

Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 1 No. 5

JANUARY, 1947



NEWS

★

VIEWS

★

HINTS

★

*This month's Portrait—
Table Tennis
Glamour Girl*
PEGGY FRANKS

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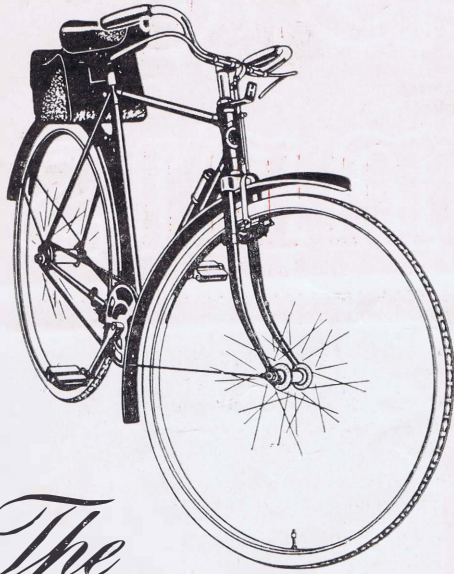
Article by
JOHNNY LEACH
England's No 1.

★

6^D

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TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

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JANUARY, 1947

6d. Monthly

Invest Now for the Future

WE hear that the E.T.T.A. are asking for ideas on the best way to train youngsters, and they are even offering prizes of one guinea each for the most helpful letters received. Well . . . well . . . well! After twenty years' existence the select few who dominate the affairs of English table tennis are seeking ideas on this most vital matter.

But is it so very difficult? Do the E.T.T.A. really want ideas? Surely after so much experience they know better than anyone just what should and can be done. Do they expect someone to produce a magic formula which will produce world-beaters overnight?

We all know the obvious and practical solution. Select the most promising players; give them the opportunity of playing with and being coached by the best we have; then give them that experience which will develop their match temperament. The first of these steps is already being done efficiently by most County bodies. The second is a job which the E.T.T.A. might have done years ago and the answer is, centralised places of practice. (See our October issue).

The third step is something which is almost completely ignored by the E.T.T.A. When the team, for Czecho-Slovakia was chosen, why did it include two players who were above the age of thirty-five? Was that giving youth a chance? Had a younger team been chosen they would have been well experienced by now. We could not have expected much from such a team at the world's championships, but the move would have been an investment for the future. Next year those boys would still be young and vigorous but with experience on their side.

What can we expect next year from the two veterans who went to Czecho-Slovakia? Already one of them is falling time after time to lesser-known players, while the other is beginning to adapt his outstanding ability along administrative lines, all of which makes the Czech tour into a holiday trip instead of an opportunity to provide experience for our youngest players.

Youth must be given some incentive to practise hard and enthusiastically. You cannot do these things if at the head of affairs there is a narrow circle that jealously guards its position of power, leaning constantly towards an equally narrow circle of favoured players. We want a broader outlook with determination to make bold sacrifices in the cause of youth—and in the cause of English table tennis.



DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

THIS month's cover portrait is of Miss Peggy Franks, the English international player who at the moment is ranked as number three among the English ladies. We say *at the moment* because we are confident that before long she will be number one. She is young, good looking, and with an all-round standard of play that places her among the world's best. Peggy was coached by Richard Bergmann, present world champion, and has recently become engaged to Ronnie Hook, of Kent. The two make an ideal pair and we send them our good wishes. May all their conflicts take place down the white lines.

Victor Barna's life must be one of continual comings and goings. Last month it was Dublin, Cardiff and Paris all within the space of one week. However, Suzy (Mrs. Barna to you) is by no means a T.T. "widow" for she actively enters into the spirit of the game. At the Merseyside Open Mr. and Mrs. Barna took part in the mixed doubles and were knocked out in the second round only after a thrilling tussle with Benny Casofsky and Miss May.

A high French official tells us that there are no doubts about who are their top five players and these are mentioned as follows: Amouretti, Bordrez, Haguenuer, Agopoff and Diebouille. Every time it is necessary to form a French team the selectors find it embarrassing to select the three best. The opinion in

France is that unless the Americans send over some really unexpected feminine talent, then the English ladies will meet with little or no opposition at the world's championships.

Lieut. Maurice Kriss, who recently won the Lanarkshire Open and also the Murrayfield Open, has been posted to Warwick and hopes to take an active part in Midland table tennis. Incidentally he has been invited to the Irish Open as a guest of their Association.

The Macclesfield people are eager to improve the play of their promising youngsters and they desire the services of a coach for say one evening per week. Capable and interested people should apply to the Secretary, H. Hough, 3, Pownall Street, Macclesfield. Should any other league feel the same need then we shall be pleased to make an announcement, or put them in touch with the coach of their choice.

Back to Victor Barna again. (This star never seems to wane, does he?) Victor has presented a cup to the Ilford League for which the committee are exceptionally grateful. They have stated that the trophy will be known as the "Victor Barna Cup" and in future it will be awarded to the winner of the Eastern Suburban Open Men's Singles.

