

Table Tennis REVIEW

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NOV.-DEC. 1948



NEWS

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VIEWS

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HINTS

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COVER PORTRAIT
RICHARD MILES
(U.S.A.)





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TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

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Vol. 3 No. 2

NOV./DEC., 1948

One Shilling

Professionalism v. E.T.T.A.

SO many people have talked about forming an independent professional organisation that it was bound to come sooner or later. Ever since the game began to draw big crowds at Wembley Stadium there have been players who felt they could make big money from their prowess if they were unhampered by a governing body such as the E.T.T.A. Then from time to time there have been internationals who did not consider they were receiving a square deal from the Association, and without mentioning any particular names we feel that one or two did have a justifiable cause for complaint. The new professional table tennis company formed by the Bubley brothers is a strong challenge to the present organisation. The E.T.T.A. must now give more thought to the interests of its own "professionals" and make sure that these Registered Paid Players are given every opportunity of reaping reward for their labours. It is imperative that they should take every step to make their own family a contented one, otherwise they must face the risk of losing each new star to a rival organisation and so degenerating themselves into a purely amateur association which would be nothing more than a training ground for the professionals of the future. That is looking a good way ahead, but unfortunately, at the moment, the E.T.T.A. appear to have adopted the superior attitude of "Let them stew in their own juice." On the other hand, the Bubley Promotions have also adopted the same superior attitude of "We don't give a tinker's cuss for the E.T.T.A." Well, sooner or later, somebody is going to lose an awful lot of prestige, or alternatively, somebody is going to show a nice sum of money on the wrong side of the balance sheet. A rivalry such as this might do some good, but it could also do a great deal of harm, not only to the E.T.T.A., but also to the International T.T. Federation.



By GOSSIMA

THERE'S going to be a table tennis wedding in Bradford, Yorks. Guess who? Popular stalwart of English, Liverpool and Yorkshire table tennis, Mr. Leslie Forrest. And the future Mrs. Forrest? Miss Aranka Wilcsek, cousin of Victor Barna. Aranka came to this country nine years ago from Budapest and is also a cousin of Corbillon Cup star Dora Beregi. Miss Wilcsek does not play the game herself, but she is always an enthusiastic spectator of first class games. She knows all the pre-war Hungarians who dominated the game for so long. Leslie has now retired from most of his T.T. administrative posts but will still represent Yorkshire on the E.T.T.A. Executive Committee. The wedding date has not yet been arranged, but the engagement has been officially announced, and the happy pair will be seen around at some of the tournaments this season. Congratulations and sincere wishes to you both.

* * *

Yorkshire appears to be doing well for table tennis weddings for the two county players Marcus Bishop and Norma Queskey of Hull are now Mr. and Mrs. What do you think they called their new home? The "White Rose." Wonder if they have three table tennis balls hanging over the front door! Lots of good wishes to this charming couple.

* * *

If your name is Leach and you are under seventeen, then go along to Jack Carrington at his Albion School of Table Tennis and it's a

dead cert you will become a champion. Not being satisfied with producing one champion named Leach (Johnny of course), Jack now goes on to confuse us by bringing up a young M. Leach of Cheltenham. Leach the Second reached the final of the recent Birmingham Junior Open. Jack tells me he gets pupils from all over the country turning up at the school, the ages running from ten to 65 years. Some come for a lesson of just one hour, taking the opportunity of a brief visit to London, while others book a whole series. One young boy who was down South for the purpose of an examination had been promised by his parents a special reward of his own choosing if he was successful in passing the exam. The exam. was passed and the reward chosen was a solid week's coaching at the Albion School.

* * *

It is interesting to learn that the fixture code used by many North Eastern leagues in their hand-books was invented by Andrew Donaldson, who won the first English Open in 1921.

* * *

Mr. W. Baillie, Hartlepool's Secretary sends in a new idea to increase the competitive spirit of open tournaments. He suggests that from the quarter finals onwards each player could gain a point for his county for each match he won. The county with the most number of points at the end of the tournament to be awarded a special pennant to be held for one year.

Jack Thompson, former Lancashire County Tournament Secretary, who took up a business appointment in Trinidad early this year, seems to be as energetically engaged in table tennis work as ever. He has already given a number of lectures designed to improve the standard of play of Trinidad, and is now assisting the Trinidad Table Tennis Association to build up its activities. Mr. John Gibbons, President of the Association is planning to organise inter-colonial test matches between Trinidad, Barbados and British Guiana, and at the end of August a British Guinea team arrived in Trinidad for a two-week tour. Providing funds are available, a team from Trinidad and Tobago will journey to Sweden for the World Championships.

* * *

The E.T.T.A. are anxious to hear about all juniors of promise who were under 17 years on June 30th, 1948, this being the age limit for junior international matches and junior open championships. However, Geoff. Harrower, Selection Committee Secretary, informs us that what they really want are youngsters who had not reached the age of 16 on July 1st.

* * *

The Bolton Lads' Club, consisting of A. Costello, D. Ellison, A. Smith, K. Marlow and D. Leeming have issued a challenge to play any club in the country. Age-limit 18 years. Any takers?

* * *

Since our last issue, Richard Bergmann has won two continental tournaments, one in France where he beat Amouretti in the final, and one in Barcelona where he beat Spanish champion Duesso.

* * *

With the continued lack of space for table tennis notes in the local press, more and more leagues and

counties are beginning to turn out their own duplicated news sheets. Latest to be received at this office are the Essex bulletin entitled "Nine by Five," and an official news sheet of the Dundee and District Association.

* * *

Each year, England appears to suffer a set-back in its ladies' team. Last season we were without Elizabeth Blackburn who left us to continue her studies in America. Now we hear that Vera Thomas and Dora Beregi will not be playing table tennis this year. Against this comes news from Hungary that world champion Gizi Farkas has two young sisters who are equally as good as herself.

* * *

World championships for 1949-50 are to be played in Holland. Here is a country which is doing all it can to improve its standard of play. For the past couple of years Hull have played challenge matches with Rotterdam. They have their own table tennis magazine and on every possible occasion English star players are invited to tour the country. Latest guests were Victor Barna and Alec Brook who visited the "Barna-Klub" at Utrecht.

Our Cover Photograph ***

Richard Miles, ranked number one U.S.A. player, has a typical Yankee titanic forehand smash together with a deadly chop defence. Only just beaten by Vana in the semi-final of the last world championship he is still a good favourite, and at Sweden this year he may prove to be the first American player to win the title. In September he was beaten by nineteen year-old Martin Reisman (U.S.A.) in the final of the Canadian Open by three games to two.

START A NEW CAMPAIGN

Increase Affiliations

says TOM BLUNN (Chairman Lancs. County Assoc.)

TO some people a new season means extensive practice, exciting matches, more exhibitions, more trophies and more titles. To some it may mean a new experience. But what about the organisers of the game? To them it means more work, more meetings and more excuses to offer the poor suffering table tennis widows.

I wonder how many people think in terms of new clubs, new players, new names or to put it broadly, new affiliations? I cannot understand why more publicity is not given to this vital matter because after all, affiliations are the life-blood of the E.T.T.A and progress can only be made when there is a steady increase in the flow of new members. There is no doubt that certain progress has been made and a great step forward is to be made this season when the E.T.T.A becomes a Limited Company. When this is done it will become all the more necessary for a strong and growing membership to be maintained and it is only in this way that a guaranteed income can be obtained to enable the E.T.T.A. to carry through its ambitious programme. It is a programme which I heartily endorse and deserves the support of all members.

More Publicity Needed

The financial obligations of the E.T.T.A. are gradually growing and the income from affiliation fees always seems to lag behind the normal expenditure and an increase in the membership is the only obvious solution. I repeat that I am alarmed at the lack of publicity that is given to this important matter.

I think the table tennis publications, both official and the *Review*, could render a great service to the game and to the E.T.T.A by regularly reminding their readers that there is in existence a recognised body charged with the task of controlling the game throughout the country. The cost of affiliation and the necessity for it could be equally stressed, and if possible an enquiry form could be made available.

It may be said that such a course is not adopted by any other sporting authority but that is no reason why it should not be given careful consideration in our case. We must not overlook the fact that the E.T.T.A is still in its early stages and does

not yet occupy the position in the sporting life of the country that the founders visualised when they first met some twenty-one years ago. This is only too obvious when it is realised that at the end of last season there were less than 50,000 affiliated members, or approximately 0.1 per cent. of the population of this country, and this probably represents less than twenty-five per cent. of the playing strength.

I do not suggest that this is a problem to be tackled by the E.T.T.A alone, it is more of a local problem that applies all over the country and can be tackled by local leagues or by the County Body where one exists. No doubt the E.T.T.A would give valuable assistance once the matter was accepted as being of urgent importance. Once an Affiliation Committee had been set up with delegates from selected areas, an organisation would evolve that could rival any political enrolment committee and the whole country could be combed from end to end and every table tennis player dug up from his supreme isolation. In fact, there is no end to the possible scope of such a committee.

Double Present Number

The immediate object should be no less than to double the present number of affiliations. With a properly organised campaign I am convinced that this could be achieved in two years. I emphasise the word, years, which I have used instead of seasons as the activity during the closed season would go a long way towards the success of the scheme.

I do not propose to outline the various ways by which a "Double-the-Affiliation-Scheme" could be carried out as most plans would be governed by local circumstances. There would be a tremendous scope for imaginative league secretaries and no doubt ideas are already springing into the minds of many readers.

