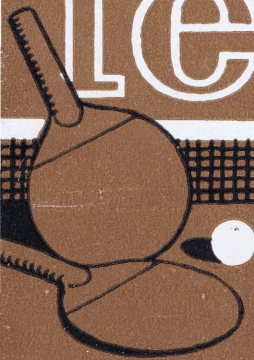


Table Tennis REVIEW

*World Championship's
Souvenir Issue*

Vol. 5 No. 4

MAY-JUNE, 1951



NEWS



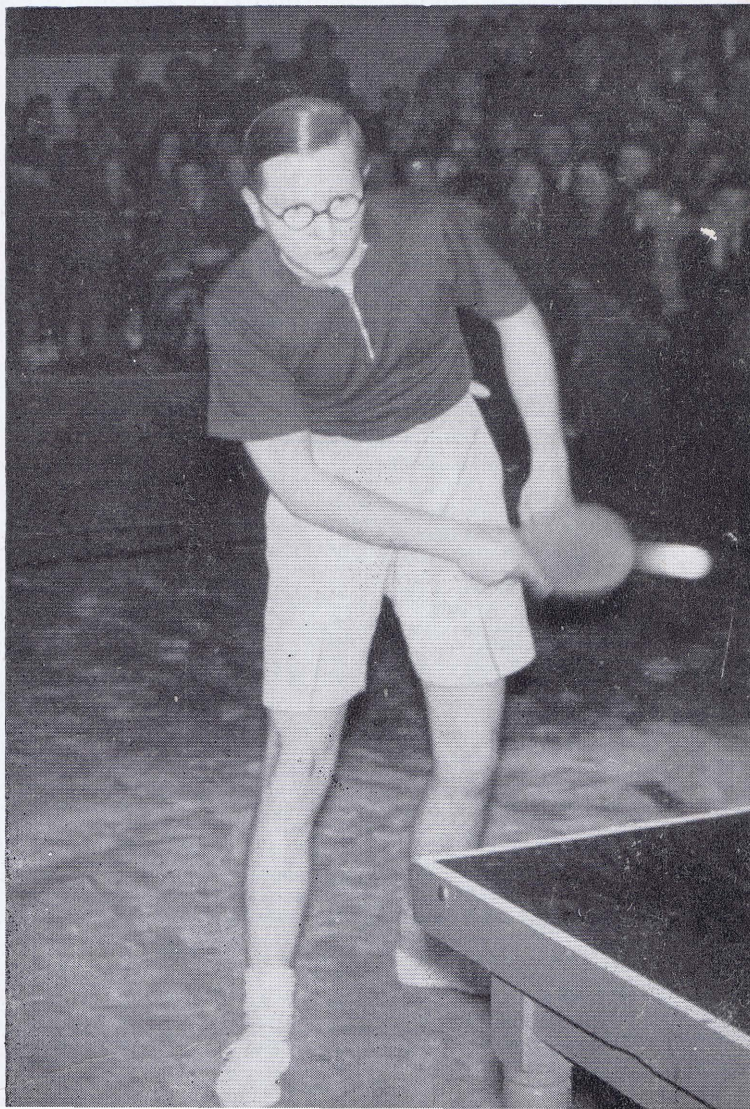
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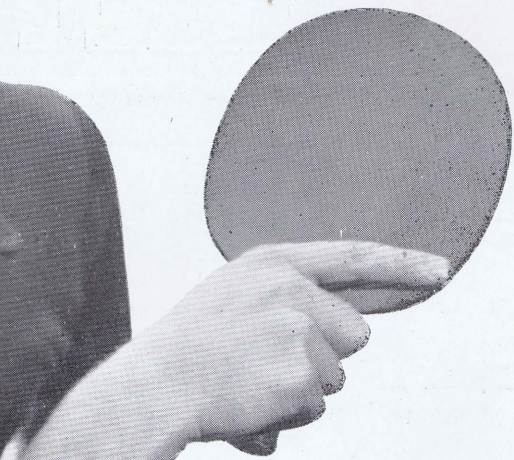


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TABLE TENNIS

REVIEW

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Editorial Notes

CONGRATULATIONS indeed to Johnny Leach. He has done this old country "reet proud" as they say in Lancashire. But Johnny is lifting table tennis still higher in all parts of the world. He has shown it possible for a star player to command the salary of quite a moderately successful film star, and he has probably made more money from a world title than any other player in the world. Good luck to him. That fact alone will prove a tremendous incentive to younger players. It makes a world title more coveted than ever. And don't forget, you youngsters, you don't have to acquire the world crown to find your table tennis can be both enjoyable and profitable. There is plenty of room for first class exhibition players and coaches. But even if you never taste some of these prizes of our sport, table tennis will still be giving you something even more important than limelight and pecuniary gain. It will give you body and mental fitness and the happy comradeship of your sporting rivals.

* * *

The Hon. Ivor Montagu, President of the I.T.T.F. and top ranker in the E.T.T.A. Selection Committee sent me some brief terse remarks on a postcard in reply to Sam Kirkwood's criticism in our last issue. Ivor wrote, "Yes-Men indeed! I only wish Sam would find me a few. I haven't met any in table tennis since the 1920's."

* * *

Another letter in my postbag was from Trevor Flint (the New Zealand player) who came over for the English and the World's. His friend, Jack Brough (the big chap), sailed for home on March 29th, but Trevor decided to have another year in England. His T.T. should be improved when he gets back! Trevor writes, "Had a great time at the 'World's' and the experience is one I shall never forget. Johnny Leach was superb and one must hand it to him. One point about the majority of English players is that they underrate their own standard, and from my observations of play on the Continent I think it is only a matter of two or three years before England will come into its own and really sweep the board. Table tennis seems to be one of the few sports in England where the term 'Eat, drink and sleep it' applies."

* * *

Finally, please once again accept my apologies for irregularity in publication during this past season, caused by a long illness from which I now appear to be recovering. The January/February issue had to be missed completely, and though I planned to make this up with an extra issue in April, a slight relapse in March made this impossible. Subscribers will, of course, have their subscriptions extended by one copy. We hope to appear bright and early in September to commence the new 1951/52 season with arrangements for punctuality in publication. In the meantime—happy holidays to you all.

ARTHUR WAITE.



DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

In the March issue of the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association's magazine, "White Rose,"—a bright and interesting publication for Yorkshire fans—there is a joke (bit of a chestnut) about a couple of people who received tickets for a Country match sent by person or persons unknown. The couple were extremely puzzled as to who had sent the tickets, but when they returned home, they found the house had been burgled and on the mantelpiece was a card, which read, "Now you know." Well the sequel to this is, that Aubrey Simons trips off to Vienna for the World's and upon his return, he too, found he had had burglars. Aubrey does not say so, but we feel sure that somewhere in the house is a card which reads, "Sorry we could not wait for more trophies."

In the South American Championships, Brazil took first place, Chile the second, and Argentine third place. Number one ranking players of these countries are: **Brazil**, Hugo Severo (insufficient data of Ivan Severo); **Chile**, Fernando Olazarri; **Argentine**, Felix Rozmanich. General opinion looks upon Ivan Severo as the best South American player. The Chilean President, Rufino Luis Feito, flew to the recent World's Championships in Vienna with the object of trying to obtain two stars to tour South America during the winter; European summer.

Miss Sayeed Sultana, of Hyderabad, India, comes from a table tennis family of seven children. At the age of twelve she won the All Indian Ladies Singles title and then this year, at thirteen years, retained the title. Already a member of the Indian Corbillon Cup team, she appears to be a good bet for a future world title, especially in view of some of her performances against English players. She recently beat Margaret Fry of Bristol, 21-15, 21-16.

Ireland's No. 1 and No. 2 players, Victor Mercer and Ivan Martin, were both suspended from March 15 to May 26, because of their "attitude" to

the recent Connaught Open. They were invited to compete but decided not to go because the promoters refused to pay their expenses for the three-day visit.

Rosalind and Diana Rowe, World Ladies Doubles Champions, wrote a series of instructional table tennis articles for the magazine "Woman," and opening the first article the Editor states she has pleasure in introducing readers to the most popular and **inexpensive** of all indoor sports. We and most of our readers will query that word "inexpensive"; personally, we ourselves consider it one of the most expensive of all sports, indoor or outdoor. In one of his "Empire News" articles, Alec Brook states that Mr. Ronald Rowe, father of the Rowe twins, cheerfully paid out £300 per year to enable his daughters to get around to tournaments, etc., and gain experience. That means a total outlay of £900, but in this instance the investment was a sound one. Now the dividends are starting to roll in, following the capture of the world's doubles title. Alec Brook goes on to estimate that the £900 should bring a return of £20,000. The sum sounds rather exaggerated for this sport of table tennis, but we are inclined to agree with Alec, because Johnny Leach's earnings in a single year run into quite a pleasing number of thousands.

At the residence labelled "White Rose" of 681, Anlaby Road Hull, there appeared, on March 11, a tiny "white Rosebud"; Weight, 8½ lbs. The proud parents are Marcus and Norma Bilshop, both Yorkshire County players. Their daughter is called Angela Denise.

Table tennis is, of course, to be featured at the Festival of Britain from May until September. Man in charge of the exhibitions is popular Jack Carrington. Jack turned down an offer to visit America this year because of "added responsibilities at home."

Mr. K. H. Choi, the South Korean player, who has won such popularity

during his stay in California, America, was fired with an ambition to return to Korea and bring back his family to live in the U.S. Then came news that his mother, father, one of his two children and a brother had all been killed in the fighting. On top of this, came the news that his temporary visa expired on April 30, and could not be renewed. Passage money of four hundred dollars had to be found by that date otherwise he would be deported, and law has it that a deported person can never again return to the U.S. Kenny Choi's friends knew he could not raise the money, and under the auspices of the Californian T.T.A., a fund was raised to help Kenny out of his difficulties. At the time of going to press we do not know the outcome of their efforts, but we sincerely hope that Kenny Choi, a fellow table tennis player, will soon find happiness and peace of mind. And cheers for you well meaning Californians.

Included in this issue is an article by Richard Bergmann, who has asked to be styled as the "Undefeated World Champion." On this occasion we have done this, but at the same time realise it is likely to be the cause of controversy. Is he justified in using that title for stage appearances, articles, etc.? We should welcome your views. To the two best letters received we will award good class table tennis bats. In their stage act with Vic Oliver's show, "Let Yourself Go," he and Stephen Boros are billed as "The World Table Tennis Champions." Boros was a member of the Hungarian team in 1932/33 that won the Swaythling Cup.

Bergmann claims that his stage show is his reply to Mr. Corti Woodcock's remarks about his "dull" final match against Soos at Budapest last year. Richard says: "For serious matches I play to win, and at times it might be dull, but according to eye witnesses who have seen our stage show, the table tennis we give to the public is the most spectacular ever seen in the history of the game." Vic Oliver, himself a keen T.T. fan, does a little humorous umpiring. On an average, 35,000 people see the show each week, and for the next few weeks the following places will be visited on the dates given: May 7, (Empire) Edinburgh; May 21, (Alhambra) Bradford; May 28, (Empire) Liverpool; June 4, (Hippodrome) Manchester. By the end of the tour, on June 9, Bergmann claims that well over half-a-million people will have seen their act, and consequently have been introduced to world-class table tennis.

Liverpool and District T.T.L. celebrated the closing of their twenty-fifth anniversary season by being the first private party to charter the new ship, "Royal Iris," for a dance and cruise down the river. It is said to be the only ship of its kind in the world. It has a capacity for 1,000 people, and has on board, among other usual amenities, a fish and chip shop. The end of this present season will also mark the end of the first successful year of life of Liverpool's own official magazine, "Table Tennis Digest." Liverpool is the only city in the world to boast its own printed T.T. magazine.