We hear from a Sheffield lady that while taking part in the Merseyside Open she lost part of her table-tennis attire—namely, a pair of scarlet pants . . . *well forever amber!* Will the finder help a lady in distress and return same to the Review Office, and *not* to the editor's private address.

The Liverpool people certainly know how to run a tournament for the Merseyside Open was a tremendous success. An attractive souvenir programme was produced, and these were sold at the Stadium by an equally attractive bevy of programme girls. The programme committee consisted of the Misses: M. Linder, E. Lightfoot, W. M. Dake, and E. Dake, although we noticed Liverpool's No. 1 lady player, Miss Eileen Mansell with a number of programmes in her arms. Hard luck Eileen, you might very easily have been in the playing arena with a racket in your hand. There are still a number of programmes left and should any reader require one they can be obtained from Secretary, W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 18. The price is 1s. post free. Unfortunately it cannot be arranged for a programme girl to deliver them.

During the final between Barna and Leach at the above event we sustained a number of bruises from a lady in a rear seat. The lady in question was none other than the Liverpool Secretary's wife. A tower of strength to her husband we believe, and my, my . . . what a terrific forehead smash she has.

This month's cake (if we had one to give) would go to Mr. Charles H. Evans, the new Organising Secretary at the E.T.T.A. London Office for the cheerful and pleasing atmosphere he is giving to that centre of admini-

stration. We hear from a Northern fan who visited Victoria Street that he was met with pleasant, "Good morning. What can I do for you?" We understand the difficulties of your post, Charlie, but keep that sunny disposition—it is already being appreciated.

STOP PRESS

METROPOLITAN RESULTS.

Played 4th January, 1947.

Men's Singles:—

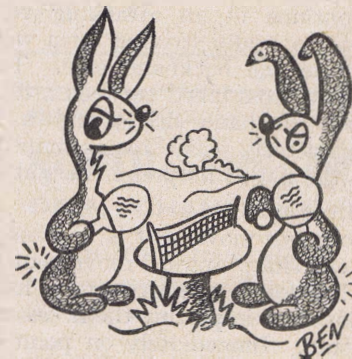
E. Bubley beat E. J. Filby

Women's Singles:—

Miss Jones beat Miss B. Steventon.

American players will arrive at Southampton on February 13th, and will tour England and N. Ireland up to the 21st. Men players are:— R. Miles, Solly Schiff, Lou Pagliaro and W. Holzrichter. Ladies:— D. Hawthorne, L. Thall, R. K. Monness and M. Clother.

Miss Vera Dace won the French Open Singles.



"Who's playing like a rabbit!"

Improve Your Game

By STANLEY PROFFITT
(English Swaythling Cup Player)

Backhand Attack.

PLAYERS like Casofsky, Leach and Filby, who rely on their forehand smashes to win them points have an entirely different stroke production for the backhand than the Barna, Lurie and Millar fraternity, who depend mostly on their backhand attack and use their forehand mainly as a supporting stroke.

It is of paramount importance that we remember to regard these two backhand shots as two distinctly different strokes. Allow me to go into each one in detail.

We will discuss first the backhand stroke adopted by those players who are mostly forehand attackers. These exponents dare not risk a "side-on" stance for a backhand which would put them out of position for quick forehand drives. Watch any expert who excels with the forehand and you will notice that the backhand, from a normal bounce, is used to create openings by out-positioning the defender, or to enable themselves to continue in an attacking vein without actually striving for a winner from the backhand side. The shot is a cross-breed between a flick and a backhand drive, and it is comparatively easy to accomplish with the net at its present height of six inches.

No finger movement is necessary, and the sharp upward movement of the bat forces the wrist to a half-turnover, so imparting the necessary top-spin. Immediately on point of impact the wrist should stiffen. The stance for execution of the shot is face-on to the table.

The stroke may be brought into play directly from the opponent's service, but remember that its chief virtues are to make way for the forehand kill.

Backhand Flick.

This is the classical Barna shot and is the mainstay of the attack of such players. The thumb is rigid and vertical on the back of the blade, and to allow greater laxity of play I am in favour of the forefinger being lowered on the contact side—a point which I know will not meet with the approval of some of my fellow internationals.

The wrist commences its movement from slightly beneath the ball, and the point of impact (for the novice) should be at the highest level of the bounce. Delay for as long as possible before starting the left-to-right flick action. Stand with the right shoulder in line with the ball and you will find that you have freedom of movement. Correct stance is important, although the backhand flick calls for little or no transfer of the body weight from foot to foot.

Make sure that your wrist executes a perfect turn-over, and follow through with the bat after impact with the ball. Try a few swishes in front of a mirror until you get the hang of it.

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*.

TWO COMPETITIONS FOR YOU

I. In our feature article, "Extracts From My Diary" we would like to include your experiences, so delve down into the past and tell us about your amusing or interesting table-tennis experience. Your letter can be of any length, either 50 words or 500, and we are offering a top-quality table tennis bat to the sender of every letter we use. We cannot enter into any correspondence on this matter, and if you wish for the return of your letter in case of rejection, then please send a stamped addressed envelope. Come along and allow your fellow readers to share that joke or T.T. thrill.

Address to: "The Competition Editor," *Table Tennis Review*. No closing date.