I suggest to the E.T.T.A. that a 100 per cent. increase in the number of affiliations would solve all its financial problems and would allow the Executive to devote its time and energies to the advancement and organisation of the game without first having to consider the financial results and without the shadow of bankruptcy continually hanging over the Association.

Table Tennis in the New World

By MICHAEL SZABADOS

(Ex-World Champion)



INTERNATIONAL table tennis, with a few exceptions, is contested by European countries. The number of nations competing, whilst steadily growing since the inception of the Swaythling Cup, is still confined to mainly northern hemisphere countries. Thus a new world of table tennis is forming and I think it is now the time for table tennis administrators to give some serious thought to its newcomers.

South Africa, New Zealand, Malay States and Australia are countries where table tennis has only just begun to reach "big-time" status and now these countries are finding their entry into international spheres very difficult. Transport expenses are very high and £3,000 would be needed to send a team from Australia to Stockholm for the next world championships. With their limited finances Australia finds this impossible and will do so until costs of transport are reduced to near pre-war levels.

Coaches Wanted

Lacking international play, the standard in Australia must suffer a great deal. Firstly, there is the question of lack of incentive. In New South Wales, for example, only about four players each year receive an inter-state trip, thus obtaining some remuneration from the sport. Thus we find that there is only a few players of good standard and this directly affects the young people taking up the sport owing to the fact that there are not enough

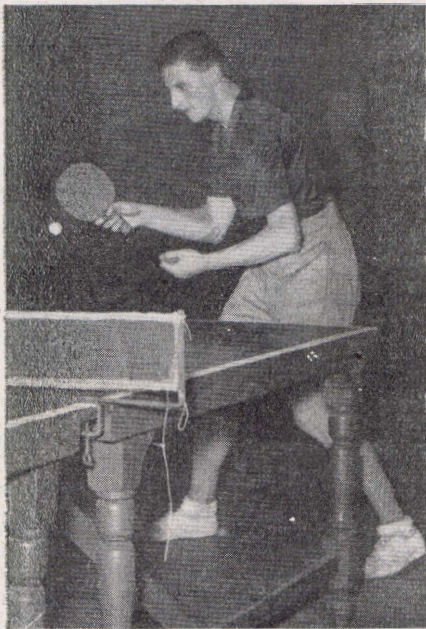
coaches available to correct early faults they may develop.

Despite the fact that outdoor sports such as cricket, tennis, golf and football lure a great majority of young people, enough juniors are playing table tennis to ensure a good following for the future, but quality will be lacking.

A New International Contest

My suggestion would be that a competition be started amongst such countries as New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, Malay States and other interested countries. A good idea would be the inclusion of a European team. This competition could be conducted in a different country once a year and, as the European "off" season is these countries' "on" season, there would be no question of the European teams missing the world titles or any other major championships.

A competition of this nature would, no doubt, be financially successful and therefore, the time when new world teams could enter the Swaythling Cup would be considerably reduced. Once competing in international competitions, I would go so far as to say that within five years, a world champion would come from one of these countries.



Singles winner
B. E. CROUCH (Middx).

THE little white ball began to roll in its first open tournament of the season at Butlins, Skegness, on September 25th and 26th, where the East of England Championships took place under the organisation of the Lincolnshire T.T. Association.

Hon. Secretary Mr. J. Browne stated, "The attraction of a late summer week-end at a holiday camp, plus a first-class tournament staged under ideal conditions, is beginning to draw a larger entry each year. Our hosts have again made every effort to make us comfortable and they have given us table tennis under splendid conditions."

The main feature of the play was the magnificent hitting of B. E. Crouch of Middlesex, and voted the best match of the tournament was his meeting with Brian Kennedy,

EAST OF ENGLAND OPEN

Yorkshire's junior international. Crouch, playing top-spin drives six feet from behind the table, fought continuously to keep on the offensive, finally managing to scrape in with a 21-19 win in the third and final game.

A Player to Watch

In the other half of the draw, Ron Allcock, of Manchester, made a good impression by forcing his way fairly comfortably through to the final. Among his victories was an easy win over Michael Thornhill, junior international from Ashford. Ron Allcock, stationed in Nottingham, is now serving his period of conscription in the army, but may be released before the end of the season. Table tennis is in Ron's blood and every day of his periodical leaves and week-ends finds him at the Manchester Y.M.C.A. practising with players like A. G. Millar, K. Stanley and S. Proffitt. Once Ron has finished his term in khaki you can expect him to go places.

In this final of the Men's Singles Crouch gave Allcock little opportunity to develop his game, and it was only in odd patches that the Mancunian displayed the form which had carried him to the final. Allcock's defence was unable to hold the hard hitting of the Middlesex boy who won in two straight games.

Miss Marjorie Lightfoot of Leeds, Yorkshire County player, had a remarkably good day. Her steady defence won her the Women's Singles

Three Titles for Marjorie Lightfoot



Crouch beats Allcock

title, beating Yorkshire County player Mrs. Norma Bishop (née Norma Queskey) by two straight in the final. Partnered by A. Thompson (Leeds) in the Mixed Doubles and by Miss S. Woods (Leeds) in the Women's Doubles, both these events came her way. Not once during the tournament was Marjorie really extended.

In the Junior event, Brian Kennedy easily accounted for Michael Thornhill and only just failed to take the Men's Doubles title because of his partner's inability to attack.

RESULTS.

MEN'S SINGLES.

Semi-finals: Crouch (Egham) beat Taylor (Lincoln), 11, 11. Allcock beat Thornhill, 19, 18. *Final:* Crouch beat Allcock, 8, 19.

WOMEN'S SINGLES.

Semi-finals: Lightfoot (Leeds) beat Wiles (Grimsby), 11, 19. Bishop (Hull) beat Smurthwaite (Leeds), 12, 18. *Final:* Lightfoot beat Bishop, 12, 14.

YOUTH'S SINGLES.

Final: Kennedy beat Thornhill, 8, 14.

MEN'S DOUBLES.

Final: Crouch and Thornhill beat Kennedy and Thompson, -15, 11, 19.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES.

Final: Lightfoot and Woods beat Bishop and Wiles, 12, 14.

MIXED DOUBLES.

Final: Thompson and Lightfoot beat Abrahamson and Hamilton, 18, 19.



Mixed Doubles Winners:
Miss M. Lightfoot and A. Thompson.

BEST LEAGUE HANDBOOK COMPETITION

We will again award two prizes of one guinea each to the two leagues who possess the most useful handbooks for the season 1948-49. Closing date is not until the end of the season, but send in your handbook as soon as it is ready, otherwise it may slip your attention. Address to *Table Tennis Review*, Kenworthy Buildings, Manchester, 3.

If you are a league official and interested in acting as a neutral judge of this contest we shall value your assistance.

Hon. Sec. W. Baillie of the Hartlepool League has already offered to act as one of the judges. Two or three more wanted—please!

Professional Table Tennis

Richard Bergmann Signs up as a Professional

MR. EDDIE BUBLEY, manager of East London table tennis club Manhattan, his brother Ernie, England Swaythling Cup and international player, and two other brothers, Harold and Louis, have formed a company, *Bubley Brothers Professional Table Tennis Promotions*, to organise professional table tennis on a scale never before attempted.

Eddie, who is to manage all players within the scheme and who is to be backed by Bubley Brothers Promotions, has already signed up Richard Bergmann, reigning world champion. Bergmann's agreement, which I have read, does not permit him to enter any tournament or play in any international or exhibition game without his manager's written consent, and henceforth his services are not likely to be available to officially organised table tennis.

Bubley Brothers Promotions is the outcome of many months of detailed planning and has substantial financial backing behind it. The Bubleys are convinced that within 12 months they will have under their banner every big name in the table tennis world, and that the barnstorming tours which they plan to make throughout England will meet with success.

Eddie, the livewire and spokesman of the family, had this to tell me about the project he and his kin say is now ready to be put into action.

"I am the secretary of Bubley Brothers Promotions and will be the manager in sole charge of every signed-up player. Bergmann has already signed up with me, and other players are about to be given agreements. Many English and Continental players are bombarding me with letters asking for details, and I am filing every application for careful consideration. Our plans call for star exponents, but I also want promising boys who have talent.

"Feelers' have been forwarded to certain players in England, America and on the Continent, and all are interested in my scheme. When certain difficulties have been ironed out — as they will be — most of those players will be under my guidance and supervision, and they won't be sorry for it.

"What is the purpose behind Bubley Brothers Promotions? To make money and to stimulate a livelier interest in table tennis than at present exists. I feel, and so do others, that there is a big future in

professional play, provided it is put over in a highly organised and spectacular fashion.

"I have a vast experience of the game and I say that I can put the scheme over efficiently and profitably. I know what I'm capable of, and I also know what I'm doing. If I weren't sure of myself, or of the scheme in hand, I wouldn't sink a lot of money, and neither would others, in professional table tennis.

Professional World Championships

"I have entered into negotiations for the hire of suitable halls throughout the country for challenge matches and tournaments, and I also have in mind venues for the promotion of professional world championships. These championships will be held at least twice a year. The reigning champion is not going to be allowed to rest on his laurels. Incidentally, players not under my managership will be allowed to compete — no one will be barred from playing for world honours. Foreign players will be brought over at the company's expense and will remain our guests for the duration of their stay.

