

1093 WORLD-WIDE CIRCULATION AND NEWS COVERAGE

Table Tennis *Review*

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No. 5

SUMMER ISSUE 1954

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

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VIEWS
AND
ROUND-UP
COMMENTS

★

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by our
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★

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Attack...

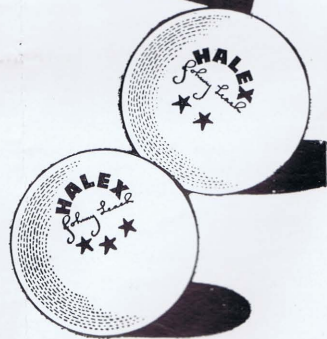
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TABLE TENNIS

Review

VOLUME 8
No. 5

SUMMER ISSUE
1954

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

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WITH the past season so recently behind us it seems scarcely believable that the next is almost on us, yet, within a few short weeks, holidays will be just another memory and the battles on the green tables will be under way.

In almost every club in the country, youngsters will be limbering up for a place in the spotlights and a tilt at the stars.

Like most other countries, we have had to lick the wounds inflicted on us in the fight for World honours. We fared little worse than others at the hands of the brilliant Japanese, but it is because of that I make my point about the youngsters. It is by no means an original one—but it is the vital one. Any side—in any game—is only as good as the quality of its reserves of talent.

Without decrying those champions who have given their all in the past there comes a time when they must reluctantly be put aside. Unfortunately for many of them that time is now if our prestige is again to rise supreme. England can produce champions just as it has in the past—somewhere among those kids playing on rickety tables are the stars of the future. The E.T.T.A. has done many magnificent jobs down the years but at this time of crisis the biggest one of all faces them—don't fail us now! Get your officials down among the 'rabbits' and almost certainly you will find a man-eater or two who, in time, and with the skilled coaching you can provide, will swallow all opposition by sheer ability.

It may be this year, it may be next, but even if it turns out to be only sometime it will be another brilliant feather in your caps when Britain is on top of the Table Tennis heap once again.

The Editor.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

by "Gossima"

IT'S galling to hear people, who should know better, decrying Tage Flisberg's performance in the Wembley final versus "Ichi" Ogimura. While we all agree that match was by no stretch of imagination a classic, it is unjust as well as arrant nonsense to suggest that it was too bad the Swede had to be in the game, etc., and so on. What seems to be overlooked is the fact that Tage reached the ultimate stage legitimately and the hard way—namely, by beating up all opposition in his path, including Richard Bergmann. Let's give credit where same is due. Admittedly the Swede looked far from hot against his Japanese conqueror—but, what a performance it was for the 39-year-old to smash his way to the final!

❖ ❖

SPEAKING of small-minded backbiters, we must hit in the teeth those particularly nasty slanderers who have been at no pains to insinuate that the inclusion of Ann Haydon in the Hungary—England Corbillon final tie was due in no small measure to fatherly influence. I personally feel it was a mistake to have given young Ann preference over Di Rowe and Kathy Best (vastly more experienced players) in such a vital match. But the tactical mistake (if indeed it was a mistake) was an honest one, I am quite certain, and had nothing to do with team captain Adrian Haydon's paternal feelings.

To suggest otherwise is to malign a great little player and her father. We can all be clever after the event. If Ann had "come off" we all of us would doubtless have raved about the youngster's brilliance—and the brilliance of the selectors' tactical move. It really is most unfortunate, to say the least of it, that our finest young player should have to be in such an acutely embarrassing position and made the target of vicious nattering. If we don't want to break the kid's spirit, and heart, or force Adrian to quit his post in disgust, we should keep our mouths well and truly shut.

❖ ❖

THE current houha over sponge bats is by no means the first to be occasioned by a "revolutionary" implement. One

such shout, an even larger one, in fact, rent the heavens as far back as 1902, when plain wooden bats were the mode. A Londoner, one Mr. Goode, was the gentleman responsible for the uproar. It seems that Mr. Goode had entered a ping-pong tournament, and some weeks before the competition he called at a chemist's shop for a headache mixture, or something. While waiting for the prescription to be concocted, his eyes fell on the rubber cash mat on the counter. Inspiration struck him. The mat seemed to be just the job, and size, to cover his bat. There followed a little business talk, following on which Mr. Goode walked out with the mat. He filed down the high pimples on the rubber, stuck it on his racket, developed a topspin drive—and played merry-hell in the tournament, winning it hands down, bat up, or what would you. The hullabaloo that went up from outraged, disgusted and thoroughly smashed-up opponents was something to be heard to be believed, so history records. Mr. Goode, in short, transferred his headache to his foes. If this proves anything at all, it is that there's nothing new under the sun (if I may coin a phrase).

