

Vol. 1

No. 4

DECEMBER,
1946

Table Tennis REVIEW



NEWS

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VIEWS

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HINTS

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This month's Portrait—

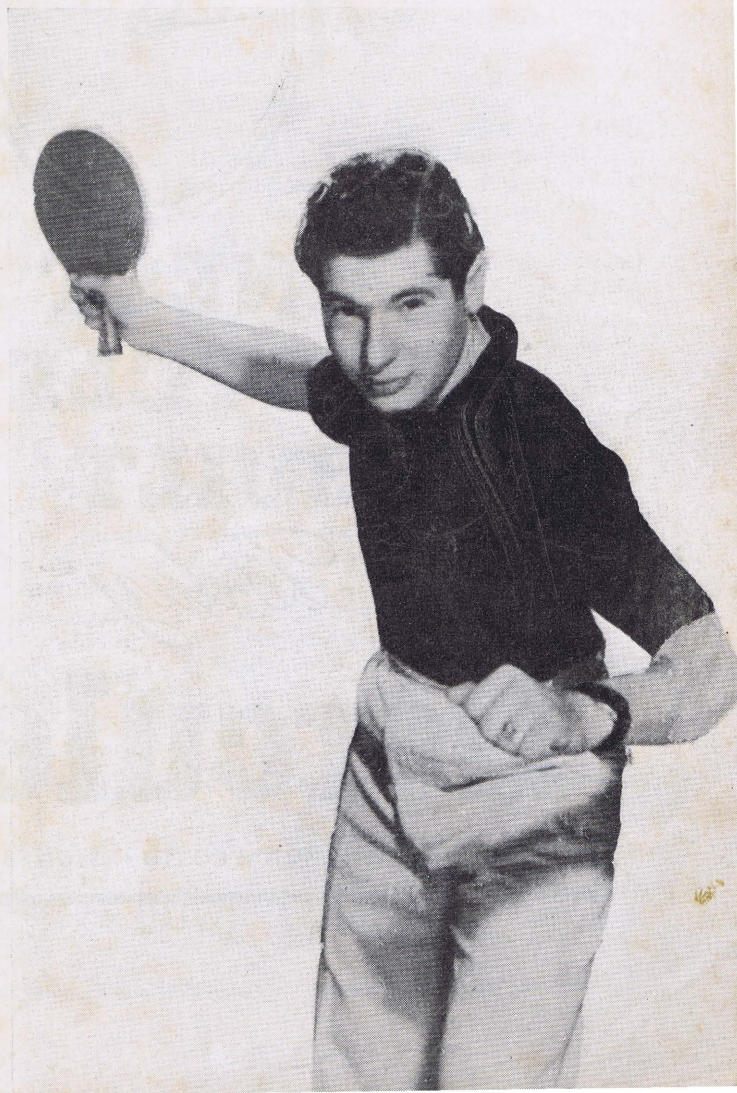
**RICHARD
BERGMANN**
World Champion

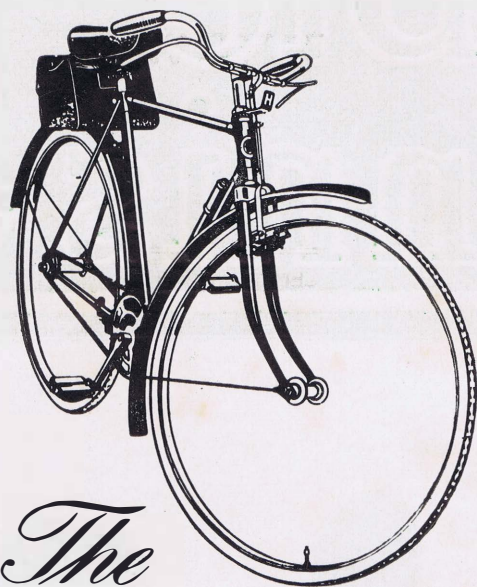
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Vol. 1 No. 4

DECEMBER, 1946

6d. Monthly

Coaching Officials

WE have been listening to Mr. Leslie Forrest expound his views on the vital necessity of making the administrative side of the game into a fine art. He is convinced that the time has come when County Associations should set up training schools for *officials*. These schools would be run on evening school lines and almost every angle of the game would be studied. Capable tutors would have to be appointed to impart all their knowledge to newcomers who desire to serve in either local league committees or County bodies, and all the mistakes of the past could then be brought to light so that invaluable experience would not be lost as soon as long standing officials retire. The methods of the past, when vacant positions were filled by willing but raw workers, are no longer satisfactory. Only trained men should be allowed to take over any administrative post. Pupils of these schools would arrange to attend major tournaments and there they would be encouraged to study all angles of tournament organisation. The visits to these tournaments could be week-end affairs, for on the following Sunday morning a conference would be held in which all views and questions could be put forward. Present-day tournaments are becoming unwieldy for when the number of entries reach the two hundred mark, the deadline has been reached and only skilful management will ensure a smooth finish. Even an unlimited number of tables is not a sufficient guarantee that the finals can be reached by say seven o'clock on the evening of the last day's play. All committee members should be thoroughly conversant with their particular job, and this calls for the maximum amount of training. There is no doubt that the future will see these schools for table tennis officials, but in which County is the first one to be built?

A Merry Christmas
to All Our Readers



DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

RICHARD BERGMANN, present world champion, who has decided not to enter any more amateur tournaments, and who has challenged anyone in the world for a side-stake of £500, gives us his three best for the next world championship. They are: Vana and Tereba (Czechoslovakia) and Miles, of U.S.A. The Americans are sending a strong entry to Paris, and a team of three men and two women will also compete in the English Championships which are to be held at Wembley Stadium the week after. Are you going to Paris with the *Table Tennis Review Party*? This should be a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable trip, so send for full details *Now*.