The E.T.T.A. have issued the following statement:—

At a meeting of the National Executive Committee held on February 10th, a letter was received from S. Boros stating that he was taking part in a stage act with Bergmann. This constitutes an offence as he is playing with a suspended player. It was decided to advise Boros as to the position, pointing out the penalty and inform him he could appear before the Disciplinary Committee if he wished. No reply was received, so Boros has been suspended indefinitely as from March 19th, 1951.

During the season 1951/52 international matches will be played by England against France and Wales. There will also be a Junior international event against Sweden. The Swedish juniors will once again tour England and up to the present the proposed dates are March 10th to 24th. The English Open will take place at Wembley from March 25th to March 29th, 1952, while the World Championships will be played in India, January 25th to February 3rd, 1952.

On March 29th, 1951, the world-famous T.T. personality, Mr. Zultan Mechlovits of Hungary, died after prolonged illness. Mr. Mechlovits was finalist in the first World Championship in 1926 and took the title the following year. He was a member of the first Hungarian team to tour England. The editor of this magazine had the pleasure of playing against him in 1920, and in this particular match, which was Manchester versus Hungary, each event was thirty-one points up. Against Mechlovits T.T. Review Editor (then a boy in short pants) managed to get 29. The Hungarians lost only one event of this match and that was when the late popular Jack Swann (E.T.T.A. Executive and international player) beat S. Glancz.

WHEN IS A PLAYER TOO OLD ?

SOME 18 years ago, when he was a flop-haired youngster of barely 22, to Victor Barna was accredited the remark, "A player is too old at 25." It was further said at the time that the current world champion was firm in his intention to retire, for reasons of "old age," before he attained the mature age of one score and five years. Victor has always denied that he ever gave voice to the "axiom" quoted above. And, as we all know, he certainly did not retire on attaining his quarter-century.

However, whether Victor gave voice to the opinion or not, the fact remains that for years many views have been passed on this age question. There are some who hotly contend that a player is at his peak at 20, and that at 25 he has begun to slip—that, at that age, he is certainly past his best. There are others who maintain, with equal vehemence, that a player in his late twenties and even early thirties is in full bloom; his added experience more than atoning for his loss of early youth.

The fact that Barna, Bergmann and "Bo" Vana won their first world titles while still in their 'teens, seems to have provided ammunition to be used by those who feel the mid-twenties to be the "past one's best" stage.

If facts are anything to go by, however, there is only one argument in it. Let's turn to facts.

Although Barna was 23 when he won his fifth and final world singles title, he has continued to play and win national championships and international honours. Within the last six months, in fact, at the age of 39, he has won the men's doubles championships of England and France, while, though he has retired from singles play, he could still command a place in the world ranking list. Vana won the world crown for the second time at 27, while Bergmann took the title for the fourth time at 31.

Johnny Leach, in his 29th year, triumphed at Vienna in the recent World Series, taking the singles title for the second time. In that tournament many of the favourites for the title were men of over 30—Vana, Tereba, Hagenauer, Sido, and such.

The world ranking list for 1949/50 reads thus :

1, R. Bergmann (England); 2, F. Sido (Hungary); 3, B. Vana (Czechoslovakia); 4, F. Soos (Hungary); 5, V. Tereba (Czechoslovakia); 6, I. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia); 7, J. Leach (England); 8, M. Hagenauer (France); 9, A. Ehrlich

By SAM KIRKWOOD

(France); 10, A. Simons (England), Bergmann, Vana, Soos, Tereba, Hagenauer, Sido and Ehrlich are all over 30—Soos, Hagenauer and Ehrlich are, in fact, around the 35 mark. Simons and Leach are a little over a year short of 30. One man, Andreadis, is in his mid-twenties. Not a youngster under 25 amongst the world's leading ten players, in fact? (I haven't forgotten Dick Miles, Martin Reisman and Josef Kocziak—but they aren't officially listed, although I think them worthy of places.)

In the women's section, the 1950 and 1951 world champion, Rumania's Angelica Rozeanu, is 31. Trudi Pritzi, who won our English title, beating up our best girls in the process, is 36—the Austrian girl won the world title 15 years ago, yet she is still good enough to whip the cream of our youngsters. In the English, incidentally, the only one to give her a game; the only one, indeed, to take a set off her, was "Pinkie" Barnes, who will forgive me for saying that she will never see thirty again.

We could carry on like this indefinitely quoting cases. But I think I've said enough to show that the "too old at 25" theory is so much nonsense. Even at boxing, without a doubt the toughest of physical sports, where youth is absolutely vital, 25 is regarded as a peak age. It is rubbish to suggest that table tennis players sink into a decline and decay after passing 20-odd years.

If you're over 25, or even over 55, go to it and don't worry about silly opinions which have absolutely no foundation in fact. There are records of men and women of seventy and more winning tournaments, while countless league teams owe much to their veteran stars of 40 and 50. Who can deny that a player is only as old as he plays, and not a minute older?

GRIMSBY OPEN TITLES

March 17th

FINALS

M.S.—P. SKERRATT beat G. Halmshaw —18, 17, 13.

W.S.—Miss D. MUNNINGS beat Miss M. Crust —19, 14, 17.

M.D.—P. Skerratt/G. Gimpson beat A. Hall/N. Ingham 14, —18, 17.

W.D.—Misses M. Lightfoot/D. Munnings beat Misses B. Steventon/A. Jones 22, —15, 18.

Thoughts on Fitness and Coaching

By M. L. Perkins

I wonder how many people stop to think of the fitness required by the player to reach International standard. By this I mean mental fitness besides physical fitness.

Three very important points must receive consideration: (a) Circumstances (b) Confidence (c) Stamina (fitness).

(a) By circumstances I mean how fortunate the player was in obtaining coaching and practice whilst young, to bring out any natural gift there was to be shown and developed by the right tutor. At a later stage, arises his work and how much time can be devoted to table tennis. If a person has to use mental powers at his work for eight or nine hours a day, and then has to keep up studies on certain evenings and be expected to play in two or three matches a week, the brain cannot be as active as a person who, owing to his financial position, can afford to do a job of work without too much brainwork and get off for any match, practice when he wishes, and no private studies, the brain is bound to be more active. I realise that remarks are forthcoming at this stage, to the effect that if one has studies to do he cannot expect to play competitive sport, but have you (always having played sport) tried to give it up?

I believe that mental fatigue is the quickest method of becoming physically tired and the brain will not work as quickly as it is required to. I have done practical work mixed with comparatively little brainwork, and this is not so tiring as sitting in an office working on figures and problems all day with little fresh air. If the brain is tired, footwork and timing cannot be first class.

Players who have an outdoor occupation are fortunate.

(b) This leads me to that great thing, confidence, which often wins matches, and cannot be obtained without continual practice. Too much match play has a tendency to make a player stale. I believe that good solid practice is the only way to obtain full confidence for tournaments, and league matches are then taken as a matter of course.

Everyone can bear witness to "lack of practice" at some time or another, the natural shots are still there, but either no strength in the attack enough to worry your opponent or your timing against the opposing attack is useless.

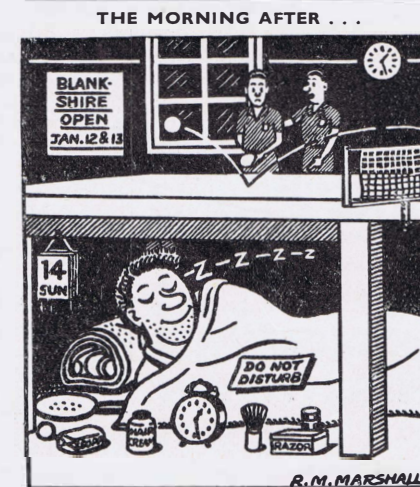
(c) Of course all this combines with stamina. To do this continual set practice and other training, one has to be fit bodily or it could not be kept up regularly. Stamina is built up by regular play and

exercise, but, the first factor is sufficient sleep to renew the mind and body to an active condition. Naturally more stamina is required for competitive table tennis, being as it is an indoor sport.

Regarding the matter of coaching, I do not think there is enough coaching of people up to the age of 30 being done to ensure a high standard continuing. Many more players would only be too willing to pay for good advice and coaching, but working people cannot afford 30s. per session, which is an approximate charge as it varies so much.

I realise it is a difficult problem, but cannot the County Associations subsidise players of average ability apart from the coaching of county players, which I appreciate has to be done to produce further Internationals, which are in most cases the younger players? Isn't it true that some players in every sport do not come into the limelight until several years after they take up the sport, whereas those who have a short stay at the "top" when they are young, "burn-out" and are never likely to return?

These remarks will no doubt be thought very little of in many circles, but just stop and think over the matter for a few minutes. It is surprising the amount of good which can be obtained from suggestions which arise from normal everyday conversation.



"He always comes prepared for a late tournament!"

Can any Historian Oblige?

As publicity officer of the West Australian Table Tennis Association, I am keenly interested, not only in present-day play and players, but in the beginnings of the game.

A paragraph in "Table Tennis Review" for December, 1950, therefore, intrigued me with its reference to vellum bats. Two odd-shaped bats with the words "Real Vellum" inscribed on the face have come into my possession, given to me by a friend who has no idea of their origin. They are extremely light with long thin leather-covered handles and light leather edging around the blades which are, incidentally, far smaller than the modern blade. The maker's name appears to be A.M. and I. Co. The sound of the ball striking the vellum could be described as a hollow "plonk." Any information you can offer me as to their history and date of use, and any other relevant facts on early table tennis would be appreciated.

Although our association is in its infancy, we have all the keenness of English players, so well expressed by the bright articles in the "Review." The game has been stimulated tremendously in the past two years by the visits of Barna and Bergmann, whose superb exhibition play took Perth by storm, and Michael Szabados, the wise man of table tennis on the other side of our continent. This year we hope to see Johnny Leach and Marty Reisman.

Best wishes to your magazine and all English table tennis players.

Athol Thomas, 44, Leake St.,
Cottlesloe, W. Australia.

N.E. ENGLAND OPEN

Easter Week-End at Scarborough

There were 400 entries and the competitors included the full Indian World Championship teams who commenced a tour of Great Britain at Scarborough.

The lady champion of India, Miss Sayeed Sultana, gave a few of the juniors good games before losing in the semi-final of the Junior Singles to the boy from Oldham, G. Pullar. Swaythling Cup player, Brian Kennedy, received a shock by being beaten by young Ron Sugden of Keighley. In the first game, Sugden pulled up from 9—19 to take the first game 24—22. Then in the second game at 19—19 he pulled out two winners and entered the semi-final. For once Kennedy seemed to lose his nerve.

In the men's semi-finals, K. Craigie beat Ron Allcock 16, 13, but the "star turn" was the semi-final between Peter Skerratt and Thiruvengadam (India). Skerratt eventually won, 16, —19, 11.

Final Results:

Junior Singles: G. Pullar (Oldham) beat B. Milner (Pontefract) 10, 18.

Ladies Singles: C. K. Best (Wakefield) beat J. Mackay (Birmingham) 7, 16.

Youths Singles: R. Sugden (Keighley) beat A. Hanson (Pontefract) —20, 14, 9.

Men's Singles: K. Craigie (Surrey) beat P. Skerratt 18, 6, 8.

Ladies Doubles: M. I. Lightfoot / C. K. Best beat M. G. Fry / J. Mackay —17, 9, 16.

Mixed Doubles: B. Kennedy / M. I. Lightfoot beat K. Jayant / S. Sultana 16, 10.

Men's Doubles: Kennedy / Thompson beat Bury / Cure —18, 11, 13.

AN N.U.J. REPORTER ASKS . . .

