

Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 5 No. 3

MAR.-APR., 1951



NEWS



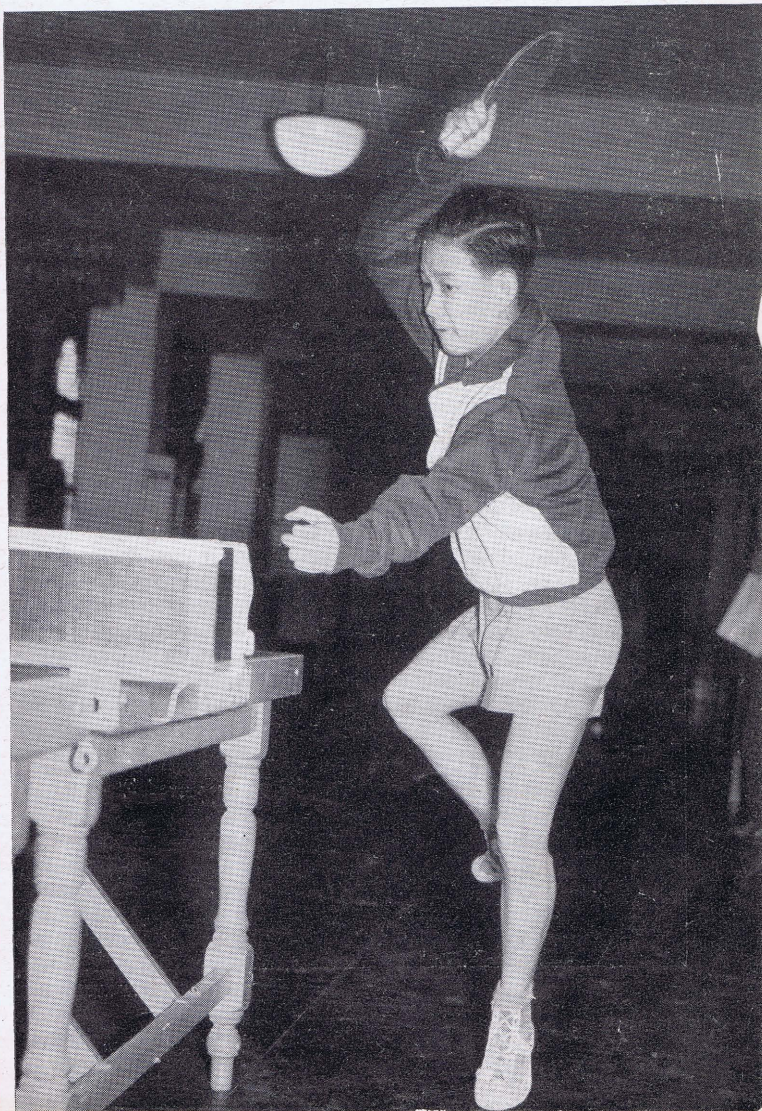
VIEWS



HINTS



COVER PORTRAIT
TRUN VAN LIU
(Vietnam)





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TABLE TENNIS

REVIEW

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Vol. 5 No. 3

MARCH/APRIL, 1951

One Shilling

Editorial Notes

I HAVE to sincerely apologise for a slight deviation in the publishing dates of "Table Tennis Review." Because of a slow recovery from illness the magazine has not appeared too punctually this season and, in fact, I found it necessary to postpone the January/February issue until now. To complete the five issues for the season there will be issues on April 10th and May 10th. May I take this opportunity of thanking well-wishers in all parts of the world for their kind letters of friendly concern.

* * *

I am always delighted to receive letters and articles from readers giving all shades of opinion, and in the case of material published, "Table Tennis Review" does not necessarily agree with the author's views. We have been to great lengths to give readers both sides of the Bergmann affair, culminating with two strong letters from well-known South African T.T. personalities. There is little more that can be said and candidly we must admit that it is time suspension was lifted. Severe punishment has been administered—and, indeed, it is severe punishment when table tennis is a person's career and, also, that person is not allowed to defend his world's title. To the E.T.T.A. we echo the words of one of our contributors: "You have had your pound of flesh. . . ." Isn't it time we let by-gones be by-gones?

* * *

In this issue there is severe criticism here and there of the manner in which the English Selection Committee goes about its business. Few bouquets are handed to Mr. Montagu and, while we prefer to make no comments about the choice of the team (after all, no team is likely to satisfy everyone), we do feel that in the past the choosing of internationals has been done in a peculiar sort of way. There have been instances where members of the Selection Committee have not known about the make-up of an English team until they have seen it in the Press. We have the utmost admiration for Mr. Montagu's knowledge of international table tennis and he most certainly brings wisdom and good counsel to that committee, but he should be supported or opposed by members who also have a sound knowledge of capabilities of English players. The three non-playing captains who are members of the committee and receive an attractive trip abroad once or twice a year at the expense of the Association ought to be present at more open tournaments so that they may acquire a sounder knowledge of the country's players than they at present possess.

* * *

May we remind readers that paper supplies are once again restricting our circulation and to make sure of your copy you should place an order with your newsagent. All you need to do is to ask that worthy gent to deliver you copies as they appear. If he says he can't obtain copies will you tell us, please. Your postage will be refunded.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

During the month of February last Ehrlich, winner of the English Open has been in Austria coaching the Austrian team in readiness for the World Championships.

One of our readers has written criticising comments and rules appertaining to "chisellers." He says: "Surely no table tennis served up by established players can be called uninteresting. We should leave them alone and let them play their own game." Well, we had better let that one pass. It's all a matter of taste I suppose, but personally I feel awfully let-down when I decide to give a friend a treat and take him to see some stars in action and all we get is a super dose of "ping pong."

A dance, cabaret and table tennis exhibition, organised by the Yorkshire Association was held on January 19 at Bradford. Five hundred dancers were present and the programme was cut in the shape of a T.T. bat. During the exhibition played by Victor Barna and Jack Carington, the ball boys and girls were dressed in Hungarian national costumes. Coach trips were run from all parts of Yorkshire.

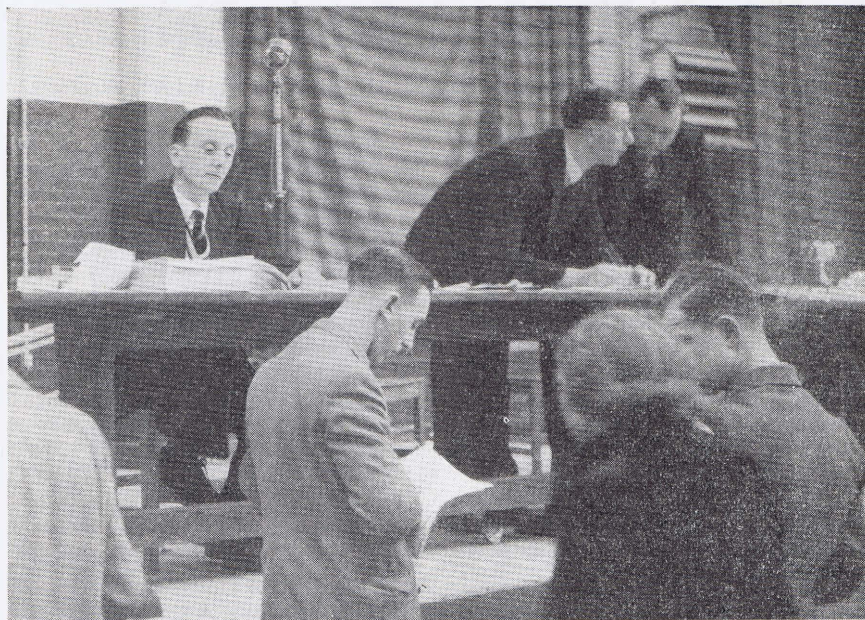
We have a warm friendly letter from a U.S. reader, Jack Boyer, who writes: "I think you have a fine magazine and I am glad to receive it. I wonder if some of your readers would care to correspond with me, male or female." For those interested, the address is: 2,111 N. Wahsatch Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S.A.

Mary Stafford, ex-top-ranking Australian player, tells us: "Since my retirement from active play, two years ago, I think I have worked harder for table tennis than ever before. I was lucky enough to be elected to the Executive Council of the S.A.T.T.A., and you can imagine that many duties come my way. We are all working hard in readiness for the next Australian Championships, to be held in August in Adelaide. This year it will be part of the Commonwealth Jubilee celebrations and we are getting help from the S.A. Government in the expensive matter of trophies, etc."

The three New Zealand boys, Jack Borough, Trevor Flint and Jack Knowsley (ages 25, 23 and 24 respectively) have no doubts that their four months' table tennis holiday in Europe has been worth every penny. Trevor told us that by the time they arrive back in New Zealand the total costs for each one will be around the £400 figure, but they have been buying souvenirs of all kinds, mostly T.T. bats of all makes, T.T. books and sports kit etc. An additional large size travelling trunk has been an extra expense for each of the three boys. When they go back home they will take with them many happy memories and the one they expect to live the longest is the amazing and generous hospitality which was extended to them wherever they went in England. "It would take us too long to write and thank everybody personally," they said, "and we should like, through your 'Table Tennis Review,' to say how much we appreciate the warm friendliness of everyone we met." Their one hope when they go back is that they will be able to pass on to fellow New Zealanders some of the hints and tactics they have picked up during their table tennis experiences abroad.

The Australian Victorian T.T. Association have made a bold step in planning to establish their Headquarters next year at the famous Wirth's Olympia. It is proposed to install ten tables with special lighting and also to have showers and dressing rooms. Applications are now being received for 250 Foundation Members. Fees are three guineas for seniors and two guineas for juniors. Immediately the required number has been received no further applications for Foundation Members will be considered. Such members will be entitled to use the club rooms for unlimited play when open (which will be five evenings per week for six months, April to September) except of course when official events are taking place.

The Chinese Ping Pong Club of the Philippines is about to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Nearly every week matches and exhibition games take place and results are always featured in English and Chinese newspapers. The matches take



WELSH OPEN - STEWARD'S TABLE. L. to R. Grove Motlow (Newport), Fred Reiple (Cardiff) and Ormond Thomas (Swansea). Johnny Leach in foreground.

place at night and often go on until two or three o'clock in the morning. Crowds of a few hundred attend these events. Secretary, Mr. Soo K. Chuan, tells us that they are about to publish a booklet in honour of their thirty years history and he would be glad to receive messages and photographs from top-ranking players. Any players who would like to send such a message to Mr. Chuan may post to "Table Tennis Review" office and we will forward by Air Mail.

Bill Vint, E.T.T.A. Hon. Treasurer, writes: "In the account of the Victor Barna Presentation your correspondent did not get the correct interpretation about the intention with regard to the balance of the fund. The greater part was to be spent in the purchase of a suitable trophy to be awarded annually to the player who had done most for the game, and the balance to be invested in a fund to be devoted towards helping Juniors attend tournaments."

John McIlveen, writing in the Official Magazine, accuses Pinkie Barnes of throwing her match away against Trudi Pritzi in the English Open. He says: "What a shocking display of deliberately employed tactics by one of our finest

women players. I was astounded to see that she continued to attack against Pritzi because any attempt to 'play out time' would be distasteful to spectators." Well, that's just an old argument coming up once again. We all know Miss Pritzi—Queen of the Chisellers is her title—and we also know that great-hearted attacking player, Miss Barnes. It is a matter of taste who you prefer to watch. Personally I say: "Fiddlesticks" to McIlveen. More players like Pinkie and even Wembley wouldn't be big enough to stage a table tennis event. More players like Trudi and the English Open could be held in the local Parochial Hall. I admire you Pinkie for your determination to be satisfied with nothing less than a really glorious win.

WELSH OPEN

(Cardiff, December 9.)

