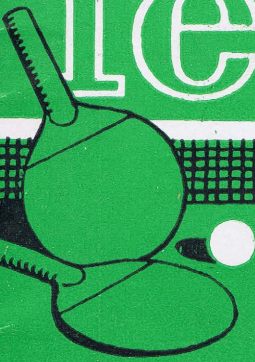


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 4 No. 2

NOV.-DEC. 1949



NEWS



VIEWS

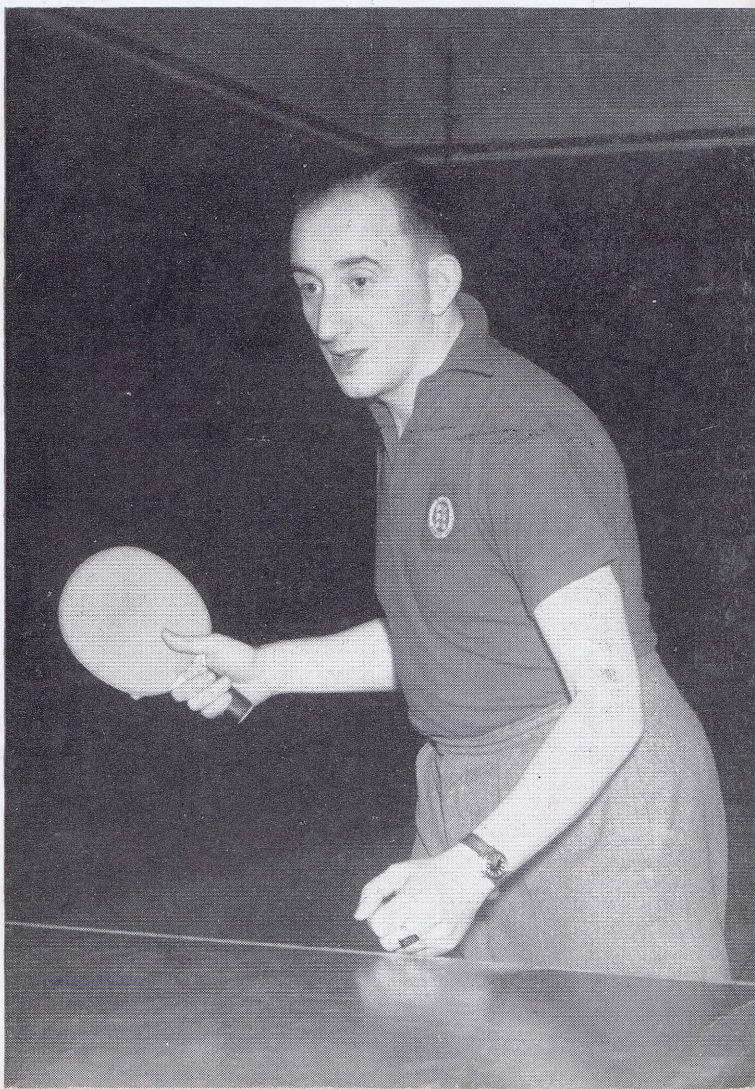


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REVIEW

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(1931 International).

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Vol. 4 No. 2

NOV./DEC. 1949

One Shilling

Young Professionals

At what age should a player be allowed to capitalise on his or her skill at table tennis? The rulings of our game which allow a player to receive payment for services rendered are sensible and far seeing and have certainly been the means of keeping all the world's best players inside our present organisation. But there is a weak link and it is one which has already caused dissatisfaction, and in the future may cause even more ill-feeling. Something will have to be done at a high level to decide at what age a player may become registered as a "Paid Player." At present a player applies for such registration to his league and if they approve the application is passed on to the County Body who in turn consider whether it should be passed on to the National Body for their final approval. This process was completed by Yorkshire's young international, Brian Kennedy, who eventually became a "Registered Paid Player." But not so Lancashire's Corbillon Cup player, Adele Wood. The County body did not approve because of her youth and two separate fees earned by Miss Wood had to be passed over to the County organisation otherwise suspension would have been imposed. What is to happen to the fees, amounting to nearly £10, is not the point of this article, but it does seem fair to assume that if Yorkshire considers one particular age eligible for registration, then players in other counties should be given similar advantages. It is a point which will eventually have to be settled, so why not now. Youth is at last coming into its own in the game of table tennis and the pre-war stars who have had such a good run since 1946 are on the wane. In the 1930's players reached world class at 16, 17 and 18 and now that the handicaps of the war years are beginning to fade the old position is about to assert itself. One day soon a player in his or her teens is going to carry off the world title, and with the world title of course goes the very substantial earnings from all kinds of things in addition to exhibitions at home and abroad. If Adele Wood had won the world championship at Stockholm would she have been denied the right to make table tennis her career and so lost the opportunity to give all her time to the game and concentrate on holding her title? Whatever personal views people may have it surely is a matter important enough to warrant a concrete and universal ruling, and not left to the discretion of local administrators.

The Editor invites readers to submit articles for consideration. Payment at usual rates. Every assistance will be given to would-be contributors and MSS. need not be typed.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

Invitations were sent out by the International Table Tennis Federation to all nations asking if they intended to take part in the World Championships in Budapest next January 29th to February 5th, and up to the time of going to press the following 20 countries have indicated they wish to compete: England, Wales, Ireland, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Italy, U.S.A., Chile, Egypt and New Zealand.

* * *

On December 15th, the day Victor Barna arrives back from his Australian-New Zealand-Indian tour, his stage partner, Alec Brook, leaves by flying boat for a 3 months tour of the theatres in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. Brook's partner will be Stephen Boros as Victor does not desire to leave straight away on another tour abroad. Actually Alec Brook should have accompanied Barna to Australia. All arrangements were made and then at the last minute business affairs kept Brook at home and so Richard Bergmann was called upon. Brook and Boros will have with them a compere. Stephen of course is well-known as a table tennis performer having done one run of 2½ years with the same company. His birthplace is Hungary but is now a naturalised Englishman.

* * *

Miss Elizabeth Blackburn won 3 titles during mid-October in the South African Championships, namely, Singles, Mixed Doubles, with Ron Litten, and Women's Doubles, with "Bubbles White." Winner of the Men's Singles was Rex Edwards late of Wolverhampton, and he also took the Men's Doubles partnered by Ron Litten, late Exeter. Elizabeth also comes from Exeter and many will remember her as a probable world champion. Whether she should have been placed in English ranking as No. 2 with Vera Dace No. 1, can be left for enthusiasts to argue.

The Merseyside Open which is always regarded as one of the major events of the season promises to be just as attractive on December 3rd next as it has been on previous occasions. Johnny Leach refused an invitation to the French Championships so that he might take part and in addition to other leading English players there will probably be Irish and Welsh competitors. Maintaining the policy of putting table tennis on a high plane of entertainment, the finals will again take place in the magnificent and luxurious Philharmonic Hall.

* * *

The Essex Bulletin entitled "Nine by Five" is now being printed as an attractive 8 page periodical, price 3d. Obtainable from the Managing Editor, W. J. Parker, 37, Hamilton Avenue, Barkingside.

* * *

At a recent exhibition one of the organising officials made a suggestion for a new type of novelty game. He informed me that if the bat is given a thin coating of a special preparation there would be a "small" explosion each time the ball came in contact with the bat. We are interested, but first could we have a volunteer for experimental purposes. Any-one care to have a "bang."

* * *

The 1949 Men's Singles Champion of the Central London League, Tony Miller, and Ladies' Champion of the same league, Joyce Roberts were quietly married at the end of September. A "present" Joyce would love would be an England badge. She played in the Corbillon Cup trials last season but failed to impress the selectors. She hopes to do better this year.

* * *

During the 19th birthday celebrations week of the Regal Cinema, Beckenham, the local league arranged a 30 minute exhibition of table tennis on the stage. Nine Beckenham League personalities took part.

International Honours for Ron Allcock and Wally Poole

Twenty year old Ron Allcock of Manchester has gained international honours by being included in the English team to play Ireland at Belfast on November 10th.

Another newcomer to international events is Wally Poole of Birmingham.

ENGLAND'S TEAM—Team to play Ireland will consist of Johnny Leach and Ron Crayden (London), R. Allcock (Manchester), Wally Poole (Birmingham), Miss Peggy Franks (London) and Molly Jones (Cheltenham).

* * *

The England team touring Czechoslovakia, October 31st to November 15th is as follows: A. K. Vint (Hastings) non-playing Captain, A. W. C. Simons (Bristol), K. Cragie (Middlesex), D. Miller (London), L. Devereux (Torquay), Mrs. J. Crosby (Exeter) and Miss R. Rowe (Middlesex).

L. Devereux is already a Junior International and is also the promising young cricketer who scored 72 for the M.C.C. young professionals against the M.C.C. for this season. He has also played football for the reserve team of Torquay United.

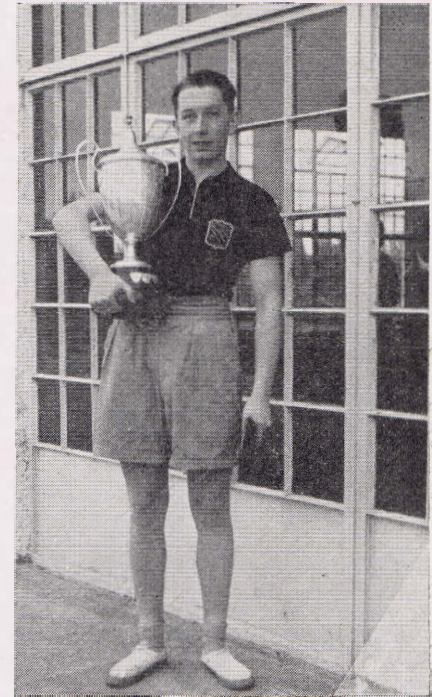
Johnny Leach was unable to go as he has accepted an invitation from the Maccabi Club in Stockholm to take part in an international team contest. His partner will be Ron Crayden of Surrey.

A RUMOUR IS NAILED

There has for some time been in circulation a rumour that English players intending to compete in the 1949-50 World Championships in Budapest next year were having trouble getting visas and on that account were contemplating foregoing the trip to Hungary. It was even being said that visa-trouble would possibly force Johnny Leach to resign his world singles' title without a struggle.

A responsible E.T.T.A. official has, however, given the lie to these rumours. This official has stated, in reply to my direct questions, that there is no trouble of the nature rumoured, that the Hungarian table tennis authorities, having accepted the responsibility of staging the World Series, are going full steam ahead with plans, and that everything possible is being done to make visiting nations welcome.

"The rumour about Leach is merely a rumour," he says, "So far as we know, he is going to Budapest, as are other English competitors." He flatly denies that current talk has concrete grounds, and is of the opinion that folk have drawn a wrong conclusion from the fact that Hungary did not take up her option to stage the European swimming championships.



RON ALLCOCK

"New International Honour"

SUSSEX OPEN, HASTINGS

October 30th, 1949

FINAL RESULT

M.S.—*Semi-Finals*.—Aubrey Simons beat Jack Head 21-5, 21-7. Jack Carrington beat B. Crouch, 21-17, 21-15. *Final*.—Simons beat Carrington, 21-15, 17-21, 21-17, 21-15.

W.S.—Miss Peggy Franks beat Miss Rosalind Rowe, 21-14, 17-21, 21-12.

Junior Boy's Singles.—J. Lowe (Ashford, Middlesex) beat R. Bernstein (London), 21-9, 21-11.

M.D.—H. T. Venner and L. Adams beat P. Smith and K. H. Beamish, 15-21, 22-20, 21-11.

Mx.D.—Simons and Miss R. Rowe beat M. Thornhill and Miss L. R. (Pinky) Barnes, 21-19, 21-13.

W.D.—Miss R. Rowe and Miss L. R. Barnes beat Miss Peggy Franks and Miss J. Cuss, 17-21, 21-8, 21-14.

WIN THAT MATCH

"Table Tennis Review" has secured the right to publish First British Serial Rights of extracts from Sol. Schiff's book, "Table Tennis Comes of Age." (Rich & Cowan, 7/6). This is the second of a series of five articles which will run concurrently throughout the present volume of the "Review."

PART II

The Half Volley

THE half volley is going to form the connecting link between your attack and your defence.