"In time we hope to have our own building, situated in central London, which will have sleeping and feeding facilities, as well as first-class tables, coaches, a gymnasium for training, and a masseur always in attendance. We have a suitable place in view and have started enquiries which may lead somewhere. Failing this, we shall try for other buildings — but have this table tennis centre we will.

"Apart from professional championships, tournaments and challenge matches we are going to organise talent-spotting competitions for youngsters, the most promising will be 'adopted' as likely professionals of the future. Winners of these tournaments will receive big cash prizes, and there will be no entrance fees. It has always been my cry that players who perform to entertain the public should not be forced to pay cash for the 'privilege.'

"The London evening newspaper, the 'Star', as you will remember, ran a tournament for 'unknowns' in 1935, and the winner was brother Ernie, who went on to become England's leading player. Our competitions for youngsters should similarly produce stars — particularly as we shall take them in hand.



Ernest Bublely, receives a cup from brother Eddie, for his services to the Manhattan T.T. Club.

Paid Umpires

"We are to have our own panel of coaches, umpires and officials, all of whom will be paid for their work. Volunteer umpires and so forth have all too often shown more enthusiasm than efficiency, and we shall have no room for that type. We shall pay for efficiency, and we shall obtain efficiency. We are also going to employ paid scouts — knowledgeable men whose job it will be to travel the country in search of talent which we shall take under our wing.

"To keep table tennis enthusiasts up-to-date with all activities, we are going to publish a magazine.

"We are going to run open-air shows. To eliminate wind disturbance a specially designed perspex cover will be placed over the playing area, thus giving spectators a clear view of play, which will be immune against even the strongest gusts of wind.

"Also planned is table tennis in the dark, with balls, bats and players coated in phosphorescent paint. This idea was placed before a famous London theatrical impresario in 1935. He liked it so much that he offered to place such an act on the halls, but the money he offered was not

considered reasonable and the idea was shelved. Now we're seeing it through on our own.

"We have other things lined up, but more of these later. At the moment we are concentrating on putting our professional scheme into action."

Indifference to E.T.T.A.

I asked the obvious question — "How will all this affect the English Table Tennis Association?"

Said the volatile Eddie: "My company is not concerned with the E.T.T.A., nor have I given the matter any thought.

What happens to the Association when we swing our promotions into action is their affair, not ours. All I know is that the time is coming when their officials will be forced to approach me for permission to use leading players, without whom their tournaments must flop. The business of my company will come first. If I can spare the players, and if their playing in non-professional tournaments will not be against our interests, they may be allowed to participate. The same applies to television, broadcasting, stage-work;

(Continued on next page, col. 2)

I Join Barna and Brook

By CHARLES HAYES

(Comperer)

“WANTED—Comperer for a table tennis act” . . . So read an advertisement in a sporting paper. Little did I think when I read this that I should be opening with the act at the Leicester Palace a fortnight later.

That first evening was the worst time I have ever had. The faces of the audience, as I watched them from the wings gave me an ominous sign that once out there I should begin to stutter—and stutter I did. I know now what the R.A.F. boys meant when they said they had a mental “black-out” for I had one that evening and the only thing I can recollect after my opening speech was sitting in the dressing room, stupefied beyond all comprehension and listening to some friendly advice from the two boys.

Since those “pioneering” days, I have learnt a great deal, thanks to Victor and Alec’s infinite patience and good-will. I know now when a gag is most needed and when to keep quiet. I also know that too many jokes would make the act into a comedian’s turn, not that the latter is anything to be ashamed of, but ours is a sporting thrill and one must never deviate from that.

I knew a little about table tennis when I joined the act and although I am nowhere near perfection—yet—I am glad to be able to state I am not letting the team down. These two boys have given me the impression that they work very hard twice nightly and have justly earned themselves a wonderful reputation wherever the Variety world takes them.

MEN’S EUROPE CUP

WEST ZONE

IRELAND 4 WALES 1

IN the first round of the West Zone of the Europe Cup played at St. Mary’s Hall, Belfast, Wales succeeded in taking only the Doubles event. Individual scores were as follows, Welsh players first:—

S. Jones lost to V. Mercer, 17-21, 22-24, 10-21.

W. Sweetland lost to H. O’Prey, 16-21, 15-21, 15-21.

Jones and Sweetland beat O’Hara and Martin, 21-16, 16-21, 21-13, 21-12.

Sweetland lost to Mercer, 19-21, 21-12, 21-19, 17-21, 19-21.

Jones lost to O’Prey, 13-21, 21-12, 26-24, 18-21, 20-22.

With her win of five matches to nil against Netherlands, England now meets Italy in the second round of the West Zone draw of the Europe Cup. English team was J. Leach (Capt.), A. Simons, G. V. Barna and J. Carrington.

Ireland, who beat Wales, must now play either Belgium or Scotland in the second round, and the winners will then play the winners of the England v. Italy match. It looks more than likely that England will win the West Zone.

Notable absence from the West Zone contest this year is France.

In the women’s team event, England, being the holders, do not take part until the Zones final has been played.

In an article in the September/October *Table Tennis Review*, Stanley Proffitt advocated a special badge for English Europe Cup players. We now hear from Geoff. Harrower that he proposed the matter many months ago and during the summer has been making choice of designs. The new badge should be ready at an early date.

PROFESSIONAL TABLE TENNIS

(Continued from previous page)

coaching, lectures, exhibitions, and everything else of a like nature. More than this I will not say.”

At which I took my leave of Mr. Eddie Bublely, in whom, so I gathered, the Big Idea has been blossoming for 13 years, and who is now ready to burst it upon the public.

S.K.

HYMIE LURIE (Ex-Swaythling Cup) ASKS—

When are we going to have a Coaching Scheme?

WITH such a tremendous number of affiliated members in England—larger than any other country in the world—surely we must have a gold mine of talent just waiting to be developed. But what has been done to organise a nation-wide coaching and talent spotting scheme?

Here and there up and down the country the older and more experienced players are doing odd bits of coaching, but nothing has been done to co-ordinate and extend their work along progressive lines.

A national coaching scheme would require financial backing, but few can doubt that it would be money well spent. If necessary, a fund could be opened to which voluntary contributions were invited from every affiliated member.

A special sub-committee could be set up to appoint coaches whose job it would be to submit monthly progress reports. Those youngsters who showed possibility of making the grade would be given every encouragement and have their expenses paid to all open tournaments within reasonable distance of their homes. This matter of tournament cost is one which deters many young players from obtaining the experience they so badly require and, even if nothing is done about an ambitious coaching scheme, I do think it is time we made sure that all youngsters of promise entered every possible tournament. Table tennis knows no class and a world champion can come just as easily from a home where the household budget doesn’t always balance as from a home where there is money to burn.

If these young stars of the future are to be found, and found in good numbers, not merely four or five, then a coaching scheme there must be. Up to now we have muddled along hoping that each new season will bring to light another new star. It is high time that less talk and money was spent on the improvement of the administrative side of the game, and more of it given to the improvement of our playing standards.

Y.M.C.A. OFFER

TOWARDS the end of last season the Manchester Y.M.C.A., birthplace of such internationals as Ken Stanley, S. Proffitt, A. G. Millar, C. W. Davies and H. C. Cooke, made a remarkable offer to the E.T.T.A. They proposed to set a room at one side with two first-class tables and perfect playing conditions, and to engage the services of an experienced coach, and to open this as a Northern Table Tennis School for the training of young players approved by official bodies. The Y.M.C.A. offered to organise and run the school themselves in a determined and sincere effort to improve the standard of play. Their only request was a grant of £30, less than half the costs of one season’s expenses.

E.T.T.A. Secretary, Mr. Pope, expressed interest and thanks but referred the matter to the Lancashire County Association, since when nothing further has been heard by the Y.M.C.A. Opportunities such as this do not present themselves every day. Why was it allowed to slip by?

★

Extract from “Manchester Evening News,”

Ex-International LES. COHEN writes:

“Unless the Lancashire table tennis authorities organise a coaching scheme for promising youngsters without delay it will react unfavourably on the strength of the county side in a couple of years. Extensive trials must be held with a low age limit and youngsters with potentialities selected for regular coaching. It is imperative that the difficulties, not the least of which is finance, must somehow be overcome if Lancashire is to stay on the table tennis map.”

≡ ALEC D. BROOK ≡

(Swaythling Cup Player)

SPORTS SPECIALIST and COMPLETE OUTFITTER

I can supply Tournament Table Tennis tables which are comparable with the finest pre-war models. Solidly built with turned cabinet legs and a super fast finish they are the result of three years experimenting. These are now in use in London, Glasgow, Horsham, Guildford, Bournemouth, Brighton, Luton and many other places and we have some wonderful testimonials. One well known international actually said, "It is the finest table on which I have ever played." A bold statement, but certainly giving an idea of the calibre of the tables.

The cost is **30 Guineas** and we have also a brother which is for club players, not so solid but still fast which we retail at **£21**.

In Stock :

Table Tennis shirts in four colours as worn by Barna and Brook on the stage. Zips, Men's **26/6** ; Ladies **24/6**. (All six coupons)

Windcheaters as used by the French team.

All Table Tennis bats including the Barna, Alec D. Brook, Filby, etc., Table Tennis bat covers, **6/6** (A really good cover). Table Tennis Balls.

Please remember to send postage.