Is Summer Practice Advisable?

EVERY year without fail at about this time, there arises the query: Should table tennis be played during the close season, i.e., the summer months—or not? Experts are sharply divided in their views on this issue, as, indeed, are lesser mortals who wield a bat.

The "for" element contend that to reach championship heights, or at least the peak of form, one must practise twelve months in the year without a break. The close season, so they maintain, is an admirable time during which to polish up one's game, to strengthen weak points, to overhaul one's game in general. Close season play, so it is further claimed, has the advantage of keeping the player in first-class trim, so that when the new season starts he will not have a "roughness" acquired by a lengthy lay-off from the table.

It is also pointed out that the Continental stars, who for so many years have dominated the sport, play and have always played throughout the year, and know no such thing as a close season.

The opposing school of thought (and I am one of their number) have this to say. Table tennis is, more often than not, played in conditions the reverse of healthy—T.T. rooms, frequently located in basements, are airless, dusty, overheated. During the months of bad weather there is reason to stay indoors, but in summer young people should get all the fresh air possible, bask in the sun, and take a rest from what is essentially a winter pastime. Players will feel all the better for it and enter the new season with added zest and zip. All-the-year-round play creates staleness and gives exponents one-track minds.

I am of the opinion that T.T. should be avoided as much as possible during the summer. Players should definitely forsake stuffy club rooms for swimming, tennis, rambles, and the like. God's sunshine, fresh summer air and gentle weather are in all too short supply in this England of ours, and when we do get a chance to avail ourselves of such meagre rations as come our way, we should take them with both hands, gratefully and eagerly.

So far as improving our play by practising 52 weeks in the year is concerned, it must be borne in mind that though undoubtedly a wonderful sport, T.T. is, when all's said and done, a game and not a religion. Enjoy it, yes, but don't devote all your leisure to it and worry over it, season in and season out. The Continentals may be top dogs at the game, due perhaps to incessant practice,

but many of them have acquired horribly sallow complexions and skimpy physiques in their ascent to stardom. Several of them have, indeed, played themselves right into chest sanatoria.

The contention that dog-like devotion to T.T. is essential is disproved by facts. Fred Perry, the first Englishman to win the world singles title, did not play the one game summer and winter to the exclusion of all else. On the contrary, he managed to indulge in lawn tennis with some considerable degree of success. Charlie Bull and Stanley Proffitt, pre-war English stars, were county cricketers. Johnny Leach, the present kingpin, likes and plays his game of lawn tennis in the summer months. Ex-English Open champion Jean Bostock played first-class lawn tennis, as does Vera Thomas now. Aubrey Simons is an excellent golfer and plays for the Gloucestershire County 2nd eleven at cricket. Howard Walton is a Davis Cup player.

There are many other such cases of top-ranking table tennis stars who blossom and have blossomed out in other sporting spheres in the summer, without their table game being effected.

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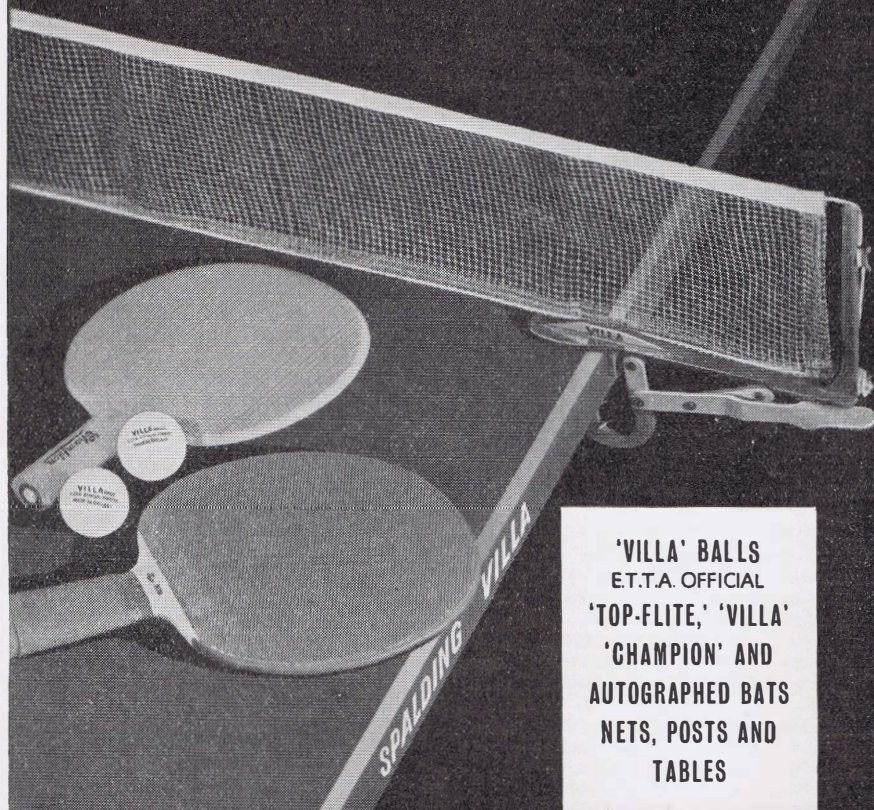
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VIENNA, 1951.

World Championship Story

By AUBREY SIMONS

(Member of the English
Swaythling Cup Team)

(Told from the
Viewpoint of the English
Players)

Departure from England

Most of us were surprised to learn on arriving at the Waverley Hotel, London, that Vera Thomas had been forced to drop out of the team owing to illness. Her doctor had refused her permission to make the trip. Peggy Franks came into the team to take her place but as we left we were uncertain whether Peggy would be allowed to play. The substitution was made after the team names had been submitted to Vienna and only a unanimous decision by the International Congress would allow Peggy Franks to compete.

Mick Thornhill, member of the English Swaythling team, had been suffering from a heavy cold during the week, and though not feeling right up to scratch was fortunately able to travel.

This year we had been fitted out in really fine style: special shoes, team shirts, tailored shorts, and best of all, I think, royal blue track suits with "England" in bold letters on the back and three lions in gold on the front.

Owing to a railway strike it looked very doubtful whether all the team would arrive in time, but at the time of departure only the non-playing captains, Adrian Haydon and Margaret Knott, had failed to arrive. Unfortunately we could not obtain permission to fly over Russian occupied territory and so our route was via Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Munich. This meant we did not arrive until 8 p.m., but we were glad to find our hotel comfortable and not too far from the hall of play.

The Struggle Begins

The next morning we (Simons, Kennedy and Crayden) were on the table against Italy, and we managed to defeat them 5-0. L. Sturani is a much improved player, and he gave Brian Kennedy a good game. He won the first game and



AUBREY SIMONS

was 19-15 up in the second, Brian made a creditable recovery and went on to win the event in the third game by 21-16.

The Brazilian ladies did not turn up so the English Corbillon Cup team had no match on the first day. One thrilling event was the ladies match between Rumania and Scotland. The world star Rozeanu, beat Scotland's Betty Pithie in two straight games but she did not show anything like her last year's form, being much slower. Ivor Montagu remarked that unless she did better we should see a new champion this year. Rumania won 3-1; Scotland's single victory being scored by Helen Elliot against the Rumanian No. 2, Sari Szasz; scores, 21-16, 21-13.

The following day we played our old friends from Wales in a Swaythling Cup event, winning this 5-1. The highlight of this match was the defeat of Kennedy by Stan Jones. Stan's defence worked extremely well and the third and deciding game was certainly a thriller; Jones scrapping in with 23-21.

Our stiffest match came that same afternoon, when we played Sweden. Our team was Leach, Simons, Crayden, and though the Swedes were without Flisberg and Grive, the younger players showed up well. Crayden was not up to his usual form and lost to Croneryd and Cederholm. Croneryd did well to take Leach to three games. Result for England 5-2.

In the Corbillon Cup the Rowe twins recorded England's first win against America, which, of course, was a very creditable win. Leah Thall proved a little too experienced for both of them, but they both beat the U.S. No. 2, Peggy

Ichkoff and also went on to win the doubles. The Welsh girls really excelled themselves by beating Scotland 3-2 and Czechoslovakia 3-1.

The English girls went on to show excellent promise, and both Joyce Roberts and Peggy Franks backed up the twins splendidly winning their matches convincingly. Before we could qualify to meet Rumania in the final, however, we had to get past the stiff obstacles of Hungary and Austria. We did manage this against Hungary; the twins again beating the No. 2 (Sagi) and going on to win the doubles, but against Austria we were unable to repeat the performance. We knew that Trudi Pritzl would be a great stumbling block but we hoped that Ros and Di could both defeat Werlt and follow up to win the doubles. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Linde Werlt (sixteen years), undoubtedly the most improved lady in the tournament, defeated both girls. On this occasion the Rowe girls victory in the doubles did not swing the decision in their favour. Nevertheless, all the English girls did remarkably well, and I feel sure that with more experience the Corbillon Cup will come to this country again.

I. ANDREADIS (Czecho) and JOHNNY LEACH (England)



More Swaythling Matches

The Vietnam team seemed the most improved men players on view, and they gave France a terrific fight before going down 5-2. For the most part they are defensive players.

England defeated Brazil easily; 5-0. In the past they have all been pen-holder players, but their No. 1, I. Severo, has changed to the modern grip, and although he is not so good this way, he himself does not mind, providing he can improve and exert a good influence on the younger players back home.

England go Down

England's match with Yugoslavia was undoubtedly the match of our group, and we had to win it to qualify to meet Hungary in the play-off of Group A. In the first match I managed to beat Gabric quite convincingly in two straight games. Brian Kennedy followed this by taking the first game from Harangozo, 21-15, but lost the next two. Johnny Leach played magnificently and won all his games. I went on again when the score was 4-3 in our favour. My opponent was Vogrinc, and though I felt that I could win, at no time did I get into my stride,



TRUDI PRITZI (Austria)



L. WERTL (Austria)

and Vogrinc ran out an easy winner. Brian found the strain of playing the deciding game a little too great and wasn't quite able to make it.

Yugoslavia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the three group winners, then had to play off to decide who were to be the finalists. This ultimately proved to be Czechoslovakia and Hungary, but Harangozo of Yugoslavia earned the right to be classed among the finest players in the world. Against Hungary, he beat Sido, Koczian and Szepesi.

Mick Thornhill played against Luxembourg and Egypt, and in each case England won 5-0. Mick won all his matches and began to look more like his old self. During the Singles tournament he showed good form taking Tereba (Czechoslovakia) to four games; and even the games lost were very close scores.

SWAYTHLING CUP FINAL

Czechoslovakia v. Hungary.—Before the start of this match the odds were that the Czechs would win easily as Hungary were without a strong third player. It was true that Szepesi did seem a little overawed by the occasion and failed to win the game, but in spite of this Hungary could have brought off a victory, for both Sido and Koczian won two games each. Against Andreadis, Sido led 9-3 and 16-13 in the first game only to lose at 21-18. Andreadis had not been playing too well in Czechoslovakia during the season and had failed to win a single tournament. Undoubtedly, on this oc-

casion, he was the hero of the match winning all his three events. Vana and Tereba were not up to the form we expected of them, and I think that the great "Bo" is now fading from the picture as far as a world beater is concerned. Vana and Tereba were both in the team that won the cup in 1938.

Results: (Czech names first).

CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 5; HUNGARY, 4

CORBILLON CUP FINAL

Rumania v. Austria.—Rumania regained the Corbillon Cup with a fairly easy win over Austria. The Austrian players managed to take the doubles event but no singles. Surprise of this match was the two defeats of Pritzl. Anglica Rozeanu truly trounced her with scores of 21-7 and 21-2! Then Mrs. Szasz went on to beat Trudi by playing her at her own game, proving herself one of the very few people in the world to be able to do so. The second game ended on the 20 minute time limit.

