

# Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 6 No. 3

SPRING - 1952



**NEWS**

★

**VIEWS**

★

**HINTS**

★

COVER PORTRAIT  
MARGARET FRY  
(ENGLAND)

1/-

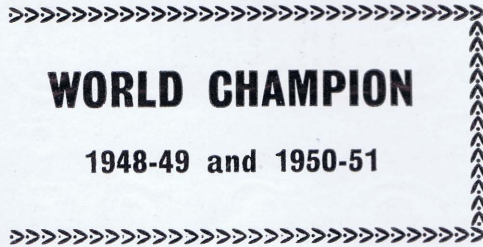






**WORLD CHAMPION**

**1948-49 and 1950-51**



**Johnny Leach**  
always chooses a  
**Halex Ball**

**HALEX 3-STAR**      **HALEX 2-STAR**  
Approved by E.T.A.

HALEX LIMITED, HIGHAMS PARK, LONDON, E.4.

# TABLE TENNIS

## REVIEW

*Editorial, Advertisement  
and Publishing Office :*  
Kenworthy Buildings  
83, Bridge Street,  
Manchester, 3.  
Phone : BLAckfriars 0494.

*Managing Editor :*  
**ARTHUR WAITE**  
(1931 International).

*Australian & New Zealand  
Representative :*  
R. R. Strang, P.O. Box 106,  
Brunswick, N.10,  
Melbourne, Australia.

Vol. 6 No. 3

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1952

One Shilling

## **Editorial Notes**

**W**E have had rather a spate of instructional table tennis books of late and while each of them provides the student of the game with considerable help, I cannot but think, like our contributor, Sam Kirkwood, that some of the writers might have made their labours produce something more varied and interesting. From the literary angle it would appear that T.T. personalities are barren of ideas and are able to think only on the lines of how to play the game. The libraries of other sports are so rich in variety and one would think that by now enough has happened throughout the years to scores of leading lights to enable them to write at least one book apiece. True, Richard Bergmann in his book "Twenty-One Up" has produced the most original book up to date, but even here playing instructions take up a good deal of space.

There are two people who could certainly write "best sellers" for the table tennis public—and no doubt also the general public. Your first guess was right for one of them. Victor Barna. The other person is Ivor Montagu, no doubt the greatest authority on international table tennis in the world. Whatever event of world importance has taken place Ivor has been there, or else had two thumbs in the pie. He could, if he wished, tap a dozen different reliable sources for facts and material, and undoubtedly give us a book that would burn our midnight oil. Instead what do we have? We have this great personality who is so rich in experience and personal adventures with only one book to his name—and that another "How To Play" book!

There are plenty of ideas for novel T.T. books. A foreign tour of a team could produce a book if handled by a person with initiative. Look at this year's World Championships in India. What promising material and what a colourful background.

Well, our next issue of the magazine will not be a book but it will be devoted entirely to the World Championships. We shall try to give you something different accompanied by many photographs of generous size. Foreign writers this time will write your "World Championships' Story," so the event will not be viewed from purely an English angle. With paper costs so very high we cannot afford to print more than a few copies above regular orders, so if you wish to make sure of your copy do place an order with your newsagent or sports dealers. Don't take "no" for an answer from your local newsagent. He can obtain it easily from his wholesaler.





# DOWN THE WHITE LINE

by "Gossima"

HOW would you like to fly from London to Wellington, New Zealand, via New York, San Francisco, Honolulu and the Fiji Islands? That's the route Ken Stanley will take when he leaves England at the end of March to take up a six months' post as official table tennis coach to the New Zealand Association. No definite plans for the coaching scheme have yet been settled but it is likely that Ken will spend most of his time in Wellington but will also visit the various districts where Associations are established.

Ken has been playing table tennis now for nearly a score of years, commencing when he was quite a small boy at school. His first title was the English Junior Championship which he won for three successive years, namely 1936-7-8. From 1938 he took part in English international matches playing on the Swaythling Cup team in Cairo in 1939. During the war, while serving in the Forces out East he took part in the All-India Championships which he won in 1945. Since then he has taken part in numerous events and also spent a great deal of time in coaching. As an exhibition player Ken is second to none and when partnered by Benny Casofsky the audience is assured of a laugh or a thrill each minute.

Ken Stanley, now a family man, lives in Leyland, Lancs., and works in a clerical position for the firm of Horrockses, Crewdson and Co., Ltd., Preston. His firm have generously consented to keep his job open until he returns. He estimates he will be away for eight months returning home by sea sometime at the end of September.

Ken intends to keep a day-to-day diary and will contribute articles in "Table Tennis Review" telling of his experiences. We are sure everyone wishes Ken a successful trip and a safe return. And the best of luck to you too, New Zealand, for showing such initiative.

On May 3rd, 1952, at the Sheridan Plaza Hotel, Chicago, an All-American Table Tennis Championship is to be held. Prior to this all districts will hold their own individual tournaments sending the semi-finalists to compete at Chicago. The event

will be divided up into "Divisions" and there will be four of these for males and four for females. The Divisions will be as follows: Midgets of 11 years and under, Juniors 12-14 years, Intermediates 15-17 years, and also the 18 years and over. If a player has won a first in a National or State event, or held a State or National Ranking, then that player must move up one division irrespective of age. One rule states that all players must be amateurs.

On the evening after the finals a banquet will be held at the Sheridan Plaza Hotel for players and friends. Secretary of this nation-wide event is Mr. George F. Koehnke (father of Miss Sharon Koehnke).

At the same time as the above championships are being held in Chicago the annual contest for the All-American Table Tennis Queen will be decided. All girls over 16 years of age are invited to send in their photographs. Judges will be movie star Kay Westfall, artist Wendell King, and professional table tennis player Coleman Clark. The Queen will be crowned at the banquet and six other girls will also receive awards.

On the cover of September/October "Table Tennis Review" we had the photograph of last year's winner, Sharon Koehnke, and in the Autumn issue out next September we hope to be able to show readers the U.S. T.T. Queen for 1952-53.

As we go to press a January letter from Richard Bergmann tells us that he will be going to India, paying two-thirds of the fare himself. He says, "Who says I am not still partly an amateur? I shall be losing 21 days' stage earnings and taking this into consideration the world championships will cost me about £200." Before leaving for Bombay to join the English team Bergmann and Boros will appear on the stage at Geneva, Switzerland, Pau on the French-Spanish border, and possibly Holland.

Fewer than 100 people saw a spectacular exhibition of table tennis at Gympie, Queensland, Australia, given by Phil Anderson, Cec. Shaw, Henry Porter and

Brien Moore. Phill Anderson is the first man ever to win three Australian titles, being the present singles champion. He has played much of his table tennis with former world and Australian champion, Michael Szabados, whom he partnered for some time in a table tennis stage act displaying 30 trick shots. Anderson is now planning to open an academy in Brisbane where the public will be able to play and also receive coaching.

According to the "Yorkshire Evening Post" (a British United Press report) Johnny Leach lost his world title months before he had a chance to defend it. In November last they printed results of the Belgium Open under the heading "Leach Loses World Title." The short write-up read as follows:—

"BRUSSELS, Monday.—Johnny Leach, Britain's world table tennis champion, lost his title in Paris to Rene Roothoof, a Frenchman little-known in the table tennis world. Scores were 21-12, 21-15, 21-16.

Leach and Aubrey Simon, however, won the men's doubles title by beating Roothoof and Michel Lanskoj 21-11, 18-21, 21-18, 21-10, and Leach and Peggy Franks took the mixed doubles by beating Fritsch and Pritzi, of Austria, 21-16, 21-17, 18-21, 13-21, 21-16.—British United Press.

The England v. France Ladies International match played on December 12th at Eltham Baths, London, resulted in a win for England of six singles events to three. The three games were won for France by their No. 1 player and captain, Huguette Beolet, who is ranked at ninth place in the world list. She beat the Rowe twins and also Kathleen Best.

A number of games were televised, Jack Carrington acting as commentator. The girls did their best to give the game pep and thrills and succeeded to a certain degree, but Jack's commentary was weary and dreary. Jack failed to realise that thousands of people were seeing modern table tennis for the first time and he could have made the match much more interesting for them by explaining what the players were trying to do together with some of the more elementary rules. A little bit of personal gossip about the players would also not have been amiss. If table tennis is to be a welcome addition to T.V. programmes, then a commentator is required who can become enthusiastic about the play.

Wedding news comes from Brazil. Fernando Olazarri, former No. 1 Chilean player, is now married to the lady champion of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Best of luck,

Fernando. Although he now resides in Brazil and comes under the control of that country's T.T. Association he is not included in the Brazilian team which left for Bombay. This team was Hugo Severo, Dagoberto Midosi, Waldemar Duarte and also Ivan Severo. It was Hugo Severo that beat Richard Miles 3-0 in Sao Paulo last year.

The Parkside T.T.A., Australia, have appointed a Playing Conditions Committee. After making visits to several clubs they found some glaring faults. Nets varied in height from 5½ in. to 6½ in. (Should be 6 in. exactly). Playing surfaces were from 27½ in. to 34 in. from the floor. (Should be 30 in.). Nets were not in the centre of the table and far too slack. The lighting of some clubs was weak and insufficient. Some tables rested on lino, which of course affected the bounce of the ball.

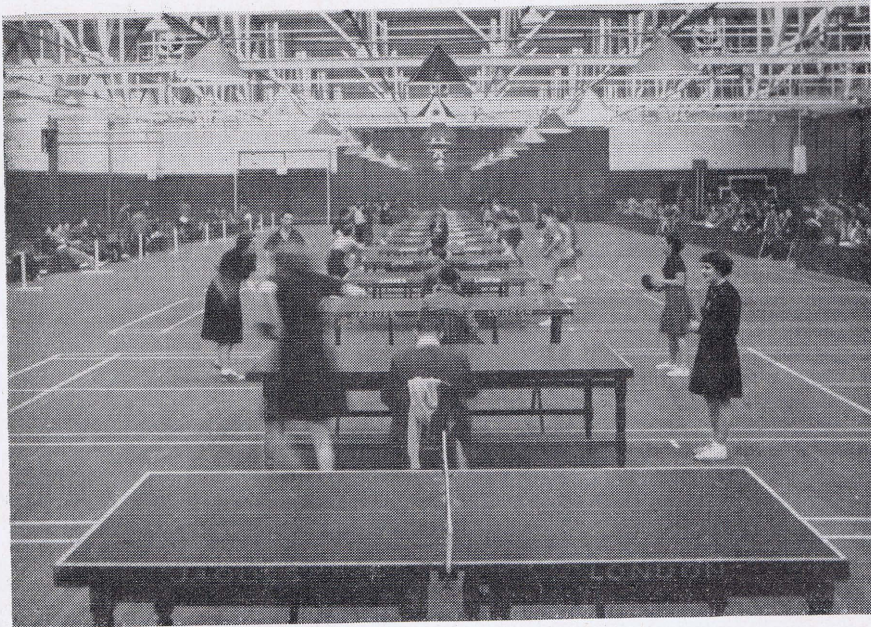
Temperamental French ace, Michel Haguenaer, is still going around breaking bats. Must have created something of a record by now. In the France v. Wales match at Cardiff Haguenaer was playing Walter Sweetland with a metal and rubber bat. After losing the first match the Frenchman deliberately broke his bat and finished the match with a borrowed one. Sweetland took the match and was the only Welshman to win.

In our last issue Alec Brooke wrote a scathing article and advocated new blood in the English Association, but he had words of praise for Percy Lawes, Secretary of the Guildford League. It seems that Percy is much of a favourite wherever he might be, for the "Surrey and Hants News" featured his photograph together with a pleasing write-up in a recent issue. One paragraph reads:—

"The relationship between bus drivers and conductors and the travelling public in our area is generally very happy, but returning from Farnham from Guildford the other day I was impressed by the intimacy which existed between the driver and his fares. Adults and juveniles all addressed him in familiar terms of 'Hello, Percy,' and Percy responded with the similar use of Christian names. He seemed to know the names of every schoolboy and schoolgirl returning home from the seat of learning. Many others addressed him from the roadside as the bus passed by. It was a pleasurable experience becoming acquainted with the delightful intimacy of Percy C. Lawes."

How right you were, Alec. Table Tennis cannot afford to lose men such as these whether they have been on the job umpteen years or not.





