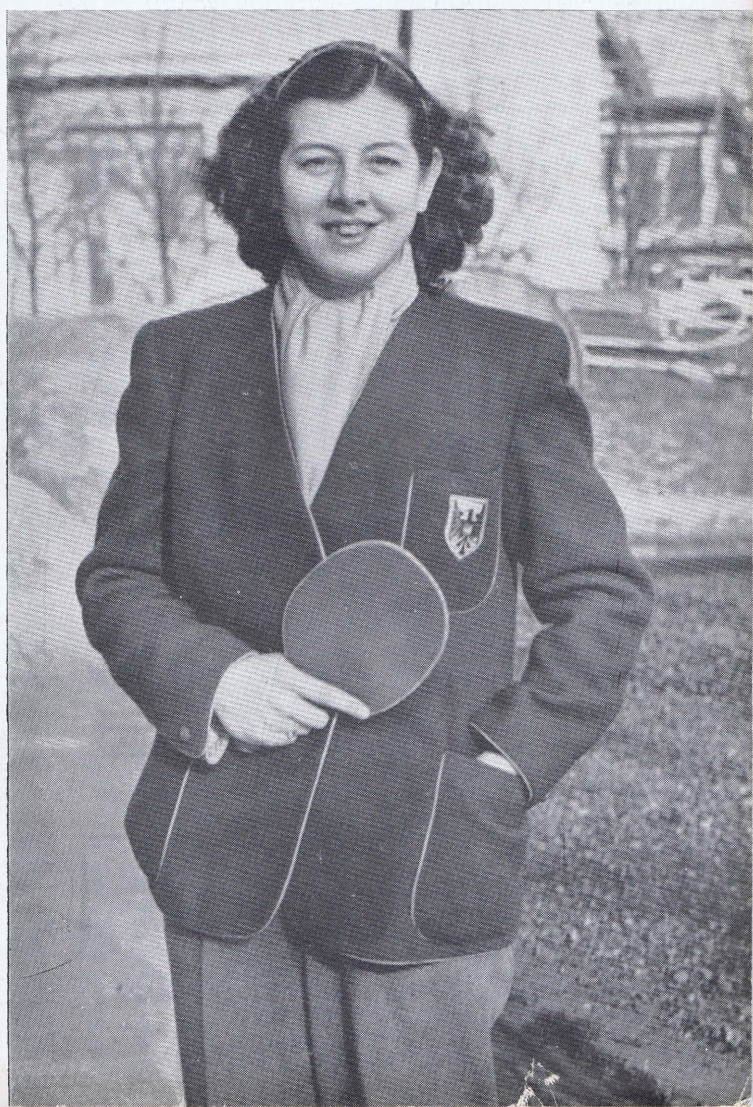
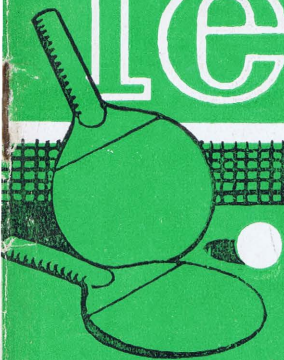


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 3 No. 3

JAN.-FEB. 1949



NEWS

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VIEWS

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HINTS

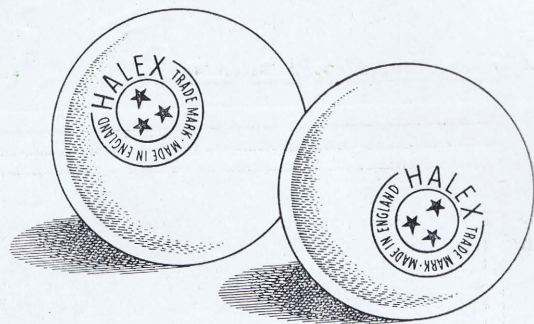
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Vol. 3 No. 3

JAN./FEB., 1949

One Shilling

The World's Championships

FROM February 4th to 10th the World's Championships and Swaythling and Corbillon Cup contests will take place at Stockholm. Most of the leading players will then journey to England to repeat their battles for the coveted English Open, the semi-finals and finals of which are to be staged at Wembley on February 18th and 19th. Richard Bergmann will defend his world's titles, and in the doubles he will be partnered by Tage Flisberg, of Sweden.

Perhaps the best outsider is Jozsef Koczian, of Hungary who beat Vana, Andreadis, and Stipek in a match against the Czechs earlier this season. His remarkable defence has quelled the hopes of Johnny Leach on more than one occasion, and he is now said to have developed a more sustained attack. If any forecast is to be made, then one must obviously give careful thought to the dynamic young American, Martin Reisman, but as things stand at the moment the four favourites are again Bergmann, Vana, Miles, and Andreadis.

Of the women, we cannot see anyone toppling Gizi Farkas from her throne. Neither Vera Thomas or Dora Beregi will be competing, and so we doubt if any English girl will feature in even the semi-finals. Helen Elliot, of Scotland has an outside chance of achieving her great ambition—one can expect anything from a girl with such an unquenchable fighting spirit. Farkas herself paid tribute to the Scotch girl by asking her to partner her in the doubles event. This partnership should bring Helen her first world title.

The Swaythling Cup contests looks like being another fight between the Yanks and the Czechs.

In the English women's team, Peggy Franks is our present number one, but Peggy's form is far from being reliable and consistent. A definite inclusion should be the young Manchester girl, Adele Wood, who has lately beaten Gwen Mace, Molly Jones, Jean MacKay, and Corbillon Cup player, Betty Steventon. Writing in the "Sporting Record" Victor Barna names Franks, Wood, Barnes, and Jones as our best. In the Corbillon Cup we favour the American girls, but if Farkas turns up with two good supporting Hungarians then they will take some holding.

The English junior international team, which this year consists of Ellison (Bolton), Pearce (Liverpool), and Devereux (Paignton), will play a series of matches in Sweden a fortnight before the World's contest begins, and will then stay on and return to England with the main contingent of English Open competitors.



By GOSSIMA

RICHARD BERGMANN states that on September 4th, 1948, he signed on Mr. Eddie Bubleby as his personal manager, and denies strongly the belief that he signed up for another table-tennis organisation known as the Bubleby Brothers Professional Table-Tennis Promotions. Since our last issue no news has reached us of any activities of the professional organisation discussed. Perhaps an obituary notice would be timely.

Secretary Bill Baillie emigrates to New Zealand early this year, and the Hartlepoons Table Tennis Association which he founded in 1933 will lose one of its most popular and versatile servants. With the exception of the season 1935-36 he has held the post of hon. secretary since the Association was founded, building up its strength from six clubs to its present number of twenty-seven. In recognition of his services he has been made an honorary life member of the Hartlepoons Association. The North-East thanks you for everything, Bill. Once in New Zealand we hope to see you starting your pioneer work all over again. Bon voyage.

It will be remembered that secretary Bill Baillie told readers in our last issue of a novel idea for open tournaments. He suggested that all players defeated in the quarter-finals should obtain 1 pt. for their respective county, players defeated in the semi-finals, 2 pts., players defeated in the finals, 3 pts., with the winners of the various finals obtaining 4 pts.

for their county. The county with the most number of points at the end of the tournament to be awarded a suitable pennant to hold for one year. Mr. Baillie now writes to say that had this idea been worked at the Hartlepoons Open, the winning county would have been Yorkshire with 30 pts., followed by Northumberland with 29 and Durham 27.

We hear of a West Bromwich player who is knocking at England's door. She is Mrs. Margery Cumberbatch, West Bromwich champion, who recently beat Jean MacKay, and Mrs. Dinah Smith, of Birmingham, and also Mrs. C. Bailey, of Wolverhampton. Playing as No. 1 for the West Bromwich League team she has a splendid record for the past three seasons.

Scotland looks like fielding a second Helen Elliot in the near future. Her name is Rina Tolan, of the Glasgow Dixon T.T. Club, and she is already playing No. 2 for Scotland. Rina owes much of her success to the Rev. J. O'Kane, keen table-tennis fan of the Dixon Club, who first saw possibilities in her about two years ago, and since then has been giving her coaching. The Dixon Club has much to be proud of in the progress it has made. Two years ago the *Glasgow Evening Citizen* reported the Dixon T.T. Club as having gone through the whole of the season without winning a solitary game. To-day the Dixon Club are lying fourth from the top

of the first division of the West of Scotland League. The club also boasts another international in Jack Hillan, who took part in the match against the Austrian tourists.

News reaches us from Hull of a splendid coaching-practice scheme for young players in the North-East of England. The first of these was held in October, when fifteen boys from Hull and Scarborough took part. Matches were played in American tournament fashion and faults and weaknesses were pointed out by the more experienced players, so that the youngsters could practice on more defined lines. The second scheme was held on November 27th, and this time there were six new recruits from Middlesborough, ages from 13-16 years. Three more schemes are planned for this month, also February and April. Travelling expenses are split three ways, one-third being paid by the Yorkshire T.T.A., one-third by the league sending the player, and the other third by the player himself.

East Knoyle, Wiltshire has at least one young and ardent table-tennis fan, he is Bernard Pyke, 14-year old son of a farmer. Bernard was eager to acquire a table-tennis set, and so he inserted an advertisement in a paper offering a 15-lb. turkey in exchange for a complete set.

Reading the advertisement, Mrs. Cole, of Tottenham, London, realised that lying neglected in the outhouse was the answer to her Christmas dinner problem. Her letter was one of the 160 which Bernard received, but it won the turkey because she was the only one to offer a table as well as bats, net and balls. Five hopeful ex-table tennis fans even sent outfits direct, then waited expectantly for the turkey which did not come.

Yorkshire Open

Three Titles for Casofsky

PLAYED at Drighlington on November 12th and 13th the Yorkshire Open appears to have set up a record for entries in tournaments held outside London, total number being 654. Thirteen tables were kept in constant use up to nine o'clock on the Saturday night, but even then it was only possible to complete the tournament half an hour before midnight.

Benny Casofsky playing in top form accounted for Ken Stanley 21-16 and 21-19 in the final, after defeating Costello, Ellison, Mitton, Whitely, Kennedy and R. Rumjahn in previous rounds. In the quarter-finals Alan Shepherd, of Bolton brought off an easy win against Bernard Crouch, of Middlesex, with scores of 21-15 and 21-14, thus driving home his supporters' claim that he should have been given preference over the Middlesex player for international honours.