2. We are eager to know just what type of contributions you enjoy, and we invite you to place the following features in the order which they please you most. A prize of one guinea will be awarded to the sender whose entry agrees with the majority.

Feature	Order of Choice
Editorial (Page 1)	
Down The White Line ..	
Tournament and International Match Reports	
Extracts From My Diary	
Readers Letters	
League Brevities	
County Results and News	
News From Scotland	
News From Wales	
News From Ireland	
Diary of Events	
Instructional Articles ..	
General Articles by Leading Players	
Sender	
Address	
.....	

Johnny Leach Beats Barna

WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inevitable has now happened. Johnny Leach, England's No. 1 player succeeded in beating Victor Barna in the final of the Welsh Open played on December 14th. Johnny has made remarkable improvement during the present season and he came very near to beating the ex-world champion at the Merseyside Open. The scores given below are ample proof of the fighting spirit which Johnny possesses, and we are proud to include him as one of the contributors to *Table Tennis Review*.

RESULTS.

Men's Singles—Semi-finals:—G. V. Barna beat W. Sweetland, 21-12, 21-16; J. Leach beat R. Sharman, 21-12, 21-10.
Final:—J. Leach beat G. V. Barna, 12-21, 17-21, 21-16, 21-18, 21-7.
Men's Doubles:—G. V. Barna and G. Harrower beat P. Rumjahn and R. Sharman, 21-9, 17-21, 21-18.
Women's Singles:—Peggy Franks beat Pinkie Barnes, 21-17, 21-18.
Women's Doubles:—Peggy Franks and Vi. Patterson beat Pinkie Barnes and Audrey Bates, 21-16, 21-19.
Junior Singles:—Glyn Morgan (Port Talbot) beat W. Hobby (Aberdare), 23-21, 21-9.

Manchester & District T.T. League

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at
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Final Date for Entries, January 14th, 1947

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Victor(ious) Barna

An interview with L. WOOLLARD.

IT is always refreshing to see and talk with that great table-tennis player, Victor Barna, because he has such a contagious enthusiasm for the sport. You leave him with a determination to raise the standards of play and to double the enthusiasm of your own modest club.

I recently saw him again in a big Midlands town where he was giving a third request exhibition match with English left-handed ace, Alec Brooke.

Victor has been engaged in exhibition matches for three years now and knowing how a monotonous routine can spoil the keenness of one's game, I was curious whether he had found that exhibition play had adversely affected his match standard. It would, I am certain, ruin the play of any player of less calibre than Victor, who has not noticed any ill effects. What Barna missed most of all in the war years was tournament practice that which can never be emulated by ordinary practice methods. Apart from his exhibition play, he never feels the need for other practice, and is always in excellent form. Like most serious sportsmen, he never smokes, and drinks only in moderation.

Within the limitations of the stage, Barna has performed a great service to the cause of table tennis as opposed to "ping-pong" methods, and no embryo player who is at all observant can fail to learn something of value in technique from an exhibition match.

Moving beyond the stage exhibition match, I was naturally interested in Barna's opinion on the scope of table tennis in films and television.



He has himself taken part in films, some years ago, of course, and owing to the speed of the game the producers had to resort to slow motion. (He mentioned the interesting fact that the game is doubly fascinating to watch when seen from above, a worth-while tip to anyone designing a hall for table tennis).

The sport was successfully televised before the war and with the rapid improvements in the television world, it is highly probable that table tennis will be the ideal sport for televising, especially on account of the comparatively small playing space required.

Victor has invitations from all over the world, including most pressing ones from the U.S.A., Australia and France. Somehow I think that the 1947 World Championships at Paris will see Victor Barna present and correct, and making a determined effort to regain the title.

I understand that the United States are very keen on promoting a two-a-side between their own ace, Richard Miles and another to play

against Barna and another, possibly Bellak. If the E.T.T.A. can be induced to authorise the match, it is most likely to be held in this country, and should certainly be an outstanding match, since Richard Miles is considered by many to be the most outstanding and promising young player in the world.

Speaking of players generally, Victor (who modestly excludes himself), concurs in the expressed opinion that the American Miles appears to be the most outstanding "dark horse" for world recognition. At the same time, it should be remembered that Miles' reputation over here is based largely on hearsay, and it remains to be seen if he has the necessary stamina and temperament essential for world championship play.

The Czechoslovakian Vana, winner of the 1946 English Championship, is also, of course, a shrewd and hard fighter and will give anyone stiff opposition. At the present time, however, anything is possible, for it is highly probable that the unknown war years have produced several dark horses.

Among our English probables, Barna would unhesitatingly class Johnny Leach with his hard forehand attack, as definitely the most promising, and it would appear that there is no one new, at present anyway, who is likely to dispute the claim to Johnny's British lead.

As for the ladies, Victor is absolutely convinced that England has the strongest ladies' team in the world, comprising: Vera Dace, Elizabeth Blackbourne and Peggy Franks.

Victor Barna is one of the most charming personalities you could ever wish to meet, and unquestionably the greatest player the table-tennis world has yet known. Table tennis owes him much for his enthusi-

asm, masterly technique and maintenance of a consistently high standard.