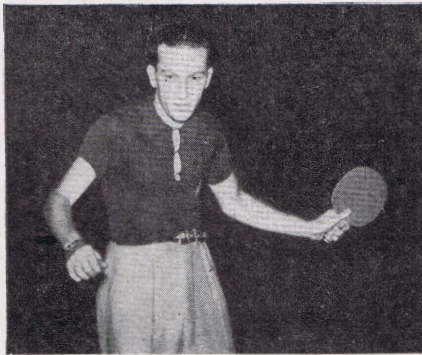
You remember before that we talked about the half volley as a strictly defensive shot. Well, so it is, played as a steady diet. But played as a surprise shot, usually sharply angled with a swift thrust of the wrist, the half volley can wrest the attack from your opponent in a jiffy.

The Attack

How is this done? Simple. Suppose you have been chopping. Put more bite on your chop or place it awkwardly for your opponent. Keep getting closer to the table. Then suddenly, with the first opportunity, jump up to the table and place your racket in the way of one of your opponent's drives. Naturally, since you will be half-volleying a topspin stroke, your racket will be turned over with the face slightly inclined towards the table. Use your wrist—bend it in to angle the ball towards the right, out to angle the ball towards the left—and play a fast half volley.

If you get a good angle on the shot, the speed with which the drive will be reflected from your racket will be so great that your opponent won't have time to make another drive after his first one. He'll have to chop or push or play a half volley himself, and you have a chance to step in and start your own attack. If your half volley comes as a complete surprise, maybe your opponent will put up a weak return that you can kill unmercifully. And if you don't wrest away the attack on the first half volley, take a tip from me and try another and another in rapid succession. Two or three of these, fast and played in different directions, are sufficient to take the attack away from the fastest driving opponent. Then it's up to you to build up and hold your advantage.

In my opinion Laszlo Bellak, the brilliant former Hungarian ace, was without a peer in the world in turning the half volley into an attacking stroke. Bellak had a good defence, but he rarely used it. He half-



SOL SCHIFF

volley the service, half-volleys your fastest drives, sends over three or four fast half volleys in rapid succession, and when he forces an opening he comes in and starts his ferocious offensive. The poor attacker rarely got a chance to put in a stroke when he played Bellak. Those half volleys kept him right back on his heels.

Now there's one more use of the half volley that we must not overlook. As an ally to the attacker and the would-be attacker we have pictured it to you so far. But it can also be an ally to the defensive star.

On Defence

Suppose you have been chopping steadily back of the table and your opponent suddenly drops one short on your side of the table. You come up, reach the ball with an effort, and put it back over the net. Now, as the defender, you should be in a spot. You're up short, right at the table. You had to come up to reach the last ball. What shall you do? Try to get back again? Before you've moved back two steps, unless you made an excellent return on your previous shot, the ball will come back to you, and you probably won't be in a position to return it.

What to do? Well, there's one thing you can do—it's a trick I learned from Victor Barna, who plays a cool and steady defence. You can stay up at the table and half volley the next shot. And then if things work right and you get a chance, you can jump into the attack. And if they don't you will have time to scurry back to the safety of your chops again.

The Right Way to Practise

You know how to make all your various strokes, but there's a long jump between knowing how and making them correctly.

The only way I know to bridge that gap is to practise. I'm going to give you some ideas on the subject.

Opponents

First of all, with whom should you practise? Obviously, with a person whose style fits snugly into your own. In other words, if you are trying to chop, your opponent should be a consistent topspin driver rather than another defensive player. If you want to learn a steady drive, you should choose an opponent with a steady defence.

Don't Play to Win in Practise

I suggest that the beginner should practise with another beginner. Even if you had the opportunity of practising with an expert player, if he tried to lift your game suddenly up to his level you would probably find that your strokes were forced and uncertain—because you lacked a sufficiently sound foundation.

While you are practising, don't go out to win. Don't engage in mortal combat with everybody you meet. Be prepared to lose to a weaker player, if need be, while practising the weak shots in your game.

New Shots

When you discover a weakness in your game try to remedy it. And when you start developing a new stroke, take it easy at first. Don't expect too much until you get the hang of it. But when you do, never hold back. No matter what the score, if the particular shot should be played, play it. Otherwise you will remain the slave, never the master, of the shot.

Use a Mirror

Now if you're having trouble with your swing on any of the strokes, try this. Try getting before a mirror and swinging. Watch your stroke carefully as you swing back on, say, your forehand drive. Is the racket coming up enough? And then, when you swing forward, is your racket face too flat so that you will get little topspin, or too sloped, so that your forward speed is slight?

Crouch

If you are of more than average height you're probably taking your defensive strokes standing up too straight, with your eye too far above the level of flight of the ball. To assume the correct position, crouch and place your hands on your knees. You don't leave your hands there because you need them for making the stroke. But that's about the correct position.

Footwork

If you're having trouble with your footwork, try skipping around between points. Don't get your feet stuck in one spot.

Shuffle them backward and forward. If nothing else, pick them up and set them down again between your stroke and the return. And if your footwork is slow, try keeping on your toes at all times. This will get you off to a quicker start and allow a quick shift in direction.

Touch

If you are having trouble with your short shots and you want to improve your touch, why not draw a chalk line across the table and play all the balls in the front part? That will develop your sense of touch very quickly.

If you aren't making a good drop shot you can often improve your touch. Try loosening the grip on your racket to deaden the shot and get more feel.

Training

And now, just a word to the competitive player about practice and training. Your idea in playing in tournaments is usually to win. And to win you must reach your best form and keep it. Find out as early as possible in your tournament career how much practice and what kind of practice you need to be in good shape. Some players practise more and more as the time for the tournament approaches, while others practise less and less for fear of getting stale. Experiment and see what schedule agrees with you.

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TABLE TENNIS REVIEW BACK NUMBERS

The only copies available are those belonging to Volume 3, Numbers One to Five. Price 1/- each, post free. Complete set of Volume 3, 4/- post free. Also Vol. 4, No. 1 price 1/- post free. Apply above address.

During the last weeks before playing in competition, try to play against better players and play "all out" to win. Only if pressed to the limit can you see how you are playing. But don't play too long with one individual, because you will get used to his particular style of play.

A Start on Tactics and Advanced Play

What do you mean, exactly, when we say "tactics"? Well, what I mean in using that word is simply this: the art of using the strongest points of our game against the weakest points of our opponent. I might repeat this same idea in many different ways. I might say, "Play to your opponent's weakness and play to your own strength." I might say, "Play with your head." In all these cases I would be expressing the same idea, the old idea of doing just what the opponent doesn't want you to do.

Look for Weaknesses

The first and most obvious thing to do is to look for weaknesses in his defence. Now I want to make myself clear at this point. Every defensive player has certain weaknesses. The very fact that he is playing defence indicates that he must have some weaknesses. To a certain extent he will be vulnerable to a good drop shot, to a sudden change in the direction of a drive, to a sudden change in the speed of a drive. Maybe he is slow, maybe he is unsteady, perhaps his backhand chop is more deadly than his forehand, or vice versa. At any rate the first thing for you to do, before you try any general tactical manoeuvres, is to try some specific ones. Let's see what suggests itself.

Perhaps you discovered on which side he preferred to chop before the game started. Perhaps you know from past experience. When nationally ranking stars show weaknesses on one side or the other, is it too much to hope that your opponent will show some?

Try a few topspins to your opponent's forehand, then a few to his backhand. Does he favour one side more than the other? Does he chop on forehand or backhand when you send a shot down the middle of the table and close to his body? Whatever specific weakness you find will help you in your plan of attack.

In the next issue ready January 7th, Sol Schiff will go into greater detail on "Tactics and Advanced Play." He will also discuss the Backhand Attack. Order your copy from your Newsagent or Sports Dealer NOW.

In Search of a Laugh ...

Negative Results

THERE is no doubt that photos in the "Table-Tennis Review" are viewed with enthusiasm by our club. Crowds of male members, doubtless anxious to see precisely how a stroke should be made, gather round pictures of lady players in shorts, while the girls, just as anxiously, gather round those of the men.

In spite of this, however, it was something of a surprise when Jim Brown, our No. 2, suggested we should have our photos taken.

"It's like this," he said, "funds are low, and with a bit of luck we might be able to sell these photos to the Press."

I submitted we would need more than a bit of luck, but Jim is a solid sort of chap (he got that way through eating too much bread pudding) and wouldn't give way.

"We won't have group photos," he continued, "we'll only have action photos, showing you retrieving an almost impossible shot, or me down on one knee returning a terrific drive."

"But we don't do that kind of thing," I argued, "the photographer will be here for all the season before he sees me make a shot like that—and all next season, probably. Anyway, I've never seen you on one knee—except in the boxing ring."

Jim sighed. "These will be posed photographs," he explained patiently.

After various protests, I agreed to the scheme, and the photographer arrived the following week.

The first photo was of Tony Markham, our No. 3, diving headlong from one side of the table to the other. This photo unfortunately had to be re-taken as he had forgotten to take up his bat.

Jim was then shown, wearing an agonised expression (shows grim determination, the photographer explained), preparing to smash the ball for all he was worth. The ball was suspended from the ceiling by a piece of cotton—a delicate procedure which took an hour to arrange.

For my photo, I had to smile victoriously and let my right knee come up towards my chin, with my playing arm moving towards the floor. It took ten minutes to extricate myself from this position.

It is interesting to note that this was the only photo which sold. It was snapped up by a firm of toothpaste manufacturers who though my smile revealed a set of perfect teeth which they could use in an advert.

By EDWIN G. VOLLER.



SOME time ago, "The Times" remarked that all sports are mysteries except to their followers. We must not argue with "The Times."

Often at championships, immediately following a dire struggle which has just seen the man you were supporting run out a winner, you will turn excitedly to the calm lady at your side and exclaim: "What a win!" Only to hear her reply. "Who for?"

A smack in the face from a cold kipper could not be more stunning. Consider the weird jargon of the sports, *Bogies, birdies, the lip of the hole, the lie of the green, stymies, owe forties, love thirties, off the grille, bullying off, a drive past silly mid-off, a late cut through the slips* and hundreds of others we know. We read: *'Hounds, hit off a drag so fresh that even Harold threw his tongue.'*

Table tennis cannot match that; but then we are a democratic sport!

I suppose that all sportsmen know what we mean by "a half-volley duel," or a "baseline exchange" because our sport has incorporated a great deal of tennis parlance. Perhaps if we said he mixed his chop with side spin they might look twice.

But we do not say "ace" we say "winner" and at deuce we say, 21-20 not: "Advantage—Crackhammer" or whoever might be about to serve. Incidentally, we might heighten the drama of our championships by adopting the "advantage" system at deuce. Imagine a voice calling out tensely: "*Advantage—Snackduck,*" That would be an innovation worth trying.

Other Sundry Mysteries

Of course, the universal mystery is the ball we put off the table or into the net at the crucial moment, just when the match was in our pocket. A continuing enigma too, are the vast numbers of players who, lying in the dust of defeat cry, "this is my last season, I'm too old for it!" and

are to be seen awe inspiring phoenixes rising again next season, only to meet with equally ignominious failure.

There are players who find their inability to win tournaments mysterious. We do not have to employ a Holmes to elucidate that problem for them.

I suppose it would be imprudent to order an investigation into the vanished smiles from organisers' faces, for a worried look is their badge of office.

Finally we mustn't forget the last list of international honours. That is always an enigma to the unsuccessful aspirants. They find it the greatest sporting mystery of them all.

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Being Some Reminiscences of

JACK CARRINGTON



Who has not been stirred to sentimental memory by a soft voice on a telephone line? I had this experience a few days ago. This particular soft voice belonged to Vera Dace, until 1948 England's No. 1, now Mrs. Arthur Thomas and the fond mother of little Linda.

Vera's voice brought back sweet memories to me—but husband Arthur need not reach for his gun, our adventures were always those of table tennis, travel and teamwork.

Three Inspired

VERA I first saw as a schoolgirl of 15 knocking some of the established champions about in the West Middlesex tournament shortly before the war. History is beginning to repeat itself, I think, at the West Ealing club, where the lucky ones may now see another dynamic left-hander, Diane Rowe, dishing out the same effortless forehand drive, and the same springy footwork that we look for in vain among the boys of to-day's junior class.

I rate Vera's forehand drive as the perfect model—the most efficient of any player until Richard Miles appeared.

(NOTE TO EDITOR: You can ask me to justify this in another article if you like!!!!).

