

Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 2 No. 3

AUTUMN, 1947

OCTOBER-DECEMBER



Articles by

**RICHARD
BERGMANN**

**STANLEY
PROFFITT**

**HELEN
ELLIOT**

★

*Hints
on Tactics*

★

*Forming
a League*

and many other
Interesting Features





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TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

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Vol. 2 No. 3

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1947

One Shilling

Many Happy Returns

THIS season marks the twenty-first anniversary of the English Table Tennis Association, and it certainly looks like being a bumper season. They have been twenty-one glorious years and I am proud to say that I was an affiliated member right from the start.

In 1925/26 the old "Table Tennis Association" decided to redraft its constitution and at a National Delegate Conference in London, on April 24th, 1927, the new E.T.T.A. was formed. The first Chairman was the Hon. Ivor Montague and I am sure all readers would like me to thank Mr. Montague on their behalf for the tremendous amount of work he has put into the game. I know of no other person who has such an amazing all-round knowledge of table tennis. He is not only a capable administrator, but a very invaluable authority on playing technique. His views at any Selection Committee meeting must be respected by all, for he has done much to put English table tennis in top world class.

We know of so many officials who regard table tennis administration as a kind of hobby, and though they are efficient and keen workers, their knowledge of the game itself is very slight. And so, when we have a person of Mr. Montague's abilities we must be truly grateful that he so willingly gives much of his time to officiate in the positions of Chairman of the E.T.T.A. and President of the International T.T. Federation. Thank you, Mr. Montague, and may you be with us another twenty-one years.

Our thanks and best wishes must also go to hard-working Mr. W. J. Pope, Hon. Secretary of the E.T.T.A., who was the first Secretary back in 1927. Many table tennis fans know Bill as a bit of a "war-horse," but truly a very willing "war-horse" and one who has the game very much to heart. Bill has shed blood, tears and sweat for table tennis and we are not without our gratitude.

Many happy returns, E.T.T.A. And thanks to all you other workers of past and present years, we will be naming you in a future issue.

THE EDITOR.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

BEFORE leaving for the States after a stage tour of Sweden, Denmark and Holland, Laslo Bellak spent a few days in England staying with his old friends the Barna's. A few weeks later Victor Barna packed his bags for a short visit to see his people in Budapest. It is eight years since Victor last visited Hungary.

Guest of honour at the official re-opening of the Manhattan T.T. Club, Whitechapel was Al Phillips, the famous featherweight boxer. Thousands of fans gathered around the entrance hours before the time of opening in the hope of catching just a glimpse of their favourite, but Al arrived long before the crowd began to collect. Later in the evening the boxer played a challenge game against Ernie Bublely, be-gloved and left-handed international, and took his beating, like a man. At the end of the match Phillips challenged Ernie to a return bout in the ring—an offer which was courteously declined. The featherweight is an old Manhattan member. We hear that Ernie Bublely is practising hard and that he says, "With the new service rule I will be able to give a better account of myself against certain players of world class."

Gwen Mace, one of the keenest of all lady players has been putting in some hard work at the table during the quiet months of the summer and we expect her to give a good account of herself this coming season.

The press is becoming more and more table tennis minded. In addition to future regular articles by Billy Hicks (*News Chronicle*), Alec Brook (*Sunday Empire News*), Victor Barna (*Sporting Record*), Stanley Proffit (*Sunday Chronicle*) and Sam Kirkwood (*Sporting World*), weekly articles will be written in the *London Evening News* by Richard Bergmann. Bergmann is also busy working on a small instructional book on table tennis which should appear shortly.

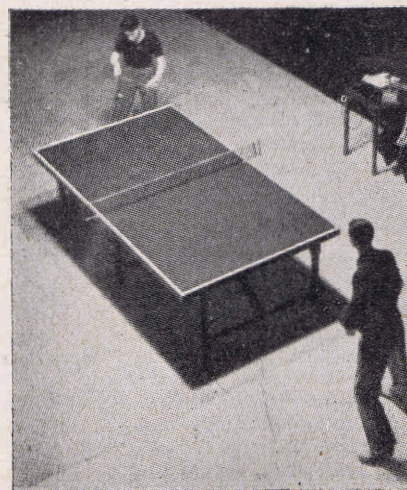
Under the headline, "Life Risked for Table Tennis Bat," a London local paper carried this report: "Ignoring pleas from his uncle to leave everything and get out before it would be too late, he went on searching for his table tennis bat after the mobile canteen in which he was working burst into flames." One can only congratulate the gentleman in question on not having had a table to rescue!

"Bergmann is playing better than ever, and is determined to regain his world title. I think he will, too." Thus opines Jack Glickman, current holder of the three Kent Open titles and a very experienced player who knows the game as well as anyone. Jack has been practising regularly with Richard, and states that the ex-champion has developed a highly powerful backhand smash. If that's the case, then Vana is headed for trouble at Wembley next February.

In view of their last season's unfortunate experiences (see *Table Tennis Review*, Summer issue) the Exeter League, who have joined the Western Counties League for the coming season, may possibly give the Wilmot Cup and Rose Bowl events the go-bye this term. The Exeter League now have a record number of 56 teams, organiser of one of these teams being C. W. Davies, international and ex-Manchester star.

Back from the Forces is Morrie Philips, pre-war Kent open singles champion. Philips is to resume partnership with Glickman—the pair won many titles together before the war, including the London doubles. In the absence of Morrie, Glickman had teamed with Ronnie Hook, the Surrey player. Ron will now have to find another partner.

Pictured below are Bergmann and Vana. These two are nearly sure to meet again this season—what will happen? Any bets floating around?



Mr. L. M. Bromfield has tendered his resignation from the North Middlesex League, after a fifteen years' connection. He is taking up residence in Worthing. The newly formed Sussex Association should gain a keen worker.

Two new Englishmen are now available for the Swaythling Cup team, namely, Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann. One of our readers, a Mr. Watts, of Southport writes to say, "I fail to see why the English Swaythling Cup team this year should not include, Barna, Bergmann and Leach. It is our only real chance of winning, and it is about time England won something in modern sport." Well, that is certainly one point of view, but it is not as easy as all that, and while we certainly welcome Victor and Richard as Englishmen and will give them a warm welcome wherever they go, the thought of winning the Swaythling Cup with their assistance has a kind of bitter sweet taste. This is a very controversial matter and one which will cause a good deal of argument, and we should very much like to hear the views of our readers.

Richard Bergmann and Bohumil Vana were all set for an Indian tour when a wire was received cancelling the engagement. In view of the internal strife in India their hosts were unable to afford them complete protection. We now hear that Bergmann is now open for English tour engagements, his partner being Johnny Leach.

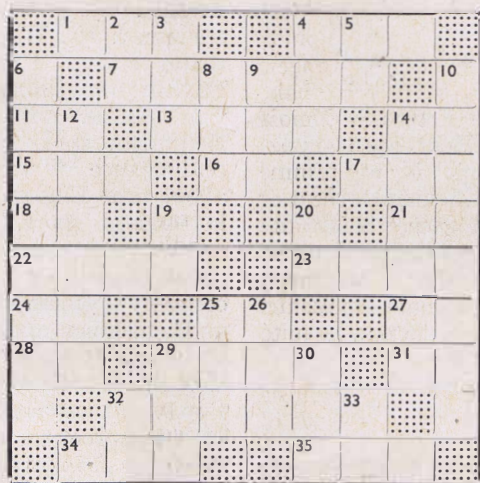
Cover Photograph

International Table Tennis Finals of the English Open Championships, Empire Pool, Wembley.
E. J. Filby and Miss D. Beregi
winners of the mixed doubles Finals

CROSSWORD COMPETITION



A prize of one guinea will be awarded to the sender of the first all-correct solution opened on December 22nd. The closing date for entries is December 20th, and envelopes should be marked "Crossword Competition," and addressed to TABLE TENNIS REVIEW, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3.



CLUES—ACROSS :

1. Short for professional.
4. Direction.
7. "Helen of Scotland."
11. Since.
13. Former Yorkshire pen-holder player now living in London.
14. New Zealand (abbrev.).
15. Distilled Spirit.
16. Preposition (used quite often in T.T.).
17. Shade of green.
18. Lord Lieutenant (abbrev.).
21. Very well-known abbreviation for "Confined to Barracks."
22. Christian name of one of the leading Czechs.
23. Collection of facts.
24. Addressed envelope (abbrev.).
25. Per pro. (abbrev.).
27. Anno Domini (abbrev.).
28. Roving reporter's initials.
29. Face with index.
31. Behead 1 across.
32. One of last season's new caps—connected with cream and cider.
34. Container.
35. Change ends at . . .

CLUES—DOWN :

2. Royal Engineers (abbrev.).
3. We would like to play T.T. when we are this.
4. A game is never lost until it is . . .
5. Preposition.
6. Great little American.
8. "Thompson" is the name—he's been around a bit.
9. It's possible that "7 across" would know a boy with this christian name.
10. We associate him with Barna and Bellak.
12. Most trophies are made of this.
14. Drink of the Gods.
19. One.
20. Doctor of Medicine.
25. Where coal comes from.
26. Preceded by "25 down," describes game between two chisellers.
29. You can't play T.T. seriously when there's one nearby.
30. Called by umpire.
32. Part of Tonic Sol-Fa.
33. North-East (abbrev.).

The Service Rule

The present new method of serving has been enforced in U.S.A. since 1940, and in this article a prominent U.S. table tennis personality gives some impressions of how it came to be adopted.

by

FREDERICK J. CLOUTHER

*(Former President of the U.S.T.T.A.,
Member of Board of Regents)*



OVER the years there has been much discussion on services in table tennis. When finger-spin first came into use many serious students of the game thought that it would lead to its downfall. Their opinion was based on the fact that finger-spin services were found to make matches very uninteresting to most spectators and to many players. Indeed, it was hardly entertaining to see a player stand at one end of the table and serve five times and watch his opponent miss each service. Maybe, at first, and at intervals, such a spectacle was amusing, but in the long run it became quite monotonous.