He is too public a personality to have much private life. He was happily married in 1939 and takes whatever opportunity he can from his multifarious engagements, to get back to his wife and the comfortable house about a dozen miles from London. His wife is a player of no mean ability, but nowadays has a decided preference for friendly matches in the nearby club. Occasionally she drags Victor along, and you can well imagine the astonished disconcertment of an opponent (not knowing who he is playing), and who is proud of his own ability! Having suffered a similar experience in my earlier days, my sympathies are naturally with the unknown.

International Match

SCOTLAND v. IRELAND

IRELAND narrowly defeated Scotland by six games to five at Greenock on December 13th, but fog played a big part in deciding the match as Scotland's leading player, J. Edwards (Glasgow) was prevented from getting to Greenock in time and the reserve, S. Gillis (Dundee) had to take his place. Miss Helen Elliot also was held up by fog in coming from Edinburgh and did not arrive until the issue of the match had been settled. She, however, showed her metal and proved what a great player she is by winning all three matches in which she participated.

The mixed doubles matches were the best of the night, being very closely contested and providing some very exciting table tennis. Martin and Miss Minshull (Ireland) narrowly defeated Young and Mrs. Norrie, whilst Henderson and Miss Elliot had to go to 21-19 in the final set before defeating Mercer and Mrs. Cooper (Ireland).

Scotland were unlucky to lose, but the team had only themselves to blame for their lack of steadiness at vital stages in the game.

Is this the Forgotten Army of Table Tennis?

By H. M. EVANS.

NOW attractively advertised as the life for sport, it has to be pointed out that the call-up of the 18-year-olds into the Services will be a great setback for the future of English table tennis. No, this is not to criticise the call-up, but to draw attention to the detrimental effect it will have on our international table-tennis prospects unless a remedy is found.

At the time when many youthful players are showing good signs and just when they are in need of coaching, they are conscripted away from leagues, open tournaments and serious practice, without which they cannot improve sufficiently enough. Give youth a chance, is the cry in table tennis. Teach the game in the schools, but nothing is done about this extremely important aspect of the question. NAAFI conditions of play are usually not very good, and it is difficult to obtain coaching or to enter leagues or tournaments. Some may be lucky, others not. Internationals and players already well known in the Services have an advantage here.

Would it be too much to ask the E.T.T.A. to make arrangements so that Service players could come under coaching schemes? I know a case of a very promising young player—winner of a County Junior championship—whose play has deteriorated considerably because of his call-up and the consequent discontinuance of practice.

The young, would-be stars are as yet unknown. They are the key to our future standard. Are they to become the forgotten Army of table-tennis?

International Trials

LONDON v. MANCHESTER CLASH

THE North v. South match which is to be played on January 20th at the Manchester Y.M.C.A. is actually a contest between the two foremost table-tennis cities of the British Isles. From this match players will be chosen to take part in the final English international trials to be held in London. The London players, Johnny Leach, Jack Carrington, Geoffrey Harrower and Eli Goodman, will be seen in the final London trials, but in spite of this, the team to play in Manchester is exceptionally strong and the match result is expected to go in their favour. The teams are as follows:—

North: B. Casofsky, L. Cohen and H. Lurie.

South: E. Bubleby, R. Sharman and E. J. Filby.

In the opinion of *Table Tennis Review* we would rank the top three English players in the following order:—

Johnny Leach, Ernie Bubleby and Benny Casofsky.

In Future Issues . . .

The well-known
G. V. BARN

Winner of sixteen world titles has promised to contribute to *Table Tennis Review*.

Next Month

An instructional article by
RICHARD BERGMANN
(Present World Champion)

Continental Ideas on Future World Championships

By A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

FOR the moment managers are preoccupied with the eventual reorganisation of the International Federation and the plans of Mr. Montague (England) with regard to the suppression of world championships.

Mr. Montague points out that the world champion is the player who is the winner of a given tournament and that the same player may the following day accept a decline and reveal himself far from being the best. He concludes that it is better to do away with world championships and let each country which can do so, organise international championships, which would lead to the consideration as world champion the winner of the national tournament organised by the nation which had the most perfect organisation.

This method, which is absolutely similar to tennis, does not appear to have a chance of pleasing the nations of the continent. Almost all the countries seem opposed to this method. They quite see the advantage to England in making the international champion of England a champion of the world, but they do not understand the advantage which they themselves would have.

Moreover they point out that the title of world champion would not be better born on the head of the international champion of England, than on the head of a champion selected by the present method, one or the other might lose his form the day after. It is the same in all sports, and is not a case peculiar to table tennis. *The champion is the*

one who has known how to win on the day it was necessary to do so.

The U.S.A. are to send their representatives to Europe in order to dispute the present world championships, and it is probable that they will want the right to stage the world's event themselves. When that moment arrives it will be necessary to send from Europe and Africa a large number of players as far as the U.S.A., and that is a prospect which is not very agreeable in view of the poverty of all our European federations. However, the difficulty must be overcome.

Here also table tennis finds itself before a situation which all the other world sports have known, or are going to know. It is quite evident that the European countries will not be able to delegate to America as many effectives as they send to Paris, London or to Prague. These are the present preoccupations of continental managers and the matter will be discussed at length at the future congress in Paris.