Venue of the Welsh Open, Cardiff, December 7th & 8th, 1951

## WALES v. SCOTLAND

EBBW VALE, DEC. 7.

Wales 6, Scotland 3.

Wales first:

GLYN MORGAN beat R. L. Forman—14-17, 25-23.

GERALD CHUGG beat A. Metcalfe—13-21, 21-10, 21-15.

JOHN DAVIES beat V. Garland—21-13, 21-18.

MICHAEL JONES beat M. McMillan—21-8, 21-15.

AUDREY BATES lost to Helen Elliot—14-21, 16-21.

BETTY GRAY lost to B. Pithie—16-21, 21-17, 13-21.

Doubles:

SWEETLAND and DAVIES beat Forman and Garland—21-6, 20-22, 21-13.

CHUGG and JONES lost to Metcalfe and McMillan—17-21, 21-12, 17-21.

Misses BATES and GRAY beat Elliot and Pithie—21-16, 21-16.

## WALES v. ENGLAND

Liverpool, Jan. 19, 1952.

Result: Wales 2, England 7.

## WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cardiff, Dec., 1951.

M.S. G. Amouretti bt. M. Haguenauer 15, 19, —12, 21.

W.S. H. Elliott bt. R. Rowe 18, 16.

M.D. B. Kennedy/A. Simons bt. M. Haguenauer/M. Lansboy 23, 7.

W.D. D. and R. Rewe bt. A. Bates/E. Steventon 10, 21.

## WALES v. FRANCE

(Played at Newport, Dec. 6.)

Wales 1, France 6.

Individual scores. Wales first:

1. G. MORGAN lost to M. Haguenauer—21-23, 8-21. G. MORGAN lost to G. Amouretti—21-23, 16-21.

2. W. SWEETLAND beat M. Haguenauer—21-12, 17-21, 21-16. W. SWEETLAND lost to M. Lansboy—12-21, 10-21.

3. S. JONES lost to G. Amouretti—21-19, 12-21, 11-21. S. JONES lost to M. Lansboy—16-21, 20-22.

Doubles:

SWEETLAND and DAVIES lost to Haguenauer and Lansboy—19-21, 18-21.

# IN THE PACIFIC

with GENE SMITH (Highland Park, Mich., U.S.A.)

★ That stalwart of American table tennis, Mr. Edward J. Dickinson, receives many letters from T.T. friends, and recently he forwarded one of these to us. Ed. said we might find it interesting. Well, we did, and so we are showing part of it to readers. Ed. gives us permission to print, but the sender, Gene Smith, will not know anything about this arrangement until he sees his letter and and photograph on these pages. But I don't think you will mind, Gene. Ed. tells us you have a great big table tennis heart, and also that you look forward eagerly to receiving your "Review." He also tells us that you are one of the unsung heroes of the game, and that you have spent hours teaching youngsters how to play. You are now well known in the States and Canada, but maybe this article will win you a few more friends in other parts of the world. Any readers wishing to write to Gene Smith may address to this office and we will forward letters on.

\* \* \*

Dear Ed.

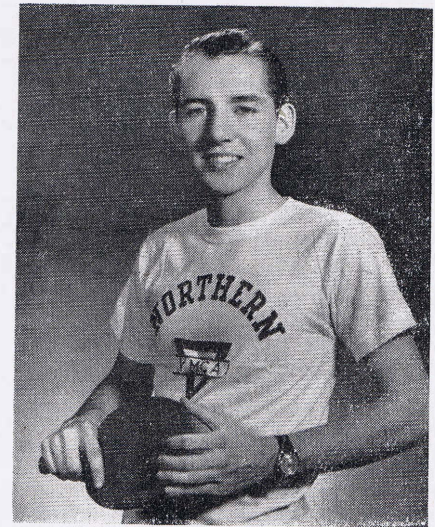
I am now out in the Pacific on the U.S.S. Valley Forge Aircraft Carrier. I am assigned to the Intelligence Division of the Flag and find this work very interesting. The way things stand now I am scheduled to be discharged in two months. Knock! Knock!

This huge carrier sometimes is like a 10-storey building, and other times like the inside of a giant sewer pipe, but it has almost everything on it. Yes, believe it or not, we even have table tennis on here with plenty of run back space.

At present, we are operating out of Hawaii; two weekends I spent in Honolulu and last weekend on another island. The weather is nice and I have done everything from going surf board riding to visiting volcanoes so am considering this my vacation.

There is a beautiful YMCA in Honolulu that has many activities for servicemen. They have a T.T. tournament every Sunday, but so far I have missed it. When I was in the Y lobby one evening I heard a T.T. ball clicking, and following my Abner turnip scent I wandered into a movie of Colman Clark putting on an exhibition. It was called "Top Notchers," and is a ten-minute short by Columbia.

Yes, Ed., I guess when one dabbles in T.T. like we have it will always stick with us. For instance, there was an item in the local paper about a Hawaiian Open T.T. Tournament being held, and I just had to drop over and see what was what.



The calibre of play was equal to that of the mainland with the winner being a young fellow named Tom Sullivan. (He said he was formerly ranked No. 20 in the U.S. and is from New York.) The runner-up was John Hannah, and is the ex number one player in California.

Only two events were held: Men's Singles and Doubles. Entry fee was \$1.50 for the singles which also included a free U.S.T.T.A. membership, and a one-year subscription to "Topics," so I think everyone had more than their money's worth—win or lose. To top it all, there was a consolation tournament for the losers in the first two rounds! Believe me, everyone was very satisfied.

The player list read like a United Nations roll call with Johnson, Wong, Mirafior, Sullivan, Yogi, Hannah, Knock, Chamberlain, Dung, Hiramoto, Ringgold, Deakin, Yee, Schilling, Matsuda, Kawamoto, Berezich, Tong and Smith. (How did Smith ever get in there?)

The tables were far from your Detroiters, being only a plywood board fixed on two horses. I matched this, as I played with a sandpaper paddle borrowed from my ship! All in all, Ed., I met many fine people, and had some excellent practice.

Guess that's about all from this camp,

Yours for the game,

Gene Smith.



# BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS ARE DOWN!

## We Must Recapture Public Interest

A GROUP of wiseheads got together for a pow-wow during and after the North of England Championships and discussed, among other things, present-day table tennis. It was chewed, masticated and several helpings were swallowed, and even then, not one of these old greybeards came to any definite conclusion. The consensus of opinion, however, was that something had to be done, and quickly, in order to entice Mr. Public back in a big way. It was thought that what it really required was a devastating shot-in-the-arm to lift it from its weary knees.

Many weird and wonderful suggestions were given. One bright spark mentioned the revolutionary idea of a professional circus, on the grounds that it would give the earnest youngster a worth-while aim in the game, keep the professional on his toes, and thereby improve the general standard. Needless to say it caused a laugh.

But seriously there was not much to laugh about during the whole day in this particular Northern tournament. Believe it or not, possibly only two single rallies during the whole day were exciting enough to be called a spectacle. Two single rallies—mark you—in a major championship of the North of England class. It's amazing. And, incidentally, the two exciting periods voted as being a credit to the game came in the men's and women's singles final, respectively—thus the patient spectator had a long while to wait before there was anything to enthuse about. Believe me, folks, something will have to be done, for we hear that the same cry is countrywide.

### No Special Trains

No wonder attendances are falling off. No wonder the upper crust of the E.T.T.A. have to practically hawk their Wembley final night tickets if this stolid type of play acts as an invoice in the post-war era. Brilliance and craft were as isolated as an oasis in the desert. Special trains for the big-time stuff to the Metropolis are things of the past. And yet, not so many years before the war, people from these chilly parts were falling over themselves to see the magnificent Barna-Szabados epics.

Now, we are the last people in the world to keep digging up the great classics of yesterday. Our main junction is to see that the game progresses and, as a matter of fact, had it not been for the dull patches in play coupled with the disappointing attendance at the finals, this discussion would never have arisen.

says **STANLEY PROFFITT**

(Ex-Swaythling Cup)



Harking back, we ancients could remember the days when ordinary league matches attracted big gates. The Manchester Y.M.C.A. Club was always chock-full when a notable team of the day were the visitors. Memories floated to the days when the Victoria team (Cook, Schatzow and myself) had to hire a huge hall in order to pack in a thousand or more fans when the Grove House match came around.

Shunting south, I recollect playing at the Manhattan Club, when bulletins after every five points were passed to the crowd in the street who were unfortunate enough not to gain admittance. It is no exaggeration and we hearties considered that as real interest. But interest apart there must have been something else to kindle the spark. Every one of us held up our hands to answer that question. It was too simple. Of course, it was the many pulsating rallies in each game. The arts and crafts were more evident. You could fairly sense a player using the table as a chessboard in an endeavour to out-wit an equally studious opponent. We roared so much that we nearly spilt our beer when one wit cracked a gag about the present-day player being brain-tired after finishing a set. And the blame was not meant to be put on the shoulder of the player in any way.

### Still Pioneering

You know, after 25 years or more, it is hard to think that we are only in the

pioneering stages. We look in our newspaper these days and rarely find a result of an important match or tournament down South or even in adjacent counties. We felt that a whole lot of our work of yesterday had been wasted, for once the crowds had been attracted it should have been a comparatively easy matter to hold them. Similarly, it would have been of more interest from a Press angle.

Perhaps, it was suggested, that a clean sweep of the authorities might have its effect. Business men, for example, who would run it on commercial lines, and not be so prone to say yes in the right places or be so futile in listening to petty jealousies. One could not visualise, however, how this was likely to affect the game from a spectacular viewpoint. When all's said and done the object is not so much a commercial angle.

During our deliberations we cast our orbits over the tournament floor and noticed that the surrounds took up less space per table than in the old days. Actually, there were no surrounds in our time, but the inference was that defences did not need so much room to perform to-day. Had this observation struck a cord? Did it mean that the closer-to-the-table defence was less spectacular? Everyone chorused in the affirmative. Then the reason, therefore, is the net height. Well! You don't say! Thought the conversation would get around to this many-times chewed subject. Somebody made a point that with the net at its present height the ball's trajectory is obviously lower, and, despite being faster, does not travel so far. Not only that, but the aggressor who has sprung up in recent years and consequently is not steeped in the arts and crafts, is also at a disadvantage in as much as the ball, laden with heavy drag, does not give a reasonable bounce.

### Present-day Stars

At this juncture we sank our glasses in silence. It called for careful thought. We then quickly assessed the present-day stars and found, to our surprise, that the majority had to learn the hard way. For instance, Johnny Leach, Jack Carrington, Ken Stanley, Benny Casofsky, Aubrey Simons, all served their time to the 6½ in. net. Further afield we pick at random—Richard Bergmann, Michael Haguener, A. Erhlich, Bohmil Vanna and Victor Barna. There are dozens of others, but it just goes to show that the men who had to use their brain and cunning, not only to out-smart the opponent, but also the higher net, are still at the top and likely to remain there for some considerable time. Science will tell even against the hurly-burly slap-bang methods of to-day.

So as the white cloths were being put over the pumps, and the barman shouting "Time, gentlemen, please,"

we ham reformers came to the conclusion, after touching on many possibilities, that to restore the game to its former glory would be to raise the net to half way between the present and former height, and you've got the answer. A happy medium, shall we say.

Phew! This debate has lasted long enough, but we reasoned that the net at a height of 6½ in. would fill the bill. It would, we thought, bring back the arts and crafts in that the attacker, compelled to employ an essence of top-spin, would automatically retard the speed, though only fractional, and give the defender that heaven-sent opportunity of more room to retrieve with skill. The attacker, naturally, would be compensated with a high bounce in his own half from the return.

This, the new found height, against the relative length of the table, would be sufficient to stop the slap-band merchant. One would have to manoeuvre out of position before putting a winner away. The cute drop-shot, which naturally has been barren due to the lower net, would again take its rightful place among the delicate arts.

Betwixt and between, there are numerous other asides which, accumulated, go to make this game even greater, and might well be the means of dragging it back from the Cinderella status. Now, folks, you can see what we old codgers term as "the arts and crafts."

**REMEMBER** new edition of

**THE**

book on technique

**JACK CARRINGTON'S**

**MODERN  
TABLE  
TENNIS**

with many diagrams and photos,  
136 pages. Only 6s. net.

Order it from any bookshop, stall, or  
newsagent who sells books.