- M.S.: J. Leach beat A. Simons, 13, 15, 19.
- W.S.: R. Rowe beat D. Rowe, 17, 15.
- M.D.: J. Leach and A. Simons beat V. Barna and A. Hydon, 12, 17.
- W.D.: M. Franks and G. Roland beat A. Bates and E. Steventon, 15, —12, 18.
- B.S.: W. Pittard beat W. Riley, 17, 20.
- G.S.: D. Spooner beat S. Jones, 7, 12.

OUT WITH YES-MEN . . .

By SAM KIRKWOOD

THE E.T.T.A.'s selection committee have come in for bitter criticism following the choosing of the Swaythling Cup and Corbillon Cup sides. One personality, with a knowledge of the "inside" and with no axe to grind, had this to say: "It is time incompetent yes-men were sacked to make way for experts who know their job. Our so-called selectors have made a really bad job of it." On the heels of this opinion, another followed it also from a well-known figure who speaks with authority: "The national executive has too many yes-men and yes-girls who pander to Ivor Montagu, who is allowed to have his own way to ridiculous lengths."

Those criticisms come from higher-ups. Lower down the grade there is equal bitterness at what is generally condemned to be astonishing incompetence. And truly, we are justified in asking what on earth Ron Crayden has done to go as our representative to Vienna? Ron's a nice bloke, but he's no Swaythling Cup player, not by a million miles. Vera Thomas, too, seems to be the apple of someone's eye. She has done little this season to justify a Corbillon Cup place. Obviously she is going on the form she displayed three seasons ago. Whether she will show the same form in Vienna is to be doubted, if we are to go by her one or two public showings this season.

There is also the mystery of the Keith Hurlock international badge to be cleared. Keith rates no higher than third or fourth in his club, Wimbledon T.T.C., and has been unable to gain a place in his county (Surrey) second side, yet he gets an England shirt in preference to men with better open tournament records. Two players far more deserving of recognition are Tony Miller (Wimbledon) and Len Adams (West Ealing), both of whom are more consistent and reliable than the hard-hitting, but terribly in-and-out, Hurlock.

Others I consider more worthy of international recognition than the Surrey man, are Bill McCave (Essex), Maurice Kriss (Warwick). Ronnie Baker (Lancs.), and about seven or eight other players of the same class. If you think I don't rate Keith highly, you don't think wrong. . . .

Cover Portrait
TRUN VAN LIU
(Vietnam)



SAM KIRKWOOD

A man lissome Peggy Allen and rugged "Pinkie" Barnes would delight in throttling and throwing to the vultures, is a Bishopsgate T.T.C. player. Playing for Parker Street in a league game, the girls were infuriated by this male player's fooling and assing around. He chiselled insolently, messed around arrogantly, and altogether gave the impression that the girls were, as players, beneath contempt and certainly not worth *his* best efforts. The girls said afterwards that they would have been happy had he played his darnedest and smacked them off the table. But clowning they couldn't and wouldn't stomach. I sympathise with them. If men feel it beneath them to play against women, they shouldn't go to the table. To belittle them in play is not only boorish manners, but downright stinking sportsmanship. The player in question, incidentally, performed in such pantomimic fashion that his own clubmates asked him if he had learned his ping-pong at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

* * *

I have been asked if I am anti-Johnny Leach. Let me say here and now that I think Johnny a fine sport, a nice type of person, and a first-rate player. I merely maintain, and have maintained, that he is not a great player, lacking as he does fire and consistency. Can one seriously rate him on a par with Barna, Bellak, Bergmann, Vana? I go on record again as saying that Aubrey Simons is a better player and capable of greater things than the 1947-48 world champion. O.K., hounds; now pant for my blood.

The French Open

By Aubrey Simons (English Swaythling Cup)

THE countries represented in the French Open were New Zealand, Belgium, Viet Nam, Saar, Holland, France and England, and the early rounds were played in the Racing Club de France, which is the most exclusive club in France. Here we found the conditions not too bad in comparison with those we usually experience abroad, although the French tables were still very slow. There was only one light over each end of the table and the balls used equivalent to our one cross, star or crown.

Johnny Leach and myself knew what to expect, but Diana and Rosalind Rowe soon adapted themselves extremely well and walked through their earlier rounds.

On the first day Cor Du Buy (Holland) surprised everyone by beating Roothoft (France) three games to two after losing the first two games. All credit is due to the Dutchman for this fine win, but those of us who watched the match agreed that Roothoft took it too easily, playing more in the manner of an exhibition. When Du Buy managed to break through in the third game he found it difficult to tighten up his play.

Another surprise was the defeat of Lanskoj (France) by Roland (Belgium) 3-1. Lanskoj, however, although still dangerous, is not the player we knew three years ago when he defeated Richard Bergmann in the English Championships.

It was good to have Victor Barna with us, although he competed only in the Men's Doubles partnering Haguenaeur, and in the Mixed Doubles with Mdm. Vannoni.

In the quarter-finals there were one or two surprises and unfortunately one of them concerned our Diana Rowe, who was beaten by Mdl. Beolet (France) 3-1. The latter is well known in France and has represented her country on many occasions in Corbillon Cup matches. She is the whole set-up of the selection committee, and the way they work, is farcical. It's just a body of yes-men."

Ernie and the E.T.T.A. have never loved each other, but the player's opinion on the selection committee is one widely shared. Mr. Montagu had better do a little pulling up of socks if he hopes to put a stop to the really ripe criticism going the rounds about him and his set-up.

To revert to Bublej. He hopes to take off a stone or so of weight, practise regularly, and show just how few players there are in England who can beat him, veteran though he is.

Rosalind Rowe defeated Mdm. Vannoni in a quarter-finals match without losing a game. Later the Rowe twins won the Ladies' Doubles event, winning every round, including the final without dropping a single game.

In the Men's quarter-finals, Cor Du Buy caused yet another sensation by beating Ehrlich in three straight games. Leach easily disposed of Roland, while I had a grim struggle with Amouretti before winning 3-2.

What seemed to be one of the most exciting games was the Mixed Doubles event when Ros Rowe and myself beat Johnny and Di Rowe, scores being 13-21, 17-21, 21-15, 21-18 and 21-19.

On finals night Johnny Leach gave a confident display in one semi-final against Du Buy, winning 17, 17 and 16, but in the other semi I had a battle royal with Haguenaeur and as the scores indicate I only just managed to get home, although in the fourth game Michel went to pieces. Scores: 23-21, 19-21, 25-23, 21-4.

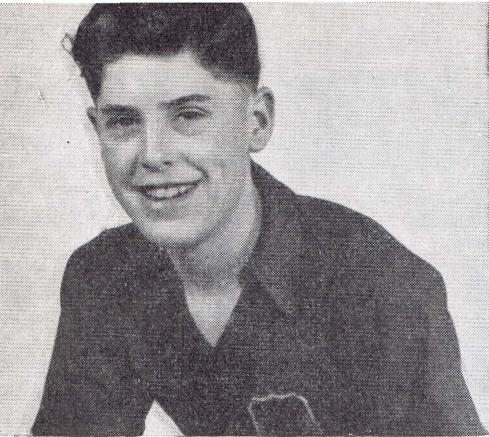
In the Ladies' final Ros Rowe was unable to avenge her sister's defeat at the hands of Beolet, just losing in the fifth and deciding game.

After this Johnny and I met in the final and as usual had a really grand game. I managed to take the first two games both with scores of 22-20, but in the third game Johnny got away to a big lead and I could only trail behind him. In the fourth game I was down 20-12 but managed to level the scores, only to lose 22-20 and so level the score in games. In the fifth game Johnny ran off with another big lead and made sure I did not catch him up, taking the French title for the first time. In the previous two years it was won by Richard Bergmann.

Against Barna and Haguenaeur in the Doubles Johnny and I did not succeed in taking a single game.

S. Jones v. H. Venner, 21-18, 21-17; Miss Betty Gray v. Miss A. Wood, 17-21, 21-14, 21-12; G. Chugg and Michael Jones v. A. Simons and B. Kennedy, 12-21, 15-21; Miss A. Bates and Miss B. Gray v. Miss J. Roberts and Miss A. Wood, 21-16, 23-21; Allan Morris v. B. Kennedy, 9-21, 6-21; Miss A. Bates v. Miss J. Roberts, 21-14, 20-22, 22-20; Michael Jones v. R. Crayden, 17-21, 15-21; Gerald Chugg v. A. Simons, 12-21, 7-21; C. Hann and S. Jones v. R. Crayden and H. Venner, 15-21, 17-21.

Result: England 5, Wales 4.



BRIAN KENNEDY (R.A.F. and Yorkshire) •

Although England defeated Ireland in the sumptuous setting of the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, on February 9, by the overwhelming margin of nine sets to nil, there was an abundance of thrills and the match did not lack in entertainment value.

For instance, Victor Mercer, Ireland's No. 1, gave Johnny Leach many moments of anxiety in what could be described as a classic display. The first game by these two masters of the art was a ding-dong affair in which the ex-world champion scraped home 22—20. In the second game we were convinced that Mercer's recent victory over world-ranking star American Marty Reismann was no fluke, for he swamped Johnny, 17—21, to level the scores. Leach, however, settle matters in England's favour, 21—16, after a grim struggle.

A well-packed hall also applauded the attacking exchanges between Ronnie Allcock and Irishman Joe Fox. Both men rarely wasted an opportunity to crack a winner. In fact, some of the counter hitting was amazing. Allcock proved the winner in a set that could have gone either way. Fox, who hails from Port Rush, is a remarkable man for I'm told he never practises and always puts up a good show for his country. What a player he would more consistent and reliable than the hard-hitting, but terribly in-and-out, Hurlock.

Others I consider more worthy of international recognition than the Surrey man, are Bill McCave (Essex), Maurice Kriss (Warwick). Ronnie Baker (Lancs.), and about seven or eight other players of the same class. If you think I don't rate Keith highly, you don't think wrong. . . .

Cover Portrait
TRUN VAN LIU
 (Vietnam)

England v. Ireland

Liverpool, February 9, 1951.

be with a little more concentration. Another set which might easily have gone Ireland's way was the doubles encounter featuring Leach-Allcock against Martin and Fox. Whoever was responsible for the pairing of the Englishmen erred for with Brian Kennedy in the side surely he would have made a more suitable partner for Allcock, whilst Leach, together with Simons, would have revolved more smoothly.

Neither Simons nor Kennedy had any difficulty in their respective singles. The West of England champion was in scintillating form, whilst Kennedy, despite he lost the middle game due to some magnificent defensive play by his opponent, Harry O'Prey, the Yorkshireman, was always the master.

Meanwhile, the Irish women, Hilda Agnew and Catherine Eagan, didn't present any problems to their opposite numbers, Peggy Franks and Adele Wood. Peggy and Adele attacked with a new-found confidence, and as partners in the doubles they really went to "town," winning with the uttermost ease, 21—9, 21—9.

Scores

(English names first)

R. Allcock beat Joe Fox, 23—21, 16—21, 21—16. Miss M. Franks and Miss C. Eagan, 21—9, 21—9. B. Kennedy beat H. O'Prey, 21—16, 20—22, 21—11. J. Leach and A. R. Allcock beat I. E. Martin and J. Fox, 21—16, 20—22, 21—19. Miss M. Franks beat Miss H. Agnew, 21—16, 21—17. J. Leach beat V. Mercer, 22—20, 17—21, 21—16. A. W. Simons beat I. E. Martin, 21—10, 23—21. Miss A. Wood beat Miss C. Eagan, 21—19, 21—12. A. W. Simons and B. Kennedy beat V. Mercer and H. O'Prey, 21—13, 21—12.

S. PROFFITT.

ALLS.

I have been asked if I am anti-Johnny Leach. Let me say here and now that I think Johnny a fine sport, a nice type of person, and a first-rate player. I merely maintain, and have maintained, that he is not a great player, lacking as he does fire and consistency. Can one seriously rate him on a par with Barna, Bellak, Bergmann, Vana? I go on record again as saying that Aubrey Simons is a better player and capable of greater things than the 1947-48 world champion. O.K., hounds; now pant for my blood.

