

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ISSUE - 1954

Table Tennis *Review*

Vol. 8

No. 4

SPECIAL ISSUE 1954

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

**JAPAN
TRIUMPHS
at Wembley**

★

PICTURES

★

**Special Reports
and
Comments**
*by our
own Correspondents*

★

Cover Portrait :
Singles Champion
I. OGIMURA (Japan)
smilingly displays his Trophy
after defeating
T. Flisberg (Sweden)
in the Final





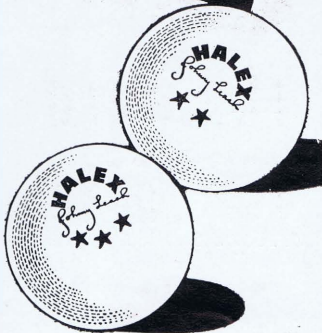
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BY
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WORLD CHAMPION
1948-9, 1950-1

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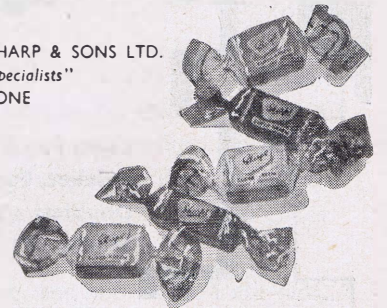
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TABLE TENNIS

Review

VOLUME 8
No. 4

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
ISSUE, 1954

Founded by our Associate Editor: ARTHUR WAITE (1931 International)

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THE shouting and the tumult has died—the victors and vanquished have departed. Departed also has the Swaythling Cup, after an all too brief sojourn in Britain, and in its place—thanks to the joint efforts of Di and Ros Rowe—the Women's Doubles trophy sparkles as a face saver.

To the gallant twins go our thanks for keeping one title in Britain: to the Japanese our congratulations on their wonderful achievement in annexing the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups, and also the Men's Singles championship. But not least, English Table Tennis owes a debt of gratitude to the officials, who gave, unstintingly, of their best, to make this great event one which will be remembered in the years to come.

But it seems, and unfortunately so, administrative excellence alone will not put the Mother Country back in the limelight, unless it is backed to the hilt by a nation-wide campaign to produce young players fit to face the world's best.

Urgent need, in fact the most vital need, is the production of young men to replace those who have served us so well in the past. The lessons of Wembley are sharp and clear. Anno Domini is an insidious foe who cannot be vanquished, and our Bergmanns, our Leaches and our Simons of the future must be found before it is too late.

The coaches are available—the courses have been laid on but there must be more. Admittedly it is a difficult proposition to whisk young men away from their daily tasks in order to fit them for championships, but surely the ruling body, which did such a magnificent job in organising the "Wembley Occasion," can find some way out and so bring back to Britain the titles which are now so far away.

With such a reward it is a job worth tackling, and one which, I am sure, will be undertaken with the minimum delay.

The Editor.

Good Show, E.T.T.A.!

A RECORD gathering of 35 nations contested the team and individual titles at the 21st World Championships at Wembley's Empire Pool, London, from April 6th to 14th, and provided a tournament replete in all the best elements of Table Tennis.

The Japanese, as half-expected, following their 1952 Bombay successes (they scooped four of the seven available titles), emerged as the best players, winning both the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups and the Men's Singles, and providing losing finalists in the Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles and semi-finalists in the Women's Doubles.

For youngsters—the oldest of the eight Oriental players was 22—who had never played in an international competition, this was a wonderful achievement and established the superiority of the East over the West. They also brought a new and welcome vitality into the sport which in recent years had been lacking.

AND let it be said that the Japanese boys and girls are fine little sports. They played to win (as indeed did everyone else), but their behaviour was in every way impeccable. Let no one begrudge them their triumphs or cast any doubt on their sportsmanship.

Rumania's Angelica Rozeanu, veteran though she is, kept the flag of the West flying high, while Czechoslovakia's Ivan Andreadis emerged from the conflict as the best European, and one with the potential to master Japan's best. Where other aces were reduced to impotence by the penholder style, he revealed its weakness and showed how it can be met—

lesson for which the Western group should be thankful.

SO far as England is concerned, the meeting showed that while we are rich in youthful talent on the girls' side, we are approaching the poverty stage in the men's sphere. Our leading males are nearing the end of their World careers, but there seems to be a dearth of those to take over. Our authorities might worry less about sponge bats and concentrate on building up a young side.

However, it has been said that we shall never again run a World tournament. Maybe we shall and maybe we shan't, but whatever happens this rally will remain in the memory for all time as a tremendous affair.

It was as near perfect in organisation as it is possible for anything of this size and nature to be. Officials and their scores of voluntary helpers had obviously slaved for months on the mammoth undertaking, with its hundreds of tasks, big and small, and all vitally important.

The venture was not only a credit to the heroes and heroines who staged it, but to the whole country. England has long held the reputation of putting on the best World Championships. The latest "do" surely enhanced even that brilliant reputation.

Good show, E.T.T.A. and helpers!

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THE SWAYTHLING CUP . . . Day by Day JAPAN ALL-CONQUERING

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPLETING the male leg of the coveted Swaythling-Corbillon double, Japan steamrollered to victory with dynamic displays and a thrilling 5-4 success over Czechoslovakia on the final day.

TUESDAY

SHOWING all the confidence of Champions, England (the holders) swung into the Swaythling Cup fray in devastating style. Our team of near-veterans, 35-year-old Richard Bergmann, 32-year-old Aubrey Simons, and Johnnie Leach, made short work of Austria to the tune of 5-0, without dropping a single game. Then Ken Craigie switched for Simons against Italy, and again we handed out a 5-0 caning, also without conceding a set.

Simons came back for the evening battle against America, a side we had never beaten and who fielded a man Bergmann had never defeated, seven times U.S. champion Dickie Miles, who had with him Johnnie Somael and Bernard Bukiet, both of them no mean players. This was expected to be a stiff hurdle in our progress to top of the table of Group "A"—but our trio sailed in as though they hadn't a care in the world and chalked up an astonishingly easy win over the Yanks.

HARD WIN

Simons set the ball rolling with a hard-won win over Bukiet, a steady customer with a nasty hit down the backhand, dropping England's first game of the series in the process. Aubrey, who had bad spells in the second set and another in the middle of the final one, came through 21-19, 15-21, 21-17. Bergmann followed on against his erstwhile conqueror, Miles, and was never worried at any stage in the course of his 21-14, 21-12 win. The American showed his old tendency of not fighting back and was outclassed. Leach beat Somael 21-18, 21-19, after a shaky start. Bergmann whipped Bukiet 21-13, 21-16, and Simons put the finishing touch on a one-sided match, by showing Somael the way home 21-15, 21-15.

England's performance impressed and gave hope to home followers that the Cup would stay in Britain.

A surprise had been created earlier in the day by Brazil, who beat France in Group "A" and reckoned a danger to England, by the convincing margin of 5-2. The Brazilians, Dagoberto Midosi and Ivan and Hugo Severo, all use sponge bats and are

pen-holders. Their plodding tactics knocked the heart out of the oh-so-temperamental Frenchmen, who sometimes show world-class ability and frequently lack of fighting heart. Rene Roothoft, a "seed" in the individual singles, lost all his three games. Amouretti lost a game to Ivan Severo, and Midosi beat M. Genton.

In Group "B," Rumania scared the daylight out of Hungary, by taking them to 4-4 all, and losing only after a tremendously tense deciding match, in which Miklos Sibok beat Mircea Gantner, the Rumanian youngster. The tie lasted over four hours, during which time Ferenc Sido was given a very close ride in all his games.

Japan, the other favourites in "B," had three easy 5-0 wins against the Netherlands, Portugal and India.

Top dogs of Group "C," Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, registered three wins each. The former accounted for Germany 5-1, New Zealand 5-0, and Sweden 5-1. Yugoslavia beat Belgium 5-0, Switzerland 5-0 and Germany 5-1.

WEDNESDAY

THINGS began to happen on the second "Swaythling" day. Shocks piled on thick and fast and at least one hard-earned reputation bit the dust.

While it was generally accepted that the Japanese were quantity X, so to speak, and were held in respect or even fear, it nevertheless stunned the assembly when they thrashed Hungary 5-2. The Hungarians, so many times winners of the team trophy, and fielding Sido, have probably never been so humiliated as they were by those shovel-bat terrors from the Land of the Rising Sun, Yoshio Tomita and Ichiro Ogimura. These diminutive, almond-eyed lads crushed Ferenc, Ogimura by 21-10, 21-16, and Tomita by 15-21, 21-15, 21-16. It will be a long time before I forget the haunted look of the Hungarians or the elation displayed by the Japanese.

The Orientals also gained an overwhelming win—5-0—over Rumania, who the day before had so narrowly been beaten by Hungary. So Japan won Group "B" to enter the finals.

In Group "A," England progressed to more wins—although against France it was extremely heavy going. It was lion-hearted

Bergmann who made victory possible. With Leach losing to Roothoft (3-21, 17-21!) and Simons to Haguenuer and Roothoft, Richard's three wins enabled our side to clamber out of what looked like becoming a very sticky situation indeed. But it took four hours of grinding hard work to keep us in the hunt.

England had previously scored a 5-1 win over Wales and a 5-0 victory over Pakistan. Simons dropped the game against the home country, to J. Davies 11-21, 18-21.

At this stage we had only "spongers" Brazil to beat to win the group.

As anticipated, Czechoslovakia won through to top Group "C," beating Australia and Switzerland 5-0 and the tough Yugoslavians 5-3.

THURSDAY

AS expected, England progressed to the top of her group by beating Brazil, the sponge-using "dark-horses" of the section, 5-2. Before we eventually made it, however, our lads had a bit of a fright. After working nicely along to a 4-0 lead, Simons and Leach then dropped clangers. In one or two of the previous matches both had suffered bad patches. It was so again in this instance. Simons, in his game against Ivan Severo, was actually at match point, when he fluffed it, allowed his man to draw up and win. Score 21-19, 17-21, 20-22. Leach against Hugo Severo, lost the first 18-21, led 20-18, and eventually succumbed via very hesitant strokes at 22-24.

Bergmann, who had already won two games, again stepped into the breach by beating Ivan Severo 21-18, 21-15. Richard, after matches against six nations, had a 100 per cent. record, and was certainly the man on whom England's hopes rested in the forthcoming very severe tests against Japan and Czechoslovakia, the other group winners.

FRIDAY

WITH English teams contesting the first legs in the finals of both the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups, against Japan and Hungary respectively, there was a big and expectant crowd in the arena. Alas, the hopes of the majority were dashed in the most depressing fashion, for our men were tumbled to defeat in a manner which brooked of no excuses or alibis.

The Swaythling match table got under way first, with Aubrey Simons pitted against 20-year-old Yoshio Tomita, a left-hander. Aubrey was unable to cope with the Jap's acutely angled hitting, spin or heavily cut service and went out at 14-21 and 17-21. In the second, Simons fought back from 0-4 to make it 12-all, but never looked like attaining mastery.

DEFENSIVE TACTICS

Bergmann—"Richard the Lion-Heart"—squared matters with a win over Kichiji Tamasu, 19-year-old sponge-bat user. Tamasu favoured defensive tactics and this suited Bergmann, who took the first game at 21-10 by forcing play and going in for the hit. A "fault" service was called against Tamasu at 9-18 and it was some time before the Japanese understood what had happened. He then bowed. Bergmann deliberately hit the next ball off the table, to earn a bow of acknowledgment from the Japanese and a cheer from the crowd. Richard then forsook his force-and-hit tactics in favour of his normal game and lost it at 22-23 on the time-limit. With the third limited by the Expedite Rule to ten minutes, Tamasu tried to force the pace and tried reckless hitting. He was hopelessly inaccurate and went under at 7-21.

Facing Ichiro Ogimura, the Jap No. 1, Johnnie Leach was bemused and dazed at the opening of the first game by a stream of quite unstoppable smashes sent over with fantastic power and at incredible angles to both sides of the table. Johnnie gathered ten points. In the next Ogimura held his hand, and play developed on something resembling normal lines. This suited Leach, who won 21-18. Then the Jap decided that attack was the best defence and overwhelmed our man again with another hurricane bout of sizzling drives. Leach gathered a thin eight points.