Published by G. Bell & Sons, Ltd.,  
6, Portugal St., London, W.C. 2



# American Gossip

Bill Holzrichter, former U.S. Champion and Swaythling Cup player, has now added a knitting mill to the three sports shops owned by himself and brother Gus. The stores are known as the Pro Sports Shops, Inc., and he plans to manufacture all kinds of sports apparel at the new mill. In addition to these establishments the Holzrichters have a "Chicago Table Tennis Centre," which is open daily until around midnight. Every Sunday round robins and league matches take place. Eight first-class tables are available in perfect conditions including fluorescent lighting. Table tennis saloons are numerous and popular in the States, but the Holzrichter establishment is said to be the best. During the Leach-Carrington American tour the two Englishmen played exhibition games at the Chicago Centre.

Elmer F. Cinnater, who has been U.S.-T.T.A. President since 1946 has now retired, his place being taken by Jim Shrout, of Chicago. Jim first became interested in the game in 1935, and since then has many times ranked well up on the National ladder. He has a number of titles to his credit. He has his own advertising agency business in Chicago with a staff of five, which includes American woman No. 2 player, Peggy Itchkoff, as his secretary. New headquarters for the American Association is: 22, West Monroe Street, Chicago 3, Ill.

Seventeen-year-old Miss Sharon Koehnke, whose photograph we featured on the cover of the September/October, 1951, "Table Tennis Review, realised one of her dreams in gaining a place on the American Corbillon cup team. But to Sharon's intense dismay the dream didn't actually materialise, for the U.S. Association decided that for financial reasons it would be impossible to send a team to Bombay. Sharon's father was also more disappointed, but he hopes to be able to make arrangements for Sharon to take part in the English Open, at Wembley. This, he thinks, would be a worthy substitute for the Indian trip.

The American Corbillon cup team would have been Leah Neuberger, Sharon Koehnke

and Lona Flam. Both Peggy Itchkoff and Patty McLinn gained places in the team, but said they would not be able to make the trip.

The Men's Swaythling cup team would most likely have been Richard Miles, Lou Pagliaro, C. Sussman and John Somael.

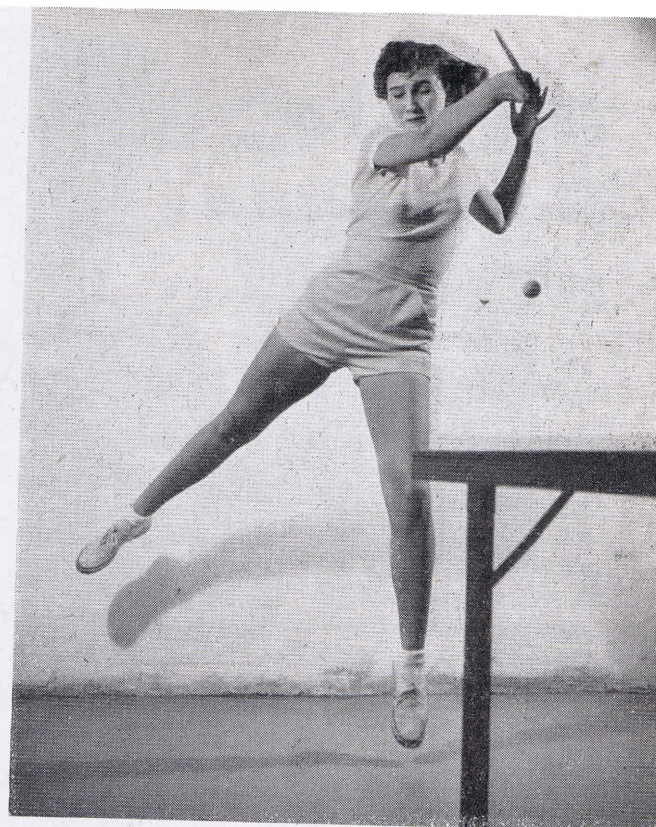
Sharon Koehnke, of Chicago, has probably been given more Press publicity than any other girl table tennis player in the world, and that goes for the Rowe twins included. Her photograph has appeared in over *one thousand* newspapers and magazines, some of them with circulations of 2½ million.

Sharon is now nearly seventeen years and U.S. Junior-Miss Champion of table tennis. She is also Chicago speed skating champion and holds titles at lawn tennis and swimming. Three months on television as a dancer have given her poise that comes only with experience. She has made a movie, done public-speaking with assurance and designed clothes that have been a sensation.

While playing in the international trials at Philadelphia she appeared in the Paul White-man TV Teen Club Show. From 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. she did rehearsals and then dashed back across town to play T.T. matches at 1 p.m. At 3.30 p.m., she was back at TV rehearsals until the show finished at 9 p.m. After all this hurry and flurry Sharon returned for more T.T. matches.

Sharon designs most of her own entertainment dresses, and for the international trials she wore a white costume that caused quite a sensation. It is made of all nylon so that it can be washed easily and will dry overnight. It fits like a swim-suit and has a beautiful skirt with scalloped edges. The top is open from the neck to the bust-line and is held together with a net which can hardly be seen, making it look like a strapless gown. When Sharon designed this attire she had two basic problems in mind. One to get away from the worry of shoulder straps slipping; and two, to avoid the annoyance of shirt or blouse slipping out from shorts or skirt. The Associated Press took pictures of Sharon in the new sports wear, and the Fashions Editor said it would appear in 1,000 newspapers. She said they had

## Most Photographed Table Tennis Girl



Miss SHARON KOEHNKE  
(Chicago U.S.A.)

taken many pictures of sports wear, but this was something really different both in design and material.

Latest news received is that Miss Sharon Koehnke and her mother will sail for England in the "Queen Elizabeth" on March 7th, arriving March 13th. She will take part in the English Open championships at Wembley and may quite likely appear in Manchester at the Free Trade Hall in the "Manchester Evening Chronicle" Table Tennis Night on March 31st. The English Association have offered hospitality during the period of the English Open and also two days earlier.

In order to provide some funds towards the expense of the trip Sharon is doing as many as three television and theatre dancing shows a day. For Sharon and her mother the trip to England is a dream come true. Mr. Sharon says they even talk about it in their sleep.

Whether Sharon gets very far in the English Championships remains to be seen, but one thing is certain and that is that the Photographic Press Agencies are likely to spend more negatives on her than any other three T.T. players put together.

Dick Miles defeated Harold Green, 21-18, 19-21, 21-17, 21-18, to win the Metropolitan Open table tennis championships held on December 15th and 16th at the Broadway Table Tennis Courts in New York City. Green had defeated Schiff in the semi-finals, and Miles won his semi-final match when Lou Pagliaro was forced to default because of a leg injury suffered in the third game.

Leah Thall Neuberger won the women's singles in straight games from Lona Flam. Sol Schiff and Cy Sussman captured the men's doubles, conquering Miles and Borges in the finals.

Although Miles' defence is as sound as ever, he has been having trouble with his driving this season and does not employ his whip-like forehand drive very frequently. Marty Reisman and Doug Cartland were out of the country and missed this tournament, as did young Harry Hershkovitz, the winner of both the Toledo, Ohio Open Tournament, and the Massachusetts Open.

### Next issues

MARCH 25th, 1952

MAY 25th, 1952



# Richard Bergmann tells why...

“ Why these unusual shoulders on the Bergmann bat? Because they encourage the production of *strokes*. True stroke play is the basis of consistent accuracy and these bat-shoulders have helped me to develop the strokes which have already won four World Singles Championships. Try a Bergmann bat yourself and see how your own strokes — and accuracy — develop.”

(Signed)

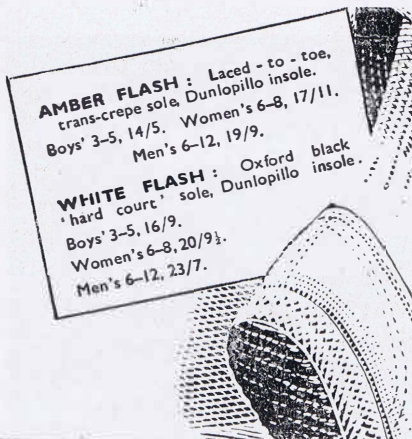


*Richard Bergmann*  
 Undefeated World Champion, 1950

Such advice is not to be taken lightly especially as the Bergmann bat costs only 10/11 including P.T. so why not try one and improve your play.

**Slazenger**

SLAZENGERS LTD · LAURENCE POUNTNEY HILL · LONDON · E.C.4



**AMBER FLASH** : Laced - to - toe, trans-crepe sole, Dunlopillo insole.  
 Boys' 3-5, 14/5. Women's 6-8, 17/11.  
 Men's 6-12, 19/9.

**WHITE FLASH** : Oxford black insole, 'hard court' sole, Dunlopillo insole.  
 Boys' 3-5, 16/9.  
 Women's 6-8, 20/9½.  
 Men's 6-12, 23/7.

I hope one day to produce (in a small measure) myself.

Writing in "Table Tennis Topics," Bill Price stated that Andreadis took the ball very early, but never hit really viciously. This, plus plenty of top-spin, would, I take it, partially explain the Czech's ability to obtain wide angles in his hitting. As he doesn't usually go for full-blooded winners, I assume his back-hand is of the full-arm type to blend with his forehand. The few continental stars I have seen used a longer follow-through than that employed by the English players. Is this important?

Billericay, Essex.

A. B. Smith.

**I**VAN ANDREADIS, of Czechoslovakia, is an attacking player with an extremely good close-to-the-table, well-directed, chopped defence. It is this defence that often discourages players from attacking, thus leaving it to Ivan to take over the initiative. Ivan is only too pleased to do this and to keep up a continuous flow of well-placed attacking strokes from and to both wings of the table.

Andreadis excels in dealing with attacking players who are efficient on one wing only. Against such players he counterhits in half-volley fashion to the weaker side of his opponent, hence the reason for his many wins over those great one-wing attackers Vana and Miles.

There are two distinct types of attackers, the ones that top-spin the ball with an upward follow-through movement of considerable steepness and not much follow-forward movement. Most of the taller players have an aptitude for this type of attack, such as Andreadis, Holzrichter, Slar, Liebster and Tokar, to mention only a few. This type of attack enables the experts to keep on hitting the ball with fairly good speed for lengthy periods with very little risk. They are able to place the ball with

# ... writes about Andreadis



Ivan Andreadis

uncanny skill just where they want it, but invariably you will find such players lack a "kill-shot," simply because this type of attack allows little or no scope for a "kill." That is the reason why Andreadis always has to fight hard and so often loses to many of the world's best defensive players like Koczian, Leach, Soos and myself, for instance. It invariably develops into mainly a question of stamina, his never-ending attack versus an excellent and determined defence.

The other type of attacking stroke is the lesser top-spin of the ball with a forward follow-through movement that has only a slight upward angle. Most of the smaller players have (or ought to have) this type of attack. Their shoulders help a lot in that kind of the follow-through rhythm. Because they almost naturally adopt this style of attack you will find that it is the smaller men who possess most of the kill shots. They can put all they have into their swing for the kill. To quote a few: Vana, Venner and myself. Or to quote a woman, Dora Beregi.

There are, of course, small players who have adopted the taller ones' play, and tall players who have the smaller man's method of attack, but they seem to be in the majority.

Please note that this short article does not set out to say that all tall players are devoid of kill shots or that all small players have them, but to explain Andreadis's game I felt it necessary to go into these important matters.

*Editorial Note.—In all fairness to Richard Bergmann we must explain that he was not shown the letter from Mr. Smith, but merely asked to describe how Andreadis plays.*



# Best Six Ever

ENGLISH AND WORLD PLAYERS

IN our last issue we invited readers to vote whom they considered to be (a) the six greatest players the world has produced, and (b) the six greatest players of English birth produced by England. The number of entries was most satisfactory and certainly the highest of any competition we have run. After carefully checking the number of votes the result came out as follows: Six best world players: 1, V. Barna; 2, R. Bergmann; 3, B. Vana; 4, M. Szabados; 5, L. Bellak; 6, J. Leach. Six best English-born players: 1, J. Leach; 2, A. Haydon; 3, F. Perry; 4, C. Bull; 5, E. Bublely; 6, H. Lurie.