Dale Wood did not take part in the singles because of a recent illness, but partnered Helen Elliot in the doubles event, in the final of which the two were defeated by Miss Steventon (Nottingham) and Mrs. Peggy Allen (Blackpool). The Blackpool girl, Peggy Allen, is now showing greatly improved form under the coaching of Ken Stanley. In the third round of the singles she beat Yorkshire County player, Margery Lightfoot, and paired with Stanley in the mixed she reached the final where they lost to Casofsky and Steventon 19-21 and 20-21. In the semi-final of the mixed the Stanley-Allen combination beat Crouch and Helen Elliot.

Helen Elliot, now married to the Scotchman who has escorted her to so many tournaments, Mr. Dykes, of Edinburgh, added another trophy to her sideboard, beating English international, Betty Steventon in the final, 21-15 and 21-14. Nora Senior, playing her usual steady, defensive game, lost to Helen Elliot in the semi-final after accounting for Kay May (Liverpool) and Kay Benson (Blackpool) in the third and fourth rounds.

In the Men's Singles, Michael Thornhill progressed as far as the fifth round, where he lost to E. J. Rumjahn 9-21 and 14-21.

Miss Judy Dewhirst was once again in charge of the catering, and her department scored a good achievement of 2,000 cups of tea, 1,000 fancy cakes.

NO ROYAL ROAD . . .

By AUBREY SIMONS (*English International*)

THE question which any aspirant for table-tennis honours will ask more often than any other is simply, "How can I break through the barrier to international status?"

For the provincial player or one who lives in an out of the way part of the country the question is even more acute. It is certainly true that the vast majority of our International players during the last decade have come from London or Manchester. This is a point which I think any ambitious youngster would do well to ponder very deeply for I would say that in this fact alone there is a very useful lesson to be learnt. He should ask himself why this is so.

According to his temperament it may well be that he will decide upon one of two answers. Firstly, he may say, if he is cynically inclined, that here is just another "closed shop." Secondly, if he is prepared to work hard to achieve his goal and does not expect an international badge to drop on to his shirt from some beneficent E.T.T.A. Heaven, he may agree that the reason is possibly because the facilities for playing top-class table tennis are so much greater in London or Manchester than anywhere else in the country and therefore the standard of play is genuinely above other areas.

For myself I would say that the one to concentrate upon is the second. This, of course, brings right to the fore the absolute necessity of top-grade practice. I admit that this is no easy problem for any provincial player, but providing the time and finances can be found the open tournaments in my view will go a long way to provide the essential solution.

No other player of recent years has had to fight so hard for recognition by the English Selection Committee. Coming from Somerset, a county where play is only of a mediocre standard, he has at last succeeded in overcoming all the handicaps of a provincial player. Even his defeats of Bergmann, Barna and Leach last season did not bring him immediate international honours, but now he is generally acclaimed as being in the first three of English-born players. He may not go on to achieve very great heights, being already in the late twenties, but his determination should at least serve as an example to all the unknown young players who are tucked away in outlandish spots.

The county championship, too, is opening up the game over wider areas, and I sincerely hope that in the future it will alleviate the difficulties for any young player who may find the expenses of open tournaments too great.

For the young player who finds himself so supreme in his own locality that satisfactory opposition is difficult to obtain I would say that the greatest danger to avoid is the great temptation to allow one's game to become slack. The best way to overcome this I would suggest, is to always make a fight of the game by giving, either mentally or otherwise, a sufficient start to one's opponent.

The atmosphere at one's first big match or tournament, too, is always a problem, and youngsters should never take those early results too much to heart, as the experience gained is the major consideration.

Briefly I would say practice, practice and more practice in the highest possible class.

There is no royal road to success—and certainly not in table tennis.

ENGLAND v. AUSTRIA

FOG HOLDS UP TOURISTS

AFTER being fogbound off Dover on Sunday, November 28th, the Austrian touring team eventually landed early on the Monday morning. Travelling via London they arrived at Herne Bay, the venue of their international friendly match, just one hour before play was due to commence.

Play continued until 11-20 p.m., and the result was in doubt up to the last game. England led at 5-4, and on the last game depended whether England would win or draw, but they succeeded in making the final score 6-4.

A week before the event, Benny Casofsky was invited to play for England but could not make it at such short notice. Ken Stanley was then asked, but he was unable to take part. The vacant place was eventually filled by Bernard Crouch, the Middlesex player who has been showing such good form recently. His inclusion among the ranks of internationals, however, is open to criticism, as other and equally deserving players have had to plod on and keep up their form for more than one season before being accorded recognition by the one or two members who represent the English Selection Committee.

The standard of play of the Austrians is not high and certainly cannot be compared with such continental teams as Czechoslovakia and Hungary, only the lady player, Miss Trudi Pritzi being of world class.

Each of the Austrian men players took part in the last world championships, their best achievements then being the defeat of Benny Casofsky (England) by H. Just and the win of Bednar over the Frenchman Brodrez. H. Just reached the last eight but had one of the easiest of draws.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH RESULTS (English players first)

J. Leach beat H. Bednar, 13-21, 21-9, 21-17; beat H. Just, 21-17, 21-11; beat O. Eckl, 21-18, 21-15.

A. Simons lost to Eckl, 21-14, 20-22, 17-21; beat Bednar, 21-11, 21-14; beat Just, 21-16, 21-12.

B. Crouch beat Just 21-17, 8-21, 21-14; lost to Eckl, 19-21; 20-22; lost to Bednar, 15-21, 15-21.

Miss Peggy Franks lost to Miss G. Pritzi, 12-21, 18-21.



HEINRICH BEDNAR



OTTO ECKL



HERIBEST JUST

Pontefract Open . . . By Stanley Proffitt

ADELE WOOD IN FOUR FINALS

ADELE WOOD was the only Lancashire competitor to gain a prize in the Pontefract Open, played on December 4th. Not only did she win two titles, the Women's and Girl's Singles, but figured in both Doubles finals. This is surely a rare feat of stamina for a youngster so slightly built and not quite seventeen years.

Neither Audrey Taylor nor young Shelagh Wood offered any resistance to the Lancashire girl in their respective finals. Audrey Taylor however did create the surprise of the tournament with a well merited victory over the holder, Nora Senior.

George Mitten, now of Halifax, had a hat-trick of successes, and in the men's final he was streets ahead of Stan Rosenberg. Pity that all the singles finals flopped badly, for there was some rousing table tennis in the early rounds. Whittaker and Walton did brighten the doubles final in which Mitten, partnered by Whiteley had to produce all their craft to win. Together with Miss Marjorie Lightfoot rounded off the evening's work by defeating the Allan Thompson and Adele Wood combination.

The promise of youth was evident in Shearer (Scarborough), and the three Lincolnshire boys, Skerrat, Davies, and Rhodes, who were all very impressive. The same can also be said for the fifteen year-old Miss Munnings whose father took away the veterans' trophy.

Men's Singles Final.—G. Mitton beat S. Rosenberg, 22-20, 21-11.

Women's Singles Final.—Miss A. Wood beat Mrs. A. Taylor, 21-11, 21-11.

Men's Doubles Final.—G. Mitton and C. Whiteley beat M. Whittaker and P. J. Walton, 21-17, 21-13, 21-13.

Women's Doubles Final.—Miss N. Senior and Miss Lightfoot beat Miss A. Wood and Mrs. Taylor, 21-14, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles Final.—G. Mitton and Miss Lightfoot beat A. Thompson and Miss A. Wood, 21-19, 21-18, 21-16.

Youth's Final.—E. Beedles beat B. Davies, 21-14, 21-15.

Girls' Final.—Miss A. Wood beat Miss Shelagh Wood, 21-7, 21-11.



Mrs. Audrey Taylor.

Eastern Suburban Tournament

Early in November at Ilford, Ron Sharman created a surprise in the Eastern Suburban by beating Johnny Leach. There were some long and thrilling rallies, but on this occasion the remarkable defensive play of Sharman proved successful against the consistent Leach attack.

In the final, Victor Barna, playing in his first tournament of the season, beat Sharman in three straight games, thus winning the Cup which he himself had presented to the Ilford League a couple of years previously.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—Barna beat Sharman, 21-13, 21-13, 21-20.

Women's Singles.—Franks beat Barnes, 21-17, 21-19, 21-6.

Men's Doubles.—Leach and Carrington beat Coruch and Thornhill, 21-11, 21-10.

Women's Doubles.—Franks and Barnes beat Adams and Bennet, 21-17, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles.—Barna and Barnes beat Hook and Franks, 21-7, 21-17.

On with the show . . .

By Charles Hayes

(Comperé with the Barna-Brook Stage Act)

TOURING in the theatre world is always a novelty even to the oldest of variety stars. To me it is even more of a novelty as I am a comparative newcomer to the variety field, and since I have been with the Barna-Brook stage act there have been incidents which I will remember for many years to come. As time goes on no doubt my experiences will increase, and in each issue of *Table Tennis Review* I hope to tell you about any amusing or interesting happenings.

When I first teamed up with the boys they were on the Arthur Askey programme. Now Arthur, always having been a keen admirer of the boys' capabilities wanted to bring in an extra bit of novelty into the act. About eight points through the game Brook uses his forceful forehand and drives Barna right away from the table—so far in fact, that he gets behind the side curtains. From the point of view of the audience it seems that the ball is coming from nowhere under its own power. Suddenly, just when the audience are least expecting it, Brook drops a short one over the net. At this point, tripping daintily on to the stage, comes Arthur Askey, who taps the ball back to Brook and then just as daintily makes his exit. No need to say that the people love that sort of thing, and even the most serious-minded table-tennis fan cannot help but chuckle.

No Table

We were due to play at the Empire, Nottingham, and because of a little misunderstanding we were left without a table on the eve of "band-call." ("Band-call is the theatrical translation of "Orchestra Rehearsal"). However, a visit to the loyal Y.M.C.A. resulted in me being put in touch with an obliging club secretary, who arranged for one to be delivered the morning after. As the workmen were carrying the table into the theatre lobby I overheard one of them say, "Cor, don't tell me they're playing ping-pong on the stage these days." I am sure that gentleman didn't recognise his game of "ping-pong" when he saw our stage display of fast and modern table tennis.

In spite of the difficulties in which the boys have to work, such as draughts from the wings which affect the flight of the ball, intense heat generated by the lights, and floors which are entirely unsuitable

for table tennis, I do think you will agree that Victor Barna and Alec Brook produce not only table tennis at its best, but showmanship of a very high order. (This, of course, excludes the comperé!)