Scores: (Rumanian names first).

RUMANIA, 3; AUSTRIA, 1

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Individual Events

On the Thursday we commenced the singles events and, as always, there were one or two surprises. Roothoft (France), beat Vana 3-1. The old master was only a shadow of his former self. A few days later I had a private chat with him, and

he is very anxious that the net be raised to its former height.

As previously stated, Mick Thornhill did well against Tereba before losing 3-1, while Brian Kennedy reached the last sixteen before losing to Somael (U.S.A.), 3-1. Ron Crayden went out to Croneryd (Sweden); the latter then giving Roothoft a shock by taking him to five games. I lost to Cartland (U.S.A.), in the second round.

Meanwhile, Johnny Leach had gone serenely on, and in the evening was opposed by Reisman (U.S.A.) in the fourth round. We all anticipated a great match, but this wasn't so, simply because Johnny was far too good for him, winning easily: 21-9, 21-17, 21-17. It wasn't until the third game that Reisman took the lead, but at no time was he really in the picture.

Of the English girls, Peggy Franks beat Audrey Coombs (Wales), but lost to Pithie (Scotland), 3-0. Pithie is certainly a much improved match player. Joyce Roberts had Karpati (Hungary) in the first round and put up a good fight before losing 3-1. Di Rowe lost to Josee Wouters (Belgium), 3-2. This lady appears to be a bit of a bogey to Di, for she has lost to her before in a tournament and also an international match. Ros Rowe, however, reached the last eight before going down to Leah Thall (U.S.A.); but only after a terrific struggle. This put the Rowe twins out of the singles tournament, but I am convinced that in the seasons to come they will help to bring the Corbillon Cup back to England. Personally, I think the one thing they must guard against is "overplaying," for they will, undoubtedly, have many calls upon them and they should use their discretion to avoid becoming stale; especially around the time of major events.

Sole Survivor

Johnny Leach was now England's sole representative in the Men's Singles, and on the Friday morning he was faced with a great obstacle in his path to regaining the world title; namely his opponent, Roothoft (France). Before this match began, Victor Barna, now enjoying the role of retired looker-on, remarked to me that he thought this match would decide the world championship. As usual the maestro hit the nail on the head. Roothoft is a difficult player for Johnny to handle. He has a brilliant defence which is almost uncanny in its accuracy and no one respects this more than Leach himself. Sometimes I wonder if he doesn't respect it too much in view of his own attack, but Roothoft does succeed in slowing down Johnny's attack to slow top-spin. Johnny allows him to do this without ever trying for a short spell to



V. TEREBA (Czechoslovakia)

crash his way through. This, of course, means that Roothoft dictates the policy, and that is to defend 80 per cent. of the time and to attack enough to break up the game. This plan of campaign prevents Leach from settling down to slow top-spin and waiting patiently for openings to come in with a kill shot.

Johnny was in a position to make certain of it in the fourth game when he led 2-1 and had two match points, but it was to Roothoft's credit that he saved the fourth game and went on to lead 10-7 when ends were changed in the fifth. Even so, Johnny did not panic, and with a combination of great play and great courage he led at 20-15. It still wasn't all over, however, and Roothoft hung on grimly and picked up to nineteen. Then to our great relief Johnny acquired that vital last point.

MEN'S SEMI-FINALS

In the semi-final against Tereba (Czech), most of us felt confident that Johnny would not have much difficulty. Tereba plays a beautiful all-round attacking game; his forehand and backhand are machine-like, but great as it is it was not good enough to pass Johnny's defence. Tereba attacked consistently and hit the ball harder than we had seen him do previously in the tournament, but Johnny wore him down, coming in with occasional hits when necessary. In the fourth game Leach showed just how superior he was by winning 21-11.

In the other semi-final I. Andreadis

(Czech), defeated F. Sido (Hungary), 21-14, 21-19, 13-21, 22-20.

Twins Reach Final

In the Ladies Doubles semi-final, the Rowe twins met stiff opposition in Farkas and Karpati (Hungary). Gizi Farkas (ex-world champion) made all the going while her partner concentrated on merely keeping the ball on the table. The English girls were not unnaturally a little nervous. Here they were in reach of a great achievement in their first really big year of table tennis. In the 1st, 3rd and 5th games, they established an early lead which they never lost, but in the 2nd and 4th games the Hungarians took the lead at 4-0 on both occasions, and from this the twins could not recover the initiative. In the fifth game the twins showed their worth by obtaining a decisive lead of 13-5 and continuing to win comfortably 21-13. Thus England was represented in two world championship finals.

FINALS NIGHT

Ladies Singles

First match of finals night was the Ladies Singles between G. Farkas and A. Rozeanu, but this was not the thrilling game we had hoped for, simply because Rozeanu was so superior in all departments of the game. Farkas went to the table and played as though she was perfectly aware of this demoralising fact. Rozeanu's defence has to be seen to be believed, and yet at the slightest opportunity she never misses a chance to come in and hit with either backhand or forehand. Farkas, after losing the first game easily managed to rally a little in the second, and took the lead at 7-3 for the one and only time in the match. But the lead was only a temporary one and Rozeanu took the second game at 21-15 and sauntered home in the third with 21-13.

Rozeanu is far away the greatest lady player I have ever seen, and if it was possible to find out, I couldn't help wondering how many of the men's teams in the Swaythling Cup she would have qualified for a place. A large number, I am absolutely certain.

Men's Singles

One has to see the finals of the world championship these days to realise the nervous tension involved. In this department, those of us who knew Johnny, knew he was going to the table with one tremendous advantage over Andreadis, for there is no finer match player in the world than Leach. It was a question then, if Andreadis could overcome his English opponent by sheer brilliance of

Gossip at the World's

The U.S.A. player, Richard Miles, who has been suspended for nearly two years, has now been re-instated.

At the International Congress meeting held during the championships 35 countries were represented, an all time record.

Mechlovits and Hedydusek (Hungary) were made Hon. life members of the International Table Tennis Federation. W. J. Pope and A. J. Wilmott (England) were posthumously made Hon. life members in recognition of their services to table tennis.

England proposed that the net be raised as an experiment (no height being specified), but this was defeated by 15 votes to 13.

One snag arose during the championships when the Egyptian ladies team refused to play against the Israel ladies team on the grounds that the two countries were virtually at war.

During the coming summer, M. Haguenauer (France) and Johnny Leach (England) are likely to make a four month tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Erhlich was unable to compete in the championships because he could not obtain a visa from France.

his table tennis and obtain such leads that even allowing for his nerves he could still reach those vital twenty-ones the first. I, personally, felt that this was impossible because on sheer table tennis alone, Johnny Leach is equal to anyone, although we saw a fine match, Leach was master most of the time.

Andreadis won the first game. I kept a point by point record of this game, and although he had no less than five edge balls, he did play really well and passed Johnny on several occasions with beautiful forehand and backhand drives. At the start of the second game we were a little anxious less Johnny relied a little too much on his defence and allowed the Czech to get into his stride with his brilliant attack on both wings. Our fears proved groundless, for Leach hit just enough and held Ivan in his vice-like defence, taking this important second game and making the score even. All praise to Andreadis who fought so well

up to eighteen-all in the third game, from which point Leach ran out the winner, 21-18. With Leach leading 2-1, this was the end for Andreadis and he knew it. Gone was all his fight and concentration, and Johnny Leach got away to an 18-3 lead, running out an easy winner, 21-13, for the second time Johnny Leach took the coveted world title and there can be no doubt that he fully deserved it. His defence and temperament is now equal to that of Richard Bergmann—and that is praise indeed. His attack is as consistent as ever and can only be faulted in as much as it lacks an outright kill when you come to world championship class.

Ladies Doubles

With one title in the bag we could now concentrate our support for the Rowe twins, although it was difficult to make ourselves heard above the rest of the crowd, for they certainly had 90 per cent. of the spectators behind them. Each time they made a winning point the roof was nearly lifted. Their opponents were the Rumanian pair, Miss Angelica Rozeanu and Mrs. Sari Szasz. I cannot help but pay tribute to Rozeanu, who virtually played the twins on her own and made the match go the full distance of five games. Szasz is a first-class team player but she is a half-volley exponent

standing very firm at the table and turning the scale at anything up to fifteen stone. Rozeanu played the only game she could and at the slightest opportunity came in and hit the ball with everything she had. At times, she even smashed away when the opportunity wasn't there. Except for the last one, all games were either nineteen or deuce, but in spite of so many grim moments the Rowe girls just clenched their teeth and rose to the occasion magnificently. They played their natural game throughout, and banged home winners with youthful exuberance when the scores were at 19 or 20.

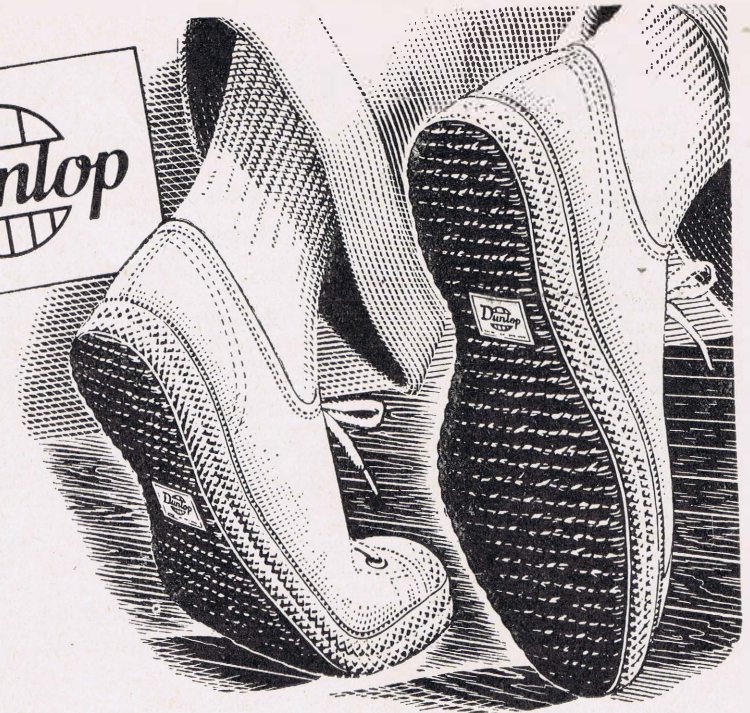
In the fifth and deciding game they did the one thing that was necessary to clinch the match. They established a 10-4 lead and, not only held it, but increased it to 19-9, going on to win 21-12. And so at 17 years of age, and playing in their first world championship, Diane and Rosalind Rowe took the World's Ladies' Doubles title back to their home in Middlesex.

Men's and Mixed Doubles

Both the Men's and Mixed Doubles finals were disappointing in as much as they were clear cut issues for one side. Sido and Koczian never got into their stride against Andreadis and Vana, losing 3-0; while Harangozo and Wertl failed to take a game from Vana and Rozeanu.



