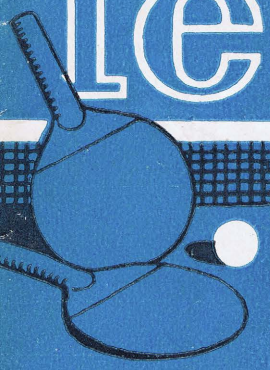


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 2 No. 5

SPRING 1948

World's Championship Souvenir



Contributors

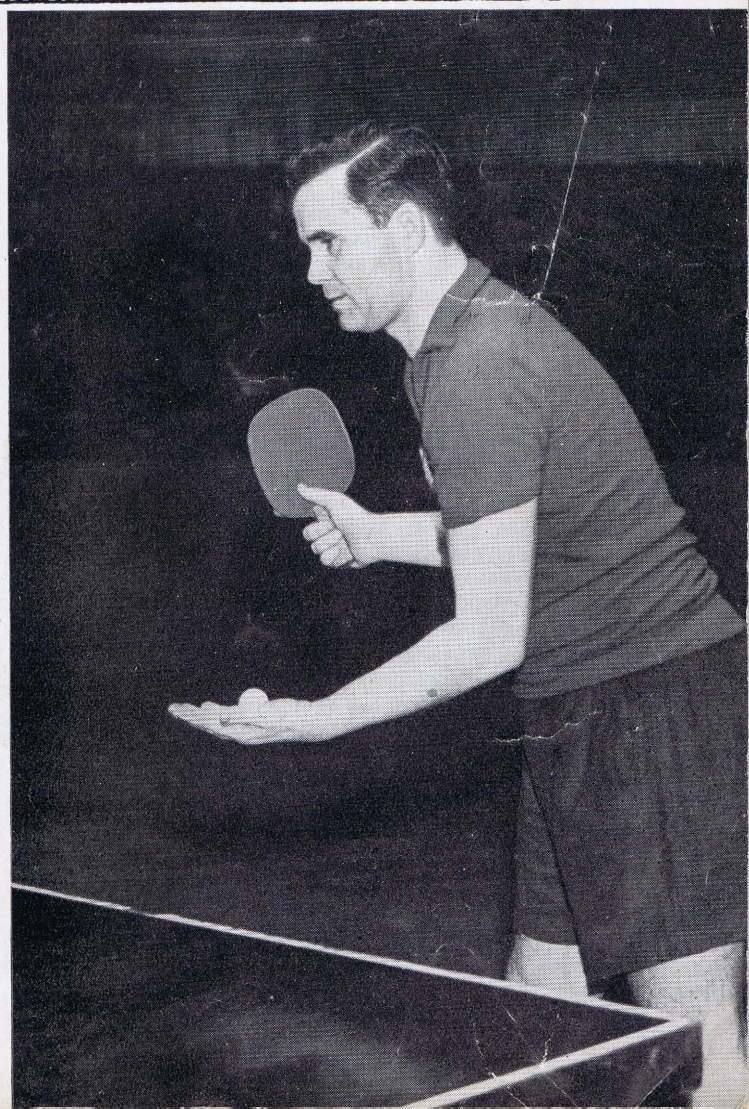
- R. BERGMANN
- K. STANLEY
- S. PROFFITT
- G. MARSHALL
- Etc., Etc.

★

World Championship Photographs

★

COVER PORTRAIT
FERENCZ SIDO
Hungary's No. 1





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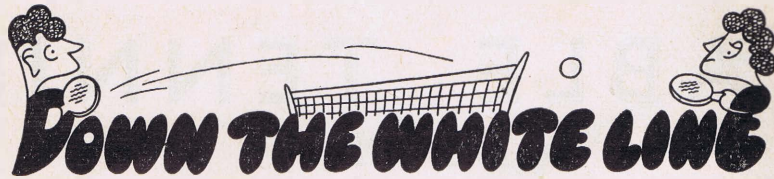
One Shilling

What of the Future ?

AFTER the staging of the World Championships at the Wembley Stadium we can rejoice in the fact that we have a most efficient English Table Tennis Association. The whole affair was put over in a superb manner, and though the financial loss was heavy, the prestige won for the game will have a marked effect in the months to come. Bravo E.T.T.A. and all you voluntary workers who assisted in such a splendid manner.

It is heartening to know that here in England the game is organised on a scale unequalled by any other nation, but then we suddenly realise that in spite of all the splendid achievements of our Association we have yet to produce a team of world-beaters. It is only in this department of the game that the E.T.T.A. have failed—but it is a department which is surely the most important.

Richard Bergmann has brought the world title to this country, but then Richard is not a product of the E.T.T.A. They did not discover him, train him, and then gradually give him that experience which made him into a world beater. They merely grasped an opportunity created by circumstances to pull off a Swaythling Cup victory. The plan failed and we are now back where we were. We must revert to the hard way of building up a Swaythling Cup team from young material. We urge the E.T.T.A. to be bold. Scrap all the old names, they've had their day. Bring in some youngsters even if it means defeat after defeat for a couple of years. This could have been done in 1946 for the Czechoslovak tour, and again in Paris at last season's world championship, and still again at Wembley this year. Had this been done, what a promising and youthful team we might have had for Stockholm next year. Viewed from every angle, including the financial one, our finest investment for the future is in the youth. One day we might have a Selection Committee with foresight and courage and when that day arrives our English Association will be indisputably the finest of its kind in the world.



By GOSSIMA

The Swedish team manager, Olle Kihlman, was busy at the Wembley World Championships taking notes and measurements in preparation for next year's event which is to be held in Stockholm in February. Seven tables will be used and the hall has a capacity gate of 2,000. He told me that he considered Swedish tables to be superior to ours, one of their good points being that the legs are set one foot inside so that when a player jumps forward to return a drop shot there is no danger of him colliding into one of the legs. He also informed me that in Swedish tournaments all contestants must wear identification numbers.

The use of fluorescent lighting for table tennis presents a number of technical difficulties. However, at Stockholm next year a test will be made. A special table is to be lit by this method and leading players will be asked to give their views to the World Congress.

It is believed that the Soviet Cultural Organisation is considering affiliation to the International T.T. Federation. Present champion of the Soviet Union is reported to be Dzindziliaskas, former Lithuanian Swaythling cup player.

On another page we feature a ranking list, but here is a ranking list of world players received from India: 1 Vana, 2 Barna, 3 Bergmann, 4 Tereba, 5 Slar, 6 Stipek, 7 Miles, 8 Pagilaro.

Martin Reisman, 18 year old student of New York, is ranked as No. 6 U.S.A. player, with Miles as No. 1. Reisman told me he has been playing table tennis for six years, but his week at Wembley had taught him a lot. He realised that he must develop his defence and a good backhand. "What type of a backhand do you want? One like Barna's?" I asked. "No," replied Martin, "I would like to acquire a Sido backhand."

During March Richard Bergmann took part in an exhibition at Whitehaven. Unfortunately not one of the other exhibitionists could keep the engagement and Richard was forced to give a one-man show. The evening was such a success that he received a repeat booking.

The shape of Sido's bat might almost be called a square for it has four corners which are only slightly rounded.

Vana holds his racket so that his thumb rests on the handle instead of on the rubber of the playing surface. He is of the opinion that too many people try to copy the style of Victor Barna who relies mainly on his backhand for attacking purposes. "Barna's backhand flick is not easy to imitate," he remarked, "and most beginners make a big mistake in trying to develop their game on the lines of the ex-champion." Bohumil Vana stated that he considered the new service entirely unnecessary, and he also felt that there was absolutely no necessity for the height of the net to be increased. "But," he added, "if the net is higher then players like Miles and Reisman will have had their day."

Russell Algie, who worked his passage to Wembley from New Zealand, where he is No. 1 player, told me that his work on the ship coming over was mostly painting. In his spare time he tried practising a little by pushing a table against a wall, but the roll of the ship made this rather futile. For the return trip to New Zealand he endeavoured to book a passage in the normal manner but was told that the waiting list already covered two years, and so there was nothing for it but to paint another ship.

A U.S.A. tournament rule states, "Players may be defaulted for unbecoming conduct or appearance or for style of play held detrimental to the game."

Girls Love to Lose

By A. G. HEBDEN.

PERHAPS; when girl plays girl, the title of this article is not strictly correct, but it is correct when they have taken the courage to "pick their man" for serious practice.

How often does one see a man playing a female member of his club with that "why must I suffer" attitude? And how often have you seen complete boredom etched on the girl's face, and the face of everybody else? Surely this lazy playing can be beneficial to no one.

Men, it's up to you!

On the contrary to C. Glover's article (*Table Tennis Review*, Vol. I, No. 6) I do *not* advocate giving the girl a generous handicap. True it does serve the purpose of keeping the man on his toes—but it doesn't help the girl.

With all due respects to C. Glover, I don't think the man, or the girl, really enjoys the handicapped game. For even when the girl wins she knows that she really lost.

No, men, there's nothing for it but to thrash the living daylights out of the girl. Beat her 21-0 and she'll simply thrive on it.

It's a psychological truth that girls love to lose to the man of their choice—especially so when they know that they have been taken seriously. Girls are wise, sweet creatures. They know that only by all-out playing can they improve their game.

They don't mind losing 21-0, in fact they'll give you one of the sweetest smiles in the world—for next time, such is their make up, they feel sure of winning at least one point. And when they do that they know that they have improved—have, even, become your conqueror!

COMPERE WANTED — URGENTLY

We have received an "S.O.S." from Messrs. Victor Barna and Alec Brook who state they are in urgent need of a comperer for their stage act. They mention that persons applying should be of good personality and appearance and possess a full knowledge of Table Tennis. Applicants must apply *at once* to: Alec Brook, 103, Rushams Road, Horsham, Sussex. (Telephone: Horsham 1163).

International Match

WALES V. IRELAND.

At Newport, February 2nd, 1948.

Result: Wales 5, Ireland 6.
(*Wales First*).

W. Sweetland beat V. Mercer—16-21, 21-13, 21-16.

Stan Jones beat I. Martin—21-12, 21-18.

M. Smith beat H. Morris—21-19, 18-21, 21-15.

G. Chugg lost to H. O'Prey—14-21, 15-21.

Miss B. Gray lost to Miss M. Minshull—13-21, 19-21.

Miss A. Bates lost to Miss A. Coombs—13-21, 18-21.

Jones and C. Hann lost to Martin and Morris—21-23, 24-22, 15-21.

Sweetland and Chugg beat Mercer and O'Prey—21-16, 22-20.

Miss Gray and Miss Bates lost to Miss Minshull and Miss Coombs—14-21, 21-15, 8-21.

Jones and Miss Gray beat Martin and Miss Coombs—17-21, 21-18, 21-18.

Sweetland and Miss Bates lost to Mercer and Miss Minshull—17-21, 21-18, 18-21.

AN OPEN LETTER

TO RICHARD BERGMANN

Dear Richard;

You and I have been acquainted since the far off days of 1935/6 when, as a mere boy, you stormed the Czechoslovakian capital to reach the last eight in the world singles championship. At the Baden Congress a year later, I was among the first to offer my congratulations on the occasion of your win over Erlich in the final. Our friendship thus has ripened throughout the years.

Betwixt and between, lots has happened. The fact that you joined up soon after the outbreak of war (to help in the common cause) endeared you to the hearts of the British public. Those of us closely connected with you proudly related stories of both your prowess on the table and unimpeachable sportsmanship.