❖ ❖

WITH titillating memories of the devastation wreaked by the topspeed table-splintering Japanese at Wembley, not so long back, I made a special point when visiting the Wimbledon lawn tennis championships, of casting a peeper or two on Sachiko Kamo, the lady champion of Japan. Any ideas of her creating a sensation on the sacred lawns of the All-England Club, however, were speedily dispelled. Sachiko plays an orthodox baseline game, far removed from any semblance of power tennis. She is to lawn tennis rather like what Trudi Pritzi (to which gallant Austrian lady we respectfully raise our corduroy cap) is to Table Tennis. Compared to "Mo" Connolly and the other top American girls, Miss Kamo is a plodder, a chiseller, a smoocher of the ball. I was genuinely disappointed. I'm a sucker for the unexpected, the unorthodox, the sensational!!

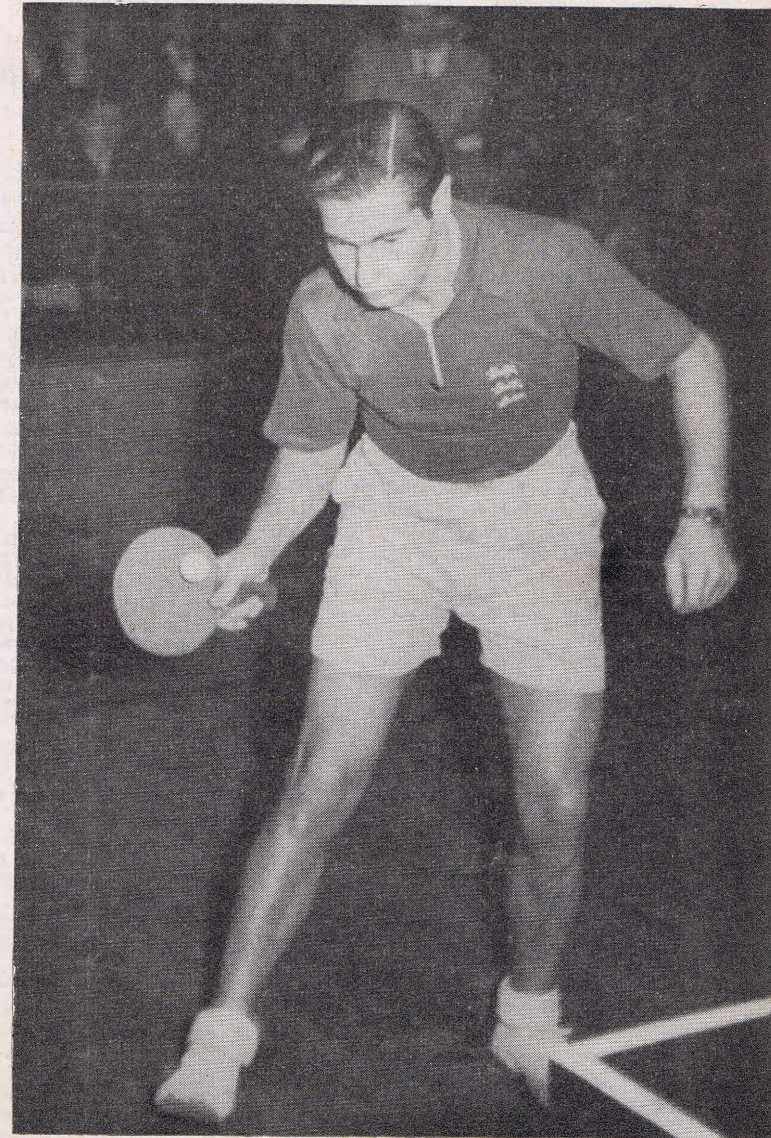
Continued in column 1, page 6

RICHARD BERGMANN:

is
he
the
'Player
of
the
Year'?