★
ERNIE BUBLEY

(Ex-Swaythling Cup
 Player)
 ★



STAGING A COME-BACK

★

Ernie Bublely, that old half-vollying warhorse, who has beaten up many world stars, thinks so little of present-day English players that he is going into strict training for a serious come-back. Marriage and increased business responsibilities caused the old Swaythling Cup player to forego tournaments, but now that he has settled down he feels he can devote more time to the game.

Ernie thinks the standard of English players is lower than it has ever been, and he wonders why no trials for the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup sides were held this year. He points out that in previous years the selectors were very fond of holding trials—and of ignoring the results of those tests. "I once won 10 out of 12 games, and was overlooked," he remarks. "Why no trials this year? Is it that the bigwigs of the E.T.T.A. have their favourites who were earmarked for Vienna? The whole set-up of the selection committee, and the way they work, is farcical. It's just a body of yes-men."

Ernie and the E.T.T.A. have never loved each other, but the player's opinion on the selection committee is one widely shared. Mr. Montagu had better do a little pulling up of socks if he hopes to put a stop to the really ripe criticism going the rounds about him and his set-up.

To revert to Bublely. He hopes to take off a stone or so of weight, practise regularly, and show just how few players there are in England who can beat him, veteran though he is. S. K.

Twenty-third International Match

ENGLAND v. WALES

Newport, January 13, 1951.

Results, Welsh players named first:—

S. Jones v. H. Venner, 21—18, 21—17; Miss Betty Gray v. Miss A. Wood, 17—21, 21—14, 21—12; G. Chugg and Michael Jones v. A. Simons and B. Kennedy, 12—21, 15—21; Miss A. Bates and Miss B. Gray v. Miss J. Roberts and Miss A. Wood, 21—16, 23—21; Allan Morris v. B. Kennedy, 9—21, 6—21; Miss A. Bates v. Miss J. Roberts, 21—14, 20—22, 22—20; Michael Jones v. R. Crayden, 17—21, 15—21; Gerald Chugg v. A. Simons, 12—21, 7—21; C. Hann and S. Jones v. R. Crayden and H. Venner, 15—21, 17—21.

Result: England 5, Wales 4.

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT...

Someone's going to win with

SPALDING

OVER 70 YEARS OF SPORT

Villa XXX Balls Exclusively Selected For National Championships

UNDER THE HAMMER

I AM glad to say that the sale of old table tennis stock last week was a big success, and the two-and-six collected should go a long way towards making us financially independent.

Naturally, the financial result was due in no small way to the efforts of the auctioneer—a handsome man of great ability, persuasion and charm. When I was first asked to take this post, I refused, fearing I might miss hitting the desk with my mallet and thus give someone a terrific clout over the head. However, after several tributes to my powers of persuasion, such as “you could get blood out of a stone,” I succumbed.

The auction proved to be more difficult than I had imagined, in spite of the fact that the room was filled with a variety of people, including an old hag with a face like a hyena and a laugh like a rhinoceros, or perhaps it was a face like a rhinoceros and a laugh like a hyena—I can't quite remember.

The first object to be put up was a sandpaper bat with the initials J.L. inscribed on it. These letters actually stood for Jack Lambert, although I hinted on this occasion that J.L. was Johnny Leach. The offers at once soared from threepence to sixpence, and was finally knocked down to the old hag for sixpence-halfpenny.

Next on the list was an old club net. I was loth to part with this valuable piece of equipment, as I had got the knack of hitting the ball through a large hole right in the centre, thus often gaining a surprise point against short-sighted players. Duty had to be done, however, and I knocked down the net to the old hag for fivepence.

Inspired by the success I was having, I proceeded to auction some slightly cracked table tennis balls—invaluable, I said, for the cat to play with. Apart from a few dogs who growled ominously, however, nobody appeared interested in cats, and I was only able to knock down the balls by throwing in a couple of cigarette ends I had found in the cupboard. The old hag got the lot for threepence. She also got another old bat, two net supports, and a variety of other things—all of which we were thankful to lose.

Feeling we had got rid of a lot of old junk, we packed up and made for the nearby fair for relaxation. We were particularly successful at the rifle booth. Funnily enough, the old hag gave us the prizes. They consisted of a sandpaper bat, a broken-down net and several cracked table-tennis balls.

E. G. V.

HE MADE YOU SMILE

BY ARTHUR WAITE

IT is not often an editor is able to rely on every article received from a contributor being up to publication standard, yet during the past three years the writer of our humorous table tennis sketches has kept us well supplied with single column articles. We felt that every one he wrote would succeed in winning a smile or a chuckle from you the reader, and so each one was published under the initials E. G. V.

One day we received from this literary humorist an article which began to tell about a person who was able to play table tennis from his invalid chair. Naturally thinking this was another humorous sketch we frowned and thought here was an occasion when a rejection slip would have to be sent. There was no scope for fun around an enthusiastic table tennis fan whose legs were so crippled that he had to spend his life in a wheel chair. Then as we neared the end of the article we suddenly realised that this article was an exception for it was not intended to be funny. The writer was this time writing about *himself*. (No doubt many readers will remember reading this particular contribution.)

In December last we heard with deep regret that E. G. V.—Edwin George Voller—had passed away. Edwin lived at Southsea, and was 24 years of age. Six years ago he had a football accident which resulted in him losing the use of both his legs, but this did not end his love for table tennis. With the help of an unusually long reach he was able to develop quite a good game while seated in his invalid chair. Journalism was another hobby which kept him happy and gave him some degree of financial support. He wrote the scripts for Reg. Dixon (Proper Poorly), Douglas Robinson (“Cardew the Cad”), and Jimmy Wheeler. His work also appeared in *Punch*.

In a letter from his mother, she tells us how much he loved the game and how he enjoyed writing for *Table Tennis Review*. On behalf of our readers, we extend to Mr. and Mrs. Voller our sympathies at their loss. We and thousands of our readers will miss him, for he was able to bring a smile and a laugh into our hearts.

In the next column we print the last article written for us by Edwin George Voller.

ENGLISH OPEN . . DOUBLE TROUBLE

Random Jottings

Refreshments for players on the opening day presented a bit of a problem to the Wembley catering staff, who were almost literally eaten out of house and home by starving T.T. juniors. Said a Wembley official: "T.T. players, unlike the ordinary run of athletes, go for the more substantial foods, and not cakes and biscuits. To-morrow I'll have an extra 100 lb. of sausages on sale." And the extra sausages, plus everything else, were disposed of so rapidly, that at 8 p.m. there wasn't a crumb or drop of tea for peckish, would-be customers!

* * *

Midway through his first-round game with Bernard Crouch, Keith Hurlock's shoes split. Keith asked for help and an appeal went over the air: "Has anyone a pair of size 8 plimsolls he can lend to a player?" A noble soul came to the rescue and Keith, his feet comfortably suited, went on to beat Bernard.

* * *

Said Ehrlich, after his sensational win over Reisman: "Why is everyone so surprised? Ehrlich is a good player and is always beating good men. I reached three world singles finals, in 1936, 1937 and 1939. I won the English Open in 1936. In the last Dutch Open I beat Bergmann in the final. I beat Leach in the 'English' a couple of seasons back. I have beaten most world stars. Why the fuss because I've beaten Reisman?" True enough, Ehrlich is always beating favourites, yet is always a non-favourite when he enters big tournaments.

* * *

Monty Reisman is a changed person these days. When he was last over here, he was a brash youth. He is now a quiet and thoughtful young man. His suspension has chastened him no end. He told me, before his opening match, that he did not expect to do too well, being out of touch due to lack of practice. He also missed the companionship of his American friends and felt lonely. He was, however, full of praise for the kindness shown to him by E.T.T.A. officials.

* * *

Comment by Peggy Franks, after losing to "Di" Rowe: "I always seem to disgrace myself in the 'English.' I suppose I get too keen to do well."

* * *

Smartest girls on view? The Rowe twins—again. At last season's finals they wore identical light blue costumes and looked "the goods." This time they donned scarlet outfits and were a joy to behold. They're certainly chic and attractive maidens.

By Leslie R. Scarlett

ALTHOUGH I believe that an umpire has full control of a singles match and that a good one should never let it get out of hand, I am afraid I do not hold the same view for doubles. I think that at the time of service it is too much to ask one man to see:—

1. That the right person is serving and that the strikers-out are in order.
2. That the server serves from behind the end line of his court and between an imaginary continuation of the side-lines.
3. That the "new service" is fairly executed.
4. That the ball touches first the server's right-half court.
5. Whether the service is good or a let.
6. That the ball then touches the strikers-out's right-half court.

As I see it, and knowing my own capabilities, I would willingly umpire any singles match (I frequently umpire at Premier Division Inter-County matches) but always stipulate "no doubles," for I know that if a tournament is spoiled by umpiring it is not necessarily by a bad umpire but possibly by a good umpire not being able to keep up with doubles play. The English Open seems always so spoilt and in this year's Ladies' Doubles Final the confusion at the change of ends at 10 in the final game was a perfect example to prove my point.

I suggest, therefore, that an additional official be beside the umpire to watch and have full control of the order of play, the responsibility to be taken completely from the umpire. If neither was responsible in any way for the other's job there would be no confusion as the only time our "additional" friend would voice his officialdom would be to call "let" if the players were at any time out of playing order.

If something were done to help the poor doubles umpire I would straight-away apply to become an official County Umpire, a move which, because of my views on this matter I have so far omitted to make.

OFFICIAL E.T.T.A. STATEMENT

On the 3rd of December, Richard Bergmann sent a communication to the English National Executive Committee from which it appears that he does not intend to avail himself of the offer for a personal hearing on his appeal against suspension.

Meet Ron Crayden

SURREY COUNTY AND NOW ENGLISH SWAYTHLING CUP.

RON CRAYDEN is 6ft. 3in. in height. England's tallest international who has come into the limelight since the war. Crayden has played for his country in five official international matches having 100 per cent. record in both singles and doubles. Last September (1950) captained the team that represented England in the Yugoslavian Open Championships. In competitive play in the past three seasons has victories over more than 30 international players, including such stars as T. Flisberg (Sweden), H. Lansky (France), Eb Pinner (U.S.A.), and A. Simons (England). Was first reserve for the 1950 Swaythling cup team. Is proud of the fact that he has played for the Surrey Cty. (Premier) team in every match since the inception of the county championships. Is also a member of the South London team which won the Wilmot cup last season. Plays for the West Norwood Tennis Club, (South London League) and it is interesting to note that in addition to the T.T. department, Crayden has won the lawn tennis title there for the past four years.

A lover of all sports and a participant in most, Crayden spends most of his summer leisure hours at the Oval, where he is a member, cheering on the Surrey cricket XI.

Pulling the shutters down on sport, Crayden's greatest interest is music about which he holds firm views. Has what he terms a "quiet appreciation" of classical music and an "ebullient appreciation" of jazz music (not to be confused with dance music). Does not enthuse over modern swing music, but is genuinely moved by jazz music in its purest forms (the Blues, Dixieland, American Folk Singing, etc.). has a record collection numbering approximately 700. While in the services, founded and ran a Rhythm Club for two years, and also gave occasional recitals at the Conventional Music Club. Other hobbies, in which he shows more than passing interest, are reading and photography. Hopes one day to have a book collection to rival his record collection, informs me that he is already over half way there.

Crayden is happily married, and last September his wife presented him with a baby girl (Lynda Mary), who, he feels certain, will one day be earmarked for the Corbillon Cup team.

His inclusion in the English Swaythling Cup team for the 1951 World Championships in Vienna made yet another happy milestone in his life.

A. W.



Open Grumbles

By
M. L. PERKINS

AS a table tennis player and a firm believer in rules and discipline I fully realise the difficulties and the arduous task the organisers of an "Open" have to face, especially with the record entries of this season. For a tournament to run smoothly there must be co-operation between competitors and organisers, but in some instances this is not fully developed and in practically every case it is the ordinary player who has to suffer.