Your world came tumbling down one unforgettable English Championship night at the Empire Pool. Rival Bohumil Vana, stepped out of a Prague plane and out-classed you before an audience that appeared bewildered at the result. Nevertheless, we on the "inside" marvelled at your performance in view of your lack of practice, so despite this set-back, you were still honoured and not reviled in defeat.

Then came the illustrative posters offering a £500 challenge match and your decision not to defend the title won in Cairo, 1939. A list to starboard on the popularity ship followed, but during your subsequent retirement your prestige still remained afloat.

There were high jinks and frolics in the table tennis circles when, coinciding with your naturalisation, you made your peace with the authorities and returned to the rank and file in quest of further gilded pots. At Belle Vue this season, the fans who had hitherto been bored by drab displays, were in a frenzy of excitement solely on account of a change of their life-long dream of an English Champion coming true.

Roars and roars accompanied your magnificent fighting victory on February 11th, labelling you thrice world champion. Those of us who rushed round to your dressing room, anxious to shake hands, were aghast at hearing your avowed

intention not to compete in any future open tournaments, but to continue solely in the pursuit of fees via exhibitions and coaching. This left a nasty taste, but maybe, in the flush of that Wembley victory, you dreamt of globe-trotting tours and eliminating bouts with an appearance as world champion in a grand finale at Madison Square Gardens, New York, but it's obvious that a Tilden-like circus would not carry much weight when a galaxy of world renowned names failed to pack 'em in at Wembley on the scale anticipated. Believe me, old friend, if there had been any loop-holes for the sharp-shooting promoters, they would have been on the horizon long before now. Your idea isn't new.

On the other hand a breakaway of a few stars entails advance publicity and other expensive items. By the time the Excise people have their dues, there's not a lot of copper left to play with.

On a long-term policy non-appearance in competitive games only means your name becoming lost to the public. Whereas to slip into an odd tournament, even whilst in the midst of a big-monied theatrical contract, bolsters up the publicity angle, and by falling in line with the Association's wishes, you give a helping hand to those who have done yeoman's work to establish this sport in your new country.

Remember Richard, that as a player you come under an enterprising organisation whose outlook on the modern commercialised sport is broadminded. In no way do the authorities deter a registered player from picking up windfalls through exhibitions, coaching, or earning a few ink-splattered pennies from press assignments. In fact, one is encouraged to go ahead. The "No Status" ruling on the amateur/professional question for experts of your ability is a democratic gift envied by some of those who indulge in the purely amateur organisations.

I'm just asking you to ponder. Is it worth it? I—and thousands more—still want to shake hands and exclaim "Well played, Richard."

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY PROFFITT.

RANKING THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS

The writer of this article wishes to remain anonymous, but we assure all readers that he is a present-day player of high repute, in fact no reader could possibly ignore him as being in the first 20 of the world's best. Here then is his list.

- 1.—Bergmann (England).
- 2.—Vana (Czechoslovakia).
- 3.—Andreadis (Czechoslovakia).
- 4.—Miles (U.S.A.).
- 5.—Tereba (Czechoslovakia).
- 6.—Soos (Hungary).
- 7.—Pagliaro (U.S.A.).
- 8.—Sido (Hungary).
- 9.—Flisberg (Sweden).
- 10.—Reisman (U.S.A.).
- 11.—Amouretti (France).
- 12.—Leach (England).
- 13.—Barna (England).
- 14.—Nash (U.S.A.).
- 15.—Koczian (Hungary).
- 16.—Tokar (Czechoslovakia).
- 17.—Stipek (Czechoslovakia).
- 18.—Cartland (U.S.A.).
- 19.—Haguenauer (France).
- 20.—Schiff (U.S.A.).

Our contributor follows with a few brief opinions of the various players mentioned.

I REALISE that many people favour Andreadis, who has all the strokes a player can desire, but he doesn't move fast enough and cannot "kill" when put on the spot by a good defensive player.

Miles has a wonderful and efficient forehand and a deadly chop on both wings, but he has no stamina, no match temperament and no back-hand attack.

Though Tereba has been out of big events this season I do think he could still justify his fifth place. He is a complete and all-round player with a good "kill" shot.



RUTH AARONS

Soos deserves his place because of his consistency in keeping lesser players in check—look at his Wembley record. Personally I like Pagliaro and was tempted to give him a higher ranking, but lack of competitive play puts him at No. 7. Sido has a forceful style but is inclined to be erratic. Reisman is of course the best bet for the future, while Leach's performance was disappointing when compared to Paris.

The Ladies (First Ten).

No.

- 1.—Farkas (Hungary).
- 2.—Thomas (England).
- 3.—Rozeanu (Roumania).
- 4.—Aarons (U.S.A.).
- 5.—Pokorna (Czechoslovakia).
- 6.—Beregi (England).
- 7.—Pritzi (Austria).
- 8.—Blackburn (England).
- 9.—Fuerstova (Czechoslovakia).
- 10.—Elliot (Scotland).

There is little to choose between Farkas and Thomas. Pokorna is about the best all-rounder, while Beregi would deserve a higher place if she wasn't so erratic. Elliot has the best prospects of a future world title as she possesses that very vital fighting spirit. Peggy Franks, not included in the list, would certainly justify her inclusion if her play was more consistent.

World Championship

UNTIL late on the night of Saturday, February 7th, 1948, a collection of table tennis players from 22 nations sat in the lounge of their hotel discussing the individual contests which were to commence on the following Monday morning. With the teams' tournament over and won we had seen various displays of form which provided all and sundry with sufficient information to make personal forecasts of the most likely results.

The names mentioned were not surprising, except for perhaps the young New York student Martin Reisman whose dynamic forehand hitting threatened to upset all calculations.

Barna Injured.

I arrived at Wembley Stadium on the Monday morning to find that Sweetland, of Wales, had caused a mild sensation by beating the Czech player Marinko, while on table number eleven Agopoff (France) was putting up a sturdy fight against Reisman (U.S.A.). Reisman took the first two games, playing his close-to-the-table, quick-fire, precision hitting with Agopoff defending grimly. In the third game the Frenchman brought in a little more variety and held the lead at 19-14, but Reisman won 24-22.

Good looking Mrs. Barna explained to me that Victor had pulled a muscle in a Swaythling Cup game, and though this had not troubled him until the Monday morning, it was then so painful that a doctor had been consulted. But muscle or no muscle Barna easily accounted for the Norwegian Swaythling Cup player, Reitan.

Table number eleven saw another titanic struggle, this time between Carrington and Leach, England's ace doubles pair, and Andreadis and Tuerk (Czechs). Although Tuerk plays with a wooden surface but he hit as ferociously as his partner and the English couple were forced to demonstrate a defence that was a delight to watch for sheer smoothness of movement and mutual understanding. Scores to the Czechs were, 24-26, 21-17, 17-21, 21-18, 21-18.

In the match between Leach and Koczian the crowd were treated to some thrilling table tennis, with the Hungarian

displaying a magnificent defence and England's No. 1 player hitting harder than usual. Leach well earned his victory of three games to one.

Before a good "gate" on the Monday night Molly Jones, of Cheltenham, easily accounted for Mrs. Vana (Czech) who played under her maiden name of Vanova.

Beregi v. Farkas.

At ten o'clock on the Monday night practically all eyes turned to table number eleven where Dora Beregi (England) faced Gizi Farkas (Hungary). On the previous Saturday evening, in the Corbillon Cup final, Beregi had simply hit Farkas off the table, and everyone was keyed up with the expectation of another English victory. Beregi had made herself a good favourite with the crowd for here was a player who obviously had fighting spirit. She has a devastating forehand drive supported by a sound half-volley defence which enables her to keep in an attacking position. As she crouched opposite her renowned opponent, her auburn hair gleaming under the arc lights, we all thought that small bundle of West Country atomic energy would repeat her previous performance, but playing in an individual championship is a different matter to a team event. Here all the artistry and big match temperament of the better player comes into its own, and the three games went to Farkas, 21-18, 21-13, 21-13.

Brian Kennedy, the Yorkshire junior international accounted for W. Scott Nissen, of Denmark, and then surprised spectators who had lingered until 10.30 p.m. by beating Ron Crayden three games to one.

Bergmann v. Reisman.

Early on the Tuesday morning Bergmann was called upon to face the ferocious hitting of Reisman. Right from the first game the Yankee barrage began and Bergmann was forced back to long defence, after a preliminary attempt at half-volley style of play. Reisman stands mostly at the backhand corner and plays his lightning forehand practically as soon as the ball bounces. Bergmann's long distance returns often came back high, but then there is a certain amount of strategy about

Story

high returns, because the attacker finds it far from easy to execute a drop shot which does not ask to be killed by an attacker coming in on the run.

Throughout the games Bergmann hit only on rare occasions and it seemed impossible to force this slim, sallow-complexioned youth with "golly-wog" hair and spectacles away from the table. In spite of everything Bergmann had the lead in games at 2-1, but Reisman equalised 2-2, and there were shouts of "Bravo, Marty!" from the American team. Bergmann tried a few backhand hits in the deciding game, but on the whole played with even more caution and took the game and match at 21-12.

Queen of Chisellers.

About mid-day on the Tuesday the queen of chisellers, Trudi Pritzi (Austrian ex-world champion) displayed drab form against France's Mrs. Vannoni in the third round. The French girl did make frequent attempts to brighten up the game but Pritzi was relentless. Eventually Trudi Pritzi won in three straight games.

One of the many pleasures of Wembley was the people you met and the short gossips first with that personality and then with another. Bohumil Vana told me he has a table tennis book on sale in his homeland. Six thousand copies have

THE HISTORY OF THE
GROWTH OF A LEAGUE

Twenty-One Up!

A twenty-page booklet telling the interesting history of twenty-one years of table tennis in Manchester. Contributors include Stanley Proffitt, Leslie Cohen, Fred Cromwell and Arthur Waite. Price 7d., post free, obtainable from the Manchester League Treasurer: H. Wilkinson Marsden, 8, Eileen Grove, Rusholme, Manchester, 14, or the office of *Table Tennis Review*.

We are grateful to the Photographic section of Wembley Stadium for the photographs on pages 9, 25 and 27.

already been sold. At present he is engaged on a second book, this time recording his experiences and travels abroad. Another personality was the ex-world champion Zoltan Mechlovits, of Hungary, who was a guest of our own Ivor Montagu. It is 20 years since he won the title, and though his health confines him to bed for various periods his heart is still in the game. He gave me the view that top-class table tennis is not what it was in 1939, but the general standard of play of the average enthusiast has made rapid progress.

The Yankee doubles pair, Miles and Reisman were eliminated in a third round encounter by the Austrians Bednar and Wunsch. As he comes away from the table Miles is heard to say, "Why didn't someone tell us those guys could play!"

Good Win for England.

In the Women's quarter-finals Pritzi was unable to cope with Vera Thomas, who was continually dancing about on her toes probing for an opening to attack. The Austrian girl repeats her usual cautious style of play. A spectator asks, "Can that girl hit the ball?" After the second game Pritzi's team manager calls her to the side for some hurried words of advice, but whatever words are spoken no change of tactics is noticeable. On this occasion the attacker is victorious and Vera Thomas enters the semi-final.

On another table the attractive Roumanian brunette, Mrs. Adelstein Rozeanu, playing in scarlet shirt and grey slacks puts paid to Scotland's hope and Helen Elliot drops out in the quarter-final.

Take Your Pick!