* * *

Mrs. Connie Walters, of Sheffield is now looking around for volunteers to mind the baby (it's a boy!) while she resumes her T.T. activities. The same volunteers will also be required a little later on by Mrs. Audrey Taylor, of Leeds. Nice work Audrey, you Yorkshire folk are certainly doing your best to swell the ranks. There seems to be plenty of opportunities up North for the E.T.T.A. to catch 'em young.

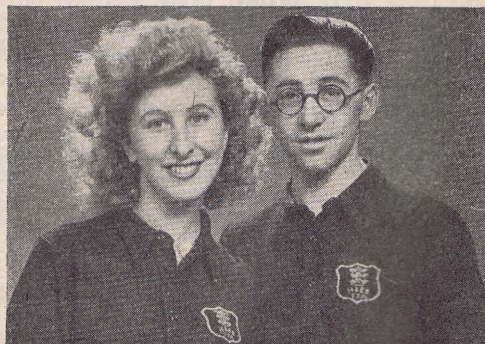
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Two of Hull's best players have teamed up in the Mixed Doubles and intend to enter all Open Tournaments. The pact has been sealed with an engagement ring. The male partner, Marcus Bishop will contribute articles to future num-

bers of *T.T. Review*, while good-looking Norma Quesky will undoubtedly be mentioned from time to time. Norma has an attractive style of play and possesses a good forehand drive. This is only her second season, and we predict big things for her in the future, especially as she is not yet twenty.

* * *

The Lanarkshire Open Championships are to be played this month, and Bunny Chernock, leading Scottish player will be there to defend his title. I understand that most of the prominent players of the Northern Ireland club, Newton Ards will be taking part, among them being Harry O'Prey, a former Irish Open Champion and Jimmy McKim, who took part in the 1935 World Championships. Maurice Kriss, a former holder will be another contestant, and the well-known London player, Leo Thompson may compete.



Norma Quesky and Marcus Bishop of Hull.

Europe Cup—MEN

ENGLAND QUALIFIES
FOR ZONE SEMI-FINAL

ON November 9th at the Drill Hall, Cardiff, an enthusiastic crowd watched England defeat Wales by five events to nil in the Second Round of the European Cup. England now meets either Scotland or Switzerland in the semi-final.

Though this was a convincing enough victory for England, the match was hotly contested, and Welshmen and Englishmen alike contributed table tennis that drew thunderous applause from the large crowd.

Sweetland's game with Goodman was the very essence of suspense, for after the Englishman had won the first game to 19, the next two went to deuce before Goodman could gain the vital points.

Stan Jones was brilliant against Leach. Lack of experience made him lose the second game after being 18-11 up, but he won the third grandly. Leach eventually won the match by three games to one.

Ken Milsom and Dewi Lewis tried hard to repeat their Coventry victory over Leach and Carrington, but though their plan to upset the rhythm of the English pair did meet with some success, the latter's great experience and the Welshmen's occasional lack of accuracy brought an English victory.

Against Leach in his second singles, Sweetland was again in grand form, and showed that he only needs more of this kind of play to bring him right out on top.

Stan Jones suffered a reaction in his second match against Goodman,

Continued in next column

England Ranked Sixth!

In the November issue of the official Magazine of the Danish Table Tennis Association, *Bordtennis Bladet*, there is an article which gives the world's leading three players in the following order:—

Andreadis (Czechoslovakia),
Bergmann (Austria),
Vana (Czechoslovakia).

The article then goes on to rank the ten foremost nations, and these are:—

1. Czechoslovakia.
2. U.S.A.
3. Sweden.
4. Hungary.
5. France.
6. England.
7. Yugoslavia.
8. Belgium.
9. Austria.
10. Poland.

During November, Andreadis was engaged on an instruction and coaching tour of Denmark.

EUROPE CUP—LADIES

Switzerland beat Holland by five events to four.

and with the latter cleverly breaking up the Welshman's game, Goodman registered a comfortable victory.

SCORES:—

- G. Goodman beat W. Sweetland, 21-19, 25-23, 23-21.
J. Leach beat S. Jones, 21-19, 23-21, 18-21, 21-7.
J. Leach and J. Carrington beat W. K. Milsom and D. Lewis, 21-19, 21-14, 21-17.
J. Leach beat W. Sweetland, 21-19, 21-17, 21-10.
G. Goodman beat S. Jones, 21-13, 21-13, 21-13.

A Christmas "Open"

By RICHARD BERGMANN

(World Champion)

IT was Christmas, 1945, and I was still stationed in Germany, Kiel to be exact. I had not been there long having been moved from Schesrig as a special linguist. The weather was growing colder and snow lay on the ground. Out in the open one saw Germans chopping down trees for firewood.

Conversation in the Sergeant's Mess was the same as in all others—namely, demobilisation, fratting, entertainments and the latest black market prices for cameras, binoculars, etc., these prices ranging in terms of cigarettes.

In the centre of Kiel was a large Naafi building with facilities of every description for the leisure hours of Allied soldiers. A weekly table-tennis tournament was run and this was a most popular event.

The boys in my mess were tipped off by a table tennis fan who had recognised me, and from that moment they repeatedly asked me to enter the Christmas tournament. They stated that there were a number of fellows who were always throwing their weight about, and a good shaking up would do them good. After being kidded along by Mess members that I was afraid to enter the tournament, I made the rash statement that I thought I could win this competition *left-handed*. They immediately took me up on this and offered me twenty cigarettes, one bar of chocolate, and one bar of soap, should I play and win it *left-handed*.

These prizes were too much of a temptation to me, so I made my friends promise not to give me away and duly entered as a "Sergeant Dick."

The tournament had a good entry and happily nobody recognised me, although the other competitors were quite surprised to find so many sergeants interested in my very uninteresting game. My style of play looked the typical beginner's game—though I will say I appeared to be a keen type of beginner.

I had a number of tough matches and a lot of my misses made my heart weep, especially as I knew only too well what I ought to do but just couldn't execute the correct shots. I thanked my lucky stars there weren't any really good players among them.