Every entry received gave Victor Barna as the first world player, while only one entry did not give Johnny Leach as the first English player. In this latter instance Johnny was placed No. 2 to Fred Perry. For second place in the world players it was a neck and neck finish between Bergmann and Vana.

The entry coming nearest to the above placings was sent in by Bill Parker of 37 Hamilton Avenue, Barkingside, Essex, who only had one error. Bill adds a footnote to his entry and says that but for the last war Tereba (Czechoslovakia) would certainly have been among the great, and, in another footnote says he has no hesitation in placing Lurie as No. 6. In addition to being a great player his style was so beautiful.

Bill Parker is a regular contributor to Table Tennis Review, and has been since our first issue nearly six years ago, and for that reason we would have preferred someone else to have won, still, Bill has added a third footnote to his entry, viz.: "Should I by chance win the prize bat, please send it to a deserving "not too well breeched"

## Easter at SCARBOROUGH!

### The North East ENGLAND OPEN TABLETENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

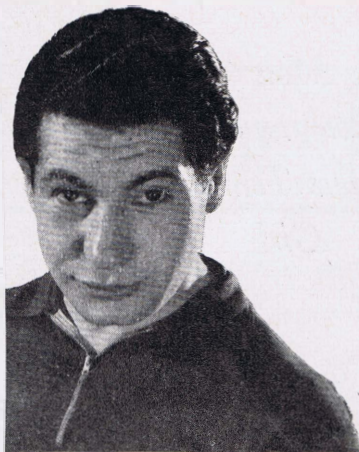
(Sanctioned by E.T.T.A. & Y.T.T.A.)

are to be held at the  
Burniston Road Barracks  
Scarborough

Easter Sat. & Mon. (April 12th, 14th)

Excellent conditions. 9 EVENTS  
Junior Girls and Boys, Youths' and  
Veterans' Events—Monday only.  
Seats bookable for Finals  
(Easter Monday, 7 p.m.)

Entry forms and full details:—  
E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street,  
Scarborough. Tel.: 3266



youth organisation (not a financially sponsored youth club) of your own choosing."

The two next best entries were sent in by John Corser, 22, Whippendall Road, Watford, Herts., and Alan Hamblin, Ashcroft House, Highfield School, Harpenden, Herts.

## Table Tennis Romance

### FIRST RESERVE

*At last they took me into our team,  
They couldn't do without me, it would seem.  
My formbook clearly showed an upward  
curve*

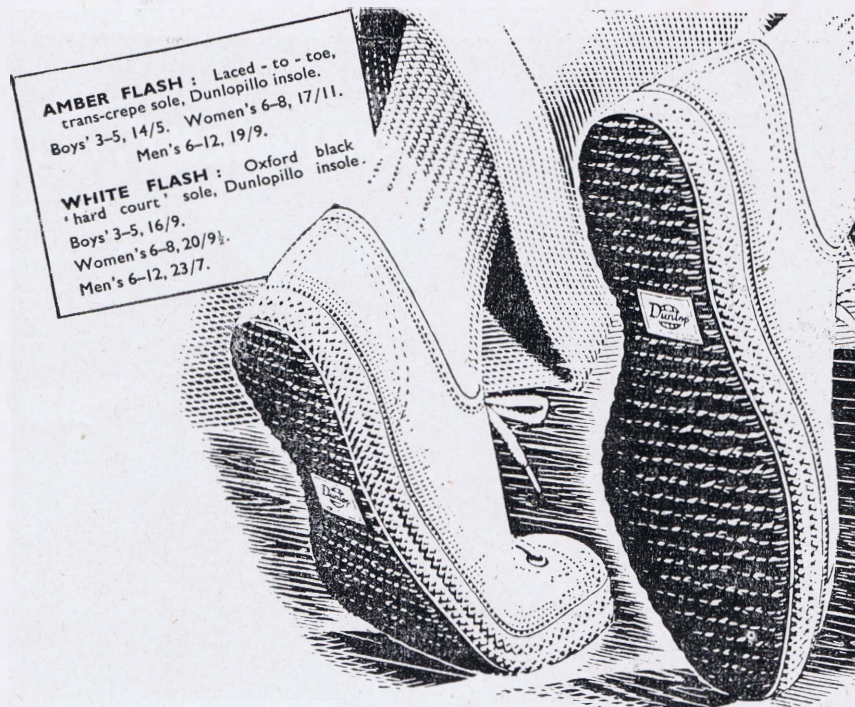
*And so they put me in . . . as first  
reserve.*

*There isn't anyone whom I could blame.  
The fact is that the others all came;  
I actually never played a stroke  
And that, you can believe me, was no joke.  
Sitting there, so to speak, on call  
(Proper fed up, I was, and all)  
When a young lady, quite perchance  
Gave me a sympathetic glance.  
That's nice, I thought, a friendly dame,  
And asked her: "Do you play this game?"  
Her answer was: "You've got a nerve,  
Of course! I am their first reserve."*

*Now, to cut a long story short,  
We had a knock, she was a sport;  
And she, too, thought I was all right.  
We made a date, Saturday night.  
I never thought I'd have the nerve  
But she came out of her reserve.  
I acted as table tennis nurse  
And we formed our own team . . . for  
better or worse.*

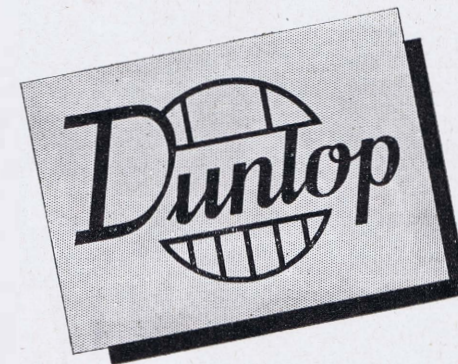
*I still play a lot, with sweat on my brow;  
The wife? She doesn't play much just now.  
Her figure shows a telling curve  
You know, we're expecting . . . our  
"first reserve."*

WALTER STEINITZ.



# Swift and Sure!

Here are the shoes to match swift-ness of hand and eye with swiftness of foot . . . the celebrated Dunlop Sports Shoes worn by no less than ninety per cent of the world's competitors in The Championships at Wimbledon this year. The secret is faultless fit, superb cushioning, resolute grip. And the unique coolness of the Ventilex canvas uppers!

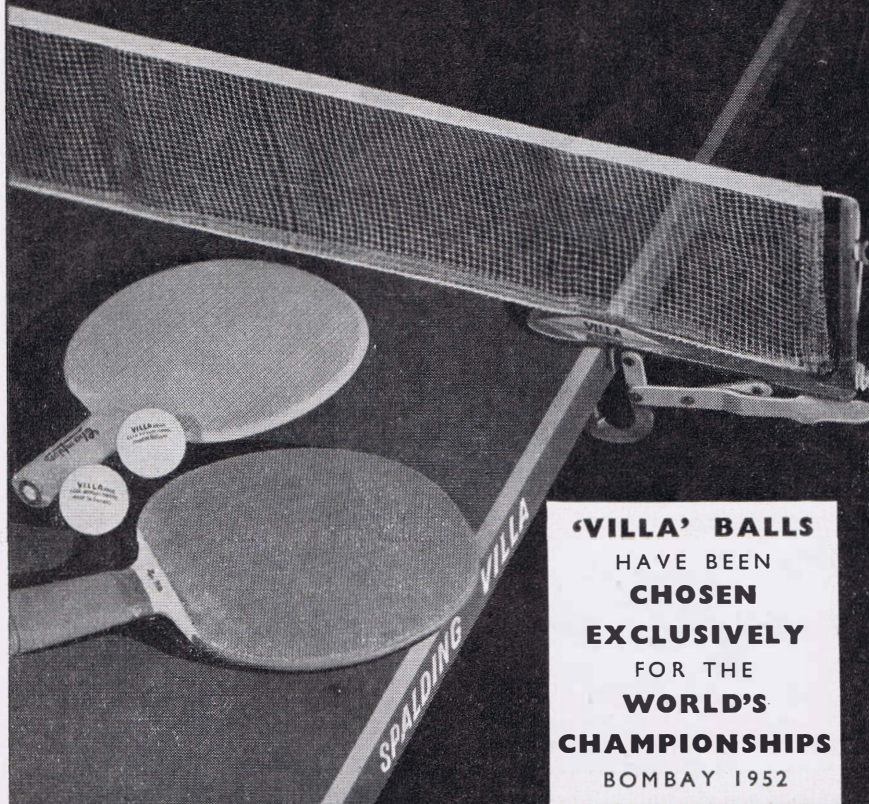


## Dunlop SPORTS SHOES - The Champion's Choice

DUNLOP RUBBER CO. LTD. (FOOTWEAR DIVISION), SPEKE, LIVERPOOL



## TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT...



**'VILLA' BALLS**  
HAVE BEEN  
**CHOSEN**  
**EXCLUSIVELY**  
FOR THE  
**WORLD'S**  
**CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
BOMBAY 1952

Someone's going to win with

# SPALDING

OVER 70 YEARS OF SPORT

OBTAINABLE FROM YOUR SPORTS DEALER

## WOMAN TO WOMAN

By PEGGY ALLEN

It's nice to be writing to you again after a somewhat long absence and many thanks to those of you who wrote saying how much you enjoyed my previous articles. I hear from our editor that we now have readers in almost every table tennis country in the world, so hello to you all. Here's wishing you a really enjoyable season, or "off season" according to whether it is winter or summer in your part of the globe. No doubt you are interested in a little feminine gossip . . . so contemptuous males may now turn over the page.

Since Diane and Rosalind Rowe relinquished their jobs in order to concentrate on T.T., they have been giving numerous exhibitions and these engagements are likely to continue throughout the coming summer. Even so, Victor Barna tells me that they love lawn tennis so much that they will continue to play the outdoor game as much as possible.

I once asked Di how they managed to agree when choosing identical clothes since their tastes differ so considerably. She replied that although the elder, Ros usually abides by her decisions, and she really has quite definite ideas about the kind of clothes which suit them best.

Talking of clothes, (inevitable feminine topic), brings me to the very smart, belted corduroy jackets brought back from their German tour by Kathleen Best and Mickey Thornhill, costing less than £4 they seemed extraordinary good value to me, being very warm and beautifully lined. Kath's is a rich, wine shade and Mickey's a bottle green. I thought them more adaptable than blazers because they can also be worn in town with slacks or skirt. Corduroy seems to be fashionable again this year and comes in lovely rich, jewel shades. The only colour I can't bear in corduroy is grey—don't ask me why, but it always reminds me of elephants!

Incidentally Kathleen and Aubrey Simons stayed with me on their return from the German tour and I was amazed to see the large number of very beautiful gifts they acquired during their travels. It proved to be a hectic round of games, large banquets and presentations, with very little time for sleeping in between.

Aubrey Simons is now engaged and hopes to be married this year. His slim, blonde fiancée doesn't play table tennis but is a keen spectator, which is surely the next best thing.

It was an intriguing experience to attend the Wimbledon Ball at Grosvenor House. I counted quite a number of well-known



PEGGY ALLEN

table tennis players among the guests. All of them had been playing at Wimbledon and from memory they included Vera Thomas (Dace), Audrey Bates, Margaret Knott, Howard Walton, Roland Carter and Clive Bernstein. I could not help wondering if such an affair could not be staged during our own English Open Championships each year. Obviously not on the final Saturday, but probably one evening during that week. Can't you just see Erlich leading Trudi Pritzi in the first-after-dinner-dance in the same manner that tradition demands after Wimbledon?

The latest youngster to show considerable promise is 14-year-old Jill Rook of Surrey. Jill not only plays a stylish game of table tennis for Surrey Juniors, but she also reached the final of the Evening News Junior Lawn Tennis tournament last summer. At present, in the capable hands of Jack Carrington, she should win a Junior English title one of these days. Yes, boys, (if you are still with us) she has good looks: too and plenty of confidence!

Jack Carrington must be feeling very happy about the progress shown by his wife, Elsie, during the last year or two. She modestly attributes her rapid progress to his skilful coaching but I can't help thinking that much hard work and many hours of patient practice have contributed to her success. She is Jack's regular partner during his television instructional half-hour for young viewers.

Well, that's all for the present. Be seeing you soon, I hope. And the best of luck for 1952.