While we were in Nottingham we had many local young men up on the stage for a short game of 11 pts. up with Barna. One young man I particularly remember was something like Richard Miles in appearance and he was no mean player either. His nerves were playing him tricks that evening, but he acquitted himself well by scoring 6 pts. and earned himself some good applause from an appreciative crowd of "Saturday-nighters."

We always invite anyone from the audience to come up and try their game against Victor, and we do this out of all friendship and certainly not to make our guest look ridiculous. We feel this to be an encouragement to the youth of the local clubs. If ever we are in your locality do come up on the stage, and I give you my guarantee that you will be pleased afterwards that you did so.

A Comperé's Job

A word about a comperé. A comperé, or so the Oxford Dictionary might say, should see to it that a show runs smoothly and efficiently. I wish this was so all the time, but even table-tennis players are human, and in addition there are times when the ball does not behave in a responsive manner. It is at such difficult moments that a comperé is most needed, and he must instantaneously try to iron out the incident by making a joke about some local hero or something on that line.

In my next article I propose to tell you something about our table and also try to give you some impression of what table tennis is like in the places we visit.

English World Championship Teams for Sweden

MEN

R. BERGMANN, V. BARNÁ, J. LEACH,
A. SIMONS and R. SHARMAN.

WOMEN

M. FRANKS, A. WOOD, P. BARNES
and J. CROSBY.

THE WELSH OPEN

BERGMANN RETAINS TITLE

By Cymro

A THOUSAND enthusiastic spectators in the beautiful setting of Cardiff's City Hall saw world champion, Richard Bergmann retain his Welsh Open Singles title by defeating Benny Casofsky in a 3-1 final.

Men's Singles

In his path to the City Hall, Bergmann had had a hard tussle with Bobbie Mackay, who took a game, whilst Richard's semi-final game with the Austrian defender, Eckl was a long and tedious affair. Casofsky was in brilliant form to eliminate one of the other Austrians, Just, who knocked him out of the last world championship, and he repeated his forceful hitting to dispose of the third Austrian, Bednar, in the semi-final.

Against Bergmann in the final, Casofsky did not reproduce his earlier form, and although Richard lost a game he was never in serious difficulty. My own opinion is that Casofsky would have been better advised to play his normal game rather than attempt ca-canny tactics which are not his forte.

Women's Singles

The Pritzi/Franks final was as expected. The Austrian ex-world champion still makes no attempt to hit, and the English girl was obviously aware of the limitations of her own attack. The result was a nondescript game with little evidence that Pritzi would ever lose.

Juniors

Ninety-one juniors entered the Junior event, a big increase on last

season. Baker (Salford) played well, but lost to L. Devereux (Paignton) in the semi-final. Peter Morgan (Neath), one of the Welsh Junior "caps" beat Alan Morris (Swansea) in the other semi-final, and the final game between Morgan and Devereux produced some grand table tennis. Devereux won because of his greater steadiness and accuracy.

Doubles Events

The men's doubles final was a whirlwind game between Just and Bednar and Bergmann and Casofsky. The Austrians started shakily, but in each game eventually took control with some terrific hitting. It was a ding-dong battle with the Austrians right on top at the close of the third game.

The mixed doubles final between Eckl and Pritzi and Bednar and Mollie Jones was never in any doubt, for the latter were not nearly accurate enough to beat their two defensive opponents.

In the women's doubles, Adele Wood played brilliantly with Peggy Franks to beat Pritzi and Audrey Bates. In this three-game match, Pritzi's limitations as an attacking player were thrown into strong relief.

Opinion voted this a very successful tournament. Playing conditions were uniform and good, and the whole programme of games only a half an hour later than schedule.

The Welsh players made a stronger effort than in the past to prevent the titles going outside Wales. Sweetland should have beaten Bednar in one quarter-final, while he and Stan Jones played well in men's doubles, losing to the winners in the semi-



WELSH TEAM : Left to Right. M. Smith, W. Sweetland, S. Jones, G. Chugg, Roy Evans

final. Monty Smith and Chugg also played well until they met Bergmann and Casofsky in the other semi-final.

In the mixed event, Jones and Betty Gray narrowly lost in the quarters to the winners, Eckl and Pritzi. Chugg and Beer had a good run until they met Casofsky and Wood, who also lost to Eckl and Pritzi. Bergmann and Franks were knocked out by Bednar and Mollie Jones in the other semi-final.

Audrey Bates did well to reach the semi-final of the women's event, losing to Pritzi in a hard if unavailing battle. She had previously just beaten Adele Wood, who eliminated Jean MacKay. Joan Crosby (Exeter) beat Mollie Jones in straight games, but then lost to Peggy Franks in the semi-final. Best performance against Pritzi was by the hard-hitting but impetuous Audrey Coombs from Port Talbot.

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LEAVE THESE YOUNGSTERS ALONE

Says: LESLIE S. WOOLLARD (Secretary Bedford T.T.A.)

WHEN I suggest that some of our not-so-bright seniors are losing us potential star talent, I know I'm asking for trouble. I will admit now, however, that I'm sure that most of them don't mean to, and I hope these words will start 'em thinking from another angle.

In the average league there is usually a youth club which seems to produce some good youngsters. Each year they emerge in a blaze of triumphant glory and sparkling promise, and then the rocket fades out like a damp squib, and the next year the process is repeated. Honestly now, haven't we all seen this happen?

AN EXPLANATION.

What happens to the fade-outs? More important, how and why does it happen?

You can cancel out "loss of interest" in many cases, because you will find these "fade-outs" in the cemeteries of the senior clubs. Others, admittedly, do become lost to the game, but I'm suggesting that the reason is oftimes the same.

As I see it, this is how it works out.

A youngster comes along showing an ability to beat all but the top seniors. He probably wins the junior championship in his passage. The quickly attained, almost unexpected success is intoxicating in itself. Now add the adulation of club-mates plus the plaudits of a flattering public, plus a sprinkle of tributes from seniors and top players, mix thoroughly, and you have a cocktail guaranteed to make any youngster mentally tipsy.

Nothing wrong with that. Most of us know the mood and have had all that nonsense quickly knocked out. It usually goes under the name of "swollen head" or "cockiness"; leave it alone and it will work out the natural way. One's self can often be the hardest opponent one is ever likely to meet. The first big success in a youngster's table-tennis career is the most critical period he will ever experience.

The slight and natural headstom storm gets at this time gives an abnormal reaction. The youngster seldom realises his head's suddenly grown, and usually thinks his club mates are the ones who

have suddenly become "funny," and this attitude tends to cause a slight breach between them.

Now, seniors, here's the challenging theory of several years' observation in different localities.

As they see the rising star, seniors from one or more of the leading local clubs take a friendly interest.

An open invitation to come along any time for a knock-up. Then comes the subtle suggestion that there would probably be a vacancy in the senior team; that playing conditions are so very much better; that the youngster's play and prospects would benefit beyond belief, and so on. I do not doubt the sincerity of these seniors. They are honest in their intention to help the youngster forward (and incidentally their own club at the same time). In the great majority of cases, however, I'm convinced it very rarely works out, particularly in the average league.

TEAM - SPIRIT.

The most important thing that the youngster of to-day has to learn is team spirit and team loyalty; the elements are an essential part of the *individual* success. This is exemplified in the triumphs of the Hungarians at their zenith, and the Czech supremacy of to-day. Consider the report on the winners of the Rose Bowl last year:—

"Unlike most competing teams, North-umberland has had no outstanding player to 'carry' their team. They triumphed because of a fine team spirit between both players and officials, and an absolute determination to show that the 'Far North' can produce players to rank with the best. This they have achieved in no uncertain manner."

Team-work and the will-to-win, that's what helpful seniors should inculcate into their youth clubs to produce aggressive and successful players and develop powerful youth teams. Make them fight their first battles against your best first division clubs and *not* with them. Hard match opposition is one of the youngster's



... mentally tipsy

best practical coaches. All the strong players centred in one, perhaps, two clubs, is probably the most anti-progressive state that any league can get into.

I reiterate with emphasis: let the youngsters get the team spirit, and let the youth teams play *against* the top seniors rather than *with* them. The modern technique is tending toward a speed and agility beyond the average senior player, and too much play with such will slow up and take the edge off the keen youngster. He will absorb some of the bad habits, and by playing for a dominating club will become lazy. There cannot be enough competition.

As for conditions, although I am a protagonist for perfection, I can't help thinking that some of the worst playing conditions have produced some of the best players. Good conditions do not necessarily produce good players. A player who can play well under poor conditions should play infinitely better under good conditions. I am, indeed, inclined to think that the riotous cacophony which is all too frequently a background of youth club table tennis, is actually an aid to acquiring the very necessary concentration for high match performance.

Above all, in our work with youth, let us remember that the youngsters of to-day are our players and administrators of tomorrow. Table Tennis is a great sport, and not a war. Keep the game clean and sweet. Infuse that sense of team spirit and good, English sportsmanship into your youngsters so that it becomes a high tradition that they in turn will give to their followers.

That's shortly why I say, leave the Junior Rockets alone in their home club until they're ready. That's if you want stars and not a battery of damp squibs.

International Matches

ENGLAND BEATS DENMARK

At Copenhagen on December 17th, England beat Denmark by five sets to nil.

MATCHES PLAYED, FRIDAY, DEC. 17th

RESULTS

Ron Sharman beat Christian Juhl, 21-7, 21-8; Johnny Leach beat Harry Soerensen, 21-5, 21-14; and Aubrey Simons beat Knud Runchel, 23-21, 26-21.

Leach then beat Juhl, 22-20, 21-13, and Sharman beat Runchel, 21-16, 21-7.

In an exhibition doubles game, Leach and Simons beat Juhl and Soerensen, 21-19, 21-19.—A.P.

SWEDEN, 5; ENGLAND, 2

At Gothenberg on December 8th the English touring team was beaten by Sweden by five sets to two. Scores as follows (English players first):—

Johnny Leach beat Liss Larsson, 21-15, 21-16; beat Tage Flisberg, 21-15, 19-21, 21-16.

Ron Sharman lost to Flisberg, 7-21, 20-22; lost to Bencit Grive, 9-21, 11-21.