(See 'Down
the White Line')

★



Last year, gallant Aubrey Simons won the coveted 'Oscar' of the Table Tennis world. Read the summing-up of Bergmann's achievements on page 6 and decide for yourself whether Richard should have this crowning glory added to his triumphs.

BEST WRITTEN OPINION (100 words on a postcard) WINS ONE GUINEA

DOWN THE WHITE LINE *Contd. from page 4*

PLEASANT pickings for those lean Surrey stalwarts, Ken Craigie and Tony Millar. The two of 'em played a series of exhibition matches at several London cinemas on the A.B.C. circuit. The pay wasn't astronomical, but it no doubt helped the lads towards paying holiday expenses.

IT'S going to be a somewhat ticklish job selecting the winner of the Victor Barna Trophy—the cup awarded to the “Player of the Year,” and which was won last season, so you'll remember, by that stout-hearted performer, Aubrey Simons. Take a look at those who must be the leading candidates for the honour and their feats during the past season, and see if you can decide on whom you'd bestow your personal vote. First there's Dickie Bergmann. He set up a record by winning the English Open singles for the sixth time. He also reached the semi-finals of the World singles, and dropped only a bare total of three games in the entire Swaythling Cup series. Further, we mustn't forget his magnificent win over Ferenc Sido in the England—Hungary game last November—a win that helped us to take the match 5—4, after we were very stickily situated at 1—4 down. No other man is within several miles of this record.

To the girls. Diane and Rosalind Rowe won the English Open doubles for the fifth successive year, and won the World doubles for the second time in four outings. Ros also reached the semi-finals of the World mixed. Ann Haydon reached the final of the World Women's Doubles, and was, at fifteen, the youngest English player to earn a Corbillon Cup team place. Kathy Best reached the World Women's Doubles finals.

And what of the man after whom the cup is named, Maestro Victor Barna? At forty-two he reached the final of the World Men's Doubles and the semi-finals of the Mixed. Grand performances and grand performers all. Myself, I take Bergmann as the winner on all-round performance.

WHAT a pity that some stars grow out of their hats. One particular player, I am sorry to record, is fast becoming the talk of Table Tennis circles, via his supreme conceit, his know-all attitude, and condescending manner even to those his superior in talent as well as knowledge. Yet not so long ago, before he made a bit of a name for himself, he was a most likeable and modest person. Take a tip, you youngsters. You play only because you like to, and do no-one a favour by so doing. The important thing is to be esteemed as a nice person and sport.

Sheffield League proposes Fee Increase

★

THE 1953-54 season was an eventful one in every sense for the Sheffield and District Table Tennis League, it was stated by chairman Mr. S. Rosenberg at the annual meeting in Sheffield in May. The only cloud on the horizon was finance, where a big improvement was needed.

Clubs, officials and committee officers had co-operated in a hard-working partnership, and they had proved themselves capable of organising any major event. This proof of their ability had given the League a great deal of prestige, but for Sheffield to take its rightful place in Yorkshire Table Tennis it might be necessary to make substantial increases in fees. Otherwise there was a danger they might become “also rans.”

He paid tribute to the work of Secretary-Treasurer Mr. E. Brownhill “who has been a real find,” to Mrs. R. D. Renshaw, and to Mr. A. T. Scholey and Mr. L. Atkin.

Mr. Rosenberg also thanked Mr. Steade, their president, through whose efforts greater press coverage than ever before had been obtained.

Reporting a £16 loss on the season, the treasurer said that throughout the season the League had struggled along in a hand to mouth existence... on a number of occasions they had scraped along and avoided being overdrawn by a matter of shillings.

“It is impossible,” he warned, “for an organisation the size of ours to be carried on in such a way—a balance is needed in the bank—accounts must be settled promptly—and I implore all local clubs to consider the proposition to increase the subscriptions. If Sheffield Table Tennis is to progress, money is badly needed.”

Complimenting the Y.M.C.A. on their brilliant performances during the season, the Competition Secretary also paid a tribute to the success of Ray Dove who was unbeaten in every League game he played.

The list of the League's individual competition winners and Divisional champions appears on the facing page.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE 1953-1954

COMPETITION WINNERS

COLLIER CUP (MEN'S SINGLES). J. CROOKES (Sheffield Y.M.C.A.). Runner-up: K. Uttley (Sheffield Y.M.C.A.).