I daresay there are many readers who can tell of tournament incidents where they feel they received a raw deal from the organisers, and, had a little sympathy and understanding been given they would have returned home in a happier frame of mind.

During a recent tournament one player of a doubles pair did not know until after receiving instructions of the evening and time to play, that on the same evening as the doubles event, her services were required for one of the country's major competitions. This was explained to the referee of the "Open" and it was requested that another player should be allowed to take her place in the doubles. This was refused and no refund was made to either player. There is not a table tennis Law that I know stating that a substitute cannot be arranged or authorised by the Referee. At some tournaments I have heard it announced that if anyone requires a doubles partner they should report to the Referee's table.

And what about those tournaments where the organisers suddenly realise that they have accepted too many entries, and in a desperate endeavour to bring the tournament up to scheduled time they cancel the "mixed" and sometimes other events. On more than one occasion in the past no refund has been made to competitors for these cancelled events. Only a short while ago a Referee was heard to say that he could not refund entry fees, because prizes had been bought for the cancelled event.

Yes, some organisers do demand everything their own way.

I have another grumble, one which I know is upheld by many hundreds of ordinary players. It relates to "Knocking-up." I realise that once the tournament has commenced "Knockups" cannot be allowed, and players rushing on to tables between matches must be stopped, otherwise the organisers will be unable to see which tables are vacant. I and others fully appreciate this, but why are well-known players at certain

tournaments seen having a ten-minute "knock-up" in the midst of the play without anything being said to them? Are the organisers afraid that if they offend the well-known names they might not enter their particular tournament again? Candidly I am a little tired of the way in which some of the stars are often pampered at tournaments. They are allowed to enter well past the closing date, and very frequently have their expenses paid.

If so much can be done for the player of international rank, then why not a little more sympathy and assistance for the player **without whom** the tournament would be a flop! It is a grand sport, let it continue as such with fair play all round.

Finally after these "grumbles" which of course are open to criticism, may I take this opportunity of raising my "bat" to the **County Umpire Scheme**, which I consider to be the best step taken to ensure an ideal Tournament.

My last wish is that Britain will soon secure top ranking in all spheres of the table tennis world.

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IRISH OPEN

Men's Doubles and Singles Titles to Ken Stanley

(Belfast, January 27, 1951).

The Irish Open Championships were staged in Belfast, ending on Saturday, January 27. The entry was probably the most representative from all Ireland ever received, players travelling from Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo, Dundalk, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Rostrevor, Portrush, Cookstown, Ballymena, Bangor, Newtownards, etc., while Miss A. Jones (Liverpool), K. Stanley (Preston), J. Carrington (London); Misses B. Pithie and L. S. Dickson (Edinburgh) proved formidable cross-channel opposition. The championship commenced on Wednesday at Mountpottinger Y.M.C.A., then transferred on Tuesday to the Wellington Hall, where eight tables were in use, which enabled the organisers to play almost 120 matches on that night. Friday saw the arrival of the exempted players, and a splendid session that evening brought all events to the semi-finals. Surprises again enlivened the proceedings, the first being the defeat of V. Mercer in the 5th Round by the young R.A.F. player, A. H. Costello, at present stationed in Northern Ireland. This was followed by another 5th Round match when J. Fox defeated J. Carrington with streams of vicious drives. In the Mixed Doubles the partnership of J. Carrington and Miss A. Jones was surprisingly beaten by N. Kerr and Miss A. Coombs in the 3rd Round.

The Women's Singles provided no surprises, the Misses Jones, Agnew, Dickson and Pithie all coming through to the semi-finals.

In the Men's Doubles, K. Stanley and J. Carrington reached the final comfortably to meet I. E. Martin and J. Fox. Some surprise was created in the Women's Doubles when the Misses Agnew and Jones defeated Misses Pithie and Dickson in the semi-final.

Finals

The Finals on Saturday night attracted quite a large crowd but, generally speaking, were disappointing. Of the events, the Boys' singles and the Women's matches proved to be the most interesting and exciting, with excellent rallies and enterprising play. Miss A. Jones particularly gave a delightful display of speed and tactics in the final against Miss



KEN STANLEY

Pithie to win the Women's Singles title. She was also the corner-stone in the Women's Doubles Final when she and Miss Agnew defeated the Misses Pithie and Dickson. In the Men's Singles semi-finals, A. H. Costello won three straight against J. Fox, who hit wildly at times and did not reach his consistency of the night before. K. Stanley also won in straight games against I. E. Martin, and went on to defeat Costello in the final, which proved to be a most uninteresting match.

Results: Men's Singles, K. Stanley beat A. H. Costello 21-16, 21-5, 21-16; Women's Singles, Miss A. Jones beat Miss B. Pithie 18-21, 21-8, 21-12; Men's Doubles, J. Carrington and K. Stanley beat I. E. Martin and J. Fox 16-21, 22-20, 21-19, 21-17; Women's Doubles, Misses A. Jones and H. Agnew beat Miss G. E. Boyle and Mrs. V. Mercer 21-19, 22-20; Mixed Doubles, H. O'Prey and Miss B. Pithie beat N. Kerr and Miss A. Coombs 21-14, 21-12; Boys' Singles, N. Harkins beat C. McBride 18-21, 21-9, 21-16.



London Diary

By **BILL PARKER**

SPECTATORS at the Middlesex v. Surrey match, at Kentish Town, were pleasantly surprised to see the new Surrey blazers and ties which had been rushed along that evening. The players certainly appeared to gain increased confidence in the uniformity provided by the red and blue (or should it be claret and sky-blue) blazers, while one or two officials and other supporters were observed to have made a tie-switch during the course of the evening. The return of Vera (Dace) Thomas to the Surrey team was welcomed by the red and blue (or claret and sky-blue) supporters, and Vera made her presence felt by beating Joyce Roberts. Since then Vera has had to enter hospital to undergo a minor operation, but now is out and making good progress.

Londoners, especially those who work in the great Metropolis, will be interested to learn that ex-international Alec Brook, who has been carrying on his sports outfitting business at Horsham, has now opened premises at Klix House, 85, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1., where he will be pleased to meet old friends and make new ones.

Differences of opinion have been more frequent this season among members of the famous West Ealing Club. Big snag is that the large club-room has to serve more than one purpose. Those lawn-tennis and social members who aren't T.T. minded are all for a super-polished floor on which to trip it gaily cheek to cheek, or otherwise. The T.T. diehards naturally don't approve. Unhappily two nasty accidents took place at the turn of the year, so here's hoping the parties can soon come to a satisfactory arrangement.

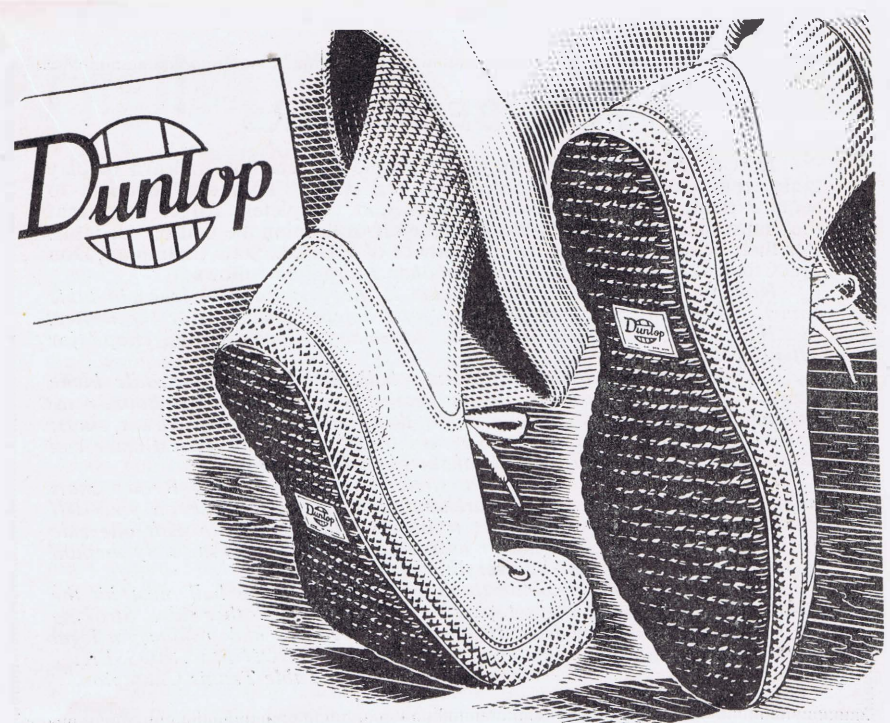
What's Harry Rosen doing these days? Not playing T.T. it seems. In Harry's absence, Stanley Gelfarb (Maccabi) is bidding to become Willesden local champ. In a recent match (Wilkesden League v. Central League) Stan took part in a 223 strokes rally with Ron Etheridge, whose defence has brought many a good player near to weeping. In the ladies department Peggy Veal (Ridgway) has a splendid record in representative matches. Hats off also to Dorothy Rutherford, who has been among the best in the Willesden area

for some years now, despite having three young children on her hands.

When the New Zealand boys were over here they did not get a great deal of practice with other players, but the Australian player, Gil Robertson, was more fortunate for he fixed himself up in the Central League with the powerful Gainsford Club with whom he enjoyed regular practice both before and after Wembley.

Having just mentioned Wembley, I must say that it was most enjoyably to meet people at the English Open who we hadn't seen for months, or maybe years. David (R. D.) Jones, that great international of around 20 years ago was there to have a crack at Harry Sugarhood's Veteran's title, as was Anglo-American international, red-headed Gilbert Marshall. The G.O.M. of table tennis, 73-year-old Mr. Tarrant, of Swindon, was also there, "taking it easy," he confessed with a guilty look. So the Veteran's title went to Leo Thompson at last.

DOWN from Newcastle, to do a spot of scoring at Wembley, came George McDougal, whom Londoners will remember as a former stalwart of the Ministry of Labour team. But Mac was disappointed. He hadn't passed his umpire's test! Incidentally, Umpire's Secretary, Geoff James, was pleased with the way things went on his side of the tournament. Each umpire was provided a week previous to the championships with a list of instructions on service, time limit, and other knotty points. No warnings regarding service was the rule and most of the umpires treated their directions with intelligence. One humorous incident was the case of the spectator who, being unable to find a front seat, parked himself in the empty chair next to one of the umpires. The umpire, under the impression that his neighbour was either an interpreter or one of the Championship Gestapo men, continued with the match and some time elapsed before the long arm of officialdom awoke to the horror of what was being perpetrated and the "priority" spectator was removed.



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MEN'S 6-12 WOMEN'S 6-8
BOY'S 3-5

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FOR BEGINNERS

It is a common fault with young people just starting to learn to play table tennis to try to run before they can walk. They are impatient to acquire point winning attacking strokes and completely forget that what they must master first and foremost is the art of keeping the ball on the table. For their benefit we reprint here the advice of a U.S.A. State Champion, Don MacCrossen, who writes in the *Milwaukee Journal* as follows:

How to keep the ball on the table is the first thing to learn in table tennis. To do this, one must have a good defensive shot. For the novice, the "block shot" is easiest to perfect. Later he can acquire the "chop" for defensive tactics.

To block and return an opponent's ball, merely tilt the paddle blade forward enough to form an angle against which the ball rebounds to opponent's side of the table. A slight tilt is enough for the slower shots; increase the angle of the blade to return faster ones. The fastest drive can be returned low if the forward tilt of the blade is sufficient.

It is well to use this defensive stroke from either side. Return shots coming on your right with the forehand side of blade; those on your left with the backhand. Do not start trying to return all shots with one side of the blade. Every skilled player uses both sides. That is the only method by which a player can handle everything thrown at him.