Aubrey Simons lost to Flisberg, 8-21, 13-21; lost to Grive, 9-21, 12-21; lost to Larsson, 21-16, 20-22, 14-21.

Europe Cup

ENGLAND—5; ITALY—0

Played Nov. 24th, at New Hythe

J. Leach beat L. Sturani, 21-5, 21-6, 21-7.

A. Simons beat S. di Giorgi, 21-13, 21-9, 21-8.

Leach and Barna beat Sturani and Giorgi, 21-9, 21-10, 21-9.

Leach beat di Giorgi, 21-10, 21-6, 21-8. Simons beat Sturani, 21-8, 21-12, 21-14.

England's opponents in the West Zone final will be Belgium, while Hungary meets Jugoslavia in the East Zone final. Winners of the inter-zone final acquire the right to play the holders of the Cup, Czechoslovakia.

Women's Europe Cup.—West Zone final, Scotland v. Belgium; East Zone final, Hungary v. Austria. Winners to challenge the holders, England.

How To Beat Them!

1. The Defensive Player

By STANLEY PROFFITT (*ex-Swaythling Cup*)



THE majority of youngsters are too ready to fall back on the excuse of being "off-form," instead of doing a little reasoning on why they lost to this or that player.

With regard to the defensive player, here we have an exponent whose main game is to profit from the mistakes of the attacker. At the outset the attacking player may obtain an early lead, but as the defender gradually settles down at a suitable retrieving distance away from the table his steady game, devoid of risks, begins to take its toll.

In order to beat the defensive player the essential rule is to compel him to be continually on the move, to and from the table, the object being to catch him on the wrong foot. A player, trapped midway between the baseline and his most suitable spot for retrieving inevitably leaves wide open spaces in which the ball may be placed accurately and with the minimum of energy.

To accomplish the above an occasional drop shot and an ordinary push stroke mixed with the drives (long-short, short-long) upsets the rhythm of the steadiest opponent. Against the more advanced player, add a variation in your attack, ranging from slow top spin to flat hits. When the ball is propelled forward at different speeds, the defender, who is vitally concerned with his footwork, is liable to be tricked into a faulty chop stroke.

Tactics to Employ

However, by far the biggest worry to the "chiseller" is the snap hit down the table at a point slightly to the left of the centre doubles line,

assuming, of course, your opponent is right-handed. Why do I stress this point of placing your quick hit slightly to your left of the centre line? Because apart from being a surprise shot and difficult to return with the minimum amount of chop, the defender is further placed at a disadvantage in having to make a swift decision as to whether the ball is best suited for a backhand or forehand return.

Normally, providing the above shot is used with discretion, the defender usually brings the forehand into play, therefore, the split second in which the body is shifted round into the correct forehand-chop position, there is an unguarded spot in the corner to your right at which to aim. The same opening would present itself if the ball was returned by the backhand, although it would not be so pronounced. Great care should be exercised when tucking the winner away.

When making your winning shot in the movement dealt with above, the key-note of success is to treat the oncoming ball as though it were a half-volley return making the point of impact early (before the crest of the bounce). The quick upward brush of your arm should give the amount of top-spin sufficient to counter what little back-spin (chop) your opponent has been able to muster.

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STANDARDISATION

By TOM BLUNN (Lancashire C.A. Chairman).

THE National Bodies controlling table tennis have, in the past, spent a great deal of time in standardising the playing rules and equipment. The size of the table, the height of the net and the weight of the ball are all governed by international agreement. Even the size of bats is almost constant, but this is by general agreement and has not been embodied in the rules.

But what of the game itself? There is almost no attempt to standardise the form in which games and matches should be played.

A Complexity of Rules

Starting at the top with the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups, one is played on the best of nine sets and relates only to singles, whilst the other is the best of five sets and relates to both singles and doubles. Three players on each side take part in the Swaythling Cup, while the teams for the Corbillon Cup may consist of two, three or even four players.

Next, the International matches. Those within these islands are comprehensive and cover men's and ladies' singles, and men's, ladies' and mixed doubles, making eleven sets in all. The International match with Hungary last season consisted only of seven sets; the junior International match against Sweden was nine sets; the junior match with Wales split the difference and went to ten sets. The two junior events were all male affairs.

An examination of the rules governing the Rose Bowl, the Wilmot Cup and the Europe Cup Competitions will show the same inconsistency, although there will be an attempt this season to bring the Rose Bowl and Wilmot Cup into line.

In all the above-mentioned matches, however, there is one common factor, and that is that all the sets are played the best of three games. This is almost the accepted rule, but even this is broken when it comes to certain Open Championships, particularly the World's and English. In these cases the sets are the best of five games, and from the players' point of view the whole conditions are materially changed.

League Varieties

Turning now to the league games we find that there is no end of a variety to

suit all tastes. In some leagues the old twenty-five single games is still the order of the day, and it is not so very long ago that I was told of a league that still decided the matches on a total points basis. The progressive league, of course, plays sets, but that is as far as any uniformity goes. Some play five players with ten single sets, some play four players with eight singles and one doubles sets, some play three players with nine single sets, whilst others even bring in mixed doubles. Again, therefore, there is no attempt at standardisation as each league decides the basis on which to play its matches. This may be democratic, but is it wise?

A new venture last season was the National County Championships which brought in an entirely new combination of events and even allowed a choice in the doubles games.

There may be other examples of inconsistency that have as yet escaped my notice, but I think that I have mentioned enough to show that such a mixture is not in the best interests of the game, and to my knowledge nothing of a similar nature exists in any other major sport.

Handicap to Players

I have only attempted to set out the position as it really is and it is not my intention, at this stage, to consider the case for or against any particular combination of events. I do suggest, however, that a serious attempt at standardisation is necessary.

I consider that standardisation is necessary if only for the fact that it would provide practice in a uniform type of match from the very beginning. I think that the advantages from a playing point of view will be obvious to most people.

Another aspect is from the financial side, which has always aroused my particular interest, and the advantages may not be apparent. The public like to know what they are going to see and will appreciate the game far better if matches are played in a consistent form. The public also demand a high standard of play, and it must be admitted that the introduction of certain events tends to reduce the standard of play. In these cases efficiency is sacrificed for variety.

Well, there it is, perhaps some people are satisfied with the position or maybe you had not thought about it?

MY SPANISH TOUR

by

RICHARD BERGMANN

(World Champion)



Mr. and Mrs. Bergmann at the Bull Fight (Eileen with hand on rail)

EARLY in May of last year I met a tall and very hefty gentleman of 240 lb., who introduced himself as Mr. Jesus Sabat from Barcelona. He said he was empowered to invite me to play a few exhibition matches for his table-tennis club "Tivoli." He said the game was developing rapidly in his country, and they were anxious to see how they compared with present-day standards, especially how their own singles champion, Dueso would shape against me.

I had often wondered what table tennis was like in Spain, having faint recollection that Victor Barna told me he had been there in 1935. Mr. Sabat assured me that in 1943 a Slovak team, consisting of Tokar and Kolatick, won by only five matches to two and since then the Spanish players had made remarkable improvement. I agreed readily to his invitation, but explained that as Spain was not affiliated to the International T.T. Federation I would first have to seek permission. This permission was not easily obtained, but thanks to the sheer persistency of Hon. Ivor Montagu, the necessary majority vote was won from the twelve members of the I.T.T.F. Executive Committee. The tour was arranged for September 14th to 21st.

French Prologue.

Without losing any time, I arranged a series of exhibitions with Agopoff in France, permission for which was easily obtained, so on Monday morning, September 6th, my wife, Eileen, and I started out for Dieppe. On the Tuesday there was an exhibition at Le Havre, and taking part were Haguenaer, Agopoff and myself. Although the table was of the usual soft, French type the show went over well. My play was mediocre, and it was Haguenaer who stole the limelight that evening.

The next morning we left early, for in the evening there was another exhibition, this time at the *Salle Wagrain*, Paris. Upon arrival I had a surprise, for the

"friendly exhibition" turned out to be a "Championship of the Champions," arranged by a French sports paper. Taking part were: Amouretti, Haguenaer, Dubouille, Lansky, and Collier (all of France), Grive (Sweden), Lucianu (Roumania), and myself (England).

Again we had a soft French table with 1500 frenzied French fans to cheer on the home players. The results were as follows:—

Grive beat Lansky Amouretti beat Lucianu; Haguenaer beat Dubouille; Bergmann beat Collier.

Semi finals: Amouretti beat Grive 3-1; Bergmann beat Haguenaer 3-2.

Final: Bergmann beat Amouretti 21-17, 21-14, 19-21, 21-11.

I found Haguenaer to be in brilliant form, and in my semi-final match with him he had one match-point when he was 2 games to 1 in the lead. I just scraped home in the vital game with a score of 24-22. My final with Amouretti was easy, for Guy played very much off form.

The following three days were spent sight-seeing and shopping in Paris with the routine broken repeatedly by a very persistent man who kept telling me that the only short cut to a fortune was to put my name on his table-tennis bat. This bat was made of a light metal, and he claimed it would revolutionise the game. I told him I was very satisfied with the game as it was.

Leaving Paris on the Sunday by night express, Eileen and I began the second part of our tour, sleeping on the comfortable French train while it carried us towards the Spanish frontier.

Welcome to Spain

At eleven o'clock the next morning we reached the last French village of Portbou where we had the most amazing customs examination I have ever seen. A French woman Custom's official came into our compartment, just chalked all over our bags, then left without saying a word. The train then rolled on a few hundred



Left to right : Bergmann, Sabat and Dueso

yards through a tunnel and then stopped at the Spanish border town of Cerbere. Here we were met by Mr. Jesus Sabat who was all smiles. (Jesus is quite a common name in Spain).

With Mr. Sabat we passed through the very strict Spanish Customs accompanied by a high official without even stopping. The passwords appeared to be, "*El campeón mundial de tenis de mesa,*" and everybody smiled and made room for us.

We continued our journey, having lunch on the train. Half way to Barcelona we stopped at a station where there was a sudden commotion. Our compartment door opened and about a dozen boys between 14 and 17 years came rushing in to shake hands with the world champion. That was a foretaste of things to come. Mr. Sabat told me the advance publicity had been enormous. People had been kept guessing in the newspapers, "Was I coming or was I not?"

We arrived at Barcelona on schedule, and when I looked out of the windows of the express I could hardly believe my eyes. Over five hundred people had come to greet us, showing their welcome in the Spanish way of handclapping. Believe me it was very impressive. Dozens of photographs were taken, and Eileen was presented with huge bunches of flowers.