CZECHOSLOVAKIA WINS SWAYTHLING CUP
Josef Hroce (Non-Playing Captain), B. Vana, I. Andreadis, V. Tereba



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

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2nd ROUND

Sido (Hungary)
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 Pelsner (Holland)
 Midosi (Brazil)
 Fritsch (Austria)
 Dekemper (Belgium)
 Harangozo (Yugoslavia)
 Amouretti (France)
 Vardi (Israel)
 Hartinger (Austria)
 Mauritz (Germany)
 Kennedy (England)
 Gabric (Yugoslavia)
 Jayant (India)
 Ehteshamzaden (Israel)
 Somael (U.S.A.)
 Haguenuer (France)
 Bergstrom (Sweden)
 Simons (England)
 Cartland (U.S.A.)
 Severo H. (Brazil)
 Delabarre (Belgium)
 Finberg (Israel)
 van Zoelen (Holland)
 Antas (Portugal)
 Mobaracy (Israel)
 Just (Austria)
 di Giorgio (Italy)
 Dolinar (Yugoslavia)
 Uzorinac (Yugoslavia)
 May van Hoa (Vietnam)
 Andreadis (Czecho.)
 Tereba (Czech.)
 Hui (Vietnam)
 Schuech (Austria)
 Stipek (Czecho.)
 Ramos (Portugal)
 Finkelstein (Israel)
 Thornhill (England)
 Feio (Portugal)
 McClure (U.S.A.)
 Lanskoy (France)
 Sturani (Italy)
 Genton (France)
 Dewald
 Roland (Belgium)
 Farkas (Hungary)
 Koczian (Hungary)
 Leach (England)
 Bhandari (India)
 Than (Germany)
 Cafiero (France)
 Jaminet (Luxemburg)
 Szepsi (Hungary)
 Russak (Austria)
 Reisman (U.S.A.)
 Grujic (Yugoslavia)
 Bednar (Austria)
 Crayden (England)
 Croneryd (Sweden)
 Roothoof (France)
 Haydon (England)
 Venner (England)
 Vana (Czecho.)

Sido
 Pelsner
 Fritsch
 Harangozo
 Hartinger
 Kennedy
 Jayant
 Somael
 Haguenuer
 Cartland
 Delabarre
 van Zoelen
 Mobaracy
 Just
 Dolinar
 Andreadis
 Tereba
 Stipek
 Finkelstein
 Thornhill
 Lanskoy
 Genton
 Roland
 Koczian
 Leach
 Cafiero
 Szepsi
 Reisman
 Bednar
 Croneryd
 Roothoof
 Vana

Sido
 11, 9, 12
 Fritsch
 -13, 17, 11, -18, 13
 Kennedy
 12, 14, -20, 18
 Somael
 -17, 17, 13, 19
 Haguenuer
 Haguenuer
 20, -17, 17, 10
 van Zoelen
 17, 18, 18
 Just
 17, 10, 15
 Andreadis
 9, 13, -15, 20
 Tereba
 13, 8, 19
 Thornhill
 -14, 14, 19, 18
 Lanskoy
 14, -18, 11, 18
 Koczian
 12, 15, 17
 Leach
 16, 18, -21, 9
 Reisman
 -15, -17, 18, 14, 19
 Croneryd
 16, 18, -19, -20, 13
 Roothoof
 Roothoof
 -9, 20, 15, 15

WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Holder : RICHARD BERGMANN (England)

MEN'S SINGLES

VIENNA - MARCH, 1951

Sido
 13, 13, 15
 Somael
 8, 19, 9
 Haguenuer
 14, 12, 15
 Andreadis
 20, 14, 13
 Andreadis
 9, 17, 13
 Tereba
 15, -19, 19, 12
 Tereba
 20, 14, 20
 Koczian
 -18, 6, 18, 18
 Leach
 9, 17, 17
 Leach
 -17, 14, 16,
 -22, 19
 Roothoof
 -11, 21, 13, -13,
 14

Andreadis ..
 14, 19, -13,
 21 : 20

J. LEACH
 (England)
 -16, 18, 18, 12

Leach
 -23, 9, 24, 12

SWAYTHLING CUP

(Holders : Czechoslovakia)

Men's Team Results. GROUP TABLES.

GROUP "A"

| Versus | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Wins |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|----|------|
| 1. Egypt ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 2. Brazil ... | 5-1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| 3. England ... | 5-0 | 5-0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| 4. Italy ... | 4-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| 5. Yugoslavia ... | 5-0 | 5-1 | 5-4 | 5-0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| 6. Luxemburg ... | 1-5 | 1-5 | 0-5 | 3-5 | 0-5 | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| 7. Sweden ... | 5-0 | 5-2 | 2-5 | 5-0 | 1-5 | 5-0 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| 8. Wales ... | 5-2 | 3-5 | 1-5 | 5-1 | 0-5 | 5-0 | 0-5 | — | — | — | — |

GROUP "B"

| Versus | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Wins |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|----|------|
| 1. Germany ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| 2. France ... | 5-1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| 3. New Zealand ... | 0-5 | 0-5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| 4. Holland ... | 0-5 | 2-5 | 5-0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 5. Austria ... | 2-5 | 2-5 | 5-0 | 5-2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| 6. Portugal ... | 1-5 | 3-5 | 5-4 | 1-5 | 0-5 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 7. Vietnam ... | 5-3 | 2-6 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-1 | 5-4 | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| 8. Hungary ... | 5-1 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-3 | 5-0 | 5-0 | — | — | — | 7 |

GROUP "C"

| Versus | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Wins |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|------|
| 1. Belgium ... | — | 5-0 | 5-4 | 5-2 | 5-1 | 2-5 | 0-5 | 1-5 | — | — | 4 |
| 2. Greece ... | 0-5 | — | 1-5 | 1-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | 1-5 | — | — | 0 |
| 3. India ... | 4-5 | 5-1 | — | 5-0 | 5-3 | 5-4 | 0-5 | 0-5 | — | — | 4 |
| 4. Iran ... | 2-5 | 5-1 | 0-5 | — | 5-0 | 3-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | — | — | 2 |
| 5. Israel ... | 1-5 | 5-0 | 3-5 | 0-5 | — | 2-5 | 0-5 | 0-5 | — | — | 1 |
| 6. Switzerland ... | 5-2 | 5-0 | 4-5 | 5-3 | 5-2 | — | 0-5 | 0-5 | — | — | 4 |
| 7. Czechoslovakia ... | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-1 | — | — | — | 7 |
| 8. U.S.A. ... | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 5-0 | 1-5 | — | — | — | 6 |

FINAL RESULTS : Czechoslovakia beat Hungary, 5-4 ; Czechoslovakia beat Yugoslavia, 5-1 ; Hungary beat Yugoslavia, 5-3.
WINNERS : CZECHOSLOVAKIA.



ENGLISH SWAYTHLING CUP TEAM
A. Simons, J. Leach, R. Crayden, A. Haydon
B. Kennedy, M. Thornhill

WOMEN'S SINGLES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Holder : ANGELICA ROZEANU (Rumania)

From 3rd Round

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Rozeanu (Rumania) ... | Rozeanu | } Rozeanu | } 6, 6, -18, 11 |
| Pithie (Scotland) ... | 9, 23, 18 | | |
| Elshayati (Egypt) ... | Karpati | | |
| Karpati (Hungary) ... | -19, 19, -12, | } Pritzi | } 13, 13, 11 |
| Wouters (Belgium) ... | 8, 16 | | |
| Schmidt (Germany) ... | 18, 14, 9 | } Thall | } -18, -17, |
| Meier (Germany) ... | Pritzi | | |
| Pritzi (Austria) ... | 5, 8, 8 | } 16, 12, 12 | } Farkas |
| Szasz (Roumania) ... | Rowe, R. | | |
| Rowe, R. (England) ... | -14, 11, 15, | } 18, -17, 14, | } 14, 19, 24 |
| Staffelleitner (Austria) ... | 17 | | |
| Thall-Neuberger (U.S.A.) ... | 8, 14, 15 | } 10, 11, 14 | } |
| Elliot (Scotland) ... | Werth | | |
| Werth (Austria) ... | 18, 16, 14 | | |
| McLinn (U.S.A.) ... | Farkas | | |
| Farkas (Hungary) ... | 10, 11, 14 | | |

CORBILLON CUP

(Holders : Rumania)

Women's Team Results. Group Tables.

GROUP "A"

| Versus | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Wins |
|--------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|------|
| 1. Brazil ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| 2. Germany ... | — | — | 0-3 | 3-0 | 3-0 | 0-3 | 3-0 | 0-3 | 0-3 | — | 3 |
| 3. England ... | — | 3-0 | — | 3-0 | 3-0 | 1-3 | 3-0 | 3-2 | 3-2 | — | 6 |
| 4. Italy ... | — | 0-3 | 0-3 | — | 0-3 | 0-3 | 3-2 | 0-3 | 0-3 | — | 1 |
| 5. Yugoslavia ... | — | 0-3 | 0-3 | 3-0 | — | 0-3 | 3-1 | 0-3 | 2-3 | — | 2 |
| 6. Austria ... | — | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-0 | 3-0 | — | 3-0 | 3-2 | 3-1 | — | 7 |
| 7. Switzerland ... | — | 0-3 | 0-3 | 2-3 | 1-3 | 0-3 | — | 0-3 | 0-3 | — | 0 |
| 8. Hungary ... | — | 3-0 | 2-3 | 3-0 | 3-0 | 2-3 | 3-0 | — | 3-0 | — | 5 |
| 9. U.S.A. ... | — | 3-0 | 2-3 | 3-0 | 3-2 | 1-3 | 3-0 | 0-3 | — | — | 4 |

GROUP "B"

| Versus | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Wins |
|-----------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1. Egypt ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| 2. Belgium ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| 3. France ... | — | 3-0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8 |
| 4. India ... | — | 1-3 | 2-3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 5. Israel ... | — | 3-2 | 1-3 | 1-3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 6. Holland ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| 7. Rumania ... | — | 2-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | 2-3 | — | — | 0-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | 0 |
| 8. Scotland ... | — | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-1 | 3-1 | — | — | 3-1 | 3-1 | 3-0 | 8 |
| 9. Czechoslovakia ... | — | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-0 | 3-0 | — | — | 3-1 | 2-3 | 6 | |
| 10. Wales ... | — | 3-0 | 3-2 | 3-2 | 3-1 | — | — | 3-0 | 1-3 | 5 | |

FINAL RESULT : RUMANIA beat AUSTRIA, 3-1.

MEN'S SINGLES—FIRST ROUND

Some of the more interesting results.

Sido (Hungary) beat Tokar (Czechoslovakia). Gabric (Yugoslavia) beat Gunn (U.S.A.). Mobaracy (Israel) beat Borough (New Zealand). Dolinar (Yugoslavia) beat Chugg (Wales). Andreadis (Czechoslovakia) beat Harrower (England). Thornhill (England) beat Khamoushy (Israel). Genton (France) beat Flint (New Zealand). Leach (England) beat I Severo (Brazil). Cafiero (France) beat Jones (Wales). Russak (Austria) beat Knowsley (New Zealand). Vana (Czechoslovakia) beat Carrington (England).

TOBACCO—

Does it Handicap?

By ARTHUR WAITE (The Editor)

IN our last issue, Bill Parker, in an interesting short article raised the question of whether smoking is bad for one's table tennis. But Bill did not give any definite facts to support a 'yes' or a 'no.' He merely stated the leading players who smoked and those that didn't. The fact that stars like Leach, Barna, Bergmann, Vana and Szabados have never smoked will be sufficient reply for some folk, but there are sure to be lots of keen table tennis fans who enjoy their cigarettes and require more concrete information before they tear themselves away from tobacco. And so in search of this information I approached an eminent medical man and here below is the advice given.

Smoking does seem to soothe the brain and produce a peaceable and calm state of mind, particularly among those of sedentary habits. Thus there are good grounds for the popular belief in its value in weariness and worry. However, by its action on the nervous mechanism of the heart, tobacco smoking in excess causes palpitation and irregular action of the heart. With many smokers, even those who do not indulge immoderately, there is a definite tendency to irregular heart action. Ill effects can also be found in the throat and optic nerves. Tobacco has a very definite value in the wear and tear of modern life but unfortunately most smokers indulge too freely, especially the cigarette smoker, with consequent impairment of mental and bodily efficiency.