The serve is probably understood by everyone. The ball must hit the table on the near side of the net, pass the net and hit the other side. Stroking the ball with blade tilted forward keeps the serve low and produces a legal serve.

DON MACCROSSEN.

State Table Tennis Champion.

English Open Championships

Brian Kennedy Springs
a Surprise



Veteran Chisellers Take
Singles Titles

By Sam Kirkwood

FEARs that the absence of the Hungarians and Czechs, suspended World and English title-holder, Richard Bergman, and the Rumanian holder of the women's World title, Angelich Rozeanu, would rob the 1950/51 English Open of class and colour, were to some extent well founded. The meeting at Wembley—November 28 to December 2—was somewhat insipid, lacking the personality parade we have come to expect from it. Play was of a standard—taken by and large—about which few could enthuse, and certainly the tournament would have been vastly different, infinitely better, had Messrs. Vana, Bergmann, Andreadis, Tereba, Sido, Soos, Stipek and Mrs. Rozeanu and Miss Gizi Farkas been present to show the many comparative hacks what world-class play is like. Blame the Iron Curtain for this.

English players did not emerge with too creditable a record, despite wins in the doubles events. They had a wonderful chance of taking the envied singles titles, yet allowed two foreign veterans, players who were hitting the high spots 15 years ago and more, to carry off honours with almost ludicrous ease. The failure of our best women players to halt the march of Austria's Trudi Pritzi was, in particular, lamentable. We fielded in force the cream of our exponents, and the cream turned sour on us.

Our greatest cause for satisfaction lay in the showing of our juniors, boys and girls, in their own championships. There were several extremely promising youngsters, particularly in the girl's section. We can only hope that this promise, as has so often been the case in the past, not be allowed to go unfulfilled. (One is tempted to ask why it is that so many of our best hopefuls stay at the "promising" stage until they're in the early twenties and then fizzle out in the most dreary fashion?)

Early Rounds

In what was easily the finest match of the first round Michael Thornhill beat Jack Carrington after thirty-three minutes of attack and counter-attack and every other phase of the game that is delightful to watch. There was never a dull moment and it was definitely more entertaining than much we saw in the later stages of the tournament. Carrington

played brilliantly but had to bend the knee to youth. Thornhill won with scores of 17, 16, —17, —16, 16.

It was sad to see Ernie Bubley, England's No. 1 prior to the war make an inglorious exit in his opening match with Keith Collar (Essex). Collar pooh-poohed Bubley's close-to-the-table half-volley game and scored 18, 19, —15, 15, win, never looking anything but the superior player. Bubley had been suffering from dermatitis and perhaps this had something to do with his indifferent performance.

An unfortunate draw brought West Ealing club-mates Len Adams and Ken Craigie together in the initial round. These boys know each other's game inside out and the result could have swung either way. It so happened that Craigie came out on top on this occasion, 12, —17, 11, —13, 16.

Harrower Incident

Geoff Harrower, that Middlesex stalwart, was concerned in an "incident." He had tiny Trun Van Liu, of Vietnam, as his first round foe. Nineteen year old Liu, not five feet tall and somewhere around the seven stone mark in weight, was wearing a dark shirt with a white "V" on it. Harrower objected that the white marking was against dress regulations. An official pointed out to the Middlesex man that badges are allowed on shirts and that the offending "V" (for Vietnam) constituted a badge and was therefore permissible.

Harrower attired in a pair of Cambridge blue shorts, which set off his magnificent rotundity and which quickly earned him the nickname of "Fancy Pants," then set his stop-watch, placed it under the table where he could keep an eye on it, and then proceeded to take a beating from his diminutive opponent. Liu refusing to be put off by Geoff's gorgeous shorts or stop-watch, ran out the winner 18, 22, —10, 19.

A seeded player, international Ron Crayden, was not good enough for Jackie Head (Surrey), the latter winning 14, 17, —16, 22.

Biggest thrashing of the first round went to Hant's player, G. N. Richardson, who gathered only eleven points against Ronnie Hook (Essex). Hook won 1, 2 and 8.

Ask to see

THE BRIAN KENNEDY

English Swaythling Cup Team, 1951. English Open Finalist, 1950-51

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TRUDI PRITZI (Austria)

Women's Events

An early sensation was the defeat of Mrs. Vera Thomas (Dace), by the Gloucester girl, Margaret Fry. Mrs. Thomas has not indulged in much competitive play of late. She bore no resemblance to the girl who in 1948 took Gizi Farkas to five games in the World's Singles Final. There was nothing fluky about Margaret's win and she fully deserved the scores of 21-18, 21-19 and 21-15.

Trudi Pritzi, the Austrian girl who was winning titles, including the world's, in the middle thirties dropped only two games throughout the singles tournament. Those two games were both against Pinkie Barnes, the Surrey international. Pinkie's campaign was to out-chisel this Queen of Chisellers and to wait patiently for an opening to kill with her forehand drive. The plan worked well and the wind seemed set for an English win with Pinkie two sets up and leading 11-6 in the third. Pritzi was worried, and well she might be! She looked imploringly at her manager for telepathic advice, but the manager was equally green about the gills. Then unaccountably Pinkie cracked. Her drives went in the net and off the table. Those first two games had sapped her mental and physical energies and from being 11-6 up she lost the deciding game 21-14. Scores for Pritzi —18, —18, 14, 10 and 12.

Never again was Trudi Pritzi so bothered at any stage of the tournament. She went on to defeat Joan Crosby and Joyce Roberts, both in three straight games and followed this with a win over Diana Rowe which took her into the final. In the previous round Diana Rowe (the left-handed twin) had whipped Peggy Franks. Peggy is noticeably plumper these days and she could not withstand the assault of her 17 year old opponent's versatile hitting.

In the other half of the women's event Helen Elliott (Scotland) reached the final by beating Mrs. Cumberbatch (Warwick), Rosalind Rowe (Middx.), and L. Werth (Austria). Eileen Grimstone (Lancashire) did excellently to win through to the last eight where she met Werth. Here it was a case of two sloggers seeing who could hit through whom the most often. "Slogger" Werth (who by the way has a victory over Pritzi to her credit) beat "Basher" Grimstone on points three games to two, after a devil-may-care and exhilarating, if unaesthetic slam.

More Male Battles

Undoubtedly the major sensation of the tournament was the defeat of Martin Reisman (U.S.A.) by Alojszy Ehrlich (Poland) in the third round. Marty, a hot favourite was far from being on form. Marty told me before the tournament started that he had played little table tennis during the last six months and furthermore he had lost in America his old and trusty racket and was using a bat in which he had little confidence.

Although he gave Ehrlich a hard game he was certainly not the Reisman we know. He was erratic and inclined to the lethargic. All credit to Ehrlich, however, for playing well and making the most of this heaven-sent opportunity. Ehrlich won 22, —17, —17, 14, 14.

Pre war English Swaythling Cup player, Eric Filby (Norfolk), did well against the redoubtably Aubrey Simons, taking England's joint No. 2 player with Johnny Leach to five sets. Harry Venner, fourth in English ranking, went out in the third session to 20 year old Brian Kennedy, the Yorkshire boy nominated by the R.A.F. to play in the tournament. Kennedy then went on to beat Tony Miller, six feet three Surrey player, in a grand tussle of tempestuous attack versus long-range defence.

"Giant-Killer" Keith Hurlock nearly repeated his last season's performance of reaching the quarter finals. In the third round he took French star, Michael Lanskoj, to five sets. Bill McCave was more successful against the Birmingham star, Maurice Kriss, and with a swinging, hard-hitting, forehand smash, he punched his way to the quarter finals.

MEN'S QUARTER FINALS

Kennedy v. Haguenuer. — Kennedy assured himself a place in the semi-finals with a great and unexpected win over Michel Haguenuer, the tall, dreary-looking Frenchman who last season lost to Bergmann in the final, and in April won the Masters' Tournament staged by the *Daily Mirror* by caning Leach and Bergmann. The crowd, almost



L. to R.—Audrey Bates (Wales), G. V. Barna, Geoff. Harrower and Len Adams.

to a man (and girl), was with the Yorkshire boy, cheering madly every time he won a point and groaning when he dropped one.

Haguenuer strove desperately to keep Kennedy from putting across his kill and tried to keep the youngster pinned to his backhand wing. Using his feet, however, Kennedy foiled the Frenchman's plot and manoeuvred round the table to flash over his vicious smashes. His 19, 20, —17, 18 win was greeted with a tremendous roar. I cannot say the Frenchman looked too happy with the borrowed bat he used—he had broken his own racket before the tournament.

Ehrlich v. McCave.—Bill McCave, with his completely unorthodox style—he looked like a swimmer doing Australian crawl when essaying his never-ceasing flow of overarm drives—made the crowd laugh, but Ehrlich did not find him so amusing. The Pole was taken to 19 in all three games and he can thank his lucky stars that McCave wasn't just a little steadier.

Simons v. Lanskoj.—Lanskoj found Simons' chop defence close to the table and snappy counter-hitting too much for him. Still the Frenchman put up a grand show before saying farewell. Scores to Simons —19, 19, 18, 16.

Leach v. Roothoft.—Leach played an open game taking the initiative almost throughout. He took the first two games then with a loss of his freshness lapsed into errors. His hitting became less fiery and accurate and the ascendancy passed to Roothoft. Leach's limitations were exposed. He lacks a real kill and is "easy meat" for the class defender. Leading 10-8 in the fifth Johnny flopped badly and the Frenchman took honours after an hour's battle, —22, —11, 13, 15, 14. Rene Roothoft might with justice be called the "French Bergmann."

SEMI-FINALS

Roothoft v. Ehrlich.—Here we had two defenders determined not to let the other beat him in a game of patience. Rallies were protracted in the extreme and gave one spots before the eyes. Roothoft took the first game 21-14, then Ehrlich really got down to it, after shaking his head and seeming to say to himself, "Really Mr. E. this will never do!"

In the second game clocks were placed on the umpire's table and at 17-17 the umpire announced the 20-minute limit had been reached. The winner of the next point was to take the game. Players were also warned that subsequent games would be limited to 10 minutes. That

next point lasted three minutes and there were 220 rallies, but the lanky Pole was as cool as two cucumbers and levelled the score to one game each.

In the third game Ehrlich was in the lead at 9-7 when the 10 minutes expired and was therefore awarded the game. He also took the following game in a similar manner at 10-5. Even with the shortened games the agony lasted an hour.

Simons v. Kennedy.—Here was a battle royal indeed. In contrast to the Roothoft-Ehrlich affair, this was as caviare is to cod's roe. No quarter was asked and none given in five sets of delightful hit-and-thrust table tennis. Both boys played thrillingly aggressive stuff and rallies were dynamic.

Kennedy's forehand was again a fearfully devastating weapon and Simons, when he tried to counter-hit, was himself blasted for his pains. Aubrey tried every wile and stratagem in his extensive repertoire, but he could not stave off the Yorkshire boy's relentless assaults. The fifth set had spectators almost standing. Simons levelled from 18-20 to deuce. Kennedy led 21-20. Simons had three match points, then Brian took the set and match at 26-24, to thunderous applause from the packed arena.

It was a pity that one of two very gallant fighters had to lose. This was undoubtedly the best match of the whole series. Tough luck, Aubrey! The score tells its own dramatic story. Kennedy: 19, -17, 18, -17, 26.

WOMEN'S FINAL

Pritzi v. Elliot.—The women's final was a drab affair. Elliot, like so many before her, could fathom no way of infiltrating the Austrian's defence. She tried—how she tried—but her every effort was heartbreakingly failure-laden. Eventually the worn-out Scottish girl hauled up the white flag of surrender at -18, -16, -9. Miss Pritzi is a charming girl—but oh my, has she the knack of murdering a game for both opponent and onlooker.