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Dutch Tour

Amazing Reception for Barna and Brook

★

VICTOR Barna and Alec Brook made successful tour of a Holland during the first two weeks of October playing exhibition matches to thousands of people in Utrecht, Amsterdam, The Hague, Arnhem and Tilburg. They played unofficial matches against the Dutch team, all of which they won.

The Dutch players are tremendously keen and their officials are working hard to put their country in the limelight of the table tennis world. The main weakness of their players is that few of them can compete against even the slightest chop. Owing to import restrictions first class tables are wanted badly and balls also are at a premium.

On the first day of their tour Barna and Brook received an amazing reception at the town of Roelofarendsveen. They were met by the Burgomaster and his wife, the town band, and about four to five thousand people. The band played both National Anthems after which they were driven through the town, led first by the band, which played continuously, and then by a column of about forty young men and women, each dressed in a white shirt or blouse and grey shorts and carrying T. T. bats. Crowds of people followed their car and people stood outside their houses waving as they passed.

The Dutch have asked Barna and Brook to make a return visit later, but for the new year they have a number of possible trips abroad.



HOLD IT !

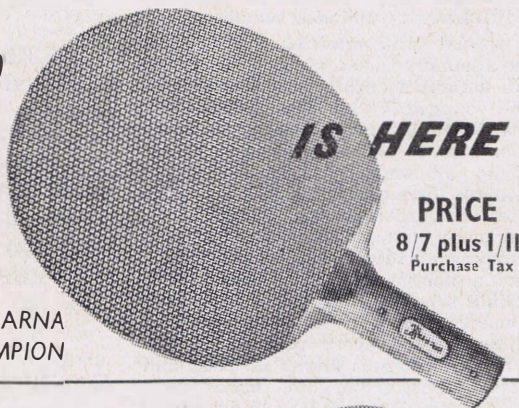
Mrs. De Clerco Yeanne, Corbillon Cup player of Belgium, takes a careful look to see if her stroke has imparted the required amount of back-spin.

YOUR SEASON'S DIARY

Week ending :	
Nov. 1/6	Eastern Suburban Open
Nov. 12/13 Yorkshire Open
Nov. 20/21 South of England Open
Nov. 25/26 Merseyside Open
Dec. 3/4 Pontefract Open
Dec. 10/11 Welsh Open
Dec. 13/18 Central London Open
1949	
Jan. 3/8 Metropolitan Open
Jan. 15 Wales v. England (Swansea)
Jan. 15 Hull Open
Jan. 16 Hampshire Open
Jan. 20/22 Lancashire Open
Jan. 30 Kent Open
Feb. 4/10 World Championships (Stockholm)
Feb. 16/19 English Open (London)
Feb. 26 Midland Open
March 5 Surrey Open
March 11 England v. Ireland (Liverpool)
March 12 Cheshire Open
March 19 Grimsby Open
March 21/26 West Middlesex Open

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A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

Approach and Footwork—Part IV

By Ken Stanley

(Swaythling Cup Player)

WITH all your strokes you should strive to make an approach on to the ball. By the word "approach" I mean the path covered by the bat from the commencement of the stroke to the moment of impact. In attacking strokes this approach is a short one of about nine to twelve inches, but in defence you can afford to lengthen the approach to as much as two feet.

In the case of the beginner this matter of approach is important and it should not be overlooked during the hours of practice. Eventually when you have acquired a greater degree of mastery over footwork, body position and bat movement, you will find that your length of approach will adapt itself to your own particular style of play.

Your approach is, of course, dependent upon your feet carrying you swiftly and smoothly into a position where the body is behind the ball. As an illustration, take the sharp angle shot where the ball moves

away from you at a good pace. It is of little use thrusting out your arm and hoping for the best. You might be lucky and return the ball with an outstretched arm, but you will not be able to apply much chop or have any real control over it. What you must do is to get into a position behind the ball, so that you can make an approach and a good follow-through. (The movement of the feet in taking the ball into the most favourable position for returning angle shots was described in my article on page nineteen of the September/October issue.)

Make a rule never to hit a ball unless you have that freedom of space which is necessary for a good approach. If your footwork is bad you will never acquire freedom of space, and consequently your approaches will be faulty. In many instances it is only a matter of moving one of the feet a few inches to the rear in order to give yourself a little more space, resulting in a better approach, precision hitting and a helpful follow-through.

Footwork Variation

Here is rather a tricky piece of footwork which may often win you a point. Imagine you are attacking with the backhand and in perfect position, namely, right shoulder facing the table, right foot forward and body in perfect balance. After several hits over to your opponent's backhand corner, move the left leg into a position *behind* the right and transferring the weight of the body on to your left foot. At the same time switch the angle of your shot down the line to his extreme side.

This movement contradicts the theory of your weight going forward on to your right foot for backhand shots, but even so you are still playing your weight forward. This sudden change of direction of the ball often wins a point or else makes an opening for a winning stroke.

Note here how necessary is a good approach, and how the left leg action creates a freedom of space so that the best possible approach can be made. After completion of the stroke the left leg should be moved back to its former position.

The above shot and footwork can also be applied to the forehand attack only this time it is the right leg which goes behind the left.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW!

THE DOUBLES GAME

IT seems that there are far too many tournament players who do not fully understand the rules of doubles play. Such players are at a distinct disadvantage against two opponents who know just what they are allowed to do with regard to the placing of themselves for "striking out," or in other words "receiving."

If you study the rules appertaining to *Order of Play* and *Order of Service* (Nos. 20 and 21), you will find that there is a great deal more in them than meets the eye. These rules have obviously been designed to create scope for the tactician. Get to know them, and with the use of a little intelligence you will often find the opportunity to do one of the following things:—

- (1) Cover up a weakness in your team work.
- (2) Exploit a weakness of your opponents.
- (3) Make the most of your strong points.
- (4) Offer the best resistance to some superiority of your opponents.

Rule 20 reads:—

The Choice of Order of Play.—The pair who have the right to serve the first five services in any game shall decide which partner shall do so, and the opposing pair shall then decide similarly which shall first be striker-out.

(Note carefully those two words in heavy type.)

It will be seen from this rule that the pair in the best position (after the first game) are the strikers-out (the receivers of the service). The

right to serve; therefore, in the first game is a vital factor.

If the first game goes well for the first servers resulting in a comfortable win, they then have the right in the second game to retain the same order of play, and this may likely give them the match in two straight games.

Should this first game end in a severe defeat for the first servers, then the obvious thing for them to do in the second game is to change the order of play. This they will be privileged to do as they will then be strikers-out.

The last paragraph of rule 21 reads:—

In a one-game match, or in the deciding game of a match of more than one game, the pair that served the first five services has the right to alter their order of striking-out or that of their opponents at the score of 10.

Here again, we see the great benefits brought from winning the toss and claiming the service of that first game, for when the score reaches 10 in the deciding game, the pair who played the first five services in the first game have the right to arrange the order of play to whatever may suit them, no matter who may be the strikers-out.

Not only players should acquaint themselves with these rules, but also umpires. All too often you will see opponents in tournaments arguing as to who is right and who is wrong, while the umpire sits dumbly on his chair in complete ignorance of what ought to be done.

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AN OCTOBER VISITOR—*Bohumil Vana*

By THE EDITOR

the singles event he had rather an easy draw up to the fourth round where he fell to A. Ehrlich of Poland.

But nobody back home in Prague had expected the pale boy of fourteen to win a world title or even to help his team to beat the indomitable Hungarians, Barna, Szabados, Bellak, Hazi and Kelen. The Czechoslovakian Selection Committee had said, "Here is a boy who might develop into a star if he is given experience in world class play. We may be wrong, but we'll risk it." The boy's name was Bohumil Vana and three years later he won the supreme singles title.

Since then, Vana has captured some of the glory which once belonged to Victor Barna. His amazingly swift forehand hit was spoken about with the same amount of admiration as one referred to the world-famous Barna "flick."

In 1939 in Cairo, Vana lost his title to Bergmann, but in the first post-war championships held in Paris he recaptured the world championship, although his rival Bergmann did not compete.

Last season, with the world championships back in London, the attractive Souvenir Programme made honourable mention of Bohumil Vana but it did him an injustice and the write-up was done by a person who obviously did not know the capabilities of this still pale and almost fragile looking Continental. The write-up said, ". . . mighty all forehand hitter and master strategist *but with little defence or backhand.*"

In the Swaythling Cup match between Czechoslovakia and U.S.A., Vana's breath-taking "defensive" play, working in perfect unison with his attack, carried his team to victory. And again in the singles

final, which he lost 2-3 to Bergmann, his exceedingly heavy chop defence stood up for long rallies to a shattering Bergmann attack. At Wembley, during that memorable final, ten thousand people certainly saw some "mighty forehand hitting" from Vana, but they must have been more than a little perplexed at the exhibition of an astonishing defence which was so belittled by officialdom.

Bo. Vana is one of the most charming of table tennis personalities. His modesty and rather retiring nature has endeared him to the hearts of many in this country. His English is not good, but it is sufficient to get him along, and even allows him to crack little jokes which makes one wonder whether he would be something of a light comedian if he was able to express himself more fluently.

He is a true sportsman and even after his defeat in the world championship final there was still a twinkle in his eye. "There will be another time," he said with a smile.

Back in Czechoslovakia, six thousand copies of his book on table tennis have been sold at a price equivalent to five shillings per copy, and he is now working on a second book dealing with his experiences and the people he has met.