[CRUSHED PILL

Humour entered into the next match, Bergmann vs. Tomita. Bergmann, playing with supreme caginess, had taken the first 23-21, after being 19-20 down and levelling matters with a sudden run-in forehand smash. In the second, a Tomita hit sent the ball careering out of the arena. An official went to retrieve it and accidentally stepped on it, Bergmann went to the umpire's table for another ball, disliked the pills he was offered, and sent for more. A new carton was brought. Dickie disapproved of these too and again an official hurried to get others. Tomita wanted to know what was going on. Bergmann used gestures to signify that the original ball had gone to its eternal rest. Tomita was apparently doubtful, so Bergmann went for the crushed pill and showed it to his opponent, who shrugged. Bergmann, after this interlude, succumbed to the hitting of little "Tom," 13-21, 17-21, match-point coming from a net-cord. This was Bergmann's first defeat of the entire series.

Ogimura, as expected, made it 4-1 for Japan against Simons, who raised English hopes by taking the first set, then slumped against Ichiro's devastating hitting and severe spin service in the next two games. Score: 15-21, 21-16, 21-11.

Johnnie kept us in the hunt with a fine win over Tamasu, who was outsteaded by Leach, who used the long-range chopping game. The game was highlighted by Leach's many winning hits after getting his man running the wrong way. That was 21-15, 21-16 to England.

Then the number ones of both teams, Bergmann and Ogimura, came face to face. Richard played superbly to take the first at 21-10, but was tiring rapidly. He had had two hard matches and was showing the strain. Ogimura, 15 years younger, was as peppy as ever and sensed his rival's state. Dickie went under 11-21 in the second. In the third he was 8-17 down, when he staged a fighting recovery to make it 19-20. After that terrific effort, however, he gave away match point with a tame shot into the net—a shot he could never have made if not exhausted.

The win sent the Japanese boys into a frenzy of delight, and their supporters unfurled a large Japanese flag. Disappointed though they were, the English gave the conquerors a rousing hand.

SCORES :

Y. Tomita beat A. Simons 21-14, 21-17.

K. Tamasu lost to R. Bergmann 10-21, 23-22 (T.L.), 7-21.

I. Ogimura beat J. Leach 21-10, 18-21, 21-8.

Tomita beat Bergmann 21-23, 21-13, 21-17.

Ogimura beat Simons 21-15, 17-21, 21-11.

Tamasu lost to J. Leach 21-15, 16-21, 19-21.

Ogimura beat Bergmann 10-21, 21-11, 21-19.

SATURDAY MORNING

England's chances of retaining the Swaythling Cup were sealed by Czechoslovakia, whom they met in the second final tie on Saturday morning. After their strength-sapping match the night before against Japan, our listless trio were convincingly beaten 5-3 by the attractively open-styled Continentals.

Bergmann, shadow of his normal self though he was, beat both Tereba and Stipek, but lost to Andreadis, who also ran through Simons and Leach. Our only other win was scored by Leach, who beat Stipek. Simons failed against Tereba in addition to Andreadis.

Aubrey, the hero of last year's series, was this year far from successful in the final ties. He seemed to be suffering from lack of confidence.

The match doomed England to third place.

SATURDAY EVENING

Despite the fact that the Englishmen were out of the running, there were very few seats vacant at the enormous Empire Pool to see the final. News of the Japanese feats no doubt helped to pack the hall, and worthily were folk rewarded, for the Japan vs. Czechoslovakia match was just about the greatest, most grimly contested, most thrilling ever staged in any country.

The man who did most to make it so was the Czech champion, Ivan Andreadis. Ivan, who, with his deceptive casualness and appearance of boredom, beat all three Japanese, Ogimura, Tomita and Tamasu.

Unfortunately for the Czechs, Tereba was completely off his game and was never in the running in any of the three he played. The other man, Stipek, played well, but luck wasn't with him.

Tamasu slew Tereba in the opening game, Ogimura beat Stipek after an entertaining three-setter, Andreadis gave Tomita a lesson in the use of the half-volley and pin-point hitting, and Ogimura had less than no trouble in tousing Tereba. That made Japan 3-1 up. Then came a turn of the tide. Andreadis mastered Tamasu, Stipek's brainy work gave him his win over Tomita, and Andreadis crowned a marvelous evening's work by thrashing Ogimura in two straight, outwitting the Jap No. 1 in the best win of the match. That made Czechoslovakia 4-3 to the good.

Tomita levelled matters for Japan by caning the hapless Tereba, and Stipek, after a promising opening, faded badly to lose decisively in two straight to Tomita, the second game being stressed by the Czech's appalling failure with a stream of attempted hits.

5-4 to Japan, and with it the Swaythling Cup for the first time. The boys hugged each other and almost burst with happiness. Good luck to them. They were worthy winners and without question the superior of any other side in the event.

SCORES :—

Tamasu beat Tereba 21-11, 21-11.
Lost to Andreadis 21-18, 20-22, 13-21.

Beat Stipek 21-17, 21-12.

Ogimura beat Stipek 21-18, 17-21, 21-14.

Beat Tereba 21-14, 21-15.

Lost to Andreadis 13-21, 19-21.

Tomita lost to Andreadis 12-21, 14-21.

Lost to Stipek 15-21, 22-20, 19-21.

Beat Tereba 21-15, 21-10.

HARANGOZO

and

DOLINAR

WIN for

YUGOSLAVIA

THE Men's Doubles was easily taken by the rangy Vilim Harangozo and burly pen-holder Dr. Zarko Dolinar, of the peaked cap and huge sponge bat, against maestro Victor Barna and Michel Haguenaer, for so many years the pride of French Table Tennis.

The Yugoslav combination was greatly superior in destructive power, Harangozo's hitting in particular being nigh unstoppable. Victor and Michel were puched clean out of the picture 15-21, 11-21, 10-21. It was nevertheless an incredible feat that Barna had reached the final—it was in 1928/29 that he first appeared, with Miklos Szabados, in a final of this event.

In the semi-finals, Harangozo and Dolinar beat up Ogimura and Tomita, 21-17, 21-16, 21-16. The Japs found the pen-styles of sponge-user Harangozo and hard-hitting Dolinar as awkward as their own styles had been to orthodox players, and they had no answer to it. It was an awkward-looking, scrambling game.

POISED AND POLISHED

By contrast, the Haguenaer—Barna v. Tereba—Slar duel was polished, poised, classical. The "ancients," 42-year-old Victor and round-40 Michel, won 21-19, 9-21, 21-16, 21-19, via superior stroke-play tactics and steadiness, and were given a fine reception. But for the previous matches in which the girls had roused the crowd to frenzy, they'd have brought the house down.

For Barna to be in another World final, some twenty-six years after his first appearance in one, was an amazing feat. He still looked the supreme master—faultlessly groomed, classical of style—coolness itself. In the second game, incidentally, the leggy Haguenaer fell over a back partition, but the resilient Frenchman wasn't hurt.

Barna and Haguenaer had previously beaten Leach and Bergmann, 21-19, 13-21, 21-19, 11-21, 21-17, and the Brazilian sponge-bat combination of Midosi-Savero, 21-11, 21-18, 21-11. Harangozo—Dolinar had polished off the Frenchmen J. Sala—C. Du Bouille, 21-18, 21-13, 21-16, Stipek—Posejpal (the Czech conquerors of Sido—Andreadis) and English champions Simons—Kennedy.

HAIL THE CHAMPIONS!

MEN'S SINGLES

I. OGIMURA (Japan)

MEN'S DOUBLES

V. HARANGOZO and
Z. DOLINAR (Yugoslavia)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Miss A. ROZEANU (Rumania)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Misses D. & R. ROWE
(England)

MIXED DOUBLES

I. ANDREADIS (Czechoslovakia)
and Miss G. FARKAS (Hungary)

MEN OF MERTHYR

Although this has been their first season in the Welsh League, Merthyr Tydfil have won the Second Division championship and the team and officials are eagerly looking forward to competing in the First Division next season.

At the Borough championships held at Hoover Ltd., on Tuesday, March 23rd, Ron Wilson, the holder, retained his Singles title against fellow club-mate Des Adams. Both of them are members of the Treharris club, which has won this season's championship of the Senior Division of the Merthyr League.

In addition, these players represented Merthyr in the Welsh League as also did the winners of the Doubles title, the popular brothers Jackie and Ronnie Williams (Teddington Controls). Their opponents in the Doubles Final were H. Lewis and B. Fealey (Colliers' Arms).

★ MEN'S SINGLES TITLE ★ Ogimura is Champion

by OUR 'MAN-ON-THE-SPOT'

THE initial rounds of the Men's Singles saw a mass exodus of the English stars. Indeed, of the entire contingent (overwhelmingly the biggest in attendance) of Union Jack players only two were left to survive the fourth round. One of them was Bergmann, although even he had a tremendously dour struggle in the second round against Germany's third string, H. Hanschmann, winning 21-13, 18-20, 6-7, 19-10, 12-6. The other survivor was Peter Shead, the 22-year-old Brighton boy, who only recently, against New Zealand, gained his first "cap."

LEACH lost in the fourth round to young Toma Reiter, the Rumanian, 19-21, 15-21, 19-21, after a match in which again his defensive topspin game was broken down. In the previous round Simons, thoroughly zipless, lost to Bernard Bukiet, 21-12, 16-21, 21-17, 6-21, 18-21. The week before, in the Swaythling tie, against U.S.A., Aubrey had had no trouble with Bukiet, a rather pedestrian player with no especial gifts.

Ken Craigie lost to K. Kawai, of Japan, 12-21, 8-21, 18-21, in a match in which he tried to blast the lights out of his little foe, but was instead blasted sky-high by a much faster attacker. Brian Kennedy gave Ivan Andreadis a good fight, but could find no answer to the lazy-looking Czech's superb counter-hitting, which saw the Yorkshire boy off to the tune of 21-17, 17-21, 21-14, 21-16.

Fighting Venner

ALSO in the third round, Harry Venner, who earlier had caused raised eyebrows, by belting the noted V. Terebe, of Czechoslovakia, off the table in three straight, 22-20, 21-19, 21-18, tried storming tactics against reigning champion Ferenc Sido, only to find that the barrel-figured Hungarian, twice his size, had easily the more effective weapons of destruction. Exit the fighting little Englishman. 19-21.

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Just | | | |
| Tamasu | | } Andreadis 16, —19, 11, 10 | } |
| Reiter | Reiter 12-13 (T.L.), 16, 19, 10 | | |
| Bukiet | | } Ogimura 19, 12, —18, 22 | } |
| Gabric | Bukiet —16, 17, 19, —14, 17 | | |
| Ogimura | | } Ogimura 11, —16, 12, 12 | } |
| Sido | Ogimura 18, 11, 13 | | |

one of nine men—Sido, Andreadis, Bergmann, Ogimura, Tomita, Tamasu, Flisberg, Stipek and Gyetvai. It would have taken a very courageous, or very foolish person, to act the prophet too emphatically.

Hitting Machine

TUESDAY was a black day for England. In the fifth round Bergmann beat young E. Gyetvai, after five very toughly fought sets. The Hungarian, who has a reputation of being a hitting machine, showed why. After dropping the first two sets at 10-21 and 17-21, he really got cracking and gained the next two at 22-20 and 21-17. Bergmann just managed to outlast him in the final stanza, at 21-18.

In this round England's only other competitor, the "surprise" survivor Peter Shead, was eliminated after a truly gallant resistance against Tomita, 21-17, 21-13, 17-21, 21-15. Ogimura well and truly bounced champion Sido in three straight, 21-18, 21-11, 21-13, and the luckless Hungarian was never in it.

In the quarter-finals Bergmann registered another fine win, against left-hander Tomita, possibly the most volatile and hardest-hitting of the Japanese team. Using adroit footwork, half-volley and snap hit, the Britisher was a worthy victor at 21-13, 22-20, 20-22, 21-16. Other

first win? The answer to all queries was No.

Against the "spongey" Flisberg, Bergmann never at any time looked at ease. It seemed Richard had a complex (not unnaturally!) where the cool, detached and poker-faced Swede was concerned, and never have I seen our man look and act so listlessly, or make so many despairing gestures after dropping points. Bergmann is usually unemotional. In this match he demonstrated his feelings time and again.