Eventually I reached the final, and after a very exciting best of three with many ups and downs I won by a score of 21-18 in the third game.

The Naafi manageress smilingly presented me with the first prize—a comb, and this I proudly accepted. I felt I had really earned that comb.

I was just about to leave when the beaten finalist challenged me to another game. Evidently he must have thought there was little to choose between us and earnestly desired a chance to get his revenge. I consented at once. Playing right-handed, I finished the game in two minutes, winning by 21-3. My friends and I then left the Naafi leaving a bewildered and open-mouthed young soldier behind us.

AGENTS WANTED

We offer a good commission to League, Tournament and Club Secretaries (and also private individuals) who are willing to act as Distributing Agents for *Table Tennis Review*.

G. R. Harrower Denies Rumour

A rumour is in circulation that Geoffrey R. Harrower, English International and member of the team which toured Czechoslovakia in October, has decided not to play in any more amateur tournaments. We approached the Middlesex stalwart on this matter and we cannot do better than quote his reply:

"There is absolutely no truth in the suggestion that I am to retire from competitive table tennis. The only spark of truth in the suggestion arises from a remark of mine that I would not be playing in so many tournaments. My reasons might be of interest.

"During the War years, I organised groups of players to support all the Northern Tournaments as an encouragement to the organisers. Now, many players are entering for

these tournaments, and, as most of my spare time is taken up in organising, I am only entering those tournaments to which I am invited by the organisers.

"Playing in tournaments has ceased to be a lot of fun, and comes down to hard work, but if there are any organisers with whom I am friendly, and who think that my name on their programme will be of assistance, I shall be pleased to play. I quote as an instance the Eastern Suburban Tournament, which has just ended. Bill Parker is a very good friend of mine, and, although I had to get out of bed with 'flu and play with my eyes streaming and hardly able to see the ball, I was pleased to compete, even though I might have damaged my alleged reputation in order to be of assistance to a very capable organiser who would always be ready to help me in return."

News from Scotland

It did not take the Scottish Table Tennis Association long to reply to the challenging editorial of our November issue. Readers will remember that we asked what was being done to find new champions among very young players. Now comes a report from Scotland which says that S.T.T.A. has affiliated to the Central Council of Physical Recreation (Scottish Section). The table tennis sections of all kinds of youth organisations now come under the jurisdiction of the Scottish T.T.A. who have wasted no time in making full use of their opportunity to create more brilliant stars like Helen Elliott. Instructional talks and demonstrations are being arranged, and the first of these has already been given in Glasgow to an enthusiastic audience of 600 boys. The membership of the Youth Organisations in the C.C.P.R. (Scottish Section) is approximately 10,000 and the association with them in developing Table Tennis in their clubs is therefore a momentous step in the history of the

S.T.T.A. The Scottish Women's team play Switzerland in the second round of the Europe Cup, Switzerland having beaten Holland 5-4. The match should be played in Switzerland, but no date has yet been fixed.

The probable Scottish team to play Ireland on December 13th at Greenock is: A. J. Henderson, J. Edwards, R. R. Young, J. A. T. Brown, Miss Helen Elliott and Mrs. C. Norrie.

North v. South

In January a North of England team will play a Southern team, and on December 6th, Northern trials will be held at the St. James' Street Schools, Ashton-under-Lyne, when the team will be chosen from: S. Proffitt, B. Casofsky, L. Cohen, A. Millar, H. Lurie (all of Manchester) and P. Rumjahn (Liverpool).

ILFORD OPEN—

Barna Wins Another Open

By PINKIE BARNES

English International

I BELIEVE it is an unusual occurrence for the President of a league to win their Open Championship, but on November 9th, at the Baths Hall, Ilford, Victor Barna did that very thing, beating Eric Filby in three straight games.

The Eastern Suburban Championship is always a well-organised event and one well worth entering, and this time Bill Parker with all his willing helpers surpassed themselves by putting on the finals in an excellent setting. The only drawback was the slippery floor (which upset Geoff Harrower), but apart from that the lighting was grand, the hall was large and airy, and the audience were in tiered seats, so that everyone had a good view—a very important point to onlookers and players, for the temper of an audience can be felt quite strongly by the players!

It is always good to have Barna in a final—his showmanship, geniality and charm of manner always help towards the success of any tournament. His semi-final against Ron Sharman was, in my opinion, better than the final against Filby, for Sharman showed more craft in this game, whereas Filby, stylish though he is, played his usual orthodox game, pleasant to watch but easy meat for the ex-world champion. Barna's backhand flick, despite stage play, silver plates and years of use, is still in a class on its own—when will table tennis see another backhand like his?

Peggy Franks at last achieved an ambition of some years' standing and beat Vera Dace in the Women's

Singles Final. It is interesting to have watched Peggy's ascent during the past four years—fluctuating on occasions, it is true—but she has established her T.T. worth this season already, for she beat Elizabeth Blackbourne in the Thameside, and only just lost to Vera Dace. In this last tourney she again beat Blackbourne and then put it over Dace. Three years ago I played Peggy in this same Ilford tournament and only just won it, and since then Peggy has forged ahead. Her test now is the World Championship.

A word here for Violet Paterson, the youngest entrant to reach the finals. Violet is a game little player, but as yet it is lack of experience which holds her back. If she is brought out properly I feel she should go far. I played with her for the first time in the Ladies' Doubles and we met Dace and Blackbourne in the finals. For a first tryout we did remarkably well, and during the next two or three years I think Violet will prove her worth.

RESULTS :

Men's Singles—Semi-final :—V. Barna beat R. Sharman, 21-14, 22-20; E. Filby beat G. Harrower, 21-18, 21-12. Final :—V. Barna beat E. Filby, 21-12, 21-18, 21-8.

Ladies' Singles—Final :—Miss M. Franks beat Miss V. Dace, 21-14, 21-17.

Ladies' Doubles—Final :—Miss V. Dace and Miss E. Blackbourne beat Miss L. R. Barnes and Miss V. Patterson, 21-19, 21-15.