MEN'S FINAL

Kennedy v. Ehrlich.—In a match lasting a bare half-hour the old Ehrlich magic proved too powerful for the English lad, who was a pale shadow of the atomic hitter of earlier rounds. The first game went to Ehrlich (a Pole now domiciled in France) the score being 25-23, and in this game Kennedy's hitting was strong and accurate. We had hopes that the Yorkshire lad would do the Union Jack proud and win the title for the first time for England since Percy Bromfield won it in 1924. We were hopelessly wrong. The next two games went to Ehrlich as easy as kiss your hand.

The struggle with Simons had obviously exhausted the R.A.F. boy—mentally, if not physically. Scores to Ehrlich 23, 13, 12.

JUNIOR FINALS

Boys.—For the first time since the title was competed for in 1932/33 a foreign boy, B. Malmquist (Sweden) took the title out of this country. After a very even match he beat his fellow-countryboy, L. Pettersson 22-20, 22-20.

Girls.—Dorothea Munnings, a strapping girl of 16 from Leeds, won the girls' singles title, beating Jean Titterington, of Lancashire, in the final. Jean took the first set from a dreadfully nervous Munnings, but once the Scunthorpe girl settled down the issue was never in doubt. Dorothea, hitting and defending with all the aplomb of a natural player, came through at -18, 19, 16. In a semi-final game, Dorothea, the daughter of an ex-professional footballer, wiped the floor—16, 17—with L. Werthl, which Austrian girl reached the semis of the senior singles.

I should have liked to touch more fully on the juniors, but space limitations forbid it. But I can say that the kids of both sexes gave a grand display of genuine table tennis. And I do not say that merely in order to be kind or in a patronising spirit.

The organisation at Wembley throughout five trying days and nights of hundreds of games was superb. Stewards, umpires and officials of every capacity performed super-efficiently and never intruded into the limelight.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles: (Quarter Finals) B. Kennedy (Yorks) beat M. Haguenaer 19, 20, -17, 18. A. Simons (England) beat M. Lansky (France) -19, 19, 18, 16. A. Ehrlich (France) beat W. McCave (Essex) 19, 19, 19. R. Roothoft (France) beat J. Leach (England) -22, -11, 13, 15, 14. **(Semi-finals)** Kennedy beat Simons 19, -17, 18, -17, 24. Ehrlich beat Roothoft 14-21, 18-17, 9-7, 10-5. **(Final)** Ehrlich beat Kennedy 23, 13, 12.

Women's Singles: (Quarter Finals) T. Pritzi (Austria) beat J. Roberts (England) 14, 12, 4. D. Rowe (England) beat M. Franks (England) 18, 18, 21. H. Elliot (Scotland) beat R. Rowe (England) 17, 19, -8, 19. L. Werthl (Austria) beat E. Grimstone (Cheshire) -17, 12, -13, 10, 15. **(Semi-finals)** Pritzi beat D. Rowe 18, 12, 12. Elliot beat Werthl -18, 13, -19, 13, 20. **(Final)** Pritzi beat Elliot 18, 16, 9.

Men's Doubles: (Quarter-finals) R. Crayden/E. Filby beat B. Kennedy/M. Thornhill -14, 19, 15, 17; M. Reisman/A.

Simons beat B. Crouch/P. Skerratt 13, 17, -17, 16; M. Lansky/R. Roothoft beat A. Ehrlich/G. Harrower 12, -13, -19, 23, 16; J. Carrington/J. Leach beat R. MacKay/M. Mohtadi 9, 7, 8. **(Semi-finals)** Reisman/Simons beat Crayden/Filby 15, -14, 15, 18; Carrington/Leach beat Lansky/Roothoft 10, 19, 17. **(Final)** Carrington/Leach beat Reisman/Simons 10, 11, -12, 14.

Women's Doubles: (Quarter-finals) L. Werthl/G. Pritzi beat H. Bussmann/E. Schmidt -15, 16, 24, 15; D. Rowe/R. Rowe beat M. Jones/J. Roberts 9, 13, 17; H. Beolet/S. Betling beat L. Barnes/M. Franks 10, 18, 12; H. Elliot/V. Thomas beat J. Crosby/M. Fry 13, 12, 17. **(Semi-finals)** Rowe/Rowe beat Werthl/Pritzi 11, 15, 13; Elliot/Thomas beat Beolet/Betling -19, 12, 8, 8. **(Final)** Rowe/Rowe beat Elliot/Thomas -18, 17, -17, 17, 15.

Mixed Doubles: (Semi-finals) B. Crouch/V. Thomas beat Reisman/Rowe 14, 15, -9, 14; V. Barna/H. Elliot beat Simons/Rowe 10, -22, 15, 12. **(Final)** Barna/Elliot beat Crouch/Thomas -20, 18, 22, 18.

Men's Consolation Singles: (Semi-finals) K. Craigie beat L. Adams 16, 13; B. Crouch beat G. Roland 13, -19, 15. **(Final)** Crouch beat Craigie 12, 16.

Women's Consolation Singles: (Semi-finals) M. Fry beat E. Steventon 13, 15, G. Roland beat P. George 17, 14. **(Final)** M. Fry beat G. Roland -19, 17, 15.

Men's Veterans' Singles: (Final) L. Thompson beat L. G. Carter -19, 17, 12. **Women's Veterans' Singles: (Final)** Mrs. S. Betling (France) beat Mrs. D. Ball 19, 8.

Boys Junior Singles: (Semi-finals) M. Malmquist beat G. Pullar 11, -24, 13; Petterson beat M. McMillan 8, 19. **(Final)** Malmquist beat Petterson 20, 20.

Girls' Singles: (Semi-finals) J. Titterington beat Y. Baker 19, 21; D. Munnings beat L. Werthl 16, 17. **(Final)** Munnings beat Titterington -18, 19, 16.

Boys' Doubles: (Semi-finals) B. Malmquist/L. Pettersson (SW) beat D. Phillips/K. Pittard (W) 13, 16; J. Junt/G. Pullar beat S. Brocklebank/A. Danton 13, 17. **(Final)** Malmquist/Pettersson beat Junt/Pullar -18, 13, 17.

Girls' Doubles: (Final) D. Munnings/J. Titterington beat P. Banks/P. Inglis -19, 9, 17.

Junior Mixed Doubles: (Final) L. Petterson/D. Spooner beat G. Pullar/D. Munnings 7, -14, 14.

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Readers' Letters . . .

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I have read with interest and some amusement a letter published in your December issue, by Mr. G. Krishnan, Stockport, Cheshire, on the subject of the suspension of Mr. Richard Bergmann. It would have been better if Mr. Krishnan had had some of his facts confirmed before writing such a stupid letter. He mentions that in some centres in South Africa non-whites were given a few seats in the furthest end of the hall. That was not the case in Durban, where the colour-bar is supposed to be the strongest. I myself was invited to play against Mr. Bergmann, and on the two occasions which I did so the seating accommodation for the non-Europeans was as good as for Europeans; on the third occasion, which was for the benefit of the non-Europeans only, the whole show was boycotted on the instructions of the S.A.N.T.T.B. (non-Europeans). Furthermore, all registered players of the S.A.N.T.T.B. (non-Europeans) who had attended the two previous exhibitions by Mr. Richard Bergmann were suspended by the S.A.N.T.T.B. (non-Europeans), which is not exactly a very sporting attitude towards their own nationality.

N. DAVIES (EX-Manchester player).
 Flat 2, 800 Umbilo Road,
 Umbilo, Durban, Natal.

Mr. J. A. Blackburn (father of Elizabeth Blackburn, ex-English Corbillon Cup star) confirms the above remarks in a similar letter. He concludes with the remarks:—

I, personally, offered to arrange an exhibition in Cape Town between Bergmann and the Board players, but it was refused with the statement that, "they did not want to jeopardise their international status."

J. A. BLACKBURN.
 303, Gibraltar House,
 Regent Road, Sea Point, Cape Town.

I keep reading in magazines of the controversy which rages around the height of the net and the new service rule, and it would appear to me that the fault does not lie in this direction but in the players themselves.

When a spectator attends a championship he expects to see the best that the game can produce, as in all other sports, and endeavours to learn something to

better his own game by watching the masters, and it is up to the champions to provide this for him in return for his admission fee.

To win at table tennis requires a sound mixture of defence and attack, and all players should be willing to use both and not sit back solely on defence and let the other fellow make the mistakes. The desire to win to-day, when results count, often tends to make a player fall away from his natural game and concentrate on defence, and when this happens in both parties a dismal match is the result and the spectator, who expects a little cut and thrust, is disappointed.

No alteration to net or service will crush this negative play, and the new generation of players must be taught a bold policy if the game is to be kept alive for the spectator. If this is not forthcoming, let the game remain in the club room and let tournaments be for players only and not for the spectator who does his share by his fee at the turnstile.

Except for these occasional bouts of chiseling, the game is a grand one for the spectator, so forget these futile arguments about nets and service and get down to the real job of playing table tennis in an enterprising manner, and the spectator will not be lacking in his support. To close, I would like to repeat that it is up to the players whether the game sinks or swims as a spectacle, so get in and play table tennis as it should be played.

W. DENSHAM.

22, Edward Henry House,
 Cornwall Road, Waterloo, S.E. 1.

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SOUTH LONDON OPEN

JANUARY 22/27, 1951

Peggy Franks Beats Rosalind Rowe

AFTER a week of excitement, upsets and first-class table tennis, the finals of the South London Open played at West Norwood, were somewhat of an anti-climax to the large crowd which had caused "house full" notices to be posted.

Once again Johnny Leach proved that with the exception of Aubrey Symons, he has no match amongst the current batch of English internationals. In the semi-final he coasted home against Brian Brumwell in straight sets. His summary treatment of Harry Venner, who had earlier in the evening overcome Ron Crayden in a very close struggle which went the full distance, was masterful but the crowd had hoped for a more even encounter. Refusing to go back from the table even to Venner's hardest drives, Leach countered with top spin from both wings and the Surrey man, finding himself with less time than usual to make his shots was frequently hurried into bad mistakes. On the occasions that Venner essayed to stave off the onslaught by falling back, his defence was not equal to the task.

Without any doubt, the match which pleased the spectators most, was the final of the Ladies' Singles. Peggy Franks, sadly out of form of late, produced all the shots that had made her world famous, and went serenely on to victory. Displaying a little more abandon and less show of nervous tension in the critical rallies, her experience won the day over the more volatile Ros Rowe.

The late withdrawal of Vera Thomas from the Championships had brought together an unaccustomed pairing of Ron Crayden and Eileen Benstead from Middlesex; they had done well to reach the final stages but were nevertheless no match for the international teaming of Leach and Franks. English supporters in Vienna will miss them at the World's next month.

Once again Vera's absence was felt in the Ladies' Doubles. Franks and Thomas had been seeded against the Rowe twins. The position in the bottom half of the draw was not improved when it was learned that Jean Mackay was unable to play because of flu. For the second time, Pinkie Barnes and Margaret Fry achieved victory over the twins, Ros and

Di Rowe and went on to beat Joyce Roberts and Pauline George in the Final. Once more "Pinkie" demonstrated that she is still a force to be reckoned with in the doubles game.

Craigie and Sharman alone of the 1950 winners retained their titles. That they were able to do so was due almost entirely to the brilliant doubles play produced by Ron Sharman.

The tournament was a personal success for ungraded Elsie Carrington who scored four victories against graded players including Di Rowe (—17, 10 and 19). In the semi-final she narrowly lost to Peggy Franks 17 in the third after holding her international opponent to 15 all in the last game. Derek Burridge after accounting for Ken Craigie nearly brought off another great surprise when he took an early lead against Crayden in the third. Johnny Leach was hard pressed to overcome young Rhodes from Middlesex after losing the first game to 19. Total entries for all events amounted to 548 from 325 individual players.

Final results:—

M.S.—J. LEACH beat H. Venner 13, 9, 10.

W.S.—M. FRANKS beat R. Rowe 16, —17, 12.

M.D.—R. SHARMAN/ K. CRAIGIE beat B. Crouch/J. Lowe —11, 16, 17.