He says our own Johnny Leach is good but too slow and does not think fast enough. Although he does not favour highering the net, he feels that Miles and Reisman would be easy if the height was increased.

Mrs. Vana, better known in table tennis circles as Eva Vanova, is a good class player herself, comparing favourably with our own ladies county standard. Together with her husband, she won the last Irish Open Mixed Doubles.



IN February, 1935, a pale, slim boy (of 14 years) from Czechoslovakia made his first visit to this country. He came to take part in the world's championships which were to be played that year in London. As fifth man on his country's Swaythling Cup team, he was not regarded with any outstanding interest and he was not even mentioned in the World Championship Programme on the page that dealt with "Lesser Lights." In



Mrs. Vana



BIRMINGHAM OPEN

Johnny Leach Beats
Aubrey Simons



Adele Wood Misses
Her Opportunity

ON Saturday, October 9th, the final rounds of the Birmingham Open Championships were played at the Indoor Stadium, one-time headquarters of the Birmingham and District League. With nine tables in use under ideal conditions, the tournament was kept well under control and there was none of that frantic haste between the end of the afternoon's play and commencement of the evening's finals.

Afternoon Play—Men

Early in the afternoon, seventeen year old Douglas Shaw of Manchester created a mild sensation by taking the first game off international Geoff. Harrower, but in the two games that followed Shaw missed many opportunities of executing "kill" shots and his game degenerated into an exhibition of slow top-spin driving which was useless against an opponent with such a steady defence.

Birmingham's number one player, Bobbie Mackay accounted for Jack Carrington, but fell later to Benny Casofsky.

Harrower was knocked out by Ken Stanley, and in this match there was an unfortunate incident when the umpire gave an edge ball point to Stanley to which the Londoner strongly objected. Harrower argued that playing against an opponent of Stanley's calibre he himself could not afford to accept an umpire who made blunders and a new umpire was brought to the table. Scores to Stanley, 22-20, 20-22, 21-7.

In the quarter finals of the Men's Singles, Aubrey Simons of Bristol

beat Birmingham's Maurice Kriss, after Kriss had accounted for Dennis Thompson (Cheltenham).

In another quarter finals match, Johnny Leach beat R. Griffin (Cheltenham), 21-11, 21-10. Griffin is eighteen years of age and together with Aubrey Simons he represented his county against the Czech. tourists on October 18th. In the preceding fourth round, Griffin had a win of two straight games over F. Mohtadi, the well-known player from Iran who is now studying at Birmingham University.

B. Crouch of Middlesex, winner of the recent East of England Open, was beaten by Simons in the fourth round, 22-20, 21-12. Crouch is an excellent all-round sportsman and won the last *Evening News* Lawn Tennis tournament.

Afternoon Play—Women

Sixteen year old Adele Wood of Manchester missed a glorious opportunity of demanding international honours, and her defeat at the hands of Corbillon Cup player Betty Steventon was a little disappointing. Perhaps we had expected too much after hearing excellent reports about the young Manchester girl's present form, and after all her opponent was an international. Even so, a young player wins recognition by suddenly turning up at an open and beating some well-known international. Young Brian Kennedy achieved such wins last season and Adele Wood will have to do the same this season if she is ever to become a champion. As Selection Committee Secretary

Geoff. Harrower says, "It's results that count."

Miss Betty Steventon won in two straight, 21-10, 21-13, and so passed to the final.

In the other Ladies' Semi-final, young and good looking Miss Jean Mackay, Birmingham's leading lady player and contestant for international honours had a stern struggle against the Welsh international, Audrey Bates. In the whole three games Miss Bates scored only three points more than Jean. Scores to Bates, 20-22, 21-18, 22-20.

Finals Night

The evening's play was mediocre and there were few fireworks. The Junior Singles event saw some hard hitting from sixteen-year old D. Ellison of Bolton against M. Leach of Cheltenham who appeared to be anything but happy right out there in the centre. Leach's footwork was bad and poor drop shots from Ellison caught him every time. Ellison won 21-13, 21-16.

The Ladies' Singles final. Audrey Bates of Cardiff started off in poor fashion against Betty Steventon (Nottingham) and she could do nothing right against an opponent who was not playing with any degree of brilliance. She lost this first game 6-21. Later, both girls exhibited better form with the match going to Miss Steventon.

By winning the Men's Doubles, Carrington and Leach demonstrated that they are still England's best doubles pair. In the semi-final they beat Casofsky and Stanley and won the final against Simons and Mackay 21-13, 16-21, 21-11.

Men's Singles Finals

In the match between Simons and Casofsky we expected to see a stern struggle from two players who are both possibles for England's Swaythling Cup team, but Benny was not in one of his happiest moods and

Simons won through to the final with scores of 21-12, 21-19.

The other semi-final was also a trial of strength between Stanley and Leach. Right from the first point Stanley was on the attack, but at times his quick hitting was too hasty and lacked judgment. The match was reasonably enjoyable with Leach always the master of the score. The two games went to Leach 21-15, 21-17.

In the final of Leach *v.* Simons, the first two games went to the West of England player. Playing a severe chop with nothing but wrist movement on the forehand side, and making flat returns without chop from the backhand he had tied up the Leach attack to the extent of taking those first two games with impressive scores of 21-13, 21-12. But Johnny Leach has not achieved fame without being able to use his head in times such as these, and the next games found a more cautious attacker playing with patience and waiting longer for his openings. Simons has a remarkable defence and is also quick to seize an opening. When he comes in to attack it is generally a winner, and it is not necessary for him to work up to a "kill." If only he could execute those winners more frequently he would be twice as good as he is now.

All praise goes to Johnny Leach for turning what appeared to be certain defeat into a victory, and taking those last three games with convincing scores of 21-14, 21-15, 21-16.

Other Results

Ladies Doubles. J. Mackay and D. Smith beat E. Steventon and M. Allen, 21-16, 22-20.

Mixed Doubles. B. Casofsky and A. Bates beat B. Mackay and Jean Mackay.

Veterans. S. Buckingham (Birmingham) beat R. Harvey (Coventry) 20-22, 21-13, 21-14.

England's Swaythling Team

OUR READERS' LETTERS

First grade table tennis bats have been sent to the senders of the following letters. Many thanks to all those others who sent in their views and we regret that space forbids us to print more.

1. J. Leach, capable of giving five points to any other British born player.
2. A. Simons, a steady player who is able to shake the world's best.
3. R. Sharman. I disagree with the views expressed in the *Table Tennis Review* article. Towards the end of last season, Sharman was drawing away from the ordinary internationals. At least he is England's No. 3.
4. B. Kennedy has all the makings of a world-beater if handled in the proper manner.
5. M. Thornhill, slightly above most other juniors.

By February, however, men like B. Crouch, R. Alcock and B. Brumwell may have strong claims for inclusion.

W. McCAYE,
18, Downham Rd., Canvey Island.



Why all this talk about players being too old? If they are good enough they are young enough. We want the strongest possible team to represent us at Stockholm and we are fortunate that players of the calibre of Barna and Bergmann are willing, eager and entitled to play for us. The younger men can gain experience in tournament play and when they have proved themselves superior they will be entitled to international badges. In the meantime my team is Bergmann, Leach, Barna, Stanley and Simons.

C. A. ALEXANDER,
63, Ballyholme Rd., Bangor,
Co. Down.

1. J. Leach automatically fills the first place.
 2. K. Stanley, one of the most dogged and determined fighters we possess.
 3. B. Casofsky. I admit I'm leaning towards Northern players, but Benny is capable of beating most of the best if he strikes form. If he doesn't strike form then we have nothing to lose as we don't stand an earthly of winning the cup anyway.
 4. B. Kennedy deserves his place for his showing in the World's and English Open. He will be a splendid advertisement for British Youth.
 5. A. Simons. Just the type of reliable player we need.
- There should be no change in the Corbillon Cup team. Adele Wood can be given her chance later on. Personally, I don't think her style forceful enough for such matches.

G. LOMAS,
166, Bramhall Lane, Davenport.



1. J. Leach.
 2. B. Casofsky.
 3. K. Stanley.
- For the remaining two places, these should be filled by M. Thornhill and B. Kennedy, our two most promising juniors. The experience gained would be invaluable to them. The Corbillon Cup team should be V. Thomas, M. Franks, D. Beregi, with the other two places being given to Adele Wood and Jean Mackay.

J. BARNETT,
8, Bury Park Road, Luton.



Leach of course, cannot be omitted from the English team and Aubrey Simons, who made such great head-

way last season, must also go to Stockholm. Ken Stanley is worth his place as he appears to be coming back to his old form. Admittedly it would be a bold policy to fill the remaining places with juniors, but such experience would be invaluable for world championships to come. The two best juniors are Brian Kennedy and Michael Thornhill.

I do not consider it necessary to change the Corbillon Cup team.

A. THOMAS,
7, Princes Avenue, Flat 4,
Liverpool, 8.



The players I should like to see in the team are Bergmann, Leach, Stanley, Kennedy and Simons. This I think, is a judicial blend of youth and experience. Bergmann obviously ought to play if willing. These matches would be a great opportunity of "bleeding" Kennedy who is one of our most promising juniors. Table tennis is a game for youth and sixteen is certainly not too young to start an international career. Simons has been the leading West Country

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IN SEARCH OF A LAUGH

... With INKSPOT

I am beginning to get a mail bag of my own, but what do you think of this one received last month:

"Your laugh page isn't so hot, Mr. Inkspot, in fact it's starvation. If you took it with you to the Gold Coast you would freeze to death. The apparently original jokes are murder and the good jokes are so old I'll bet you dug them up from an ancient burial ground."