At 3.45 p.m. the spectators are spoilt for choice. So many good games are in progress at the same time that one doesn't know which one to watch. It is a case of take your pick from, Sido v. Miles, Stipek v. Andreadis, Nash v. Barna, and Bergmann v. Soos. All these games are simply terrific.

In the Sido v. Miles match the American is not allowed to hit so freely but he holds the lead at two games to one. The Hungarian team manager then comes up to give Sido some advice. Dora Beregi and

veteran Zoltan Mechlovits also tender their advice. Sido throws up his arms in an action of despair. Miles then goes on to beat Sido and to qualify to meet Vana in the quarter-final.

In the deciding game of the Barna v. Nash encounter the Englishman is down 17-13, but levels at 19-19. Barna defends brilliantly and his returns go back low over the net. The spectators are keyed up with suspense as the scores go to 20 all—21 all—22 all—23 all—then Barna wins, 25-23. Barna played a superb game. His defence was always a delight to watch and even at crucial moments of the game he came in hitting with backhand and forehand.

At 4-55 p.m. the Bergmann v. Soos match eventually ends in a victory to Richard after play of almost one hour and a quarter. Meanwhile Amouretti accounts for Leach in a duel that is mainly the Leach forehand against the Frenchman's heavy chop.

After eliminating players from Sweden, Greece and Belgium, A. W. C. Simons, of Bristol, met the Czech player Tokar in the fourth round. Although Tokar won, Simons put up a splendid fight and succeeded in taking one of the games.

On the Tuesday evening, in the quarter-final Bergmann appeared to have played himself into form and his attack had now become a great deal more reliable and deadly. His defeat of the Austrian player, H. Just, qualified him for another Wembley finals night.

In another quarter-final Victor Barna, still playing beautiful table tennis found Andreadis a different proposition to Nash, and after three games the Czech advances to the semi-final. Andreadis was asked, "Who do you think will win the title?" His reply was, "Maybe Vana, maybe Miles, maybe Bergmann, maybe . . . I hope so . . . myself!" It is sufficient to say that on Tuesday night Andreadis was perhaps the best bet.

Roumania Protests.

Little did we all realise when Miss Gizi Farkas began her semi-final match with Mrs. A. Rozeanu that we were about to witness one of those unfortunate events which so often mar an otherwise perfectly run tournament. The first game went to Rozeanu, and in the second game Farkas became more cautious in her play and the match became dull and uneventful. The scoring was slow and the game dragged on wearily until Rozeanu, at the end of a point, took one step towards the referee

The Wembley Set-up

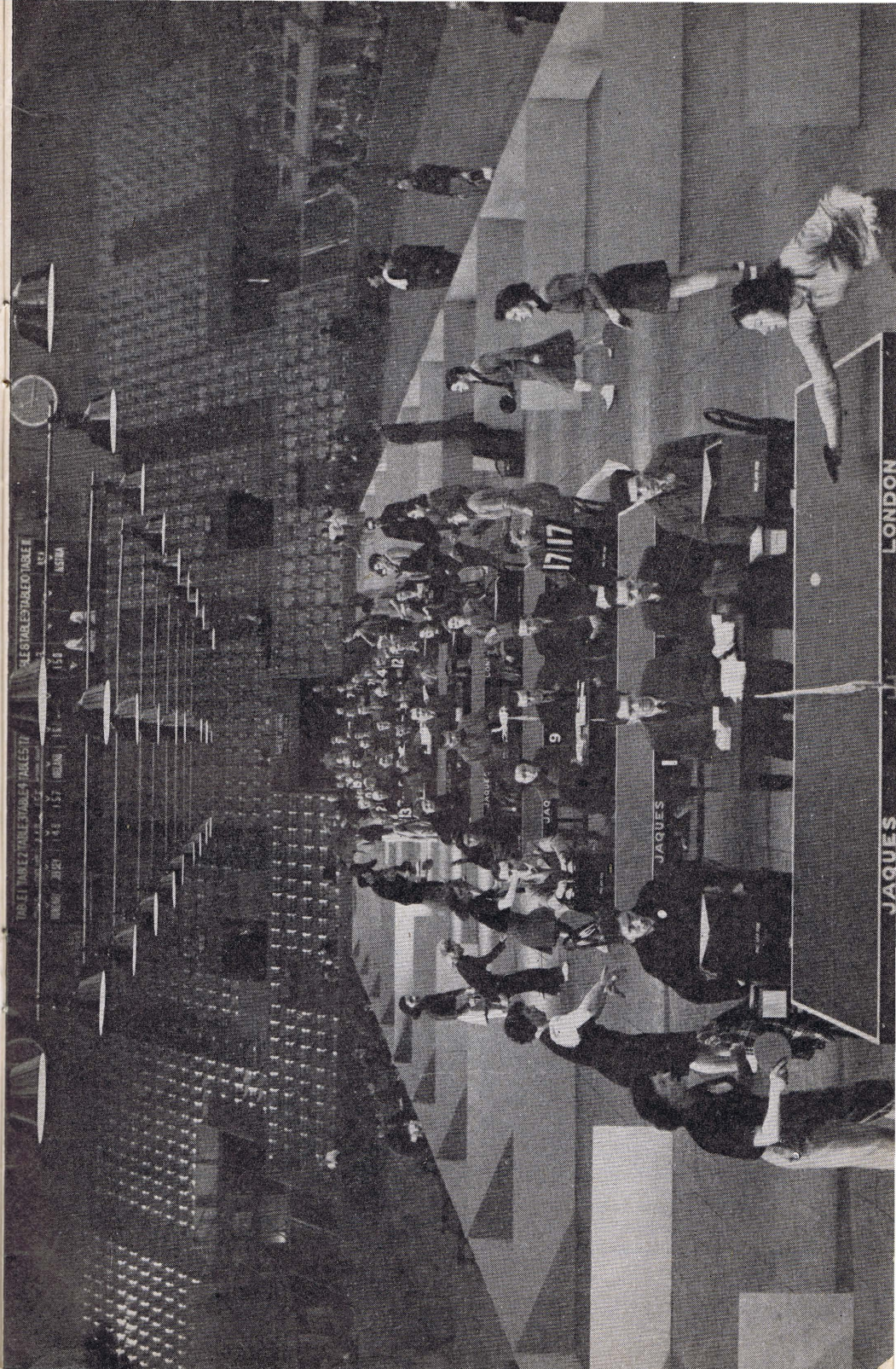
Featured opposite is a photograph taken on the first day's play at Wembley, February 4th, 1948. Time is 11-15 a.m., which accounts for the absence of any great number of spectators. Playing on the table nearest the camera are Corbillon Cup players Miss Leah Thall (U.S.A.) and on the right Miss Trudi Pritzi (Austria) who won the world's title in 1937/38. The match in progress is a Corbillon Cup match. Pritzi won with scores of 21-10, 21-9, although U.S.A. won the event 3-2.

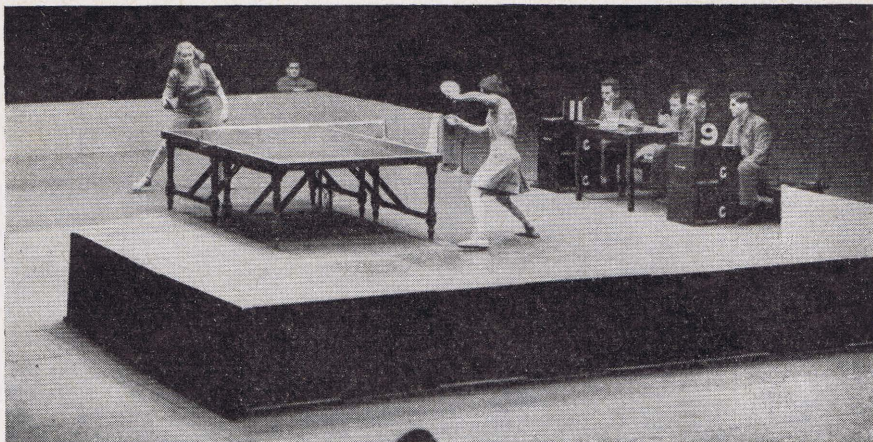
★

and pointed to her wrist-watch, obviously informing him that the time rule should be put into force. Farkas then began to hit once more but lost this second game at 21-8, but succeeded in winning the third game 21-9.

The fourth game degenerated into a tame chiselling duel, and at 11-11 an official walked into the playing arena and placed a special timing clock on the umpire's table. The fourth game had then been in progress for 13 minutes, and according to a special World Championship regulation, "where a game be unfinished 20 minutes after its commencement the umpire shall award the game to the player leading." Still the game does not speed up very much. Both girls chisel for about ten strokes and then one or the other tries a quick hit. Farkas takes the fourth game, 21-18.

The match had been in going well over one hour when the fifth and deciding game commenced. After nine minutes play the score is 10-8 for Farkas and the two girls change ends. The crowd cheer Rozeanu when she pulls up to 11-11, and it is obvious they want to see her win. (A reigning champion rarely has the support of the crowd). Farkas leads at 16-13 and also at 18-16, never having lost the lead. Then 19-18 to Rozeanu. Farkas plays a drop shot, 19-19. Farkas again takes the lead at 20-19 . . . then 20-20. At 23-22 Farkas leads, and from my own personal timing the game had then been on 20 minutes, but as Rozeanu led at 24-23 it is difficult to say who was leading after 20 minutes of play. Unfortunately the umpire seemed to be giving little attention to the timing of the game. And so the scoring proceeded up to 27-27 with the play mostly of the chiselling type but only one player ever trying to attack and that player being Farkas. After 27 minutes the final game was won by Farkas.





WOMEN'S FINAL: Mrs. V. Dace Thomas makes a scoring shot against Miss G. Farkas. Miss Farkas won by 3 games to 2.

The Roumanian players then made a protest saying that Mrs. Rozeanu should have been awarded the match during the later stages of the last game. This I considered to be most unfair. Farkas nearly always had the lead throughout that vital game and she certainly did more than her share to brighten up the play.

Members of the international jury were then called for a special session and it was decided that the protest was justifiable and both players were asked to replay. In the replay Farkas justified her entry into the final by winning in three straight games.

Vana v. Miles.

As expected, this was a thrill-crammed match. Both players hitting hard and from time to time both exhibiting amazing defensive powers. Miles took the third game with ease, making the score 2-1, and he then slowly left the table and disappeared from view. (It was at this point that the Hon. Ivor Montagu came to the microphone and asked members of the International Jury to present themselves for a meeting on the Farkas v. Rozeanu event). No play is now in progress and the crowd become impatient,

until they were informed of the rule which allows either player to claim a five minutes rest between the third and fourth games.

Miles returns to find that the short rest has also been of benefit to his opponent, for the reigning world champion brought out some super hitting and led at 20-12. With a gesture that was almost of disgust Miles then hit the next point right off the table. The play in the fifth game was really colossal and time and time again one or other of the players won applause which literally raised the roof. That fifth game might have been won by either of them, but Vana just scraped in at 21-18. Miles threw his bat on the table and then very sportingly went and flung his arms around Vana. A truly magnificent game.

Semi-Finals.

Bergmann's own article in this issue gives a fairly comprehensive report of the run of the play in his match with Andreadis, but I would like to say "Well played, Andreadis, you played a terrific game."

In the other semi-final Amouretti took the first game from Vana, but after that he never looked like winning.

Finals.