Men's Doubles—Final :—V. Barna and A. Brook beat H. Walton and R. Mackay, 21-18, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles—Final :—E. Filby and Miss E. Blackbourne beat R. Hook and Miss M. Franks, 21-16, 21-13.

MERSEYSIDE OPEN

Dramatic Final for Barna

"VICTOR BARNAs beaten in three straight games!" That was *nearly* our headline for this article. In the Men's Singles Final at Liverpool on November 30th, Johnny Leach of London took the first two games with scores of 21-18, and 21-18. In the third game three points separated Johnny from a really stupendous victory—but it just didn't happen. Barna took that vital third game at a score of 21-18, and went on to take the next two, 21-15, 21-15. Our admiration goes to Victor Barna for his amazing reserve of stamina, and we also congratulate Johnny for the magnificent way he fought right to the very end.

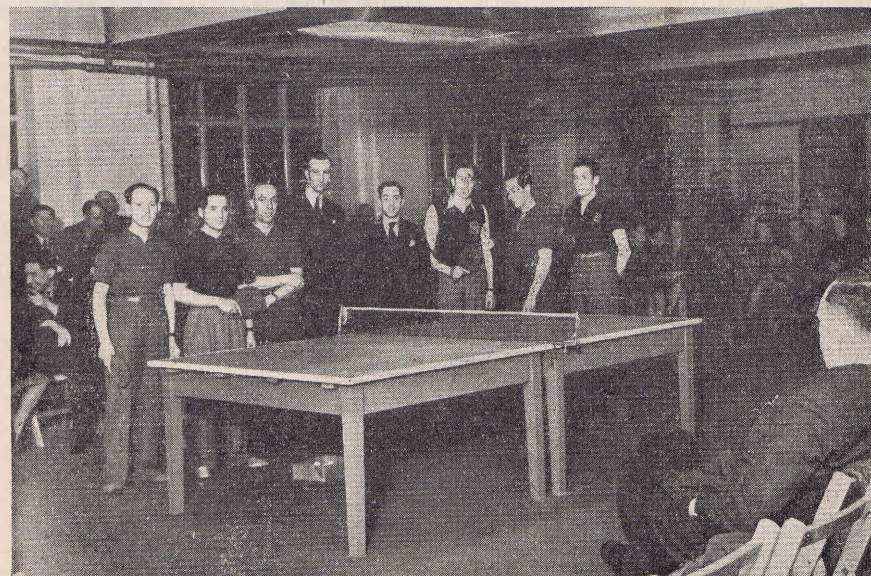
In the final of the Women's Singles, Helen Elliot, of Edinburgh was soundly beaten by Elizabeth Blackbourne, of Exeter. Helen has

been making a name for herself lately, but her defeat at Liverpool demonstrated how she must learn to dominate a game with a more forceful style of play.

Jack Carrington, of London could make little progress when playing against Leslie Cohen, of Manchester, who beat him in the fourth round.

In the Junior Singles, Dennis Miller, of London, beat Ronnie Allcock, of Manchester, 23-21, 21-14, while the Veteran's Singles was won by W. B. Fitzpatrick who beat C. Bedford (Huddersfield). Fitzpatrick is now playing for a Liverpool Club, but a number of years before the war he often played on the same Manchester club team as A. G. Millar and Ken Stanley.

Victor Barna and A. A. Haydon beat J. Carrington and J. Leach in the final of the Men's Doubles.



Manchester Internationals at an Invitation Tournament. Left to Right : L. Cohen, H. Lurie, F. Cromwell, V. A. Jennings (Sports Secretary of Messrs Evans Bellhouse, Ltd.), W. Berry (Manchester League Secretary), E. Goodman, S. Proffitt, A. Millar.

Improve Your Game

By STANLEY PROFFITT
(English Swaythling Cup Player)

PERFECT footwork is the reason why experts appear to make their strokes with a mechanical precision which seems to be so effortless. In reality the feet move automatically, hence the head, arm and body motions fall in alignment executing a complete continuity of the follow through.

The great thing is to obtain perfect balance and poise, and in the case of the forehand drive you should place yourself approximately a foot clear of the baseline and stand obliquely to the table. This position will suffice for the time being for later you will develop your own particular stance. Both Casofsky and Filby position themselves farther back. They pin their faith on a long swing-back, preferring a greater amount of space than say Richard Bergmann or young Ken Merrett, who both essay a quick, short forearm stroke from practically over the table. The left foot should be forward with the toe pointing to "cover." (If you do not happen to be a cricketer the word "cover" means the left toe is in the direction of two o'clock). The right foot should be "at-ease" toe parallel with the baseline.

The weight distributions are equally divided, but immediately the racket arm commences its backward swing the body-weight is transferred to the back foot, then as the arm moves forward and upward to the point of contact with the ball the weight automatically descends on to the toe of the left foot. The side-on stance is easily the best for smooth operation, its great virtue being that the opposition cannot possibly determine the path of the ball until the moment of impact.

DUNDEE LEAGUE NOTES

Forty-eight teams, divided into four divisions started off in October on what promises to be a most strenuous season. In addition to League and individual championships, the Excelsior, Waites, Fowler and Midland Trophies will be held. The First Division of the League looks likely to be the most open ever. Y.M.C.A., the holders, will be strongly challenged by Plebeins Aces, led by newly demobbed Sid Gillis, by Whitehall, who have captured Bert Lothian, former Dundee, Midland and North of Scotland champion. He was reckoned No. 3 in Scotland before joining the Services. His play still sparkles and he may yet fulfil Stanley Proffitt's forecast by becoming Scotland's No. 1. Northern Grays though lacking stars, are a very solidly balanced side and may well go one better than being runners up this time. Mrs. Norrie (Y.M.) received her second "cap" when chosen to play against Ireland in the Europe Cup. More honours should come her way.