I made friends with Vera through her willingness to endure the most uncomfortable journeys to help me in the little shows we put on in the various Service camps. I have often known her to leave work at 4-30 p.m., travel to the coast, thrill the troops with her play, and rise at 5-0 a.m. next morning to report in to work again at 8-0 a.m.

On one occasion she played with me at eight different camps in one week-end.

One of our objectives on these barnstorming affairs was to enlighten senior officers as to the recreative value of table tennis. Vera entered into this benevolent conspiracy with glee. Some times she "softened up" the red-tabs by directing

her atomic forehand kills towards the seats of honour with noticeable accuracy . . . at other times she relied upon a more subtle process of diplomacy in the Mess afterwards.

Either way, the troops usually got a table tennis table in their canteen before long!

I must here explain that I was the victim of a burning ambition—to see the day when English players could enter world events with the intention of *winning* them.

Coming into table tennis in the season when Barna was just winning his last world singles, I was deeply impressed by the skill and artistry of the Central Europeans. But at the same time I was disgusted at the fawning humility with which they were regarded by officials and players at that time—the automatic assumption that English players could never hope to compete with foreign supermen.

Of course they could not, so long as we retained so gladly our under-dog mentality.

It was the same defeatist mentality which made folk tell me: "You can't hope to reach top-class, you're 23 already" But one can *always* hope . . . and even better than hoping is *trying*.

So when luck brought me into close touch with Vera Dace and Johnny Leach I saw in them the spearhead of a new attack on the foreign mental-superiority.

We formed not merely an exhibition team, but a "mutual inspiration" team. One important purpose of our exhibition tours was to develop the poise and personality of our young stars and to educate the general public to realise that we had some brilliant players of our own blood to support.

(Others who had the same urge to revive the fighting spirit, as Buble and later Harrower, were looked upon askance. Whatever opinions existed about their style and capabilities, these two realised from the start that in international competition a player must enter the battle feeling at least equal to his opponent on the mental plane).

Mediterranean Tour

Our threesome partnership was well matured when that exciting day came—the start of a three-months Mediterranean tour.

Dressed in our ENSA uniform of varying degrees of smartness we flew to Naples from Blackbushe. For Vera it was her first flight, for Johnny his first trip abroad.

My playing kit was loaded into a Marseilles plane by mistake, but was duly brought across by R.A.F. Transport Command. Johnny was not so lucky a few days later when a Roman urchin coolly lifted his zip-holdall from the van in which he was sitting. Before Johnny could unfold his long legs from the truck, his kit was probably enriching the black market!

The loss of his favourite bat seemed to Johnny the end of his table tennis career, but no permanent harm seems to have been done. Moreover, with such footwork and Johnny's bat, that little lad should make the Italian team one day!

How Vera stood up to the non-stop variety of this fantastic tour remains a mystery.

We played 40 shows in 44 days at one period, the daily journey averaging 150 miles. We saw the dirt of Taranto and the beauty of Venice. We glowed in the Athens

sunshine and shrank under the East winds of frozen Vienna.

One day Vera would be playing tennis with an Italian Count and a British General, the next morning she would be helping us to dig the truck out of a river bed. On four successive nights our beds were made in a luxury hotel, a Nissen hut, a palace and a van.

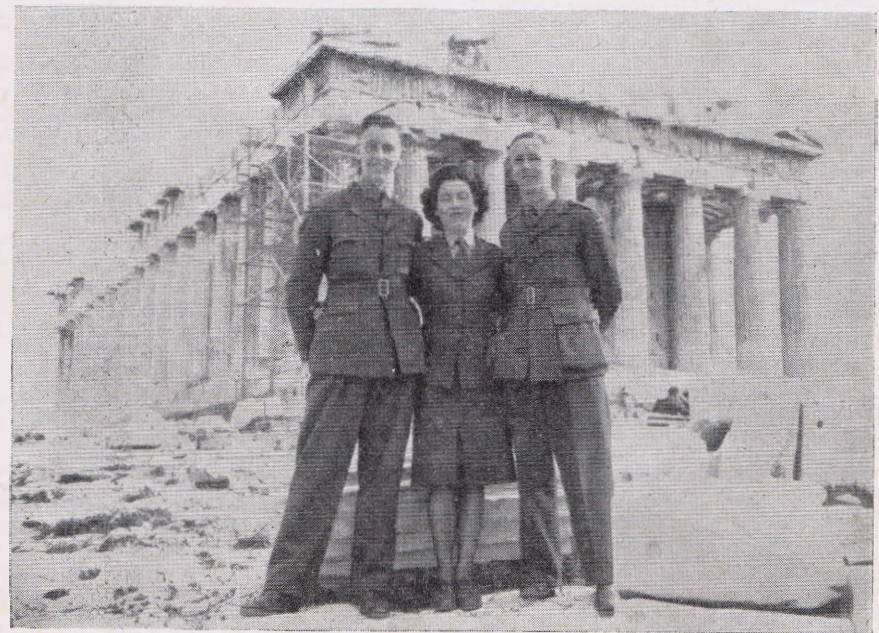
Thrilling Flash Backs

A drunken major drove us in a 5-tonner right through the shopping arcade of a famous city; our plane trailed black smoke the length of the Gulf of Corinth, while the pilot engagingly confessed to Vera that it was six months since he had done a normal landing, let alone an emergency one!

Russian sentries bayonet-hooked us out of the truck in the Semmering Pass, in temperature 40 degrees below zero.

Another "mad major" of the 8th Army raced the Russians at 70 m.p.h. along the black-frosted highway to Vienna. "For prestige," he explained airily, turning round to Johnny and me, cowering in the back seats. But we suspected that it was personal prestige with Vera that he was thinking of.

Yet another time, the Road Control announced: "no vehicles past this point without snow chains."



JOHNNY LEACH — VERA DACE (Thomas) — JACK CARRINGTON

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If you have any difficulty in getting this book write to the publisher, G. BELL & SONS Ltd. 6, Portugal Street, London, W.C.2.

We went through alright. Did we have chains? Not on your life, but we had Vera and that was enough for an 8th Army driver.

It was during these days that I realised that Johnny Leach would have to win a world championship.

Although he hated the cold and could never find a comfortable seat in the utility, and was often starving hungry, he used to say "It's O.K. We'll be on that table at 7-30 somehow." He didn't know quite how, but he knew the job would be done. I was always trying to plan to cover every emergency; he would improvise when the emergency arose, as it often didn't!

His faith was almost shaken, however, the day we broke down as we dashed through a Bren-gun skirmish between Carabinieri and bandits led by gun-happy American deserters. Vera was a little hurt that I snatched her brand-new scarlet scarf from her head and bundled her out of sight. But I was thinking of the ransom that E.T.T.A. might have to pay if the banditti took a fancy to such valuable cargo!

We had a hard job inducing a passing lorry, itself speeding for cover, to take a message on to the next camp. While

waiting for the spares, Johnny contented himself by remarking: "Well, I suppose we'll be on the table by 7-30"!

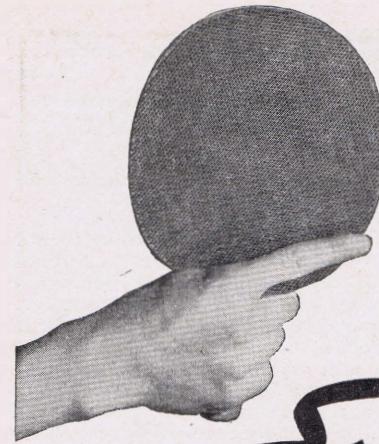
Actually it was 7-50 this time, and there was Vera smiling radiantly, as usual, to the delight of a thousand New Zealanders in Florence.

After 20 successive shows we had a free evening, which we spent . . . practising.

England Made the Grade

This is only a glimpse of one trip out of many which I have been lucky enough to make with these cavaliers of English table tennis. But it will be enough to show you why I have never regretted any time spent in helping them towards the top. When Peggy Franks and Ron Crayden became available to join us it was the same story—plenty of fun, plenty of personality, and plenty of determination to "get there" if given a target and a plan.

These have all done well, and thanks to their successes it is no longer considered laughable for English players to aim to beat the world. Backed by the more enlightened official policy of to-day the successors of Vera and Johnny are already on the trail, unhampered by that mental burden "You can't win unless you have a foreign name."



WHITE FLASH: Oxford. Black 'Hard Court' Soling. Dunlopillo Latex Foam insole.



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and Sports Dealers

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9F/SP5

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Smash hits

AMBER FLASH: Oxford. Laced to toe. White Crepe Sole. Dunlopillo Latex Foam insole.



SPORTS SHOES
Quick as a FLASH

METHOD OF CONDUCTING THE TOURNAMENT

By W. J. PARKER

NO doubt the question "Groups or Knock-out?" will arise as so often it does. The "pros. and cons." of each system have been discussed so often, both verbally and in print, that most readers will have formed their own opinion as to which is preferable. The following hints may however be of assistance to newcomers to organising.

Group System

A Group, with 5 players, will be completed when 10 matches are played. This can always be worked out by means of the following simple formula—

$$\frac{\text{No. of Players} \times (\text{Number of Players minus 1})}{2} = \text{Number of Matches}$$

which in the case of a group of 5 players, would be :

$$\frac{5 \times 4}{2} = 10 \text{ matches to complete the group.}$$

Similarly a Group of 4 players would be completed in 6 matches.

Knock-out System

With this system, it is quite simple to remember the following:—

The number of matches to be played (including the Final) is one less than the number of competitors.

Thus, when the entry for a knock-out event is 79, the event would be completed

in 78 matches. The theory of the correct way to tackle a knock-out draw, need not be explained in full here. It is sufficient to make a note of the following numbers which are most likely to be of assistance 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256.

To work out how many matches and byes there should be to bring the Draw to a simple conclusion from the second round onwards, take the number of competitors and deduct it from that of the numbers given above which is next above it. This will give the number of byes required. With the number of byes already known, it is a simple matter to work out how many matches must be played in the first round.

Example:—

There are 153 competitors in a Knock-out tournament. The nearest power of 2 (which is what the list of numbers given earlier are called) above 153, is 256.

256—153=103. So there will be 103 byes. As there are 103 byes, the number playing in the first round will be, 153—103=50, which means 25 matches.

Twenty-five matches must produce 25 winners, who will join the 103 who received the byes in the second round. Thus, 103—25=128, which being a power of two, will reduce round by round as follows to the Final: 128, 64, 32, 16, 8, 4, 2, so never be afraid of tackling this simple calculation.

The Tournament Referee will know what time he has at his disposal when he has

DIAGRAM E

EVENT : M/S..... ROUND : 2

TABLE : 4 TIME TO START : 8-20.....

BEST OF 3 GAMES DATE.....19.....

Players	Note by Umpire	1st game	2nd game	3rd game	4th game	5th game	Total Games
A. JONES	Green shirt	S 13	21	S 17			1
C. SMITH	Blue shirt (glasses)	21	19 S	21			2

Winner:—C. SMITH..... Recorded: Table Steward's initials.

Umpire's Signature

calculated how many matches must be played, for it is generally fairly safe to allow 12 minutes for each Singles' and 17 minutes for each Doubles' match. In this way he can see how much margin is allowed for stoppages caused by power fuses, etc.

A pitfall that should be avoided is that of playing simultaneously two or three events in which many players are taking part. The safest plan is to put Men's Singles with Women's Singles, and so on.

Umpires

If possible try to enlist the services of umpires who are not taking part in the session in play. Umpires should be supplied with slips torn from pads which can be obtained quite cheaply. Each result slip can be made an "umpire's friend," if marked with descriptions of players and an "S" written against the column of the player who serves first in each game. In this way the umpire can be rendered "bad memory-proof"—even if nothing and nobody is fool-proof.

Diagram E shows a specimen result slip.

Publicity

Publicity can be obtained best by "gaining the confidence of the press." This is best done by getting to know personally, the local sports editors and re-

porters and sending them full detail in advance of each important development of the Tournament. If a famous player is due to play an exhibition on Finals Night and at the last moment, ill luck prevents his appearing, every effort should be made to let the local press know of the misfortune. Don't try to keep it quiet! The press, will of course, tell the public that the great attraction will be missing and maybe the sale of tickets will be reduced quite considerably. However, you will have gained a moral victory and the local reporters and sportsmen will respect you and your organisation for your honesty and your future functions will be supported confidently by public and press.