In the women's singles final between Miss Gizi Farkas and Mrs. Vera Thomas, the English girl held on up to two games all, but at 15-5 in favour of Farkas in the deciding game it was obvious that the title would return to Hungary. Farkas was always the complete mistress of that

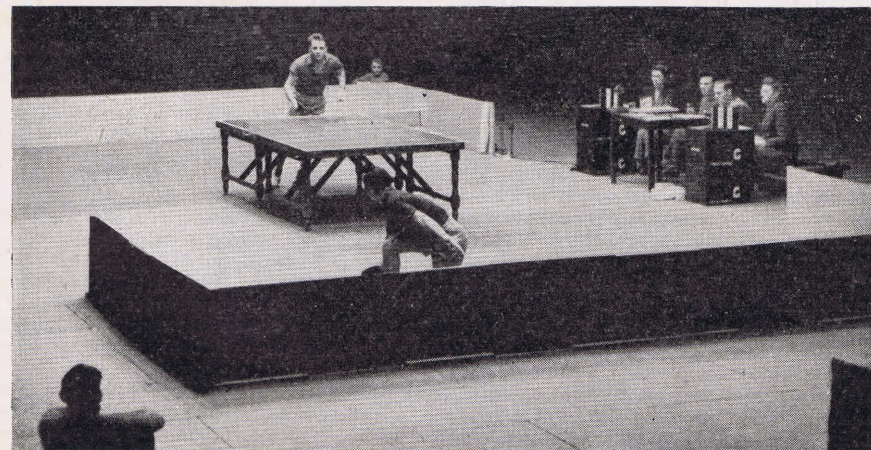
fifth game. As she was presented with the trophy a battery of fourteen press cameras were ranged before her.

Vana v. Bergmann.

Here was the event of the tournament. The arena lights went off and the playing lights came on. The arc lights above the table had been reinforced by the television lighting, and equipment manager, Mr. G. W. Decker, informed me that there was then a total of 87,000 watts pouring down on the table. Fortunately the vast arena caused the heat to be dissipated. Had the hall been one of moderate size it would certainly have been possible to fry an egg on the playing surface.

In his match against Andreadis, Bergmann had rarely attacked, but against Vana we saw an entirely different type of Bergmann. Right from the start he was aggressive and refused to be subdued by Vana's counter hitting. First game went to the Englishman but in the second game Vana began hitting with unbelievable ferocity and Bergmann was forced back—but not for long. Up came Bergmann at the first opportunity and then it was Vana's turn to fall back. Rarely has Wembley seen Vana demonstrate his ability to defend, again and again bringing back what looked like a sure winner for Bergmann.

At two games all the atmosphere was electric. Everyone was of the opinion that this was surely the finest display of table tennis that had ever been played. Bergmann's footwork and ability to run in and



MEN'S SEMI-FINAL: I. Andreadis attacking as R. Bergmann defends. Bergmann won 3 games to 2 after a hard struggle.

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PROGRAMMES

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take over the attack was his bulwark against Vana's phenomenal attack. At 5-4 in favour of Bergmann, Vana struck a bad patch included in which was a couple of edge balls. As the two players changed ends the score was 10-4 for the Englishman. Bergmann pushed on relentlessly giving nothing away while Vana undismayed fought back courageously. But at 21-14 Bergmann won the game and title from his old rival Bohumil Vana of Czechoslovakia.

After facing the press cameras Bergmann then announced to the various sports writers that he would take no further part in competitive play. "In future," he said, "I will concentrate my activities on coaching and exhibitions."

WORLD'S CONSOLATION

SINGLES RESULTS.

Men's.—J. Koczian (Hungary) beat Ron Sharman (England)

Women's.—Miss Pinkie Barnes beat Mrs. Abou Haif (Egypt).

How I Won

By
Richard Bergmann
(World Champion)

DURING the war years my service abroad did not enable me to get any really serious table tennis practice and I began to have some doubts as to whether I should be able to hold the world's title once the event was staged again.

My first major post-war tournament was the French Open, held in Paris in 1946. I travelled from Kiel, where I was stationed, and in spite of everything managed to win the event. Then followed other Open titles in Ireland and England.

Prior to the 1946 English Open I felt rather confident of winning this coveted event, but I hadn't reckoned with the Czechs who put in their first post-war appearance in this country. In the quarter-finals I just managed to beat Slar after a very shaky performance, but Andreadis in the semi-final was a little easier.

In the final I met my old rival Bohumil Vana, and the fact that I beat Bohumil 21-19 in the fifth game of the final of the World's Championship, held in Cairo in 1939, was not forgotten by him. Before 10,000 people at Wembley he slashed me off the table in three straight games. Afterwards he told me he had waited six years to give me that thrashing.

My £500 Challenge.

During the months that followed I tired of hearing people tell me that the new Vana was unbeatable. I felt certain that with serious, regular practice I could beat him. I decided to shake public opinion by issuing a £500 challenge which anybody could accept by putting up an equal sum. The challenge match to be the best of five games. I also decided not to enter the 1947 World's event and to concentrate on my challenge. Nobody accepted.

My old rival won at Paris and I was dethroned, although I didn't lose my title on the table. People began to comment and say that I had been afraid to enter and my name began to drift out of the T.T. world. I realised that I simply had to prove that there was still plenty of fighting table tennis left in me, and so I re-entered competitive table tennis, win-



RICHARD BERGMANN

ing the three last tournaments of the 1946/47 season, beating Johnny Leach in two of them.

Now I Am British.

I started the 1947 season as a Britisher, an event I had been looking forward to for nine years. After winning the Birmingham Open I was defeated in the Eastern Suburban by Leach in the final. Johnny played a superb game that day.

Then came the English Open, at Belle Vue, Manchester, in which I had to face nearly all of the world's best players. You all know what happened. I felt that my faith in myself had been justified after beating Amouretti, Koczian, Andreadis—and then Vana in the final. I had taken my revenge, but Vana was still the World Champion. Something had to be done about that.

A number of Open titles came my way, and then came a very proud moment. I was selected for the English Swaythling Cup team which was to contest the team competition at Wembley. I felt this to be a great honour and resolved to do my best to help England to win the Swaythling Cup. Things didn't turn out too well and England went out to U.S.A. All I could think was that I had failed badly, for I knew I was expected to win all my three matches. I did beat Reisman but lost easily to Nash and Miles, and having lost one match to Sido in the Hungarian match, my own prospects for the Men's Singles, which was to start on the Monday morning, was far from being rosy.

Special Practice.

On the Friday night I gave the matter a great deal of thought and started specialised practice on the Saturday, and continued all day Sunday, concentrating on observations made during the team

competition. I put in a great deal of concentrated training for the forthcoming best of five tussles which were more in my line than the three set matches both in mind and body.

Reismann was my first big hurdle, and then followed Soos, who is a much steadier player than the hard-hitting but rather reckless young American. H. Just, of Austria was my quarter-final opponent, and then came the finals night.

My Most Difficult Match.

As you know, I faced Andreadis in the semi. Little did I realise as I walked to the table of the ordeal I was about to experience. Relying on my defence as usual against Andreadis I lost the first two games easily, this in spite of the fact that in all my previous meetings against him I had always won with defensive play. I had to make a quick decision. Should I abandon all my tactics and just let fly at him? I decided to carry on in the same way but to double my concentration in a do or die effort. Comforted by his lead of two games he relaxed a little and lost the third game 21-7. He then realised he had to fight all the way, and he set his heart on winning that fourth game. I led at 19-16 and 20-18, but then Ivan made it 20-20. Then followed 21-20—his first

match point. (I died for the first time!). . . 21-21! Then followed his second match point. . . 22-21. (I died for the second time!). . . 22-22. Then came his third match point . . . 23-22. (My third death!). The heavy air seemed to whisper, "This is it!" But no . . . 23-23, and then the game was mine, 25-23, making the score two games all.

As we started the fifth game I (and probably my supporters) thought the worst was over, but Andreadis started well and took the lead at 9-4. As we changed ends I led 10-9, then 11-9, only to fall behind again at 12-11. We were level once more at 12-12 and then I ran out at 21-16. I was in the final. What a tremendous relief. The applause nearly lifted the heavy glass roof off the stadium. Poor, unlucky Andreadis. That was the hardest and most staggering match of my career.

In the other semi Vana annihilated Amouretti of France, but I wasn't worried any more. After those five shattering games with Andreadis my nerves couldn't have been in better shape. Forty-five minutes later I faced Vana in a World final once again. This time I attacked quite a lot, much to the surprise of the public. The result you know, and I am especially proud to have brought the title to England again.

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The

Richard Bergmann

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

MEN'S DOUBLES

We give only those results which we feel will interest readers.

First Round.—Fredriksson/Cederholm (Sweden) beat Mercer/O'Prey (Ireland), 3-0; Haydon/Soos (England/Hungary) beat Sweetland/Jones (Wales), 3-0; Andreadis/Tuerk (Czech) beat Leach/Carrington (England), 3-2; Chugg/Smith (Wales) beat Hansford/Carrel (Jersey), 3-0; M. A. Haif/A. A. Haif (Egypt) beat Martin/Morris (Ireland), 3-0.

Second Round.—Bednar/Wunsch (Austria) beat Simons/Litten (England), 3-2; Haydon/Soos beat Casofsky/Algie (England/N. Zealand), 3-1; Sido/Koczian (Hungary) beat Hook/Collar (England), 3-0; Helmy/H. A. Haif (Egypt) beat Chugg/Smith, 3-2.

Third Round.—Bednar/Wunsch beat Miles/Reisman (U.S.A.), 3-2; Haydon/Soos beat Sido/Koczian, 3-2; Vana/Stipek (Czech) beat Walton/Mackay (England), 3-0; Bergmann/Barna beat Harrower/Stanley (England), 3-0; Price/Nash (U.S.A.) beat Langner/Markwell (England), 3-0.

Fourth Round.—Haydon/Soos beat Andreadis/Tuerk (Czech), 3-2; Bergmann/Barna beat Price/Nash (U.S.A.), 3-1.

Semi-Final.—Haydon/Soos beat Bednar/Wunsch, 3-0; Vana/Stipek beat Bergmann/Barna, 3-0.

Final.—Vana/Stipek, beat Haydon/Soos, 21-1821-15, 21-13.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

(Results of Interest).

First Round.—Clouther (U.S.A.)/Barnes (England) beat Gyogy/Karpati (Hungary), 3-0.

Second Round.—Beregi (England)/Elliot (Scotland) beat Kharim/Haif (Egypt), 3-0; Fowler/Lentle (England) beat Vanova/Zelenkova (Czech), 3-0.

Third Round.—Beregi/Elliot beat Clouther/Barnes, 3-0; Fowler/Lentle beat Steventon/Jones (England), 3-2; Thomas/(Franks (England) beat Farkas/Kettnerova, 3-0; Thall/Thall (U.S.A.) beat Pritzi/Rozeanu, 3-2.

Semi-Final.—Beregi/Elliot beat Fowler/Lentle, 21-13, 21-17, 21-4; Thomas/Franks beat Thall/Thall, 21-14, 21-14, 21-17.

Final.—Thomas/Franks beat Beregi/Elliot, 17-21, 21-12, 21-19, 21-8.

MIXED DOUBLES

Final.—R. Miles/Miss T. Thall (U.S.A.) beat B. Vana/Mrs. Pokorna (Czech), 13-21, 14-21, 21-18, 21-19, 21-12.

PLEASE NOTE.

To economise in space we have adopted the E.T.T.A. method of printing scores. Only the loser's score is printed, but in the case of the winner of event dropping a game his score is prefaced with a minus sign.

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Autumn Number October Spring Number April

CORBILLON CUP

Holders : ENGLAND.

GROUP A.