## TABLE TENNIS OFFICIALS VISIT TO DUNLOP SPORTS SPEKE FACTORY ON 1st NOVEMBER, 1951



**Back Row (Left to Right)—**

B. L. FAULKNER (Dunlop, London), R. TRUEMAN (Dunlop), A. A. HAYDON (Birmingham), E. R. CONNELL (Staines), G. W. DECKER (London), G. JAMES (London), E. REAY (Sunderland).

**Middle Row (Left to Right)—**

S. GODWIN (Dunlop), W. E. ROBERTS (Dunlop), T. SEARS (Waltham Cross), W. J. PARKER (Barkingside), W. EVANS (Dunlop, Waltham Abbey), F. TOLCHARD (Dunlop), L. E. FORREST (Bradford), W. H. SHAW (Dunlop).

**Seated (Left to Right)—**

L. BRADBURY (Dunlop), DR. J. RUMJAHN (Liverpool), V. BARNA (London), S. G. BALL (Dunlop Director), C. CORTI WOODCOK (Epping), G. MALLET (Dunlop), H. R. EVANS (Cardiff), C. C. S. PRESTON (M.H.T.S. Dunlop, London), R. MARLER ("Sporting Record," London), S. H. KEMPSTER (London), N. COOK (Stalybridge).

### DUNLOP FACTORY VISIT

TOWARDS the end of 1951 a party of leading table tennis personalities accepted the invitation of the Dunlop Sports Co., Ltd., to visit their Speke, Liverpool, factory. At Speke about 8,000 people are employed in the production of motor and cycle tyres, footwear and sports goods, etc. Particular interest was shown by the party in the sports section, which included the manufacture of the pimpled rubber used in Barna bats.

Most of the party assembled at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, where they stayed the night, and with such a party gathered

from all parts of the country a good deal of conversation took place. It was well after 2 a.m. when everyone retired. The next day the factory visit was followed by a luncheon at which Mr. G. Mallett, Production Manager of the Sports Goods, welcomed the party on behalf of Mr. S. G. Ball, director of the company. Mr. Corti Woodcock replied in his usual brilliant vein, and Mr. Roy Evans of Wales seconded him with great humour. The visit was such a success that a similar event is being contemplated for some future date.

### INSTRUCTIONAL FILM

The first instructional table tennis film has now been issued by the Dunlop Sports Co., and stars Victor Barna and Michael Szabados. The film is of ten minutes duration and is aided by a commentary by Raymond Glendenning. The various strokes are demonstrated by the two ex-world champions.

A preview of the film was shown in London in January before a gathering of a number of sporting champions. The Rowe twins were there dressed alike in black skirts, black jumpers and black berets. Diana said that she had heard that Gizi Farkas and

Angelica Rozeanu were pairing together in the doubles of the world championships at Bombay and if that was so, then they would certainly have to fight harder to retain their Women's Doubles championships. Farkas and Rozeanu (of Hungary and Rumania respectively) were the women's singles finalists of last year, Rozeanu winning in three straight games.

Clubs who wish to borrow the film should apply either direct to the Dunlop Press Officer, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2., or else to the English Association.



# "Per Ardua..." T.T. Against Religious Life

By Corti Woodcock.

TOP-RANK table tennis is not limited to such attributes as skill, and speed, experience and craft, fitness and enthusiasm. There has to be something more than a combination of techniques, each of which is undoubtedly important in the make-up of the complete player. But that completeness requires something else, without which it is impossible to climb to the top. If I call this thing "personality" it only partly conveys what I mean: so I'll try to make my meaning plainer by telling you a story—a true story.

About twenty years ago, there was a certain young man who loved table tennis so much that he gave it every moment of his spare time. Soon he became quite accomplished, and within two or three seasons had won for himself an international cap. To him, that was simply the first objective. What he had set his heart on was a Swaythling Cup badge to adorn his shirt—to play for England in a World Championship. He practised and worked harder than ever, was invited to the final trial, and simply forced himself into the team. He'd achieved his ambition—all he had to do now was to prove that he deserved it. And off across the Channel he went with all the fervour and militant resolve of a Black Prince about to lay siege to Calais.

He made his first appearance in his country's match against Yugoslavia and when the thrilling moment came for him to go on court, his captain—who knew all that had gone before—whispered final words of congratulation and encouragement. In the twinkling of an eye, it seemed, he had lost the first game, 21-2! Imagine his feelings just then—his humiliation and chagrin: with worse to follow, when, a few moments later in the second game, he was far behind—about 4-16. Then came the moment of inspiration, when he summoned to his aid every scrap of his spirit, determination and courage. It was as if some inner voice had spoken, with the message that if he didn't fight then, he never would. As a player he would be finished—all his years of arduous training and endeavour, wasted.

He answered the call. He fought like a demon, his eyes shining. He caught his man and took that game at a score somewhere in the twenties, and went on to win the third and so gain a precious point for England. But what he gained for himself—and as an example to others—the ability to wage a war within and emerge triumphant, that was even more precious. Inspired by

(Continued at foot of next column)

★

The Deputy Mayor of Reading, Berkshire, is of the opinion that to allow the Town Hall for a Table Tennis Tournament on a Sunday would mean inviting people who would destroy the quietude of Reading's Sunday. He went on to say quite emphatically, "This is a distinct innovation," he declared. "Never, in recent years, have we let the hall for a purpose of this nature. My first objection to this proposal is on religious grounds. I regard Reading as a very religious town, and that outlook must be preserved. To allow table tennis on Sundays would be detrimental to Reading's religious life.

"I am told that the Association has 400 resident members. I don't know how many of these will be aspiring to play in the championships, but these also include the Berkshire championships. In inviting these people we shall be doing something to destroy the quietude of our Sundays."

Alderman Victor Smith gave his vote in favour of the Table Tennis Association. He did so because the Corporation allowed lawn tennis in the parks on Sundays, and he could see no difference in young people playing that other particularly clean, sporting game in the Town Hall, especially as table tennis was very similar in character.

The Deputy Mayor (Alderman Clark) said he could see no comparison between lawn tennis and table tennis, and when his motion was put to the vote it carried by thirty votes against eight. It would be interesting to discover how many of those thirty go to church on Sundays and how many enter a public house, cinema or golf course.

(Continued from previous column)

the surge of his courage, he plucked himself off the precipice of a defeat which might well have broken the heart of most youngsters. Here is a lesson for all of us. My friend was not a master-player, but, to use Victor Barna's expressive phrase, "he had within him the stuff of which champions are—and must be—made."

I speak of him now with reverence; for a few years later, in the prime of his young manhood, virile, athletic, and brave to the end, he answered another call—and died a hero's death, in the Battle of Britain.

## Everything for Sport . . . Consult us with your Problems

Our business and service include the following:

Complete sports equipment and clothing. Trophies, badges, sports prizes, sporting books and toys. Construction of tennis courts, swimming pools, gymnasiums, etc. Repairs on all equipment.

For the Table Tennis Club and Player:

Jagues tournament tables, £47.  
Alec Brook tournament table, £41/19/6. This table exactly as used in Rose Bowl final, Welsh Open, Sussex Open and over 50 Leagues.

½ in. match tables at £22/10, £24/10 and £29/5.  
All tables in stock - Tables taken in part exchange - Secondhand tables available.

T.T. Shirts, Official in Royal, Navy, Maroon and Emerald, 29/6.

Utility same colours. (S), 13/4; (M), 14/-; (O.S.), 14/8.

Postage on Utility only 1/-.

Bat Covers, 6/6; Rubber grips, 9d., T.T. Posts, 15/6 and 6/5; Nets, 3/6.

Rubber, Fast, Medium, Slow and Continental, 1/- a piece; Top Spin, 1/3.

BOOKS.—Bergmann, 12/6; Leach, 9/6; Carrington, 6/-; "Know the Game," 2/—one of the finest books on T.T., includes Rules, Coaching, Lighting and many illustrations.

The New Alec Brook T.T. Bat. Used by two of the Indian team and five English Internationals. Ideal for defence or attack. The finest bat yet produced, 8/6.

Bergmann Shoes, 23/7; Canadian Fleetfoot Shoes, 38/5; Track Suits from 56/6.


Your finals this year—Why not an exhibition by International and County players? From £5.—Enquiries.

**ALEC BROOK, LTD.**

(International Champion)

**KLIX HOUSE, 85, DUKE ST., GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1**

MAYfair 3113

"There has never been a volume so thorough —  so comprehensive — and so instructive."—TABLE TENNIS

# Table Tennis

By IVOR MONTAGU. This well-known book forms a complete guide to the fastest of all ball games. Every item of interest to the player, whether he is an amateur or a budding entrant for international championships, is fully discussed. The author describes the equipment and the methods of play in a manner that will enable every enthusiast to develop his own technique and style on the right lines. The book also contains many facts about Table Tennis champions and championships that will interest all keen followers **10/-** Net.



"There is no one more fitted to write on Table Tennis than Mr. Montagu, who has sponsored the game through bad times to the present boom." Daily Mail.

**PITMAN** Parker Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2







# THE JOB OF INTERPRETER

By Walter Steinitz

(OFFICIAL INTERPRETER OF THE ENGLISH T.T.A.)

Readers can no doubt imagine that behind the scenes of any big international table tennis event many volunteers are required for numerous tasks of varying importance. Have you ever given a thought to the difficulties which must arise because of the language problem? Of course, that creates the need for at least one interpreter, but at a world championships with probably over a score of nations taking part, what a task the official interpreter must have. This year, an Indian official had to face up to the task; but here, in this article, Walter Steinitz, Official Interpreter for the English Association, recounts some of his experiences when he has been at his post at Wembley international table tennis events.

AT international English table tennis events of the last few years you may have observed a rather tall, dark, handsome and important looking chap, leaning about on the referee's platform doing nothing but obviously enjoying himself, chatting to various interesting people and watching thrilling table tennis displays, while most other people on that platform displayed ant-like activities. On his manly chest is pinned a white disc, telling you that he is *Interpreter No. 1*. Well, folks, that's me.

You might also have thought, "Now there's a soft job if ever there was one. All he has to do is to talk to a few foreign players in their own language which, of course, he speaks fluently. The remainder of the time he fills in by watching all the interesting games at close quarters." Well, I don't blame you for . . . That's precisely what I thought when I volunteered for the job some years ago. In this article I hope to convince you how wrong you are.

To start with, I speak only four languages, English, French, German and Italian (the last named not so good), but at a big international event there are very many more nationalities represented. Fortunately, most competitors usually speak one language that I know. Now, I can hear you say, "Well, that's dead easy. Just a piece of cake!" That's what you think, chum. There are several "buts," and each one beginning with a capital "B." First and foremost, just knowing the language gets you nowhere. You've got to talk table tennis in all those languages and, as yours truly has found out by now, you have to act as Reception Committee, Umpire, Steward, Radio-Announcer, Guide and Diplomatic Appeaser all rolled in one. Some job, eh?

Have you ever tried to understand a Pole, Rumanian, or Portuguese speaking in French; or a Czech, Hungarian, Yugoslav or Scandinavian addressing you in German? Well, I am proud to say that by now I somehow manage to find my way through this jungle of accents apart from the proper languages.



WALTER STEINITZ

What really does get me down, however, is that at the sight of my white disc so many Britishers come and try out their smattering of a foreign tongue on me. Still, never mind, one day I shall be able to understand them, too. Even our own Geoff Harrower invariably addresses me in pidgin English, this being the only "foreign" tongue that he really masters.

## TIGHT SQUEEZES

Very often foreign stars have asked me to get somebody on the telephone for them. I shall not forget the time when one of the American Thall sisters, loaded up with jerseys, had me in a telephone box. That was a tight squeeze, but there was much more room in the box when I helped Gizi Farkas to make a date, and when I also assisted Guy Amouretti in finding the departure time of his homeward bound plane.

Perhaps the best service I gave to a "customer" was the time the Yugoslav player, Harangozo overslept and arrived late at Wembley without having shaved. During

the day, Harangozo and Dolinar played themselves into the doubles final, and Harangozo insisted on having a shave before the final. I dragged the poor chap all over Wembley, but all barbers had closed for the weekend. As a last resort I slipped him into a store where we bought a complete shaving outfit. Imagine my shock when half an hour before he was due to play under the television lights I encountered him in a passage with his chin still full of black stubbles and looking simply awful. He had been having a little snooze before dressing. At the very last minute he came out of his dressing-room with a grin and a clean-shaven face. I followed him and Dolinar under the television lights and took my place next to the umpire, just in case more interpretation was required. The two boys won the doubles championship, but it sure was a *close shave*.