Our first introductions were to the 6 ft. 5 in. President of the Tivoli Club, Mr. Arch and his charming sister, Consuelo Arch, also Lolita Moline, the lady champion of Spain and Dueso, the men's champion.

After such a welcome it was a relief to be in the sanctuary of our hotel room, but at 7 p.m. the telephone rang. It was a request to speak on the Barcelona radio, and at 8 o'clock I went on the air.

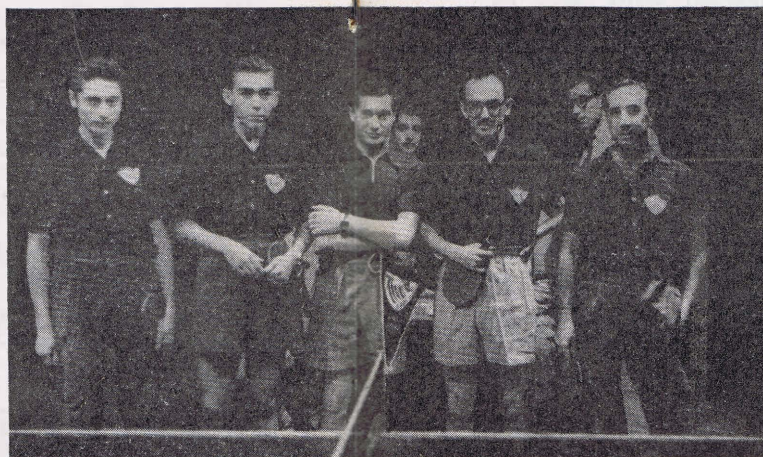
Later I paid a visit to the Tivoli Club and had a few knocks with Lolita Moline. Everyone knew of my recent French victory, and there were many questions to be answered and autographs to sign.

That night was our earliest in bed while in Barcelona. We were asleep by 1 o'clock.

The next morning was Tuesday, the 14th, and I had to cope with reporters, friends who wished to show us around Barcelona and Mr. Sabat, who had to show me the venue for the evening's match.

A Midnight Match

After a full day I was hustled off to the "*Salon Gran Price*" where the match Bergmann v. Tivoli Club was due to start at 10-30 p.m. In Barcelona shows, cinemas and theatres all start around 11 p.m., and in the city you will find people strolling along the broad avenues at



At the Tivoli Club—Left to right: Bassa, Solé, Bergmann, Gil and Brugada

2 and 3 o'clock in the morning. Buses and trains run at that hour, and the average Barcelonian goes to bed at 2 a.m. and rises at 8-30 a.m. There is lunch at 12-30 p.m. followed by a *siesta*, and back to work at 4-15 p.m. until 7-30 p.m.

All Spaniards appear to take life easily and nobody worries really about a set routine. Somebody arranges to meet you in half an hour, but he may not turn up within a couple of hours. You can do the same without risk of causing any offence. The Spanish hour certainly seems to be very elastic.

When I arrived at the "*Salon Gran Price*" I found that every ticket had been sold and a crowd of four thousand people were waiting to see me in action against the Spanish Championship team of 1948, even though that team did not include their two best players, Dueso and Capdevilla. The team to oppose me was Bassa,

Sole, Gil, and Brugada. The table was of the usual soft continental type, but the Spanish balls were not so bad. I beat Bassa, Sole, and Gil in two straight games each, but was taken off my stride by Brugada, who won one game with his unorthodox hits, although I took the third game at ten.

I soon formed an opinion of my opponents. They were keen, agile and always trying, but inexperienced and below average continental standards. The crowd went mad when ever one of their players scored against me. After the show everyone asked what I thought of their players and how they would fare against other countries.

which eventually squeezed in 4,500. Black marketeers sold tickets outside for ten times their normal value.

After beating two Spaniards in straight games, I met their No. 2 player, Capdevilla, who I found to be a perfect stroke player with a fluent attack but lacking in finesse. His good attacking brought long rallies which amazed the crowd, but the ease in which I return his shots and the manner in which I came in to finish off a point was appreciated by everybody.

Then came the last match for which everyone had been waiting. The umpire announced my game against Dueso would be the best of five games. At the start the Spanish champion was nervous and I soon obtained a big lead. I found him to be a good mixer, agile, and with an excellent sudden hit. His forehand and backhand style reminded me very much of Ken Stanley. I took the first game, but hampered by the soft table which impeded my attack, the second was snatched by Dueso, whose swinging forehands came off very well. The spectators nearly lifted the roof off. As we commenced the third game the crowd began to chant, "Dueso—Dueso—Dueso—..." After each point scored by their player they jumped up in their seats. I just couldn't help grinning at their excitement. I won the third, but the fourth was deservedly won by Dueso. Imagine the pandemonium that broke loose. They jumped, shouted, cried, waved—they were delirious. All this at half past two in the morning!

I made sure of that fifth game. I certainly didn't like those soft tables, and I must admit the match against Dueso shook me badly. The next day all the newspapers said Dueso could beat Richard Bergmann when they met in the Barcelona Cup contest.

More sight-seeing followed and another talk on the radio, then on the Saturday I played in the eliminating rounds of the

The next day Matilda Zamorra, a relative of the greatest of all Spanish goal-keepers, Zamorra, took Eileen to have her hair done in the Spanish style (for the results, see the photograph taken of us watching the bull-fight), while I went to have a suit made to measure, which was finished within three days.

Interest in table tennis was at fever heat, and all the papers carried reports of my match with the Tivoli Club. Sports editors discussed my forthcoming meeting with Dueso on the Thursday night, and I went on the air again, this time to give my impressions of Spanish T.T.

Bergmann v. Catalan Team

The Thursday night's game was against a Catalan selection, which included champions Dueso and Capdevilla, the venue being the *Salon Iris*, a dance hall which was reputed to hold 2,500 but



Baron de Esponella presents the Barcelona Cup

Barcelona Cup. On the Sunday morning at 11 a.m. I began the final rounds before a crowd of 4,000. After beating two other Spaniards I again met Dueso. This time I was more accustomed to the tables and I won in three straight games. In spite of seeing their hopes dashed to the ground the public behaved most sportingly, and their applause was generous and sincere.

The cup was presented by Baron de Esponella who is in charge of all sports in that part of the country. He was delighted with the display of table tennis, a game which he had hitherto regarded as a past-time and not a sport.

A Bull Fight

On the Sunday evening Eileen and I were specially invited by Consuelo Arch to join a party which was to go to a bull fight. This was a new experience for us. We arrived a little late to find a capacity crowd of 30,000 people, and the first bull ready to be killed. What a killing it was! The toreador pierced that certain spot in the bull's head which, after a few feints fell dead. Four big horses appeared, and the bull was dragged out of the ring. The roar was terrific. Flowers, hats and even cameras were thrown into the ring. Eileen did not feel so good and I do not blame her. At that moment someone took the photograph which helps to illustrate this article.

These bull-fights usually take place on Sundays and at each one six bulls are killed, two toreadors killing three each. The procedure is always the same. First the bull rushes in and about eight men tease it with red cloaks, then the toreador enters holding his red cloak, and does a few risky turns to the delight of the crowd. The public who go to such functions are experts in telling the difference between a skilful feint and a poor one. The next to enter the ring are two horsemen carrying spears, and their job is to endeavour to draw blood in order to madden the bull. The horsemen leave and two men enter carrying short and sharply-pointed sticks. These sticks have to be driven into the neck of the bull so that they dangle down. After this, in comes the toreador once more who brings off a few more daring feints and then goes in for the kill. I found it a horribly cruel sport, but the crowd enjoyed every moment, and at times went frantic with excitement.

Open-air Exhibition

My last exhibition took place at a little town twenty miles outside Barcelona. Our bus was two hours late, but that didn't seem to bother anybody at all. This time we played in the open air on a

stony dance floor of a restaurant set among some pretty gardens. I think Spain is one of the few countries where such an exhibition could be staged, and I found that there wasn't even the slightest draught to affect the flight of the ball. My games with both Capdevilla and Dueso were quite spectacular and received a terrific reception from a crowd who had never before seen modern table tennis. At about 2-15 a.m. in the morning my last show was finished and we went for supper, arriving back at the hotel at 4-30 a.m. tired and weary.

My Opinion of Spanish T.T.

When interviewed by Spanish newspaper reporters I told them that their players are already better than Italy, Jersey, Norway, Iran, Luxemburg, and Portugal and could be compared roughly with Denmark, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, etc. These remarks were received with pleasure. I also told them it will take a few years of experience in world events before they are able to score wins over England, U.S.A., France, etc.

Lolita Moline would probably be ranked among the first twelve of the world's women players, but for Spain to bring off any wins, in a Corbillon Cup contest they would require two more girls like Lolita.

Dueso I would not rank in the first twenty of the world's players. He has talent and enthusiasm and the right kind of temperament but he sadly needs contact with first-class players.

On the last evening we had a farewell party at the house of Mr. Arch, the President of the Tivoli Club and his sister, Consuelo who, by the way, financed the whole tour. What a splendid party it was. I won't turn you green with envy by telling you about the food, but the dessert was a huge chocolate cake made in the shape of a table-tennis table, complete with net, bats and ball. Written over it in pink icing was the name *Richard Bergmann*.

I left Spain with the determination to go again one day, and when I return, I am quite sure that their standard of play will have improved even more. It is sure to do with such enthusiastic sponsors as the Arch family and Mr. and Mrs. Sabat.

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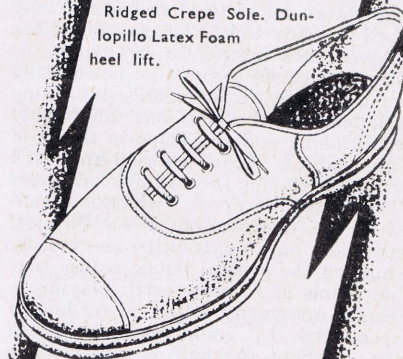
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KEN STANLEY makes some

Suggestions and Criticisms

CONGRATULATIONS to the *Sporting Record* for introducing a Schools' Tournament Competition. In youth we obviously look for the stars of the future, and this is one of the finest moves which has been made for many years. It is the duty of every league secretary to support the venture and to press on with other ideas for developing table tennis in our schools. This can be done by approaching local education sports organisers prior to a tournament in the hope of increasing the entry of boys and youths. Also, for all tournament finals and exhibition games tickets should be offered to schools at special cheap prices of say 3d. These things have already been done in many towns, and the enthusiasm shown by youngsters has not only helped the show to be a success, but it has furthered their interest in the game.