J. C. SMITH CUP (LADIES' SINGLES). Mrs. J. BUTCHER (P.O. Phones). Runner-up: Mrs. P. Timmins (M.S.C.).

COWEN CUP (YOUTHS' SINGLES). B. WOOD (Sheffield Y.M.C.A.).

CARVER CUP (GIRLS' SINGLES). P. GREEN (Sportsfans).

SOWTER CUP (VETERANS). G. BURGIN (Casuals).

DRAKE CUP (MEN'S 3-A-SIDE). SHEFFIELD Y.M.C.A. Runners-up: Casuals.

HALL CUP (LADIES' 3-A-SIDE). P.O. PHONES. Runners-up: Eastwood.

CUTLER CUP (MEN'S DOUBLES). M. SIMPSON/G. UNDERWOOD (Rotherham Y.M.C.A.). Runners-up: A. Murphy/R. Ridge (Crofthouse).

CLARKE CUP (MIXED DOUBLES). M. SIMPSON/J. LING (Rotherham). Runners-up: J. Butcher/J. Crookes.

HINCHCLIFFE CUP (LADIES' DOUBLES). Mrs. J. BUTCHER/Miss J. DAVIDSON (P.O. Phones). Runners-up: Mrs. M. E. Roebuck/Miss J. Ling (Eastwood).

WEMBLEY CUP (WEMBLEY PAIRS). J. CROOKES/R. DOVE (Sheffield Y.M.C.A.). Runners-up: J. Powell/J. Bell (Casuals).

LEAGUE WINNERS

DIVISION 1 (WORTLEY CUP). SHEFFIELD Y.M.C.A. “A”

DIVISION 2 (FOSTER CUP). SHEFFIELD Y.M.C.A. “B”

DIVISION 3 (THOMPSON CUP). SOUTHEY “A”

DIVISION 4 (TAYLOR GILL CUP). WADSLEY BRIDGE “B”

DIVISION 5 (RUTLAND CUP). M.S.C. “A”

DIVISION 6 (BELL CUP). KILLAMARSH “A”

DIVISION 7 (NICHOLLS CUP). NORTHERN HIBERNIAN.

DIVISION 8. HADFIELDS “A”

LADIES (PRESIDENT'S CUP). CASUALS.

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from 'down under'

TABLE Tennis Review certainly gets around! Yes, it even has a hold in Australia, where its news and views have claimed hundreds of readers. One of them is the fabulous Miklos Szabados, who writes:—

"AFTER reading the last few issues of 'Table Tennis Review,' I couldn't help endeavouring to give my views on the much publicised dullness of the finals of the last few English Championships.

"I have read a lot about the standard in my day compared to the present day—predominant to the favour of the former. This, however, can never be proved. I am certain of one thing—that in our day a purely defensive player would not have worried us. Possibly we did hit harder and utilized more top-spin because of the 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " net. We also preferred soft rubber, which naturally grips the ball better. I noticed that among the new players, hard rubber is used (viz. Bergmann and Leach), and naturally they won't hit when the pressure is on because they never feel the consistency as we did when passing the ball over 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

"Since I left Europe in 1937, I have not seen any top class Table Tennis. I was fortunate to see and play against Victor and Richard out here about 4 years ago, and a little later against Johnnie Leach and Michel Haguener. Except for Johnnie, the others were all playing in my day. My impressions were that Johnnie is a brilliant player, but for him to hit out a top defence player seemed impossible. Johnnie Leach took up the game when the net was lowered, Richard became a top player when the net was lowered. "I would like to see the net back again to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " or 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

MONEY ANGLE

"Talk about the money angle these days connected with winning a title being a reason for 'chiselling' is wrong, because in our days it meant just as much to us.

"I have played many finals against Victor—World finals, English and Hungarian finals, etc., and quite often we waited for the right ball to start to hit. In this way a set could last 20 minutes; however, I believe they contained all the variations in the game. I consider that Victor's strength was his defence, and so was mine—naturally we had to be careful not to overhit with the same strength all the time, because that would have given too much advantage to the defence player. By setting yourself with the idea that you won't hit because your opponent's defence

is too good, however, is wrong—because by doing this, you can lose confidence in your drive and find it impossible to change your game.