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Extracts from My Diary

By ARTHUR WAITE
(The Editor)

WHAT a pleasure it was to play exhibition table tennis a few years before the war to a crowd of people who had never seen the open style before. (I refer to this last war, of course. I'm not that old!).

We did not receive payment for our services in those days, but one particular annual exhibition which was always enjoyed was a Garden Fete, held in the grounds of a large orphanage situated just outside Manchester. Once a year the orphanage people organised a lavish affair to raise funds and celebrities from here and there were invited to entertain the public.

In addition to the usual side-shows, there was a professional boxing display, an exhibition of goal-keeping by a leading footballer, and music supplied by radio personalities. Dancing took place in the open. The table tennis exhibitions, given by Hymie Lurie, Fred Cromwell, C. W. Davies and myself took place in the same hall as the Flower Show. (I never could remember just how many prize blooms "Dibs" Davies accounted for with his forehand smash.)

I think we gave three sessions of table tennis, punctuated by a walk around the pleasant grounds, a few shies at the cocoanuts, an ice or two, and then back for more table tennis. Yes it was all very enjoyable and quite pleasing to our vanity to have our fans waiting on the front row for each exhibition. We regarded ourselves as top of the bill until one particular year we had a rude shock.

A special tent had been set aside and this was known as the "Autograph Tent." It was here that the

public could have their programmes autographed by the various artists, which you will agree was quite a novel idea to help to swell the funds. We were there, of course, outwardly putting on a nonchalant air, but inwardly as pleased as punch. Inside the tent was a price-list for the various autographs. Another good idea you'll admit. At the top of the list was a famous radio personality, price 1s. 6d. Then came the professional boxer for 1s., followed by the footballer at 9d. and a local beauty queen at 6d. The table-tennis players. . . . well, we were grouped at the bottom and offered at a special bargain price of four for threepence!

At the recent Merseyside Championships I met once again our old friend, Ken Hyde. (One bumped into dozens of old acquaintances at that particular event, and the conversation usually began with, "Are you married? Any family?")

As many readers know, Ken Hyde was one of this country's foremost players in pre-war years. I hear that he is still as good as ever, but his business activities will not allow him to indulge in too much table tennis. Ken and I began to talk of old times and one of the first incidents he mentioned was one that occurred during a team-of-three knock-out contest held at Runcorn. (Queer little place Runcorn! To Liverpool and Manchester players the only means of access was by means of a huge cage suspended high up on a kind of bridge and which transported you across a canal and a river).

However, this particular tournament was held in a church hall and

as tournaments usually do it dragged on until the hour was late. At midnight the final match between a Manchester team and a Runcorn team composed of the three Hyde Brothers, was still to be played. Quite a number of enthusiastic spectators were left but the Church Hall caretaker would not allow us to play one minute after twelve, which would have meant playing on a Sunday!

There was no other course left open but to finish the match in a nearby clubroom, which was situated on the other side of the Church graveyard. The club did not boast of a table-tennis table which meant that one had to be taken from the tournament hall.

Can you picture that scene? The hour was past midnight and the remainder of Runcorn had been wrapped in sleep for the past three

or four hours. Those stones of remembrance stood up grey and shadowy as a number of young people, clad in table tennis attire moved softly between the graves of bygone people, carrying their precious burden which measured nine by five. A graveyard at midnight in most towns is an eerie place, but I can assure you that a graveyard in Runcorn has a particular spell of its own. We spoke in whispers and crept stealthily to our destination.

Eventually the tournament was finished. The visiting team and its supporters had to find what accommodation it could. I did hear later that one particular fan was not very successful in this respect, and as a last resort spent the night at the police station. I wonder what a Runcorn police station is like? Ah well, they were happy days.

World Championships

WE propose to arrange a *Table Tennis Review* party to visit the World Championships at Paris during the week, March 1st to March 8th. The trip will commence from London, returning to London and will be organised by Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd.

The eliminating rounds of the contest will be played in the rooms of the Racing Club of France (North-West district of Paris) and the finals will be held at the Palace of Sports (in the Eiffel Tower district).

When in Paris each member of the party will of course, be free to his or her own devices and the championships need not be visited every day. We feel that this will be a memorable holiday which should not be missed.

If you are interested, send a stamped addressed envelope for a descriptive leaflet. Address: *Table Tennis Review* Office.

BROMFIELD



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News from Scotland

HIGH hopes are entertained for the success of the Women's team in the next round of the Europe Cup to be played against Switzerland at Geneva, on January 9th, and Helen Elliot, Mrs. Norrie and Betty Pithie have been putting in plenty of hard practice.

Lieut. Maurice Kriss, of Glasgow Jewish Institute was in outstanding form in winning the first two open tournaments of the Scottish season. In the Murrayfield tournaments he won both the singles and doubles, defeating E. Reay (Sunderland) in the singles and with Peter Coia (Hamilton Cross) beating J. A. T. Brown and R. R. Young (Inverleith) in the doubles. In the Lanarkshire Singles Championships he overcame a strong entry of Scots and Irish players without losing a set, defeating H. O'Prey the Irish internationalist in the semi-final and J. Edwards, the Scottish internationalist in the final.