Well to sum up, I should say that if you are out to win the World's Championship then smoking should most certainly be cut out completely. Anything that can affect mental and bodily efficiency has no part in the make-up of a really ambitious table tennis player.

On the other hand moderate smoking is not likely to do a great deal of harm, but the problem here is what should one regard as moderate. The doctor informed me that this varies with each individual but a good average number is ten cigarettes per day, or about half-an-ounce of pipe tobacco.

Many people regard the worst effects from excessive smoking as robbing a person of his 'wind.' Shortage of breath after physical strain comes from irregular action of the heart and as there is precision

tuning between the heart and the nervous system, any undue calls on the heart acts as an irritant to the nerves, this varying in intensity with different people. We all know how important are the nerves of a player, especially in vital games, so if you want your nerves to remain steady then smoking must be kept down to the absolute minimum.

I personally have been a fairly heavy smoker—twenty per day—and as some of you know I have during the past six months had a nervous breakdown. I now find that half-a-dozen cigarettes per day can have a soothing effect on the nerves but until my nerves become more like normal I shall certainly not exceed ten per day. But of course remember—I don't play competitive T.T. any more. If ever I do go out for those Veteran titles it will be a case of satisfying myself with three or four cigarettes per day during training periods.

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25,000 MILES—AND A SUSPENSION!

A Review of the South African Tour

By RICHARD BERGMANN

Undefeated World's Singles Champion

THE ill-fated South African tour, which was directly responsible for the loss of my World's Singles and English Open titles, started pleasantly enough, and had it not been for the suspension and its repercussions, the trip would have been a most successful attempt to make a whole continent table tennis conscious.

Ex-champion Hymie Sofer, ostensibly the sole organiser-financier-promoter of the tour (until I found out differently—to my cost) had left nothing to chance—except my arrival! Although the propaganda drum had already beaten a pretty hectic tattoo on the sports-minded South Africans, there was no one at the airport to collect me when the plane touched down at Johannesburg. This was due to a misunderstanding following a newspaper report, which made out that I had had some difficulty over my yellow fever certificate. A few telephone calls straightened matters out and a hastily arranged, but most pleasant reception party (which included Ann Shelton and also Manuel Ortiz, who had come over to fight Vic Towel) preceded my first exhibition for crippled children at a Johannesburg hospital.

Arrangements for the tour proper were based on a series of exhibitions in various centres of the Union and Rhodesia, and the touring party consisted of Sofer himself, Rex Edwards and Ron Litten (both Englishmen), and myself. We were to play a total of some 40 matches, and had agreed that I should concede five points start in each game to the other three throughout—the player with most wins to be entitled to the Dunlop trophy (a cup worth £100) at the end of the tour. Bob Crisp, ex-English county cricketer and a well-known sports journalist, acted as manager-compere.

The total mileage covered from London back to London was 25,500, of which 9,000 were done by air, 6,500 by sea, 5,000 by train and 5,000 by car—the players travelling in a swell Buick, with the equipment and special lighting apparatus trailing behind in a van.

Suspended!

At Kimberley we were joined by Betty Blackbourn, ex-British star and a former pupil of mine, who was both looking and playing as well as ever. We continued



RICHARD BERGMANN

to entertain in front of reasonably well-attended meetings and before enthusiastic audiences at small and large places, among them Bloemfontein, Queenstown, East London, Port Elizabeth and finally Cape Town—another stronghold of table tennis. On arrival there we were besieged by dozens of reporter and cameramen all wanting a first-hand statement. I was completely non-plussed, and it took me some time before I gathered that the news of my suspension had caught up with me via the press. It was certainly some shock! No warning or official notification had been issued to me. Much as I would have liked to call it quits there and then, and return home to put matters right. I was unable to do so because of contractual and legally-binding obligations towards Sofer, who stood to lose several thousands of pounds over this tour which had been financed entirely out of his own pocket. I was in a spot, no doubt, but I could not let him down, let alone pay damages. I tried to reason it out with the E.T.T.A. and the "black" Board, but all my efforts proved just a waste of time.

I had, of course, no option but to stick to my contract, but although I was already suspended, I continued to belabour the Board officials by every means of genuine good will and concrete show of my honest intentions to make them change their minds, but found them obdurately unco-operative to the very last. My duty and life work consists of playing, improving, and fostering table tennis and spreading the gospel of the sport everywhere I can. Politics are outside my sphere, and I shall never be able to understand or believe that the one can have any real connection with the other. Anyhow, if I did get in the way of some technical E.T.T.A. regulation I certainly paid for it more dearly than a petty criminal would have done who has offended against the law of the land! I felt that I had been given a very raw deal in as much as I was not afforded even the chance or opportunity to state my case prior to the E.T.T.A. decision to suspend me—no matter how wrong such a case might subsequently have been adjudged to be by the executive.

But back to the tour. Western Province players, mostly resident in Cape Town, impressed me by their standards of technique, and Monty Shottland, S.A. No. 5, even succeeded in taking a game off me—by means of an excellent defence!! Before we returned to our H.Q., in Pretoria, we stopped for an exhibition at St. Helena, a newly discovered goldmine settlement, and at Pietermaritzburg and Durban, the all-the-year-round resort. I need not stress, but might mention in passing, that we also played in front of coloured folk, and that I offered a gratuitous exhibition to the "Board" exclusively for their members, in which all the touring party would have joined. (The offer was refused.)

No Table

Quite apart from this trouble and despite tremendous publicity, the tour was badly organised; many days were spent in idleness in between exhibition dates (not that I minded!), and frequent misunderstandings often led to laughable incidents. At one place we found some 500 people sitting round an empty space—no table! A home-made job, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ (instead of the regulation 5×9) was eventually produced, and it was sheer joy to perform on an oblong, where one just could not miss. Subsequently, whenever we travelled without Sofer's British made tournament table, we had to make the best of an incredible assortment of "tops"—mostly bad.

Inter-province rivalry is very keen in South Africa, and the four strongest

among them, Northern Transvaal, Transvaal, Natal and Western Province, regularly fight for top honours. A team consists of four men and two women, who play six men's and two women's singles, one mixed doubles, one men's doubles and one women's doubles. Closest score is, therefore, 6-5.

English Players Dominate

Last year, Northern Transvaal, with Rex Edwards, Ron Litten, H. Sofer, Joe Katzeff, Miss J. Patterson and Miss Goosen, just scraped home against their powerful rivals, Western Province (H.Q., Cape Town), consisting of Theo Paitaki, Monty Shottland, McKie, E. van Heerden, Betty Blackburn and Miss "Bubbles" Whittle.

English players dominate the scene everywhere, and Rex Edwards and Betty Blackburn, who retained their singles titles without dropping a game this season, are the outstanding lights on the Union's table tennis horizon.

That is really all there is to the physical aspects of the tour and South African table tennis—unless you count a car smash which all but killed me! How much trouble that would have saved all round! But only my brakes failed on that occasion—not the shock absorbers.

NOTE TO ADVANCED PLAYERS AND EXPERTS

One of the most important features of the bat I have designed, and which bears my name, are the SHOULDERS, i.e. those parts made of plywood which fan out from the end of the handle and smoothly connect with the blade.

Ordinary bats with a CUT-IN handle do not possess SHOULDERS but it is precisely this feature which encourages correct and consistent stroke production and discourages the fatal wrist flick.

Bats with cut-in handles are one of the primary causes of players' inconsistencies and erratic stroke production, and if a player has only used a cut-in model in the past, he might well find that the SHOULDER type gives him a rather strange feeling AT FIRST. This is a perfectly natural reaction, but both hand and wrist will very soon become accustomed to this evenly balanced precision bat and the player will benefit enormously for if he is patient and gives the bat a chance to prove its worth, he will soon notice that his own erratic and inconsistent spells which had been spoiling his game in the past, become less and less frequent and finally disappear altogether.

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Signed

Richard Bergmann
Undefeated World and English Champion

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Readers' Letters . . .

In your last issue, Sam Kirkwood, as our American friends would say, "said a mouthful," and concluded with a request for the hounds to pant for his blood. Being neither a hound nor Dracula, but merely a humble table tennis spectator, Sam's blood does not appeal to me, but an unbiased reply does.

Selectors in all National Sport are always a perfect target for critics and have never been guilty of picking a team to please everyone, but the Keith Hurlock cap mystery appears easily solved with a little thought. It appears obvious to me that selectors were present at the "Metropolitan Open," and a cap was in the offing for the winner and, lo and behold, Keith was the winner with Sam's other aspirants in the field, but unplaced. This system of selection may be wrong, but don't blame Keith for this—he won the tournament and didn't ask for the badge, and I hope he fulfils the promise he showed in this tournament.

On her brief return to table tennis, Vera Dace showed that she was still up with the top ladies, and her experience with foreign competitors made her an obvious choice without mentioning apples.

Ron Craydon can hold his own consistently with all English players outside of Leach and Simons, and proves this in all tournaments in which he competes.

Sam then continues with an incident involving Pinkie Barnes, but, where before he has been free with names, he fails to name this player who should have been exposed.

Finally, Johnny Leach does not escape his criticism and my reply is "Johnny has twice proved himself by winning the World Title, and Vana and his friends were present trying to prevent him. Well done Johnny." Sam's opinion of Aubrey may be correct, but what Aubrey has yet to do, Johnny has done twice, and results must prove something.

W. Densham.

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

* * *

May I suggest one reason for the depressing increase of defensive table tennis—five game matches which take too much out of the attacking player, particularly where the same people appear in several finals.

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A study of championship results shows over and over again where the "chiseller" beats the attacker; that the latter had won the first two games but could not last the pace, especially so where women are concerned.

In my opinion, "best of three" matches would do more to improve the quality of the game than altering the height of the net, or time limit rules. After all, in International and other prominent competitions, "best of three" is a matter of course, so why not in championships? Also, a personal and unorthodox opinion: Three games are enjoyable, four less interesting, while five become quite tiresome when watching the same players battling; stars or otherwise!

(Miss) F. H. Hoare,

Duncan, Hollymount,
Lee Road, Cork, Ireland.

* * *

"The upper surface of the table shall be termed the "playing surface"; it shall be non-reflecting, of a dark colour." So says the book of law on table tennis.

But in a lot of cases there it ends. At a recent "Open" everything was laid out ready for the finals to commence, nine 150w shaded lights over the table suggested good lighting, an official was busy rubbing down the table with material of some kind before fixing the net. The preliminaries over, hall lights out and table lights on, it looked a picture and a really fast table. The first comment I heard from a leading county player who had fought his way to the semi-final (and eventually was the winner) was that "you could see your face in the table." The second comment from another player was, "The table looks fast, doesn't it, but its not, it's slow."

When are people going to realise that polish and a shiny surface are not the best you can give a table. That small amount of polish you leave on the table built up on after a few more coats, slows down the table after every application besides breaking the law in making it reflecting and probably spoiling the play.

We all know tables get dirty and need cleaning occasionally, but a small quantity of turps., or a wash leather and some vinegar and water, are all that are required and not so much elbow grease.

It's a shame to spoil a table and a tournament by using such a lot of energy rubbing down.

C. DARLEY (Jnr.),
(Pontefract Secretary).

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A Review of World Class

BY RON CRAYDEN
(English Swaythling Cup)

It's over! And at last English table tennis is there, right on the top rung of the ladder. No superlatives can do justice to the performances of Johnny Leach and those irrepressible Rowe twins.

In 1948, many labelled Johnny as a lucky champion, but now those self-same critics must blush repentantly. Throughout the tournament, including all Swaythling Cup matches, he did not lose a match and rarely looked like doing so. He made cheese out of the cream of the world. Harangozo, Reisman, Roothoof, Tereba, Andreadis and Co., were out-gunned by the organised skill of our champion. His confidence was supreme. His fighting spirit "Churchillian."