It was equally if not more disgusting to players, who had the basis of a good game and had not mastered finger-spin services to attempt to play against such tactics. One of our National Champions was defeated in a major tournament by an unknown player who had perfected a series of baffling finger-spin services. It only added to the disgust of all when it was discovered that this player had little or no game to go with the services. Finger-spin service was eventually outlawed by the U.S.T.T.A., and a fine indication of the value of this act was shown when the I.T.T.F. followed suit. However, many players began to devise ways and means of "getting around the rule."

At first, players were satisfied to try and disguise the spin on their services by much gesticulating and waving of the arms. That led to many other and varied means of fooling the opponent. From there, players moved to flagrant violations

of the rule by sneaking in finger-spin services at crucial points. As the average umpire was incompetent to handle service situations it became apparent that the rule could not be enforced. Because all lovers of the sport believed that victory should go to the better player, and because they felt that the service is only one phase of many parts that are the equal of the game, the stressing of service superiority was deplored.

In 1940, the U.S.T.T.A. Executive Committee adopted, after much discussion, the present service rule. Frank Yetter, Chairman of the Rules Committee at the time, deserves much credit for writing, introducing and fighting for the adoption of this rule, which was honestly opposed by many officials and players of the game, including myself.

The serve should be used only to get the ball into play, and under this rule that becomes a fact. In addition the umpire no longer has to worry about the various interpretations of the old rule, but becomes a judge of fact and not the expressor of an opinion as in the past. The direct result of this rule is the reduction of points being won outright by service. The player actually finds it necessary to play for the point instead of deceiving his opponent into error.

That Foreign Bogey

ISN'T it grand to look back on last season's performances. The battle scars we left in Paris have accomplished much towards killing that mythical "foreign bogey." Our famous trio, Misses Dace, Blackburn and Franks, and also the menfolk ably led by Johnny Leach, pushed English prestige high up the international ladder.

Far too many critics appear to take pleasure in bemoaning the fact that British sport is at a low ebb, but I know that this country has unlimited talent if it can only be groomed and encouraged. I feel certain that our sport will be the first to show how it should be done.

The overseas giants are on the wane and we must grasp the opportunity now to produce not just one World Champion, but a team of world beaters.

During the past score of years English table tennis has been living under the cloud of foreign domination. There has always been that feeling of inferiority—a complex which was much of our own making. Can you recall those scenes some fifteen years ago when foreign celebrities invaded our shores? As soon as the continental train steamed alongside the platform, officials surged forward to welcome the visitors. Cameras flashed and there was a period of cheek kissing, after which the foreign stars were ushered into a fleet of taxi-cabs which took them to spacious hotels which were ablaze with emblems of the nations they represented. The evening papers gave these stars more space in one edition than they gave to local stars during the whole season, and as each hour passed the foreigner's feeling of superiority increased still more. The battle was

by

**STANLEY
PROFFITT**

*(English
Swaythling
Cup
Player)*



almost lost without a shot being fired.

In contrast take a look at the other side of the scene. A work-a-day English player had many trials and tribulations before he took his stance at the opposite side of the table. Can you visualise our contestant scrutinizing each photograph and reading the glamourised reports in the Press? His day was not lightened by the chaffing of his workmates who had read the Press articles on these foreign aces. Before the end of the day was reached the mere mention of an opponents name was sufficient to send "butterflies" rushing to his tummy. Then came the rush to get home allowing time for a hurried meal, followed by a wait in perhaps drenching rain for a bus to take him to the hall of play. (Meanwhile our visitors were dining at their leisure and being conveyed to the place of combat in comfortable cars.) Do you wonder that when our players reached the table they were unable to give such good accounts of themselves.

The picture is rapidly changing. The inferiority complex is disappearing, and our players, particularly the girls, are winning honour for themselves in their own country. Ring in season 1947/48. Let it mark the turning of the tide.

The Coming World Championships

By W. J. POPE

(Hon. Secretary English T.T. Association).

THE World Championships come to London again, a lot having happened in the world and to the game, since they were last here in season 1938-1939. It was only after a considerable amount of discussion that a decision was arrived at to run the Championships here again and it was realised that it will require a considerable amount of effort and loyal support from our members all over the country to make them a success.

We are very pleased that we have been able to obtain the Wembley Pool and Sports Arena again for the events and it speaks much for the confidence the Wembley Authorities have in our game that they have agreed to cancel all their fixtures so as to let us have the use of the Pool for the whole of the eight days from Wednesday, February 4th, to Wednesday, February 11th, 1948.

It is possible that it will be the Finals of the Swaythling Cup and Corbillon Cup competitions, which will be played on Saturday, February 7th, 1948, and there will be important games in the afternoon that day also. The Finals of the individual and doubles events will probably be played on Wednesday, February 11th, 1948.

It is already clear that there will be entries from nearly every Table Tennis country and it is anticipated that 30 nations will take part.

There will be three sessions every day with the exception of Thursday, February 5th, when play will not take place in the evening, and I am not able, at the moment, to give you prices of admission to each separate session. It has been decided, however, that a number of season

tickets shall be issued to our members at the price of 25/- for the whole of the events. These will provide seats at each event and also be "rover" tickets for each event, except the "peak" nights on the 7th and 11th February, when the tickets will be for a reserved seat only. The season ticket will be composed of separate sections for each separate session, and *they will be transferable.*

It is appreciated that our members will not be able to attend every session, but as the tickets can be transferred to fellow-players, and friends and relations, this makes it a very cheap proposition for the "fans." It is uncertain, at the moment, how many of these special season tickets will be available, but they can be supplied at once, on receipt of the sum of 25/-. Twenty-five shillings for 20 sessions is really a bargain for our players, and we hope there will be a tremendous demand for these special tickets.

We are again taking part in the Europe Cup competition and are arranging the usual International matches with Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Leagues throughout the country are becoming more and more interested in running these matches and in future they will be regularly allocated to various parts of the country. We shall be interested to hear from Leagues who are willing to consider running international events and to have particulars of halls available, with estimated accommodation for spectators and estimated attendance. It is, of course, good for the game that these representative matches should "go around."

NEWS from IRELAND

By DONALD HILL

At the annual general meeting of the Irish Table Tennis Association the following officers were elected for the coming season.

President: F. McKee (Ulster).
Vice-Presidents: Messrs. N. M. Kemp (Leinster) and R. Greer (Ulster).
Chairman: W. H. Leadbetter (Leinster).
Hon. Secretary: Norman M. Wilson, 128, Sandown Road, Belfast.
Hon. Treasurer: A. P. MacKay (Leinster).

The officials for the Leinster Branch are: **Chairman,** W. Lanigan. **Hon-Secretary,** M. Brazil, 15, Abbeyfield, Killester, Dublin. **Hon. Treasurer,** A. Shiel.

Mr. Brazil has done splendid work for the Dublin and District League, and his new appointment is a popular one.

The Irish Open Championships are to be held at Belfast during the week March 27th, 1948, while the Leinster Open Championships are to be played in Dublin, the probable dates being December 2nd to 6th, 1947.

Ireland will enter a men's team in the European Cup, and both a men's and women's team in the Swaythling Cup which is to be played in London in February next.

Irish Review—Season 1946-47

Irish Open Singles.—I. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia), Miss V. Dace (England).

Ulster Open.—I. Martin (Belfast), Miss C. Egan (Dublin).

Leinster Open.—V. G. Barna (Hungary), Miss V. Dace (England).

Irish Close.—V. Mercer (Belfast), Miss C. Egan (Dublin).

Belfast and District.—I. Martin (Mountpottinger Y.M.C.A.), Miss G. E. Boyle (Mountpottinger Y.M.C.A.).

Lisburn and District.—J. A. Griffiths (Windsor), Miss M. Brown (City Y.M.C.A.).

County Dublin.—H. Thuillier, Miss C. Egan.

County Louth.—P. Morgan (Dundalk), Miss M. Minshull (Dundalk).

Munster Close.—Dr. H. Levinge (Cork), Miss F. Dawkins (Cork).

INTERNATIONALS:

Ireland, 4; Scotland, 5 (Europe Cup—Ladies).

Ireland, 4; Luxembourg, 1 (Europe Cup—Men).

Ireland, 0; France, 5 (Europe Cup—Men).

Swaythling Cup.—Results as listed in the April/June *Table Tennis Review*.

HOME INTERNATIONALS:

Ireland, 6; Scotland, 5.

Ireland, 2; England, 9.

Ireland, 7; Wales, 4.

INTER PROVINCIALS:

Leinster, 10; Munster, 1.

Ulster, 7; Leinster, 4.

INTER LEAGUE:

Belfast and District, 8; Leinster, 1.

Leinster League, 6; Cork & District, 5.

INTER CITY:

Dublin, 5; Liverpool, 4.

Belfast, 6; Liverpool, 2.

Manchester, 9; Belfast, 2.

Mr. Ivan Martin (Ulster), and Miss Catherine Egan (Leinster), were the outstanding players for the season, and have been awarded the Rhanboy and Eleanor McKee Cup, respectively.

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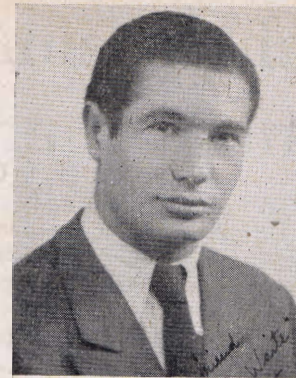
JOHN G. TOMS

18, NORBETT ROAD, ARNOLD, NOTTS.