Preparations made for the Scottish Championships this season are on the largest scale yet attempted, and the finals in Glasgow on February 14th and 15th should provide plenty of exciting table tennis. G. R. Harrower and Miss Helen Elliot are expected to defend their singles titles and are likely to be strongly challenged by players from both sides of the Border and from Ireland.

Entrants from outside Scotland or from outlying districts will not require to play until Friday, February 14th, but all other matches in the eliminating competitions will be played during the first week of February. Entries close on January 24th, and forms can be obtained from the Tournament Secretary, Mr. R. W. Stewart, C.A., 45, Hope Street, Glasgow, C. 2, or from local league secretaries.

Resignations

Mr. Walter Berry, Hon. General Secretary of the Manchester and District League has resigned owing to family ill-health. His place has been taken for the time being by Mr. Leslie Jones. Leslie was on the Management Committee of the Manchester League for a number of years before the war, his public activities dating back to 1929. Leslie Jones is a member of the present English Selection Committee.

Western Counties League

"CLOSED" CHAMPIONSHIPS, FINALS

MEN'S SINGLES:—A. W. C. Simons (Bristol) beat D. B. Shipton (Bristol), 21-13, 21-11, 18-21, 21-11.

MEN'S DOUBLES:—A. Narduzzo and W. Wharton (Newport) beat F. W. Hipkins and C. A. Pickett (Bristol), 21-13, 17-21, 21-19.

WOMEN'S SINGLES:—Miss M. Jones (Gloucester) beat Miss A. Bates (Cardiff), 22-20, 18-21, 21-18, 22-20.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES:—Mrs. H. R. Evans and Miss A. Bates (Cardiff) beat Miss M. Jones (Gloucester) and Miss E. L. Mason (Bristol), 17-21, 21-17, 21-17.

JUNIOR SINGLES:—R. Griffin (Cheltenham) beat N. Parker (Cardiff), 21-14, 21-16.

LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES

MEN'S SECTION:—Swindon 8, Bath 3; Birmingham 5, Bristol 6; Gloucester 3, Newport 8; Bath 0, Birmingham 11; Cardiff 10, Swindon 1; Swindon 9, Gloucester 2; Cheltenham 1, Birmingham 10; Newport 4, Cardiff 7.

	Pld.	Won	Lst.	Pts.
Cardiff	4	4	0	8
Swindon	6	4	2	8
Birmingham ..	4	3	1	6
Bristol	2	2	0	4
Newport	3	2	1	4
Cheltenham .. .	3	0	3	0
Bath	4	0	4	0
Gloucester .. .	4	0	4	0

WOMEN'S SECTION:—Bristol 0, Birmingham 11; Cardiff 8, Swindon 3; Bristol 10, Bath 1.

Bristol	3	2	1	4
Cardiff	3	2	1	4
Birmingham ..	1	1	0	2
Swindon	2	1	1	2
Bath	3	0	3	0

Another resignation is that of Mr. S. Precious, Secretary of the Essex Table Tennis Association, who has been compelled to give up his post owing to business reasons. His place is being taken by the well-known William J. Parker. Mr. Parker is planning to extend the membership of the Association, and any unattached leagues should apply to him, address, 37, Hamilton Avenue, Barking-side, Essex. County matches are to be arranged and a Closed Championships.

Make the Best of Bad Conditions

By JOHNNY LEACH

(England's No. 1 Player)

INFERIOR playing conditions affect the first-class player more so than the beginner or average player because the international times the ball and anticipates so accurately that he takes his shots for granted, whereas a beginner, not being so advanced, misses so many shots that he is not so surprised and worried when huffing shots through bad conditions.

Bad conditions occur so often in the rounds of a tournament that the only sure way of making the best of a bad job is to prepare oneself for inferior conditions, in other words, *practice* until you are able to adjust your game according to the facilities available. This, I agree, is easier said than done. You can easily be put off your game if the lighting is too dull or if you are playing on an inferior table, or if there is insufficient run back, or if you are playing with an oblong ball (which is so common these days).

Table tennis is undoubtedly one of the very few games where nearly all the people who partake in the sport say at some time or other, "I'm giving up this game, I'm too old for it" . . . "I'm going to *scratch*" . . . "I'm certainly not playing under these conditions" . . . and many more phrases, yet they know in their hearts that if there is a table within the vicinity, however ramshackle or delapidated it is, wild horses couldn't keep them away from it.

When I turned up at one of this seasons tournaments I found conditions just as bad as they could be.



I felt rather downcast and wanted to scratch from the contest in disgust. I felt that I would never be able to concentrate and put enough fighting spirit into my game in order to win. I felt brownd off, until I overheard part of a conversation which went something like this:

"Yes Bill, I agree with you that the conditions are pretty awful, but I can tell you this much, the best man will win."

On hearing this I realised how right they were. It is only natural that you can never play your best under inferior conditions; but all the other players are in the same boat, so train yourself in such a way that when you are competing under trying circumstances you will never lose heart. Even when your shots are going astray, concentrate more than you normally do, control your play, don't take too many risks, and above all, *watch the ball* like a hawk.