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Table Tennis in Ireland

BELFAST v. LIVERPOOL

Two girls made a big contribution in the 6-2 victory of Belfast over Liverpool. They were the Misses M. J. Buchanan and M. Brown, and they won their singles and mixed doubles events. Despite a defeat of 22-20 in his first game, Ivan Martin, Irish international, proved himself too good for J. McCraig, the number three of the Liverpool team, although he repeatedly invited disaster by undue freedom of his opponent's deadly forehand.

Belfast went ahead when P. Rumjahn and Miss Mansell lost to V. Mercer and Miss Buchanan, and Miss Brown, of Belfast succeeded in beating Miss Kenny.

The match between Eddie Rumjahn and Harry O'Prey, the former Irish champion, lacked interest for both players were strictly on the defensive. A marathon game seemed likely until O'Prey launched an attack, which though brightening the proceedings probably cost him the game.

Peter Rumjahn, of Liverpool lost the first game of his set with Victor Mercer but went on to win the next two 21-13, 21-12. In the final game Mercer launched a desperate attack but without avail.

Other results were: (Belfast players first): Miss Buchanan beat Miss Mansell, Mercer and Martin beat Rumjahn Brothers, I. Martin and Miss Brown beat J. McCraig and Miss Kenny.

During their short Irish tour the Liverpool team played a match with Dublin. The Dublin team won by five sets to four, and the credit for this victory goes largely to C. A. Kemp who won three of his four games.

Middlesex Association

Trials were held at the G.E.C. Club, Wembley, on November 17th, to select teams to play against other County Associations. No fewer than seven internationals were invited to play, and it is now known that Victor Barna will be playing for Middlesex. Miss Peggy Franks will be the strongest lady.

It is hoped to arrange fixtures with Essex, Surrey and Lancashire during the season. The Middlesex "closed" championships have also attracted a large entry from the member leagues.

Affiliated leagues include North Middlesex, Wembley, Acton, North Acton, South West Middlesex, Yiewsley, West Drayton and District, Uxbridge and Willesden and Staines. All these leagues are competing in the inter-league championship, with the exception of North Acton.

Europe Cup—MEN

LUXEMBOURG v. IRELAND

Ireland defeated Luxembourg by four matches to one, in the European Cup (Western Zone) at Luxembourg on November 10th, and qualified for the semi-final, in which they will probably meet France.

Although there was no disputing the superior skill of the Irishmen, most of the games were closely contested. The leading singles between Oster (Luxembourg) and Harry Thuillier (Ireland) which resulted in a win for the former by three sets to two, was the only match the Ireland lost. Thuillier staged a remarkable recovery when down 16-20 in the fifth set. The Irishman got in front at 22-21, but Oster secured the next three points to win an exciting game by 24-22. Thuillier had a well-deserved win over Steinmetz, a defensive player, who at times employed an effective "flick."

Victor Mercer, the Belfast left-hander, was in brilliant form throughout, winning all his matches. His accurate driving was a feature, while his telescopic reach was a great advantage in defence.

Bert Huet, new to international honours, did not play in the singles, but partnered Mercer in a doubles victory by three sets to one, against Oster and Steinmetz.

FULL RESULTS:—

Singles:—Oster (Luxembourg) beat H. Thuillier (Ireland). Steinmetz (Luxembourg) lost to V. Mercer (Ireland). Oster lost to Mercer. Steinmetz lost to Thuillier.

Doubles:—Oster and Steinmetz lost to Mercer and B. Huet.

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ENTRIES CLOSE DECEMBER 23rd

Extracts from My Diary . . .

By SAM KIRKWOOD
(A London Editor)

MY first extract concerns a London League match some years before the war. My club and the opposition happened to be level at the head of our division, and promotion depended upon the outcome of this particular contest. It shouldn't be hard to understand that games were played in a tense atmosphere, with every point being avidly contested and watched.

We were evenly matched and neither side could gain anything of a lead. Five-all, eight-all, eleven-all. Three games to go, and still anybody's match. Our number one player went to the table, watched by us, his team-mates, with bated breath. His opponent was a tall youth with a penholder grip who had won all his previous four games. We feared for our man, an all-out attacker who needed to be nerve-free to be seen at his best. He was clearly only too painfully aware of the importance of his match. The game started off and the penholder, who had the unsightly habit of playing with his mouth open, began to give our man, hopelessly flustered and inaccurate, the very mother and father of a hiding. It looked as good as over for us. Then, with "Penholder" leading 9-3 and seemingly able to flat-drive everything, a strange thing happened.

Our representative had sent over a fairly hard forehand drive which hit the centre of his foe's half and bounced high. "Penholder" went forward to meet the ball and it disappeared! It just vanished. It wasn't on the table, it wasn't on the floor, and it certainly wasn't sus-

ended in mid-air. We spectators rose from our seats and chattered wonderingly. It was all very mysterious and confusing, until "Penholder" with an indescribably ludicrous and sheepish "grin" (if such his discomfited grimace can be called), drew the ball from his mouth, into which the ball had flown when he had come forward to meet it! He had kept his teeth parted once too often. The shrieks of laughter that went up broke the tension for our man, who went on the attack with such vigour that the hapless "Penholder" received a belting he must have long remembered. We eventually won the tournament 13-12. And all we could say afterwards was, "He sure slobbered a mouthful!"

Extract two goes back to when I was 17 or thereabouts. I had entered for my first big tournament. In the playing hall I nervously waited for my first-round opponent, hoping and praying that he would be as raw as I felt. Eventually he came to the table. I nearly passed out with shock. I saw a long, lean figure wearing a shirt on which was emblazoned the badge of England. As though an ordinary international wasn't enough, the possessor of that particular emblem was none other than Fred Perry, the only Englishman ever to win the world's title (1928). I was much too dazed to be in any condition to store impressions of the game that ensued, but I do know that I got a lovely backache from picking up the ball after Fred had pelted it past me—which he did with heartbreaking (for me) monotony.