The truth must be told that Flisberg's win was an easy one, with the issue never in doubt. His brilliantly angled hitting and easy-flowing defence, aided by his "kick" producing sponge, was much too good for Dick.

Tage took the first at 19. In the second, when Bergmann was 13-5 up, he fell over a side partition and had to be picked up. He hurt his legs and was some time in recovering. He had earlier run into a partition and half-kicked it down in fury. Now he asked that all side partitions be removed.

Despite his unfortunate accident, Bergmann carried on to take the game at 21-16. But that was his last fling. Flisberg resumed mastery and his merciless hitting left Bergmann helpless. The next two games went to the slender Swedish left-hander at 21-17, 21-13. It was a dejected-looking slump-shouldered Bergmann, who walked off. The Flisberg "bock" had been too much for him once again.

Temperamental Czech

THE crowd was again disappointed when Andreadis flopped against Ogimura. The Czech, highly-strung and temperamental, despite his casual style, was brilliant and erratic by turn—and much more the latter than the former, alas.

In the first game, Ivan pulled up from 3-11 to 18-all, but dropped the next point

and had no chance against two sizzling Ogimura hits. He was at his worst in the next, surrendering tamely at 12-21. He came back again with something like his best form in the third set, and grabbed a 20-18 lead, only to falter and allow the Japanese take the next three points. In the fourth he was again in the lead, 16-12, yet was 19-20 down. He levelled and was at game point at 21-20, when again Ogimura saved the situation. The Japanese scraped through at 24-22.

The Final

AND so to the final, with Flisberg (at 38) conceding 17 years to Ichiro Ogimura before 11,000 eager, but I am afraid not entirely thrilled, spectators. This sponge versus sponge meeting was too one-sided to please anyone but Ichiro's followers. Tage, the oldest man ever to appear in a World singles final, was outclassed. He was beaten time and again by Ogimura's vicious spin services, was never at ease against the little man's heavy drag chop, and too slow by half to get near the angled hits thrown at him.

It was strange, and somehow, disconcerting, to witness the man who had so easily beaten Bergmann the night before, being "chopped" to pieces. "Ogi" was the complete and absolute master from the first point and was not flattered by the 21-7, 21-12, 18-21, 21-10 score in his favour.

This wasn't the most eventful final by a long chalk, but it was definitely the most silent. It was weird not to hear a sound, and this made the game appear worse than it was (which was bad enough in all truth). Industrial scientists recently revealed that "Silent Sound," the name given to high frequency waves, can be used to age Cheddar cheese four times more quickly than it does naturally. The "Silent Sound" of the sponge clash put years on the majority of those who watched it.

For Barna to be in another world final, some twenty-six years after his first appearance in one, was an amazing feat. He still looked the supreme master—faultlessly groomed, classical of style—coolness itself. In the second game, incidentally, the leggy Haguenaer fell over a back partition, but the resilient Frenchman wasn't hurt.

Barna and Haguenaer had previously beaten Leach and Bergmann, 21-19, 13-21, 21-19, 11-21, 21-17, and the Brazilian sponge-bat combination of Midosi-Savero, 21-11, 21-18, 21-11. Harangozo—Dolinar had polished off the Frenchmen J. Sala—C. Du Bouille, 21-18, 21-13, 21-16, Stipek—Posejpal (the Czech conquerors of Sido—Andreadis) and English champions Simons—Kennedy.

and the team and officials are eagerly looking forward to competing in the First Division next season.

At the Borough championships held at Hoover Ltd., on Tuesday, March 23rd, Ron Wilson, the holder, retained his Singles title against fellow club-mate Des Adams. Both of them are members of the Treharris club, which has won this season's championship of the Senior Division of the Merthyr League.

In addition, these players represented Merthyr in the Welsh League as also did the winners of the Doubles title, the popular brothers Jackie and Ronnie Williams (Teddington Controls). Their opponents in the Doubles Final were H. Lewis and B. Fealey (Colliers' Arms).

HOW OGIMURA WON

★

MEN'S SINGLES

Holder : F. SIDO (Hungary)

| 5th ROUND | QTR.-FINALS | SEMI-FINALS | FINAL |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bergmann | } Bergmann 10, 17, —20, —17, 18 | } Bergmann 13, 20, —20, 16 | } Flisberg 19, —16, 17, 13 |
| Gyetvai | | | |
| Shead | } Tomita 17, 13, —17, 15 | | |
| Tomita | | | |
| Flisberg | } Flisberg —9, —17, 17, 16, 12 | } Flisberg 18, 18, —20, 14 | |
| Stipek | | | |
| Foldi | } Roothoft 21-20 (T.L.), 9, 17-14 (T.L.) | } Ogimura 7, 12, —18, 10 | |
| Roothoft | | | |
| Andreadis | } Andreadis 15, 20, 18 | | |
| Just | | | |
| Tamasu | } Reiter 12-13 (T.L.), 16, 19, 10 | | |
| Reiter | | | |
| Bukiet | } Bukiet —16, 17, 19, —14, 17 | | |
| Gabric | | | |
| Ogimura | } Ogimura 11, —16, 12, 12 | | |
| Sido | | | } Ogimura 18, 11, 13 |

THE WOMEN'S SINGLES**ROZEANU EQUALS RECORD**

★ ★ ★

ONE of the many highlights of the opening of the Women's Singles was the fighting spirit and animated punching power of that plucky little 18-year-old lass from Wales, Shirley Jones.

Shirley, in the third round, beat up Sayeed Sultana, leading Indian girl, 21-16, 21-15, 22-24, 21-16, and in the next, faced by Christine Watel, the French champion, battered ruthlessly on to a three-straight victory, 21-16, 21-17, 21-16. Shirley was clad in black—perhaps she thoughtfully prepared herself for having to pay respects to opponents for whose demise she hoped to be responsible!

FLOWING FORM

ENGLAND had three other girls through to the quarter-finals; our numbers one, two and three, to wit, Ros and Diane Rowe and Kathy Best. Ros, in flowing form, whipped U. Paulsen (Germany), 23-21, 21-10, 21-16, in the second round, handed the pay-off in the third at 21-12, 21-9, 21-6, to Belgium's Mrs. G. Roland, and in the fourth flattened Hungary's No. 3, G. Simon, 21-18, 21-16, 21-14.

Diane beat Czech ace, Mrs. Krejkova, 21-12, 21-18, 21-12, gave the same treatment to Mrs. M. Detournay of Belgium, 21-10, 21-10, 21-15, and kept up the good work in the fourth round with a 21-17, 21-16, 21-14 win over countrywoman Pam Mortimer.

Kathy scored three sterling wins, against U.S.A. No. 1, Leah Neuberger, 14-21, 17-21, 21-7, 21-16, 21-19; Scotland's pride Helen Elliot, 21-19, 21-19, 21-17; and C. Ragagnou, of France, 21-10, 21-10, 21-14.

Meanwhile deadly dangers to England's chances were being eliminated. F. Lauber, Austria's No. 3 girl, pulled one out of the bag by beating Japanese champ. K. Watanabe, 21-14, 22-20, 11-21, 22-20. Linde Wertl, Austria's favourite to take the title, looked far from being a World champion against Japan's Y. Tanaka, who gave poor Linde a 21-16, 21-12, 19-21, 21-10 drubbing. The red-haired Austrian, always temperamental and highly strung, was worried, and panicked.

F. Eguchi, another of the Japanese girls, eliminated ex-champion Gizi Farkas, 18-21, 21-18, 21-13, 21-17, which meant that the Hungarian blonde would not be in the final for the first time in the past eight meetings.

STERN BATTLE

STERNEST battle of the lot was that in the fourth round between holder Angelica Rozeanu and Japanese H. Goto. In the first game, Goto belted the hide off the ball and Rozeanu had to maintain a constant stream of very deep retrieving shots to keep in the race. Like the champion she is, she kept going, not only getting back the angled hits, but managing to race to the table for the drop-shots. She just scraped home at 22-20 and this rattled her rival. "Roz" took the next two at 9 in both cases, against a thoroughly demoralised Goto.

In the second round Angelica had beaten young Ann Haydon, who never gave up fighting against the immensely superior champion and indeed grabbed a well-earned game: 21-16, 21-13, 19-21, 21-11.

Trudi Pritzl, the Austrian "queen of chisellers" and World champion in 1936, went out in round two to Watel at 19-21, 15-21, 14-21, as did young Jill Rook, to Rougagnou, by 19-21, 18-21, 16-21.

Greatest rivals facing the English girls (and the Welsh girl) were now Rozeanu, Tanaka, Eguchi and, to a lesser extent, chirpy little Eva Koczian of Hungary.

LAST EIGHT

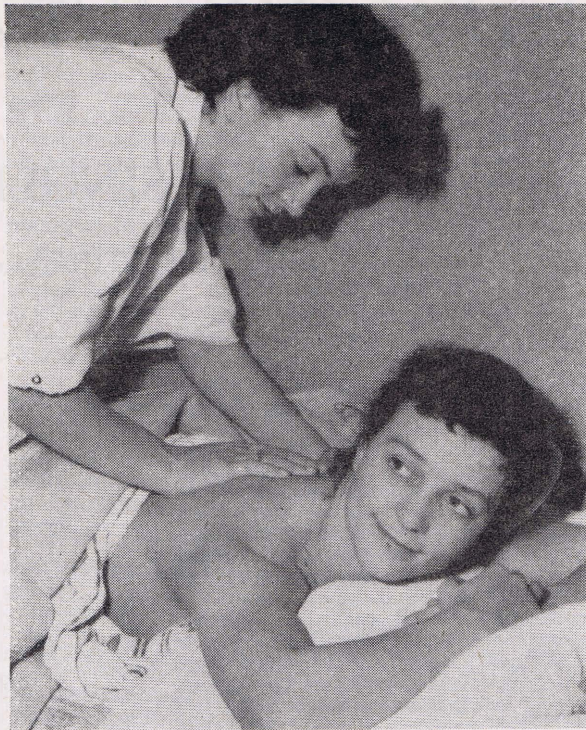
WITH Ros and Diane Rowe and Kathy Best in the last eight, England was very much to the fore in the quarter-finals, while Wales had a special stake in the proceedings with Shirley Jones also around. The quartet kept together to the last, each making her farewell bow in three straight.

Diane and Kathy were shattered by two of the ever-present Japanese menaces, Diane by F. Eguchi, 14-21, 8-21, 17-21, and the Yorkshire girl by Y. Tanaka, 13-21, 14-21, 9-21. The scores indicate the supremacy of the winners.

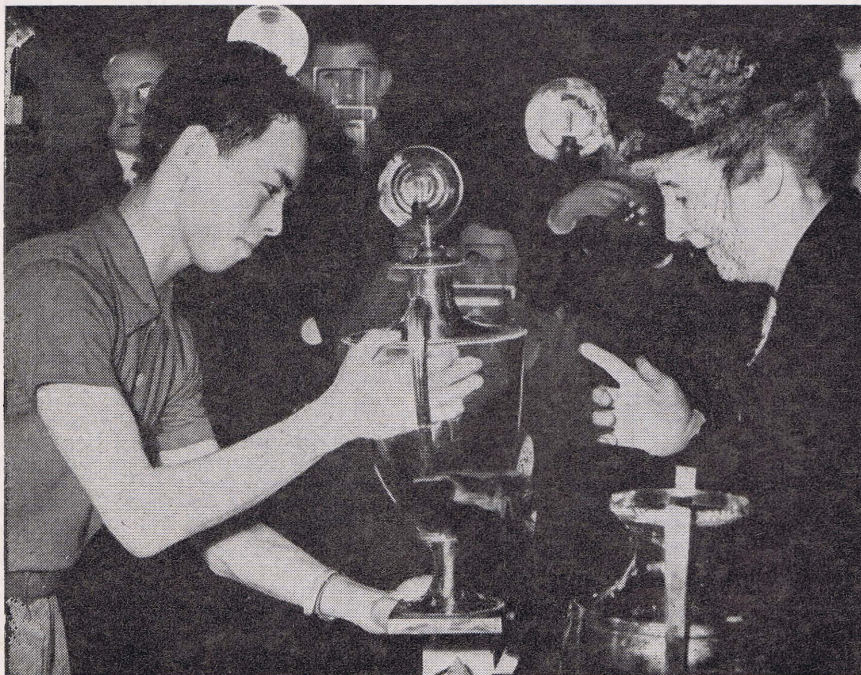
Ros had a much keener and closer struggle with Eva Koczian, before surrendering at 8-21, 23-21, 21-23, 16-21. Perky Eva is a remarkably good all-rounder for a 17-year-old, and will be a menace to the World's best for many years to come. Of the younger generation she stands out as the most promising girl

TABLE TENNIS REVIEW**RIGHT:**

DI and ROS ROWE, toning up at Hastings, get in some sisterly massage in readiness for their title bids at Wembley.