League Brevities

ASHTON

Under the efficient secretaryship of Mr. N. Cook, the Ashton and District League staged a Northern international trial match on December 6th. The hall was packed to capacity and a good number had to be turned away. Leading players in the Ashton League are: L. Hill, W. Caplan, C. H. Renshaw and J. Millington. C. H. Renshaw is to be congratulated on his two victories in a recent match against a Manchester team.

ALTRINCHAM AND SALE

In a league match last month between St. Margarets (Altrincham) and Waterpark (Manchester), R. Beddows succeeded in beating Leslie Cohen the international. Up to the time of going to press R. Beddows is unbeaten, and it is hoped that in the near future he will be chosen for the County side.

BLACKPOOL

Rapid progress is being made by the Blackpool League which is now able to field a very strong ladies' team, the top players being the Misses: K. Benson and P. Allen. Miss L. Ogden is quite a good player, but she needs to develop a big match temperament.

BRIGHTON

The league match with Chelmsford played last month at Brighton resulted in a good win for the home team, the score being 14 sets to 1 set. The teams were mixed, and the Brighton side included: C. Seaman, G. B. Fretwell, Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Chapman, all of whom are seasoned local tournament players, and also two promising players, Messrs. Jacobs and Gershman. The Chelmsford team included: G. C. Wheeler, a past Brighton player who showed that he had lost none of his old form. Despite the one-sided result the play was keen and interesting.

BOLTON SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Bolton S.S. are to stage the Lancashire v. Middlesex match, which is to be played next March, and ambitious plans are

already in progress. Secretary, George Dickinson, is eager to give the public a really big helping of modern table tennis. In league matches Bolton Lad's Club lead "A" division undefeated, as do St. Matthews' in "B" division. The Lad's Club Junior team top the Junior division

EXETER

Exeter league have applied for permission to stage the West of England Championships in Exeter, on either March 22nd or 29th. Final date and venue will be announced later. Over fifty teams are participating in five sections, and the leading teams and players are as follows:—

- Division 1 (Emmanuel M.C.)—F. G. Grigg.
- Division 1 (Exeter Y.M.C.A. "A")—L. R. Suter.
- Division 2 (Exeter Community C. "B")—C. Thornton.
- Division 2 (Civil Service "A")—J. Thompson.
- Division 2 (Civil Service "B")—W. Harris.
- Division 2 (St. Thomas Meth. "A")—W. James and R. Channon.
- Division 3 ("E and E" S.C.)—R. Dunstan.
- Division 3 (Exeter Y.M.C.A. "C")—E. Rickard.
- Division 3 (Old Grammarians)—K. Milford.
- Women's—County (Exeter) "A"—Miss Blackburn.
- Women's County (Exeter)—Mrs. Crosby.
- YOUTH SECTION:—
- Mint Y.C.—W. Wallond.
- 4th Exeter B.B.—R. Boulton.
- St. Thomas Meth.—G. Channon.

HASTINGS

Closed championships are to be held on January 25th, and this will include all events. A dance is to be held on January 15th in order to raise funds and provide prizes for the championships. Tickets can be obtained from the Secretary, D. Tyler, 1, York Buildings, Hastings. Early in February it is hoped to arrange an inter-town match with Eastbourne (away)

followed by a return match in Hastings at a later date.

MACCLESFIELD

In the Wilmot Cup, Macclesfield beat Southport by 5 sets to 2. Two hundred people witnessed the Macclesfield v. Bolton match staged in the Macclesfield Town Hall, in which Bolton won 6-3. Macclesfield is to lose its men's singles champion, J. S. Barker, who is going to reside in Burnley. In the Lancashire County trials to be held on January 4th at the Manchester Y.M.C.A. the following players have been chosen from Macclesfield: D. S. Heaps, R. Forster, Mrs. D. Whiting and Mrs. M. Corbishley.

English internationals are to visit Macclesfield on Tuesday evening, January 14th and 300 people are expected.

SITTINGBOURNE

The Kent Open Championships are to be held at the Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay, Kent, on Sunday, January 26th. This is a one-day tournament, play commencing at 10 a.m. on at least twelve tables. Secretary's address: F. G. Mannooch, "Corbiere," 161, Borden Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent.

For Your 1947 Diary

- Jan. 11.—Yorkshire Open (Bradford)
- 14.—Middlesex v. Surrey (Willesden).
- 13-18.—West of Scotland Open (Glasgow).
- 18.—England v. Ireland (Liverpool).
- 20.—English Trials—North v. South (Manchester).
- 25.—North of England Open (Manchester).
- 25.—Wales v. England (Cardiff).
- 26.—Kent Open (Herne Bay).
- Feb. 1.—East of Scotland Open (Singles) (Edinburgh).
- 1.—Middlesex v. Lancashire (Uxbridge).
- 1.—Hampshire Open (Bournemouth).
- 4.—Ulster Open (Belfast).
- 8.—East of Scotland Open (Doubles) (Edinburgh).
- 8.—Midland Open (Birmingham).
- 13-15.—Scottish National Championships (Hamilton).
- 15.—Surrey and S. England Open.
- 22.—Ireland v. Wales (Cork).
- 22.—Bristol Open (Bristol).
- Mar. 1.—Lancs. Close Teams of Three Comp. (Colne).