Another similar extract happened several years after this inauspicious debut into big time Table Tennis. Victor Barna happened to visit the holiday camp at which I was staying. As the best player in the camp (someone had to be the best player) I was invited to try my luck against the great Victor. We quizzed each other a little before operations. Said he, "Don't be too hard on me, please." I promised him I'd take it easy. I did. I took it very easy. So easy, in fact, that I rarely returned a ball. I had no option!

Diary extract four relates to a not-so-pleasant star, who disgraced herself at a county championship held at a certain seaside resort. The woman in question, an international, was well beaten in an early round by, an "unknown." The defeated girl burst into tears and refused to be comforted. Proof that some folk may be excellent games players but mighty poor sports.

My final extract is about a game I played in 1940, just after the London blitzes had commenced. I was playing the Hungarian girl, Dora Beregi, in an exhibition at a youth club, and we had just started on our third game when the "alert" sounded. Boys and girls then moved the table down into the rather capacious basement shelter, where Dora and I recommenced activities. Outside guns blazed away and bombs fell, yet the crowd of youngsters who crammed around us were far too interested to be concerned about trifles like bombs and fires and other mundane trifles of a like nature. Not a single person in the shelter, including the dauntless and brilliant red-headed Dora, gave a toss for Jerry that night. Table tennis first . . . bombs and possible death a bad second. (Come to think of it, if everybody thought that way we'd have a peaceful world for a change, wouldn't we?)



"No, No, Auntie— you stand on the floor!"

Europe Cup—LADIES

ENGLAND BEATS FRANCE

In the international match of the Europe Cup played at Southampton on October 31st, England beat France by nine sets to nil. England are now through to the semi-final of the West Zone when they will probably meet Scotland.

Dace beat: Logelin, 21-15, 21-11; Nicolas, 21-13, 21-10; Joing, 21-6, 21-15.

Dace beat: Logelin, 21-7, 21-16; Nicolas, 21-15, 21-8; Joing, 21-8, 21-9.

Franks beat: Logelin, 21-9, 21-8; Nicolas, 16-21, 21-17, 21-7; Joing, 21-9, 21-8.

Result 9-0 to England.

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You've Said It . . .

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

The attacking game seems to be coming into its own (with Vana and Leach), and I don't agree with the idea of Montagu and others, of raising the net, as I believe that would slow down the game unduly. Anyway, it needs a brick wall to stop these Czechs!

J. WATTS, Southport.

Your correspondent L. Thompson in his report of the Scottish Trials (Ladies' European Cup) failed to mention that Miss Rina Tolan was elected as first reserve. This wouldn't matter very much normally, but he spoke of Mrs. Josephson, who wasn't only excluded from the team but was actually knocked out by our girl. To us (poor souls!) this was a cause of great heart-burning. L. Thompson concluded by saying the men should learn to use their feet and their brains. You tell him from me, he'll have to use both himself if he comes near our club! Our wee club is the "Dixon"—2nd Division, West of Scotland. Wishing your Magazine all the success it deserves.

REV. J. O'KANE, Glasgow.

I feel I must ask you to correct the impression of my playing style given by Ron Sharman in his article in your October issue. Ron states therein that I use a totally different grip for backhand and forehand attack. This is hardly the truth, as I make a point of using the same grip for both backhand and forehand. Ron Sharman is probably right in saying that one grip cannot be perfect for both wings. In my case possibly he has memories of my style in pre-war days, but just before the war I changed to the one-grip technique and most observers seem to think it has improved my game. The great advantage of not changing the grip is the elimination of errors arising from the "twiddling" of the bat in the heat of a hard rally.

J. CARRINGTON, London.

I was very interested to read the article, "Is there a border line in table tennis" in your November issue. Perhaps the facts in my own case may interest you in bearing out the writer's contention. I was well over 30 before I ever had a table tennis bat in my hand, and I retired from the game for three years, but was persuaded to come back to help to keep the game going in Leeds during the latter part of the war. Last season in my fortieth year, and notwithstanding that owing to a permanently injured wrist I have no adequate backhand, amongst many other honours I gained: Men's Doubles Champion of Yorkshire, Mixed Doubles Champion of Yorkshire, Yorkshire County Badge and Regular Inter-City player for Huddersfield, who defeated all other Yorkshire leagues they played. I understand I broke all age records for the above honours by a considerable margin. Evidently youth does not always prevail.

C. BEDFORD, Leeds.

My only criticism of the journal is that it started rather late. Your Magazine brims over with cherry optimism for the future of Table Tennis. Yet I can recall how, when my desire was to become as proficient as possible at the game, I found not the slightest help or encouragement. Every club I tried to enter coldly informed me that they were full up, and would continue to be so in the near and distant future. My friends and I played wherever we could, usually under conditions which were the exact opposite of those ideal conditions recommended by Mr. Stanley Proffitt. I hope to find conditions improved when I am demobilised.

CPL. BATES, Greece.

Lancashire County League Results

Up to the time of going to press few matches have been played in the newly reformed Lancashire League, and, it is therefore, impossible to assess the strength of the various teams. The victors in the men's team matches won by convincing scores, but in the ladies, match between Manchester "A" team and Southport, the result was five games to four in favour of Manchester "A." Miss Brewster, of Southport had played an open game during the whole evening, but in the final, and deciding event when the match-score stood at four games each, Miss Brewster completely altered her style against Miss Lily Rubens, of Manchester. Had she kept up her attack it is possible she may have taken the set and match result for Southport.

In the match between the Urmston men and Bury, N. Ashton, of Urmston was the only player of his team to win his events, and this he did in no uncertain manner. Beddows and Bryan played attractive table tennis for their team Altrincham and Sale, while Howcroft was the most outstanding player of the opposing side, Bolton Sunday Schools.

RESULTS:—

Ladies: Manchester "A" beat Southport, 5-4.

Men (Central): Urmston lost to Bury, 2-7.
Altrincham and Sale beat Bolton S.S., 7-2.

Blackpool beat Radcliffe, 8-1.