Finals' Night

A well-known local, or otherwise public figure, should be invited to make the presentations. Trophies and other prizes should be displayed prominently as this lends a certain friendly atmosphere to the occasion. At the end of the evening, a few judicious gratuities to caretakers and cleaners will be well received and, after all, no doubt well deserved. You will stage another tournament next year and like players, spectators and all others—they will remember!

Richard BERGMANN

World Singles Title holder, 1936/7, 1938/9, 1940/46, 1947/8. Three times Open Champion of England, also France, Holland, Wales, Scotland, Barcelona, etc., now writes exclusively for "CAVALCADE."

His comprehensive survey touches every aspect of the sport—Match Reports—Technique—Sidelights on Personalities—Events at home and abroad—and "Behind the Scenes."

No Table Tennis fan can afford to miss this fascinating commentary by the foremost exponent of the sport, appearing each week throughout the season in "CAVALCADE."

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44, Hopton St., London, S.E.1



THE NEW **Cavalcade**

A Glimpse into the Past

REQUISITIONED during the war and now taken over by Broadcasting House for television purposes, Alexandra Palace, for many years Britain's most famous badminton club, has shut its doors as a sporting venue. Prior to clearing out, Palace officials took stock of their equipment before disposing of most of it. Rummaging through their various odds and ends, accumulated through the years, some old programmes dating back to the very early 1900's were unearthed. Some of these programmes relate to ping-pong tournaments; which is not surprising, as Alexandra Palace was in its hey-day a well-known ping-pong club.

One programme is dated 1902 and concerns an open ping-pong tournament for the North London Championships. It states that the competition is being run 'under the revised laws of the Ping-Pong Association.' It seems that at this period the name "table tennis" was just beginning to rear its head, for an advertisement by a well-known firm, inserted on the back page of the programme in question, carried this 'warning' under the blaring headline: "!! Ping-Pong Proper!!"

"IMPORTANT NOTICE. *The publishers of the game beg to caution the Public against accepting as official anything in connection with the game of PING-PONG which does not bear the recognised and accepted title. It is necessary to state this clearly, as endeavours have lately been made by trade competitors to palm off on the Public imitations of the original game under other titles. The genuine games now contain the official laws of the Ping-Pong Association in force at Queen's Hall, the Irish and Scotch Championships, the present and all leading Ping-Pong Tournaments, and bear the Registered Trade Mark, "PING-PONG," on the goods themselves, and the box labels, &c."*

In the same programme, another advertisement defied this particular one with true Edwardian sternness: "Gamages of Holborn, Cheapest and Best House in the World for all TABLE-TENNIS necessities. Notwithstanding statements to the contrary, 'TABLE-TENNIS' is the official name of the game. A. W. Gamage beg to caution the public against being hood-winked by paying excessive



BY SAM KIRKWOOD

prices for Table-Tennis under registered names."

I wonder what the Ping-Pong (or Table-Tennis) Association had to say to this unseemly bickering?

Overlooking the jealousies of the business houses in favour of the wares they had to offer, we find that wooden bats were obtainable at 9d., cork-faced bats at 2/3d., sand-paper ones at 1/6d., and greenbaize, at 2/- . Gut rackets (ye gods), cost 1/11d. The very latest bat—"with roughened surface; not affected by weather; a sure help to championship form"—was made of aluminium and priced at 2/6d. Table tops could be had for as little as 10/6d. each, and a de-luxe table with legs or trestles for 38/9d. Balls cost 10½d. a dozen—or 10/- a gross. The laugh, here, is on the moderns.

One strange item offered for sale was a "ball retriever," or a "picker-up of balls" (if this sounds a bit Jack Warner-ish, blame the advert.). This gadget was guaranteed to save much back-bending to the player. Heaven above knows what this contraption consisted of and how it retrieved balls.

£100 Tournament Prizes.

The programme also announces a coming Queen's Hall tournament. Prizes to the value of £100 are dangled as bait. That was plenty of money in those days, when a pound was worth twenty shillings and for a bob a body could buy a meal, cigarettes and beer, and still have change. The entrance fee for the competition was 5/-, however, which indicates that ping-pong (or table-tennis) was something of a middle- and upper-class game. In 1902

Continued on next page.

YOUR SEASON'S DIARY

Nov. 19-20	South of England Open
Nov. 30-Dec. 3	Merseyside Open (Liverpool)
Dec. 2-3	Pontefract Open
Dec. 3	Bournemouth Open
Dec. 5-10	Herts. Open
Dec. 9-10	Welsh Open (Cardiff)
Dec. 12-17	Cent. London, open (Kentish Town Baths)
Dec. 16	England v France (Wolverhampton)
1950	
Jan. 2-7	Metropolitan Open
Jan. 19-21	Lancs. Open (Manchester)
Jan. 22	Kent Open
Jan. 23-28	South London Open
Jan. 29	Southampton Open
Jan. 29-Feb. 5	World Championships (Budapest)
Feb. 9-11	North of England (Manchester)
Feb. 13-18	Middlesex (Herga) Open
Feb. 23-25	Midland Open
Feb. 27-Mar. 4	Surrey Open
Mar. 4	Yorkshire Junior Open
Mar. 4	Cheshire Open (Chester)
Mar. 11	English Open
Mar. 18	West of England
Mar. 25	Grimsby Open
April 1-2	Bucks Open
April 8-10	North East England Open
April 12-14 & 17-22	West Middlesex Open
May 1-6	Thameside Open

Tournament Secretaries are asked to send to the Editor a small supply of Entry Forms. Readers will be supplied with these upon application. Please enclose postage.

Continued from previous page.

many a man kept a home and family on a pound a week or less.

Another programme from the misty past—April, 1903, to be exact—publicises a tournament due to be staged by the Alexandra Palace and North London Ping-Pong Club. The cover of this leaflet bears an illustration of a couple of players in action. It truly is a wow. A sagging net is stretched across a four-legged table some five feet long and 30 inches wide. On one side stands a man wearing a frock coat, waistcoat, stiff collar and boots; his left hand is firmly planted on the table, one of his legs is in the air, while his right hand clutches what seems to be a lollipop on a long stick but which reason tells me must be a bat. Facing him is a lady in a voluminous dress which drapes all but her face and hands. She holds a "lollipop" close to her face and is half-turned away from the table. She is obviously on the defensive against the male brute opposing her. As a serious advert touting the alleged delights of ping-pong (or table-tennis), this illustration is, I repeat, a positive wow.

Viewed from our angle the game of those days strikes us as funny, but let us remember that from it sprung the indoor sport which to-day stands supreme. Let its pioneers rest in peace.

Look After Your Young Rabbits!

By R. Q. ADAMS

(Vice-President—Central T.T.L., London and Chairman, East London T.T.L.)

Many suggestions have been made for coaching promising juniors, and doubtless these ideas will bear fruit in the case of those youngsters in well-known clubs who have been spotted. It is possible, however, that there exists a reserve of youthful talent in the lesser-known clubs—perhaps in yours?

How are these potential stars to be discovered? At the outset, mainly by playing against more experienced people, and this raises the question—is the method of practice play in your club calculated to pit the young "rabbits" against the top-notchers? Or do your best players stick together in practice games? I know of clubs where the cracks invariably play together, entirely neglecting the novices.

Naturally enough, the club champions do not want *always* to be opposed to comparative "rabbits." There are, however, ways of securing a reasonable compromise, with results beneficial to the general standard of play and to the harmony of the club. It is, I think, a psychological truth that a happy club is likely to be a successful one.

An order of play which has proved popular and useful has for years operated in a club in the East London League. A rota of members is compiled, that is to say, players are listed in order of their arrival at the club, the first arrival having the option of playing any one of the next three on the list. For instance, No. 1 may select No. 4 for a set of games, leaving No. 2 with the choice for the next set of Nos. 3, 5 and 6, and so on. The names are crossed off the rota as players take the table and appended at the bottom when their set finishes. This system has the merit of giving all, in turn, a reasonable choice of opponent, and experience of this scheme has shown that the "rabbits" improve rapidly.

Each player finds himself eventually at the head of the list and players become thoroughly intermingled after the evening has progressed, thus obviating the tendency on the part of top-grade players to play exclusively with each other. Your team men won't like this, but to protect them against loss of form, certain evenings may be allotted them for practice exclusively among their fellow-teamsters.

HUNGARIAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS



G. FARKAS (Hungary)

IN Budapest from September 23rd to the 27th, there was a clash of table tennis giants. The event was the Open Budapest Championships played at the Budapest Sports Hall, in which world-famous Hungarian players like Sido, Koczian and world lady champion Miss Farkas battled with equally world-famous Czechoslovakian players Vana, Andreadis, Tokar, Marinko and Miss Hruskova. Play commenced at six in the evening of each day and continued until a late hour.

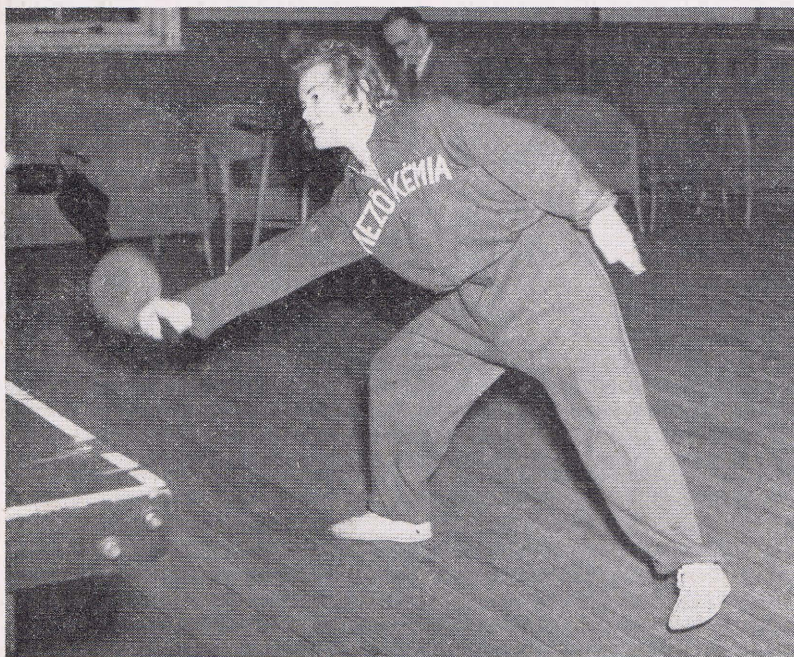
At each session the Sports Hall was filled to capacity.

Before she reached the semi-final of the Women's Singles, Gizi Farkas eliminated the Czech player Mrs. Gyorgy by three games to none, but in the semi-final she only just scraped home against a young Hungarian newcomer Edit Sagi, the score being 3-2. In the final she beat the Czech player Hruskova.

In the Women's Doubles, Miss Farkas was partnered by Rozsi Karapti who visited London for the World Championships in 1948, and in the semi-final the two beat Hungarians Harasi and Kiraldy, 3-0.

In a Women's Europe Cup Match played in May between England and Hungary, Miss Kiraly beat Betty Stevanton by two games to one.

The Women's Doubles final resulted in a win for Farkas and Karpati over the Czechs., Hruskova and Mrs. Gyorgy, while the Mixed Doubles Final found Farkas again in the final with fellow-countryman Sido, the two scoring a notable victory over Vana and Hruskova, 3-1. In the Mixed Doubles semi-finals, Vana and Hruskova beat Andreadis and Mrs. Gyorgy, 3-2, and Sido and Farkas



I. ANDREADIS
(Czechoslovakia)

ROZSI
KARPATI
(Hungary)

HUNGARIAN TEAM

Left to right :

F. SOOS, F. SIDO,
J. KOZCIAN



The performances of the young Hungarian girls Edit Sagi and Elizabeth Havasi made a considerable impression. A coming star is considered to be the left-handed boy-player Szepesi. At the age of one-and-half, Szepesi's right arm was paralysed, but he now plays so successfully with his left arm that he has been made a member of the Budapest KAOE team and has also been selected for the all-Hungarian team.

beat Koczian and Kiraldy, 3-1. World Champion Gizi Farkas thus captured three titles.

The Men's Doubles semi-final found all the big names together. Sido and Koczian, beat Vana and Star, 3-2, while Andreadis and Tokar beat Hungarian Swaythling Cup players, Soos and Varkonyi, 3-1. In the final, Andreadis and Tokar beat Sido and Koczian, 3-2.