**BELOW:**

The battery of Press and film cameras go into action as I. OGIMURA (Japan) receives the Men's Singles trophy from LADY SWAYTHLING



of any I have seen. Shirley, although as usual spirited and game to the last, could do nothing against the sort of stuff Angelica Rozeanu provided and lost 21-17, 21-18, 21-10.

SEMI-FINALS

THE semi-finals were comparatively tame, with the issue almost a foregone conclusion in both cases.

Rozeanu showed too much know-how, too much steadiness, and too much ice-cold thinking for the Hungarian girl in the first two games, which went Rumania's way at 21-9, 21-15. In the third Eva played very steadily, whereas "Angel," with the confidence that comes from a big lead, tried lamming-out tactics and failed. Eva grabbed herself a 10-5 lead, progressed nicely to 20-15, and then Rozeanu, in true champion's style, tightened up—to such good effect that she levelled at 20-all and took the game and match at 22-20.

The other semi-final was an all-Japanese duel between Tanaka and Eguchi. I use the word "duel" with reserve. Miss Eguchi won the first 21-14, but after that, just gave oodles of points to her country-woman. I found it hard to believe that

this was a serious encounter. Nevertheless there were many delightful counter-hitting rallies of the exhibition variety. Oh, yes: Tanaka "won" the next three games, 21-10, 21-19, 21-14.

FINAL

THE final encounter was a stirring affair, highlighted by the defending champion's wonderful retrieving powers and grace of movement. Angelica, a female Barna, broke Tanaka's morale by plugging her on her backhand and with her rocklike defence, showing why she has been World No. 1 for the past four years.

"Angel" took the first at 21-16, dropped the second 14-21, notched the third 21-17, and in the decider walked out at 21-9. Tanaka, 3-1 up in this last game, just fell to pieces, thoroughly demoralised by Rozeanu's return of everything she sped over.

At the end Rozeanu raised five fingers, denoting her fifth World win in a row and her equalling the record of Moria Mednyanszky, the Hungarian girl, who monopolised the women's event from 1926/7—1930/31.

The Rozeanu Victory March

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Holder: A. ROZEANU (Rumania)

| 4th ROUND | QTR.-FINALS | SEMI-FINALS | FINAL |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rozeanu | } Rozeanu 20, 9, 9 | } Rozeanu 17, 18, 10 | } Rozeanu 9, 15, 20 |
| Goto | | | |
| Jones | } Jones 16, 17, 16 | | |
| Watel | | | |
| Koczian | } Koczian 18, 16, —19, 8 | } Koczian 8, —21, 21, 16 | |
| Isaacs | | | |
| Simon | } Rowe, R. 18, 16, 14 | } Rozeanu 16, —14, 17, 9 | |
| Rowe, R. | | | |
| Gervai | } Eguchi —15, 18, 13, 17 | | |
| Eguchi | | | |
| Mortimer | } Rowe, D. 10, 10, 15 | | |
| Rowe, D. | | | |
| Best | } Best 10, 10, 14 | | |
| Rougagnou | | | |
| Tanaka | } Tanaka 13, 14, 9 | | |
| Wertl | | } Tanaka —14, 10, 19, 14 | |
| | | | |

MIXED DOUBLES

VICTORY for ANDREADIS and FARKAS

REPUTATIONS of most countries took a beating at the hands of the Japanese in the Wembley cock-pit, but a little more of the Slav lustre was recaptured through the ever popular Czech Ivan Andreadis and that charming Hungarian Gizi Farkas.

They did it with a great win which gave them the Mixed Doubles title, and a well-deserved honour it was.

Faced by Yoshio Tomita and Fujie Eguchi, they paid scant respect to the "silent ones" and finished worthy winners at 21-17, 19-21, 21-15, 23-21.

What would have been the result had the losers forced a fifth set is hard to visualise, but there could be no doubt that Andreadis dominated the proceedings.

Eguchi was noticeably weak down the back-hand wing, and seeking every opportunity the Czech exploited this flaw in the Japanese armour to the full, to score time and again with beautiful shots on the half-volley, and precision snap hitting.

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• WOMEN'S DOUBLES

The 'ROWES' of ENGLAND

FOUR BRITISH HEROINES

AFTER disappointments in the singles for followers praying for something to relieve the monotony of Jap victories and English defeats, a heartening breeze raised the drooping Union Jack and set it proudly fluttering.

There were four heroines—Ann Haydon and Kath Best, and the Rowe girls. Both pairs had fought their way to the semis, with hard-hitting, vigorous Table Tennis, and both were geared to meet formidable rivals. The Rowes faced K. Watanabe and F. Eguchi (Japanese of course!) and Ann-Kath had reigning champions Rozeanu and Farkas with whom to contend. While the Rowes went in with an even chance, there must have been very few who thought our other twosome had any hope. And how wrong, how gloriously wrong, we all were!

Although a new partnership, Ann and Kath dovetailed into each other's style as though there were years of team work behind them. In their smashes and defence, as well as in grit and determination, they gave a performance par excellence.

Rozeanu-Farkas, playing superbly well, took a hard-fought first game 21-17, and just sidled home by the skin of their teeth in the second 26-24, after the English girls had pulled up from 18-20 to make it 20-all, and actually gone to game point at 22-21.

FEROCIOUS HITTING

IT was then that our lasses really set the stadium alight. Hitting with ferocity, yet maintaining a sweet rhythm, they had the Rumanian-Hungarian team fighting desperately to stem the tide. They couldn't. The English girls were irresistible. The semblance of a loose ball, the ghost of an opportunity, and they pounced in tigerishly. They took the third game at 21-18 and the fourth 21-17.

The fifth was a humdinger, with every point worth its weight in gold. Still in hurricane form, Ann and Kath belted their way to an 18-12 lead, when over-anxiety caused them to waver. Up crept the furiously resisting foe to 16-18, then to 18-19. On went Ann-Kath to 20-18. An edge-cord against them raised a gasp of dismay from tense onlookers. 20-19. Kath relieved the situation with a smash that gave England its most popular win of the entire series. What an uproar there

was from the crowd, and how Kath and Ann hugged each other in rapturous happiness. This, truly, was one out of the book.

EXCITEMENT

ON the other table there had been exciting happenings also, with Ros and Di showing how the feared Japs could be scrambled. They plastered the back-hand wing of Watanabe and Eguchi, who thus were made to look almost second-rate. The twins were on top from the off, giving the opposition no chance to bring their smash into action. After being crushed 7-21, 11-21 in the opening sessions, the Japanese received the go-in-and-hit order from their manager. The doll-like little girls, piling on double pressure, managed to gain the next game at 21-18, but after that Ros and Di again took over, although after an 8-2 and 16-13 lead the Japs did manage to creep up to 16-all. And that was their honourable lot.

Thus an all-England final was assured.

NERVE TESTING

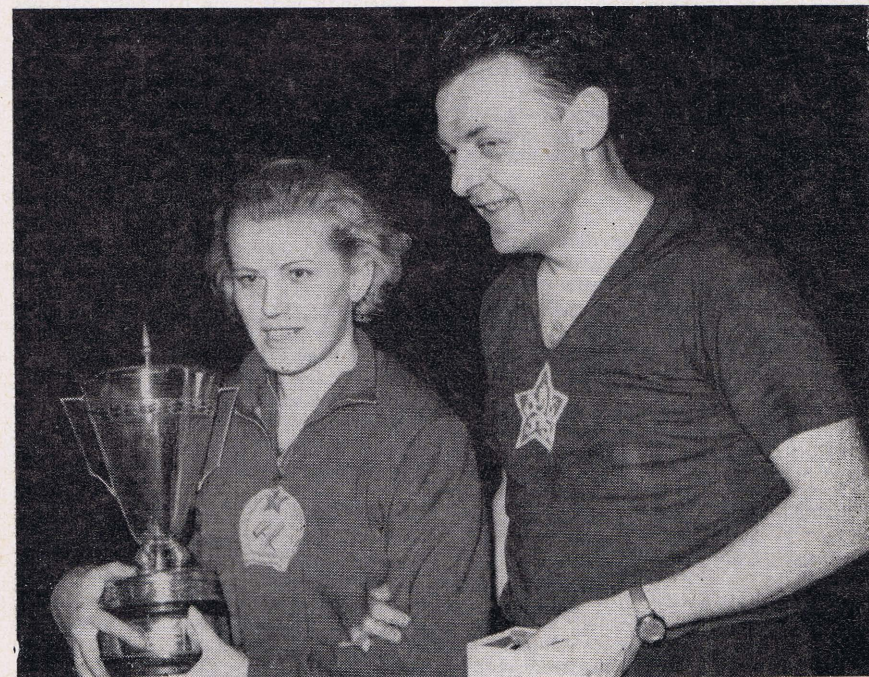
IN a spine-tingling final Ann and Kathy showed that their great win the night before had been no fluke, and gave the Rowes both a fight and a fright. Down 3-6 in the first, they pulled out to an 18-14 lead and just hung on, after Ros and Di had squared at 18-all, when Di impetuously hit a couple into the net. 21-19 to Ann-Kathy.

Ros and Diane tightened up in the second, taking it at 21-10. Far from rattled by this setback, Ann-Kath battled their way to a 17-13 lead in the third, led at 19-16 and were pipped at 19-21. Had they stayed cool under fire when three points to the good, they might conceivably have won, not only the game but the match. But they didn't—luckily for the Rowes.

The fourth was a nerve-testing thriller. The Rowes in full cry, led at 15-11 and were pulled back to 16-all. Thereafter it was a point-for-point duel to the 20-all mark. Ros and Di pulled out of the nerve-shattering ordeal at 22-20, to regain the title they last won three years ago. But what a close call it had been! So they had the 21st birthday present they most wanted after all, and their gallant rivals did not begrudge it them one little bit. Of the four game little battlers the special badge of merit must be awarded to Ann, who played superbly well for so very young a girl. Magnifique!



England's sole World Champions gave themselves a magnificent birthday present — the Women's Doubles title



I. ANDREADIS (Czechoslovakia) and Miss G. FARKAS (Hungary) in happy mood after receiving the Mixed Doubles awards

THE CORBILLON CUP

ANOTHER JAPANESE TRIUMPH

OPENING day of the Corbillon Cup event provided not the semblance of a shock, but it led the way to some intriguing battles for Group honours between the giants. And in the forefront of the big 'uns was England, with the youthful Ros and Diane Rowe, Kathy Best and 15-year-old Ann Haydon.

Our girls, in Group "B," put the kybosh on France, the highlight of the match being Kathy's fine win over the No. 1 player of the rivals, Christianne Watel. The score of 25-23, 18-21, 27-25 indicates what a desperately close struggle it was.

Young Ann was given an outing against Portugal and she acquitted herself honourably. She slashed M. Jesus off the table 21-9, 21-6, then in partnership with Kathy beat the Jesus-Baptista combination 21-4, 21-5, in a pathetically one-sided effort.

Czechoslovakia provided a tougher proposition to crack, but cracked they were, 3-1. Rosalind beat L. Grafkova 21-14, 21-11, but Kath, on next, against Mrs. E. Krejkova, a dour defender, lost 21-13, 19-21, 20-22, to make it square at 1-1. The Rowe partnership went into action against Grafkova and Krejkova and swept to an easy 21-11, 21-13 win. Ros then handed a 21-15, 21-10 beating to Krejkova, to give her side the match.