AUSTRIA—ENGLAND: 0-3: Poetschek/Beregi —5, —14; Wutzl/Thomas —4, —6; Poetschek, Wutzl/Franks, Thomas —4, —11.

BELGIUM—ENGLAND: 1-3; Detournay/Beregi —11, —15; /Thomas —19, —10; Roland/Beregi —8, —16; Declercq, Detournay/Franks, Steventon 10, 19.

ENGLAND—JERSEY: 3-0: Franks/Turner 8, 12; Steventon/De La Haye 11, 13; Beregi, Franks/Taylor, Turner 6, 9.

ENGLAND — ROUMANIA: 3-1: Franks/Rozeanu —18, —15; Thomas/Kolosvary 13, 13; /Rozeanu 25, 19; Franks, Thomas/Kolosvary, Rozeanu 8, 5.

ENGLAND—SCOTLAND: 3-1: Franks/Elliot —14, —14; Thomas/Elliot 16, —18, 15; /Norrie 6, 9; Franks, Thomas/Elliot, Pithie 16, —18, 12.

ENGLAND — U.S.A.: 3-1: Beregi/Clouther 16, 12; /L. Thall 15, 15; Thomas/L. Thall 16, 14; Franks, Thomas/L. Thall, T. Thall —13, —14.

ENGLAND—WALES: 3-0: Beregi/Bates 18, 7; Franks/Gray 15, 15; Beregi, Franks/Bates, Gray 12, 8.

SCOTLAND—WALES: 3-2: Elliot/Bates 11, 11; /Gray 15, 9; Norrie/Bates —18, 16, —15; /Gray 17, 18; Elliot, Pithie/Bates, Gray —10, —13.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA — HUNGARY: 1-3: Fuerstova/Farkas —8, —17; Pokorna/Farkas —15, —15; Karpati 12, —9, 16; Fuerstova, Pokorna/Farkas, Karpati 19, —9, —18.

FINAL.

ENGLAND beat HUNGARY 3-1: Beregi/Farkas 19, 15; /Karpati 10, 13; Thomas/Farkas —16, —14; Beregi, Thomas/Farkas, Karpati —18, 14, 13.

A	NATIONS COMPETING	AU	B	EN	J	R	SC	U	W	Total Points
1.	AUSTRIA	★	2-3	0-3	3-1	1-3	2-3	2-3	3-1	2
2.	BELGIUM	3-2	★	1-3	3-0	1-3	3-1	0-3	3-2	4
3.	ENGLAND	3-0	3-1	★	3-0	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-0	7
4.	JERSEY... ..	1-3	0-3	0-3	★	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0
5.	ROUMANIA	3-1	3-1	1-3	3-0	★	3-0	3-1	3-0	6
6.	SCOTLAND	3-2	1-3	1-3	3-0	0-3	★	0-3	3-2	3
7.	U.S.A.	3-2	3-0	1-3	3-0	1-3	3-0	★	3-1	5
8.	WALES	1-3	2-3	0-3	3-0	0-3	2-3	1-3	★	1

B	C	EG	F	H	IE	L	NE	SD	Total Points
1.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA ★	3-0	3-0	1-3	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	6
2.	EGYPT	0-3	★	0-3	0-3	3-0	3-0	3-0	4
3.	FRANCE	0-3	3-0	★	0-3	3-1	3-0	3-0	5
4.	HUNGARY	3-1	3-0	3-0	★	3-0	3-0	3-0	7
5.	IRELAND	0-3	0-3	1-3	0-3	★	3-0	3-1	3
6.	LUXEMBOURG	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	★	0-3	0
7.	NETHERLANDS... ..	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	1-3	3-0	★	3-2
8.	SWEDEN	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	3-0	2-3	★

Women's Singles Championship of the World

Holder : MISS GISELLE FARKAS.

3RD ROUND.		Holder :		FINAL :	
Pritzi (Austria)	Pritzi, 3-0	Thomas	10, 12, 9	} Thomas, 11, 8, 17	} FINAL : WINNER Miss G. Farkas (Hungary) 18/21, 21/16, 21/18, 16/21, 21/12
Vannoni (France)		Thomas, 3-0			
Thomas (England)	Pokorna, 3-2	Pokorna	11, 11, 18		
Kolosvary (Roumania)		Karpati (Hungary)			
Pokorna (Czech.)	Karpati, 3-2	Thall (U.S.A.)	14, 16, 10		
Franks (England)		Farkas, 3-1			
Karpati (Hungary)	Farkas, 3-1	Rozeanu, 3-0	10, 12, 9		
Thall (U.S.A.)		Steventon (England)			
Fuerstova (Czech.)	Thall, 3-0	Elliot, 3-0	10, 12, 9		
Farkas (Hungary)		Rozeanu, 3-0			
Pithie (Scotland)	Rozeanu, 3-0	Elliot, 3-0	10, 12, 9		
Thall (U.S.A.)		Elliot (Scotland)			

WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP

MEN'S SINGLES LONDON, FEBRUARY, 1948

2ND ROUND.
 Agopouff (France) }
 Reisman (U.S.A.) }
 Bergmann (England) }
 Mohtadi (Iran) }
 Sweetland (Wales) }
 Soos (Hungary) }
 Brumwell (England) }
 Flisberg (Sweden) }
 Just (Austria) }
 Zuang (Luxemberg) }
 Casofsky (England) }
 Lejeune (Belgium) }
 Finberg (Palestine) }
 van Zoelen (Netherlands) }
 Dolinar (Yugoslavia) }
 Manchiska (France) }
 Nash (U.S.A.) }
 Tuerk (Czechoslovakia) }
 Algie (New Zealand) }
 Kabil (Egypt) }
 Eckl (Austria) }
 Steimetz (Luxemberg) }
 Casillik, (Hungary) }
 Barna (England) }
 Huberts (Netherlands) }
 Harrower (England) }
 Jones (Wales) }
 Andreadis (Czechoslovakia) }
 Goodman (England) }
 Romanich (Argentine) }
 Haguenauer (France) }
 Stipek (Czechoslovakia) }
 Dubouille (France) }
 Diwald (Austria) }
 Vana (Czechoslovakia) }
 Stanley (England) }
 Rosner (Italy) }
 Staf (Belgium) }
 Fredriksson (Sweden) }
 Schoenberg (Norway) }
 Lorsheyd (Netherlands) }
 Harangozo (Yugoslavia) }
 Miles, (U.S.A.) }
 Smith (Wales) }
 Glickmar (England) }
 Litten (England) }
 Jaminet (Luxemberg) }
 Sido (Hungary) }
 Leach (England) }
 Vogrinc (Yugoslavia) }
 Bergstrom (Sweden) }
 Oster (Luxemberg) }
 Bednar (Austria) }
 Bordrez (France) }
 du Buy (Netherlands) }
 Amouretti (France) }
 Kennedy (England) }
 Crayden (England) }
 O'Prey (Ireland) }
 Tokar (Czechoslovakia) }
 Tsitsopoulos (Greece) }
 Simons (England) }
 Sieff (Palestine) }
 Roland (Belgium) }

Reisman, 3-0 }
 Bergmann, 3-1 }
 Soos, 3-0 }
 Flisberg, 3-1 }
 Just, 3-0 }
 Casofsky, 3-1 }
 van Zoelen, 3-0 }
 Manchiska, 3-2 }
 Nash, 3-0 }
 Algie, 3-1 }
 Eckl, 3-0 }
 Barna, 3-0 }
 Harrower, 3-0 }
 Andreadis, 3-0 }
 Goodman W.O. }
 Stipek, 3-0 }
 Diwald, 3-2 }
 Vana, 3-0 }
 Staf, 3-2 }
 Fredriksson, 3-0 }
 Harangozo, 3-0 }
 Miles, 3-0 }
 Litten, 3-0 }
 Sido, 3-0 }
 Leach, 3-0 }
 Oster, 3-1 }
 Bednar, 3-0 }
 Amouretti, 3-1 }
 Kennedy, 3-1 }
 Tokar, 3-0 }
 Simons, 3-0 }
 Roland W.O. }

Bergmann, 3-2 }
 Soos, 3-2 }
 Just, 3-1 }
 Manchiska, 3-0 }
 Nash, 3-0 }
 Barna 3-1 }
 Andreadis, 3-0 }
 Stipek, 3-0 }
 Vana, 3-0 }
 Fredriksson, 3-0 }
 Miles, 3-0 }
 Sido, 3-0 }
 Leach, 3-0 }
 Amouretti, 3-0 }
 Tokar, 3-0 }
 Simons, 3-0 }

Bergmann }
 21/15, 21/12 }
 18/21, 21/12 }

Just }
 21/16, 21/23 }
 21/11, 13/21 }
 21/9 }

Barna }
 17/21, 21/11 }
 21/16, 15/21 }
 25/23 }

Andreadis }
 21/10, 15/21 }
 21/10, 21/12 }

Vana }
 21/11, 21/15 }
 21/13 }

Miles }
 21/17, 21/10 }
 19/21, 21/19 }

Amouretti }
 21/13, 20/22 }
 21/15, 13/21 }
 21/12 }

Tokar }
 21/13, 11/21 }
 21/17, 21/15 }

Bergmann }
 22/20, 21/13 }
 21/14 }

Andreadis }
 21/9, 21/17 }
 19/21, 21/13 }

Vana }
 21/15, 17/21 }
 14/21, 21/12 }
 21/18 }

Amouretti }
 22/20, 21/11 }
 21/14 }

Bergmann }
 17/21, 18/21 }
 21/7, 25/23 }
 21/16 }

Vana }
 16/21, 21/12 }
 21/12, 21/16 }

WINNER :

FINAL
R. BERGMANN
(England)
21/12, 18/21
21/19, 14/21
21/10

A Course of Instruction . .

By **KEN STANLEY**
(*Swaythling Cup Player*)
PART TWO

How to Improve Your Attack.

HAVING mastered the slow top-spin drive, your next step is obviously to acquire more speed. A first essential to remember when speeding up your stroke is to hit the ball on the top of the bounce. If you allow the ball to drop you have to lift it all the more.

When dealing with short balls, that is to say balls that fall fairly close to the net, don't stand and wait for them. Use your feet and, moving in quickly, hit the ball at the top of the bounce. Practise the arm action of this stroke slowly at first, once again aiming at keeping the ball in play for as long as possible. Don't try to win points for the time being—practise.

Once you have mastered the timing of hitting the ball at the top of its bounce you will be amazed at the speed of your attack, not because you are hitting the ball harder, but because you are hitting it earlier.

Arm Action.

With your attacking stroke, aim at cutting out unnecessary swing. Start the stroke in line with your body and already from above the table level. If you start the stroke from behind your body, or from below the table, all the movement until your bat contacts the ball is just a waste of time and energy.

Let us take for example a return which falls close to the net, fairly high, and on your forehand side. Presuming you are a right-handed player and in position for a forehand hit—left foot forward and left hip facing the table—take a quick step in with your left foot, so that your thigh presses against the table, and

the same time move the bat on to the ball. Now your stroke here actually commences in front of the body.

Practise this short approach on to the ball, but remember to follow through to the full extent of your arm.

Another useful tip is to make full use of your free arm, don't just have it hanging by your side doing nothing. Use it for balance as in fencing. Take for example again this short ball on the forehand side, as you follow through with your stroke, swing your free arm the opposite way—that is to the rear. You will find that this not only helps you to make a good follow through and maintain your balance, but also quickens the body action and in general speeds up the stroke.