In a number of towns a lot has already been done in the way of organised coaching throughout youth clubs, but this is only the beginning and the scope in this field is tremendous. Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington playing their exhibition games in "Spotlight on Sport," which is organised by the Central Council for Physical Recreation, have contributed enormously in making the general public realise that table tennis is a game worth playing.

There are many other lesser-known players who, by going along to youth clubs coaching in their spare evenings are also helping the game, but conditions in many clubs are far from perfect and do not encourage youngsters to play seriously. The coaches should do all in their power to improve conditions and make an attractive layout. Sometimes it might be a case of increasing the power of the lighting, but if it is a bad table not a lot can be done, because of the present cost of first-class tables, even so, an attempt should be made. There is, however, never any excuse for poor lighting.

Northern Lights!

While on the subject of conditions I would like to congratulate most of the Southern organisers of tournaments and slate most of the Northerners. I have played in county games and tournaments in the North during the last few years and I have not only felt annoyed but ashamed of the conditions. The most important point—lighting, always seems to get neglected. It is surely just as easy to fit say three 500-watt bulbs as it is to fit three 100 watts.

You can try to adjust your play to suit the table, but it is hopeless trying to adjust your eyes to bad lighting. I give this as the reason for the many poor games played in the North of late.

I do appreciate all the hard work put in by officials and back-room boys, but surely it is in their own interests to make sure that conditions for players are as near perfect as possible. To be fair, I would like to congratulate one Northern official, Billie Stamp (Liverpool). His tournaments are always well run, and the finals put over, not only to suit the players, but the paying public.

To come back to my first point—namely, youth, I would urge all league secretaries to get to know their local education sports organiser. Let him know what is going on in the table-tennis world; send him complimentary tickets for all big events. In other words, chase him!

Like many others I look forward to the day when our game is included in the sports curriculum of all schools. This is an ambitious dream, but it can and must be achieved.

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MERSEYSIDE OPEN

Barna's Fourth Win

ONE thing which was evident at the Merseyside Open, played at Liverpool on November 27th was the rapid improvement of Welsh players. Sixteen-year-old A. Morris (Swansea) gave an impressive display in the Junior event when he beat Ron Baker (Salford) by 21-14, 13-21, 21-14. In the semi-final however, he was beaten by Ellison. At the age of fourteen Morris won the Welsh Junior title, but lost it last year to Michael Jones (Cardiff).

J. Davies, another Welsh player took one game from Jack Carrington, who beat him 21-13, 19-21, 21-9, while another Welsh competitor, M. Smith (Penarth) knocked out Ken Stanley. Smith is 26 years old and is ranked as No. 3 in Wales (see photograph on page 9). Popular Roy Evans accounts for the improvement in the Welsh standard of play to the regular Friday evening's coaching which has been carried on during the summer months.

Benny Casofsky went out of the tournament to Ron Sharman after some exciting and hard fought games. On the previous night Sharman had beaten the Mancunian in a Surrey v. Lancashire match. In the quarter final, however, Sharman went under to Johnny Leach, who thus avenged his defeat in the Eastern Suburban Open, scores being 21-14, 21-13.

The London player, Ron Crayden, produced some good-class table tennis and knocked out M. Smith (Swansea) in the quarter finals, but was unable to cope with Barna in the semi-final.

The consistent form of Victor Barna really surpasses understanding. No matter when you see him play he never fails to delight the crowd with his almost perfect stroke play. He reached the final

with ease, but his opponent there, Johnny Leach, extended him to the full. The final was the best of three games, and with one game to each player, Leach led in the third at 10-5. Barna then took the lead at 12-11 and went on to extend it to 19-13. With magnificent determination Leach then drew level and led at 20-19. Barna drew level again, and then after a series of typical Barna "flicks" played a well-timed drop shot which gave him the lead at 21-20. Leach then hit the top of the net and the ball went off the table, giving the title for the fourth time to Victor.

Surprises of this tournament was the victory of the Birmingham player, Poole over Simons, Adele Wood's win over Betty Steventon, and the defeat of Pinkie Barnes by Liverpool's Eileen Mansell.

Finals were played in the magnificent Philharmonic Hall and even with a total entry of 601, ran well to schedule, and finals were ready to commence in Liverpool's Hall of Culture at 7-30 p.m.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—Barna beat Leach, 21-15, 13-21, 22-20.

Women's Singles.—Miss Elliot beat Miss Mansell, 21-13, 21-7.

Men's Doubles.—J. Leach and J. Carrington beat V. G. Barna and R. Rumjham, 21-13, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles.—A. Simons and Miss Elliot beat J. V. Barna and Miss Wood, 23-21, 21-8.

Juniors.—Ellison beat Daly, 21-14, 10-21, 21-13.

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Advice on all
Table Tennis Matters

NEWS from IRELAND

By Donald Hill

LEINSTER OPEN

Played on December 4th, 1948

Miss Florence Dawkins, of Cork, was the only Irish competitor to figure in the prize lists at the conclusion of the Leinster Open Championships at the National Stadium Dublin. Playing with the Austrian woman champion, Miss Trudi Pritzi, they won the women's doubles. The Austrian team made more or less a clean sweep of all the titles.

H. Just won the premier singles title, and shared in the doubles with his fellow-countryman, H. Bednar.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—H. Just (Austria) beat H. Bednar (Austria), 18-21, 21-12, 18-21, 21-13, 21-19.

Ladies' Singles.—Miss T. Pritzi (Austria) beat Miss A. Coombs (Dublin), 21-12, 21-7.

Men's Doubles.—Just and Bednar beat Eckl (Austria) and J. Hanrahan (Dublin), 21-17, 21-12, 21-16.

Ladies' Doubles.—Miss Pritzi and Miss F. Dawkins (Cork) beat Misses Coombs and M. Minshull (Dundalk), 21-14, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles.—Eckl and Miss Pritzi beat H. O'Prey (Ards) and Miss E. Lombard (Dublin), 21-9, 21-17.

COUNTY DUBLIN FINALS

Men's Singles.—H. Morris.

Ladies' Singles.—Miss A. Coombs.

MUNSTER OPEN

at Waterford

Men's Singles.—H. Wine (Dublin).

Ladies' Singles.—Miss A. Coombs (Dublin).

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Ireland, 0; Austria, 9, at Belfast.
Munster Selected, 0; Austria, 9, at Cork.

EUROPE CUP (MEN)

WEST ZONE—Belgium 3; Ireland, 2

In December Ireland were narrowly defeated by Belgium in the second round of the European Cup at Charleroi, South Belgium, the result being 3-2.

The home country relied on a two-man team, with the result that J. and R. Le Jeune took part in the doubles against V. Mercer and H. O'Prey, who won in straight games.

Ireland's other win was gained by O'Prey, who defeated J. Le Jeune by 3 games to 1.

RESULTS

Singles.—J. Le Jeune beat V. Mercer, 21-18, 21-18, 13-21, 21-16; J. Le Jeune lost to H. O'Prey, 21-19, 13-21, 14-21, 14-21.

R. Le Jeune beat H. O'Prey, 21-15, 21-16, 21-16; R. Le Jeune beat V. Mercer, 21-13, 21-14, 21-16.

Doubles: Mercer and O'Prey beat J. and R. Le Jeune, 21-11, 21-15, 11-21, 22-20.

Next Issue

We expect World and English Championship reports to delay production of our March and April issue, but copies should be on sale by March 10th.

This Issue

Owing to pressure on space we regret having to hold over the promised article on table tennis in Liverpool, also the feature, "Readers' Letters."

In Search of a Laugh!!!

with
INKSPOT

Anti-Dent Antidotes.

I have played on tables made of odd boards with cracks running through the centre, on the top of grand pianos, and on bank counters when the cashiers were not looking. Occasionally I have even played on a real table-tennis table. The result has always been the same, I have trodden on the ball.

With such a vast amount of experience behind me, therefore, I feel qualified to give a few hints on the art of removing dents: a subject which is of great importance at the present time owing to the need for exporting more and more table-tennis balls.

Perhaps the easiest method is to suck the ball just where the dent has been made. There are generally some suckers willing to have a go, but it is best not to draw attention to the fact that the ball has been on a floor which has not been swept for the past fortnight, as some people are fussy about microbes and things.

Even this method has its drawbacks, however. According to science, of course, the sucking motion should draw the dent out almost immediately, but more often in practice the sucker sticks his teeth through the celluloid and causes the ball to be destroyed altogether. The method of sucking can, therefore, only be recommended for balls which do not cost more than threepence or fourpence.

For balls costing tenpence or more, a good anti-dent antidote is to apply heat to the offending portion. This can be generated in several ways, the most popular way being through a lighter, although a lighter is really entirely unsuitable for the job. Not only do you have to wait for a quarter-of-an-hour while the lighter-owner seeks to demonstrate that his lighter *will* work, but the flame which eventually spurts out causes such excitement that the ball generally gets burnt in the process.

A slightly better method is to get the heat from steam—not the kind of steam which the players who are waiting will be letting off, but steam from a kettle or some other instrument. All that is

BUGSWOOD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP



We all appreciate the high cost of trophies, however

needed is to bring the kettle to boil, and then stick the ball on top of the spout, but this too, requires practice, otherwise the ball will develop a kind of growth—and then everyone will be up the spout.

If you are possessed with infinite patience, however, it is possible to remove the dent by gently pressing parts of the ball with your fingers. At first you may make the dent about five times worse, but press on. Who knows, in another three hours the ball may be fit to play with?

On the whole, though, dents should be avoided. In fact, I came to the conclusion long ago that the only time it pays to get a dent is when you have sixpence on a game and are losing. Then a timely dent may save you from financial loss, particularly if there is only one ball available. E. G. V.

In spite of all those readers' letters in our last issue condemning the finger-spin service, I find that the die-hards are still hoping to plan a recovery programme. They say all they need is more Marshall Aid.

As the sun sets on deliberation
And at last they've quelled the renegade,
There's a cheer from Pope of exultation;
But alas, they've picked the old brigade.

He brought the best things from the bag,
When the score was twenty each;
He was only a youth club member
But he hung on like a Leach.