## ALL EXPERIENCE

My trickiest piece of interpreting occurred during the last world championship in London. The English referee and the President of the French Federation had to discuss some intricate table tennis problem, and they roped me into their heated discussion. I admit to being a trifle nervous because any mis-interpreting, on my part, might have had international repercussions. Somehow, I managed to get through the

ordeal fairly well and certainly profited by the experience.

One keeps on learning at this game, and by now I can even interpret American into English . . . or can I? Anyway, what do you say now, chum? Not such a soft job after all. If I have convinced you, do tell me the next time you see me idling about on a platform. But for heaven's sake speak to me in English!

## Attractive Souvenir Issue

"TABLE TENNIS REVIEW"

### WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

1952

A publication you will  
want for your library.

Price for Special Number

1/3

Place an order NOW.  
Ready March 25th, 1952.

## Introducing a different bat . . .

IN THE HAND OF

Adele Wood

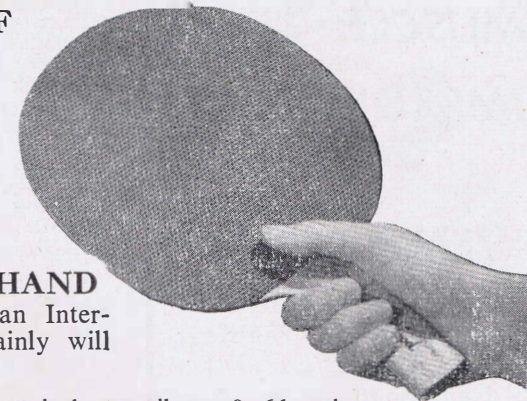
This bat, designed by her and bearing her name, is taking her higher and higher among the Internationals.

With it IN YOUR HAND  
you may not become an International but you certainly will improve your play.

Obtainable from the best retailers at 8s. 6d. each.

## J. ROSE & SON LTD.

269/270 ARGYLL AVENUE, TRADING ESTATE, SLOUGH, BUCKS.  
Telephone: Slough 20420.





# Doubles Ranking List . . .

THE recent introduction of the National Ranking List and the Grading Scheme satisfied a long-needed improvement in the method of obtaining information regarding the current form of the leading players. There is, however, a further step which could be taken towards the compiling of additional data and that is by introducing a National Ranking List for Doubles play.

There would be a considerable amount of preliminary investigation involved in the preparation of such a scheme and the maintenance of the list would also need the services of officials who are already hard-worked but it is necessary to consider whether it would be justifiable for this work to be carried out. On the opposite side the amount of work undertaken by tournament organisers would be lessened by having their seeds automatically worked out for them and county selectors and captains would also find their task to be easier.

At a recent tournament I noticed that a pair who do not normally play together were seeded number one, whilst an established pair were placed number two. In the finals the number two pair were not even extended in winning the match. With the scheme that is now advocated there would be no danger of such an event happening,

## A Plea For More Prominence

unless an unaccountable loss of form took place.

Of several alternative schemes examined the following seems to be the most practicable and the formulae for operating the scheme would be: Position on List A: either positions on B List added together and divided by two or positions on Lists A and B added together and divided by two. List A would be the regular pairings, in Ranking Order, and List B would be players who are recognised as good doubles players but who are not playing with a regular partner.

Assume that the following lists are the ones drafted by the responsible committee (I do not necessarily regard this as the order of strength incidentally and have only put the players in some form of order for the sake of the example) and that you have to decide in which order you will seed the players.

List A: 1, Carrington and Leach; 2, Craigie and Venner; 3, Casofsky and Stanley; 4, Thornhill and Kennedy. List B: 1, Barna; 2, Simons, 3, Adams; 4, Crayden. If Simons and Crayden entered together, being both List B players the formula would apply as follows:  $2 + 4 \div 2 = 3$ . Therefore they would be No. 3 pair on List A for this particular tournament. If Barna and Thornhill entered together, one being on List B and the other being on List A, their respective positions on each list would be added and divided by two and the result would be:  $1 + 4 \div 2 = 2\frac{1}{2}$ , therefore they would come after No. 2 pair on List A.

In the case of a "made-up" pair coming on to List A for a tournament and being given the same number as a List A pair, the regular partnership would take precedence in the seeding order. If a pair played together for more than a certain number of times in each season they would then be eligible to be classed as a regular pair.

I do not think that sufficient importance is attached to doubles play by the rank and file of players and if they can be brought to understand some of the specialised technique required for this type of game, then the game as a whole will improve and we shall no longer see the spectacle of players who are useful singles performers being beaten by two very ordinary players who have played together regularly. Not that I think this is bad for the game, but it should not happen, if a player has sufficient intelligence to master the complexities of the modern game of singles, that he is all at sea when playing doubles. G.C.

# ORDER of PLAY SYSTEM for SMALL CLUBS

By K.C.P.K. (Offaly, Ireland)

THE article in your September/October issue on the Progressive Play System, as used by the Royal Oak Club, U.S.A., has been interesting to me as secretary of a similar club in Ireland. Apart from anything else, it is comforting to realise that the United States, as well as having its cover-girl champions and other star players, also has "numerous clubs where members can only play one or perhaps two nights a week."

In our particular case, we also only have the use of a school gym, this time on three nights a week, but with only three tables. The progressive play system of the Royal Oak Club would, to my mind, be unnecessarily complicated in our case, and it may perhaps be of interest to other "small club" readers to know how we work, although there is nothing original or unusual in our method, which has worked very satisfactorily for some time:—

Each member on arrival chalks his or her name on the school blackboard, one below the other. The first on the list is then free to select the person with whom he will play, from among the next four names immediately below his own, both names being deleted when they go to their table. The player whose name is thus left at the top of the list then makes his similar choice, and so on. When two players have finished, they chalk their names at the bottom of the list, winner's name first.

This system, which is used in many clubs, has the advantage of ensuring that the good and the bad players are fairly well mixed, that everybody gets an equal amount of play, and also overcomes the trouble and delay of having to assign certain players to certain tables. It can be used equally well for doubles.

In addition to this system, we have the "ladder," which contains the names of all the members, with the ladies in their own compartment, and the men in theirs. A player may challenge the player immediately above him, and, if successful, moves up, and may challenge the next; he may not, however, challenge the same player more than once in the same evening, nor may he challenge a player who has challenged and defeated him that evening. Each player challenging pays threepence towards club funds before he plays, which produces quite a surprising sum by the end of the season. Our No. 1 table is reserved for challenge

matches from 9.30., in order to cater for any who have not been able to work in their challenges with the order of play necessitated by the blackboard. A player who is absent for more than one evening retains his place on the ladder, but the player below him may "skip" and challenge the next player above him.

The object of the ladder, of course, is to produce an up-to-the-minute ranking list of the club, from which all teams are taken for our league matches, with the result that we need no selection committee and nobody can grouse about not being on a team. It is an invaluable incentive to everyone to work his way up. The initial order on the ladder is determined from the result of an opening handicap tournament. If positions on the ladder become "stale," as they sometimes do, towards the end of the season, another handicap tournament can be held, and the order changed as a result, although I must say that this has not yet been necessary in our case.

**IMPROVE YOUR  
MUSCLE TONE**  
AND  
**IMPROVE YOUR  
GAME!**

USE

**"ZEBLIN SPORTS"  
MASSAGE CREAM**

(Recommended by BRIAN KENNEDY)

Obtainable from  
Sports Dealers, Cycle Shops,  
Golf Pros. 1/11 per tube.

**ZEBLS Ltd.**

Lord Nelson's Buildings,  
METHLEY, Nr. LEEDS.

**Bukta**

TABLE — TENNIS  
**SHORTS**

"Sport-tailored": these new Bukta Table Tennis Shorts are not only attractive to look at but give that freedom and ease in wear so essential to Table Tennis. Available in Navy, Grey, Brown and Green fine all wool flannel. Sizes 24 in. to 30 in. waist.

FROM **2** GNS. PAIR

-and to complete your outfit, Bukta Interlock Sport Shirts

13/4 each

FROM ALL GOOD OUTFITTERS





# STROLLING DOWN TABLE TENNIS AVENUE

WITH  
SAM  
KIRKWOOD

**B**ILL KELLY, the lad I mentioned in a previous issue as being an inmate of a chest sanatorium, has undergone a lung resection operation. He is progressing favourably and is, as ever, cheerful and optimistic. Young William remains firm in his intention to make the grade as a top-class umpire when he returns to Civvy Street, and his interest in table tennis is as keen as ever. A friend of his, George Harris, secretary of the Bishopsgate Institute (City of London) T.T. section, sends along detailed reports of every club match, as well as general gossip of what's going on in bat-and-ball sphere, and the recipient is very grateful for same. In fact, he swears that the chit-chat is helping a lot in his progress to health.

Sit tight, chaps and girls. Now that the Tories are in power the game won't become nationalised.

Churchill: "Any money to be made from this game ping-pong?"

Chancellor: "No. It's a dead loss. As a sample of free enterprise it couldn't be worse."

Churchill: "No high dividends, eh? Those damned Socialists sure gummed up the works. Let's leave the suckers alone."

Chancellor: "O.K. boss. As you say, boss."

Stan Proffitt, Manchester's frank spokesman and a chap who doesn't live in the past, has been dropped from the E.T.T.A.'s Selection Committee. In his place, as Northern representative, is Norman Cook. It seems surprising, to say the least, that Stan, one of the very few men on the S.C. with a wide practical knowledge of the game, should have been discarded so soon—and I know that he himself is more than a little mystified. Stan, in fact, was so cheesed-off with his smack on the nose that he had ideas of forgetting table tennis altogether. Being a sensible chap with spirit, however, he has since changed his mind. He knows that the game, more than ever today, needs fighters of his calibre. He is determined to struggle, via action and the spoken and written word, for the interests of T.T.'s little man and girl, and he assures me we'll be hearing a lot from him. Cook, on whose shoulders has fallen the burden of looking after the welfare of folk "way up," is no stooge and will, I hope, do his stint in reminding us conceited

Southerners that not all England's talent flowers exclusively in London and its surrounding districts. It's his job to fight like blazes for those he represents . . . and I exhort him not to be scared of opening a big mouth and to keep on pestering those old Southern gentlemen, until the dribble-beards sit up and take notice. Back to Stan. England's left-handed ex-skipper is a fine professional cricketer and last season played for Crewe (L.M.R.), in the North Staffs. League, taking 119 wickets—the first man to do so since the war. On the strength of that achievement he has been signed on for another season. Keep a-cracking and a-smacking, Stan, both at cricket and T.T.

Victor Barna is still talking about writing his autobiography. He has been holding forth about his proposed *epic* for a long time and has even discussed its title, his favourite at the moment being "25 Years of Table Tennis." I hope that by the time the Maestro gets down to scribbling he won't be forced to use the label, "50 Years of Table Tennis." If there's one classic on the game to be created, Victor's the boy to give it birth. I have not a shred of doubt that it would be the greatest work of its kind ever written—because the man behind it is the greatest player ever, the greatest personality to adorn the game, and the star whose career has been the most interesting, glamorous, fascinating and exciting. "Mr. Table Tennis" is depriving a world public of a truly tasty morsel of reading. When is he going to force the time to get down to reminiscing on paper?

Speaking of table tennis books, I have yet to read a tome which can honestly be described as an outstanding work. Bergmann's "21 Up" is the most interesting of the current batch, in that it breaks away from the general trend of merely recording the game's history and giving out with textbook material. But for the rest—well, there is a limit to stuff of the "how to play in six easy lessons" variety, which, though perhaps useful in a restricted way, and only then if profounded simply and clearly by someone not bogged down by a love of the orthodox, is hardly inspiring to ambitious youngsters. There are dozens of fascinating books on boxing, cricket, football and other popular

sports, but table tennis, which should have been a big boy for a long time, is singularly lacking in this direction.