It will pay you to practise this combination of footwork and body action *away from the table*, until you feel the stroke is smooth and effortless. (Don't forget to use your free arm in the manner described).

As in all strokes the follow-through is important and I do want you to pay particular attention to this most vital factor of your stroke play. Once you have gained a certain amount of mastery over your shots try to follow-through a little faster and notice how extra speed is given to the ball.

Vary Your Attack.

Once you have quickened up your attack try to put some variety into your game. Try hitting one fast shot down the middle and then a slow angle shot. At the same time keep on practising the drop shot.

Also vary your defensive play. Learn to conceal a soft chop and this

can be done after a series of heavy chops by repeating the same previous actions, but at the last moment play the ball with little or no chop at all. If you try varying the severity of your chop in this manner it will often prove invaluable, especially against experienced opponents. Quite often players come off the table and can't understand why their attack hasn't been so good. They fail to realise that the defender varied his chop, and that they played the same attacking stroke throughout instead of varying it to counter the particular stroke of the defender.

When playing against an opponent with a severe chop mix your game as much as possible. Keep your attack steady and wait patiently for "the kill." One good tactical move is to suddenly switch the angle of your drive and the follow up as quickly as possible with a very short drop shot.

General Advice.

You must learn to adapt your play according to the conditions. It is no use trying to play the same type of game on a slow, sticky table as you would on a fast one. Study conditions before you go on to play and work out in your mind just what you think can be used to the best advantage.

Train your mind to think quickly. Once a game has started try to discover what type of play wins you the most points, and then stick to that particular type of play.

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Cheshire Open

Played at Chester, March 13th, 1948.

Results.

M.S.—Shepherd (Bolton) beat Bedford (Huddersfield).

W.S.—Miss Mansell (Liverpool) beat Miss L. May (Liverpool).

Jr.S.—D. Shaw (Manchester) beat A. Shepherd (Manchester).

W.D.—Misses L. and K. May (Liverpool) beat Misses L. Alley and Shepherd (Birmingham).

Mx.D.—P. Rumjahn and L. May beat Shepherd and K. May.

North of England

Played at Manchester, February 14, 1948.

Results.

M.S.—G. Amouretti (France) beat J. Leach (London), 21-15, 21-15.

W.S.—Helen Elliot (Edinburgh) beat Nora Senior (Sheffield), 21-11, 21-12.

M.D.—G. Amouretti and D. Miller beat B. Casofsky and A. G. Millar, 12-21, 21-18, 21-15.

W.D.—H. Elliot and A. Wood beat N. Senior and M. Lightfoot, 21-19, 21-16.

Jr.S.—G. Kelly (Bradford) beat D. Shaw (Manchester).

Vana Beaten Twice

In the Europe Cup the Slavs beat the Czechs by three events to two. Vana lost to both Tokar and Marinko. Andreadis lost the third game but the Czechs won the doubles event.

Then and Now . . .

Part I—STARS OF THE PAST

By GILBERT MARSHALL (*International*).

I THINK the time is now ripe for comparisons between big names who have had their day and others who now hold the stage. On one side; as we look back, can be seen dimly the protagonists of the finger-spin-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-net age, and on the other, in bold relief, the hurricane Americans and brilliant Czechs who starred at Wembley in February of this year.

My own recollection of modern table tennis goes back to 1931, and such notabilities as Tommy Sears, David Jones, Charlie Bull, R. C. Dawson and others. At that time there was talk of the promise of a 14 year old boy named Maurice Bergl, and also of that very pleasant fellow and table tennis zealot, the late Eric Findon, then Editor of one of the earliest T.T. magazines, the *Table Tennis World*. There must be many to-day who never saw David Jones, and for their benefit I recall with great pleasure the matchless, rhythmic defence on either wing, plus the sudden leap to the table to put away a loose ball, which were the characteristics of our then No. 1 player. Jones frequently defeated the Czech stars, and at least once beat the great Victor Barna, then at the height of his fame. A. A. Haydon himself, at that time our No. 2, was actually more effective than Jones against the continentals, and those who saw the slower, older Haydon at Wembley this year, can have no conception of the dynamic bundle of energy which was the non-stop attacker of the late twenties and early thirties.

Sears, the enigma of table tennis, had a copy-book game, and indeed still has, but he always lacked the

punch necessary to beat a first-class defensive player. Attackers he could "bottle up" (as I know to my cost), and he above all other players knew how to deal with finger-spin services. He did *not* goggle at the server, wonder what the deuce was happening and make a timid stab at the ball. He just ignored the spin entirely and attacked the service as was his usual custom—an object lesson to the other players. The continental's fear and incapacity to deal with finger spin, and its offshoot knuckle-spin, led to the outcry which resulted in the very short-sighted change of rules in 1937, whereby finger spin was abolished, and ultimately, in the fantastic, almost lunatic experiment of this season, the open-hand service.

Three Musketeers.

(I have deviated somewhat from my theme, and must hastily travel in my time-machine back to pre-war days). The foreign stars of the early thirties were Barns, Sabados and Bellak, whose T.T. Circus thrilled enthusiasts throughout the country, Kolar of Czechoslovakia (who became rather fortuitously, champion of the world in 1936) and Liebster of Austria. There were others, of course: Finberg, Majoroglou, Kelen, Boros and Haizi, to name a few, but among the five players named in the previous sentence one could look with certainty for the World's No. 1.

Who can forget Barna at his best? A super defence plus the best back-hand "flick" ever seen. It was venomous, acutely angled, and a winner all the way. Barna is still a great player, but he was *the greatest*.

His erstwhile compatriot, Szabados, world champion in 1931, had a tremendous forehand punch delivered in a peculiar fashion, plus an excellent half-volley and a sound defence. Laslo Bellak, the third "Musketeer" was the most brilliant player of all times, but *not* the most consistent. He had all the shots, plus some weird services, and was an entertainment in himself, but he lacked that control, that indefinable something which raises a player's game above that of all others.

Other Stars of Yesterday.

Kolar was a sound forehand attacker with a good match temperament. He was not really in the same flight as the Hungarians but he did win the World's Title in 1936, before his home crowd in Prague, through a combination of circumstances and manœuvring which rendered the championships of that year a farce. It is worthy of note that Kolar always lost to David Jones and Maurice Bergl. Alfred Liebster was a very fine match player indeed when representing Austria, but not quite so effective when playing solely for himself. He had an effortless style, but his game lacked sting.

And so to the middle of the last decade, and to other stars who had by then arisen. Monopolising English tournaments was Bergl, once an arch-chiseller, but at his best a most effective counter-attacker with a rather high top-spin, and the brainiest of all the English players, then and now. Stanley Proffitt, well known to readers of *Table Tennis Review*, was also well to the fore, his left-handed attack and excellent defence, plus his dogged determination, gaining him many successes.

Alec Brook, Findon, Andy Millar, Ken Hyde, Lurie, myself and others all took the stage with varying degrees of success, and hard on our

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heels were the up and coming Ernie Buble and Eric Filby.

Enter Bergmann and Vana.

In Europe there were new names also. Two boys, Bergmann and Vana, were in the forefront, followed by Soos (Hungary), Erlich (Poland) and Haguenaer (France). But there was a new challenge—the Americans, entering the Swaythling Cup Competition for the first time in 1935, won the event in 1937. They won, not merely because of their finger and knuckle-spin services, though at these they excelled, but because they had fighting spirit to the highest possible degree.

I shall always regard Jimmy McClure as the supreme example of what the ability to fight can do for a player with quite a limited game. Schiff—sleepy-looking Sol Schiff—

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and Blattner were the other members of the team which gained a well merited triumph.

It is worthy of note also that in 1936 the Americans had produced a woman player who was incontestably the finest of all—Ruth Aarons. I doubt very much whether any of the players in the 1948 women's events would have taken a game from Aarons, let alone beaten her.

High Net Advantage.

Before we leave the pre-war years, let us note the characteristics of the play of the period. In England there was much chiselling at first (partly due to the encouragement by the E.T.T.A. of defensive players) but counteracted by the later predominance of attackers, who, while not always successful, at least made tournament spectacular. Variety was also provided by a few players who had mastered the intricacies of

bat spin and finger spin services and were able to use them to good effect, not so much as outright point winners, but as a means of attack. Attacking, incidentally, was much easier with the 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. net, for the ball rose higher for the attacker to hit and short balls in particular could be attacked much more easily than is now the case.

In Europe, before 1940, the chief feature had been the sustained superiority of Hungary by players of all-round ability and not inconsiderable personal magnetism, followed by the advent of the still pre-eminent Bergmann and Vana.

In America, world class players had been created in two short years, and there were more to follow. Came the war and the T.T. black-out (more or less, for most of us, anyway).

(Part Two "Present Day Play" included in the Summer issue.)

SWAYTHLING CUP

Holder : CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

GROUP A.

- ENGLAND—HUNGARY: 5-4: Barna/Koczian 18; —17, —19; /Sido 18, 18; /Soos —21, 15, —18; Bergmann/Koczian 12, 12; /Sido —13, 15, —18; /Soos —15, 4, 10; Leach/Koczian 13, —14, 12; /Sido 10, 11; /Soos 14, —17, —13.
- ENGLAND—JERSEY: 5-0: Barna/Carrell 8, 8; /Davy 4, 11; Bergmann/Hansford 9, 9; Leach/Carrell 3, 6; /Hansford 7, 11.
- ENGLAND—SWEDEN: 5-1: Barna/Flisberg —20, —18; /Grieve 16, —17, 13; Bergmann/Fredriksson 6, 14; /Grieve 16, 10; Leach/Flisberg 12, 16; /Fredriksson 19, 12.
- ENGLAND—U.S.A.: 2-5: Barna/Miles —18, —20; /Nash 16, 12; Bergmann/Miles —17, —12; /Nash —19, —14; /Reisman 20, 16; Leach/Miles —16, —14; /Reisman —20, —23.
- HUNGARY—U.S.A.: 2-5: Koczian/Miles —17, —13; /Reisman 22, —16, —18; Sido/Miles —17, —17; /Nash —16, —17; /Reisman 12, 18; Soos/Miles —17, —17; /Nash 16, 17.

GROUP B.

- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — SCOTLAND: 5-0; Andreadis/Brown 12, 18; /Coia 16, 15; Marinko/Coia 19, 14; /Teasdale 17, 17; Stipek/Brown 17, 12.

- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — WALES: 5-0; Andreadis/Chugg 7, 10; /Sweetland 20, —16, 14; Marinko/Jones 16, 11; Tokar/Jones 15, 6; /Sweetland 13, 12.
- SCOTLAND — WALES: 0-5: Brown/Chugg —17, —14; Coia/Chugg 15, —18, —12; /Smith —17, —9; Teasdale/Smith —15, —16; /Sweetland —18, —18.

GROUP D.

- FRANCE—IRELAND: 5-0: Amouretti/Mercer 9, 18; /O'Prey 12, 16; Bordrez/Mercer 10, 13; /Morris 14, 12; Haguenaer/O'Prey 13, 14.

INTER-GROUP SEMI-FINALS.

- CZECHOSLOVAKIA beat U.S.A. 5-2: Andreadis/Miles —19, 14, 10; /Reisman —17, 15, 10; Tokar/Miles —18, —15; /Nash —17, —21; Vana/Miles —12, 6, 18; /Nash 16, 17; /Reisman —15, 19, 19.
- FRANCE beat AUSTRIA 5-1: Amouretti/Bednar 18, 10; /Just 14, 14; Bordrez/Echl —19, 13, 13; /Just —19, —19; Haguenaer/Bednar 19, —13, 12; /Echl 14, 10.