In Group "A," Japan and Austria had matters all their own way, both skating along to easy 3-0 wins, in three matches apiece.

FALSE ALARM

Japan's victims were Belgium, Saarland and U.S.A. The last-named was expected to provide opposition, but on the table they proved a false alarm. The pen-holding, slashing, bouncing Jap girls gave Mildred Shahian, 1949/50 English Open champion, and many times U.S. champion Leah Neuberger (Thall), who played in the 1948 World Series, at the same venue, a thrashing in both singles and doubles. The Americans shrugged at the end of the match as if to say, "What can you do against these all-angle hitting pen-holders?"

Austria, with Linde Werthl and "old-stager" Trudi Pritzi to the forefront, made short work of Yugoslavia, Belgium and Egypt.

With champion Angelica Rozeanu in form, Rumania sailed home to 3-0 wins against India, Finland and Scotland in Group "C," and Hungary, headed by Gizi Farkas, were never troubled by and lost no games to India and Germany.

IF the Swaythling Cup event had its quota of sensations, the Corbillon Cup provided a double dose. Angelica Rozeanu, the champion, and Linde Werthl, strongly fancied to be crowned Table Tennis queen in succession to the Rumanian, were both beaten.

Werthl was paralysed in the Group "A" Japan vs. Austria tie by both Kioko Watanabe and Yoshiko Tanaka—the scores of 11-21, 13-21 and 17-21, 8-21 respectively reveal to what extent. Linde, previously unbeaten this season and with the most brilliant record of any Western girl, was just never in it against the tearaway Jap hitters. Austria made a 1-3 exit.

Rozeanu succumbed 21-23, 15-21 to 17-year-old Eva Koczian in the Rumania-Hungary tie, which lasted over four hours and didn't end until one a.m. Eva's win gave her side a 3-2 win—and put the holders out of the reckoning in Group "B." Rozeanu's display gave indications that the past-four-years champion has definitely slipped. There were very few who gave her any sort of chance of retaining her title.

England's girls again had easy passages in Group "C" against Wales, whom they beat 3-1, Diane Rowe losing with surprising ease to Audrey Bates 17-21, 9-21, and the Netherlands, 3-0. Obviously testing time was to come against Japan.

INTRODUCING ANN

Fielding Ann Haydon in place of Di Rowe, who definitely hadn't been anywhere near peak form, England had a "canter" game against Sweden. Ann contributed to the 3-0 win by beating E. Thorsson 21-13, 21-7, and with Kath Best beat the Thorsson-D. Tegner combination 21-18, 21-9. The other game was won by Ros Rowe, who defeated Tegner 21-8, 21-13.

The Japanese girls slashed their way to another quickfire 3-0 win, this time over Yugoslavia, who couldn't even begin to fathom the machine-gun-like shots from all angles of the feathery-footed Orientals.

SURPRISING CHOICE

Opening surprise of England's final tie versus Hungary on Friday evening was the selection of Ann Haydon to play in the singles in favour of Diane Rowe or Kathy Best. The draw brought the youngster to play Gizi Farkas, World No. 2, in the opening match—a nerve-testing ordeal indeed. The tall, well-built youngster, however, delighted with her immediate launch-

ing of an offensive which swept her into a rapid 6-2 lead, and it seemed as though she might after all justify her selection. But Farkas put paid to that particular dream without further ado. She squared at 8-all and from then on never looked anything but complete mistress of the situation. Ann got 18 in the first set, pulling up from 15-20, and was given the brush-off 21-12 in the second.

Playing with great fire, Ros Rowe beat up perky little Eva Koczian, 17-year-old sister of the renowned Josef, 21-13, 21-19.

The doubles between the Rowe combination and Koczian-A. Simon provided the shock result of the match, Ros and Di being beaten in two straight after being up in both games. In the first they were 5-1 to the good, fluffed the next eight points, and ended up on the wrong side to tail behind 19-21. And in the second they were 18-13 up and blew up to lose 21-23. Deciding factor in this hard-fought match was Diane's bad hitting. Had only half her shots been accurate the sisters would have won comfortably. The famed Rowe machine operated at much-below-normal power, and even the gift of three "fault" services from Simon availed them nothing.

NO BREAK

Rosalind then went to the table for the third successive time without a break, this time for her singles against Farkas. It was a desperately fought battle, with Gizi earning her points by superior range of hitting strokes and the English lass earning hers by sheer doggedness in defence and lovely drop-shots. Farkas took the first game 21-19 after pulling up from 15-17, and Ros the second at 21-15. The third was a protracted struggle in which a palpably tired and very red-faced Rosalind limped to defeat after fighting furiously point for point up to the 15-all mark. Ros, gallant to the end, had to show the white flag to the now clearly superior Hungarian at 18-21.

So our girls followed their countrymen in this black evening of defeat.

SCORES :—

G. Farkas beat A. Haydon 21-18, 21-12.

E. Koczian lost to R. Rowe 14-21, 19-21.

E. Koczian and A. Simon beat R. Rowe and D. Rowe 21-18, 23-21.

G. Gervai beat R. Rowe 21-19, 15-21, 21-18.

England's fast-fading prestige was given a considerable boost by our girls' win over Japan in their second final tie on Saturday morning. Before the match some of the wisecracs were trying to lay bets that

England wouldn't win a game. They had to pay up and smile—and serve them right. Not only did our lasses beat Japan but did so after being two down. This was the most sensational win of the series—and one of the fightingest.

INAUSPICIOUS OPENING

The opening was far from auspicious from our point of view. Ros Rowe lost 17-21, 20-22 to Yoshiko Tanaka, and Diane was swamped by Kilko Watanabe, the Jap No. 1, 13-21, 13-21. It looked like the beatings our girls had taken at Bombay two years ago had left their mark.

In the ensuing doubles versus Watanabe and Tanaka, the English lasses were 9-21 on the wrong end of the first game, but instead of panicking or throwing in the towel our girls, bless their fighting hearts, got down to it, and "did a Bergmann." With brilliant defence-in-depth play and lovely first-time hits, particularly from Di, they mortified the opposition with 21-16, 21-17 wins in the next two games to pull out of the fire a match that had seemed in the Japanese bag.

THOROUGHLY INSPIRED

A now thoroughly inspired Diane faced Tanaka and avenged her sister. Playing on her toes, and sparkling in both attack and defence, the Rowe girl wouldn't be denied and thoroughly earned her 20-22, 21-17, 22-20 victory. The final moments of the match were made doubly tense by Diane twice having to save match point. How come? It happened that the score was somehow given at 19-19 instead of 19-18 in Tanaka's favour. When Diane squared at 20-20 the first time, the Japanese manager brought the attention of the umpire to the earlier error. Back went the score to 19-20 again, and again Diane had to undergo the trial of saving match point. She did so—and got the next two points. A hilariously delighted English contingent, including Ros, almost smothered a much-moved Diane in congratulating her.

What a dramatic match this was, and what heroines the "Terrible Twins" proved themselves to be! Well done, girls.

SCORES :—

R. Rowe lost to Y. Tanaka 17-21, 20-22.

D. Rowe lost to K. Watanabe 13-21, 13-21.

R. Rowe/D. Rowe beat Y. Tanaka/K. Watanabe 9-21, 21-16, 21-17.

R. Rowe beat K. Watanabe 24-22, 18-21, 21-16.

D. Rowe beat Y. Tanaka 20-22, 21-17, 22-20.

Continued in column 1 overleaf

CORBILLON CUP

Contd. from previous page

WHO can judge the feelings of the English girls sitting in the stands as they watched the Japanese team, whom they had beaten the same morning, receive the Corbillon Cup after beating Hungary? It was one of those tragedies of sport which are part and parcel of sport. Where there is victory there must also be defeat; and where there are smiles there must be what? So it was that Saturday evening.

By defeating Hungary 3-1, Japan came out top of the triple tie with a total of 5 games to the 4 each by England and Hungary.

Hungary started off well enough, Gizi Farkas beating Yoshiko Tanaka 21-18, 13-21, 21-17, but that was the end of her success. The Japanese, although taken to three sets in each instance, sailed comfortably on to victory. It wasn't an easy win, but they were without question just that bit better than the Magyars.

After taking the first set, Eva Koczian was subjected to a frightful battering by Kilko Watanabe, and although she retrieved magnificently she could do nothing to stop the assault.

Watanabe and Fujie Eguchi subdued the Koczian—A. Simon twosome, and Farkas receiving a lacing from Watanabe.

Japan thus won back the trophy they earned at Bombay in 1952. And the tears of the girls on receiving it showed how welcome the bauble was.

SCORES : Y. Tanaka lost to G. Farkas 18-21, 21-13, 17-21.

K. Watanabe beat E. Koczian 16-21, 21-19, 21-12.

Watanabe and F. Eguchi beat E. Koczian and G. Simon 18-21, 21-15, 21-12.

Miss Watanabe beat Miss Farkas 21-17, 16-21, 21-8.

Swaythling Qualifiers

★

With 33 nations entered for the Swaythling Cup, and only 27 places available in the three groups, a qualifying series was necessary for the first time in the history of the event.

Twelve nations battled it out in three sections of four teams per group, to decide the six winners and runners-up to progress into the competition proper. Qualifiers were Group "X"—Pakistan, Finland, Saarland, New Zealand. Group "Y"—Italy, Lebanon, Scotland, Denmark. Group "Z"—Australia, Norway, Spain, Jersey.

After their journeys from the other side of the globe, it was good to see the tremendously enthusiastic Australians and New Zealanders make the grade. Both sides showed marked improvement since arriving in England several weeks back.

New Zealand won their group, with Pakistan as runners-up. Australia were runners-up to Spain, the only side to beat them. In the other section Scotland scraped through as runners-up to Italy, to whom they lost.

Results

Group "X": Pakistan beat Finland 5-4, beat Saarland 5-3; New Zealand beat Finland 5-1, beat Saarland 5-2, beat Pakistan 5-1; Saarland beat Finland 5-2.

Group "Y": Italy beat Lebanon 5-2, beat Scotland 5-0, beat Denmark 5-2; Denmark beat Lebanon 5-2; Scotland beat Denmark 5-0, beat Lebanon 5-0.

Group "Z": Australia beat Norway 5-2, lost to Spain 2-5, beat Jersey 5-0, Spain beat Jersey 5-0, beat Norway 5-0; Norway beat Jersey 5-2.

The qualifying event was played at Wembley on Monday, April 5th.

THE WEEKS AT WEMBLEY!

by SAM KIRKWOOD

Summing it all up

THE Japanese accent-on-youth teams, none of whom is over 22, proved their world superiority by taking the greatest trophies the sport has to offer, the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups. It was a magnificent triumph, and one accorded an overwhelming reception by the entire assembly of players and spectators, who watched them with admiration for the amazingly agile, lithe and ferocious shovel-bat wielders with the pen-holder style so many Western experts have been saying for so many years is hopelessly outdated.

There was nothing fluky about the duel of the pint-sized Orientals. They won because they were better than the rest of the field. In speed of foot, quickness of thinking, power of hitting and sheer concentration they had more on the ball—in every sense of the word—than anyone else. Hail, you sons and daughters of the Land of the Rising Sun on your well-deserved honours.

Yet the many who have been sending up spouts of words, both written and spoken, about their "unstoppability" are well off the beam. The Japanese players are terrific—but not by a long chalk invincible. In the very winning of their trophies they disproved the legend that it is almost impossible to beat them. Ivan Andreadis, the handsome Czech giant, flat-footed, heavy and slow though he was by comparison with the little 'uns from the other side of the world, won all his games in the Japan v. Hungary tie. And our own Rowe twins beat the Japanese girls after being two down.

STYLE — COURAGE — SKILL

The classical Western style still has something to offer—provided it is allied with courage, skill and quick thinking. A national Press correspondent has commented: "Victor Barna, five times world champion has said, 'A pen-holder is always vulnerable on the backhand.' Now the Japanese have wrecked this rosy belief." What utter nonsense. Andreadis and the Rowes proved Barna was absolutely right... something anyone who knows anything at all of Table Tennis has ever doubted it. Time and again the Czech scored winners down the backhand wing after drawing his opponents across to the forehand. He, more than anyone else, showed how to crack these pen-people. And his three main weapons were the half-volley, the drop-shot and the sudden hit where a Jap wasn't. No pen-holder who has

to run round his strokes can be anything but comparatively shaky on the backhand wing, no matter how lightning of foot he is. "Rosy belief," indeed!