Improve Your Footwork

By Richard Bergmann

(*World Champion*, 1936-37, 1938-39, 1939-46).



RICHARD BERGMANN

TABLE TENNIS, boxing and fencing . . . what is the link between these seemingly entirely different sports? The magic link is "footwork," which is almost identical in each of the three named sports.

During the early days of the war I took a course to become a physical training instructor, and consequently received a good deal of instruction in both boxing and fencing. I now realise how invaluable that training was for it has put points on my game.

The two main objects of footwork are:—

1. You must not be caught off your balance.
2. You must be able to move speedily and smoothly in any direction at a moment's notice, including moving backwards.

A splendid exercise for the improvement of footwork is to take a step in any direction, forwards, backwards or sideways (not moving more than half a yard at a time) and to *drag* (not lift) the other leg after it. Keep on repeating this simple

exercise at the various speeds necessitated by the game of table tennis.

There are thousands of players, who in their eagerness and concentration to execute perfect arm and wrist action, overlook the most important matter of footwork, and therefore frequently find themselves hopelessly off balance and out of position for the next shot.

I suggest that it will pay every really keen player to practise the above exercise in footwork. It may look queer at first, especially when done in an exaggerated manner, but you will soon acquire a smooth and swift movement, and eventually it will be done by instinct so that full concentration can be put into actual stroke play.

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DUE FOR RENEWAL

Table Tennis Grips Sunny South Africa

By
**MONTY
SHOTLAND**
(South African
Champion)

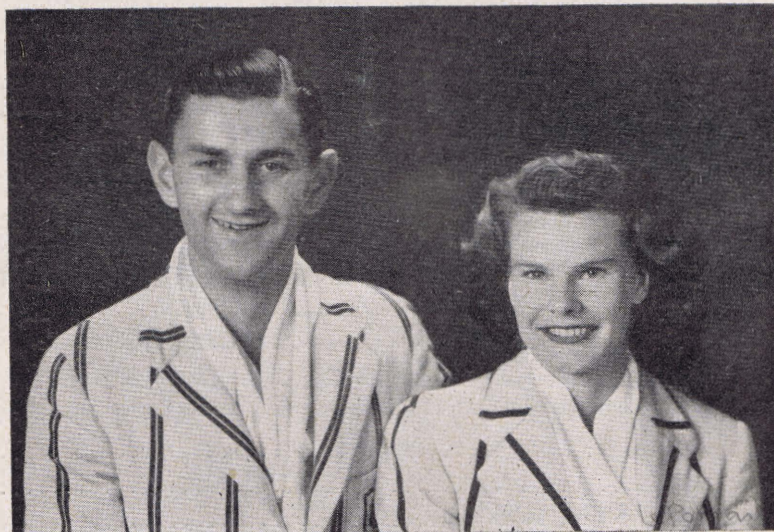
THE dancing white ball has captivated the interest of the South African public to a very high degree since the visit of Szabados and Kelen in 1938. The Hungarians gave a new fillip to the game and throughout the country there was a sudden switch from the penholder grip to the orthodox tennis grip.

The year 1939 marked the first organised inter-provincial between Transvaal, Western Province and Natal; the three biggest provinces in the Union, and if the war had not intervened the game would have reached tremendous heights.

Last year saw a revival of this fascinating indoor game. Cape Town had the distinction of holding the first National Championship and also a centralised inter-provincial.

Every night crowds of 600 or 700 crowded the hall. Inadequate facilities were responsible for the limited crowds, otherwise a capacity gate would have resulted for the National finals. There is a large following, and within the next 12 months, when equipment and facilities improve, the game should enter a "boom stage."

Organised leagues are run in all provinces for both men and women, as well as an annual inter-provincial. This year rumours are rife, regarding a team being sent overseas, though news has been received that Szabados (now residing in Australia) is anxious to bring an Australian Test side to South Africa next year and personally I think that something will eventuate.



MONTY SHOTLAND and PHYLLIS ANDERSON
(South African National Singles Champions)

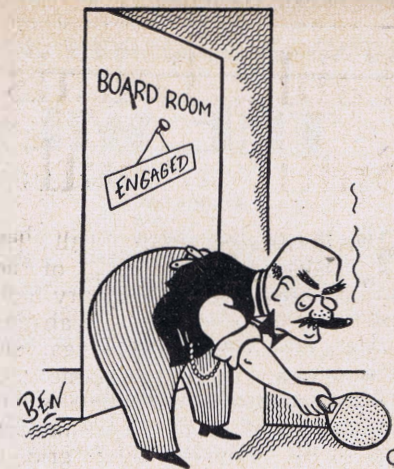
The standard of Table Tennis is exceedingly high considering our limited experience. Local players have good victories to their credit against well-known players. Leventis (Greece), Schiff (U.S.A.), A. D. Brook and Eric Filby (England), all internationals, had stiff hurdles, while Mitton, who played in the Western Province League during 1945, suffered a number of defeats.

What South Africa needs is a good coach, as a number of players lack for nothing but that extra bit of polish. The leading players in the country all have a judicious blend of attack and defence.

Freddie Miller (Natal), who in 1938 took Szabados to the deciding set, is our best stylist. He had the solitary distinction of taking a game off Szabados, and those who saw the match are still convinced that Miller would have beaten Miklos, but for his limited experience. Other leading players are Theo Pitaki (Transvaal), whose backhand is the nearest approach to that of Barna. H. Sofer (Transvaal), who lost the National final to me, is similar to Vana, having an amazing forehand but little else. The only unfortunate aspect about these players is the fact that they are all round the thirties and have few years of play ahead of them.

Cape Town, the birthplace of the game has always had a superfluity of penholders, amongst them Goldberg, one of the best in the game. L. Bennett, an English executive, expressed the opinion that Goldberg is as good a penholder as any in England.

Since last year, however, tennis grippers have hit the limelight, and to-day in the Cape, Peplow and myself, both tennis grippers are ranked as leading players. Peplow is "style personified" and is an old stalwart.



Our women's standard is deplorable. Phyllis Anderson, surprisingly won the National title, beating Miss Williams (a penholder from Natal) in the final. Phyllis has a nice defence and a pleasing style. She is better known for her tennis and her hockey. The news that Elizabeth Blackburn is coming to settle in the Union has been received with much interest, and with Mrs. Patterson, an ex-English International, playing for Transvaal this year, the standard should improve.

This year's Championship, in which players compete from as far as 1,000 miles away, will mark the beginning of a new era for table tennis in South Africa and should we compete in the next Swaythling Cup, South Africa will endeavour to beat England to the distinction of bringing the Cup across the waters.

Ready November 8th

"TWENTY-ONE UP!"

A twenty-page booklet telling the interesting history of twenty-one years of Manchester and District table tennis. Articles by leading internationals. Price 7d. post free from *Table Tennis Review* office.

THE WILMOTT CUP

By JACK KURZMAN

SO much has been said and written about how "badly run" was the Wilmott Cup Competition last year, that it seems an answer and some true facts are necessary.

After the National Executive Committee had approved the groupings for the Competition, I was given the task of seeing it through. I am, therefore, perhaps, best fitted to reply to the charges that have been made.

To view the matter in its proper perspective, one must go back to the 1939 A.G.M. At that meeting it was agreed that amendments to the Wilmott Cup rules were necessary, and the Executive Committee was given power to revise them and submit proposals to the Trustees for their approval, but unfortunately, owing to the war intervening, this could not be done. Therefore, when this last season opened, the Committee was fully aware that the rules did not cover the present-day conditions, and it was faced with the problem either of running the competition under the old rules or not running it at all that season. They decided on the first course, and the number of entries received fully justified their decision.

PRESS PUBLICITY

Now to turn to the complaints. I will take the two most general ones first. The chief of these has been the charge of lack of publicity: now I would like to know exactly what the critics mean when they use these words so lightly. The competition is between leagues; the Association makes the draw, circu-

lates it, and tries to see that the rules are carried out, but if only 50 people turn up to see Exeter play Birmingham, how can the Association be blamed when they have not been responsible for staging the game? Surely the onus is on Birmingham and Exeter to make the match a financial success.

The competition did have some publicity in the National Press; I saw personally that quite a lot of results went out to the various press agencies and if they didn't print them I don't see what could be done about it. After all, the space that the National Press can give to table tennis is very limited, and after reporting the World Championships, the National Championships, and the Europe Cup, I know that the London editions were not prepared to give much space to any other items of table tennis news.

WINTER TRAVELLING DIFFICULTIES

The other general complaint was that there was insufficient time between the rounds. This charge could only be made in zone 1 and possibly zone 2—the others had ample time. But even in zones 1 and 2 they had the minimum time allowed by the rules, and owing to the competition being started late, it was impossible to extend the period allowed. There was tremendous difficulty in getting some of the matches played at all owing to the terrible winter we had; travelling became absolutely impossible and I was obliged to give the competing leagues extension of time. Some leagues played their matches two or

three days late without even advising the Association and others applied for postponement on the grounds that the closing date clashed with a local tournament.

Of course, I could have used a lot of blue pencil, but my object was to get every game played, and only in one or two instances did I find it necessary to scratch a team from the competition. It may surprise some of you to know of two secretaries who had not even read the rules inasmuch as they played a Rose Bowl match, three-a-side, all play all. Other secretaries I had to wire and even trunk call for results and one of these was the Exeter League secretary!