The Men's Singles final was won by Andreadis over Koczian, and this result appears a pointer towards the next World Championship contest to be held in Budapest in February. Andreadis has yet to win the coveted world title, yet few will contradict that he would be a worthy champion. Koczian too has been making steady but sure progress during the last couple of seasons and it would be no surprise to see him carry off the event.

Younger Generation

Budapest sports' writers now consider that the older stars will soon be outshone by the rising younger generation of players.

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DOWN THE WHITE LINE THIS TIME DOWN UNDER

News from Australia and New Zealand

During the Barna/Bergmann tour of New Zealand which lasted throughout September, Mrs. Suzy Barna took ill and had to be left in hospital while the players continued their tour. When she left she was still under medical care. After New Zealand the two ex-world champions returned to Sydney for 4 days where more matches had been arranged, then on October 3rd they arrived once more in Melbourne but left the following day for India. The Indians had invited them to stay until the end of December for the All-Indian Championships (this title has been held by Andrew G. Millar and Ken Stanley) and also to coach the National team for the coming World Championships. This tempting offer had to be refused owing to other commitments.

* * *

Out of 30 days' stay in New Zealand, Victor and Richard played matches and exhibitions on 27 days. As one journalist remarked, "That's making hard work of it!" The three test matches were won comfortably by England, the scores being 5-0 on each occasion. Russell Algie was the only New Zealand player to figure in each of the tests and the newspapers gave him headlines one day after he had just lost one game to Barna 22-20. It will be remembered that Russell Algie played in the World Championships when they were staged at Wembley 2 years ago, working his passage by merchant steamer from New Zealand.

* * *

Russell Algie won the New Zealand championships beating the holder W. J. Fogarty in the final, scores being 21-6, 21-5 and 21-11. In the Women's Singles 18 year old Margaret Hoare retained her title, and in the final the attack of Miss J. Leathley could not break down the sound defence of the Wellington girl.

* * *

Approximately 11,000 players form the membership of the New Zealand Association, and taken from the angle of population this would place New Zealand at 5th place in world membership. Three open championships are sponsored by the Association which has its headquarters at Wellington, these events being the New Zealand Championships, North Island Championships, and South Island Cham-

pionships. Delegates from the 23 associations which form the National Body meet once a year and during the remainder of the year a committee of 11 residing in Wellington and nominated by outside Associations administrate the game. Victor Barna gave his view that New Zealand has more promising youngsters than in England, and that apart from Szabados and Lowen, the standard is higher than that of Australia. Three of the most promising youngsters intend to "work" their passage to England to gain a little experience before travelling to Budapest to take part in the Swaythling Cup and World Championships. Barna warned them they would likely finish at the bottom of the table, but that doesn't worry the New Zealanders. It is experience and not results that is wanted.

* * *

Wherever Richard Bergmann may go you can always rely on him to produce a ranking list. Richard has a sort of weakness for this exceptionally controversial item and his present tour has provided him two more opportunities. New Zealanders he ranks as follows: 1, Russell Algie; 2, W. Fogarty; 3, N. Brightwell; 4 and 5, K. Dwyer and R. Jackson; 6, J. Borough; 7, J. Crossley; 8, L. Wilson. *Ladies*: 1, M. Hoare; 2, J. Leithley.

The Australians he ranks as follows: 1, Szabados; 2, W. Lowen; 3, P. Anderson; 4, Mark Dankin. *Ladies*: 1, D. Schipp; 2, M. Stafford; 3, F. White.

* * *

Miss Mary P. Stafford, ranked above as No. 2 has now retired from the game. She won the South Australian title 1941-1946 and in 1948, she was also runner-up in the 1948 Australian National Championship. She is now giving her attention to the administrative side of the game and is a member of the South Australian T.T.A. Writing to *Table Tennis Review*, Miss Stafford says, "Mrs. Suzy Barna's charming personality was a great help to the tour particularly when she made her debut to public speaking in South Australia—henceforth Victor couldn't get a word in. This probably accounts for Richard's own inimitable responses of 'that goes for me too.'"

Mary goes on to write, "Your readers will probably be interested to hear that

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"Special" Model T.T. Bat ...	5/-
T.T. Bat to specification ...	6/6
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1 in. Tournament T. T. Table with turned legs ...	£30
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J. G. TOMS,

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South Australia differs from all other States in the Commonwealth in having black dull finish tables, making them very fast, and it is a noticeable feature that all top-line S.A. players develop a fast attacking game. Michael Szabados, when playing exhibition games in Adelaide in March of this year, considered that our tables could produce the fastest hitting players in the world, and similar views were expressed by Barna and Bergmann."

* * *

Victorian State Championships resulted in Dr. W. Lowen (one time Polish player) beating A. Vermont in the final, 21-10, 21-16, 21-16, while Miss F. White won the Ladies Singles against Miss E. Nichols, 21-18, 22-20.

* * *

The novelty games of Barna and Bergmann were always well received, Richard playing each shot while sitting on a chair, with Victor playing every shot except service from behind his bat. In one such game Victor suffered a defeat from a no less person than the Lord Mayor of Perth, which certainly puts His Worship on a very high plane.

YORKSHIRE OPEN

SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENT BY
RON ALLCOCK

IN our February-March issue of 1947 we mentioned two young boys as likely Swaythling Cup players, and at the Yorkshire Open Championships at Drighlington on October 15th, these two boys emphasised how youth is gradually coming into its own place at the top of table tennis. One of the boys, Ronnie Allcock of Manchester played brilliantly to beat Benny Casofsky, while the other, P. J. Walton (Halifax) put out Ken Stanley (Leypad). Both Casofsky and Stanley were the previous year's finalists, and both retired from the Singles event at precisely the same time and from adjoining tables.

After defeating Casofsky in good style Allcock put up a poor show against the Yorkshire County player G. Mitton, and only just scraped home with a win of 21-19 in the deciding game. The final, however, saw Allcock in a happier and more aggressive mood against an equally brilliant opponent, W. Pierce (Liverpool). The scores of 21-18, 18-21, and 21-18 gave Ron Allcock his second Open title within three weeks, the first being the East of England Championship.

Surprise of the tournament was the convincing wins of Peggy Allen, who captured her first "Open." In the second round she defeated Corbillon Cup player Betty Steventon then continued with a win over County player Miss M. G. Lightfoot. In the final she had clear wins of 21-13, and 21-8, over Miss Nora Senior. Peggy Allen plays the type of game which can be dull unless her opponent takes and maintains the attack, but at Yorkshire none of her victims were able to force the pace enough to break down her steady play.

Adele Wood was not impressive and retired early, losing to Mrs. C. Thompson (nee Claire Bullock). Mrs. Thompson reached the semi-final where she fell to Nora Senior.

FINAL RESULTS:

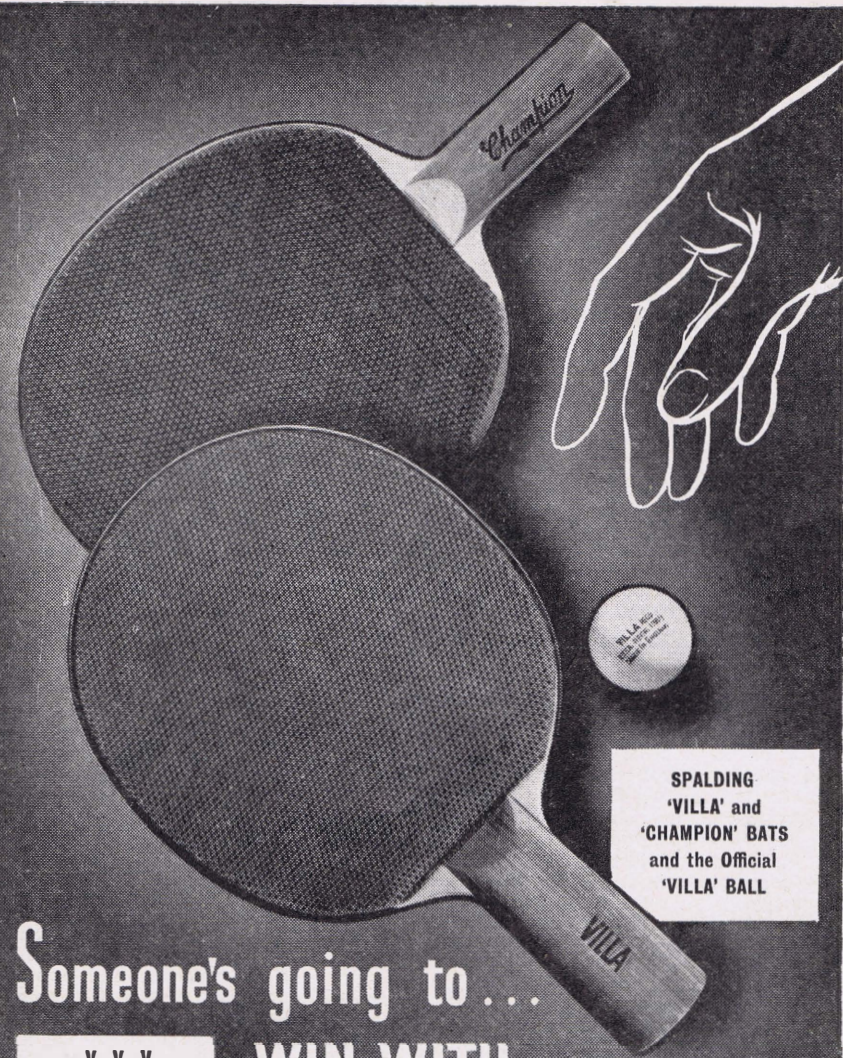
Men's Singles.—R. Allcock beat W. Pierce, 21-18, 18-21, 21-18.

Women's Singles.—P. Allen beat N. Senior, 21-13, 21-8.

Men's Doubles.—B. Casofsky and K. Stanley beat A. Holland and D. Shaw, 15-21, 23-21, 23-21.

Women's Doubles.—A. Wood and N. Senior beat J. Smurthwaite and J. Davidson, 21-19, 15-21, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles.—B. Casofsky and N. Senior beat W. Roberts and B. Steventon 21-19, 15-21, 25-23.



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How Many Players In *Your* Team?

By A. A. WALL (Sec. Wolverhampton T.T. Association).

THE Townsman T.T.C., top of the Shadborough League, had received a challenge from neighbouring Dowcester, to face *their* league champions, the redoubtable firm of Smith and Jones. The idea was attractive, but neither town had a suitable hall to put on a big show and it was, therefore, agreed to play the match at the mutually adjoining town of Oldwick, and all three to share the profits or losses.

Things went ahead in the short space of time allowed, and the fans of the three Leagues filled the Oldwick Hall so that the promoters and secretaries rubbed their hands with glee at the so promising a start for the coming season.

Sam Jones, captain of Smith and Jones, went into the changing room of the Townsman, for the thing was being done in style, and asked for the playing order of the Townsman team. There had been no time for programmes to be printed—as usual. "Oh," said Backhand Bill, pride and captain of the Townsman, "there's no need for that, each man will play each man on the opposing side."

"What," said Sam. "Twenty-five sets! We shall never finish them."

"No," smiled Bill. "Only nine sets. There are three players in a team."

"There are five players," retorted Sam.

"Three!" shouted Bill.

"Five!" bawled Sam.

At that moment in came the Oldwick Umpire, Jack. "What's the row? You chaps sound as though you have lost the ball at 5-3 and can't find another."

"Well," began Bill, "In Shadborough we play three players in a team, each playing a set against each of the other side, making a total of nine sets."

"And" chipped in Sam. "In Dowcester we play five in a team in order of merit, each playing the best of five games against his opponent."

"Oh," said Jack. "Well, you're in Oldwick now and according to our rules, you will have four players in a team and we have our own system of who plays which!"

What was the result of this debate nobody knows, except that some compromise was effected to soothe the waiting fans.

* * *

The point of this little tale is that Table Tennis is the one Sport where the formation of its teams is higgledy-piggledy. Football

and Cricket have their elevens, Rugby its 15 and 13 and never the twain do meet, Netball its 7 and so on. As for us, we can't settle this point and no one can answer the question, "How many players in a Table Tennis team?"

Slowly, but surely, there is a general tendency to play four single players and two doubles players in an inter-league side. Speaking for the Midland Counties League and South Staffs. League I know this is so. But even in this arrangement there is a loophole for there can be four, five or six players in a team.

I hope that the time will come when there is a set number in every match whether it be a local club, inter-league or international. Even at top there is a discrepancy between Men's and Ladies' teams. Let us fix a number now.

