The league has regained some of its pre-war establishments and is now running four divisions. The usual Challenge Cup competitions will be run in addition to the Jaques Shield programme. Arthur Swindells has resigned the Secretaryship owing to business calls, but he now occupies the Presidential chair. Other stalwarts of the league are: J. Braithwaite (Chairman), H. Renshaw, R. Dannat, J. Millington and J. Noyes.

## BECKENHAM

Last season's league winners, the New Manor House Club, hope to field an unchanged side this year consisting of Burton, Barber, Evans and Oxley, but the runners-up, Elmers End Sports Club will be without their two strongest players, namely, Carter and Semark. Very strong challenges will be forthcoming from Christ Church Institute, Catford Wanderers and Cyphers Club. The ladies are represented on their own for the first time with an entry of ten teams in the ladies' division. Team strength and individual prowess is, as yet, an unknown

quantity. Beckenham is urgently in need of further cups and trophies, but it is hoped that local supporters will come to the rescue. The Rt. Hon. Harold Macmillan, M.P. is President, and there is an imposing array of Vice-Presidents.

## CHELTENHAM

League matches commenced on October 7th, and this year three divisions are being run. R. Griffin is the leading player having won the Cheltenham Singles Cup and Junior Cup last season. He is too old now to enter junior events, but he should do well in open tournaments. Not enough ladies could be found to make up a single team, but Miss Molly Jones can hold her own with the men and has played for the town in the Western Counties League. Last season she did well in open tournaments, winning the Cardiff Victory, and reaching the final of the Welsh, and semi-final of the Birmingham (Central England) Open. This is a splendid achievement, and Cheltenham hopes to see her bring further honours to the town.

## GUILDFORD

At the A.G.M. all officers were re-elected. Two divisions were formed with ten teams in each. The league is to join the Surrey T.T.A., and the "Percy Johnson Cup" competition is to be run again with additional teams if possible. A welcome is extended to all players returned from the Forces. Alec Brook is once more Hon. Adviser to the league. In October the league team lost to Epsom, the score being 9-1, but Guildford put up a much better show than the score suggests.

## The Western Counties T.T. League

Line-up for 1946-47

### MEN'S SECTION

Bristol and District T.T.A.  
Bath and District T.T.L.  
Swindon and District T.T.L.  
Cardiff and District T.T.L.  
Birmingham and District T.T.A.  
Newport and District T.T.L.  
Gloucester T.T.A.  
Cheltenham T.T.L.

### WOMEN'S SECTION

Bristol and District T.T.A.  
Bath and District T.T.L.  
Swindon and District T.T.L.  
Cardiff and District T.T.L.  
Birmingham and District T.T.A.

Secretary: I. C. EYLES, 115, Wick Road,  
Brislington, Bristol, 4.

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## Your Calendar of Events

- Nov. 4-9—Eastern Suburban Open (Ilford).  
" 16—Hull Open.  
" 22—Scotland v. Switzerland (Men's Europe Cup) Glasgow.  
" 23—Central London Open.  
" 28-30—Merseyside Open (Liverpool).  
Dec. 1—Murrayfield Open (Edinburgh).  
" 2-7—Leinster Open (Dublin).  
" 6-7—North Midland Open (Mansfield).  
" 8—Lanarkshire Open (Hamilton).  
" 13—Scotland v. Ireland (Edinburgh).  
Jan. 4—Scotland v. Wales (Greenock).  
" 11—Yorkshire Open (Bradford).  
" 13-18—West of Scotland Open (Glasgow).  
" 19—Southampton Open.  
" 23-25—North of England (Manchester).

ENGLISH OPEN FINALS—March 15.

## World's Championships

As mentioned in our first issue, we are planning to run a *Table Tennis Review* Party to the world's championships in Paris which are to commence on February 27th and to run for seven days. The preliminary details have been arranged, but we are now awaiting further information from the French Table Tennis Association. In the meantime, we should like to ascertain the number of readers who might care to join this party. The cost will be a reasonable one and will include everything. It is thoroughly understood that any letter you send in answer to the above request will place you under no obligation whatever.