Youths: Urmston lost to St. Helens, 0-9.
Crewe lost to Liverpool, 0-9.

South Western: Chester beat Crewe, 9-0.

World Championships

We thank all those people who expressed their interest in our proposed *Table Tennis Review* party to visit the World Championships (in Paris). This trip will be of seven days' duration, starting from London, returning to London, and will be organised mainly by Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd. Full details will be posted to all those people who send in their names and addresses to: The Editor, *Table Tennis Review*.

Inter-City Match

BRISTOL v. EXETER

In an inter-city match played at Bristol the home team won by six events to three.

A. W. C. Simons and D. B. Skipton were in sparkling form for Bristol, both winning two sets each. Nickels did not quite come up to expectation, but he should improve with more experience.

A good tip for international honours is Simons.

Results (Bristol players named first):—
D. B. Skipton beat A. Nickels, A. W. C. Simons beat F. G. Grigg, W. C. Dawes lost to R. F. Litten, R. R. Matthews lost to L. C. Kerslake, A. W. C. Simons and D. B. Skipton lost to R. F. Litten and F. G. Grigg, R. R. Matthews beat A. Nickels, A. W. C. Simons beat R. F. Litten, D. B. Skipton beat L. C. Kerslake, W. C. Dawes beat F. G. Grigg.

Western Counties Results

MEN'S SECTION

Cardiff 11, Bath 0; Gloucester 1, Birmingham 10; Bath 1, Swindon 10; Cheltenham 0, Cardiff 11; Swindon 2, Bristol 9; Newport 11, Gloucester 0; Swindon 10, Cheltenham 1.

	Pld.	Won	Lst.	Pts.
Cardiff	2	2	0	4
Swindon	3	2	1	4
Newport	1	1	0	2
Birmingham	1	1	0	2
Bristol	1	1	0	2
Bath	2	0	2	0
Cheltenham	2	0	2	0
Gloucester	2	0	2	0

WOMEN'S SECTION

Cardiff 3, Bristol 8; Bath 2, Cardiff 9; Swindon 10, Bath 1.

	Pld.	Won	Lst.	Pts.
Swindon	1	1	0	2
Bristol	1	1	0	2
Cardiff	2	1	1	2
Bath	2	0	2	0
Birmingham	0	0	0	0

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League Brevities

ALTRINCHAM AND SALE

In the league championship table, St. Margaret's lead the field with the maximum number of points. Ladies' trials for the inter-city team resulted in the choice of Miss Goodwin, Mrs. Thirsk and Miss Mason, this being the team to meet Crewe. In these trials both Mrs. Jackson and Miss Stimpson put up a creditable performance.

BEDFORD

The league has not fully functioned for seven years, having been severely handicapped by the lack of local facilities. An encouraging start has been made this season with two divisions consisting of fifteen clubs, plus a ladies' division. Inter-league matches have been arranged. P. Holroyd narrowly beat C. Weintroub in the final of a pre-season league tournament organised by the Grosvenor Club. Secretary of the league is Mrs. Aldridge and Fixture and Tournament Secretaries are Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Pacey.

BIRMINGHAM

In an inter-city match with Manchester Birmingham were defeated by six events to three. The match was a mixed event and both Birmingham ladies, Betty Steventon and Mrs. Smith won their singles events, although they lost in the doubles to Adele Wood and Beryl Marshall. In the men's matches only Mackay succeeded in claiming a victory for Birmingham, this being against Casofsky.

BRIGHTON

Over fifty teams make up the four divisions, which is an increase of one division on last season. Chairman is E. C. A. Arnold, Vice-Chairman, G. Campbell, while E. V. Sacchi is the Hon. General Secretary. The two leading men players are C. Seaman and B. G. Fretwell, who both have excellent playing records. Seaman is an English international having played against France, Wales and Ireland, while Fretwell is the

Cairo Champion for 1942 and part holder of the doubles titles of Greece (1944) and Central Mediterranean (1946).

EXETER

In spite of the fact that Exeter is tucked away in the South West corner of England it can boast of such well-known players as Ron. Litten, C. W. Davies, Dora Beregi and Elizabeth Blackbourne all international players. Of the men, the most promising player at the moment is A. Nickels, a 24 year old from Torquay.

HULL

Hull makes a claim to having the youngest table tennis secretary in England. He is Donald Williams of the Clifton St. Youth Club who has just reached the ripe old age of 12 years, and a very good secretary he is too. How is that for catching them young? Can anyone beat it? Two of Hull's most promising young players are Eddie Beadle and Raymond Sewell. It should not be long before they find their way on to the league team. A. Abrahamson, affectionately known as "Abe" throughout Yorkshire, succeeded last month in obtaining county honours, playing against Lancashire, and securing the only singles event victory for Yorkshire. Another of Hull's best players is Marcus Bishop who is the holder of three of Hull's Closed Championships, and also the Northern Maccabi Singles. The most promising lady player is Miss Norma Quesky who is not yet twenty, but represented Yorkshire in the county match with Lancashire. Miss Hamilton of the St. Alban's Youth Club has all the makings of a fine player, but is being held back by her persistent use of a plain-faced wooden racket.

ILFORD

Ilford players were, of course, delighted to see their President, Victor Barna win two titles in their Eastern Suburban Championships. Victor was getting over a spell of stomach trouble and was not at all well during the early rounds of the

competition. The league programme is well under way with Cranbrook Castle 1st and North Ilford 1st, showing an undefeated record. It would appear that these two teams will be hot rivals for the championship.

LOWESTOFT

The league has now been revived with a record membership of 47 teams. A team has been entered in the Wilmott Cup contest and six individual tournaments will be staged throughout the season. Officials are as follows: *President*—J. S. Larke, Esq., *Chairman*—E. C. Hall, *Joint Hon. Secretaries*—H. Dowson and A. E. Durrant, *Hon. Treasurer*—R. Margetts.