Three players in a team seems to me the fairest method, each player playing each, but it must be agreed that the more players in a team, the greater the tendency to even up the strength. Four players in a team is a little awkward. If each plays each, 16 sets is too long an evening. If 1 plays 1 and 2, 2 v. 1 and 2, 3 v. 3 and 4, 4 v. 3 and 4, eight sets is not long enough and would never be satisfactory for Cup K.O., for too many draws would soon ruin such a competition.

Five players with 1 v. 1 and 2, 2 v. 1 and 2, 3 v. 3 and 4, 4 v. 3 and 5, and 5 v. 4 and 5, would give a good length to a match but again we should have the draw. Where shall we finish, 3, 4 or 5?

I put forward a plea for uniformity, but frankly, and although I don't like it, I am afraid doubles must be mixed with singles. Therefore, although my own league has three players in a team at the moment, I would propose a team of four, with 1 v. 1 and 2, 2 v. 1 and 2, 3 v. 3 and 4 and 4 v. 3 and 4 together with two doubles matches, 1 and 2 v. 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 v. 3 and 4. In cup matches there should be only one doubles match, 1 and 2 v. 1 and 2. The last would make a team put its best two players as 1 and 2.

It doesn't matter in what order the players are graded, but the teams in order of play must be exchanged at the same time and no amendment allowed. If a substitute is required at the last minute through non-arrival of a player, he must take that players place.

Do I get any support?

For Ladies Only . . .

By PEGGY ALLEN

DURING the last few weeks I have been on the look-out for ideas of interest and I have collected quite a number of hints and tips which might or might not be new to you.

None of them is devastatingly original, but nevertheless, you may find that one or more would solve your own particular problem.

Badges

This business of club, town, or county badges often presents quite a considerable amount of trouble. I refer, of course, to the constant unpicking and sewing which is necessary each time you wash your table tennis shirt. (I hope you're not one of those people who washes the shirt complete with badge, because very few badges are made to withstand soap and water as you will have discovered no doubt.) A few press studs, one half sewn to the shirt and the other to the badge provide a quick and easy solution. The badge will stay clean a long, long time, but when cleaning does become necessary, rub it over lightly with a cloth soaked in lighter fluid. That should freshen it and bring up the colours again.

It has just occurred to me that it would save ironing trouble if you sewed the prominent halves of the press studs to the badge, and there won't be any danger of flattening them when you iron the shirt.

Talking of washing and ironing, I do think the American habit of washing socks and brassiere each evening is a splendid one. It ensures personal freshness. It is also a good idea to have at least two table tennis shirts and have those freshly laundered for each match.

Those Shoulder Straps

I wonder how many of you suffer from "shoulder-strap trouble"? This seems to be a positive "disease" among women—and not only when playing table tennis either!

It can be permanently cured by sewing thin tapes, about an inch long, on to the shoulder seam of your shirt or sweater.



PEGGY ALLEN

Attach the tapes at one end only, and leave the other two ends free with a press stud sewn to each.

When you have donned your shirt, gather your shoulder straps and enclose them between the two tapes. Snap the press studs and there you are! The straps are anchored and should cause you no further trouble. You can, of course, sew these into all your frocks, blouses, etc, but you will certainly appreciate the extra comfort for table tennis.

Shirts and Lower Garments

So far we seem to have been concerned solely with shirts, and before descending to lower garments I would like to describe a shirt which seems to solve the problem of constant tucking in.

If you are a good needlewoman or are thinking of having your shirt made by a dressmaker, buy a little extra material and make an "all-in-one." You'll be surprised at the sense of comfort and security it will give you.

This garment when worn with shorts or shirt, looks just like any other shirt, but when the shorts are removed you will note that the shirt becomes a pair of cami-knicks fastening with buttons between the legs. Thus it cannot possibly "ride up" and it also removes the necessity for briefs, which are normally worn as a separate garment. You might even convert your present shirt if it is long enough,

but please don't try it with a short shirt, I should imagine the result would be dreadfully uncomfortable—to say the least!

For those of you who like a cosy pair of briefs I have an excellent knitting pattern. You need only 2 ozs. of soft, three-ply wool and a couple of evenings at home—result—a neat, brief garment ideal for wearing with shorts, slacks, or skirt. Personally I prefer soft wool because it is more absorbent than the silk variety, and you won't be as liable to catch cold when you feel damp and clammy between strenuous games. I have made a pair myself and can highly recommend them.

If you would like this pattern or one for well-fitting ankle socks, I will forward on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope.

By the way, 2 ozs. of wool is sufficient for the normal hip size, but the Tessie O'Sheas among you will need slightly more, not to mention larger needles!

Do you really take care of your shorts and skirts as you should? A good brushing each time they are worn, regular sponging, pressing, and careful hanging: these things really pay in the long run, you know.

I find that hair clips slipped into the pleats are a quick and easy method of preserving their smartness, but if they are made of the kind of material which would mark easily, pin or tack the pleats at the hem.

We remember these things when dealing with our "best" clothes but seem woefully slack where our table tennis kit is concerned.

Some folk feel uncomfortable in shorts. They like the freedom, but feel slightly naked, and for them I recommend a very well cut, full, divided skirt. The Jaeger Company make an excellent model in grey flannel, sizes 10-16, price £4 3s. 4d.

this skirt is really full, and would be ideal for golf and cycling too.

The Jaeger Company also make flannel shorts in grey or navy, waist measurements 25" to 29", price £2 18s. 4d. These button at both sides, making adjustment a simple matter, and they also have a neat hip pocket for that awkward handkerchief.

If you prefer to play in a woollen sweater rather than a shirt, their utility number at 15s. 2d., 16s. 3d., 17s. 7d. according to size, is excellent value, and there is a choice of tan, sky, grey, lavender, nigger, cherry, pine green, etc.

Slacks and "jeans" can also be obtained from the same firm if you prefer that type of garment.

Most towns and cities have a Jaeger agency, but if you have any difficulty in obtaining any of these articles write to Jaeger House, 204-6, Regent Street, W.1., and I'm sure they will be glad to help you.

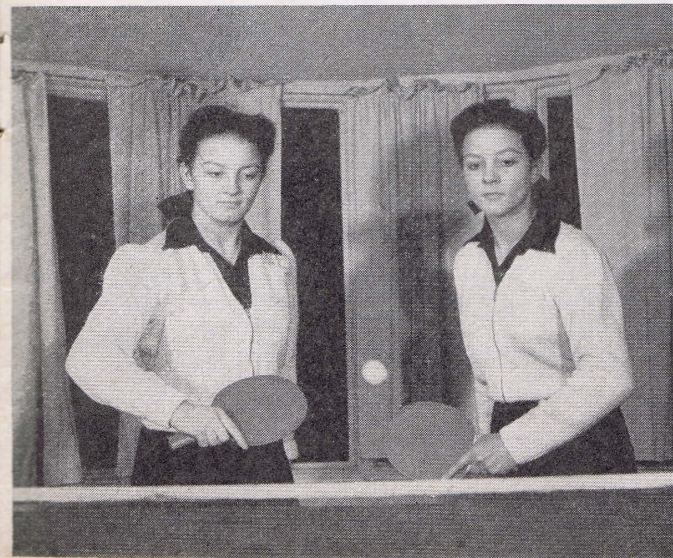
Do let's try to improve the standard of feminine dress this season. If each one of us takes just a little more care the combined effect will confound our sternest critics.

THE "ALL-WHITE" EXPERIMENT

International Geoffrey Harrower is to report to the E.T.T.A. that the all-white wear used by competitors in the Middlesex v. Rest of England match at Paddington Baths on October 21st was successful.

"With one table and good lighting white was not upsetting. I don't care to pass an opinion on what might happen in a not-so-well lighted hall with more than one table in action," he said.

General opinion of players is that white-clad competitors to either side of him, or passing to and fro in front of him and around him, might distract a player. Bad lighting, too, might easily upset vision.



The ROWE TWINS

Here are the now famous table tennis twins, Rosalind and Diana Rowe of Sudbury, Middlesex. Rosalind won the South of England Junior Championship last year while Diana was runner-up. Both are 16 years of age and hold 5 Women's Open Doubles titles. Rosalind has now hit the highlights by being included in the team to tour Czechoslovakia. Which is which? Well our only clue is that Rosalind is right-handed while Diana uses her left.

Too Young at Thirteen?

By Arthur Waite (The Editor)

Is a player too young at 13 to take up serious table tennis. One line of argument is that at 13 a youngster has still to grow and also to extend his arm length, consequently a couple of years later on his whole stance and hitting angle for shots will have to undergo a change. On the other hand a person grows so slowly it is likely that stroke execution adjusts itself as the body develops.

Thirteen year old Wendy Blades of Leeds may possibly settle this debatable point for us as she proceeds later into her teens. Sufficient to say at the moment that she has all the possibilities of a champion, and I don't mean just a Yorkshire champion either. She has perfect timing, a first rate forehand drive, a useful defence, nimble footwork and the big match temperament.

"And what are you going to be when you leave school?" I asked. Her cheeks dimpled and her eyes twinkled as she replied very emphatically, "A table tennis player."

I looked at Mr. Blades who stood nearby but he just smiled indulgently and I could see it was no use trying to convince him he would find it cheaper to persuade her to be a school teacher or something.

"So you want to be England's first full-time, professional lady player," I said.

"And coach," came the reply.

"Who did you see play to inspire you to take up the game?" I asked.

"Nobody, I just thought I would like to be a good player."

And so, for no reason explainable, at the tender age of 12, Wendy confessed her ambitions one night to her father, and father in the typical manner of all fathers who have daughters like Wendy, took steps that same week to give her what she wanted. Private coaching lessons were arranged with the Leeds ex-international Stanley Rosenberg. In the 18 months that have followed it is obvious Rosenberg has done excellent work, for in October last, coach and father felt the time was ripe to enter her in her first Open tournament.



WENDY BLADES WITH COACH S. ROSENBERG

It was at this event, the Yorkshire Open, that I saw her put up a very creditable performance, being defeated in the 2nd round by a player of no mean repute, Miss Nora Senior. Dressed in all navy-blue playing attire specially made for her, the dainty figure of Wendy Blades won the admiration of all present. In a very few years I feel convinced she will also thrill 10,000 people at Wembley Stadium.

After months of coaching Stanley Rosenberg considered the time had arrived for her to seek practice with other players, but this proved to be no simple matter. *She was too young for any club to accept her.* The Yorkshire County Association failed to make any arrangements and an appeal was sent to the English Association. At last a letter from London to a Leeds Club succeeded in opening up the way for Wendy to acquire regular practice . . . but at the club's next committee meeting there were some stormy discussions resulting in permission being withdrawn. Now Wendy is back where she started with no place to practise. One day some club may be glad to have her, but in the meantime here is a possible champion, neglected and pushed aside!

Victor Barna heard of Wendy's skill and when visiting a Leeds theatre with Alec Brook he invited her to come up on the stage and play him 11 points. Victor started by taking things easy with such a diminutive opponent, and his first shot went over with little or no back-spin. Wendy stepped in with a flashing forehand and the ball whizzed past the surprised maestro to lose itself in the wings.

Victor was impressed—so impressed that had he not been leaving for his Australian tour he would have suggested her going to London for regular coaching by him. "She's a possible world champion," he stated. And you would think so too if you saw her play.

EAST OF ENGLAND OPEN

(SKEGNESS, Sept. 24-25th, 1949)

FINALS

M.S.—R. Allcock bt. K. Craigie, 21-9, 21-15, 21-18.

W.S.—Miss J. Smurthwaite bt. Miss A. Bray, 9-21, 21-19, 21-15.

M.D.—B. Crouch and R. Turner bt. J. Head and K. Hurlock, 19-21, 21-18, 21-17.

MX.D.—P. Skerratt and Miss K. Peake bt. B. Crouch and Mrs. Lammin, 21-14, 21-18, 21-23.

W.D.—Miss M. Lightfoot and Miss S. Wood bt. Miss Grimston and Mrs. Bishop 19-21, 21-19, 21-13.

Y.S.—B. Cartwright bt. B. Hunt, 21-12, 21-13.