"I received an invitation to take part in the Jubilee Cup and wish to tell readers that I would have been very happy to make the trip, but unfortunately I am tied down in Sydney with two Academies. Another thing which prevented my participation was that half way through last year I developed 'tennis elbow'.

"Nevertheless I sincerely hope that within the next two years I will be able to visit England again, and possibly play a few exhibitions."

Shall she be beaten before retirement?

Thirty-four-year-old Angelica Rozeanu, World Singles champion for the past five years, is contemplating retirement. The reed-slim, doe-eyed Rumanian brunette may compete in the 1954/55 World Series at Utrecht, Holland, next April, but if she does it will definitely be her last appearance on the international scene.

What may decide her to play in Holland is the fact that if she should take the title for the sixth time, she will have beaten the record, which she now shares with Hungary's Maria Mednyanszky, who won the World Singles for five successive years (1926/7—1930/1).

On this to-play-or-not-to-play point, Angelica faces a problem. Is it better to leave the game as undefeated champion and with reputation undimmed, or take the risk of being beaten (a big risk, this, at her age and with so many deadly young rivals on her tail) and thus losing some of the lustre attached to her name and fame? That is a question only she can resolve.

However, "Angel," when she goes, will be sorely missed, for she is a very great champion and a modest personality whose head has never outgrown its crown. She has set a grand example to youngsters in on and off the table behaviour as well as in her play.

ESSEX "CLOSED"

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RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-finals: B. Brumwell beat J. Carrington, 19, —16, 19. R. Stevens beat L. Sawyer, —15, 12, 16. Final: R. Stevens beat B. Brumwell, 6, 21.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Miss B. Milbank beat Miss Y. Baker, 15, 21.

MEN'S DOUBLES

R. Stevens/R. Raybould beat J. Carrington/S. Norton, 15, —11, 17.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Miss B. Milbank/Mrs. E. Carrington beat Miss Y. Baker/Miss J. Page, 11, 16.

MIXED DOUBLES

R. Stevens/Miss Y. Baker beat P. Pudney/Mrs. E. Carrington, —18, 19, 18.

BOYS' SINGLES

J. Bradford beat D. Wiggins, 16, —14, 19.

GIRLS' SINGLES

Miss S. Pickard beat Miss E. Wells, 21, 11.

BOYS' DOUBLES

J. Bradford/T. Cornell beat R. Meel-ing/H. Gaunt.

VETERANS' SINGLES

S. H. Sugarhood beat R. Markwell.

It isn't often that Table Tennis folk sing the praises of their "backroom boys" in public, so it was very refreshing to receive from Mr. C. J. Hoare, of the Alresford and District Table Tennis Youth League, this tribute to Mr. H. A. Richards, Hon. Secretary of the Winchester and District League, who staged the England v. New Zealand international clash, at the Guildhall, Winchester, on March 3rd.

The Winchester League, he says, has battled through some hard times, but they certainly believe in striving towards progress and have met with no little success.

Mr. Hoare goes on to add that the International match is the climax of the Committee's untiring efforts, and that a great deal of the credit must go to Mr. Richards for his conscientious and hard work.

ONLY A FEW LEFT!

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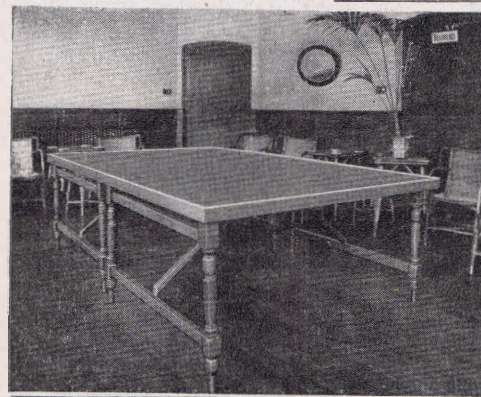
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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A UNITED NATIONS PLAYER declares: 'T.T. is U.N. International'

IN the twenty-five or more clubs in the United Nations Secretariat, the Table Tennis Club under the chairmanship of Marcelino Monasterial (Philippines), can proudly claim its uniqueness. Its members have come from different countries of the world from Argentina to Zanzibar.