FINAL.

- CZECHOSLOVAKIA beat FRANCE 5-2: Andreadis/Amouretti —17, 9, 13; /Haguenaer 18, 15; Stepak/Bordrez —18, —16; /Haguenaer —19, —17; Vana/Amouretti 6, 16; /Bordrez 9, 5; /Haguenaer 13, 12.

A	COMPETING NATIONS	EN	H	IN	J	SD	U	Total Points
1.	ENGLAND	★	5-1	W.O.	5-0	5-1	2-5	4
2.	HUNGARY	4-5	★	W.O.	5-0	5-0	2-5	3
3.	INDIA	Scr.	Scr.	★	Scr.	Scr.	Scr.	0
4.	JERSEY... ..	0-5	0-5	W.O.	★	0-5	0-5	1
5.	SWEDEN	1-5	0-5	W.O.	5-0	★	1-5	2
6.	U.S.A.	5-2	5-2	W.O.	5-0	5-1	★	5

B	C	EG	G	NO	SC	W	Total Points	
1.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	★	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5	
2.	EGYPT	0-5	★	5-0	5-0	5-2	4	
3.	GREECE	0-5	0-5	5-1	2-5	0-5	1	
4.	NORWAY	0-5	0-5	1-5	★	0-5	0	
5.	SCOTLAND	0-5	0-5	5-2	5-0	★	0-5	2
6.	WALES	0-5	2-5	5-0	5-0	★	3	

D	AR	D	F	IE	PO	T	Total Points	
1.	ARGENTINA	★	Scr.	Scr.	Scr.	Scr.	0	
2.	DENMARK	W.O.	★	0-5	1-5	W.O.	3	
3.	FRANCE	W.O.	5-0	★	5-0	W.O.	5-0	5
4.	IRELAND	W.O.	5-1	0-5	★	W.O.	5-0	4
5.	PORTUGAL	Scr.	Scr.	Scr.	★	Scr.	0	
6.	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	W.O.	2-5	0-5	0-5	W.O.	★	2

Some Impressions from Wembley

By **STANLEY PROFFITT**

(English Swaythling Cup Player)



THROUGH a narrow open window of a room which at normal times is the dressing room of the Wembley Lion's ice hockey team, famous sports writers, foreign correspondents, and some of the B.B.C. staff scrambled to get a glimpse of the struggles that took place on the 11 tables which were directly in view. Into this Press Room so many news stories poured in that quite frequently ones attention was distracted from the actual play.

South African Dispute.

For instance, South African Hymie Sofar, who flew 7,000 miles, carrying signed forms of his country's membership to the International Federation, hit the headlines. Hymie was not allowed to enter himself on account of the draw having previously been completed, but he was disappointed to learn that South Africa are unlikely to compete in future world championships. The rules clearly state that a country upholding a colour bar in table tennis are not eligible. This matter interrupted a discussion on the combination of the English Swaythling Cup Team to oppose Jersey on the opening morning. Some voiced the opinion that Bubley and Sharman were claimants for a place, thereby resting two of the three star men. The policy however, of selecting Bergmann-Barna-Leach was a sound one, if only to get the table-touch for the sterner contests ahead.

England v. Hungary.

Over lunch, England's chances against Hungary were argued—Mr. Wilmott, donor of the Wilmott Cup, said, "Our lone win over Hungary dated back to Stockholm, 1928." Commencing the evening session on Wednesday, 4th February, this match literally blotted out all other Cup tussles. Neither side bowed to the prevailing fashion of flat hitting, We saw a four hours throbbing fight for the lead.

With the score at four games all Richard Bergmann met the young Hungarian factory worker, Koczian, in the deciding game. Bergmann made no mistake and took both games 21-12, 21-12, sending the pressmen scurrying off to report the glad tidings. This tremendous win for England captivated the public interest in no mean manner.

Betwixt and between, Scotland notched a great win over Greece, debutants to the competition. First Johnny Brown and then Peter Coia, wearing the new-look in headgear conquered a man with a tongue-twisting name, Ekonomopoulos. Teasdal of Scotland overcame Levendis, a noteworthy feat for both his colleagues had failed. A young reporter popped into our room announcing the first round of the

SWAYTHLING CUP WINNERS: CZECHOSLOVAKIA.



The Lady Dowager Swaythling is seen with the victorious Czechoslovakian team, winners of her handsome trophy; left to right are: L. Stipek, B. Vana, V. Horvath (non-playing captain) with the Cup, F. Tokar, The Lady Dowager Swaythling, I. Andreadis and M. Marinko.

Veterans' Jubilee Tournament had started. Pat Garrow, of the *Weekly Scotsman*, looked out and merely laughed, saying, "You're wrong, son. That's the Scottish first pair having some practice."

We assembled next morning for the England-Sweden hurdle. Tage Flisberg vanquished Barna, who had obviously not recovered from his previous night's strenuous encounter. A whisper circulated that Bubley should have been substituted in order to give the veteran a rest. From the form shown of both Greive and Fredrickson, the Londoner would have had ample to spare in playing standard. Thursday morning praise went to Johnny Leach for demonstrating to Flisberg the reason why we considered him No. 2 in the English team.

Pritzi Holds Back.

Austria repeated the same joke as in Paris by withholding ex-world champion, Trudi Pritzi from their Corbillon Cup team, presenting England, the holders, with an easy 3-0 victory. The Austrians reasoned that as their records showed no chance in the Cup events it would only be supplying Vera Thomas with an opportunity of "free" practice against their champion who was drawn to meet Vera in the singles later in the week. Apparently last year, Austria scratched from the team contests early in the draw, but a new I.T.T.F. ruling compelling teams to continue caused them to pay the expenses of an unranked player to deputise in such an emergency.

The English girls had far greater opposition in the Scottish match. Helen Elliot eclipsed Peggy Franks in two straight games, 21-14, 21-14. Seldom allowing the Middlesex girl to settle down—it was a grand performance.

Audrey Bates heroically whipped the Belgian girls, Mlle Detourney and Mlle Rolands, but her efforts did not save the day for Wales. Soon afterwards, Audrey lashed out in the Wales-Scotland match. Mrs. Norrie being her singles victim and along with Betty Gray beat Elliot-Norrie in the doubles. In each case Wales lost 3-2. The men fared better in their Group with three successive wins over Greece, Norway and Scotland.

The tale of Ireland's Swaythling Cup fortunes differs in as much that they were only engaged in three matches, due to the non-appearance of Argentine and Portugal. France turned on the heat against the Irish contingent of Mercer-O'Prey-Morris but Trinidad and Denmark were not accomplished enough to cause any lack of sleep. Mercer has an all-round game equipped with a sound table tennis brain. Miss Minshull distinguished herself in the Ireland-France Corbillon Cup match by thrashing, French No. 1, Miss Beolet.

Exit England.

Promising to be the tit-bit of the rounds, the England v. America men's Cup meeting took pride of place in the Friday evening's programme. It was the M and B test—Bergmann v. Miles. Comments were generally in England's favour on the grounds of the Yank's raw experience but we hadn't got our pipes alight before the sensation occurred that is destined to be the talk in table tennis circles for years to come. If ever an 18 year old youth leapt from obscurity to fame, that lad was Martin Reisman.

After Johnny Leach had dropped the first game 20-22, and was leading 20-14 in the second, the young American unleashed a barrage of dynamite-laden drives from either wing of the table to draw level. The Englishman, on occasions retrieved miraculously and attempted every conceivable method to stem the tide. No one could accuse Johnny of playing badly, but Reisman took the second game and match with a score 25-23. Garratt-Nash clouted a very inferior Bergmann to the tune of 21-19, 21-14. It wasn't Richard's evening, for Miles tore holes in his defence. The oddity is that the Americans hardly move their feet. It's certainly not spectacular, but answers the purpose while the net is so low. We were saved from total disgrace by Victor Barna. What an ovation he received after administering to Garratt-Nash the art of pure table tennis poetry.

There's a lot of "if's" and "but's" attached to England's debacle. Example: had Leach been successful in the first game—he very nearly was—the result might have been different. Moreover, had Barna taken the first strike against Reisman, many held the view that his experience would have buckled the youngster's aspirations. Needless to say England were outclassed and we raise our best hat to Richard Miles who, undaunted, answered every call, defeating Bergmann, Barna, Leach easily. Leach and Bergmann must now realise that the high "floating" defence is vulnerable to the flat hit. The only profitable means to combat—if one must defend—is to chop low and vicious.

As the Englishmen were stopped in their tracks, so the women reversed the decision by inflating the U.S.A's Corbillon Cup Teams' hopes. At least we had one team in the final!

A Lesson in Tactics.

Hundreds of T.T. fans were yelling for their favourite soccer team when the Czechoslovakian-American semi-final tie took place on Saturday afternoon. What a pity, for it's a story in itself: a lesson on how to curb the flat drive. Ivan Andreadis, architect of the triumph, had young Reisman tied up with astute half-volley and counter hitting. Rarely did he move away from the base line; in fact one newspaper man remarked that it was the first occasion the American had had to resort to defence. When opposed to Miles, the Czech had the American champion running round in circles with a slow topspin technique. Garratt-Nash was no match for Vana whose net-skimming returns and snap hitting had Reisman in trouble. At 4-2

down, America were still in the swim, particularly when Miles held a 17-10 lead over Vana in the third game but the world champion fought back the deficit, thus thwarting America's ambitions to win the Swaythling Cup.

On show next to the American-Czech match the grey-beards stumbled to the last stages of the Jubilee Cup. A novel innovation open to players who took part in the first world congress 21 years ago when a fair portion of readers were in romps. Mr. Montagu made short the task of beating old-time Czech international, Heydusek, and without thought of rest, opposed Bernstein in the semi-final while the surrounds were being removed in preparation of the evenings entertainment. Mr. Montagu afterwards



OURS TO HOLD! ENGLAND WINS CORBILLON CUP.

The England team with the Marcel Corbillon Cup, after winning the World Table Tennis Championships for women.

Left to right are: Miss E. Steventon, Miss D. Beregi, Mrs. (Vera Dace) Thomas and Mrs. M. Knott (N.P.C.).

said, "The first time I played Bernstein I accumulated seven points in two games. This season my form has definitely improved with 22 points recorded."

Finals Night.

The tasty dish before the capacity crowd was Czechslovakia v. France (Swaythling Cup); England v. Hungary (Corbillon Cup). The Czechs had an easy passage. Those who anticipated resistance from Guy Amouretti were disappointed, for the French star gave a woeful exhibition, being humbled by Andreadis, 17-21, 21-9, 21-13, and Vana, 21-6, 21-16.

Our girls were much brighter planets, keeping the spectators in a constant pitch of excitement. Dora Beregi was the heroine, winning both her singles and forcing the issue in the doubles. When Vera Thomas lost to Gizelle Farkas, the only person unconcerned among the 9,000

present was Dora, who, spurred by the fervour of the shouting whipped R. Karpati, 21-10, 21-13. Red haired, vivacious and cheerful, Dora assumed responsibility in the doubles win. The ferocity of her attack was not abated one whit when she faced Farkas, whom she trounced 21-19, 21-15; crowning a wonderful evenings work. As she walked from the centre court, side by side with the Hungarian world champion, the crowd roared their appreciation.