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VICTOR BARN

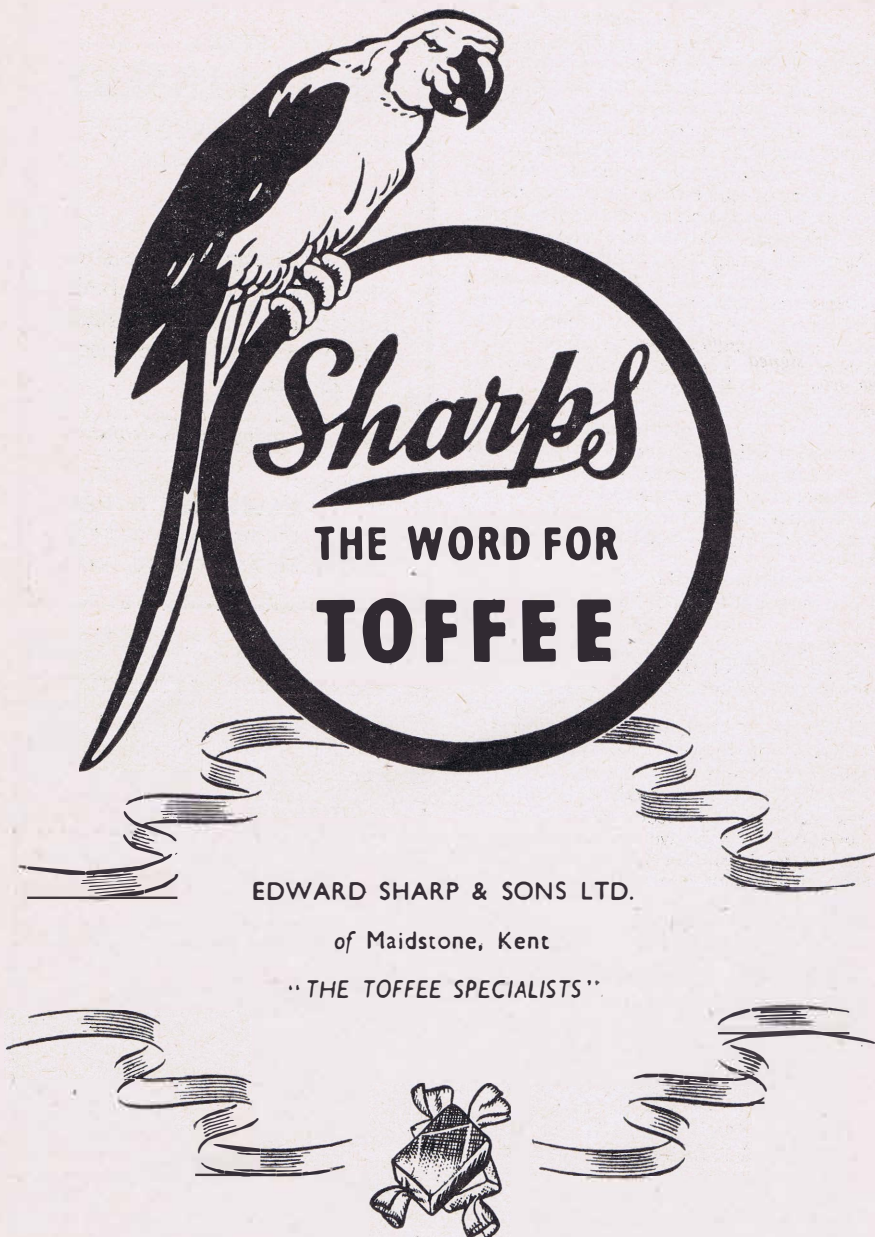
writes in

SPORTING RECORD

On TABLE TENNIS

Its News — Views — and Personalities

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Mail Bag . . .

I particularly liked the article which dealt with lighting, I would like to know more about it, especially how the wooden frames are made and assembled.

We in Royal Oak (which is a suburb of Detroit) were very much amused to learn that Thelma (Tybie) Thall's marriage should appear in your magazine before it did in our Table Tennis Topics. You were away ahead of us on that one.

EDWARD J. DICKENSON,
ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN.

Lucky for us that Tybie's marriage went to schedule. The item was set up in type before she had signed on the dotted line! As to the wooden frames for table lights that's something which will be useful for lots of folk over here and we will endeavour to include an article in the next issue. Keep off official mag . . . it's our idea! Editor.

How right you are, "N.U.J. Member!"

YOUR correspondent, "N.U.J. Member," has my heartiest approval in what he had to say about the poor publicity accorded by the press to table tennis (issue Sept./Oct.). As an N.U.J. member myself, and one who writes some 60,000 words per annum for various sporting journals on T.T., I know from grim personal experience how little help one can expect from the Association in matters relevant to publicity and news material.

My total "income" of news from the E.T.T.A. amounts to roughly two bulletins a season, plus the pathetically little I can glean in the course of regular telephone calls to the Association's offices from an official who, although always courteous, is apparently instructed not to be too revealing. Talk about Russia's Iron Curtain!

More than once I have phoned, been told that, "there's nowt doing," and the same evening or following morning have read T.T. items in the big-time press. Is this because I don't pay fees for news, because I am considered unimportant, or because those responsible just can't be bothered to do more than ring a press agency? I only know that if I had to rely on official sources for my news, I'd starve.

What I'd like to find out is why the official magazine contains many informative items, while certain influential persons also use quite a lot of inside dope in their own press writings. Why is this news not circularised to all sections of the press?

As for press facilities, I've never yet received a pass for any tournament without

having first applied for it. In fact, I am sometimes made to feel that I am being favoured when a ticket is sent to me on request. Is it any wonder that I don't wax enthusiastic or push the wares of any particular tournament more than is necessary? My feeling is that if T.T. big-shots don't give a hoot for me, why should I worry about them?

It is obvious to me that table tennis receives scant press publicity because that's all it deserves. That is a pity. The game, as a game, is a grand one, and so are many of the people in it. But it is being retarded by the lack of effort, cliqueishness and unco-operativeness of those who, instead of moaning about "poor publicity," should get wise to themselves—and quickly.

"N.U.J. Member" spoke a lovely mouthful. I hope it doesn't prove indigestible to those at whom it is directed.

You are at perfect liberty to supply my name and address if for any reason it should be requested.

JOURNALIST.

All you say, my boy, is true, only too true. But recently there have been one or two little flutters from Victoria Street which promises to increase into something really big-hearted. In any case it is probable that the E.T.T.A. offices will soon be removed to a famous square where a certain chap will be continually peering down on them muttering "England expects . . ." so be patient and expectant. Editor.

I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating you on the consistently high standard maintained in your magazine. I was particularly interested to read in the issue for September the first of the series of articles on Umpiring, for there appears to be far too little attention paid in general to this most important aspect of the game. Incidentally, I wonder if all the readers of "Down the White Line" realize the significance of the writer's nom de plume, Gossima? And how many know that our sport, in its infancy, once rejoiced (?) under the name of "Whiff-Whaff"? Would 10,000 people have been attracted to Wembley to see the World Gossima Championships or would hosts of enthusiasts have eagerly awaited the publication of each issue of "Whiff-Whaff Review"? Maybe a rose would smell as sweet by any other name, but I think that Table Tennis is best as it is.

D. HOLLAND,
WALLASEY.

That's a new one on us, sir. Where did you dig that one up from? Can you imagine that burly fellow Ferencz Sido proudly being hailed as a "Whiff-Whaff" champion! Editor.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE for UMPIRES

By LESLIE S. WOOLLARD
(Sec. Bedfordshire T.T.A.)

PART II—O.C.R.U.—A Scheme for Certificated Umpires

In presenting these proposals for Certified Umpires, it should be made quite clear that they are in no way official, but merely personal suggestions of the writer. All those enthusiasts who have the progressive development of our game at heart are warmly invited to send their constructive criticisms to the Editor. The resulting analysis of opinion can then be integrated into a concrete plan, which should be of exceptional value to the official E.T.T.A. Sub-Committee of Umpiring which is now in session.

The first desideratum is that every serious player (man and woman), shall be a reasonably efficient umpire, with a knowledge of the Laws, their spirit, and interpretation as expressed in the National code. This knowledge is an essential part of the game even for ordinary league matches.

Now there are several "grades" of matches, ranging from the lowest division league to world championship matches, so it is only common sense to grade umpires according to their experience and capabilities. Umpiring is of vital importance and in its higher spheres is certainly not a task which can be given to anyone. The "lucky dip" method of selection has already given far too much trouble.

A good umpire can, and should, in his own specialised field, rank in equality with players of equivalent standard, i.e., county, league, etc. His qualities should entitle him to a status of some dignity and respect in accordance with the type of certificate he has merited.

I am therefore proposing the four following grades of certificate:

Grade	Full Title	Granting Authority
U	Umpire	League
LU	League Umpire	League
CU	County Umpire	County Association
OCRU	Officially Certificated Referee and Umpire	E.T.T.A. Panel

To ensure some national unity of standard, it is desirable that some minimum requirements be expected for each grade, so that any certificate will represent near enough the same quality of umpiring anywhere in the country. That is why the higher grades must have a higher granting authority.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADES

Certificate "U."—The probationary stage. Initiate applies to be put on League's Register of Umpires. He must satisfy the appropriate League Committee that he has sound and up-to-date knowledge of the Laws and that he will undertake to ensure their observance and implementation faithfully, with such interpretations as may be promulgated from time to time by the proper authority. Must have had some experience of umpiring.

Certificate "LU."—This certificate will be granted by the responsible League Committee when the applicant has satisfied them that he has an intimate and up-to-date knowledge of the Laws of Table Tennis, their authoritative interpretation, and the Umpires' Code; he must know the Rules of his league and general match regulations for the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl competitions; have a sound idea of the organisation of table tennis and a thorough comprehension of match conditions.

In addition, evidence of practical experience will be an essential qualification, the applicant's record showing that he has satisfactorily umpired a minimum of 12 ties (2 of which shall be doubles) in matches of public performance, e.g., inter-league, tournament finals, etc. The name should be submitted to the County Executive Committee for approval.

Certificate "CU."—Applications for this certificate shall be made to the County Executive Committee after the approval and recommendation of the local league. The candidate should have held an "LU" certificate for a period of 12 months, and may be tested on any matters required for the "LU" certificate, and in addition shall know the principal rules of the National County Championships and a general knowledge of the Rules and Regulations of the County Association and the E.T.T.A.

The practical qualification will be that he has satisfactorily umpired a minimum of 6 ties (one of which shall be a doubles) in inter-county matches or county closed tournament or equivalent, certified on his record.

Certificate "OCRU."—The Blue Riband of Umpiring which also marks the holder as a qualified referee. This certificate can only be awarded by the Panel of Referees and Umpires of the E.T.T.A.

In addition to being the holder of a "CU" certificate a candidate must have knowledge of the Constitution of the International Table Tennis Federation, Disciplinary Regulations, Regulations for International Competitions, World Championships, Swaythling and Corbillon Cups; he shall be able to efficiently organise an Open Tournament, including the preparation of rules and scheduling, etc.

Practical qualifications will include certain minimum match umpiring at international level and the full certificate "OCRU" will not be ratified until he has functioned as a referee of a tournament of county ranking.

On final graduation, the O.C.R.U. will become an *ex-officio* member of the Panel of Referees and Umpires of the E.T.T.A.

How the Scheme would be operated

The grading scheme will preclude the main burden falling on the higher authorities such as the county and the E.T.T.A. The only activity of the E.T.T.A. would be the initial laying down of conditions, standards and the Umpire's Code; the preparation and design of Certificate-Record Cards, and the final examination of

those select few qualifying for OCRU ranking.

Each league can appoint its own Committee or Umpire's Panel which can have its own Hon. Secretary to maintain the register and records, etc. The league will purchase a small quantity of the Cards from the E.T.T.A.

The cards will be ruled to carry the holder's record of practical qualifications (e.g., matches) and their certification, so that the umpire can continue his upward progress in whatever he may move to.

The first step will be for the intending umpire to register with his league, pay a nominal registration fee to cover cost of card, etc., and receive his certificate "U."

All programmes, tournaments, matches and their reports (wherever possible) should bear the name and certificate ranking of the referee and umpires, since their importance and status must be recognised by everyone in the game.

Eventually, no Open Tournament should be sanctioned unless it is under the control of an O.C.R.U. and the entry form shall clearly state his name and ranking, and also the status of the umpires concerned.

Once this, or a similar scheme of certificated umpires is promulgated, there should arise not only a higher standard of conduct and rule observance, but also a big increase in competent umpires at the service of now harassed officials, thus preventing more of the unfortunate incidents of the past.