## Merseyside Celebrations

The Liverpool and District League is now back to its pre-war strength. The League celebrates its coming of age this year having been founded in 1926 and an ambitious programme for the Merseyside Open Championships has been planned. The preliminaries are to be held at the Gordon Institute on November 27th-29th. The finals taking place at the Liverpool Stadium, which can accommodate over 4,000 spectators, and the B.B.C. have promised to make some recordings of the final stages of the Tournament. The preliminary rounds take place with the entrants outside the 30 mile radius coming in on the 30th. The closing date for entries is November 19th, and forms can be obtained from W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 18. An Anniversary Luncheon is being held on December 1st, at the Tudor Restaurant, London Road, and tickets, price 10s. 6d. may be obtained on application to Mr. Stamp. A cordial invitation is extended to old and new friends to be present on both occasions.

## Thameside Open Results

Played at Plaistow, October 19th.  
*Men's Singles.*—J. A. Leach beat J. H. Carrington, 21-19, 17-21, 21-12.

*Ladies' Singles.*—Miss V. Dace beat Miss P. Franks, 21-6, 7-21, 22-20.

*Men's Doubles.*—J. A. Leach and J. H. Carrington beat J. Glickman and R. Hook, 21-9, 21-14.

*Ladies' Doubles.*—Misses D. Dace and E. Blackburn beat Misses P. Franks and E. Steventon, 21-10, 21-11.

*Mixed Doubles.*—Miss V. Dace and J. H. Leach beat Miss P. Franks and J. H. Carrington, 21-18, 21-12.

## Crossword Competition

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER ISSUE.

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
B	I		F	O	L	D	I
8		9		10			
A	C	E		F	L	A	T
11			12				
R	E	A		L		C	
		13			14		15
N		C		O	B	W	E
16	17						
E	C	H		O		R	A
18			19				
T	O		S	H	I	R	T
	20	21					
	O	N		E		S	
22			23				
A	L	E		S	T	A	N

SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER COMPETITION

The only all-correct solution received was sent by Mr. J. Watts, 45, Crescent Road, Southport, who has received the half-guinea prize.

### WHERE TO BUY YOUR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

*Sports traders are invited to make use of this register. Terms sent upon request.*

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H. C. Cooke Sports Depot Ltd.,  
26, John Dalton St., Manchester, 2.

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Geo. A. Tandy,  
West End Sports House,  
58, St. Helens Road, Swansea.

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### Merseyside OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

at the

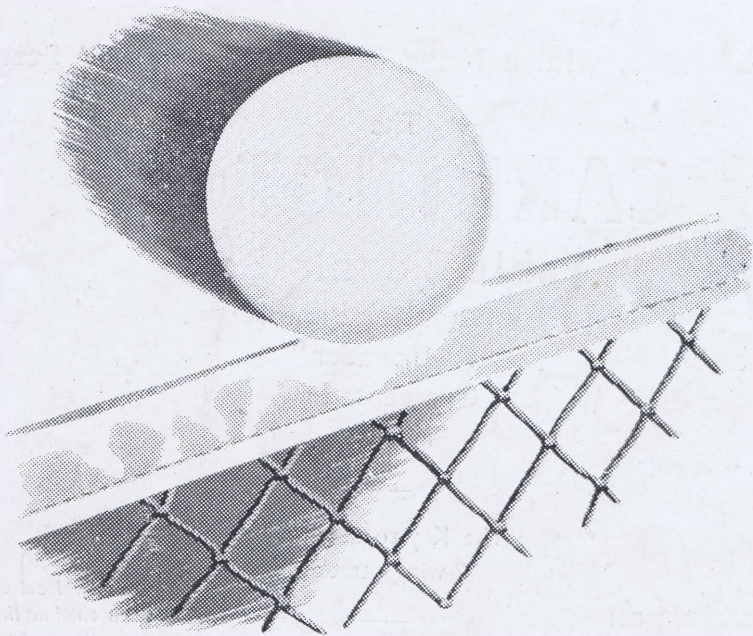
Gordon Institute, Liverpool 5

November 27th to 30th, 1946

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