REPLYING TO MR. KERSLAKE

I could not finish this article without answering my friend Mr. Kerslake in detail. I referred earlier to the match Exeter v. Birmingham, and he makes a suggestion that the competition should be "zoned" up to the semi-final. The suggestion may be brilliant, but you see it just doesn't happen to be permissible under the present rules. His reference to Norwich having reached the quarter-final because of "byes" and "defaults" would lead one to wonder what had happened. The facts are simply these; that in zone 3 there were only three entrants. One of them had to have a bye and that was drawn by Norwich. In their second round match they were due to play Bedford at home; Norwich offered weekend dates, Bedford could only accept mid-week dates, so that match was awarded to Norwich. How Mr. Kerslake gets his plurals of byes and defaults I would like to know. I think it is because Norwich is a comparatively inexperienced league that they spent £10 on lighting for one table. Most experienced tournament organisers will, I am sure, agree that this cost was

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absolutely out of proportion, and even if they did lose £12 in staging the tie, I see no reason why they should not enter next year, the added experience of their officials may enable them to play a tie more cheaply, and added enthusiasm in their district may enable them to get a better "gate."

I notice Mr. Kerslake says: "something ought to be done by the E.T.T.A." Except for suggesting something which would have been against the rules, he has nothing to offer. I have been sick and tired during the last two years of hearing those words—"something ought to be done by the E.T.T.A.," on all manners of subjects and when I ask these people what would they suggest, they usually "hum and haw."

Those of you who know me, know full well that I am one of the most constant critics of the Association and I will not stop from criticising whenever there is something to criticise, but at the same time, I will always put forward alternative proposals to remedy what I think is wrong. It is constructive criticism that organisers appreciate; it is destructive criticism like that levelled against the Wilmott Cup Competition, that does nothing but harm to the game.

Do Girls Bore Fans ? Fans ♦

By SAM KIRKWOOD.

DO girls spoil open tournaments? Should they be kept out of the sight of paying spectators? Do the the public wish to see only male stars? These are questions which certain leading players (who wisely ask to be kept nameless) have taken it upon themselves to raise and answer.

These gentlemen contend that *all* girls' finals should be played on the night prior to the men's events. Why? Because, so they contend, the display put up by females on finals' nights is invariably of so poor a quality that what might otherwise be attractive shows are ruined by them. So—away with the girls, boycott them, send them to Coventry, do what you like with 'em, but don't let them offend the gaze of spectators.

To all of which I say, with reasonable calmness, bosh, rubbish and fiddlesticks. It's time some men grew up and forgot their conceit along with their sex-prejudices, from which their arguments obviously spring. There's nothing at all objective in their contentions.

Perhaps they might like to listen to a little reasoned talk. For a start, then, girls form a large proportion of players and, as such, are entitled to a fair showing at tournaments, just as spectators are entitled to see our best girls in action. Also, what truth is there in the assertion that female players spoil most competitions? I could name—and so could you, reader—many an occasion when the lady competitors woke up audiences

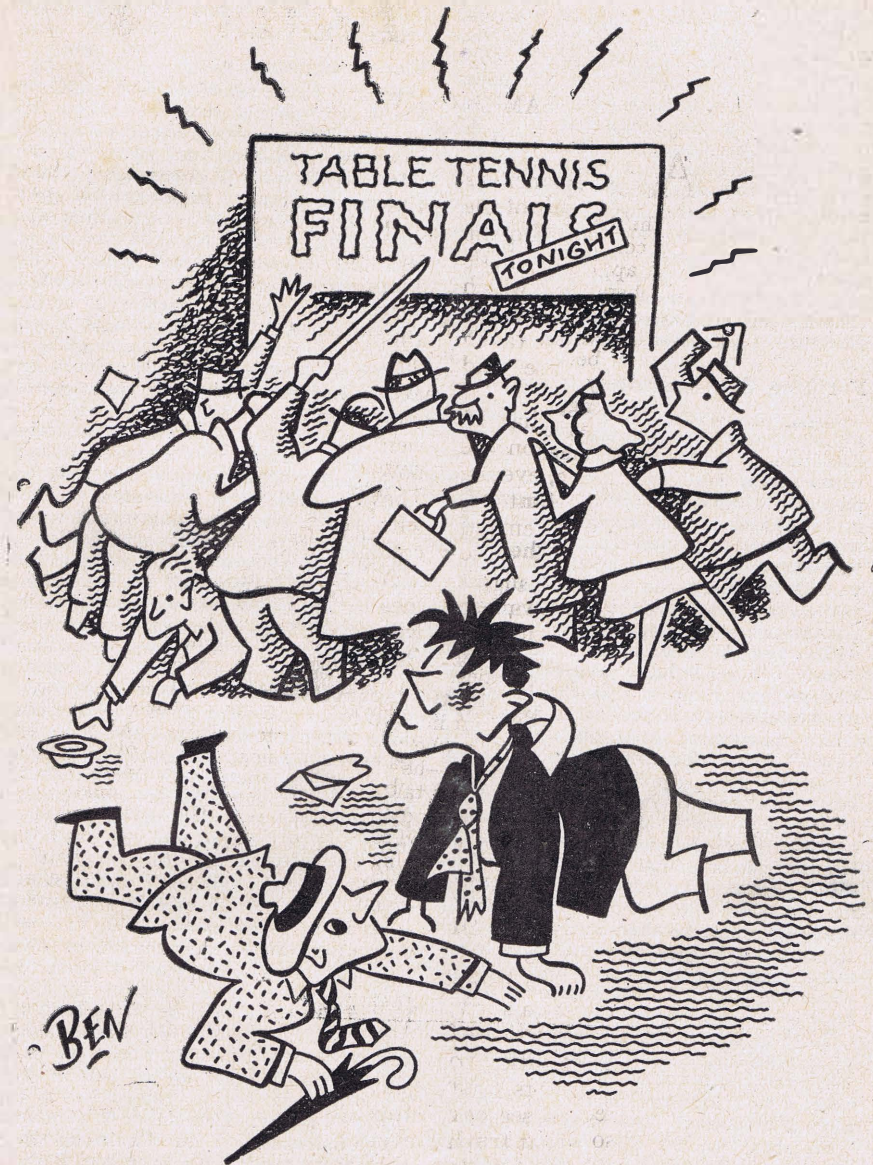
after the men had almost lulled those audiences to sleep with their stodgy, dull, listless play. Remember the last English Open at Wembley, for example? The Czech cracks played very anæmic safety-first stuff which almost bludgeoned the 10,000 crowd into unconsciousness. Later in the evening, Vera Dace, Elizabeth Blackburn, Trudi Pritzi and Gizi Farkas went into action and showed the lads how the game should be played. They certainly roused the audience with their virile, aggressive and colourful play.

An isolated example? By no means. Any follower of table tennis will verify this. As they could verify that not a few male stars bore with their arrant conceit.

However. Since when, might we ask, have girls—with their grace, neat looks, "colour" and freshness—bored fans? Rather, I submit, is it the men, with their drab outfits and even drabber mannerisms, who tend to knock the bottom out of an evening?

Let's be fair about this. True it is that some girls suffer from nerves on big occasions—but are all men exempt from temperamental fits? Anyway, I could think of no bigger insult to our many thousands of lady players, than to exclude them from appearing in public when they have every right in the world to appear.

Myself, I'd much sooner exclude the men who suggest that only they and those of their own sex are good enough to grab whatever limelight is going.



" Funny—I thought pushing wasn't allowed "

How a League Committee Should Work



By A. A. WALL
(Gen. Sec. and Treasurer, West
Bromwich District T.T.A.)

A SECRETARY should be or should have been a player, but not too good. If he is a good player he is apt to think of how certain arrangements may concern him and his playing chances. This applies to the Committee too. All members of the Committee must have the game at heart and not be too closely concerned with other winter sports. They should be of varied ages, but with a tendency towards the veteran stage, that being, of course, at forty. Representatives of the younger players and of the women players should also be on the Committee, although the smaller the Executive Committee the better.

Forming the Committee

Shall we suggest an ideal Committee, say seven members plus the officers? The first two, a youth representative and a women representative, both players of mediocre abilities. Thirdly, a man who is interested in travelling around (he may become your inter-league secretary); fourthly, a man who is a follower of the youthful element—he will recommend to you all the coming talent; fifthly, a man who knows everybody in your town—he will see you have good rooms for important events, can get lighting seen to promptly and properly, knows just the band for your social, has a pull with the Food Office concerning refreshments (no, I haven't found this man yet); sixthly, a "nagger"—yes, a nagger. He will find fault with most of your ideas, pull them to pieces, prevent you from becoming too complacent, ask where the money is coming from or going to—a most indispensable person. And lastly, your utility man, a man who will take tickets at a draughty door, be there early to put up the table, anticipate that you may burst more than four balls in a match, have water and sawdust ready in case the dance floor is too slippery for the players.

That is your ideal Committee. Make your rules strict too. If not present at three consecutive meetings then out with them. Now for your officers. You must have a President. The ideal one being a "big shot" in the town who has your welfare at heart, such as an old champion if possible. Not the Mayor, not an Alderman, not a Councillor, they'll be too busy to attend your gatherings. You want someone who has time to spare for you, someone who can talk, make speeches, meet your important visitors and

indirectly be a sort of propaganda manager for you.

Vice-Presidents, etc.

Your Vice-Presidents or Patron-Employers should not be taken too lightly. They are very important. There are many people in your town who are interested in sport in general, in youth in general, in education in general and would really like to associate themselves with you. Don't be bashful about asking for practical assistance as well. Vice-Presidents know that a position such as theirs automatically carries a certain obligation and they won't mind if you remind them of these responsibilities. Of course, never press unduly an unwilling donor, but thank them for their interest just the same.