A staff sports writer of the 5,000,000-daily circulated "Daily Mirror" has attacked the scarecrow appearance of male players at open tournaments. While not claiming to be a memory man, I can yet recall that I have, on one or two occasions, spoken in the same strain. The "Mirror" gave our tattered tramps a severe thrashing and held up the impeccable Rowe twins as an example in sartorial smartness. Just as I have been doing for two years or so. Some of the game's more mature stalwarts are fond of recalling that in the final of an English national championship some 25 years ago, one of the contestants wore evening clothes—stiff shirt, bow tie, diamond studs and all. Very amusing, no doubt; but it can be said that the gentleman in question did at least have a fitting sense of the occasion. Which is more than can be said about too many of our present-day trollops and sluts. The day our executives realise that the sport needs reform in the clothes department and take a firm stand against the disreputable scruffs doing the game no good at all, that day will I grovel in the dust and trumpet to all and sundry that Montagu and Co. are not, as I have often hinted, still living exclusively in the primitive ping-pong era.

That dashing, all-action advert depicting a jumping-bean Barna in action, with the message that so-and-so oats is the cherished secret behind his 15 world titles, is leading me a dog's life. I have been stuffing the cereal down me for many months, but have yet to win even a Sunday school title. Lately I have been taking two portions of oats per day, without noticeable effect—except a somewhat distended stomach. And a growing dislike of the so-and-so oats.

I have always thought what a crass thing etiquette can sometimes be, particularly in the sphere of sport. For example, when a T.T. player wins a point via an edge or net-cord ball, he simpers to his opponent, "Sorry." Surely it should be the wallah on whom Goddess Fortune has frowned who should express regret? I admit with stark frankness that when I score an easy "edger" or "corder" I feel happy, and that when the opposing party scores a soft 'un against me I feel peeved. Yet in the former case convention demands that I be hypocritical and profess sorrow which no-one for a moment believes I feel; and in the latter case I must suffer the condolences of the lucky blighter

at the other end, knowing darned well he is inwardly as pleased as a pup with a couple of rubber bones to play with. What baloney this "sorry" business is, to be sure!

In the last issue I invited readers to name who they rated as (a) the six greatest world players ever, and (b) the six greatest native-born English players ever, the prize for the adjudicated winner being a bat presented by the Editor. A Somerset correspondent has sent in a list, stating that the names he forwards are, in his opinion, "the six best table tennis players." The list—apparently a world one—reads thus: 1, Richard Bergmann; 2, Victor Barna; 3, Johnny Leach; 4, Bohumil Vana; 5, (wait for it!) Alec Brook; 6, (wait for it again!) Jack Carrington. Numbers five and six are heavenly honies, aren't they? As I am writing this while Christmas is in the air, I shall refrain from passing comment on Alec and Jack as all-time world greats. I shall merely say that I enjoy a joke as much as anyone, but this is going a little too far. I have a strange feeling that the gentleman from Somerset will not be the recipient of a nice new racket from Arthur Waite . . .

## Any Ideas? ♦♦♦♦♦

Dear Editor, Here in Australia our summer is on top of us but we are still playing T.T. in spite of the oppressive heat. We could do with some of that snow you are probably having in England. Tell me, how in heat such as ours, can one keep icy cool at "twenty-all" in the fifth? If you can answer that one then I'll send "Table Tennis Review" a bat or book prize!

Best wishes to you and all your readers for 1952.

sincerely,

Cecil Shaw,

Vice-President, Queensland T.T.F.

Sorry, Cecil! I doubt if any of us can help you, for so few of us can keep cool at "twenty-all" in the fifth—even when there is fog and snow outside. But maybe some of our humorists can offer a few suggestions (not to be taken seriously). Anything doing, readers? We will send a book or bat prize to those of you who can wring a smile and a chuckle out of the Australian situation.  
—Editor.



# WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS BOMBAY

As this issue of "Table Tennis Review" only a few days before the actual commencement of the World's Championships in Bombay, India, we have refrained from including any articles about the prospects of various players, etc. But of the three articles received from our contributors we have taken the following interesting extractions.

INDIA—By A. P. SOM.

IT is expected that 250 players from 34 countries will vie for world honours in the first World Championships to be played in India. In Vienna, last February-March, 28 nations had participated.

The largest number of Asian entries in the history of the championships—seven from Hongkong, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam, besides India—complement 13 from Europe and one each from America and Oceania. Eleven more entries are expected shortly.

During the ten-day championships, the Congress of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held. It will be a two-day session. Burma, Nepal and East Africa will attend, seeking affiliation to the I.T.T.F.

The Table Tennis Federation of India has formed six committees to attend to the preparations for the Championships—the stadium, hall, equipment, referee, finance and publicity committees.

Plans are complete for the erection of a temporary covered arena on a section of Bombay's Brabourne Stadium. Seating arrangements will be made for six thousand. A 234-ft. stretch of the east block of the stadium will be supplemented with three blocks of wooden stands, completing a square. Ten specially constructed tables will be laid in a row, each in the middle of the regulation 40 ft. by 20 ft. area on a wooden floor.

The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department is contemplating a special issue of stamps to commemorate the championships.

\* \* \* \*

BY GEOFF. COULTHREAD

I HOPE that M.C.C.-itis does not set among the English players. Out of 16 cricketers sent to India earlier this year at one particular stage only ten were fit and replacements had to be flown from home. Let us hope that our T.T. teams will remain 100 per cent. fit. There was some talk at one time that the E.T.T.A., in order to save expense, would send only four men and three girls, but some good old-fashioned horse sense has been shown and allowances made for possible illnesses.

Harry Venner's remarkable improvement

in play has been brought about by his defence and backhand attack. He is one of the few players who can dominate the game almost at will. This is an art which is essential in international play and he should be an asset to the English team.

Peggy Franks and Kathie Best did just enough to edge out Margaret Fry from the English Corbillon cup team. Even so, Margaret must have been close to gaining a place. Miss Best is, as yet, immature in the game, although she certainly shows great promise of becoming our No. 1 player. Her game is not fast enough and she is caught out of position too frequently, lacking the ability to get out of trouble quickly.

\* \* \* \*

BY SAM KIRKWOOD

WITH no effort whatsoever, I can recall my forecast in the post that Johnny Leach could not possibly win the world singles title. I can also recall that I said it would be a table tennis miracle if Johnny, having beaten me once, could take the title a second time!

However, it takes more than a trifle like that to cloud my glass ball, so I enter once again the Psychic Stakes . . . Heaven help me if I drop another "clanger."

Can Leach pull it off for a third time? He can, and he might. I'm told that in world championships Johnny plays well above his normal form and is truly great. His two wins in three outings bear out this contention, and I am forced to accept it.

Which means that I should not be startled if he does the trick for the third time. Yet, I say here and now, that a third Leach victory will surprise me. If Bergmann plays, he'll be my man. I admire Richard for his consistency, quite apart from anything else. You know where you stand with him, as you don't with Johnny, who beats a world-class player one week and loses to a "crab" the next.

Johnny, it seems, can pull out his best only when inspiration, or whatever you like to call it, hits him. If that divine, that mystical something doesn't hap along at the right time, he's had it. Richard, on the other hand, can be relied upon to play the same high-level game in every match. He has that rare gift, a champion's tempera-

ment allied to a champion's ability and fighting spirit. That's why I prefer him to Johnny, and always will.

Another favourite for my money is that bright young French star, Rene Roothoft—the "French Bergmann"—who last season licked Leach four times in five outings—the losing match being, of all times, in the world semi-finals!—and has whacked him again this season.

Another capable of pulling one out of the bag is Josef Koczian, the young Hungarian who has been going great guns on the Continent in recent months. He'll take a lot of beating. It'll be no sensation if he scoops the honours.

Andreadis, the flat-footed, well-built Czech who last season reached the final, has been threatening to win the title for the past three or four seasons. Although possessed of a lovely style that's a delight to watch, he flops in critical games. Will it be his year at last? Maybe.

"Bo" Vana's not the player he was by a mile, and I don't give the much-slowed-up ex-champ a chance, even an outside one.

Ehrlich (France), Haguenuer (France), Tereba (Czechoslovakia) and Soos (Hungary), I discount on the score of age. Blue-jowled, burly Hungarian, Ferenc Sido, is terrific on his day, but his day doesn't often come round. He's too unreliable to be listed as a favourite.

Rozeanu and Farkas stand out as the likeliest contenders for the women's crown.

## Ivor Montagu's Book Reprinted

Ivor Montagu, President of the International T.T. Federation has never been a player of any great calibre but as an authority on the game he is second to none. It might be said that from the technical and theoretical side of play he knows more than many internationals and maybe some world champions. His book "Table Tennis" (Pitmans, 10s.), was first written and illustrated in 1936 and a new and revised edition has just been released. In the preface Ivor says:—

"This book endeavours to answer all the questions about table tennis that occur to the ordinary man or woman, particularly if he or she be interested in other ball games. It does not set out to teach the game. It does, however, contain an analysis of the principles of the game, a setting out of the right lines along which anyone must proceed and practise in order to reach a high standard of performance."

But apart from the instructional chapters there are some interesting pages on the history of the game and also international affairs. His review of world champions, past and present, are illuminating. Read what he says about the following selected few:—



irts and silver-grey trousers, shorts or irts would still be worn.

The effect on a player's morale by being ally well dressed is high and we must not glect one opportunity of increasing the nfidence of our players. I fully agree that e cost would be high, but I have a scheme put forward, in which everyone who is member of the English Association could rticipate and get both a material return d the sense of having helped his or her tional team.

The scheme is to design and sell an T.T.A. tie which could be sold direct to e players by the Association, the E.T.T.A. e the word "bat-keeper's profit" and

I consider them a class above the next best. Last season "Roz" was clearly Gizi's superior, but since then the latter, reported to be fitter and to carry less superfluous weight, has clouded the Rumanian girl in no uncertain style. Gizi seems to be set to recapture the title she last held in 1949-50.

If I have to pick an outsider, I go for the young Austrian girl, Wertl, who on her day can be devastating and smash through any opposition.

And now, back into its bower of magic goes my crystal. Only time will tell if it has done a good job or has, yet again, let down its much-booted master.

Dr. ROLAND JACOBI. Stately, composed, handsome. The most authoritative of all champions in demeanour. In ease and grace of stroke only Andreadis, of contemporary players, can compare.

FRED PERRY. The quickest thinker of all champions, and the most brilliant match-player. His gaiety scored vital points over the worried.

RICHARD BERGMANN. Supreme confidence. Inexorable will - power. Exceptional match-instinct. Uncanny anticipation in defence. A forehand hit of the easy ones.

VICTOR BARNÁ. The champion of champions. Incomparable in grace and skill. His attack (backhand) was so spectacular, that his defence was seldom noticed—it was so seldom called upon—though really, with speed of foot and perfect balance, it was his strongest side.

JOHNNY LEACH. A first class player made by hard work and courage. To the second class looks like a hitter. The first class know him as a vigilant and fast defender, capable of matching all wiles, with an attack just strong enough to hinder them settling down.



# WORLD'S CHS' LETTERS

## BOM

As this issue of "Table Tennis Review" of the World's Championships in Bombay, articles about the prospects of various players, our contributors we have taken the following

INDIA—By A. P. SOM.

IT is expected that 250 players from 34 countries will vie for world honours in the first World Championships to be played in India. In Vienna, last February-March, 16 nations had participated.

The largest number of Asian entries in such was the advice given to me by a highly esteemed coach. I accepted his advice and bought a Johnny Leach. For a whole year I practised diligently and regularly and at the end of last season I put the bat away and vowed never to play with it again, as I had no confidence in it.

During my holiday in England a particular club which I visited lent me a broad handled Bergmann, and from my first game I felt I had found the bat I always wanted. Right away I felt I had confidence in the bat, and at the end of the evening I was more than satisfied with my playing.

All this has taught me the importance of having confidence in a bat. But you can only feel that confidence provided you are satisfied that you have played to the best of your ability. I played to the best of my ability with the Johnny Leach, but I was never satisfied. I knew I could counteract more forcefully both backhand and forehand, and with greater accuracy. But however much I tried, I never seemed to make much progress.

This then seems to refute the advice of the esteemed wisecrack of table tennis. To me confidence in your bat, means that you are satisfied with your play, and that you have played as best you can. Practice will only enhance your confidence, but I cannot see any amount of practice giving confidence if it is not already there.

John Jordan, 13, Grange Loan, Edinburgh, 9.

### NET TOP VISION!

Dear Editor,

I read your answer to my suggestions published in "Table Tennis Review," of September/October, 1951, for which I thank you.