The Club founded in 1948 has a peculiar history in comparison with other Table Tennis clubs. Like its parent body, the United Nations, it has moved from Lake Success, Long Island, New York, to Flushing Meadows, Queens, to its present quarters on the 8th floor of the 39-storey Secretariat Building in 42nd Street and East River Drive in Manhattan, New York City.

Like other clubs it has humble beginnings. Starting with just a handful of members, it has grown to its present 200 or so members. The membership comprises all races, colour, classes, creeds and professions. In the Club, you can see the aims of goodwill, friendliness, peace and sportsmanship, as embodied in the U.N. Charter, manifested at all times.

AT RANDOM

Let me give you a peek inside the Club's playing area during the lunch hours between 12.00 and 2.00 p.m. or after office hours between 6.00 and 10.00 p.m. Let's pick one table at random. There you can see two players. Nothing extraordinary in that. But if you find out more about them, you might be surprised to know that one is a director while the other is just a mail messenger. Let us proceed to another table where a mixed doubles match is on. Again, nothing especial about that. A closer look, however, would show a blonde female playing with a coloured boy against another mixed doubles partner of brown-eyed brunettes. What democracy! And

this goes on everyday, not only on special events as a world championship tournament.

The executive board running the Club is just as international. The president is a Filipino, the vice-president a French girl, the Secretary-Treasurer an American girl, and two board members without portfolio a Pakistani and a Colombian.

Now, let us become acquainted with the Club's leading players:

Men: 1. Marcelino Monasterial (Philippines); 2. Kreshimir Horvat (Yugoslavia); 3. Homy Jhabvala (India); 4. José Machado (Brazil); 5. Adrian Brown (England).

Women: 1. Pauline Robinson (U.S.A.); 2. Christine Thomson (U.S.A.); 3. Ulrika Schiller (Ecuador); 4. Suzanne Belwood (France).

UNORTHODOX

Mr. Monasterial, the Club president and Men's Singles and Doubles Champion for four years, is a one-armed left-hander who has an unorthodox style. He has a very steady defence, a tremendous backhand flip and a medium-speed forehand shot. His use of only one side of the racket and over-all Table Tennis strategy has earned him victories over Philippine Internationals Austin Aguacin (who has taken a game off Bergmann and Leach) and Teofilo Ibañez (who has beaten U.S.A. internationals Reisman and Cartland) on his last vacation in Manila in December, 1952.

Mr. Horvat, a Yugoslavian delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, is a defensive "stonewall" type of player who beat Harangozo for the championship of Yugoslavia a few years back. He has also vanquished the brilliant Roothoof and the pen-holder Dolinar.

Mr. Brown is an excellent player whose style is mostly attack and more attack. He was Table Tennis team captain of Oxford University in 1939-1940. We will hear more of this English lad, believe me!



'GO INTO THE CORNER!'

suggests HERBERT STONELEY
(NEW ANGLES ON SHOT MAKING)

"CORNER PRACTICE!" you may have snorted, "What on earth is that?" But if you do not know, and that is more than likely, do not cast aside what could be valuable practice ideas, by not reading this article to the end.

All you require in your table tennis room, wherever it may be, is a corner cleared of pictures, ornaments or other encumbrances, leaving it clear for some feet above the usual height of play. Then, if you desire to use the table tennis outfit, though it is foolish to have this moved once it has been set and levelled, drag it lengthwise across the corner. Failing that, just put across the corner where you intend to obtain this unusual but highly efficient practice, any other table with a good surface, providing, of course that it is the same height as the table you use for play.

You will notice there is no mention of a net. You do not require one for this. Indeed, it is better to use the table lengthwise across the corner, and get down daily to a solid half hour—more if you like of course—of improving your shots, your style, your general ability.

NOT SO FOOLISH

By playing on your own and hitting a ball at the corner may sound foolish to you, in so far as you may not realise how good a form of practice this idea really is. Let us take it to pieces in the way the Americans do, and see this idea from the inside.

In the first place, far too many table tennis enthusiasts fail, or never get beyond a certain level of efficiency through lack of practice. Even when practice is religiously maintained, often enough it is with the same partner, or at most, three or four different partners. The result is by constant play with these same partners, you get to know each other's game, their peculiarities, and their best shots. Your practice deteriorates into a mechanical kind of exercise, which may keep your muscles in trim, may even speed up your shots, but does not allow you to practice in a way which would fit you to meet the unexpected. Corner practice will obviate such things. Indeed it will in time, develop the unexpected and different shots which win games.