February 28 to March 7

- WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS (Paris)
- Mar. 10-15.—ENGLISH OPEN (Wembley).
- 19-22.—Irish Open (Dublin).
- 22.—London Open (London).
- 29.—Lancashire v. Middlesex (Bolton).
- 29.—Grimsby Open (Grimsby).
- Apl. 5.—N.E. Yorkshire Open (Filey).
- 19.—Cheshire Open (Wallasey).
- May 3.—Buckinghamshire Open (Buckingham).
- 10.—Wembley Open (Wembley).

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TABLE MANNERS—By CAVIARE.

It is the board room table, round which the committee has assembled in solemn conclave. What manner of men are these? Do they speak their minds, or mind their speeches? How many grind their teeth because others have axes to grind? How many have become permanent fixtures?

Is the meeting for progress, or just another in progress? Is everything open and above board, or are the tit-bits kept carefully "under the counter"?

Administrators aim to improve the lot of table tennis, there is such a lot to improve.

NEWS from WALES

AT the commencement of the New Year a little stock taking seems indicated. From an administrative point of view, we have enjoyed continued success. The game is spreading rapidly, and hitherto unorganised areas are eagerly joining the parent body. For reasons of geography, Wales has always been a difficult area to administer for any game. The mountainous and sparsely-populated centre constitutes a serious obstacle to easy development, and it is therefore, most gratifying to establish affiliation in places like Aberystwyth and Pembroke Dock.

In the North, ex-international, Horace Needles and his wife are trying very hard to revive enthusiasts in an area that was once very thriving.

Under the inspired leadership of secretary, Jack Beynon, Swansea are improving rapidly, and Eastern Valleys, too, have increased in strength.

In the Rhymney Valley there is great enthusiasm. Their home games are supported by very large crowds, many of whom also travel to the away games.

Both Aberdare and Newport have plenty of talent and should produce stars of the future. Barry are not so fortunate and success comes slowly, but I am sure that secretary Mitchell's efforts will one day be rewarded.

The position in Cardiff is peculiar. Cardiff now finds itself with a Western Counties side capable of making a bold bid for the Championship, but with a Welsh League side that is being beaten much too often.

Their participation in the Welsh League will not bring Penarth the regard they had hoped for unless they can quickly train their youngsters to take the places of men whose day is definitely done.

Amongst the women it is difficult to find anything to bring immediate hope. Newport women are developing along the wrong lines, and only in Cardiff and Swansea is there much promise. Unfortunately, however, new players have not come as quickly as we should have liked, and, Audrey Bates, Jean Beer, Bery Jones and Betty Gray have much to learn yet.

Mrs. H. ROY EVANS,
Gen. Sec., Welsh T.T. Association.

Lancashire League

NOTES AND RESULTS.

In the men's match between Crewe and Manchester "A," W. Rigby, of Crewe played consistently well, beating both his opponents. St. Helen's have a strong side which includes one of the North's most promising youngsters, K. Tirebuck. In the St. Helen's v. Southport match, W. Grundy, of St. Helens played exceedingly well, producing a good backhand attack in addition to some clever strategy.

D. S. Heaps, of Macclesfield is playing even better than he did in pre-war days, and his two wins against the Manchester "B" team gave his side the victory. When the score stood at four each, D. S. Heaps beat W. Gray with a score of 21-18 in the third game.

In the ladies' match between St. Helens and Blackpool, Miss A. Saunders was in good form for St. Helens, and her defeat of Miss K. Benson was the best game of the evening. Miss Benson, of Blackpool, however, showed good form in her other games.

MATCH RESULTS

MENS' LEAGUES

<i>Central :</i>			
Radcliffe	8	Bolton S.S. ..	1
Altrincham & Sale	8	Urmston	1
Urmston	1	Manchester ..	8
Radcliffe	5	Altrincham ..	4
Urmston	0	Bolton S.S. ..	9
Altrincham	8	Radcliffe	1
<i>South-West :</i>			
Southport	2	Liverpool "A" ..	7
Crewe	2	Manchester "A" ..	7
St. Helens	6	Southport	3
Liverpool "A" ..	1	Manchester "A" ..	8
Chester	3	Liverpool	6
Crewe	1	St. Helen's ..	8
<i>South-East :</i>			
Manchester "B" ..	4	Macclesfield ..	5
Stockport	5	Manchester "B" ..	4
Ashton	5	Manchester "B" ..	5
Macclesfield ..	7	Oldham	2
<i>Youths :</i>			
Manchester	9	Urmston	0
Crewe	1	St. Helen's ..	8
Manchester	8	Stockport	1

LADIES' LEAGUES.

<i>Lancashire :</i>			
St. Helen's	3	Blackpool	6
Blackpool	5	Manchester	4
Liverpool "A" ..	8	Southport	1
Liverpool "A" ..	6	Manchester "A" ..	3
<i>Cheshire :</i>			
Stockport	0	Crewe	9

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