Let us examine the final in some detail. On the one hand, the expressionless Andreadis, playing like a machine at heart. Driving, flicking, stroking and caressing the ball with defined purpose. On the other, "our Johnny," playing with splendid restraint. Bobbing like a buoy on a high tide retrieving the most inaccessible smashes. Something had to crack. It did. The machine spluttered and got out of gear. Seizing his chance, Johnny made several successful sorties and the execution was complete. A new champion was crowned. An English-born champion. A great champion.

Two in Harmony

With our tails-a-waggin' and blood at fever heat, we roared approval as the twins entered the arena. What a credit these girls are to the game. Attractive to the eye, impeccably dressed and literally exuding youthful exuberance. In the semi-final they had been noticeably nervous, but their natural skill and perfect co-ordination had pulled them through. We felt strongly for them in this their greatest hour. Would they crack? Could they overcome their opponents and their own emotions? Our fears were groundless. They played like veterans.

The first two games left us weak with nervous excitement. Trailing to the very end, the twins suddenly struck with the venom of angered Cobras. Their opponents wilted. They were two up. The crowd were with them to the last ditch—even the eldest forgot their varicose veins. Full credit must be given to Rozeanu and Szasz for fighting back with such gusto. Rozeanu, in particular, was magnificent.

Two games all, and an atmosphere charged with dramatic tension. Could

they do it? They did it alright. Forging ahead with the crowd roaring approval, they made a beeline for goal. As they neared the 21 mark we were almost beserk with excitement . . . 19, 20, and allacazam! The Title. Ros and Di, you have done us proud. We salute you.

The Also Rans

What of the other English players? Aubrey Simons, with his severity of strokes and tightness of game, was always a danger man. He played hard at all times but lacked that indefinable something that pin-points a world champion. Kennedy, Thornhill and I, were always in there fighting. We triumphed over the bread and butter Internationals, but our technical skill fell short in world-class play. I'd like to single out, however, Thornhill's grand fight against Tereba. If his physical strength improves, Micky should go far. Of the girls, Peggy Franks and Joyce Roberts, I can only say they turned up trumps in all cup matches, but unfortunately for them, had to play second fiddle to the twins.



KOCZIAN (Hungary)

As non-playing captain, Adrian Haydon was in the world championship class. He was shepherd, guide, adviser, spokesman and nurse. He gave a faultless performance.

Looking around—Male Department

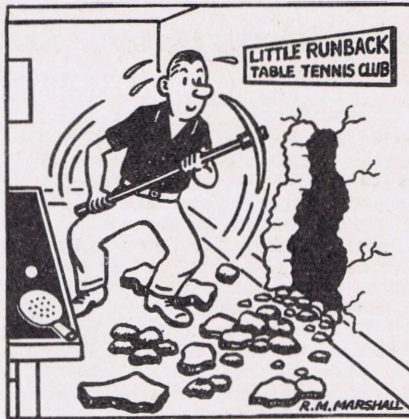
By the time the competition properly got underway, most of the players had become acclimatised, and the wayside battles were most interesting. Dapper Rene Roothoof, proved conclusively, he is a world ranker. Avenging his last year's defeat by A. Haydon, he went on to humble the mighty Vana, won a five setter against Croneryd (Sweden), and only lost to Johnny in the fifth after leading 13-9. V. Harangozo was another whose every performance was hall-marked "class." In the course of the week he beat Sido, Koczian, Andreadis, Vana, Amoretti, and Simons.

Newcomers to show considerable promise were, Szepesi (Hungary) and Fritsch (Austria). The former, handicapped with a withered right arm, has, in spite of everything, broken into top flight. He is young, agile, very quick on the ball, and has a devastating forehand slap-shot which curls away from the line. Fritsch was Austria's secret weapon—a veritable giant killer. Using a sponge-faced bat similar to our own Charlie Dawes, he foxed even the world stars, and all loose returns were promptly smashed out of sight.

Of the old brigade, the gallant Vana seems to be in the sun-set of his career. Perceptibly slower in movement, he can no longer unleash his dynamic forehand with its former accuracy. Tereba, older and plumper, has class in all shots, but lacks the fire and dash of a world beater. Two-ton Sido looks most formidable and, although his defence has improved beyond recognition, he misfires in the tight corners. His counter hit is still unquestionably the hardest in the game, and when he cuts lose, even the ball complains. Koczian and Andreadis both look world beaters, but are inclined to break down with a suddenness which is inexplicable. From the States, the toughest nut to crack was Cartland. Heavy in build, he looked anything but a great player. But he lifted chop with the best and was, for his opponents, annoyingly persistent. To Reisman, I unhesitatingly award the crown as champion entertainer. He lacks, however, the essentials to be the champion player.

Looking around—Female Department.

Last year the critics were unanimous in their praises of Angelica Rozeanu. They were right. She is to table tennis what Sugar (Ray) Robinson is to boxing. Lethal in attack, superb in defence, and



possessing destructive counter shots from both wings. Truly, an outstanding champion. Former queen of the table, Gizi Farkas, is first contender for the crown, and to my mind is the brainiest player in the game—male or female. Pritzi, with the heartbreak defence, seems ageless. The very mention of her name causes panic in all camps. Her patience rivals that of Job. In striking contrast there is her team mate, dynamic little Wertl. Off the table this pleasant red-head possesses an elfin charm, but on it, she is an uncontrollable wild-cat. I am certain she will one day have her name inscribed on the treasured trophy. Karpati of Hungary, a tough handful for anyone, is lion-hearted in courage, but lacks the necessary technique. Her shorts, however, took the eye, or was it the lack of this suiting material that made us stare? From the States there was the formidable Leah Neuberger (formerly Thall). A complete player, who nearly hit the jack-pot.

To Sum Up

The championships, on the whole, were organised with skill and efficiency. Conditions were first-class and complaints few in number. If there were faults to find, they were only to be found on the umpiring side. In this respect the standard was lower than that which we have here. Geo. White and Co., please take a bow.

Of the game itself, once again, accuracy has predominated over sheer speed. Can the lower net, therefore, be such a black shadow? Many of the erstwhile greats are on the downgrade, but is it encouraging to see that new life is rising in the body of the game. England, I am sure, has enhanced her reputation and greater triumphs for us lie ahead.

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WHAT, now, can we say about Johnny Leach? When he won the world title two year ago in Stockholm, there were many—and I'm one of them—who thought and said that he was a lucky winner. When he lost his title last year, we merely nodded our heads, shrugged, and murmured, "Well, what could you expect? The bloke's a ham." Now he has won the title again. And no fluke about the winning of it, either. What is my opinion? I think it was a grand achievement, and I take back my sneers about Johnny's comparative lack of ability. Although I cannot rate him as another Barna or giant of the past, he has nevertheless proved himself the best all-round player in the game. Only Richard Bergmann is his undoubted superior.

The winning of the women's doubles title at Vienna was really a terrific—though not entirely unexpected—feat by the 17-year-old Rowe kids, who thereby have set up several kinds of records. They are the only sisters to have won the title. They are the youngest girls to have taken the championship. They are the only pair who have won through on their very first outing. And they are the only English-born pair to have become world champions. (Helen Elliot and Peggy Franks won the title a couple of years ago, but Helen, of course, is a Scottish lass.) All of us salute the brilliant twins on their superb performance.

The Corbillon Cup showing of our team proved that if we're to challenge Rumania next year, we must have stronger singles players. The Rowes are O.K. for the doubles, but new blood must be found for the very important singles. I suggest that we can do a lot worse than give Dorothea Munnings, the 16-year-old Scunthorpe junior English champion, a trial. Dorothea is a fine attacking player, who has the hall-marks of a champion. There are also 16-year-old Jean Titterington, runner-up to Dorothea in the English, and 18-year-old Adele Wood, Manchester's forgotten girl. Around these three youngsters, plus, of course, Diane and Rosalind, we can build a brilliant team which could see us through many world triumphs in the years to come.

I have often, in the past, taken a poke at umpires who are either incompetent or faint-hearted—or both. For a change, I

With SAM KIRKWOOD

here commend the official who, at a recent Middlesex tournament, fouled a player ten times in one game for not serving from the flat palm of the hand. The frequently pulled-up player was shaken more than somewhat—Randolph Turpin's right hand couldn't have jolted him more! A little more of this unempirical medicine administered to those who ignore the rules would have a marked salutary effect.

Joe Louis, ex-heavyweight boxing champion of the world, has taken to playing table tennis. He avers that the game helps his eyesight and quickens his reflexes, and says he is sorry that he did not use T.T. before during his training sessions. Says Massa Joe: "With the help of table tennis I could have beaten Ezzard Charles" (the man who beat him for the world title). Louis has stumbled across nothing startlingly new. All players know table tennis as a fast and exacting sport which helps to keep the body in good physical condition and the system toned up. As an exercise it possesses all the ingredients which assist in the maintenance and improvement of health. Dr. Mitchell Silbert, a distinguished American eye specialist, goes on record as saying that T.T. also provides an excellent means of exercising the eye muscles and developing better co-ordination of the two eyes.

Ernie Buble, who, as reported in this column in the last issue, is making a serious comeback to the game, is fortunate to live in a luxury block of flats which boasts a T.T. table and snooker table. Ernie is not only putting in long sessions at the wooden table, but is also helping to improve his considerable skill at the green baize affair. The left-hander has, in fact, registered an 84 break; a feat which has earned him a certificate. How far is it from Wembley Empire Pool to Leicester Square Hall? Also, how long can 51-year-old Joe Davis keep going?

One for the rap-over-the-knuckles department. In my column last month I wrote about, and criticised, the Bishops-gate T.T.C. player who didn't take opponents "Pinkie" Barnes and Peggy Allen seriously when opposing them in a

league match. The player has taken me severely to task, stating that not only did I write rubbish but that it was unjustified rubbish. He is indignant at my reference to what I referred to as unsporting behaviour. His version of the affair is that he used tactics best calculated to win him his games, and that the eventual results justified his chiselling.

Essence of his reprisal is, "I play to win my games, and my methods are my own affair. In any case, women should not be allowed to compete against men." That is his sincere opinion and he is entitled to it. Nevertheless, he will forgive me if I maintain that if women are to be played against, they should not be given the impression that they are sanguinary nuisances completely unworthy of the mighty male's best efforts.

Incidentally, I should here like to stress, for the benefit of those who know me only by my writings, that I do not set myself up as the Apostle of Sportsmanship. My opinions may not meet with the approval of everyone, but at least I do most solemnly assure those interested that I write sincerely. If, now and again, I pull what they consider to be a boner, they must forgive me. I am, after all, but a poor frail mortal like anyone else.

Next year's World Series (looking ahead a bit) are being held in India, at either Delhi or Bombay. The Indians are very keen to make their first championships a real pukka affair and have invited the one and only Victor Barna over to both train their Swaythling and Corbillon teams and assist and advise in the organisation of the tournament. Victor tells me there is more than a possibility that he will accept the invitation. Not only does he relish helping his Indian friends, but he also has a fancy to enjoy a spot of real sunshine. Also there is a likelihood that he may receive an invitation to indulge in some big-game hunting, as Ali Akbar, ex-Cambridge University T.T. captain now in London, is going home for some shooting and would like to initiate Victor into the delights of knocking off a tiger or leopard or wild elephant. If V. should run out of ammo on a jungle joust, he can always resort to a backhand flick with the stock of his rifle!