K.S. London."

H'm. Wise guy, eh? Take no notice of him. He is probably a member of the E.T.T.A. Selection Committee. Anyway what's on at the Gold Coast? The first professional world championships? Whoever you are, K.S., I hope you never get another net or edge ball as long as you live. And the next time put a stamp on your letter!

★

Taking out my spade one evening I proceeded to the aforesaid ancient burial ground and this is what I found.

Jake had just climbed down his ladder after cleaning the windows of a Nudist Society's H.Q. "They are playing table tennis doubles up there," he remarked to his mate.

"Men's, women's or mixed?"

"I dunno," Jake replied. "They haven't any clothes on."

★

Mary has a lovely swing,
It isn't hard to find,
For everywhere that Mary goes
That swing is just behind.

★

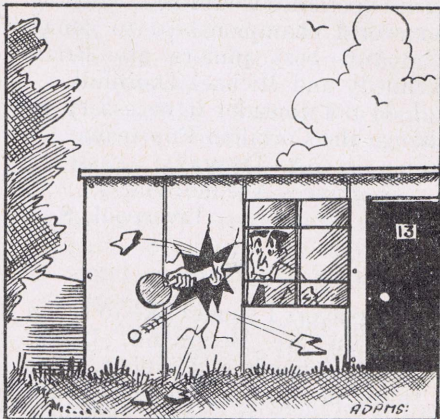
Mary Lou entered the Hartlepoons Open and a week before the event she told me she did not intend to smoke until after the tournament.

"But a week will not make much difference to your stamina," I retorted.

"Oh, I'm not worried about my stamina," she exclaimed, "but I must be careful not to tire my legs."

★

Ah, there goes old K.S. Gone for a brush I bet to sweep the cobwebs off that last one.



"Gee! I hope the ball isn't damaged"

Young George is nine and lives in the house next door. The other evening when I popped in to borrow a corkscrew from his dad I found him swotting homework.

"Preparing for the future?" I asked.

"Yes," replied young George. "I want to pass my exam. so that I can qualify for the scholarship exam. If I pass that I can go to the Grammar School and later enter the University."

"Well played," I said with admiration, "and what do you intend to do when you have finished your studies at the University?"

George replied without the slightest hesitation, "I'm going to join Table Tennis Promotions Limited."

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CITADELS OF TABLE TENNIS

Viewed by ARTHUR WAITE

1—BIRMINGHAM

CHOCOLATES, bicycles and motor-cars come from Birmingham, but that's not all. It also produces table tennis players by the thousand. Armed with notebook and pencil I walked into the office of Works Production Manager, Maurice Goldstein. The Birmingham Association secretary was busy turning the handle of a duplicating machine. I could see he was busy so I didn't beat about the bush, but plunged right into the interview.

"How many registered players in the Birmingham and District Association, Maurice?" I asked, pencil poised.

"About three thousand," came the laconic reply.

I looked up in astonishment. My breath was taken away just like it was that day when the first ball I took out of the box was perfect in weight, shape, size, etc. *Three thousand members!* And there was Manchester and Liverpool swanking about their twelve and fifteen hundred.

"We're probably the largest in the country," he continued with no concern for my bewilderment. "We have 150 clubs, not teams, and will probably finish the season with two hundred."

"A colossal job being secretary?" I suggested. It was an obvious point, but you make silly questions like that when you are interviewing. It makes the other fellow talk.

"It takes practically all my spare time," he replied with a sigh, but it was not a weary sigh. A man like Maurice Goldstein does not give the whole of his youth to a job if he finds no happiness in the work.

Meet the Hon. Sec.

But come, let me give you a proper introduction to this hard working Midlands secretary. You'll like him.

"Maurice, meet the readers!"

"Thanks a lot. It's a pleasure, but I have probably met many of them already."

Yes, he probably has, for he is among the best known of table tennis personalities. He has been the Birmingham secretary since 1931 and way back in those early thirties he was quite a star

player himself. In 1934 he won the Birmingham Closed and represented his league in many inter-city matches. Stocky in build and probably approaching the age of forty. There are also one or two grey streaks in that dark, brushed-back hair . . . if there isn't, there ought to be after seventeen years pioneering work.

To-day there are many players, and some officials, who look around to see what they can take out of the game, but Maurice has put more into table tennis than he could ever take out. Still, I don't doubt that he considers he has had his reward when he glances at the achievements of his Association.

"Maybe I shall retire in a year or two," he remarked. "Probably when we have reached the pre-war strength of 300 clubs."

But don't despair, Midlanders. There is another Goldstein on his way up. In the Birmingham Junior Open played on October 9th, nine years old David was entered by a proud father in his first tournament. What is more, Sonny won the first round. Is this a record? A nine-year-old in an open! I heard some wiseacre say David would have won the second round only he lacked experience.

The Leading Lights

I was told that the first five players in Birmingham are Bobbie Mackay, Wally Hall, Maurice Kriss, W. Poole and F. Mohtadi, while the leading ladies appear to be Miss Jean Mackay, Mrs. D. Haydon, Miss C. Bullock, Miss H. Egerton and Mrs. D. Smith (who played for England from 1932-1936 under the name of Miss Dinah Newey).

I watched Dinah play while in Birmingham. She's still easy to look at—youthful figure, bright eyes, girlish smile—she's got me beat about her age. Tell me Dinah, do your knees occasionally crack and do five games seem like a marathon? If so, then you are about the same age as myself, which is . . . er . . . well anyway, who cares?

No write-up of Birmingham would be complete without those two great personalities, Arthur A. Haydon and Mrs. M. Knott (better known as Miss Margaret Osborne). Both these two were non-

playing captains of last season's English Swayling and Corbillon Cup teams, respectively, and both have represented their country on numerous occasions. Arthur received his first international badge in 1927.

Association's Achievements

Last season, the ladies' team won the Western Counties League Championship and were also finalists in the J. M. Rose Bowl tournament, which is the equivalent of the ladies' team championship of England. The men's team retained the Midland Counties League Shield.

Once a week during last season, coaching classes were held in which 250 youngsters took part. Thirty were eventually chosen for regular coaching and practice during the summer. In spite of all this, Mr. C. Simons, of Harborne Y.M.C.A., who is in charge of the juniors, was not very hopeful about any young stars being found in the near future. "But we shall carry on," he added, "and do all we can to encourage junior players."

The Birmingham Indoor Stadium, which is one of the finest halls for table tennis in the country, was the headquarters of the Birmingham Association before the war, but is now owned by their President,

Mr. C. J. Mackay, father of the well-known Jean and Bobbie. Capable of holding over a thousand spectators, it also allows play on nine tables under perfect conditions. With its dressing rooms, snack bar, and press rooms, it might have been built for table tennis.

And so, as we struggle to find our way out of this town of one-way streets, we say farewell to the T.T. city of Birmingham. (I have heard that before somewhere, I wonder where it could be?) In the next issue we visit Liverpool, so buy a couple of bags of coal for your stadium, Merseyside, and ask Billie Stamp to keep his best cigars in reserve.

BOOK REVIEW

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HARTLEPOOLS OPEN

★
Miss Purves
Wins
Singles Event



★
Good Day
for
Brian Kennedy

★
ONLY the premier title, the Men's Singles eluded the grasp of junior international Brian Kennedy at the Hartlepoons Open Championships played on Saturday, October 16th. Playing in brilliant form he gained the Youth's Singles and both doubles events.

Organised by the Hartlepoons Table Tennis Association the tournament attracted a record number of competitors, entries for the various events being as follows: Men's Singles, 98; Ladies Singles, 39; Youth's Singles, 36; Ladies' Doubles, 17; Men's Doubles, 50; and Mixed Doubles, 33. The tournament commenced at 1-30 p.m. and, although eight tables were in continuous use, the last game was not finished until nearly midnight.

Men's Singles

In a semi-final of the Men's Singles, R. A. Punshon, leading Newcastle and Northumberland County player, gave everyone a surprise by easily defeating the well-known Durham County player, T. H. Jeal, while in the other semi. J. Parish of St. Mark's Club, Walthamstow, London, beat young Brian Kennedy of Leeds by two games to one. This was Kennedy's only defeat of the day.

Owing to shortage of time the final between Punshon (Newcastle) and Parish (London) had to be the best of three games, but this proved to be a thriller. Punshon won the first game 21-18 and seemed set for victory when leading 15-6 in the second. Staging a wonderful recovery Parish drew the scores level and then went on to win 21-17. In the third and deciding game Parish executed some brilliant shots and ran up a 17-12 lead, but now it was Punshon's turn to fight back and this he did in magnificent fashion taking the game and match 21-18.

Ladies' Singles

Holder of the Ladies' Singles title, Miss J. Purves of Newcastle, repeated her previous year's success by defeating her club colleague, Miss Doreen Smith, in two straight but closely contested games. Both Miss Purves and Miss Smith are members of the Northumberland team which played so brilliantly last season and captured the J. M. Rose Bowl, which is the equivalent to the ladies' team championship of England. The selection committee are showing exceptional interest in these two northern players and it is likely that either one or both of them will obtain an international badge this season. The testing time will come

on November 22nd, when a North v. South ladies' match is to be played in Newcastle from which the Corbillon Cup team for Sweden may be chosen.