The fact that England lost the Corbillon Cup after beating Japan, who thrashed Hungary, our conquerors, has inevitably given rise to criticism of selectors. Why, many are asking, was 15-year-old Ann Haydon picked in the singles over the 'heads of Diane Rowe and Kathleen Best to play with Ros Rowe in the final leg against Hungary? There certainly seems to be grounds for the suspicion that this move possibly cost us the Cup. To put a raw kid, promising though she is, into the white-hot conflict of battle against a side which included the redoubtable Gizi Farkas and on which so much depended, was a fearful gamble, to say the least of it. Ann, who hadn't even had a game in a Group match against one of the stronger nations (like Czechoslovakia or Wales), is to be sympathised with on her ordeal.

MORE 'KNOW-HOW'

I won't say we threw our chances away, but I do contend that with Di or Kath, both with bags of top international experience and far more "know-how" than the Birmingham youngster, we might easily have brought that Corbillon trophy back to the land of its donor.

The downfall of our men against Japan and then Czechoslovakia was not pleasant to see. Against Japan two of them played apprehensively and never looked like winning. And against Czechoslovakia the following morning, they showed the weight of their years. The fact must be faced that our trio of Bergmann-Leach-Simons, gallant though it is and handsomely though it has served England, is on the way out. New blood, young blood, is needed. Let our Association take heed of the fact that a sport which ignores youth ignores the future.



THE GIRLS WHO REGAINED THE "CORBILLON" FOR JAPAN
H. GOTA, K. WATANABE, F. EGUCHI and Y. TANAKA who beat HUNGARY
in the vital final tie

LANARKSHIRE 'OPEN' . . .

STRIDING out the miles down Hamilton way on March 27th, I spent the time trying to puzzle out why it is committees choose such benighted spots for their tournaments. When I reached Philips' Works Canteen, I found out. The conditions were of the very best. Two huge halls easily accommodated the necessary tables, and catering facilities were sandwiched in between. The lighting was of the highest order; space was generous and the temperature just right; no more Murrayfield's glorified ice box, or Bellahouston's tropical torpor; Philips have established a temperate zone.

Unfortunately the general standard of play did not excel accordingly. The only doubles title was an "open" one—too open. Men's, ladies' and mixed couples made for a shambles which was hardly worth winning—or running (Lanarkshire officials are to be complimented on their choice of setting, but organisation left much to be desired; the finals were not started until 8 p.m.).

Most notable performance in the Ladies' Singles was that of Miss Joan Segal, of Maccabi. Miss Segal got off to a flying start by defeating Mrs. O. Hawkins in the second round (16, —17, 14). Subsequent victims were Miss Davidson and Miss Divers. Facing Mrs. Cababe in the semi-final, Joan lacked the confidence to force the pace; even so, she played a fine game and refused to surrender even in face of a 2—9 deficit in the second set, having lost the first; then, down 13-19 in the last set, she gallantly drew level at 19 all. Mrs. Cababe played quietly on, refused to be shaken, and finally won through by virtue of greater confidence and hence more enterprise. Hard luck, Joan—come again; tenacity is a rare commodity.

In the other half of the draw, Miss Cruickshanks (Glasgow) beat Helen Houlston (12, 16) only to succumb to Helen Elliot in the semi-final (7, 9).

The final was a good show, in which Mrs. Cababe stood up to Helen better than she has done in the past, though she is still very vulnerable on the backhand. She got off to an unlucky start at 0-5, but was not daunted and in the second set on several occasions wrought a startled "Yes" from a surprised Helen. Helen Elliot herself was in lively mood with some acrobatic retrieves.

A FEW SHOCKS

In the Gent's Singles there were a few surprises. Ron Forman (Dundee) made his departure after a third round marathon

with Gordon Fraser (Edinburgh) (16, —10, 25); a somewhat pallid Eddie Still fell to A. McLeod of Edinburgh Y.M. in the fourth round (—11, 20, 11); Kerr was beaten by Teasdale in the quarter-final. Hand was the only Liverpoolian to make his way to the quarter-final, where, after leading Laidlaw (Edinburgh) 20-16 in the third, he lost at 20-22.

Marathon of the day was provided by the semi-final between Victor Garland and E. Teasdale (Edinburgh). Teasdale is upset by Garland's snap-shot approach—he prefers a long, swinging game. A spectacular opening declined into a prolonged chiselling match, which was relieved only by the fact that these men were not chiselling for chiselling's sake, as is too often the way nowadays; when the loose ball came, it was well and truly hit, and as often adroitly returned. Teasdale unfortunately took cramp towards the end of the third set, but I don't think he had the resource to win even without this handicap; defence is easily his strongest department, and he would do well to realise this.

By G. R. WALKER

In the other semi-final, Laidlaw had no answer to Campbell's fierce attack; but in the final, Campbell was outclassed by an apparently fresh-as-paint Garland, who, on this form, clearly deserves his place as Scotland's first player.

Congratulations are due to new Junior Champion, A. Stewart (Dundee), who has been there or thereabouts so often. His title was well deserved though not strongly contested by A. Wade (Glasgow).

So many peculiar things happened in the "Open" Doubles affair that they could not possibly be reported here. Eloquent of the strength of Kerr and Elliot as a Mixed Doubles couple was the fact that they made their way to the final at the expense of several good gent's pairs and even in the final were not easily beaten by Campbell and Metcalfe.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES. V. Garland (Aberdeen) beat J. Campbell (Glasgow), 12, 10.

LADIES' SINGLES. H. Elliot (Edinburgh) beat I. Cababe (Edinburgh), 9, 16.

JUNIOR SINGLES. A. Stewart (Dundee) beat A. Wade (Glasgow), 15, 16.

OPEN DOUBLES. Metcalfe and Campbell (Glasgow) beat Kerr and Elliot (Edinburgh), —16, 10, 17.

THE NORTH-EAST 'OPEN'

ERNEST MOORHOUSE reports from —

Sunny Scarborough

WITH an accent on youth, the popular Scarborough Easter Table Tennis week-end enjoyed grand Table Tennis, sunny weather during the free hours, and an entry which has not been surpassed for quality.

It was practically a London invasion, which included Johnnie Leach, Ken Craigie, Mickey Thornhill, Jackie Head, Keith Hurlock, Alan Rhodes, Diane Rowe, Joy Seaman, Jean Winn, Jill Rook, Ray Dorking, etc., together with Dr. Zarko Dolinar, Yugoslav winner of the Men's Doubles in the World's (with Harangozo), and the whole of the New Zealand and Australian Swaythling Cup teams, who were the guests of the Scarborough Association. A very happy send-off was the official reception at the Town Hall by the Mayor of Scarborough to the New Zealanders and Australians, together with Dr. Dolinar. Zarko soon found a friend in the Mayor for they are both doctors (one of medicine, the other a vet.).

Seeds Dominated

Seeded players dominated in the Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Men's Doubles, for they all crashed their way through to the semi-finals. Mickey Thornhill had a great game in the fourth round, and struggled very hard to beat Lou Laza in the third game. Ken Craigie had a tussle with Frew of New Zealand, and eventually in the semi-final rose to his greatest achievement by beating the holder (Johnnie Leach), in what was freely admitted the best match of the whole tournament. His inspired hitting threw Leach on the defensive, and although losing 20-16 in the third game he eventually won 25-23. The crowd gave him a sustained ovation, for it is hard to find a more popular player than Ken.

Dolinar, with his amazing "home-made" sponge rubber bat, dominated the tournament and had little difficulty in beating Brian Kennedy in the semi, and Craigie in the Final.

The Women's Singles was won by a rather tired Diane Rowe, beating Joy Seaman in a very interesting Final.

Future Champion

Some of the best form of the Tournament was shown by Jill Rook, surely an obvious

champion of the future. Partnering Pam Mortimer, she reached the Final of the Women's Doubles, losing to Joy Seaman and Jean Winn. With Ken Craigie she also reached the Final of the Mixed, losing to the more experienced Dolinar and Adele Wood.

In the Men's Doubles, Brian Kennedy and Mickey Thornhill created a minor sensation by beating Leach and Dolinar in the third game, when it looked odds on the older pair. Ray Dorking put up a wonderful performance in winning both the Junior and Youth's Singles, but had a hard struggle before overcoming Ron Jackson in the Junior Final.

It was nice to see one of the New Zealanders get through to a Final, but though Murray Dunn played at the top of his form, Ray Dorking ran out a comfortable winner.

The trophies and prizes were presented by the Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough (Coun. and Mrs. N. Walsh), and when the crowd shouted for a speech from Dr. Dolinar, he acknowledged his ovation with a few remarks, expressing a strong hope of returning to Scarborough next Easter.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES.

Semi-finals: Z. Dolinar beat B. Kennedy 16, 15. K. Craigie beat J. Leach —15, 12, 23. Final: Z. Dolinar beat K. Craigie 9, 15.

WOMEN'S SINGLES.

Semi-finals: D. Rowe beat J. Winn 15, 17. Y. J. Seaman beat Betty Isaacs 12, 18. Final: D. Rowe beat Y. J. Seaman —15, 18, 13.

MEN'S DOUBLES.

B. Kennedy and M. H. Thornhill beat J. Leach and Z. Dolinar —18, 21, 19.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES.

Y. J. Seaman and J. Winn beat P. Mortimer and J. Rook 9, —20, 7.

MIXED DOUBLES.

Z. Dolinar and Miss A. Wood beat K. Craigie and Miss J. Rook 16, 19.

JUNIOR SINGLES.

R. Dorking beat R. Jackson —18, 20, 15. YOUTHS' SINGLES.

R. Dorking beat M. L. Dunn 16, 11.

VETERANS' SINGLES.

W. C. T. Pryer beat G. F. Atkinson 18, 18.

WEST OF SCOTLAND

by
G. R. WALKER

'OPEN'

NAY, nay ye hounds, voice not your cries of "Fascist beasts!"—I refer only to those two champions of 'Auld Reekie,' Helen Elliot and Bert Kerr. These two players between them had a finger in each of the five senior titles contested at Bellahouston. Many a time and oft has Helen achieved this feat (this time in the Mixed Doubles with Kerr and in Ladies' Doubles with the up-and-coming Helen Houliston), but Kerr's hat-trick was the first ever recorded by a home Scot (Mixed Doubles with McMillan). Kerr's achievement was built on the secure foundation of good play; his supremacy was undisputed.

Best game of the early rounds in the Ladies' Singles was the clash between Mrs. Cababe and Mrs. Hawkins in the quarter-finals. This was a close struggle in which the see-sawing score truly mirrored the purple patches of both players. Mrs. Cababe finally won to 16 in the third.

Splendid performance here was that of young Helen Houliston, who, having won her way through to the quarter-finals, showed that her nerves could take it when she defeated the vastly more experienced Mrs. Josephson by the sticky margin of 20, —17, 20. Particularly in the last set (she was down 13-17), Helen's was a gritty display.

In the semi-finals, Mrs. Cababe had a good win over Mrs. Mattinson (Glasgow) and Helen Houliston met her maestro Helen Elliot. The final was a rather lame affair in which Helen Elliot cruised to victory with but a few anxious moments in the second set; Mrs. Cababe seemed a little subdued; she is, however, a cheery soul who accepts defeat with a good grace.

THE MIGHTY FALL

SPECULATION over the Men's title ran high. It seemed likely that the chief contenders would be Victor Garland (Aberdeen) and Eddie Still (Glasgow). Up to this stage in the season the major honours had fallen to one or other of this pair (Garland has won the Highland and the East; Still the Scottish (Confined), the Murrayfield and the Fife. In view of this it seemed quaint that the seeding of the Men's Singles draw had been executed in such a manner that these two looked likely to meet in the semi-final. The prophets were confounded, however, for neither Still nor Garland survived the quarter-finals. Still went under listlessly before the heavy artillery of Metcalfe

(Glasgow), while Garland fell to Gordon Fraser of Edinburgh. Fraser is a man who often progresses well towards the final stages by shock victories, yet he never seems to succeed completely. Slightly less revolutionary was the defeat of Johnny Braithwaite by Lusk, a Second Division player who lasted only one more round. Braithwaite is noticeably off-colour; lack of practice seems to be an insuperable obstacle in the Army.