If you think that the player must have good vision of the top of the net, when

hitting the ball, I believe my suggestion that the top of the net should be light red or orange colour is good, as these colours make a better contrast with the white colour of the ball. In the short and low balls, near the net, the player will have excellent sight and no indecision at the moment the ball crosses. It seems to me that this is the principal reason in colouring the top of the net light red or orange. Little influence will be seen in the long strokes. If you believe that shortening of lines by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. in the width at the sides and end prejudices the visibility of the sides of the table, we could also use light red or orange in those lines, but keeping them at the same width,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in.

In my opinion, the most important of this is to try and increase the contrast between the ball and the top of the net, as well as between the colour of the ball and the side and end lines. In other words, the top of the net and the lines must not be white. I believe that the colours, light red or orange (or any other stronger colour) for the top, sides and end lines, would satisfactorily solve the problem.

Major Joaquim Libanio,  
Estado de S. Paulo,  
Brazil.

### Book Review

#### KNOW THE GAME

AT last, a cheap-priced instruction book has been published. It is one of the "Know The Game" series published by Educational Productions and sold at 2s. 0d. Its full title is "Know The Game Table Tennis," and is written by a celebrated player and coach. The book is exceptionally well illustrated with some first-class two-colour drawings showing the lay-out of perfect playing conditions. In a brief and concise manner every department of the game is given attention, and readers are told how to build up their game in a manner which cannot help but create a lasting impression. There is no "padding" in this slim volume. Here is one short extract:

#### COUNTER TO MIXED-SPIN

You will learn to recognise mixed-spin by the sideways follow-through of your opponent's bat and the sideways swerving tendency of the ball. Block shots or gentle chop-shots are the best answers, and you must remember to "move with the swerve" and play slightly "outside" the ball.

## National Ties . . .

THERE was a time when Englishmen were regarded as the best dressed race in the world. Although rising prices have forced us to curtail our clothing budgets, there are still tailors who can produce garments which, for style, cut and material, are unbeatable. Some of these tailors are not far from the E.T.T.A. headquarters and it is therefore a surprise to find that our national team are equipped with that most unlovely item of wearing apparel, the "track-suit."

The simian-like appearance of our players, when clad in these sartorial monstrosities, is in complete contrast with the general idea of the well-dressed Englishman and must have occasioned some surprise to foreigners. With England's reputation for smartness, we should be setting the fashion and not slavishly copying other people's ideas.

So far I have criticised, but criticism alone is ineffective unless it is constructive. I would therefore suggest that the Swaythling and Corbillon cup teams at least, and possibly all England teams, be equipped with royal blue blazers bearing the respective E.T.T.A. badge on the pocket. A blazer is a smart garment and it has the virtue that it can also be worn at social functions, to which touring teams are frequently invited.

The present windcheaters would be effective for helping the players to "warm-up" in during knock-ups and the usual blue

shirts and silver-grey trousers, shorts or skirts would still be worn.

The effect on a player's morale by being really well dressed is high and we must not neglect one opportunity of increasing the confidence of our players. I fully agree that the cost would be high, but I have a scheme to put forward, in which everyone who is a member of the English Association could participate and get both a material return and the sense of having helped his or her national team.

The scheme is to design and sell an E.T.T.A. tie which could be sold direct to the players by the Association, the E.T.T.A. taking the normal "shop-keeper's profit" and putting it into an "equipment" or "clothing" fund, the proceeds being devoted entirely to providing representative teams with suitable clothing when playing for England.

Most of us are sufficiently proud of our Association and want to advertise it in some way, and what better way than by wearing a tie which would proclaim our pride openly. It would also be a means of identification to players and could foster the club spirit on a national basis. For the ladies a head or neck scarf could be designed and I suggest that the design be royal blue with the three golden leopards badge prominently displayed.

How about it, E.T.T.A.? Let us be as proud of the appearance of England's team as we are of its results.

GEOFF. COULTHREAD

### Some Future Events

Feb. 6/7 and 11/16 ...	Middlesex (Herga) Open (Harrow) ...
Feb. 18/22 ...	Surrey Open (Epsom) ...
Feb. 24/29 and Mar. 1 ...	Midland Open (Birmingham) ...
Mar. 1 ...	Yorkshire Junior Open (Darlington) ...
Mar. 8 ...	Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Finals
Mar. 3/4, 6/7, 10/11, 13/15	West Middlesex Open (West Ealing) ...
Mar. 10/24 ...	Swedish Junior Tour of England
Mar. 21/22 ...	West of England Open (Bristol) ...
Mar. 22 ...	Grimsby Open
Mar. 25/29 ...	ENGLISH OPEN (Wembley) ...
April 5/6 ...	Bucks. Open (Slough) ...
Apr. 12/14 ...	North East England Open (Scarborough)
Apr. 17/19 ...	Lancashire Open (Manchester) ...

The beauty of this book is that it is—as all books of instruction should be—simple and easy to follow. . . . *Table Tennis for All* is very, very readable and will give a lot of pleasure and valuable instruction."

Victor Barna in *World Sports*.

Fully Illustrated. 9s. 6d. net  
(10s. by post).

Available from your Bookseller

NICHOLAS KAYE  
TREBECK ST., LONDON, W.1.

By Jack Carrington, 6/6 post free.

#### TWENTY-ONE UP

By Richard Bergmann, 13/- post free.

#### TABLE TENNIS

By Ivor Montagu, 10/6 post free.

TABLE TENNIS REVIEW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SOUVENIR ISSUES, 1949, 1950 and 1951, 1/- each post free. For other back numbers, 1/- each.

Obtainable from *Table Tennis Review*, Book Dept., Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3.



# RONNIE BAKER NOW ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL

ALONG with Jackie Head (Surrey) and Margaret Fry (Bristol), Ronnie Baker (Manchester) now joins the ranks of those who have played for their country.

Just before Ronnie received his international badge we received the following letter from Mr. I. C. Eyles, Secretary of the Gloucestershire T.T.A.:

*"The boosting of Ronnie Baker by your North Country fans cannot be understood in the West Country. After all, he does not even command a regular place in the Lancashire County side, and to boost a player for an International cap when he or she cannot obtain a County cap is, to say the least, rather funny. (Are the Lancashire selectors wrong? In this case both Lancashire and E.T.T.A. are to blame)."*

We asked Mr. Norman Cook, Secretary of the Lancashire T.T.A., if he had anything to say about Mr. Eyles's remark, and his reply was:

*"In answer to Ivor Eyles's letter to you I can only say that Ronnie Baker had been selected to play against Warwickshire, at Liverpool, BEFORE he was selected to play for England against Scotland—as, probably, our friend Eyles will now know."*

On January 5, 1952, Ronnie Baker won the Manchester Closed Singles Championship against a strong entry. Reporting the event in the "Manchester Evening News," ex-international player, Leslie Cohen, says:

"After a final, reminiscent of pre-war table tennis, Ronnie Baker deposed Benny Casofsky as Manchester champion by three

games to one. Instead of the modern wild-fire swiping we were treated to some science, and with both players content to work for real openings some lovely rallies were produced.

"Baker has all the makings of a world-class player, and at his present improvement rate could be England's No. 1 in two years."

## Second Scandinavian Championships

The biggest table tennis event ever to be held in Finland was the Second Scandinavian Championships which were played at Helsinki at the end of 1951. Team matches were played on the Swaything and Corbillon Cup system. The two nations in the final of the men's team event were Sweden and Denmark, Sweden being the winners by five events to nil. The ladies' team championship was also won by Sweden.

Grive of Sweden took the Men's Singles title comfortably and displayed some brilliant table tennis. The ladies' title went to Mrs. Inga Brehmer (Sweden) and the Junior Championship was taken by Sweden's B. Malmqvist, who is the holder of the English Open Junior Championship.

Two other players to do exceedingly well were Denmark's 34-year-old Knud Runchel, who has no defence but a remarkably swift counter-hit, and Ari Huttunen of Finland.

★  
**RAISERS**  
I have played as best you can. Practice will only enhance your confidence, but I cannot see any amount of practice giving confidence if it is not already there.  
*John Jordan, 13, Grange Loan, Edinburgh, 9.*

### NET TOP VISION!

Dear Editor,

I read your answer to my suggestions published in "Table Tennis Review," of September/October, 1951, for which I thank you.

If you think that the player must have good vision of the top of the net, when

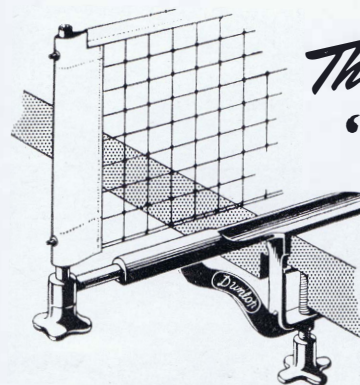
Send for price list:

CRICKET  
FOOTBALL  
GREYHOUNDS

in a brief and concise manner every department of the game is given attention, and readers are told how to build up their game in a manner which cannot help but create a lasting impression. There is no "padding" in this slim volume. Here is one short extract:

### COUNTER TO MIXED-SPIN

*You will learn to recognise mixed-spin by the sideways follow-through of your opponent's bat and the sideways swerving tendency of the ball. Block shots or gentle chop-shots are the best answers, and you must remember to "move with the swerve" and play slightly "outside" the ball.*



The new  
**'CHAMPIONSHIP'**  
**NET & POSTS**  
*designed by*  
**Victor Barna**

The new Victor Barna 'Championship' net is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " mesh as recommended by the International Table Tennis Federation. It is supported on springloaded Barna Posts to keep it always at the correct tension. The post assembly has a unique bayonet type slot for easy, instant assembly and dismantling. The tension can be relaxed when the net is not in use. Where the posts fit the table edge, they are lugged to prevent lateral movement, and are rigid to prevent leaning. The post assembly is just as efficient with ordinary nets as with the superb 'Championship' net. Ask your sports dealer to show you the new Barna 'Championship' net and posts.

The Net: 10/- (incl. P.T.) The Posts: 15/- per pair (incl. P.T.)  
**Dunlop TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT**

DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY LIMITED, 19/20 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.  
IS/ET/1118

## table tennis for all BY Johnny Leach

World's Singles Champion, 1949, 1951.  
Officially Ranked as World's Best Player, 1950.

"The beauty of this book is that it is—as all books of instruction should be—simple and easy to follow. . . . Table Tennis for All is very, very readable and will give a lot of pleasure and valuable instruction."

Victor Barna in *World Sports*.

Fully Illustrated. 9s. 6d. net  
(10s. by post).

Available from your Bookseller

**NICHOLAS KAYE**  
**TREBECK ST., LONDON, W.1.**

## We can supply . . . TABLE TENNIS BOOKS

**TABLE TENNIS FOR ALL**  
By Johnny Leach, 10/- post free.

**KNOW THE GAME TABLE TENNIS**  
2/3 post free.

**MODERN TABLE TENNIS**  
By Jack Carrington, 6/6 post free.

**TWENTY-ONE UP**  
By Richard Bergmann, 13/- post free.

**TABLE TENNIS**  
By Ivor Montagu, 10/6 post free.

**TABLE TENNIS REVIEW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SOUVENIR ISSUES, 1949, 1950 and 1951, 1/- each post free.** For other back numbers, 1/- each.

Obtainable from *Table Tennis Review*, Book Dept., Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3.



# JAQUES



Illustrating Jaques Championship Table Tennis Table as used for

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### JAQUES' CLUB TOURNAMENT TABLES

1" (nominal) with Jaques Superfast cellulose playing surface. **The playing surfaces of these tables are in every way equal to our pre-war Tournament Table.** As illustrated but fitted with tapered square legs, and two diagonal supports instead of four. **Each £47**

Including carriage and purchase tax

### HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW RANGE OF JAQUES T.T. BATS?

"Haydon," white handled	each 11/6	"Autograph," rubber edged	each 11/6
"Tema," with leather handle	10/-	"Helen Elliot," thin handle	11/6
"Ron Allcock," striped handle	10/-	"Pinkie Barnes," polished handle	7/-

*These are only a few of the Jaques' range.*

*Obtainable from all good sports dealers.*

## JOHN JAQUES & SON LTD.

White Heather Works

Thornton Heath

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1795

Published by A. Waite, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, and printed by PERCY BROTHERS, LTD., MANCHESTER and LONDON.