W.D.—M. FRY/L. BARNES beat J. Roberts/P. George 18, 13.

X.D.—J. LEACH/M. FRANKS beat R. Crayden/E. Benstead 19, 14.

B.S.—H. JOYCE beat R. Stevens 17, 15.

G.S.—Y. BAKER beat D. Spooner 14, 18.

KENT OPEN

Herne Bay, January 28.

M.S.—H. VENNER beat D. Burridge 14, 7, 14.

W.S.—Y. SEAMAN beat P. George 14, —17, 16.

M.D.—H. VENNER/L. ADAMS beat D. Burridge/A. Miller 15, —21, 15.

W.D.—E. WEAVER/D. SPOONER beat D. Atherton/M. Piper 20, —19, 17.

X.D.—H. VENNER/M. PIPER beat A. Rhodes/D. Atherton 19, 15.

Stanley Proffitt writes about

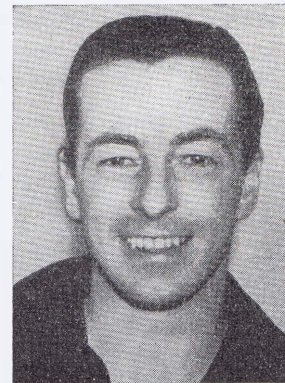
PLAYERS of the NORTH

WITH the season well past the half way mark there is a wealth of good news in Northern table tennis circles. Hitting the spotlight are fresh names, an encouraging sign in these days of austerity among the stars.

Man at the moment, as foreshadowed in *Table Tennis Review* last season, is 18-year-old Ronnie Baker (Manchester), who is fast bridging the gap between the youth and the senior grade. The newly-formed Sheffield Open Championship was Ronnie's first contribution to glory, and when the might of Middlesex County team was among the entries it doesn't need the wisdom of a public school don to forecast that this tall Mancunian is going places in the future. Following up this slick display he gave an immaculate exhibition in defeating Ken Stanley, 23—21, 21—11; Leslie Cohen, 21—15, 21—19; and the Yorkshire men Wally Hinchliffe and Alan Thompson to reach the semi-final in a star-studded Lancashire Open tournament. Progress, of course it is when you consider that a couple of seasons ago after the junior international match at New Brighton against Wales, Ronnie was so depressed that it took his very best friends all their time to persuade him to play again.

Switching to Derby, there is a 17-year-old girl who has the same grit and determination. Her name, Joan Walker, and she took the Sheffield women's singles. I'm told Joan practises three hours daily and most of the week-ends. Good show. It was surprising to hear the mass verdict of the players this side of the Pennines who made the trek to Sheffield. They said that the conditions were such that it was impossible to play decent table tennis. Rubbish. A batsman on the cricket field has to adapt himself to the ever-changing type of wicket. Table tennis players should do likewise. While I'm in sympathy with everyone who has to strive under adverse conditions, and particularly when the events are running late, the mental attitude of the present-day player is wrong. It is only by the will to win being ever prevalent that unnatural conditions are surmounted.

Out of the blue comes a potential England player. I say this in all sincerity for Catherine Best (Wakefield) gave as good an exhibition of streamlined hitting as I have seen since Vera Thomas gave up serious play. It was in the Lincs. women's singles final against Adele Wood. Adele, right at the peak of her form, had to pull out every ounce of experience to win.



STANLEY PROFFITT

Another Yorkshire player who has improved tremendously since I last saw him is Malcolm Mackley (Hull). Tall and clean-limbed he impressed the selectors at the junior trials and was rewarded with a reserve place in the English team to play Wales in March.

Over to Lancashire, Clifford Booth (Bolton) and Jeffrey Ingbert (Manchester) played wonder table tennis in the Junior trials, to be ranked first and second respectively in the team which recently made a month's tour of Scandinavia. It's a great chance for these youngsters who have yet still another full two seasons ahead in the junior grade.

It gives us great pleasure to present the fact that two Lancashire players have won a National Open Championship. Twenty-nine-year-old Ken Stanley (Leyland) stepped off the boat with the Irish men's singles cup in his bag, and 18-year-old Andree Jones (Liverpool) with the women's.

Ken, who now is the proud father of a boy, aged five, and a girl, three years old, commenced playing himself at the tender age of 11, and before he had attained his 16th birthday had won the English Junior Championship on three successive occasions. It is Ken's second national title for he won the Indian Open Championship at Bombay in 1945, after travelling 2,000 miles to accomplish the feat.

To Andree Jones we predict a bright future. Not many young ladies in their first season of senior grade table tennis have snatched a national title, especially as she had to defeat three internationals en route, Catherine Eagan, 21—17, 21—6; Hilda Agnew, 21—17, 13—21, 21—16; and Betty Pithie, from Edinburgh, 18—21, 21—8, 21—12.

Last but not least, we offer our congratulations to Allen Costello (Bolton) who, in Air Force blue, reached the Irish final.

THE RICHARD BERGMANN STALEMATE

"Treated Like a Naughty Schoolboy"

QUESTION of the moment in table tennis circles is: Why is Richard Bergmann still outside competitive play? The average onlooker is confused by the mystery which surrounds Bergmann, his suspension, his future, how he stands with the ETTA...

The Association, after announcing nine months ago that the current world champion had been suspended indefinitely for undertaking a tour of South Africa without having (so it is alleged) first obtained official sanction, has since had nothing further to add, beyond this now aged Press statement:—

"The charge against Richard Bergmann, which occasioned his suspension, was, as is known, the playing of table tennis abroad for remuneration, without first seeking and obtaining sanction of the English Table Tennis Association in accordance with the Rules. Subsequently, a second charge has arisen—that of playing table tennis since his suspension. The Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association met on the 4th November, 1950, in Birmingham. The Committee had before it written material from Richard Bergmann, constituting an appeal and request for reinstatement. The fact of the offence is in essence not denied, the appeal taking the form of a claim of extenuating circumstances. The Executive Committee was unanimously of the opinion that, on the basis of the material before it, the claim was not sufficiently clearly established to warrant the lifting of the suspension. The entry of Richard Bergmann to the English Open Championships is, therefore, refused as that of a player not eligible owing to suspension. This decision has been communicated to Richard Bergmann at his last known address abroad, and at the same time he is informed that he will be afforded the opportunity of a personal hearing should he so desire, at an early date after his return to this country."

Bergmann has publicly avowed, in South Africa and in this country since his return, that he is innocent of the alleged offence. The one fact which all can grasp is that the game's supreme exponent has been put outside competitive sport.

I have been to Bergmann to get his views on the whole sorry matter. I found him hard at work practising with Steve Boros for their exhibition T.T. act in the Vic Oliver revue, "Let Yourself Go."

Richard told me that the show is expected to run for at least a year and that he and Boros are contracted to continue their act throughout the country-wide showing.

We got on to the subject of his suspension. Said the champion: "It's obvious that I'm expected to go to the ETTA on my knees and beg for the ban to be lifted. It doesn't satisfy the authorities that I have twice appealed against the suspension, giving a very detailed account of the events which led to the trouble. I must humble myself, despite my assertions that I'm innocent of the charges laid against me. As I'm being treated like a naughty schoolboy my reaction is to behave like one."

I asked him outright if he went to South Africa without permission, knowing that by doing so he was flouting regulations. His immediate and emphatic response was: "I honestly and sincerely thought I had settled the matter of permission to everyone's satisfaction. I stressed this fact in South Africa immediately I heard there was trouble, and again when I arrived home. Before I went abroad I sent a cable to the South African Table Tennis Board, who replied that I had their permission, given under duress, to undertake the tour. This reply was sent direct to the ETTA. I had no time to pursue the matter further, as I was due to travel immediately if plans weren't to be upset. Never at any time was I given the impression that by going would I contravene regulations and lay myself open to punishment."

"My South African sponsor, Hymie Sofer, had spent £2,500 on the hire of halls, plane tickets, publicity, and other items pertaining to my visit, and I certainly couldn't let him down. Had I done so, I should have been involved in a costly lawsuit, quite apart from having broken faith with a good friend. I had to see the job through, and I did. And no-one has suffered by it. On the contrary, my visit has stimulated a great interest in table tennis throughout South Africa."

"I assure you, as I have assured the authorities, that I genuinely thought it was O.K. for me to go abroad. It was a shock to me that in my absence I was tried, found guilty, and summarily sentenced. My judges might at least have

waited until I arrived back, before throwing me out of the game. After all, even a murderer in England is allowed to defend himself. This elementary principle of British justice was denied me.

"If I want to play again in organised T.T., I must go cap-in-hand to the ruling body and plead to be forgiven for something I haven't done. I consider that, quite apart from my suspension, my prestige as a person—not as a player—has suffered to a quite considerable extent. There is no doubt that some have come to regard me, due to the tour and its consequences, as an undisciplined player who thinks that because he is world champion he can do as he likes. That is what hurts."

"The truth is that I am a table tennis player who plays his best at all times and in all places, and one who has the interests of the game and its followers at heart. I can claim to have helped raise the status of the sport in Australia, India, New Zealand, and other countries, and given pleasure to hundreds of thousands. I hope I do not sound immodest when I say that. I merely state a hard fact which none can dispute. I defy anyone to say that the game has been the worse for the advent of Richard Bergmann."

Those are the champion's views and feelings. He is convinced that he has done nothing wrong. It might be noted that he can legitimately claim to be undefeated champion of the world. His reputation as a player is secure for all time, no matter what officials may say or do. The ETTA, incidentally, has received a petition from a body of T.T.

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Table Tennis and Tobacco

By BILL PARKER

IS Smoking Bad for One's Table Tennis? This is a question that was put to me from more than one source recently. I thought of various world singles champions, men and women, past and present, and could not bring to mind one smoker among them. Even just outside the ranks of the truly great, there are very few who seek pleasure in the company of Madam Nicotine. Michel Haguenaer is by no means a heavy smoker and, like Tennyson's "Brook," seems capable of going on for ever. Ivan Andreadis, a good average smoker, has a wonderfully long reach and a beautiful easy style, and it is surprising that he has not done greater things. He seems unable to produce that little extra that Barna, Szabados, Bergmann, Vaña and Leach (all non-smokers) found when most needed. Ernie Bublely, with his close to the table game, is probably affected little or not at all by the occasional cigarette he obviously enjoys.

There are, of course, several internationalists who like to have a packet of "gaspers" handy, but in the top world class they are in the minority. Pipe smokers among t.t. players are rare—the happiest partnership in this respect probably being that of Stanley Proffitt and his briar. But Stan can always plead that he doesn't play "world stuff" any longer.

To return to the question—"Is Smoking Bad for One's Table Tennis?" I have visions of irate tobacco magnates bearing down upon me if I should say the wrong thing. Think it out for yourself—I wouldn't know!

SCARBOROUGH

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By NORMAN WILSON (Irish Hon Sec.)

THE opening Irish Tournament—the Lisburn Open—which brought shocks to some of the leading international players has provided the general pattern of successive tournaments this season. How the mighty have fallen and have given headaches to the Irish selectors.

After Lisburn came the County Dublin Open, which was mostly confined to local players. The biggest surprise here came with the come-back of Harry Thuillier—a former Irish International player, who has the distinction of being the only Irish player ever to beat Johnny Leach. Thuillier defeated the young Irish International player, S. Clerkin, and went on to reach the final of the men's singles when he lost in the fifth game to W. Pappin.

New title holders in the County Dublin are: Men's Singles, W. Pappin; Women's Singles, Miss C. A. Egan; Men's Doubles, H. C. Wine and S. Beilin; Women's Doubles, Misses D. Fearon and A. Coombs; Mixed Doubles, S. Clerkin and Miss D. Fearon.