This match too, ended a superstition, harboured by the Hungarian non-playing captain, Mr. J. Duxler. He had remained unshaven throughout the Congress in the belief that it brought his team luck. Apparently this fable was inherited by Mr. Duxler on a recent 14 days' Continental tour when he did not put a razor to his face, during which time the girls had an astonishing run, winning all their games.

IN SEARCH OF A LAUGH

.... With INKSPOT

THE other day I went into a sports shop with my girl friend, Mary Lou, but though we waited five minutes the proprietor failed to show his face. Suddenly Mary Lou turned to me and whispered, "Maybe he's under the counter taking stock of the table tennis balls."

We both went down to Wembley for the world championships and one day we sat in front of two young North Middlesex fans. The conversation went something like this:

First Fan : "It isn't!"

Second Fan : "It is!"

F.F. : "It isn't!"

S.F. : "It is!"

F.F. : "I tell you it is because *Table Tennis News* says it is, and if *Table Tennis News* says it is, it is, even if it isn't."

While in London I stayed at the same hotel as all the other two hundred and odd T.T. enthusiasts. You don't get the chance every day of sleeping in a room which is sandwiched between the No. 1 players of Hungary and Egypt. I still have vivid recollections of Sido's perfect impersonation of a man sawing wood.

One night I was walking along one of the room corridors when a small dog nosed its way out of a slightly open door. A very lovely feminine arm shot out in a futile attempt to hold back the dog. That arm was uncovered right up to a perfectly rounded female shoulder. I dived for the dog and returned to the slightly open

door. Who was it who said that great things often begin from pin-point happenings? I straightened my tie, tapped on the door and waited. (Shall I stop now, boys, and make this into the first instalment of a serial? No! O.K. I'll carry on). The door opened and a great hulk of a man appeared. "Thanks, son," he grunted, and he presented me with a Balkanese three-penny piece.

Ah well, give me a three starred ball, a good table, perfect lighting and a pretty girl for a mixed doubles partner, and you can have the ball, table and lighting.

Of course the London papers were full of tournament reports, etc. One leading paper wrote: "In this Corbillon Cup match Miss Vera Dace was rested, the team consisting of Mrs. Vera Thomas . . ." Mary Lou is still trying to find where the joke comes in.

The Hon. Ivor Montagu caused a laugh. He was about to play in the Jubilee Cup event and he wittily remarked in his own inimitable style, "I have been seeking advice about my opponent's weakness and I am told that on no account must I win the first game because that always makes him lose his temper."

Back up north again, and Mary Lou has been practising flat hits, half-volley defence, chop services and what have you but she is still dissatisfied. The other day she said, "What have the Continental girls got that I haven't?" I looked at her and replied, "A little dog!"

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MR. EASY-ONE (The Table Tennis Novice)



Table Tennis—What it Costs

By TOM BLUNN (*Lancs. T.T.A. Chairman*)

THE E.T.T.A. handbook, recently published, contains the Association's accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1947, and these set out in great detail the financial position of the Association. As most readers will not have had an opportunity of examining these accounts, I have drawn up a brief summary which is reproduced here.

Although the accounts are dated the 23rd October, 1947, it was not until the middle of February, 1948, that the handbooks were issued, almost eight months after the close of the season.

In business it is usual for the accounts to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting for approval and for the Auditors to be present in order to answer questions put to them by the members. The constitution of the E.T.T.A. does not provide the members with such facilities as the A.G.M. is held at the end of April, but the financial year does not close until the 30th June following. Thus the financial statement presented at the A.G.M., is bound to be incomplete, in fact, it is usually made up to the 31st March previous. There are no provisions for the accounts to be presented to the General Council for approval and adoption or for the Auditors to be present at any meeting. The position is hardly satisfactory.

Increased Fees Justified.

On considering the accounts I find that an overwhelming case has been made to justify the recent increase in the affiliation fees. Even so, the net affiliation fees have not been sufficient to cover the initial cost of administration. The average affiliation fee is 8/- per club against an average of 10/- per club for the cost of administration, leaving a gap of 2/- per club which has to be filled from other sources. This gap should be reduced as the number of affiliations increase.

The cost of administration cannot be said to be excessive and works out to be only a little over a penny per month for each affiliated member.

Wages and Travelling Expenses account for 60% of the cost of administration and in the absence of any further details this expenditure can only be accepted as being normal. Printing, Postage and Stationery is mounting up and the average cost of 2/6 per club represents a third of the affiliation fee.

Income from sundry sources has helped to reduce the gap, but it would be interesting to know which registered player either failed to keep up his instalments or thought his ability to be undervalued at £1 per player, thus accounting for the odd five shillings.

The solitary donation from the President reflects the unique position which Mr. Oldroyd continues to enjoy.

Tournament Finance

The other side of the Association's activities commands a great deal of attention, for it is the net result of the tournaments, etc., that it organises that provides the funds to build up the financial structure of the Association. During the period under review the position is satisfactory as the surplus has closed the gap referred to earlier and has also provided sufficient funds to carry £131 ls. 3d. forward to the Balance Sheet. An examination of the figures shows how much depends upon the result of the English Open and the significance of this cannot be overstated. The tours by English and American players have helped to pay for our tour of Czechoslovakia and the championships in Paris.

The losses arising out of the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl suggest that an increase in the entrance fees would not be out of place. The cost of winning the Europe Cup by our ladies is about £75 and the men's efforts cost a further £36 before they were knocked out of the competition. These costs, along with the disappointing results arising out of the International Matches, show that the provinces have not enhanced their claim to stage first-class matches.

There is very little in the Balance Sheet that calls for comment but it is pointed out that a prudent measure has been adopted by not including anything in the assets for trophies, office equipment and stocks of balls, badges and stationery. The balance of capital of £807 10s. 3d. denotes a healthy state of affairs, but it has taken 21 years to build up and it would be a tragedy to see the fund reduced unnecessarily.

I can assure all readers that I shall be among those that will give their support to a hearty vote of thanks to the Treasurer at the next Annual General Meeting.

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended, 30th June, 1947.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
EXPENDITURE.						
ADMINISTRATION:—						
Wages and Insurance	751	13	1			
Travelling Expenses	300	6	0			
Rent	120	0	0			
Light, Heat, Cleaning	44	0	6			
Postage and Telephone	271	12	0			
Stationery	171	12	0			
Audit and Accountancy	12	12	0			
Equipment and Repairs	49	15	3			
Insurance	6	5	4			
Legal Expenses	6	6	0			
Hire of Rooms	8	10	6			
International Table Tennis Federation	3	0	0			
Sundry Expenses	7	1	5			
Sundry Publications				1,749	14	3
Badges, Shirts, etc.				80	14	1
Trial Matches				23	17	7
COST OF SENDING PLAYERS ABROAD:—				84	15	9
Czechoslovakia						
World's—Paris	169	15	0			
French Open—Paris	259	13	11			
	35	6	10			
				464	15	10
CUP MATCHES:—						
Europe Cup	111	2	9			
Wilmott Cup	15	9	6			
Rose Bowl	20	9	7			
Balance carried to Balance Sheet				147	1	0
				131	1	3
				£2,682	1	5
INCOME.						
Affiliation Fees						
Less—Rebates to County Associations				1,509	4	0
				78	17	0
Registered Players' Fees						
Open Tournament Fees				1,430	7	0
Ball Rebates				33	5	0
Television Fees				137	10	8
Donations				136	1	0
OPEN TOURNAMENTS:—						
English				9	7	6
Loss—Loss on Metropolitan				10	0	0
				674	13	6
Tours and Exhibitions:—						
Tour by English Players				98	2	6
Tour by U.S.A. Players				105	8	1
Exhibition at Derby				5	0	0
International Matches				208	10	7
				2	15	3
				£2,682	1	5

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June, 1947.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
LIABILITIES.						
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT—						
Balance at 1st July, 1946	676	9	0			
Add—Balance brought down, 30th June, 1947	131	1	3			
Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances				807	10	3
Magazine Fund				208	4	8
Comity Cup Fund				50	0	0
				30	0	0
				£1,195	14	11
ASSETS.						
CASH AT BANK:—						
Deposit Account				400	0	0
Current Account				605	6	3
				1,005	6	3
CASH IN HAND:—						
Treasurer				28	18	8
Secretary				4	2	7
Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances				33	1	3
				157	7	5
				£1,195	14	11

Leinster Open Championships

February 10th to 14th, 1948.

Thomas Crooks, 18 year old Ballymena competitor, playing in his first major championship, caused a sensation by beating H. Sofar (Transvaal) in straight sets in the third round. He eventually reached the quarter final, where he lost to O'Prey, who had previously eliminated Alec. Brook, the former English International, by 22-24, 21-14, 21-12. The most exciting match of the championships occurred in a second round encounter between the Dublin players, H. Wine and H. Morris, which resulted in a win for the latter by two sets to one. In the quarter final, Morris put up a great fight against M. Reisman (U.S.A.) before losing 19-21, 20-22. The American had a surprise victory against V. Barna in the first semi-final, for the Englishman seemed well set for victory.

Miss Alice Coombs, the Irish International, although beaten in the semi-final by Miss L. Thall, gave an excellent display.

Richard Bergmann did not compete in the singles.

FINAL RESULTS.

Men's Singles:—R. Miles (U.S.A.) beat M. Reisman (U.S.A.), 21-15, 21-23, 21-18, 19-21, 21-11.

Ladies Singles:—Miss T. Thall (U.S.A.) beat Miss L. Thall (U.S.A.), 15-21, 21-16, 21-18.

Men's Doubles:—R. Bergmann and V. Barna (England) beat H. O'Prey and I. Martin (Ireland), 21-13, 18-21, 21-12, 21-13.

Ladies' Doubles:—Mrs. M. Clouter and Miss L. Thall (U.S.A.) beat Misses L. Dolan and E. F. Lombard (Ireland), 21-8, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles:—Reisman and Miss L. Thall beat Barna and Mrs. Clouter, 21-19, 21-16.

Boys' Singles:—S. Livingstone (Dublin) beat T. Seacy (Cork), 21-13, 21-11.

Girls' Singles:—Miss N. Spurling (Greystones) beat Miss E. Powell (Dublin), 21-5, 21-15.

League Handbook Competition

Because of pressure of space we are unable to give results and reviews of the various handbooks sent in for this competition, and consequently we have advanced the closing date to May 31st. Those secretaries who have not yet sent in their League Fixture Books should do so immediately. A prize of TWO GUINEAS is offered to the League which we consider possesses the most useful and attractive Handbook. Address to *Table Tennis Review Office*.

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WANTED, A. A. Haydon Bat. L. Denner, Foundry House, Maiden Newton, Dorchester.

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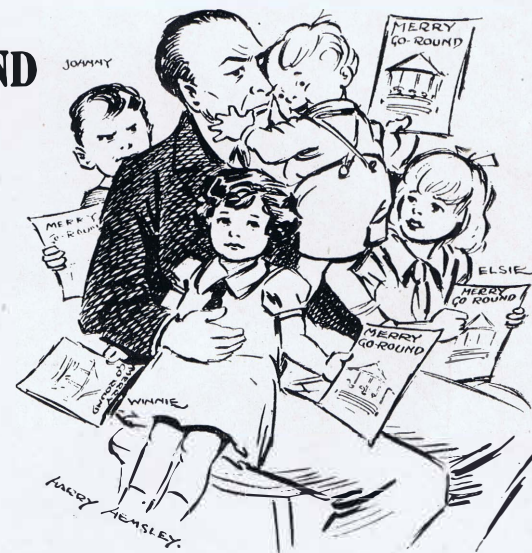
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