MANCHESTER

The league has now reached a record size of 84 teams, with 800 playing members, and it is confidently hoped that the thousand mark will be reached before the end of the season. From the financial point of view the prospects were never brighter, and the bank balance is also a record figure. Outstanding events of the past month were an all-international invitation tournament and a league match between the two rival teams, Y.M.C.A. and Grove House. In the international tournament Hymie Lurie reached his old pre-war standard of play beating Stanley Proffitt in the final. On his way to this tournament F. Cromwell had a slight accident, suffering facial injuries. After receiving treatment he was able to take part in the event. The Y.M.C.A. versus Grove House league match is an old "derby" game, which is always a high spot in the season's programme. These two clubs have been battling for supremacy for the past score of years, and each has supplied England with a number of internationals. For this particular match Grove House called on the services of three internationals—namely, Benny Casofsky, H. Lurie and F. Cromwell, with H. Cohen and A. Goldstone as the fourth and fifth members of the team. Y.M.C.A. were undecided whether to bring in the registered members, Stanley Proffitt and Ken Stanley, but after a Selection Committee meeting it was unanimously agreed that the regular players of the first team should make up the team, this resulting in: Andy Millar, N. Davies, S. Atkinson, F. Wood and MacDermott. Andy Millar playing in grand style secured convincing wins over Casofsky and Lurie, while H. Cohen was the most outstanding player for Grove House, winning both his sets. The "star" of the evening was McDermott the "unknown"

Y.M.C.A. player who beat international Fred. Cromwell and also A. Goldstone. The result of the match was a draw, five games each.

NORTH MIDDLESEX

The League had an excellent victory by 8-3 over the Western Counties Champions, the Cardiff and District League, at Cardiff. North Middlesex was represented by G. Harrower, G. W. Marshall, C. Richards, R. Smith and E. Baker. The Cardiff team included the current Nos. 1, 3 and 4 in the Welsh International team.

The ladies' representative team drew 5-5 with the strong St. Alban's ladies team. Four lady internationals played in the match: Miss M. Franks for North Middlesex and Mrs. C. Bridgen (*nee* Connie Wheaton), Miss Doris Emdin and Miss B. Wright. Miss Franks won her games with ease, and also the doubles, partnered by Mrs. Bromfield, the present league ladies' champion.

Individual Championships are now in full swing, and there are 450 entries in the various events. An innovation was the men's minor singles, open only to players registered below Division 2. Harrower is defending his men's singles title, and the strongest opposition will probably be from Gilbert Marshall and C. Richards. In the doubles, Harrower partners Leslie Bromfield, present doubles title-holder with J. Green.

TAUNTON

Taunton and District are now running two divisions, the leading first division teams being: Wellington Wheatsheafs (K. E. Gough, Capt.), Trinity Reds (E. C. Stone, Capt.), Taunton Y.M.C.A. (E. G. Roberts, Capt.) and Wellington Co-operators (A. W. Scott, Capt.).

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Easy Wins for Lancashire

In the Inter-County match between Lancashire and Yorkshire, played at Oldham on November 9th, Lancashire secured easy wins in both the men's and ladies' matches. The men won by six events to two and the ladies by six events to one. In the men's match, A. Abrahamson (Hull) secured the only singles event victory for Yorkshire by beating R. Hetherington (Liverpool). Miss E. Mansell (Liverpool), playing a very forceful forehand attack beat one of Yorkshire's foremost lady players, Miss Nora Senior (Sheffield) by two games to one.

W. Bedford (Huddersfield), of the Yorkshire men's team put up a hard fight against P. Rumjahn (Liverpool), but lost in the deciding game of the set. Lurie, Cohen and Casofsky were not extended in their events.

T.T. IN NORTH WALES

Mrs. Roy Evans, Secretary of the Welsh Association, writes that the organisation of the game in North Wales is well behind that of the South. May we make an appeal for you T.T. fans along the North Wales coast to arrange a "get-together."

Don't risk a miss!

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LATE NEWS

COUNTY DUBLIN CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
Men's Singles :—H. Thuillier beat J Hanrahan.

Ladies' Singles :—Miss C. A. Egan. beat Mrs. B. Cooper.

HULL OPEN FINALS
Men's Singles :—R. Sharman (London) beat W. Bedford (Huddersfield).

Ladies' Singles :—Pinkie Barnes (London) beat E. McBryde.

"EMPIRE NEWS" TOURNAMENT
Men's Singles won by Ron Sharman (London).

Ladies' Singles won by Helen Elliot (Edinburgh).

FORTHCOMING YORKS. OPEN
Owing to Christmas postal difficulties all entries *must* be received by December 23rd. *Seats will be reserved for competitors at the Finals.* There will be excellent café arrangements under the management of Miss M. Atkinson and Mrs. Lodge. Mr. Harold H. Armytage, President of the Bradford Association and also Vice-President of the Yorkshire T.T.A. will present the prizes.

CENTRAL LONDON OPEN FINALS
Men's Singles—V. Barna beat J. Leach.
Ladies' Singles—V. Dace beat P. Franks.

MERSEYSIDE OPEN FINALS
Men's Singles—V. Barna beat J. Leach.
Ladies' Singles—E. Blackburne beat H. Elliot.

Welsh Notes

In the Welsh Inter-Town League it is encouraging to find a great deal of promise among leagues who have never been strong in this competition. Areas like Eastern Valleys, Rhymney and Swansea are at last beginning to produce players worthy of attention.

In the Western Counties League, Cardiff men made a good start with convincing wins over Bath and Cheltenham, but their match against the Middlesex League at Cardiff on November 2nd brought a disappointingly heavy defeat. This was not a very strong London side, although it contained Harrower and Marshall, and a better result could have been expected from Cardiff.

The Welsh Open to be held at Cardiff on December 14th shows every indication of a strong and attractive entry. Barna may compete and Harrower will defend his title. A warm welcome will be extended to all players.

Our mixed match with Scotland has been fixed for January 4th, at Edinburgh.



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