In the other quarter-finals, inconsistent McMillan was defeated by slightly less inconsistent Kerr, —19, 11, 15; Alex Laidlaw (Edinburgh) compact all-round left-hander, overcame Teasdale to lose to Campbell (Glasgow) after a cut-and-thrust high tension match (17, —21, 19). In the semi-finals, Fraser faded surprisingly against Metcalfe, falling in each set at 12; while Kerr's cultured play was too much for the slap-dash Campbell, so Kerr and Metcalfe were left to fight the last battle.

FIREWORKS

When Metcalfe comes to table, one thing (and one thing only!) is certain—fireworks will ensue. Metcalfe either wins handsomely or loses abysmally. There is no middle way. The way in which Metcalfe, when attacking, hits the ball almost on the half-volley, made for lightning exchanges in which Kerr's fleetness of foot stood him in good stead. Once the dust had cleared, we found that the Glasgow man had battered his way to a 21-17 first set victory, and looked set to do likewise in the second. The Edinburgh boy settled, however, and brought off some amazing returns, not to mention occasional brilliant counter-hits. Meanwhile, Metcalfe, having been in top gear all day, began to slacken—although at the end he was up 17-13 in the third set but threw his chance away by reckless hitting. All credit is due to Kerr for keeping his head during that terrific initial onslaught.

UPSET

First upset in Men's Doubles was the quarter-final defeat of Garland and Forman by Urquhart and Mellis of Dundee (—10, 16, 15). The semi-final line-up became Kerr and McMillan v. Still and Mattinson (Central Y.M.C.A., Glasgow) and Campbell and Metcalfe v. Urquhart and Mellis. Kerr and McMillan were too strong for Still and Mattinson (12, 13). Meanwhile Campbell and Metcalfe were

having a stormy passage against Urquhart and Mellis—only the unrelenting aggression of the former pair saw them through (17, —15, 17). For spectacle this was one of the best games of the day, though closely rivalled by their encounter in the final with Kerr and McMillan, who again displayed their chronic tendency to purple patches; at several stages it seemed more than likely that a major upset would take place. The main factor in the internationalists' final victory was that vital touch of extra polish which this pair reveal from time to time when extended.

GENERAL TURMOIL

General turmoil was the salient feature of the Ladies' Doubles title. In the second round Cababe and Craigen fell to Hawkins and Hillan, who were quickly disposed of in the next round by Elliot and Houliston; in the same round Cocker (Aberdeen) and Dunbar (Dundee) were defeated by Walker and Nash (Glasgow). In the semi-finals, Elliot and Houliston dispatched Gordon and Brown with ridiculous ease (2, 6), while Josephson and Segal overcame Walker and Nash after three up-and-down sets (—18, 12, 12). The final was a scrappy affair, in which the predominant feature was the pluck of Mrs. Josephson and Miss Segal, who ran the two Helens very close over two sets.

Encouraging sight in the Mixed Doubles was that of the progress of Edinburgh youngsters, McMichael and Houliston, to the Final. These two bright stars are both brimful of confidence and carry some very polished strokes—and some very unpolished ones. Miss Houliston in particular promises well and great things are expected of her (we hope not too much—nor too quickly). In the Mixed Doubles department, Edinburgh seems to reign supreme. In the quarter-finals, for instance, McMillan and Segal, Hillan and Hawkins, and Baxter and Josephson, all of Glasgow, were each defeated in two straight sets by Kerr and Elliot, Miller and Cababe, Laidlaw and Farquhar respectively—all from Edinburgh. In the final, McMichael and Houliston, though by no means thrashed, were shown little mercy by their senior counterparts, Kerr and Elliot. Here it may be wise to say that at the stage reached by McMichael and Houliston, the occasional drubbing does not harm.

SURPRISE

The Junior event at this tournament was open to both Boys and Girls; Miss Houliston survived until the quarter-final, where she was beaten 15, 14, by E. Latham. Surprise of the event came in the final, where Sydney Katzenell (Maccabi, Glasgow) beat the more fancied Stewart (Dundee) in a touch-and-go but none the less somewhat tedious match.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES. R. Kerr (Edinburgh) beat A. Metcalfe (Glasgow), —17, 18, 19.

LADIES' SINGLES. H. Elliot (Edinburgh) beat I. Cababe (Edinburgh), 10, 10.

MEN'S DOUBLES. Kerr (Edinburgh) and McMillan (Glasgow) beat Metcalfe and Campbell (Glasgow), 17, —14, 17.

LADIES' DOUBLES. Elliot and Houliston (Edinburgh) beat Josephson and Segal (Glasgow), 18, 18.

MIXED DOUBLES. Kerr and Elliot (Edinburgh) beat McMichael and Houliston (Edinburgh), 18, 15.

JUNIOR SINGLES. S. Katzenell (Glasgow) beat A. Stewart (Dundee), 20, —15, 19.

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EXERCISES WHICH WILL BRING

RELIEF FROM PLAYING TENSION

by ARTHUR WAITE

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HAVE you ever seen a ballerina limbering up before she goes on stage? Or maybe a swimmer flexing his leg and arm muscles before waiting for the signal to "get ready"? Or perhaps an athlete trotting about between events? The obvious answer as to why they do this is "to loosen themselves up." But the player who wishes to win his or her battle against playing nerves needs to know a little more about the "why's."

IF you have not studied the three previous articles in this series then you should purchase these three back numbers at once. They can be obtained from the publishers for a remittance of 3/3d. post free. If you already possess the back issues, then read the "Big Match Temperament" articles again. They cannot be fully digested at one sitting.

Briefly this is what happens when nervous tension creeps in before a competitive match. Your thoughts begin to dwell on the coming match and feelings of apprehension or even fear creep in. You are eager to win, and in some cases you do not even wish to contemplate what defeat means. In some instances victory or defeat does not mean quite so much to you as putting up a good show. In one way or another our body reacts to emotions of all kinds, and when those emotions happen to be of some kind of apprehension or fear, then the brain sends out messages to the muscles of the body which are likely to be needed. The muscles tense in readiness.

If we are normal types (and very few of us are) then the muscle tension will be normal and will work off immediately we go into action. But ninety-nine out of a hundred are not normal and we allow our thoughts to dwell too much on the possibilities of defeat or a poor exhibition. Yes, we worry too much, and because of that our brain sends out too many instructions, and in the highly strung person the brain becomes so panicky, it even sends out confused messages to both the necessary and the unnecessary muscles of the body. States of extreme nervous tension can be quite alarming.

Remember in my last article how I mentioned one reader who had written to

tell me that in matches, and only in matches, he always had a severe attack of fibrositis in his right shoulder? It is easy to see from the above explanations just what happens to him. The unfortunate part is that nervous tension delights in setting into movement a vicious circle. Just a little emotional feeling creates tension, and tension automatically creates emotion, the more intense the emotion becomes and the greater the degree of nervous tension. And so it goes on.

FIRST STEPS

IF you are inclined to be of the nervous type then your first bulwark of defence must be to control your thoughts. None of us can help the thoughts which come into our heads, but we can control the amount of time we give to unwanted thoughts. Whenever at a tournament or match, try not to think about your individual playing ability, or chances of victory. Find some sociable companion and talk about things removed from Table Tennis. If your mind does not dwell on the coming game you cannot possibly become "nervy."

I once heard a professional cricketer say that he always played better if he had a slight headache. I can well understand that being true. The headache robbed him of some of the eagerness to go into action and consequently his thoughts did not dwell too much on the coming game. Quite likely that once he went in to bat or bowl his headache left him completely.

GO INTO ACTION

WHEN the brain sends its instructions to the body-muscles to get ready for action, the muscles respond by becoming taut and ready for the effort. The natural

way to release such tension is to go into action, but if that moment is delayed because of abnormal emotional responses of the player, then tension begins to build up and really make itself felt. Nervous people find relief in movement, hence the reason why they are often fidgety. **Movement eases nervous tension.** Probably more from experience rather than theoretical knowledge the ballerina knows that to limber-up before her performance sends her into the spot-light in a far happier frame of mind. Such is the case with the swimmer, athlete and sportsmen of all kinds.

If you are the worrying, emotional or nervous type try to keep a little on the move just before a match. If possible find a quiet corner where you can do a few loosening-up exercises, or if not, put on your coat and get in a short walk while waiting for your next game. On the other hand if you are not particularly highly strung, then sit in a relaxed position and breathe slowly and deeply.

If you have learnt how to relax, in the manner described in the last article, then a quiet corner, or your dressing room, should enable you to get in ten or fifteen minutes of deep relaxation, providing of course that you are not being emotionally disturbed by a match to come. In such a predicament you are only leaving yourself open to more tension by being alone with your own thoughts and jitters. If there is already tension and the likelihood of increased tension, then go in for movement and work off your "playing nerves."

EXPERIMENT

To conclude this series of articles here are a few exercises specially designed to throw off nerve tension. Experiment and find which appears to "loosen" you up the best, and then before every match try to give to this particular exercise a few moments of your time. You will never regret it.

Natural Exercises. To yawn and stretch is nature's way of making you get rid of unwanted tensions. Next time you are at a tournament or big match try to give way to a big yawn. You might not succeed immediately, but it is more than likely that within a few seconds a yawn will come quite naturally, and if you repeat the yawn a number of times afterwards it is a sure sign that you have been building up tension. Carry on yawning as much as you can and throw in quite a few luxurious stretches of the arms, neck, legs and spine. The man isn't yet born who can do fifteen or twenty minutes of this and yet feel no relief and benefit from it.

Your Playing Arm. Your playing arm requires a little extra attention, and here is an exercise you can do even at the table

while waiting for your opponent. Bend the arm in the backhand playing position, now move the point of the elbow round in a wide circle. The object of this is to loosen up your shoulder, so pay attention to the shoulder joint and see that it moves freely. Some players vary this exercise a little. For instance I notice Jack Carrington goes in for a perfectly straight arm with a wide, windmill-like swing.

Wrist Exercise. Shake your hand up and down hard at your wrist and do this for about thirty seconds. Then do it again and again during the following ten minutes, and especially just before you are about to play.

Another wrist exercise which is excellent for the muscles at the back of the hand is to stand at arm's length from a wall, the palm of your hand flat against the wall. Stretch out your fingers and extend them to the full. This is a simple posture but it can be of great benefit. Do this a number of times a day and after only a short while the neglected muscles in the back of your hand will be brought into action, paving the way for an improvement of your backhand stroke play.

Care of the Feet. Really comfortable rubber shoes are essential and the higher the heel the better. What you want are soft rubber shoes with heels as near as possible to those of your everyday shoes. Playing shoes with little or no heel alter the whole angle of your body, and muscular tension is created at the back lower regions of the leg.

Ankle Exercise. Try moving your ankles in the same manner that you shook your wrist. Doesn't it surprise you to discover how stiff your ankles are? Persist in this ankle shaking, and also a little massage, until your ankles become more relaxed. I am sorry to say that this will take you weeks, but if you desire better and quicker footwork, then this is your exercise.

Legs. For the legs, you cannot do much better than copy the methods of footballers and boxers. Go in for a nightly dose of skipping. But, in addition, an excellent method of getting rid of accumulated tensions, especially in the thighs, is to give them a good rubbing and massaging, then sit on a chair with the legs slightly apart. Shake your knees and thighs vigorously as you did your wrists and ankles.

FINAL NOTE

In spite of all that I have told you about nervous tension it is probable that some of you have individual and maybe unusual problems. If you would like personal advice then write me care of the publishers telling me all you can about your own case. And please don't forget to enclose a stamped addressed envelope. You can write in the fullest confidence.

by ALEC BROOK . . .

THE SPONGE!

FRIEND OR ENEMY?

A REVOLUTION could hardly have produced a bigger upset than the advent of sponge rubber into Table Tennis. Throughout the world it is the No. 1 subject with the Table Tennis enthusiast, and well it may be, as far-reaching repercussions may result. Let us analyse the position as far as possible.