If your clubs come from big factories, ask the firms to become Patron-Employers. Often they will be only too willing especially if interested in their own team, and the loan of a works' canteen for tournament or inter-league matches is a most useful asset at the present time. Invite all Vice-Presidents and Patron-Employers to your functions. Greet them if they turn up and ask them to the next one if they don't—but never neglect them! Send them the Balance Sheet at the end of the season; they have a right to see it. Show them what has been done with their donations and how their interest has helped you, and don't forget the most important part—thank them for everything. A reliable season-after-season patron is a most useful person to have, and he'll appreciate you too if you give him value for his gifts.

Now to the Chairman. Get someone who will attend all meetings, who will come to as many events as he can, will look after the President and the other patrons while the Secretary is busy. He must have a good hold too on the Committee and work in close touch with the Secretary. Nothing looks worse than a Chairman and Secretary who seem to be at loggerheads with one another or who are obviously not in agreement in the League's policy. Remember to appoint a Vice-Chairman. Your Chairman may have to be away some time, and it gives chance to rope into office another of your willing workers.

The Hon. Secretary

Who shall we take next—Treasurer or Secretary or both? It has always

been my opinion that a Sports Secretary and Treasurer should be one and the same person, providing, of course, that the organisation is not too large. The Secretary writes to the clubs regularly re the events, matches, tournaments, etc., and what is simpler to slip in any accounts that may be (or should I say are sure to be) outstanding. What is simpler too for the club secretary to send cash back with his reply. From experience I have found (when Secretary and Treasurer are separate offices) that the Secretary is continually passing on to the Treasurer monies that have been handed in to him. The dual office is speedier, cheaper and easier for the clubs and for the league.

Shall we assume then that we have decided to saddle our Secretary with the job of Treasurer as well? Then what kind of Secretary do we want? The first person who usually holds this office in an Association is usually a player for no one else would have been keen enough to start his league going. He usually brings his league into being himself with the idea of forming a competition in which he himself will be able to play regularly. If he develops into a really good player (in his particular league) then the league must necessarily revolve around him, and his likes and dislikes cannot help but become dominant. His secretarial abilities take second place to his playing abilities, and the league suffers.

The Tasks of a Secretary

I would say have a player by all means as Secretary. He will thus be able to sample the facilities of other clubs and experience firsthand the playing problems that may arise, but whoever holds the position he must conscientiously put the league first. He must be interested in furthering the cause of his league, suggest to his Committee various improvements or experiments that he himself has conceived; be prepared to welcome ideas from club secretaries or players; soothe down differences between accidentally slighted individuals; look out for talent; keep clubs up to date with all table tennis news; create new clubs where necessary; push the league before the public by weekly articles for the local press.

The Secretary's Assistants

The Secretary should not, of course, be on his own. As the league grows he will find his duties becoming really hard work, and a match Secretary who has a

delight in figures and statistics is a most useful assistant. All match cards should be addressed to him and he should have all records of players available and up to date for each meeting concerning inter-league matches. He should let the Secretary have each week's match results so that the latter may scan through for his weekly press reports. I know of one Association in which the lively Chairman himself has taken on this job with great success.

Great help is also given to the Secretary of a growing league by an inter-league manager. He has the responsibility of arranging all inter-league matches, notifying players of the choice of the selection committee, etc. Here again all decisions taken by him or by the selection committee should be notified immediately to the League Secretary for his edification and reports. The League Secretary must know everything that is going on.

A Secretary is the servant of his Committee and his job is to carry out their wishes, but in voluntary organisations the Secretary is also the organiser and although still bound to carry out the orders of his Committee, does and should have a very big say in the running of the league, for his suggestions, etc., are based on an all-round knowledge of the requirements of his organisation, and he should be listened to with respect, although not necessarily agreed with.

Other Officials

Any other officials? Yes, the unlauded Auditor, preferably a local league man but definitely not a member of the Committee. Keep to the same man if he satisfies you and listen to any remarks he may have to give. He is a check on the Secretary-Treasurer's honesty, whether it needs it or not.

If your organisation is big enough, you may add an Assistant Secretary, a Publicity Secretary or a Social Secretary, and form extra Committees for tournaments, etc. Don't overdo it, but spread the jobs around when you can. Many a budding organiser has been found sitting on the edge of the spectators or playing fifth man in the "D" team. Keep away from the good players while they are still young, they can't do two jobs, and their's is to bring you victories. They're the people you are working for, not they for you.

Build from the Base Up

By R. W. STEWART (Scottish T.T. Association Secretary)

During the past season the Scottish Table Tennis Executive Council decided to concentrate on one factor—to boost the game. Thus we endeavoured to put on as many big shows as possible, even where there would be no financial return after paying out heavy expenses. We did this to revive interest in the game and we certainly succeeded. This step achieved, we have now laid our plans for the oncoming season. We intend to get them young, treat them rough, and tell them plenty. In actual number of players we simply don't exist besides England. Naturally then, our top players are not of English standard, except Helen Elliot. But beneath our Scotch dourness we dream dreams, and always the same dream. Some day, so help us, we are going to beat England. How is this to be achieved, and how soon can it be done? How and when depends upon how hard we work to achieve it.

THE SCOTTISH PLAN.

This season we intend to comb the cities and towns for potential young players. The essentials they must have, in order of importance are:—

1. *MENTAL.*—It may seem strange putting this first, but unless the boy is mentally equipped to absorb the tactics, the concentration, the will power to keep going on during a really tight match, then he is not a champion. You can provide him with the world's best coach, give him the best possible advice, but don't forget, when the match starts he's all alone. How many players do we all know, skilful, with beautiful strokes and lovely footwork, and somehow in that last set they

gradually fade and finally lose when they looked like winning easily.

2. *MOBILITY.*—They must be able to move, and move fast. The only difference between the world's best ten players is in their feet. Next time you watch the great players, take your eyes off the table and watch their feet. You can pick the probable winner this way nine times out of ten.

3. *DETERMINATION.*—Will the boy eat, sleep and drink table tennis? Will he practice long and carefully? Will he slowly build up each of the strokes even when his pals seem to be getting ahead of him?

You will note that I have said nothing about ability. Too often a boy is selected for training because he appears to play one or two shots well. No matter how a boy plays at the start, if he has the above three essentials, then competent coaching will make him a great player.

So much for our dreams! What of the immediate season? We will have more clubs playing the game than ever before. We have instituted a new League Competition. The select from each League will play against the selects from the other Leagues on a knock-out basis, for a trophy presented by the Scottish Table Tennis Association. This will enable everyone to see the best players in Scotland. Ken Stanley is at present resident with us and is playing better than ever in his career. We intend to use his services as a coach, as widely as possible, especially for the youths.

One thing we can guarantee ourselves to be unbeatable in, and that is in the welcome we extend to our old friends from over the Border.

Let's roll up the curtain!

The Value of Experience

By MARCUS BISHOP
(Hull Closed Champion)

AFTER having gained some small success in Northern table tennis, people in Hull ask me what is my best stroke. My answer is always the same. "Experience is my best stroke," I say.

Although I am not yet 24, I found that my seven years' playing experience stood me in good stead throughout the last strenuous season. To confirm this remark, how many times has a youthful star with a repertoire of graceful, easy strokes been beaten by an older and more seasoned player who is not blessed with such a variety of strokes.

The answer, to my mind, is very simple. The older player, despite his limitation of style, has the coolness of brain to exploit the natural nervousness and rawness of his young opponent. Through constant playing against players of every type, he has acquired the knack of spotting some weakness in his opponent's play, and consequently he hammers away at that particular spot until his young opponent falls to pieces under the constant pressure.

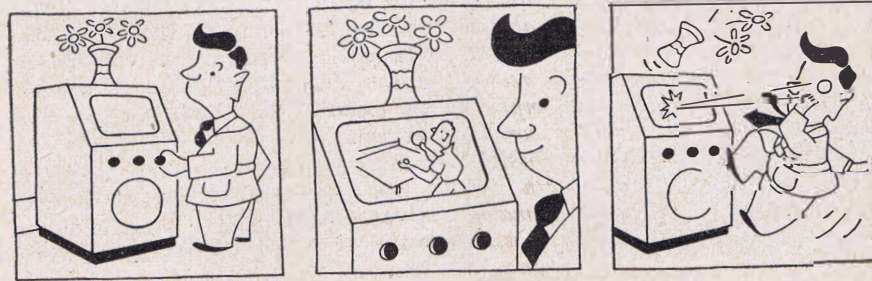
Coaching and book learning are essential if a player is to rise above ordinary club standards, but until he

acquires experience he will always lack that little extra something. There is no easy road to becoming an experienced player—only a steady climb up the tree of perfection, learning a little more at every hurdle and obstacle in the game.

It is strange, but nevertheless true, that those who reach the top quickly and rocket up to fame, usually fade out equally as quick. Whereas, those who climb steadily to the top, getting a little better every season, generally manage to stay there for many years after their so-called prime has passed, this is mainly due to their ability to put into use the experience they have gained in their struggle along the hard road.

And how do you acquire experience? Well that is simple enough to answer. Enter every tournament, especially open tournaments, that it is possible for you to enter. There may not be great hopes of you surviving even the first round of a major event, but it all adds to your experience. I will be spending four days at the English Open. I know they will be four enjoyable days, and I am convinced I shall return to Hull a better player than when I left.

MR. EASY-ONE (The Table Tennis Novice).



English Open Championships at Manchester

EVERYTHING is being done by Lancashire County Association Secretary, Bill Worsley and his capable committee to make the English Open at Belle Vue, Manchester, an unprecedented success. Play will extend over four days with the semi-finals and finals taking place in the huge King's Hall Stadium, which is within thirty seconds distance of the venue of the preliminary rounds, the Tudor Restaurant. Dates for this premier event being November 18th to 21st, inclusive.