Cherubic Bill Parker asked in the March issue if smoking affects one's table tennis. We all have different ideas on the subject, no doubt, with the smokers saying no and the non-smokers yes. I'm impartial. I maintain that if one plays a naturally corny game nothing but magic can help. For those interested, I proffer the information that I have cut down from 30 cigarettes a day to a dozen (scrounged) per week, and since the "dieting" began have completely lost my form. But then, I was always a shocking player, so that proves nothing. Summing up then, we can say that though smoking may or may not affect play, it most certainly affects the pocket. This is where we came in!

AN acquaintance, a Johnny who undertakes E.T.T.A. tasks, recently ran into me and told me that certain personalities regard my notes in these columns with a rather lacklustre eye, to say the least of it. That does not surprise me. Outspoken comments, unlike praiseful remarks, are rarely accepted with relish. The gentleman in question then went on to say that this magazine always manages to find something "to kick about." Of course it does—and so do I!

While the sport is in need of improvement in this and that direction, and while those at the top act in a manner with which the public violently disagrees, *Table Tennis Review*, which is nothing if not outspoken, is bound to take up the cudgels and have a go.

The country boasts two widely read magazines on T.T.—the official effort and this journal. The official paper will not and cannot, for obvious reasons, criticise those in power—that would be tantamount to belabouring itself. We, on the other hand, not being bound by politics or policies or personalities, hold allegiance to none but the public. If we don't air grievances, who will?

My own modest efforts aren't intended to popularise me. So long as I succeed in ramming home relevant points which need to be banged home in the right quarter at the right time, that's all I care about. And whoever wishes to call me every uncomplimentary name under the sun, is right welcome to do so. My hide is pachydermatous. I can take it!

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INDIA v. ENGLISH INTERNATIONALS

A special match between the Indian Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams and a team of English Internationals was arranged at sort notice by the Scarborough T.T.A. and the Scarborough Corporation. This took place in the Olympic Ballroom, on Easter Sunday before 500 enthusiastic spectators. The result was a draw, five events each, but it should be remembered that no Swaythling or Corbillon players were in the English team.

Results (India players first): R. Bhadari lost to K. R. Craigie, 12-21, 16-21; Jayant lost to B. Kennedy, 11-21, 16-21; T. Thiruvengadam beat R. Allcock, 21-14, 15-21, 21-13; Miss S. Sultana and Mrs. V. P. Sirvardene lost to Miss M. G. Fry and Miss C. K. Best, 16-21, 21-17, 16-21; K. Jayant and R. Bhadri beat M. Kriss and B. Kennedy, 21-18, 22-20; Miss S. Sultana beat Miss M. G. Fry, 21-15, 21-16; T. Thiruvengadam lost to K. R. Craigie, 21-19, 4-21; 16-21; K. Jayant and Miss S. Sultana beat M. Kriss and Miss C. K. Best, 21-14, 21-14; K. Jayant beat R. Allcock, 21-9, 21-16; R. Bhadari lost to B. Kennedy, 9-21, 21-18, 14-21. Match result: India, five sets, English Internationals, five sets.

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London Diary

By BILL PARKER

KEEN followers of the juniors are wondering how long it will be before Middlesex is once again "king-pin" junior county. With a few more youngsters like Ivor Jones (S.W. Middlesex League), it may well produce, in the not too distant future, an all-conquering team such as it had in 1949/50. In a match between the youth of Middlesex and Essex at the Gainsford Club, Ivor was good enough to record two wins against more experienced opponents—and he still has two seasons in the junior ranks!

National team competition specialists, South London League, find the number of its members playing in other leagues is increasing. For a keen player to be registered with two leagues is common in the Metropolitan area, but as league E.T.T.A. representative, Reg. Good remarked recently, "When we find players doing their stuff in three, four, or even more leagues, we wonder to whom they owe their allegiance in County and National competitions." The South London League is providing as much competitive play as possible, with a special eye being kept on the juniors, many of whom are restricted in their T.T. activities by "purse trouble." That is why the league executive doesn't worry unduly about a prosperous balance sheet, but ploughs all revenue back into the game in the area under its administration.

Guest of honour at the Dulwich and District Finals night, to be held in May, will be former champion cruiser and heavy-weight boxer, Freddie Mills, who is living at Denmark Hill. Freddie has done a lot for local sport and on this occasion he will be presenting—not thick ears—but the league trophies and awards. Likely to figure among winners are Jean Malget (Dulwich L.T.C.) and club mate Pat Holman, also J. McHugo who is up at Oxford and has been awarded his Varsity half-blue for T.T.

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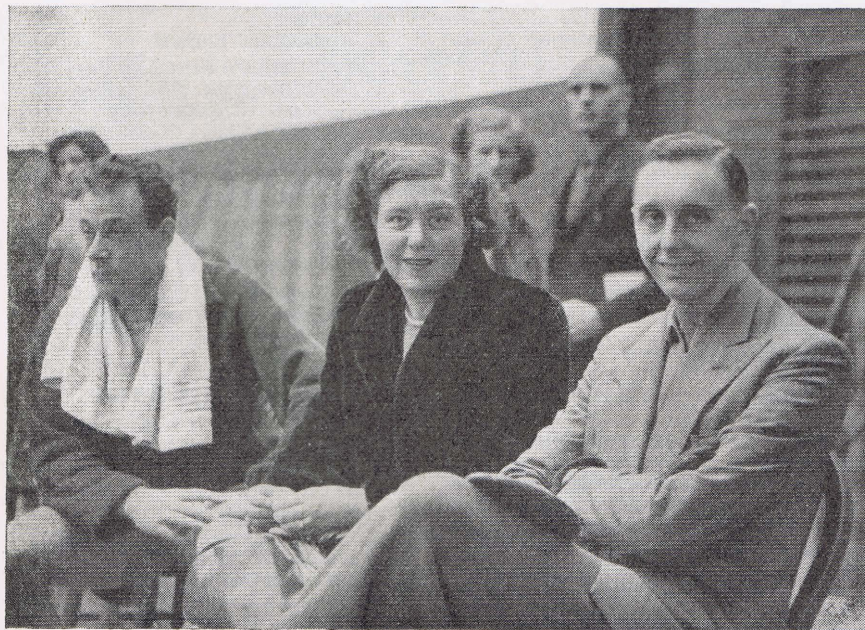
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AUBREY SIMONS

(English Swaythling Cup Player)



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NORTH WEST KENT OPEN

April 21st, 1951

FINAL RESULTS

M.S.—Semi-final : A. R. Miller beat H. Venner, —9, 18, 16 ; J. Carrington beat R. Hook, 18, 10.

Finals.

M.S.—A. R. MILLER beat J. Carrington, 14, 20.

W.S.—J. ROBERTS beat M. Franks, 13, 20.

M.D.—A. MILLER/D. MILLER beat Hook/Driver, 16, 12.

Mx.D.—VENNER/WINN beat Bailey/Willbank, 14, 12.

W.D.—CARRINGTON/SPOONER beat Franks/Winn, 9, 10.

THAMESIDE OPEN

May 5th, 1951.

FINALS

Men's Singles : K. Craigie beat A. R. Miller 18, 18, —20, 18, 15.

Women's Singles : A. Bates beat M. Franks —19, 15, 13.

Men's Doubles : Venner/Adams beat Brumwell/Collar 16, 17.

Women's Doubles : (Final) Franks/Roberts beat Rowe/Rowe 18, —16, 16.

Mixed Doubles : (Final) Filby/R. Rowe beat Thornhill/D. Rowe 18, 13.

Junior Boys' : Brocklebank beat Durley 18, 19.

Junior Girls' : Baker beat Spooner —15, 15, 13.

WEST MIDDLESEX OPEN

April 14th, 1951

FINAL RESULTS

M.S.—Semi-final : Craigie beat Craydon, 21—23, 21—11, 21—11 ; Venner beat A. R. Miller, 17—21, 21—15, 21—15.

Finals.

M.S.—VENNER beat Craigie, 21—15, 21—13, 16—21, 23—21.

W.S.—D. ROWE beat P. Piper, 17—21, 21—8, 21—17.

Mx.D.—CRAIGIE/SHARMAN beat Thompson/Lowe, 21—14, 21—19.

W.D.—Mrs. ATHERTON/Miss PIPER beat Mrs. Lowen/D. Rowe, 21—18, 21—11.

Mx.D.—CRAIGIE/Miss ROBERTS beat Sharman/Miss M. Fry, 21—18, 18—21, 21—9.

J.B.S.—BROCKLEBANK beat I. Jones, 21—17, 21—14.

J.G.S.—O. SPOONER beat I. Barker, 21—15, 21—18.

BUCKS. OPEN

April 8th, 1951

M.S.—Semi-finals : A. Simons beat B. Kennedy, 15, 15 ; R. Crayden beat L. Adams, 8, 17. (In previous round Crayden beat Leach.)

Finals.

M.S.—A. SIMONS beat R. Crayden, 9, 13, 16.

W.S.—D. ROWE beat M. Piper, 6, 16.

M.D.—KENNEDY/THORNHILL beat Leach/Carrington, 17, —12, 18.

Mx.D.—LEACH/FRANKS beat Thornhill/Winn, 14, —13, 18.

W.D.—ROWE/ROWE beat Weaver/Spooner, 23, 12.

J.B.S.—S. BROCKLEBANK beat V. Rappaort, 19, 19.

J.G.S.—Y. BAKER beat D. Spooner, —15, 19, 13.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

TITLE WINNERS

(With Second and Third Placings)

MEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Czechoslovakia.
2. Hungary.
3. Yugoslavia.

WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Rumania.
2. Austria.
3. Scotland and England.

MEN'S SINGLES

1. Leach (England).
2. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia).
3. Sido (Hungary) and Tereba (Czechoslovakia).

WOMEN'S SINGLES

1. Rozeanu (Rumania).
2. Farkas (Hungary).
3. Pritzi (Austria) and Thall-Neuberger (U.S.A.).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

1. Rowe/Rowe (England).
2. Rozeanu/Szasz (Rumania).
3. Farkas/Karpati (Hungary) and Thall-Neuberger/Ichhoff (U.S.A.).

MEN'S DOUBLES

1. Vana/Andreadis (Czechoslovakia).
2. Koczian/Sido (Hungary).
3. Leach/Carrington (England) and Tokar/Stipek (Czechoslovakia).

MIXED DOUBLES

1. Vana/Rozeanu (Czecho./Rumania).
2. Harangozo Wertl Yugoslavia/Austria.
3. Koczian/Karpati (Hungary) and Leach/D. Rowe (England).

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1946-7, 1947-8, 1949-50, 1950-51

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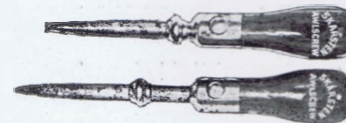


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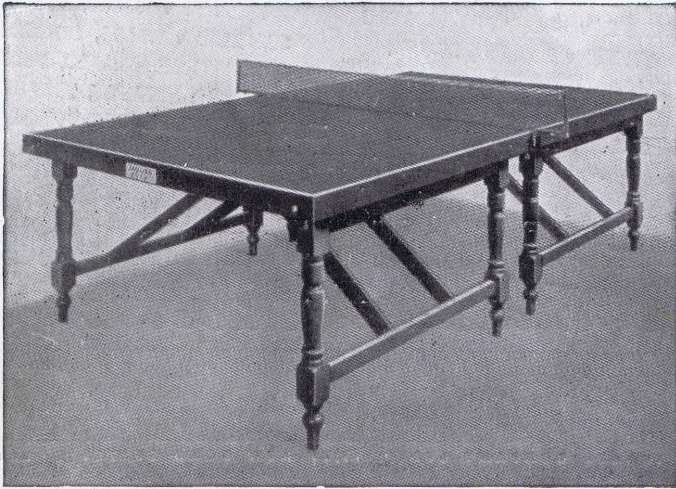
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