FOR LADIES ONLY!!!

By PEGGY ALLEN

DO not imagine that I am going to tell you how to improve your game, I can't do that, and even if I could, there are plenty of first-class players writing articles on that subject, but how rarely we open a table-tennis magazine to find an article for women—by a woman.

I am not an authority on any subject, I wish I were, but as a woman who travels about playing table tennis in various places against many different types of players, I have come to the conclusion that as a class we are dreadfully untidy!

Your Blouse

We have all played against the player who has to interrupt the game after every two or three points to tuck in her blouse which will persist in jumping out after every forehand drive. It is possible to obviate this you know by sewing a nine or ten inch strip of material to the bottom of your blouse so that even if it rises, it cannot come right out. A small man's shirt with laps is the ideal wear, but if you cannot afford the coupons and cannot possibly find material for lengthening your blouse, then please start the game with it right outside (Yankee fashion), and you won't have to spoil your concentration by thinking about it again.

Hair and Handkerchiefs

Then there is the insecure "hair-do" which either falls down in wisps at the back or allows tendrils to escape over one eye. At the best, this spoils your concentration, and at the worst might obscure your view of the ball, be it only momentary.

By all means have a feminine hairstyle, we don't want to look masculine or even plain and I'm not going to advocate a Sido headband (!), but do tie your hair firmly with a ribbon, especially if you like to wear it long. The colour of your ribbon should match your blouse or shorts.

Handkerchiefs are another source of trouble. Those people who have breast pockets have nothing to worry about, but so many girls make a vain endeavour to thrust it inside the band of their shorts or skirt, which to say the least, makes an unsightly bulge. I have a friend who invariably secretes hers in the top of her

Mrs. Peggy Allen, leading Blackpool player, has promised to conduct our special, future Women's Section. She invites you to send her your problems. Where a reply is required by post the letter should be addressed to Peggy Allen, c/o "Table Tennis Review," with a stamped addressed envelope enclosed.

sock. It doesn't seem to worry her in play, but it does result in the most peculiar tumour-like swelling!

Personally, having no breast pocket in my shirts, I have never found a successful method, and usually leave it with my bag and cardigan at the side of the table.

Shorts or Skirt

Whether to wear shorts or skirt is another problem—I would always suggest shorts, unless you have the sort of legs and figure which really cry out for concealment.

For a long, hot, energetic game there is nothing like the freedom afforded by cool, brief shorts (not too brief please), but if you are inclined to stoutness you will, no doubt, plump for a full, pleated skirt. Shorts on the wrong people can look dreadful, and even on the right people they are completely spoilt if not well sponged and pressed.

Footwear

Now the feet! How many pairs of grubby pumps can one count at an open tournament? This may not affect your game one way or the other, but how nice it is to see snow-white shoes, especially on a girl. You know there is a saying that you can always tell a really smart woman by her shoes and stockings, and this applies no less to table-tennis kit than our outdoor footwear. For real comfort use plenty of talcum powder inside your socks, have an extra pair handy and also some elastoplast just in case you do need to protect a sore place. By the way, socks hand-knitted in four-ply wool are much more cushiony to the feet than the shop-bought variety.



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To Conclude

I don't know whether I dare mention the question of foundation garments, and yet it is such a vital one. Anyway, the title of this article is "For Ladies Only," so there shouldn't be any men about!

Haven't we all said at some time or other—"someone should tell her"—but no one ever does and the poor girl is a constant source of comment whenever she goes on to play.

A good brassiere is a "must" for the women table-tennis player, and for those with outside hip measurement, I would suggest a "pantie-girdle" as the solution to the troublesome question of how to cope with a girdle minus stockings.

And please—take off those ear-rings, clips, and jangling bracelets when you come to the table. Nothing looks worse than to attend a match looking as though you had just dropped in to while away an hour on your way to a party.

All this is purely common sense, of course, but a little more attention to these details would result in a much higher standard of dress and it's all good publicity for the game of table tennis you know. Perhaps you will retort that our English players are extremely smart compared with their continental counterparts and I

must agree that at the World Championships, both our men and women were the smartest in the field, but I'm writing for the lesser light, the average player who appears at open tournaments and in league and inter-town matches.

After all, we cannot all play well, but we can look well, and the least you can do before a crowd of spectators is to impress them by your neat, trim appearance even if your technique on the table leaves much to be desired. It is unforgivable to play badly and look untidy, and who knows, when you turn out immaculately dressed and confident that you look well, your confidence will help your game and your extra concentration might well win the match!

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LONDON DIARY

By BILL PARKER

WITH the London tournament season in full swing, it is refreshing to see new names appearing among the lists of successful players, and selectors are receiving fresh food for thought. An encouraging sign is the number of youngsters who are gaining experience by entering open tournaments.

Foremost among the boys is short, but powerfully built *Morris Isaacs* who plays in the North Acton, Wembley, and Willesden leagues. So far this season he has won the South of England Open and Middlesex Closed junior titles, and reached the final of the Central London Open Junior event (open to players up to 18 years) where he lost to *Michael Thornhill*.

Another youngster who should be watched is *David Marco* (Manhattan Club), a powerfully built 16-year-old who had his initial coaching from Jack Glickman. David won the Eastern Suburban Open Consolation event in November, but is not being hurried. Clubmate, *Eric Santer*, also 16, reminds one in appearance of Manchester's George Goodman, but his style is very different. He is capable of brilliant play for an evening, or maybe two, but as yet cannot retain his high standard throughout a tournament. There can be little doubt, however, that once his footwork has smartened up, Santer's name will be appearing among tournament honours' lists. Another 16-year old, *Peter Smith* (East London) has won the Sussex Open Junior title, Central London Open Consolation event and represented his league in the Wilmott Cup.

London's Junior Girls

By now many readers will have heard of the *Rowe* twins from Ealing. These 15-year olds met in the final of the South of England Open Junior, where right-handed *Rosalind* beat left-handed *Diane*. In the Central London Junior, the twins (who, incidentally, should never have been allowed to play in four events in one day) were eliminated in the semi-finals. Winner of the tournament, *Peggy Piper* (South London) has already played in the Rose Bowl. Peggy, a tiny girl—just 16, has a sound all-round game and an especially effective forehand drive. Chatting one day with popular Surrey county

secretary, Bob Atherton, he mentioned a young girl who had been coached by Ron Sharman and who would be playing in the "Central." Name?—Peggy Piper!

Youngsters are also being given a chance in National County Championship matches. The month's biscuit is taken by the Middlesex selectors who for the "female part" of their second team against Buckinghamshire had the courage to include the Rowe twins and Marion Marston—three 15-year-olds! I wonder how these girls feel, pairing up in doubles with "old men" of twenty-two or so.

Latest player to market a bat is Surrey International, Ken Merrett. The manufacturers, Stuart Surridge, are having difficulty in obtaining sufficient quantities of suitable wood but are hoping to increase production shortly. Speaking of bats—Brian Brumwell has an idea which he may pursue.

Trouble in the Central Camp

Recent sorry news is that Geoff James, Central League secretary has handed in his resignation—apparently it's not "all pals together" just now on the Central Executive. Let's hope things are settled amicably, otherwise somebody has to be found who's prepared to do a lot of spare-time work.

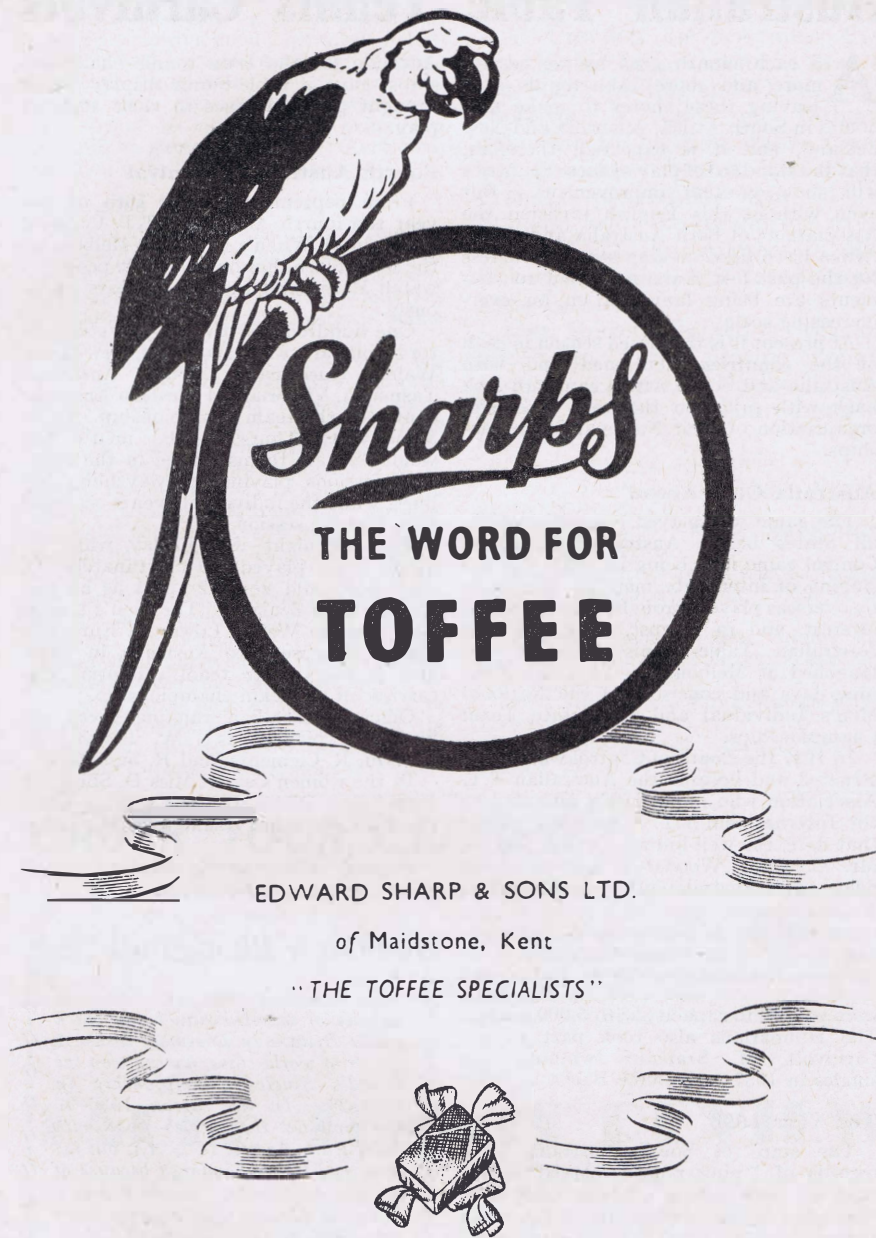
Future Events

Busy times are ahead between now and the next issue of *Table Tennis Review*.