For the first three days, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there will

be three sessions of play, commencing at the times 9-30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. On the Thursday evening there will be no 6 o'clock session, for the tournament will then be transferred to the King's Hall, starting at 7 p.m. It is hoped to play the Men's Quarter Finals and the Semi-Finals of other events on this evening, leaving the Men's Semi-finals and the Finals of other events for the Friday, when play commences at 7 p.m.

Up to the time of going to press we hear that France will be sending four of her leading internationals, and Flisberg, who played so well in the World Championships is coming from Sweden. Competitors from Czecho-Slovakia will most likely be: Vana, Tereba, Slar and the lady player, Votrubcova, while the Hungarians will include the World's Women's Champion, Gizi Farkas, and the men players, Sido, Soos and Koczian.

Mrs. Duvenney—Dora Beregi to you—who won the English Women's Open at Wembley in season 1945-46, is making a welcome come-back and will compete at Belle Vue. In the meantime she is to spend a short holiday in her homeland, Hungary.

The Scottish international and champion, Miss Elliot will be at Belle Vue, and with her will be Scotland's No. 3 lady player, Miss Pithie.

The homeland contingent will, of course, include very many leading English players, and to name only a few we have, Bergmann, Leach, Stanley, Lurie, Goodman, Sharman,

Carrington and the lady players, Dace, Franks, etc. It is not yet known whether Victor Barna's professional engagements will allow him to enter, or whether Elizabeth Blackburn, now in the United States, will be able to make the journey.

Tickets can be obtained from the office of *Table Tennis Review*, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, and if required by post a stamped addressed envelope should be sent with remittance. Prices are as follows:—

Any one of the three daily sessions in the Tudor Restaurant 2s. 6d. each. Thursday evening seats in the King's Hall are priced at 7s. 6d., 5s. and 3s. 6d. Prices for the Finals night on Friday are:—One row at 21s., and the remainder, 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 5s. and 3s. 6d.

A Rover Ticket, which is transferable to any other person will admit the holder to any of the sessions, and will secure a 7s. 6d. seat in the King's Hall on the Thursday evening and a 10s. 6d. seat on the Friday, price £1 each.

Some Scenes from Belle Vue—The setting for the English Open.

(Belle Vue Press Dept., photographs)



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TACTICS of the GAME

By Arthur Waite

(Author of the first book to be written on the modern style of table tennis)

The following hints are taken from an instructive book which will be published during the present season. Watch for the announcement in the next issue of *Table Tennis Review*.

IT is not sufficient to be able to hit hard and often, you must be proficient at placing the ball to any spot of the table. When learning to drive use plenty of top-spin and be content for a time on accuracy and positional play rather than speed. Practice hitting the ball from corner to corner, and then down the white line. Endeavour to work your opponent to one side of the table, creating for yourself an unguarded corner which can be penetrated by a sudden swift drive.

Also practice placing your shots first at one side and then to the other, for by doing this you prevent your opponent from manœuvring into a suitable position for a smash hit. Keep up this side to side play until an opening is presented for you to bring in an ace shot. To add more craft to this particular ace shot it should be played to the same side as your previous shot. You may possibly have lulled your opposite number into an habitual expectation that the ball will arrive at the other side.

A defensive player is not easy to beat, not because he imparts a good deal of back-spin to the ball, but because he rarely takes risks and relies on the other player to make mistakes. A defensive player never wins games, it is his opponent who

loses them. A good method of beating a defensive player is to keep him from "digging" himself in. You should keep him on the run, playing the ball so that it travels between the net and the top corner rather than directly between the two top corners. The nearer to the net you can play these "angle" shots and the better chance you have of winning a point. Once you have your opponent moving about like a harrassed official the sooner will an opportunity present itself for a point-winner.

Find your opponent's weakness as early as possible in the game. He may dislike heavy chop, played short on his forehand, or a cleverly placed drop shot may often put him off his balance and out of position for a follow-up shot. His backhand attack may be weak, in which case it may pay to tempt him to have a go now and then.

Many valuable points can be won not by hard drives and severe defensive chops, but by cunningly placed balls that catch your opponent unawares. Strategy of this type is best learnt away from the table. You can do yourself a great deal of good by watching the games of other players in an intelligent manner. Use your brain and study the theory of positional play, so that you become thoroughly conversant with the most *unfavourable* positions for certain types of shots. With knowledge of this kind stored away in your mind you will see many openings of catching an opponent on the wrong foot.

Flashes from the Past

Taken at random from our Press Cuttings file

OCTOBER, 1932.—The E.T.T.A. Treasurer reports a deficiency of £4 12s. for the previous season, making a total deficiency of £24 14s. 5d.

OCTOBER, 1938.—E.T.T.A. Treasurer, A. K. Vint reports that an excellent source of revenue during the past season was the tour of foreign players which resulted in a profit of £187.

YEAR 1932.—Mr. W. J. Pope, Secretary of the English Association makes a statement that in A. G. Millar of Manchester we have another F. J. Perry. "He has that same determined look," said Mr. Pope.

APRIL, 1939.—In the North of England Open held at Belle Vue, Manchester, Alfred Liebster, the ex-Austrian captain amazed table-

tennis fans by a truly wonderful performance. During the tournament he accounted for Casofsky, Lurie and Barna, and in the final beat Bergmann.

YEAR, 1936.—A firm of table manufacturers have tried out a new slate table. This was given exhaustive tests and played on by Victor Barna who was agreeably surprised at its playing qualities. Victor stated that there were no dead spots, and contrary to expectations the table was not too fast.

NOVEMBER, 1932.—F. J. Perry said: "When your shot has hit the tape and trickled over the net to score do not say 'sorry.' You are not really sorry—and if you are you should not be. If you must comment, say 'Bad luck,' though it really is good luck for you."

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The New Service

will not serve England badly

By BILL PARKER

ALREADY we hear complaints that the new "open hand, fingers straight" service is slowing down and thus spoiling the game of table tennis. This new service certainly does not speed up the game, but once it is mastered, it should not slow it down to any great extent, and the possibility of hidden finger spin and the rubbing of the ball across the face of the bat is now removed. What effect will the rule have upon to-day's leading players?

Of the women, few have spin services of any note, the main tendency among the fair sex being to serve "good length" balls with a fair amount of chop and every so often put over a "quick one." England's Vera Dace has often used a fast service to a right-handed opponent's backhand with great effect, and there is no reason why she should not under the new rule develop a speedy top-spin service to mix with her cleverly placed "short ones." The other leading English women, Betty Blackburn, Peggy Franks, "Pinkie" Barnes, Vi Patterson and Molly Jones should not be bothered greatly, nor should Gizi Farkas (Hungary), Trudi Pritzi (Austria), Vlasta Depetrisova and her Czech team mates, and the Americans, Lea Thall and Reba Monness.

Among the world's leading men players there have for years been a few service "experts," though it is admitted that no man has reached the top solely by virtue of service. The present world champion, Bohumil Vana (Czechoslovakia), has in the last two seasons shown us a variety of services—"rolling" action

top spinners, heavily chopped short ones, and others that sometimes behave like leg-breaks and googlies in cricket. Great player that Vana is, he will master the new service, but will he be the power that he has been? It is doubtful! His countrymen, Tereba, Slar and Andreadis, will find that they will not be able to disguise their services as they have done in the past—they may drop a point or two on their game!

Pagliaro and Schiff (U.S.A.) have had competitive experience of the new service, but last season they brought out "special" services in all the major European tournaments—proof that they will be losers by the new law. No more shall we see Guy Amouretti (France) producing that "scissor action" service of his, and Soos (Hungary) will no longer send over these "wiggly" ones that, quite frankly, suggested "finger-spin."

Now for those for whom the new rule will have no qualms—and we may safely include the first few Englishmen. Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann (both now British subjects) have never resorted to fancy services—their strength is in their shot production, footwork and temperament. Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington (linking their names is an accepted thing now) have never wasted time trying to produce an untakeable service—they know there is no such thing in table tennis! Ernie Bublely has had the "ball-thrown-in-the-air" service mastered for years, and the straightening of the hand will be a simple matter for him. Others who stand to lose little or nothing by the

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new rule are: Goodman, Casofsky, Filby and Litten. Of the foreign players, two who seem least likely to be affected, are Dick Miles (U.S.A.) and Ferencz Sido (Hungary) who is probably the hardest hitter in the world.

To sum up, it seems that season 1947-48 presents a marvellous opportunity for England to win both the Swaythling and Corbillon cups and at least one world title. The leading men players may be: Bergmann, Miles, Leach, Sido and Andreadis (Barna's professional calls may prevent his taking part in all of the international tournaments and Vana might easily drop several places in a world ranking list), while for the women it will probably be "the mixture as before," in other words, Farkas, Dace, Blackburn and Depetrisova, with Franks, Pritzi, Fuerstoya and Monness hard upon their heels.

Exhibitions and Coaching Arranged

If you desire to stage a table tennis exhibition or receive coaching we invite you to contact us stating your requirements and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Fully Registered Players who are open for coaching and exhibitions should send in details of their qualifications and fees required. We will endeavour to create a Bureau of first-class players who are able to fill the requirements of readers in various parts of the country.

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Planning in Table Tennis

By TOM BLUNN

(Chairman of the Lancashire Table Tennis Association).

IT is very refreshing in these days, when British Sport is being hit in every direction, to learn that in one game at least we have triumphed over the rest of the world. I refer to the Women's Team which brought the Corbillon Cup to this country for the first time, at least they would have brought it with them if somebody had only known where it was to be found!

In winning the Corbillon Cup our girls created a record that is likely to stand unequalled for many years, by going through the whole of the competition without dropping a single set and their opponents were the best teams from all the countries in the world where table tennis really matters. Then our ladies are champions of the world? In one sense they are, but in another they are not, and it is this other sense that really matters.