Other Events

After disposing of Durham County players, T. H. Jeal and N. Roberts, Brian Kennedy and A. Thompson (Leeds) went on to win the Men's Doubles in two straight games against R. A. Punshon and L. Kurtzman (Newcastle).

In the Youths' Singles, Kennedy gained a comfortable two game victory over G. Kelly (Bradford) and then went on to capture his third title of the day by winning the Mixed Doubles. Partnered by sixteen-year old Miss S. J. Wood (Leeds) whose steady and reliable play gave excellent support to the more brilliant play of Kennedy, this youthful pair achieved a decisive win of two straight games against the winners of the recent East of England Mixed Doubles, Miss M. I. Lightfoot and A. Thompson (Leeds).

The Ladies' Doubles result was a repeat of the previous year with Miss J. Purves and Miss M. Waugh beating Miss M. Paxton and Miss E. Dodds (Stanley) two games to nil.

Prizes were presented by Mrs. H. P. Salmon, wife of the Hartlepoons Association President.

Coming Merseyside Open

FIRST SPORTING EVENT
FOR PHILHARMONIC HALL

By BILLIE STAMP

(Liverpool League Secretary)

MANY tournament secretaries like to vary the time of the year in which they stage their Open tournaments, and while variety might be the spice of life, we in Merseyside prefer to stick to November and take a chance on the fogs. This season the preliminary rounds of the Merseyside Open will again be played at the Gordon Institute, commencing on Wednesday, November 24th. Competitors who reside more than 30 miles from Liverpool will be excused until 1-30 p.m. on Saturday, the 27th.

The finals will take place on the Saturday evening at the Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, and will be attended by the Lord and Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. W. T. Lancashire). This is the first sporting event to be played in this wonderful new hall and both players and spectators will find conditions ideal.

Alderman Lancashire was our first President twenty-three years ago and is the donor of the Singles Cup at present held by Richard Bergmann. The Merseyside has always been regarded as one of the premier northern events and has never failed to attract an all-star entry. Entries close on Monday, November 15th. Forms obtainable from W. Stamp, "Buena Ventura," Farmdale Close, Liverpool, who also has a booking plan of the Philharmonic Hall. Boxes (to hold 6) two guineas. Other seats from 2/6 to 6/-, all of which can be reserved.

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LONDON DIARY

By PEEPS

FROM all parts of the Metropolis come reports of expansion, and new appointments have been made to cope with the extra work. Individual leagues, naturally, decide their own duration of season and some started match play quite early. Willesden, Central and Acton were among the first, and way out in Essex, Laidon began as early as the second week in September. The Central league has grown tremendously in its five years of life and much credit must go to hard-working secretary, Geoff. James. Geoff. spent some of the close season replying to enquiries from anxious London League clubs who doubted whether their league would function this year. As a result, some of these clubs have been accepted by the Central League, and the London League, although it will operate, will not be as strong as in previous years. The London Business House League has considerably increased its membership and its painstaking secretary, Mr. Herbert Sinclair, is still holding the reins, although he has now retired from business. Best of luck, Mr. Sinclair! The leagues in Metropolitan Middlesex have a very full season, bristling with representative matches before them, but with Geoff. Harrower ready to give advice and lend a hand wherever necessary they will come through successfully. On the East side of the Metropolis, predominantly strong is the East London League.

The London tournament season starts with the Eastern Suburban Open Championships at Ilford, from November 1st to 6th. Last year, Johnny Leach, playing magnificently, won three titles, and amazingly enough Richard Bergmann was three times a losing finalist. Can Johnny do it again? The South of England Open at Croydon will once again be completed in two days, Saturday, November 20th, and Sunday, November 21st, an arrangement which suits many players. The Central London Open runs from December 13-18th at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, which being adjacent to Fleet Street is very handy for publicity man Stan Kempster. The new year opens as usual with the Metropolitan Championship at the Polytechnic Extension.

A big headache for London organisers is the difficulty in finding officials to carry out the extra work caused by the recent growth of the game in these parts. While

this may be attributed to "growing pains," it is possible that good class table tennis is about to face something in the nature of a revolution unless more people volunteer to do their share of work.

No sportsman will deny the top class player the right to earn a living or to supplement his income by playing the game at which he excels. Unfortunately, there are many others who think they are top class players and must therefore never stoop to umpire a few games, address a few envelopes, shift a few chairs, or tear a few tickets in half. Things might run more smoothly if these players lent an occasional hand to the overworked organisers, who not only receive no pay, but more often than not are out of pocket through incurring the extra expense of travelling and buying meals out.

It has up to now been an accepted fact that organisers are not paid, but now has come something to make us think. In the East End of London there has been formed a limited company, whose object is to promote table tennis matches.

The men behind it are the Bubleys Brothers who believe they can organise table tennis so that both players and organisers (in this case the Bubleys Brothers) receive a reasonable payment for their services. Time will tell whether this is possible, but the Bubleys' mean to tackle the position bravely, and whatever the outcome, we must hand it to the boys from the Manhattan Club for showing such splendid enterprise.

In the meantime, your League secretaries will continue to work for nothing, and so keep down expenses for the everyday player. So don't forget if you can give a hand at any time.

Table Tennis at Cork

Ulster defeated Munster by nine events to two in an inter-provincial match at Cork on October 2nd. Surprise of the night was the victory of H. Fisher (Cork) over V. Mercer (No. 1 Irish player).

The Annual International match between Wales and Ireland has been fixed for January 15th at Dublin.

ENGLAND v. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THRILLING BUT
DISAPPOINTING

BERGMANN'S
ABSENCE

AT Liverpool Stadium on October 23rd, two thousand five hundred people were thrilled by a first-class display of table tennis by the men players, but each time a women's match was brought on their enthusiasm received a cold douche. The resistance put up by the English Women was a sad reflection of the standard which won for us the world's team championship last season.

From the spectacle point of view the outstanding match was undoubtedly, Victor Barna v. F. Tokar: Barna is always a favourite with the crowd and though he lost this match two games to one, his backhand flick appeared as brilliant as ever and time and time again there were long rallies which brought the crowd to their feet roaring with applause.

Barna and Leach gave proof of excellent understanding and perfect partnership in the doubles and obtained England's only victory by outclassing the reigning World's Doubles Champions, Vana and Stipek.

RESULTS (Czech players first).

Andreadis beat Leach, 21-11, 21-15; Misses Hruskova and Furstova beat Miss Franks and Mrs. Lentle, 21-14, 21-16; Vana beat Simons, 21-15, 21-13; Tokar beat Barna, 18-21, 21-18, 21-11; Miss Hruskova beat Miss Steventon, 21-17, 12-21, 21-11; Vana beat Leach, 21-15, 24-22; Andreadis beat Simons, 21-10, 21-17; Miss Furstova beat Miss Franks, 21-9, 23-21; Vana and Stipek lost to Barna and Leach, 12-21, 21-16, 17-21.

Czechoslovakia 8, England 1.

Eddie Bubleys, manager to Richard Bergmann has circularised Sports Editors to the effect that Bergmann had stated he was willing to play for England against the Czechs at Liverpool. He complained of Bergmann's absence from the team. The world champion, however, has left himself open to suspension from organised table tennis by breaking Rule Three of the Registered Players Regulations which is to the effect that no player should enter into any contract with an organisation outside the jurisdiction of the E.T.T.A.

Back Numbers Available

We still have a number of copies for sale at one shilling each of the World Championship Souvenir issue. This contains a 15-page contribution entitled "World Championship Story," including a long article by Richard Bergmann telling how he won the title. There are five attractive photographs of the Wembley event, one of them being full page size showing the whole lay-out of the Stadium with Corbillon Cup and other matches in progress on eleven tables. Other articles are featured in its 32 pages, including instructional material by Ken Stanley.

Other back numbers of *Table Tennis Review* are now running low and if any reader wishes to add to his collection he should apply immediately.

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READERS' LETTERS

I was a keen table-tennis player in the Army, meeting a number of club players with fair success.

I was demobilised six months' ago, and since then have attempted to join a local club. The English Table Tennis Association gave me the addresses of the Secretaries of two Surrey leagues; the reply that I received from one of them was to the effect that there were no vacancies for players in clubs in his league, and the other has, as yet, declined to reply at all — in spite of my having written two letters.

I would be most grateful if you could advise me as to my next move.

JOHN H. GRAY, Hillcroft, Ashley Road, Walton-on-Thames.

I think the next move is for a club secretary in the Walton-on-Thames district to extend a friendly invitation to John to visit his club.—EDITOR.

★

May I extend my heartiest congratulations to you and your staff on a tip-top sports periodical. It is the most entertaining magazine of its kind and certainly the most edifying. I wonder if you could advise me where I might obtain a pre-war Barna bat.

R. H. GITTIN, Bryn Awel, Abergele.

Well, after a letter like that we could not help but print his appeal for a bat.—EDITOR.

★

I feel that I must write to express my annoyance and disgust over certain parts of Gilbert Marshall's article in your Sept./Oct. issue, especially—"restore the 6½ in. net, and re-introduce finger spin in the English games." The game, as played by the English players, would soon become as grand and exciting a spectacle as it did in the good old days.