Ulster Open

The Ulster Open Championships which took place from November 13 to 18, in Belfast provided a high standard of play in addition to some shocks. In a second round match in the Men's Singles, W. Pappin, of Dublin, fresh from his victory there, was defeated by Hugh McBride, of Ards. An outstanding player in the tournament was E. Allen, last season's Irish boy champion, who beat J. O'Hara, a former Irish International, in the 4th Round. In the 5th Round he met Harry O'Prey, winning the first game to 9, had a comfortable lead in the second but lost to 17, and lost the decider to 14. I. E. Martin got a shock in the 5th Round when he was defeated by Ken Campbell, another young player who is now a tenacious and consistent player. In the semi-finals, V. Mercer beat Campbell, and Fox disposed of Harry O'Prey. A magnificent final brought the title to Mercer, who, although 7—13 down in the fifth game made a splendid rally to win.

New title holders are: Men's Singles, V. Mercer; Women's Singles, Miss C. A.

Egan; Men's Doubles, I. E. Martin and J. Fox; Women's Doubles, Miss H. Agnew and Mrs. V. Mercer; Mixed Doubles, V. Mercer and Mrs. V. Mercer; Boys' Singles, C. McBride.

Munster Open

The Munster Open staged in Cork saw the Men's Singles title won by a local player for the first time in the history of the Tournament, when J. Christie defeated E. Sterne (Dublin) in the semi and went on to defeat T. Seacy (Cork) in the final.

New title holders in the Munster Open are: Men's Singles, J. Christie; Women's Singles, Miss F. Dawkins; Men's Doubles, E. Sterne and N. Kerr; Women's Doubles, Miss F. Dawkins and Mrs. Craigie; Mixed Doubles, E. Sterne and Miss A. Coombs; Boys' Singles, C. Turner.

Leinster Open

One of the most important Irish Tournaments is the Leinster Open, staged in Dublin, and usually attracting some of the "star" players of international repute. This season's tournament proved no exception, as G. Amouretti (France) and M. Reisman (U.S.A.), came over for the event. Besides the large local entry, a representative field of players travelled from Ulster including E. Allen, K. Campbell, J. J. Burns, I. E. Martin, C. D. Senior, J. O'Hara, V. Mercer and Mrs. Mercer. Allen went out early to Reisman, but took a game off him. S. Clerkin, of Dublin, defeated I. E. Martin and J. O'Hara on his way to the semi-final, where he was beaten in straight sets by Amouretti. Campbell had a magnificent battle with Amouretti in the quarter-finals, winning a *love to me* *15-15*.

... to pursue the matter further, as I was due to travel immediately if plans weren't to be upset. Never at any time was I given the impression that by going would I contravene regulations and lay myself open to punishment.

"My South African sponsor, Hymie Sofer, had spent £2,500 on the hire of halls, plane tickets, publicity, and other items pertaining to my visit, and I certainly couldn't let him down, Had I done so, I should have been involved in a costly lawsuit, quite apart from having broken faith with a good friend. I had to see the job through, and I did. And no-one has suffered by it. On the contrary, my visit has stimulated a great interest in table tennis throughout South Africa.

"I assure you, as I have assured the authorities, that I genuinely thought it was O.K. for me to go abroad. It was a shock to me that in my absence I was tried, found guilty, and summarily sentenced. My judges might at least have

and leading 10—4 in the second. The Frenchman proved too steady, however, pulling up to win 21—17, and winning the third game comfortably to 7. V. Mercer reached the semi-finals without dropping a game, and then met Reisman. Whether the American was over-confident or not, Mercer went ahead by winning the first two games, lost the third, and finding a good length, hit Reisman, to win the fourth 21—19. In the final against Amouretti he was beaten 3—1.

New title holders in the Leinster Open are: Men's Singles, G. Amouretti; Women's Singles, Miss C. A. Egan; Men's Doubles, V. Mercer and J. J. Burns; Women's Doubles, Miss F. Dawkins and Mrs. V. Mercer; Mixed Doubles, N. Kerr and Miss F. Dawkins; Boys' Singles, N. Harkins.

County Antrim Open

The final Irish tournament in December was the County Antrim Open, staged in Ballymena, which ended on December 18. This attracted entries from Dublin and Belfast, while extra spice was added by Ron Crayden and Ken Craigy who travelled from England. Everything went according to plan until the night of the finals. Ivan Martin who had had a poor tournament record so far this season, suddenly touched new heights when he played a masterly game against Ron Crayden in the first Men's Singles semi-

final to win 3—1. In the other semi, K. Craigy defeated J. Fox, who played well to take the Englishman to the fifth game. The final between Martin and Craigy will be remembered as a dour struggle and a splendid performance by the Irishman, who, after losing the first two games came back to win the remaining games with an exciting finish 22—20 in his favour in the fifth, and thus retain his title.

The new title holders in the County Antrim are: Men's Singles, I. E. Martin (holder); Women's Singles, Miss H. Agnew (holder); Men's Doubles, R. Crayden and K. Craigy; Women's Doubles, Mrs. V. Mercer and Miss G. E. Boyle; Mixed Doubles, I. E. Martin and Miss H. Agnew; Boys' Singles, B. Johnston.

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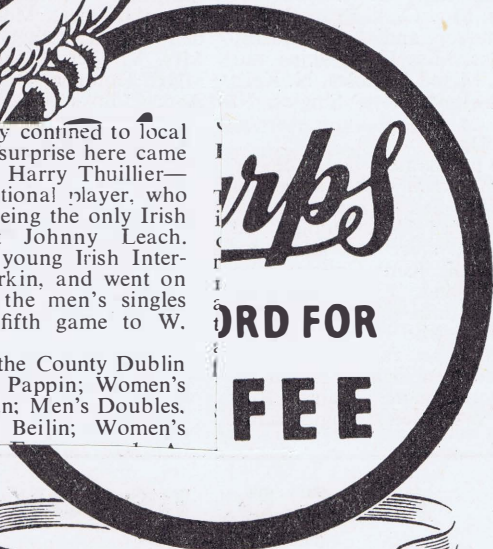
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open, which was mostly confined to local players. The biggest surprise here came with the come-back of Harry Thuillier—a former Irish International player, who has the distinction of being the only Irish player ever to beat Johnny Leach. Thuillier defeated the young Irish International player, S. Clerkin, and went on to reach the final of the men's singles when he lost in the fifth game to W. Pappin.

New title holders in the County Dublin are: Men's Singles, W. Pappin; Women's Singles, Miss C. A. Egan; Men's Doubles, H. C. Wine and S. Beilin; Women's Doubles, Miss...

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KEEN TO UMPIRE

By Jack Boyer (U.S.A.)

THE tale I am about to tell is absolutely true and can be proved if necessary by the U.S.T.T.A. It came to mind when I read the article "The County Umpire Scheme" in the October issue of *Table Tennis Review*.

It happened in Columbus, Ohio at the National T.T. Tournament in the Spring of 1948. I made the trip from my hometown of Milwaukee, near Chicago, with a group of contestants whose names won't probably mean much to players outside of America.

At the tournament the Referee kept asking if all players would take charge of a match or two. This was not an unusual request as the problem of umpires always comes up at every big tournament. Some players refused but the majority understood the difficulties of the Referee and offered to help.

There was one young fellow who even seemed eager to get out there and umpire the matches. He appeared to be in his "glory" when sitting in the centre of the floor calling out the scores. He interested me greatly because he was such an exception to the general rule. Then I noticed that he didn't follow the ball with his eyes, but instead kept his head down as though he was concentrating on some other matter. But even with this peculiar style (yes, umpires have styles of their own) it was quite evident that as an umpire he was top rate.

I asked my friend what he thought of the fellow and his reply knocked me over. He said, "Sure, that's one of the best umpires in this or any other tournament—and he's totally blind."

I was then eager to meet him. After I had introduced myself he told me of his great interest in the game but how he could not appreciate it properly unless he was right out there close to the table, hence his love for umpiring. He said his ears acted as his eyes when he was in close range and in that way he could enjoy a match almost as well as if he could see it.

I'll never forget my meeting with that young fellow. Later at home I tried umpiring a game with my eyes closed and found it wasn't so hard. You try it sometime.

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NEW U.S. STAR

Youngest member of the U.S.A. team which took part in the World's Championships in Vienna, is 18-year-old Patty McLinn, of Harrisburg, Pa. Good looking and well-formed Patty rose rapidly in the table tennis world of America after three years' intensive coaching by her father, who won the Pennsylvania Veteran's Championship in 1938. Mr. McLinn's first step was to install a standard table with good lighting in their large double garage. Patty then proceeded to put in 14 hours' practice per week, and after 18 months she entered her first tournament in 1948. Although she has won her Corbillon Cup badge Patty has never won a major tournament, but Patty says she intends to put that right, and, in fact, her ambition is set on the Women's Singles title.

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MIDDLESEX OPEN MARRED BY OTHER EVENTS

The Middlesex Open Table Tennis Championship took place at the Herga Club, Harrow, last week, culminating with the finals on Saturday, February 17. The competition was somewhat marred by the withdrawal of several leading players, the Misses R. and D. Rowe, M. Thornhill and K. Hurlock to mention but a few, this being due to the clash of the Surrey v. Essex county match at the "Rose Bowl" Tournament.

In the men's semi-final, hard hitting A. Rhodes (Wembley Institute) gave A. R. Miller (Surrey) a tough fight before being worn down by the latter's brilliant defence. In the other semi-final, L. Adams received a walk-over owing to the last minute scratching of K. Spychalski, who, having fought his way through to the last stage turned out for County duty.

Miller went on to win the final against Adams, though Adams had a splendid chance when leading two games to one and led 20-18 in the fourth game. A bad lapse on the part of Adams lost him two quick points which Miller must have been surprised to receive. There was yet another match point to Adams, but Miller drew level once more and went on to level the score in games 2-2. Miller piled on the pressure in the fifth game and ran out the victor. Scores being 17, -18, -10, 21, and 16.

Highlight of the evening was the Men's Doubles final when the better fancied pair, Ron. Sharman and L. Adams, were hard pressed by Tony Miller and D. Burridge. This event went to five games and one felt that had Burridge, whose smashing

forehand had served him well, only attacked a little more in this vital game the result might have been different. The title went to Sharman and Adams with scores of 20, -16, 15, -19, 16.

The Ladies Singles was rather a tame affair in which Miss D. Spooner was completely overawed by Joyce Roberts. Miss Spooner, who has proved on other occasions to possess a very fine forehand attack seemed afraid to put it into use. Scores to Joyce Roberts 12 and 17.

The Ladies Doubles was another triumph for experience over youth, where Miss J. Roberts partnered by Mrs. P. George, the Sussex County player, were not unduly troubled by two very game fighters in Miss Sheila Smith and Miss Y. Baker. Obviously nervous, the young pair got off on the wrong foot and were soon trailing behind. They recovered a little but lost the first game 21-13. Getting into their stride better in the second game some quite good table tennis was produced and though the result was inevitable they went down fighting at 21-14. Miss Roberts was once again featured in the Mixed Doubles and although this time partnered by Denis Miller was on the losing side being quite well beaten by J. Head (Surrey) and Miss D. Spooner, 21-15, 21-15.

In the Boys Singles, S. Brocklebank (Kent) always carried too many guns for I. Jones (Middx.) and although not showing obvious superiority until the second game was a clear winner, 21-19, 21-14.

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YOUR SEASON'S DIARY

<p>March Week Ending</p> <p>17. 17 —Grimsby 24. 24 —Bedfordshire. —N. East England, Scarborough. 31. 31 —West of England Exeter.</p> <p>April Week Ending</p> <p>7. 7-8 —Bucks 4-6 & 9-14—West Middlesex</p> <p>14. — 21. 21-22—North West Kent 28. 30-5 May—Thameside</p> <p>May</p> <p>12. — 19. — 26. —</p>	<p>IMPORTANT NATIONAL EVENTS</p> <p>21 March— England v. Wales (Juniors) at Aylesford, Kent</p> <p>6-8 April— American Nationals</p> <p>8 May— France v. England (Men) Paris</p>	
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