None of our lady players reached the final of the English Open Championships and a lot of people want to know why. I don't profess to know the answer but I do suggest that the circumstances outlined above give us a clue to the answer. It would appear that we are concentrating in the wrong direction and however creditable was the performance of our ladies in Paris, it is a fact that other countries reserved their main efforts for the individual championships and these other countries took all the major titles.

In previous articles in this magazine, writers who reported the events from Paris have expressed the opinion that our ladies put so much in their team events, that they

seriously jeopardised their chances of winning any of the individual events. What is only an opinion, therefore, is borne out by fact and the results are now a matter of history.

I suggest that a similar position arose with the men, and with all due respect to the gallant efforts of our ladies, it is the men's singles championship that is the most coveted and nothing less than that should be the aim of players and organisers here in Britain.

CONCENTRATE ON TOURNAMENTS

I suggest that for a while we proceed on different lines to those taken during recent years and to concentrate on the individual game instead of on the team game. This can be done by striving for an ever increasing standard of play and conditions in Open Championships and to see that any promising young player is given every assistance to enable him to enter as many Open Championships as possible. By assistance I mean financial as well as physical, and I see nothing wrong in Leagues or Associations paying all expenses for four players in an Open Championship just as they would for an Inter-League or an International match.

Regarding the running of Open Championships I have already mentioned improved conditions and this point cannot be stressed too strongly. It is a very short-sighted policy to cut expenses to the detriment of the playing conditions. Good conditions attract the better players and so raise the prestige of the championship for later years.

SCRAP MIXED DOUBLES

The set-up of the Open Championship as we now know it, is not designed to produce champions but rather to supply a variety of entertainment and to reduce the championship to a test of endurance. There is too much importance given to doubles events and too little to junior singles and consolation singles events. Men's and Ladies' Doubles are a necessary part of a player's training, but they will never produce a singles champion. Mixed Doubles are a definite menace and should be reduced to the status of an after-dinner parlour game. If possible the doubles events should be cleared first, leaving players free to concentrate on their singles events and also to give them sufficient time to be able to go to the table feeling physically fit and also, what is very often overlooked, to give players time to study the styles of possible opponents and to work out tactics accordingly.

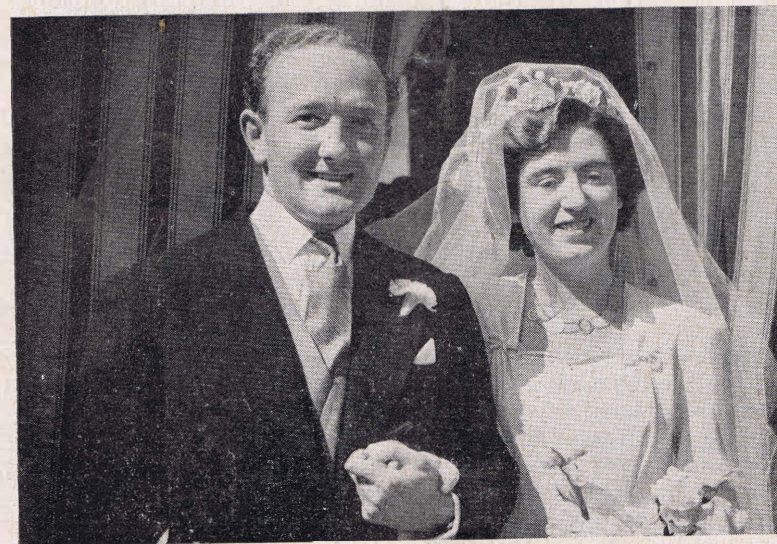
By proceeding somewhat on the lines outlined above I think that we

shall be able to pave the way for the training of future champions. Notice that I say "training" and also "champions." We have waited too long for a champion to appear from nowhere, and even if that should happen, then only one is not enough.

A LONG-TERM POLICY

I don't suggest that a change to such a policy would show immediate results. It is essentially a long-term policy and there is no precedent to support it but results of other methods are available, and so far these have not been up to expectations and are certainly not what would be expected of a nation with over one-third of the playing strength of the world.

Nor do I wish to infer that the problems on which I have been working have been overlooked by the National Association. I know that they are equally aware of the defects in our present system and are only too anxious to find a solution.



MISS VERA DACE WHO WAS MARRIED TO MR. A. R. THOMAS
ON AUGUST 16th 1947

COMPETITION

TWO GUINEA PRIZE

BEST LEAGUE HANDBOOK

LAST season the above competition was won by the Aldershot and District League, and because of its popularity we are repeating it again this season.

The size of the Handbook will not be taken into account, but entries cannot be accepted from County and National Associations. This competition is not restricted to English Leagues, and we will welcome entries from our readers in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Eire, South Africa, India, Malta and America etc. To give overseas readers a chance to submit their handbooks, this competition will be announced again in our January issue, and the closing date will be February 10th. However, it will be of great assistance if Handbooks are sent in as soon as possible.

We would be delighted to form a committee of five or seven to act as judges of this competition, and if any person feels he or she has the necessary ability to act as a judge we should be grateful to receive the name and address. The final number of contestants for consideration by the judges will be reduced to about a couple of dozen, or whatever number makes a convenient postal parcel.

A prize of TWO GUINEAS will be donated to the funds of the League which in the opinion of the judges possess the most useful and attractive League Fixture Handbook. Address your entries now to:
Table Tennis Review, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3.

BACK NUMBERS AVAILABLE

Table Tennis Review was first published as a monthly magazine from September, 1946, until February, 1947, but owing to the difficulty of paper supplies quarterly publication had to be adopted with the April/June (World Championships Souvenir) issue.

The price of the monthly publication was sixpence (16 pages), and back numbers for the months October, November, December and January can be obtained price sixpence each from the publishing office. September and February issues being sold out.



We are able to supply copies of the quarterly publication back numbers, price one shilling each (32 pages), although the stock of the World Championships Souvenir issue is running very low.

In the above, readers will find articles by Bohumil Vana (World Champion), Richard Bergmann, Victor Barna, Johnny Leach, Ron Sharman, Stanley Proffitt, Geoffrey Harrower, Jack Carrington, Fred Cromwell, Les. Cohen, Helen Elliot, Pinkie Barnes. Each issue features one or more of the clever joke cartoons of "Ben," and also numerous photographs.

Scots Ladies Excellent Prospects

By HELEN ELLIOT
*(Scottish Champion and Corbillon
Cup Player)*

SCOTLAND have again entered for both sections of the European Cup, and while the men's team are scheduled to play the winners of the Wales-Luxembourg tie, the women travel to Wales. Although it may be early yet to give any forecast, I think our women's team should do well in their section and, barring accidents, should prove to be the ultimate winners of the Western Zone. Chris Norrie is capable of giving a good account of herself, and with my club-mate, Betty Pithie, showing improved form on last year, it will take a very good combination to beat us.

We are also due to meet Wales and Ireland for mixed International games and entertain England in a similar engagement. Last year all these encounters were lost by us, but with increased experience in International play we shall endeavour to do better against all three, and perhaps this season Scotland may record her first win in these matches.

It is to be hoped that Scotland will be represented in the Swathling and Corbillon Cup Competitions and in the World's Championships in London next February.

The enthusiasm for the game in the North, which had gained considerable heights last year, will reach a new high this year, and it only requires a small measure of success by our players, either in individual events or in International matches, coupled with hard work by all connected with the administration of the game, to retain the position reached and open up new avenues in future years.

IN FAIRNESS TO ALL

THE decision last year, to appoint a full-time and paid Organising Secretary was a bold move and in May, 1946, the E.T.T.A.'s annual general meeting unanimously agreed to an increase in the affiliation fees in order to meet the extra cost resulting from this appointment.

Shortly after the commencement of the 1946-47 season, Mr. Evans was appointed full-time, paid Organising Secretary, but at the present time we regret that we know little of his activities and are therefore unable to express any opinion on his capacity of Organising Secretary. This, we consider to be very unfair, particularly on Mr. Evans, and can only assume that he has been working very hard behind the scenes in London and has allowed the glamour of publicity to fall to the better known personalities who continue to act in honorary capacities. This is a bad policy as the ordinary table tennis players, and in particular the League secretaries who still find it very difficult to convince their members that the affiliation fees are necessary, want to know what has happened to their money—has it been spent well and has it been spent on the right person?

Mr. Evans has made table tennis his career, and if he has proved himself to possess ability then he should be raised from his present position of obscurity and allowed to show initiative and enterprise. If he has proved himself inefficient, then there are many thousands of affiliated members waiting to hear about it—not necessarily in the pages of *Table Tennis Review*, but in the E.T.T.A.'s own bulletin.

"AFFILIATED MEMBERS."

OUR MAIL BAG

Your Miss Elisabeth Blackburn looked very good in our U.S.A. National Championships, but she lost in the semi-finals. She seemed to outclass the rest of the field, but could not come through in the "pinches." She played mixed doubles with Miles, but they too fell by the wayside before the finals. Dick Miles swept through the Men's Singles very easily, losing only one game in the entire tournament. Watching Miles for the first time I could hardly imagine anyone defeating him. He attacked during the entire tournament, and no one could withstand his terrific forehand drives. It takes a good counter-attack to defeat him, and no one over here seems to have the game to do it. Vana must be really something to watch. He certainly must be good to defeat Miles the way he did.

RALPH MAYLAHN,
Milwaukee, U.S.A.

(Thanks a lot for your impressions, Ralph. Hope you get a chance soon to see Vana play Miles.—Ed.)