One recalls the "good old days" of finger spin! A succession of services of this type, more often than not causing the opposing player to "put one up," and the slap happy swipe following—the very thing that Mr. Marshall seems to want eliminated.

If this is his idea of a grand and exciting spectacle, it certainly isn't mine!

Maybe the return to the 6½ in. net would result in more of the long thrilling rallies which make the game grand to watch, but finger spin—never!

Their abolition is one of the best things that ever happened to table tennis.

If I remember rightly, Gilbert Marshall is quite an expert in the use of finger spin, and in the circumstances, one can understand him recommending its immediate return.

I am sure that the majority of table tennis enthusiasts everywhere, feel the same way as I do. Confident and happy in the thought that finger spin will never return.

A. W. PEATFIELD, 32, Ferndale Gardens, Levenshulme, Manchester, 19.

★

Your contributor, Gilbert Marshall, has still got his ginger head in the sands of pre-war, by wanting a return to finger spin and high nets. These used to ruin the game. Remember the Schiff fiascos, when his opponents regularly put five serves straight off the table. Remember the chiselling allowed by a low net, as done by Pritzi, or even this year by Adelstein? Players who object to the fairness of modern laws are usually those who cannot cope with the fast game of such as Miles and Vana.

The crowds would be as impatient as before, at seeing a "pushing" final of two hours or more.

JOSEPH WATTS, Southport.

★

Such a contrast I have never seen! In one corner, Richard Bergmann, World Champion, in the other corner, Gilbert Marshall, International. They certainly have plenty to fight over.

In the winter edition of the *Table Tennis Review*, Bergmann wrote an article headed, "Hands off the Net." Being the world's finest defensive player, nobody is in a better position than Bergmann to state whether the net is too low or not. Now Mr. Marshall wants the net raised. He wants to see, "the well-earned end of a series of ever faster top-spin strokes forcing the ball up and up." Well, if he wants to see that, watch Carrington and Leach give an exhibition. They really are delightful to watch!

It is obvious that the only players who want the net raised are those who are getting into the veteran stage and are finding the game a little too fast for them. Another type are those who consider

themselves defensive players, yet cannot cope with the really fast hitting of to-day. Mr. Marshall has a name for this type of hitting, he calls it, "wishy-washy, uninspiring, flat-hitting chancy game, which even in top-class circles is of doubtful entertainment value." All baloney! The only player who does hit like that is himself, or perhaps I saw him on one of his "off nights".

Mr. Marshall goes on to say, that those who saw pre-war table tennis, know perfectly well that modern play is inferior. Well, my father, an old English Swaythling Cup player, for one disagrees. The best match he has ever seen was the English Open finals of 1946. No drawn out rallies were needed to make that game a thriller, quite the reverse in fact.

Bergmann says the general standard has improved tremendously. Marshall disagrees, and says the standard is lower. All we've got to do now is to give Marshall the higher net and his finger spin service and there we have England's No. 1 player (or have we?)

I find it very hard to believe that Bergmann beat Vana because the reigning world champion was deprived of his spin services? How does Marshall account for the fact that Bergmann beat Vana before the war when this new service rule was not in force?

If any changes are to be made in table tennis, the first people who should be consulted are the leading half-dozen players in the world, and not the players who want the changes for their own benefit.

R. BERNSTEIN (Jun.), London, N.W.10.

★

I have about twenty years association with the game, and twice I have had to revise my method of serving, but I'm not moaning about it. At one time I had quite a useful finger-spin service and actually played in my first league match on the strength of it. In that match I well remember tying a city champion in knots over the service, but I failed completely in my own supporting play.

When the rule was eventually changed our secretary was very pleased and said, "Good! Now you won't be able to put your thumb through so many balls."

Looking back to those days, I must say that I fully agree with the change. The use of services bordering on conjuring tricks are to my mind not only unfair to the opposing player, but also to the spectator, as the execution of the finger-spin service generally caused an irritating pause in the continuity of play.

With regard to the standard of play, all I can say is that I was thrilled by the play

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of Vana, Tereba and Andreadis as I was by the play of Barna and Szabados in the early thirties.

It seems to be that Gilbert Marshall has solely in mind exhibition type of play with one player attacking and the other scooping shots off the ground. To me that kind of play does not spell variety or have real entertainment value. I like to see play where there is a continual battle of wits going on with ever changing tactics—attack, defence, counter-attack, and even half-volley foxing, not forgetting cleverly judged drop shots.

In conclusion I disagree entirely that the six-inch net has encouraged a "slap-happy-swipe." Just as much skill is required to-day as under the old rules.

A. COLLINS, Middlesex.

★

Would you, through the medium of *Table Tennis Review*, kindly give a ruling on the exact definition of the word "set" as used in table tennis and state whether, in fact, the word should be used at all.

I observe in the article by M. Szabados that he "defeated Phil Anderson 3 sets to 1," where, as I presume he means 3 games to 1. I further observe from the County Games Table that the word "sets" has been used to indicate a match consisting of the best of 3 games. I would mention that in the Wembley and Harrow League, teams consist of 3 players, each player playing each player of an opposing team one tie the best of 3 games, 21 points up, the whole match consisting of 9 ties.

I consider that since Table Tennis has now "become of age" the terms used to denote the score should be more clearly defined.

A. V. MEYERN, Chairman: Wembley and Harrow T. T. League.

A game consists of twenty-one points and we look upon a match as a number of games, three or five, between two players. There is no necessity to use the term "set", and we agree that some standardisation should be made.—EDITOR.

CZECH TOURISTS

Molly Jones Beats Hruskova

DURING October two Czechoslovak teams toured England, one team consisting of Ivan Andreadis, Frantisek Tokar and Miss K. Hruskova and the other of Bohumil Vana, L. Stipek, and Miss E. Furstova.

At Cheltenham

On October 18th in the Cheltenham Town Hall 900 people saw the Czechoslovakian tourists defeat Gloucestershire by seven events to one. This was the first match ever played by this county side and the team put up such a creditable performance that opponents in the County Championships will find them far from easy.

Aubrey Simons was not at his best playing Tokar, losing 2-1, but against Andreadis his heavy chop caused his world-famous opponent to drop many shots into the net or overdrive, and it might be said that Simons was unlucky not to win. Andreadis took the first game at 21-11, but Simons won the second, 21-14. The deciding game was 21-19 to the Czech, whose winning point was a net ball.

Bob Griffin justified his inclusion in the side in spite of losing both events, while Gloucestershire's only victory was scored by Molly Jones who beat Hruskova, 21-17, 21-18.

In an exhibition match Andreadis beat Tokar, 21-18, 21-18, after which the tourists were presented with pewter tankards. Officials for the evening were: W. Bevin, and J. Crocker (Bristol), H. A. Vickery (Gloucester) and W. E. Griffiths (Cheltenham). General organisation was done by D. H. Thompson (Cheltenham).

At Hartlepoons

The Czech match with Durham County was played on October 19th before 800 people in the Hartlepoons Borough Hall. The County team was T. H. Jeal, N. Roberts and F. Pearce (Stockton) and Mrs. E. Dodds (Stanley). A special guest player was Scottish International Champion, Helen Elliot.

The highlight of the evening was the thrilling match between Miss Elliot and Miss Furstova which was won by the Scottish girl, 21-9, 17-21 and 21-17.

Vana and Stipek proved their superiority over the home players and did not concede a single game. Later they gave

an exhibition in which they delighted the crowd with a series of novelties and trick shots.

At London

Five hundred people were present on October 19th at Manor Place Baths, to see the Czech tourists team beat Surrey, seven events to nil. But for his last season's excellent record Ken Merrett would not have been included in the Surrey team. Playing very much off form he was out-classed by Andreadis, 21-7, 21-7. Ron Crayden was also an easy victim for Tokar who won, 21-10, 21-10. Ron Sharman lost to Tokar, two straight, but against Andreadis he cleverly demonstrated how it is possible to tie down a player with a two-wing attack. He was slightly unlucky to lose the first game, 22-24, but won the second, 21-19. The deciding game went to the Czech, 21-13. Gwen Mace, "borrowed" from Middlesex for this match, fell to Miss Hruskova, 21-12, 21-15. The tourists took both doubles events in two straight games.

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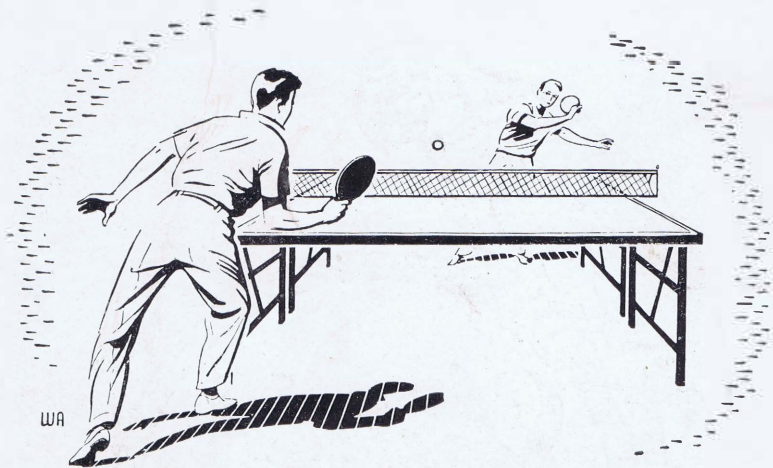


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