Middlesex, with four January matches, are at home twice. On January 11th they entertain Surrey at Rotax, Willesden Junction, and on January 29th they receive Yorkshire at Bell Punch, Uxbridge.

This year's Kent Open Championships being held nearer the Metropolis than in previous years, will no doubt attract many Londoners to the R.E. Gymnasium, Brompton, Chatham on Sunday, January 30th. Looking well ahead, we notice that the "Surrey Open" is having a change of venue, being played at the Baths Hall, Epsom from March 1st to 4th, with Charles Bourne once again organising.

May I conclude by reminding readers that now I have taken over this feature I shall be pleased to hear from you, wherever you are.



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NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Champion County Beaten

By Stanley H. Kempster

THE first half of the second season of the National County Championships has brought many surprises, including the defeat of the champion county, Middlesex, by Essex in their first match.

Middlesex, weakened by the absence of Geoff Harrower and with Peggy Franks playing against them, could only take two games against the seven of Essex.

Hundreds of would-be spectators were turned away from this match, and the final games between Leach and Barna, although the score then stood at 6-2, was the finest table tennis ever seen in Romford.

This is the only match Middlesex have played so far, although Essex have also beaten Surrey, last year's runners-up, 7-2. The Essex team, in each case, consisted of J. Leach, R. Langner, B. Brumwell, Peggy Franks, Eileen Adams, and Marjorie Davis, and on their present form they must be considered favourites for the championships this year.

Crayden's Amazing Recovery

Surrey recovered after their first setback by Essex, and with Pinkie Barnes back in their team, beat both Lancashire and Warwickshire 6-3. In the match against Lancashire, the Surrey players, Sharman, Crayden, and Head, faced an all-international combination of Stanley, Casofsky, and Goodman. Lancashire won the first three games then lost the next six. In his match against B. Casofsky, R. Crayden won the first game at 21-17, then at 5-15 down in the second, went into the attack and won 16 pts. in a row to take the game at 21-15.

Gloucestershire, newcomers to these championships have won both their matches against Lancashire 6-3 and Yorkshire 7-2. Their team comprises: A. W. C. Simons, R. Griffin, W. C. Dawes, and Molly Jones, their ladies' doubles pair being Miss E. Pomroy and Mrs. M. J. Pickett, of Bristol.

R. Griffin is only 19 and still in the R.A.F. and is the present Cheltenham league champion. W. C. Dawes is the veteran player from Bristol who still uses an unorthodox "penholder" grip but manages to hold his place in the team Gloucestershire have a hundred per cent. record so far and may prove to be an obstacle to Essex.

Lancashire beat Warwickshire 8-1 who in a subsequent match just managed to beat Yorkshire 5-4 at York. This leaves Yorkshire holding the "spoon" in this division.

In the newly-formed Home Counties division the Middlesex second team started off well by defeating Bedfordshire 9-0 and then avenged the defeat of their first team by beating Essex II 6-3. Cambridge have started badly in this division having lost both their matches, against Essex II 2-7 and Hertfordshire 4-5.

Lancashire v. Durham

In the Northern division both Lancashire II and Durham have started the season well by beating their first two opponents. Lancashire II won their match against Lincolnshire 8-1 and beat Cumberland 6-3. Durham beat Northumberland 5-4 and Cumberland 7-2. It looks as though Cumberland will again be holding the lowest place in this division, as they have so far lost all three matches played.

At the time of writing this article Yorkshire II had not played a match, and Cheshire and Lincolnshire had only played one each, Cheshire having beaten Northumberland 5-4 and Lincolnshire having lost to Lancashire II. It is, therefore, difficult at this stage to judge the relative strength of the teams in this division, although on the present showing the top position would appear to rest between Lancashire II and Durham who are due to meet this month.

The Southern division, now with only four counties owing to the formation of the Home Counties division have both Hampshire and Surrey II at present sharing the lead with unbeaten records. Hampshire's team of W. Muller, S. Minter, and W. Suggett with Mrs. Horn and Miss Brown defeated Sussex 6-3 and Kent 7-2 in two friendly but keen matches. Surrey II have also defeated both these counties, beating Sussex 5-4 and Kent 9-0. Kent have so far lost all the three matches they have played, but the enterprise of their selection committee in trying out new blood is to be commended.

The Association Grows

The success of these championships last season produced seven more applications for membership and necessitated this

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season the formation of an entirely new division—Home Counties—composed of Middlesex II and Hertfordshire from the Southern division and four newcomers in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, and Essex II.

Gloucestershire joined the select seven in the Premier division, and on their present form have fully justified their place.

Applications were also received from Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and for this season a special supplementary division has been formed to cover these three counties. It is hoped that this division will develop into a Midlands division by next season.

Despite my earlier remarks regarding the Essex match there is still room for considerable improvement in the attendance figures at some of these matches, and it is very discouraging to players who have travelled possibly hundreds of miles to play in a hall before a handful of people. I personally feel that these County championships will eventually put table tennis on the English Sporting map and will undoubtedly lead to a considerable improvement in the general standard of the play, and any scheme which achieves these objects should receive every encouragement.

UMPIRE SACKED

FRED MATHER, an ordinary Club Player gives his views.

I WAS amazed to see that in the Birmingham Open tournament Geoff Harrower, English international, raised such strong objections against an umpire's decision in one of his games, that the tournament committee arranged for the umpire to be replaced. Perhaps the most surprising feature of this regrettable incident is that the powers that be supported the player's objections and humiliated the umpire, who from my experience of tournaments had probably never solicited the job but had been asked.

One can well imagine the ultimate effect of his dismissal from the table. He and many more like him, who in the spirit that makes for the success of these events offer their services and endeavour to do their best, are certainly going to think twice about coming forward again.

How many times in almost every sport has the referee erred in his judgment? They have often been proved wrong by slow-motion cameras and at other times inquiries have been made into alleged bad refereeing, but I have yet to hear of a referee being replaced while a match is still in progress.

The umpire's position was quite clear. He should have stood by his decision and ordered the game to be resumed. If the player still persisted with his objections then the umpire should have disqualified him and submitted his ruling to the Tournament Committee, after which only one decision could be reached. The weak-kneed policy shown by this Birmingham Tournament Committee is surely enough to make the blood of any sporting official run cold.

It has always been one of the cardinal features of British sport to play to the whistle, and in spite of the fact that there are undoubtedly a good number of umpires who leave a lot to be desired, we should surely uphold this tradition in our own game of table tennis.

The time is drawing near when this important matter of efficient umpiring of games must be given serious thought by administrative bodies, but in the meantime the etiquette of table tennis demands that all players must be prepared to stand by the decision of the accepted umpire of the games.

The Central London Open Championships

DECEMBER 14-18, AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

By BILL PARKER

THE organisers received the bad news on the morning of finals day that Victor Barna, who had felt poorly during the previous evening, had experienced a very bad night and was confined to bed with a high temperature due to suspected food poisoning. While, therefore, much of the gilt was taken from the finals night programme, the players taking part generally gave fine performances as if to compensate the audience for their disappointment.

The men's singles semi-final between Ernie Bubley and Eric Filby was a tussle between Filby's "copy-book" shots and Bubley's amazing close-to-the-table defence. Filby making a successful "come-back" took the first game by making at times daring shots and returning Bubley's quick-angled flicks with great consistency. Bubley then took the second and third games by persuading Filby to make mistakes, but the match was interesting and Filby's backhand strokes were at times almost fascinating. Bubley thus qualified to meet in the final Ron Litten, who should have played Barna but for the latter's illness.

Litten started on a merry note, attacking on both wings, with his most dangerous shot travelling down the centre of the table, and it was soon apparent that Bubley must play well to win. The question was—could Litten keep it up? Well Litten did keep it up to take the first game 21-13. The second and third games appeared to be Bubley's, each time at a vital stage, but the Exeter man managed to pull out sufficient to win each game.

The women's singles final saw a rather tired looking Peggy Franks snatch victory from Gwen Mace, after the latter had taken the first game. Peggy and Gwen then went down together to the Pinkie Barnes and Jean MacKay combination after a hard fight.

The junior finals produced an agreeably surprising standard of play. Michael Thornhill gave a grand display to beat young Morris Isaacs in the boys' match, and we really had our eyes opened in the girls' match, in which little Peggy Piper (S. London) decisively beat Pauline Cantor (Broadstairs).

The organisers worked hard, the players played hard, *but this was Ron Litten's tournament.* Ron is emigrating to South Africa on January 6th, and to reach all three finals and win the men's singles title with such brilliant play was his way of saying "goodbye."

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-final.—Barna v. R. Litten (cancelled—Barna indisposed); E. Bubley beat E. J. Filby, 17-21, 21-11, 21-13.

Men's Singles Final.—R. Litten beat E. Bubley, 21-13, 21-17, 21-17.

Women's Singles Final.—Miss M. Franks beat Miss G. Mace, 16-21, 21-19, 21-11.

Men's Doubles Final.—B. E. Crouch and M. H. Thornhill beat E. J. Filby and R. Litten, 15-21, 21-15, 21-15.

Women's Doubles Final.—Miss L. R. Barnes and Miss J. MacKay beat Miss M. Franks and Miss G. Mace, 13-21, 21-16, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles Final.—G. R. Harrower and Miss L. R. Barnes beat R. Litten and Mrs. P. Milburn, 21-17, 17-21, 21-19.

Men's Junior Singles Final.—M. H. Thornhill beat M. A. Isaacs, 21-9, 21-15.

Women's Junior Singles Final.—Miss M. Piper beat Miss P. Cantor, 21-15, 21-11.

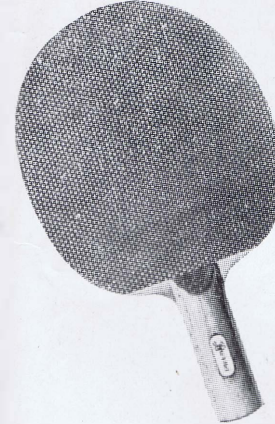
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