★

Much resentment has been expressed in the West Country by your ranking list, and whilst not burning up the paper in bringing before your readers claims for A.W.C. Simons, of Bristol, Ron Litten, of Exeter and others we are prepared to bring our players to the fore by the hard way. The Western Counties are prepared to play any representative team from the North, Lancashire County, London or others, and will then demonstrate their claim for inclusion in any ranking list. So please throw out this challenge, we would particularly welcome to play a selected side from the newly formed County Championship, and can assure any visiting side a hearty welcome.

A few views on the Wilmott cup disaster of last season. I am entirely in agreement that this should be run by a provincial league, and to back my statement I would draw attention to the fact that before the war I ran the semi-finals and finals of this competition in Bristol, the competing teams being Liverpool, Manchester, London and Bristol. A great time was had by all, and a crowd of three to four hundred watched some sparkling

play, and furthermore I think this is the only time any profit was forwarded to the E.T.T.A. If I can be of any assistance in doing this once again I shall be most happy to assist.

So here's to a "bumper" season for all West Country fans, and we hope to meet any new friends, and prove that we do play table tennis in the West.

I. C. EYLES
(Hon. Sec. and Treasurer
Western Counties League).

(As explained in our previous issue, our Unofficial Ranking List was the result of a census of opinion of six reliable table tennis personalities, three of them being Southerners and the other three Northerners. We agree that Litten and Simons should have been included, but where should they go? You might have given us your ideas Mr. Eyles. I hope somebody accepts your challenge. It would be funny if you won, wouldn't it?—Ed.)

★

I should like to congratulate you and the staff of *Table Tennis Review* on a tip-top sports periodical. The amount of ground covered in an issue is really amazing. I have just finished reading your summer number which is the first I have been able to purchase, and the highest praise that I can offer is that there was not one dull page. Congratulations to all concerned.

I do feel, however, that Northern Ireland should be given a little spotlight in your periodical for are we not apt to forget their struggle to reach top flight. I shall be grateful if you could possibly bring table tennis activities in Northern Ireland to the forefront. In conclusion thank you very much for very entertaining reading. Good luck for the future.

Mr. G. R. Cook,
London, W. 7.

(Thank you Mr. Cook for bursting the top button of the editorial waistcoat. The Irish Association were invited last season to send news of their activities, but so far nothing has been received. But don't worry, we will penetrate the "iron curtain" during the coming months. Our "scouts" are out as you will see from an article in this issue.—Ed.)

I have searched the country high and low for an "Eric Hyde" table tennis bat and found them impossible to purchase, and I thought you might advise me where I could get one. For the past years I have played with a Hyde bat, which I recently broke while playing.

JOHN C. HUTCHINSON, Edinburgh, 11.
(We receive lots of queries similar to the above, although most of them are for pre-war Barna bats. If any reader can oblige the above we should be glad to help a reader in distress.—Ed.)

★

Referring to the article by "L. Woollard" in your issue received to-day. May I make a few comments.

Mr. Woollard speaks of continuing activities during the summer. We have always used the summer months for our Ladies League. This not only keeps them up to scratch but also the male players of their clubs are kept in practice. Mr. W. mentions playing strong ladies teams in the men's leagues. For the past four years we have included all our ladies teams with the men's teams with the result that we are now getting more and more mixed teams. Whereas at one time the isolated girl player in a club waited patiently before she could join a girls' team, she now has no hesitation in joining the men's team, providing she is good enough, which she often is through playing with the men players.

The "Doubles" divisions has now been running since 1937 in our league, two divisions being in existence. As for the grouping of divisions we have a special Committee to see that no team is put into a division where it will be either the chopping-block or run-away leaders.

Inter-divisional matches also have been tried, especially during the war. We ran divisions to eliminate travelling, but when fixtures had been completed we had an inter-divisional league to decide which was to receive the prizes, etc., for first, second, third divisions, etc. This would not now be possible as we had seven divisions last season, and it looks like being eight this.

What we do lack is a hall for competitions. We usually book the Town Hall for Finals night, but we have nowhere where we can stage large scale tournaments.

Mr. A. A. WALL
(West Bromwich Assoc.
Secretary and Treasurer).

(Nice going West Bromwich! Looks as though we may expect some future Corbillon Cup players from your Association.—Ed.)

To "TOPSPIN"

I am writing to thank you very much for the compliment you paid us in your recent article in *Table Tennis Review*.

After striving hard for three years to make ourselves known in the world of Table Tennis, and having at last achieved our ambition it is hardly encouraging to read an article telling us that we put up the worst show of the evening. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,
BETTY WILKINSON
D. H. RIVETT.

"My criticisms are impersonal and, so far as lies in my power to make them so, objectively honest. I know nothing whatsoever of the Misses Wilkinson and Rivett, apart from their reputations as table-tennis players, and my remarks, to which they object, were based solely on what I had seen.

"I regret that they misconstrue the functions of a critic. I could, of course, have praised them just for the sake of praise—which, though it might perhaps have pleased them, would have been dishonest and without point. When players turn in a nice performance, I say so: when they don't I say so. Readers are entitled to scrupulous reviews.

"The ladies in question will perhaps note that I said of the Dace-Barnes match that it 'degenerated into ping-pong.' Yet I know Miss Dace and 'Pinkie' are two of the world's finest lady exponents. At Wembley they played badly, and I had no option but to report this.

"I shall continue to report without favour or prejudice."—TOPSPIN.

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YOUR SEASON'S DIARY

Date	Tournament or Event	Address for Enquiries or Entries
Oct. 4/5	East of England Open	J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby.
Oct. 11	Hartlepool Open	W. Baillie, 24, Powlett Road, West Hartlepool.
Oct. 25	Hull and East Riding Open	Mr. Flinton, 28, Albert Avenue, Anlaby Road, Hull.
Oct. 27/Nov. 1	Birmingham Open	Morris Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
Nov. 3 to 8	Eastern Suburban Open	W. J. Parker, 37, Hamilton Avenue, Barkingside, Essex.
Nov. 15 & 16	South of England Open	E. Worsley, 13, Nursery Road, Prestwich, Manchester.
Nov. 18 to 21	English Open Championships	Rowland M. Davies, 112, Bryn Road Brynmill, Swansea.
Nov. 22	Swansea Open	D. N. Tyler, 1, York Buildings, Hastings.
Nov. 22 & 23	Sussex Open	W. Stamp, 3, Farndale Close, Liverpool 18.
Nov. 27, 28 & 29	Merseyside Open	G. James, 19, St. Ann's Villas, London, W. 11.
Dec. 1 to 6	Central London Open	(Dublin) (Provisional date).
Dec. 6	Leinster Open	L. Forrest, 15, Briarfield Road, Frizing Hall, Bradford.
Dec. 6	Pontefract Open	J. A. Brown, 34, Big Barn Lane, Mansfield, Notts.
Dec. 6	North Midland Open	H. Roy Evans, 16, Tymawr Road Rummey, Cardiff.
Dec. 12 & 13	Welsh Open Championships	E.T.T.A. Office, 69, Victoria Street London, S.W. 1.
1943		
Jan. 3 (finals)	Metropolitan Open	At Herne Bay.
Jan. 10 (finals)	Scottish Open Championships	
Jan. 11	Kent Open	
Jan. 17 (finals)	Lancashire Open	
Jan. 24	Brighton Open	
Jan. 31	Hampshire Open	
Feb. 4 to 11	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	At Wembley.
Feb. 12 to 14	North of England Open	At Manchester.
Feb. 21	Surrey Open	At Croydon.
Feb. 28 (finals)	Midland Open	At Birmingham.
Mar. 6	West of England Open	At Exeter.
Mar. 8 to 13	Middlesex (Herga) Open	At Harrow.
Mar. 13 (finals)	Cheshire Open	At Wallasey.
Mar. 20	Grimsby Open	
Mar. 27	Irish Open	(Belfast).
Mar. 27	North Eastern Open	
Apr. 3 (finals)	London Open	
Apr. 10	Yorkshire Open	
Apr. 17	West Middlesex Open	At West Ealing.
May (date not fixed)	Wembley Open	

EUROPE CUP FIXTURES

Men's Competition (Holders Czechoslovakia)

DRAW FOR WEST ZONE

1st Round: FRANCE a bye; IRELAND (home) versus ENGLAND; WALES (home) versus LUXEMBOURG; SCOTLAND a bye. To be played before October 10th.

2nd Round: FRANCE versus winner of IRELAND v. ENGLAND (if Ireland, then France is at home; if England, then England is at home); winner of WALES v. LUXEMBOURG versus SCOTLAND, (home). To be played before November 20th.

WEST ZONE FINAL: Winner of France, Ireland, England (home) versus winner of Wales, Luxembourg, Scotland. To be played before December 30th.

INTER-ZONE FINAL: To be played by arrangement between winners of East and West Zones, perhaps most conveniently while the team of the East Zone winner is on the way to the World Championships (just before February 4th) or on the way back (just after February 11th.)

CHALLENGE ROUND. Versus Czechoslovakia (home) during the latter part of the season.

Women's Competition (Holders, England)

DRAW FOR WEST ZONE

1st Round: FRANCE bye; WALES (home) versus SCOTLAND. To be played before October 30th

WEST ZONE FINAL: FRANCE versus winner of WALES v. SCOTLAND (home). To be played before December 30th.

INTER-ZONE FINAL: To be played by arrangement between winners of East and West Zones, perhaps most conveniently while the team of the East Zone winner is on the way to the World Championships (just before February 4th).

CHALLENGE ROUND: Versus ENGLAND (home), during the latter part of the season (perhaps most conveniently just after February 11th, if the East Zone winner happens to be the challenger).

In this, the second year of the contest, the holders will not be engaged until the final Challenge Round (as in the lawn tennis Davis Cup competition).



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