When did it start? Who started it? What is the effect? Will it be harmful to the game? What do the players and officials think about it? Will it stay, or is it likely to either die out or be banned.

It is not new. Although many believe the Japanese first used it in Bombay we ourselves were using sponge years ago when we had a Ping Pong Association and plain wooden rackets were the vogue. Someone thought rubber would be a good idea, and from the sponge rubber he tried came the present-day pimply sheeting.

Until recently the general opinion was the present Table Tennis bat was likely to remain the standard equipment, but my personal feelings are we shall see a wholesale changeover which may stay for some time.

Quite Natural

It is quite natural if something out of the ordinary comes along in any walk of life and that something is successful, then everyone wants to change. The Japanese have entered two world championships and each time they have won the team championships for men and women and had considerable success in the individual events. Furthermore both the finalists in the Men's Singles used sponge this time so the inference is there must be something in it and the Table Tennis player is at least going to find out what it means to him. The lesser-known player will buy a racket and see what it can do to him and the champion will at least give it a try. I have seen almost every star try out the sponge, and am quite prepared to see many of them using it next season:

We who had not seen any first-class players using sponge were led to believe it did nothing but slow up the game. Those who saw the wonderful and not-to-be-forgotten match between the Japs and the Czechs in the Swaythling Cup will have other ideas. The speed was terrific and

there was no question of defensive play. Prior to that match everyone spoke of the banning of sponge, but the tune rapidly changed at the end of that evening. I spoke to Mr. Montagu, who said "It is not so much a question of sponge but of the players themselves! Immediately a player hears he is opposed to sponge, he becomes frightened and fails to play his normal game. Freundorfer, the young German champion, who cares little for anyone, went on against Dolinar and knocked him off the table to the extent of 21-19; 21-13."

Many still say if sponge takes a hold, the game as a spectacle will be killed, but I am uncertain if it is not already half there. One does not need to think far back to recall some exceptionally dreary matches which have been televised in recent months.

More spin can be obtained with sponge and it acts as a cushion to the ball. The effect is the same as screwing up a sponge and letting it go. The ball leaves the bat with a greater impetus. Playing against sponge it is almost fatal to hit the second ball when the first is returned. Certainly in the hands of chisellers or defensive players it may be a greater problem in view of it holding the ball that much longer.

Sponge Nightmare!

As a sports dealer, the last few weeks have been a nightmare and we sold as many as 500 sponge bats in just over ten days apart from all the rubber sold separately for re-covering bats. I thought we had reached the limits of fastidiousness in choosing rubber; fast, slow, medium, continental, top-spin and so on, but this new phase will be even worse. The weight, the type and the thickness will be much more with which to contend. Dolinar, one of the sponge experts who lost few matches in the Swaythling Cup, showed me his bat. He was extremely worried as to

Continued on page 30

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Scottish Results



East of Scotland Open

Men's Singles—Semi-Finals: V. H. Garland (Aberdeen) beat R. Kerr (Edinburgh) 19, 16; E. Still (Glasgow) beat M. McMillan (Glasgow) 12, 12; **Final:** Garland beat Still 21, 19, 17.

Men's Doubles—Final: A. Metcalfe and J. Campbell (Glasgow) beat E. Teasdale and A. Laidlaw (Edinburgh) 18, 18.

Women's Singles—Final: Miss H. Elliot (Edinburgh) beat Mrs. I. Cababe (Edinburgh) 10, 9.

Junior Singles—E. Latham (Glasgow) beat A. Stewart (Dundee) 22, —14, 18.

Fifeshire Open

Men's Singles—Semi-Finals: V. H. Garland beat T. Gilmour (Dundee) 19, —18, 13; E. Still beat R. Kerr 19, —15, 17. **Final:** Still beat Garland 19, 9, —15, 21.

Men's Doubles—Final: E. Still and C. Mattinson beat R. L. Forman and V. H. Garland 16, —23, 20, 11.

Murrayfield Open

Men's Singles—Semi-Finals: E. Still beat R. L. Forman 19, —21, 11; M. McMillan (Glasgow) beat A. Laidlaw (Edinburgh) 14, 17; **Final:** E. Still beat M. McMillan —19, 16, 17.

Men's Doubles—Final: M. McMillan and R. Kerr beat J. Campbell and A. Metcalfe (Glasgow) 13, —22, 18.

Women's Singles—Final: H. Elliot beat H. Houliston (Edinburgh) 7, 18.

Junior Singles: A. Stewart (Dundee) beat J. Barclay (Edinburgh) 14, 11.

Dundee Closed

Men's Singles—R. L. Forman.
Women's Singles—Miss D. Black.
Junior Singles—A. Stewart.
Open Doubles—T. Gilmour and W. Dick.
Mixed Doubles—R. L. Forman and Miss D. Black.

Scottish Inter-League Championships

Semi-Finals.
 Edinburgh beat Aberdeen 8-1; West of Scotland beat Greenock 9-0.

In the International v. Wales at Pontypool, South Wales, the Scots came tantalisingly near to achieving a first-ever victory over Wales. At one stage Scotland led by 4-2, but the Welshmen rallied valiantly and

sneaked past on the post by the margin of 5 matches to 4. With the scores at 4 matches all, Kerr and McMillan had a great chance to do their country proud, for they defeated their opponents with ease at Greenock last April. However, Davies and Jones rose to the occasion, gaining the ascendancy in a nerve-racking finish.

RESULTS (Welsh names first): W. Sweetland and D. Phillips lost to V. Garland and E. Still —18, 15, 19; J. Davies beat M. McMillan 18, 20; A. Bates beat I. Cababe 14, 7; S. Jones lost to V. Garland —20, 14; Miss B. Gray lost to H. Elliot —20, —11; D. Phillips lost to E. Still —10, 12, —11; W. Sweetland beat R. Kerr 9, 10; B. Gray and A. Bates beat H. Elliot and I. Cababe —18, 12, 15; S. Jones and J. Davies beat R. Kerr and M. McMillan —18, 21, 19.

THE SPONGE! *Continued from page 28*

whether he could obtain any more of the very special rubber which he had obtained in Tokio and which is entirely different to any other we have seen, apart from the Japs. This rubber, according to him, was used on aircraft and is now almost unobtainable. It has a most peculiar surface to it, and was only about four inches square.

Richard Bergmann, who had prophesied it would die out after Bombay, said rather humorously, that after about five years of sponge we shall find it difficult to play against rubber again, which brings up a rather interesting point.

Full Cycle?

Wood is a natural neutraliser of spin with rubber. We started years ago with wood, then to sponge, then to pimped rubber and now to sponge. Will we go the full cycle, back to wood and then again to pimped rubber? It could be.

Johnnie Leach thinks it will not stay. At the moment he believes it to be a sign of weakness with the players who are not capable of reaching the top on their own ability, turning to a means or a weapon to assist them. Rightly or wrongly I am quite sure the sponge will be with us for some time and fully expect to see variations of the sponge as well. There are plenty of experiments going on at the moment.

My final thoughts on this subject lead me to the penholder grip. Why, if we all contemplate changing to sponge, do we not think of this somewhat old-fashioned grip? All the Japs did not use sponge but they all used this much derided grip, and with great success. Those of us who watch Table Tennis know if we were to change to that, we should also have to become not twice as fast but ten times as fast on our feet, and I believe the Japanese, with their phenomenal speed, could play with anything and beat us.

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'WORLD' SINDELIGHTS

By **SAM KIRKWOOD**

COVERAGE of the entire tournament by the National Press was uniformly excellent—about the best it has ever been for a Table Tennis tournament in this country. It really seems that the game is at last coming into its own so far as the newspapers are concerned. Of the many fine reporting jobs done I nominate Peter Laker, of the *Daily Mirror*, as achieving the most workmanlike descriptions, and Sam Leitch, of the *Daily Express*, as turning in the most colourful.

Bumped into U.S.A. champion Leah Neuberger (Thall), who, despite her beatings, was as cheerful, chatty and ebullient as ever. She proudly showed me her engagement ring, and no wonder, for it is everything any Table Tennis girl would wish. It consisted of crossed bats encrusted with diamonds—a lovely and unusual piece of jewellery. Leah positively bubbled as she said how happily married she is. I was told she has a “lovely” husband and home. Pride of her abode, she said, is over 400 trophies, which she alone insists on cleaning—“but not often.” Good for you, Leah.

Strangest playing style on view (and there were many to catch the eye) was that of Lou Laza, the stocky Australian. He grips the blade of the bat, not the handle. Despite this freakish hold, his hitting, half-volleying and general control were good.

I liked the comment of the ex-international after a small girl had requested his autograph. “Thank you, dear,” he smiled. “One day I hope to ask you for yours.” And that was after the child had admitted she didn’t know who he was, but was collecting signatures willy-nilly from all players.

How nicely the Continentals bowed as they shook hands with umpire, officials and scorers after their games. Coming from them the gesture looked quite natural and charming, with nothing affected or clumsy about it.

One of the small fry, playing in the qualifying rounds, was asked why he looked so worried as he pondered over a programme. Said he, gravely, “I’m trying to work out who I’m likely to meet in the semi-finals—Andreadis or Ogimura.”

Speaking of Ogimura, Japan are only the second country to achieve the Swaythling and Corbillon “double” at one meeting. U.S.A. did the trick in 1936/37.

Incidentally, one particular nation made itself unpopular with its perpetual moans, groans and complaints. The country has enjoyed great success in past years, but following whackings in the current meeting had been pouncing on anything resembling an excuse for their failures. This did not endear them to the rest of the crowd.

Colours paraded by the three-dozen-odd nations dazzled with their brightness and variety. There were scarlets, greens, yellows, blues, blacks, whites, tangerines and greys in many shades to be found in the shirts, skirts, shorts, track suits and sweaters of the great gathering of stars. There were also berets, cyclists’ caps-cum-helmets, coloured and black head bands and hair-nets, keeping under control the hirsute glories of mighty man. In the stunning conglomeration of styles and hues, one team stood head and shoulders above the rest for neatness of appearance—the English. Our boys and girls, in their quiet blues and grey shorts, looked business-like as well as smart. They were definitely the sartorial élite of the gathering.

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| October 31 | County Dublin Open—Dublin | January 21 | Ireland v England—Dublin |
| November 1 | Sussex Open Tournament—Hastings | January 22/23 | South Yorkshire Open—Sheffield |
| November 2/7 | Eastern Suburban Open—Ilford | January 31 | Midland Open—Birmingham |
| November 7 | Hull Open Tournament—Hull | February 18/20 | Cheshire Open Tournament—Birkenhead |
| November 23 | South of England v Hungary—Bristol | February 25/27 | Lancashire Closed Tournament |
| November 28 | Dorset Open—Weymouth | March 5 | England v Wales—Bradford |
| December 1/5 | Central London Open | March 11 | Ireland v Scotland—Belfast |
| December 2 | England v Scotland—Glasgow | March 25/27 | North of England Open—Manchester |
| December 10/12 | Welsh Open Tournament—Cardiff | April 17/19 | North East England Open—Scarborough |
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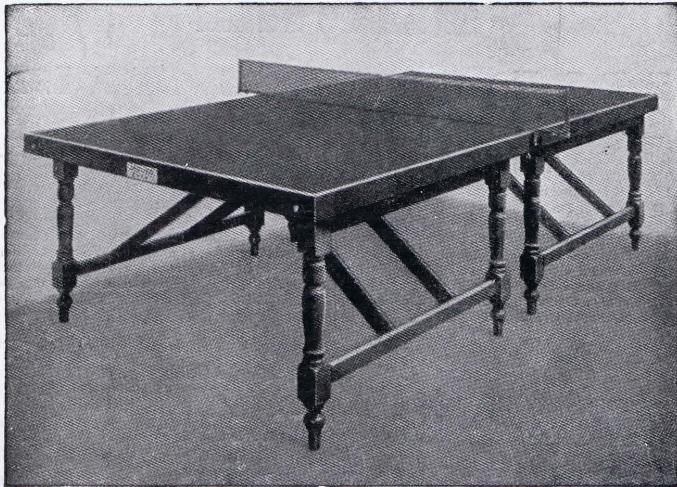
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