Competent umpires, when duly qualified, shall also have the authority to report any player's misconduct to his local Panel, and with the approval of the referee, a complaint may be made through official channels for disciplinary action to be taken against the offender. This is one of the best ways of discouraging "stars who don't shine" but it can only be done when there is official recognition of the competence of the umpire.

This then, is my draft proposal, and I now cordially invite you all to "tear it to pieces" in our search for the best possible solution. It is an urgent matter which affects us all. You must have an opinion on it and that opinion is important enough to let us have. The scheme might commence for next season so write now while your arguments are still fresh in mind.

Have You Any Questions?

In his next article, the writer will be dealing with the interpretation of laws, etc., and readers are invited to send specific queries to the Editor so that, if of general interest, they can be included.

What They Say . . .

All-White Craze

I feel that if players are compelled to find white clothing for their games, many potential champions—not to mention many of those players who are the backbone of all sports, the ones who play for the fun of the thing—would be lost.

JOHNNY LEACH—*Reveille.*

Ferencz Sido

I have heard that the Hungarian star, Ferencz Sido is showing immense improvement. This must mean that he has strengthened his defence, or—more likely—has managed to bring his mighty hitting under control. If there is any truth in these reports, we shall see a lot of fun next year, for Sido, the Jack Dempsey of table tennis, will most certainly make a tremendous bid for the World's Singles title.

VICTOR BARNA—*Dumdee T.T. Bulletin.*

T.T. Enthusiasm

If you want a real thrill come to Wanganui, New Zealand. Never in my life have I witnessed such wild scenes of enthusiasm. At Wembley, after the final of the 1948 World Championships, total strangers were seen to embrace each other with tears of joy streaming down their faces, and the solid Empire Pool shook with the roar from some 15,000 lusty throats. But this was a mild and well mannered affair by comparison with the din of the Maoris who clapped and cheered themselves almost into hysterics. Such spirit certainly more than compensates for any lack of "class."

RICHARD BERGMANN—*Cavalcade.*

Russell Algie

Russell Algie won the New Zealand championships easily and people who remember seeing him in London in 1948 may perhaps think that his win does not say much for the standard of play in New Zealand. The fact is, however, that Russell is a very much improved player than the Algie we saw in London 18 months ago. His defence is solid; and he can hit too.

VICTOR BARNA—*Sporting Record.*

I am against men wearing shorts, except with the younger players. In table tennis the audience are usually close to the players and most of the elder men I have seen in shorts are not what I would term elegant.

ALEC BROOK—*Sunday Empire News.*

League Handbook Competition

Our two judges, Mr. D. W. Poupard (London) and Mr. L. Grounsell (Bournemouth), differed in their views as to which was the best and most useful league handbook and so we decided to award one guinea to the funds of the league chosen by Mr. Poupard and also one guinea to the choice of Mr. Grounsell. We invite league secretaries to send in their handbooks for this season as soon as possible.

My Choice, Cheltenham

By D. W. POUPARD
(E.T.T.A. Secretary 1930/32.)

Fortunately for me, the number of handbooks submitted for this competition was small, but it is disappointing that so few League Secretaries were willing to submit their hand-books. Speaking generally, the contents of the hand-books submitted followed a general style, but I am sorry to say that the printing and layout of many of the books leaves a lot to be desired, and in one or two cases was little short of being deplorable; and it is not small leagues that produce these very second-rate-looking hand-books.

In judging the merits of the books I have tried to concentrate upon the word, "usefulness." If a League Committee thinks it is necessary to have pages of rules so as to control their league, that fact should not, I think, detract from the usefulness of the hand-book, but I must admit that pages of rules and regulations do not endear me to that particular league, and I am afraid that I also have rather a bias against League Charts for determining fixtures.

I am pleased to note that even some of the bigger leagues do not adopt this method, but clearly lay out all the fixtures week by week. Taking the "utility" outlook as my basis, I have summarised the contents of the various hand-books, and have given a mark, or half a mark, as the case may be, against the following headings:

Officers	Personalities
Secretary's Report	Suggestion Flyleaf
Rules of League	Results Sheet
Records	Notes
Diary	Foreword
Hints on Playing	Balance Sheet
Conditions	Fixtures
Covers and Printing	E.T.T.A. Rules
Index to Contents	Entry Form for
Index to Advertisers	Championships
Club Particulars	Shape

Some of these headings are admittedly unimportant, but the inclusion of them helps to make the hand-book more useful to the individual club member, which is

the sole criterion in my opinion of a good hand-book. The listing is not in order of priority, but just as the items came to my mind.

No hand-book secured the full total of 20 marks, but *Cheltenham* won with a total of 17, followed by *Nottingham* with 13, with two others in very close proximity, *Wolverhampton* and *Birmingham*.

In conclusion, might I suggest that leagues should consider the inclusion of the E.T.T.A. rules in their hand-books, because there are numerous occasions on which to have the correct knowledge of the laws of the game is most important. I personally like the inclusion of a Foreword, by the Chairman and Secretary's Report, because I think that it helps to bring a personal touch from the officers of the league to the rank and file club member.

I sincerely hope that my remarks will be found of assistance generally, by league secretaries throughout the country.

My Choice, Worcester

By G. L. GROUNSELL
(Former Chairman of Hampshire Assoc.)

My choice goes to the Worcester and District League, close runner-up being Acton and District. The contents of all handbooks are basically the same, all having officers of the league, rules, fixtures, records, club secretaries, addresses, etc., plus various additions, such as, suggestion spaces, personalities, room for notes, advertisements, etc., but I do not think these additions should be allowed to increase the size of the book to any unwieldy proportions, for after all they must be of a size convenient to carry in pocket or handbag. Some leagues favour a code system, simple and otherwise for their fixtures (personally I do not), but does this really save space? I wonder. By the way, I do wish every league could reserve space for Open Tournament dates. These are important and interesting events—perhaps some younger players do not realise how important! As for printing, well many could have been a lot better. A poor impression is given when the front cover is neither printed centrally or perfectly perpendicular.

BIRMINGHAM

BEST PROVINCIAL OPEN

HAVE you ever seen a really perfect, tournament—perfect in every department—lighting, playing conditions, timing of events, public seating accommodation and playing standard of competitors? You had the opportunity of seeing all this on October 22nd at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Birmingham, the event being the Birmingham Open, where over one thousand people witnessed the evening's finals.

Writing in *Reveille* Johnny Leach referred to it as the "English Closed," but it was a bit more than that—for a strong contingent from Wales took part.

On the previous Sunday 300 local competitors had competed in a qualifying tournament, and this, as Secretary Maurice Goldstein remarked, left nothing but the best for the following Saturday to enter the competition proper along with good class players from all parts of the country.

A chart pinned on the wall showed the time for each match and number of the table. Fifteen minutes were allowed for each match and the system was an outstanding success. "It is the only way of running a tournament," one official remarked. Total entries for the Saturday was 325.

Outstanding Results

H. Venner (London), who a week previously had defeated Jonny Leach in a Surrey v. Essex match went out in the second round to another London player J. Head. It will be remembered that in the English Open, Head reached the quarter finals by beating French star Guy Amouretti. Johnny Leach, defending his Birmingham title accounted for Head in the fourth round, 21-8, 21-14.

Other fourth round results were: Casofsky beat Kriss, L. Adams (London) beat Ron Baker (Manchester) and Aubrey Simons (Bristol) beat Bernard Crouch (London).

In previous rounds Ron Baker beat W. T. Poole (Birmingham), Aubrey Simons beat M. Thornhill (London) and C. A. Pickett (Bristol) beat R. J. McKay (Birmingham). McKay was suffering from an injured foot, while his sister Jean was unable to compete owing to sickness.

In the semi-finals newcomer L. Adams took the first game from Simons, playing aggressively with nothing but forehand, mostly from the backhand corner of the table, but Swaythling Cup player Simons

soon gained the mastery and took the next two with ease.

Casofsky's match with Leach was a little disappointing. Benny thrilled the crowd with some terrific hitting but Johnny succeeded in getting the majority of the points, and the scores of 21-12, 21-10 really did not do justice to the Manchester player.

The final between Leach and Simons was as good a final as has been seen for a long time. The two were finalists in the previous year's event and on that occasion Simons took the first two games, but Jonny rallied and won the next three. At one time this looked like being repeated, for Simons again took the first two but Johnny again levelled the scores at two all. Then we saw some really first class play. Simons was obviously a much-improved player to the previous season, for his hitting was maintained for longer periods, while his very severe chop reduced the world champion's attack to nothing more dangerous than slow top-spin drives. Non-playing English Captain, Adrian Haydn watching the final had a few words of admiration for the manner in which Simons counter-hit down the middle of the table. "That's a very difficult shot to execute and a most difficult one to return," remarked Haydn. Simons took the fifth and deciding game, 21-12.

Exciting Mixed Doubles

The Mixed Doubles event J. Leach and Miss P. Franks v. Miss Margaret Fry (Bristol) and Bob Griffin (Cheltenham) was really one of the most exciting matches of the tournament. Both Miss Fry and

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Griffin played some really first class table tennis. Margaret Fry plays county lawn tennis for Gloucestershire. She is 21 years of age, and from her display at Birmingham it may not be so long before international table tennis honours come her way. With the match standing at one game all, the third and deciding game went to twenty all, but still the Gloucestershire pair kept up their attack. At 22-21 in favour of Griffin and Fry, the West country girl played an amazing corner to corner forehand drive which found the world famous Londoners completely out of position.

Men's Singles—A. Simons beat J. Leach, 22-20, 21-19, 19-21, 15-21, 21-12.

Men's Doubles—B. Casofsky and A. Simon beat K. Hurlock and J. Head, 21-18, 21-8.

Women's Singles—P. Franks beat B. Steventon, 21-17, 21-10.

Women's Doubles—E. Weaver and M. Fry beat E. Pomroy and M. Pickett 21-14, 18-21, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles—B. Griffin and M. Fry beat B. Casofsky and A. Bates, 21-10, 21-14.

Boys—P. Smith (London) beat D. Burridge (London), 21-18, 21-8.

Girls—D. Banks (Crewe) beat A. Jones (Liverpool), 22-20, 5-21, 21-17.

EHRlich COACHES THE IRISH

The Leinster branch of the Irish T.T.A. made an effort during October to improve the standard of play by engaging A. Ehrlich, former Polish player and winner of the 1936 English Open, to coach throughout the Province.

Ireland is looking forward to making better progress during the present season. There are a number of promising young boys, Ernie Allen and Norman Brown (Belfast) and Pat Maher (Dublin) being among the hopefuls for future international honours.

The form of Ireland's No. 1 player, Ivor Martin, is now even better than ever, but in the young international Joe Fox (Portrush) he faces a stiff challenge to his position.

The Irish Association is 10,000 strong and at the annual general meeting, Mr. Norman Wilson, 128, Sandown Road, Belfast, was again elected as Honorary Secretary. The Irish Open is to be held in Dublin during November and the Leinster Open will be run later in the season. The only date fixed for an international match is the one against England at Belfast on November 10th.

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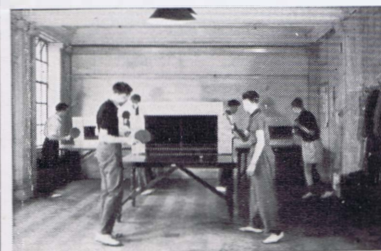
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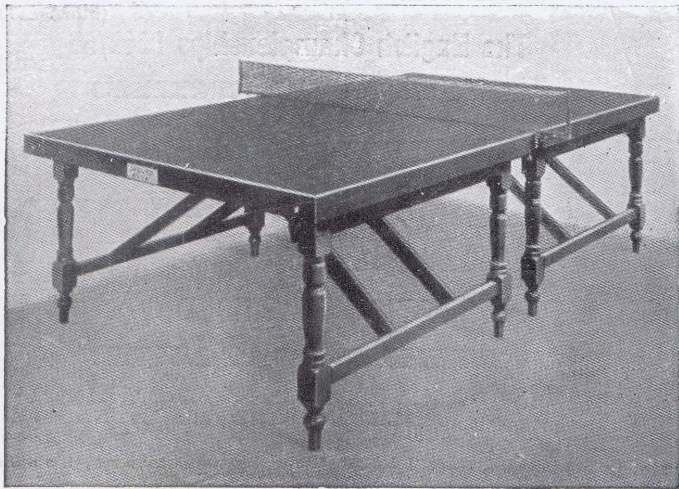
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