QUITE DIFFERENT

By using the table, or something similar, lengthwise across the corner, you are given a length of "court" which gives more than the usual confidence. By playing at a corner you have two surfaces which are quite different from each other. In this way, by striking the left corner, you get a return which is at times slower or faster, according to the surface, atmosphere, and other things, than a partner would return to you.

You will note also, that in ordinary stroke play your ball is returned to you at an angle which you can pretty well judge, though this never becomes so mechanical that you can afford to treat it mechanically. All this applies to a ball which is struck at the right hand side of the corner.

From this point, however, we enter a reign of unexpected shots and returns, which, in the main, will be different in speed, flight, and bounce, from those delivered by a player, and for reasons which explanation will make instantly clear.

A shot which you send as near to the corner as possible will react in a fashion no living player can imitate. Take the left hand side of the corner, the ball will strike this left hand side, jump across to the right and come back to you speedily on YOUR LEFT SIDE, but so quickly that other things are bound to happen.

UNEXPECTED PRACTICE

Believe me, you will find you DO improve, in all phases of your game by this method of practice, but there is far more to it than that. When you strike the corner direct, or possibly not quite direct, other things will happen. Here you are reaching the region of unexpected practice. From some angles you will find this last method returns the ball with a peculiar flight. It can be a kind of straight-rising, sudden-dip return which is all to the good of your play.

Again, you will find that by some strokes which are made by you lower, or higher, than usual, the ball will return, sometimes like a bullet with spin, or again without spin; sometimes with a wobble of ten too slight to be seen, or again, so slow as to be exasperating to you. You will get few of these variations if in practice with a partner. Which means, that in time you are going to have a variety of shots in your locker.

Do not assume, however, this corner form of practice is simply for the singles player. It has the utmost value for doubles and can be invaluable for partners who desire to play regularly together.

In fact, there is no reason why a net should not be fixed at the regulation height and distance from you in practice, adding immensely to the proficiency of this form of making good players better. You, your partners and opponents, could be astonished at the advances made after say only one solid month, of up-to-date corner practice.

SAM ★ ★ ★ KIRKWOOD'S ★ ★ ★ COLUMN

I SAID before the Wembley "do" started that I hoped our selectors would remember that reputations alone don't win titles, and later criticised the choosing of five over-30 men for our Swaythling side. The "old" hands failed, but I have no desire to say "I told you so" or to indulge in recriminations. Rather would I look to the future... and perhaps impel others who matter to do the same.

It must be obvious even to our "we-love-the-old-favourites" authorities that the time has come to think of new faces, young faces. Johnnie Leach has done nothing of importance these past two years and is just another first-class player. Aubrey Simons had a poor 1953/54 season and showed definite signs of deterioration. Harry Venner, never quite a world-class player, is less than ever one now at 32 or thereabouts. And Ken Craigie, past 30, is obviously unlikely to gain the vital spark needed for success in top international circles.

Richard Bergmann, in his prime a genius, has at 35 degenerated, but is still a great player. He alone of the veterans is worthy of a future Swaythling place. It is around him that I suggest we "blood" a new team.

Such as whom? Such as Brian Kennedy, who to my mind at least is England's No. 2 player and on the way to bigger things. Such as Brian Merrett, whose best is yet to come and which will come all the quicker if he is given the breaks. And Alan Rhodes, whose "gutty" Table Tennis is genuine Table Tennis and not a superior sort of ping-pong.

Treat these younger men now as England aces, and give them the chance both to improve and prove themselves in battle against the very best. Maybe they won't shake the world next season—but then, neither did our tired veterans last season. At least the former have youth on their side and are capable of climbing up the ladder. Past honours can avail us less than naught, but young players are the very stuff of the future and *must* be treated as such.

SO the Russians have, at last, come into the I.T.T.F. fold. Let's extend a very cordial "Welcome" to the newcomers, not only because they'll provide interesting opposition but because here is a chance to make new friends and help lift that little old I.C.

PERSONAL note to the *Daily Mirror* tournament organisers. May I respectfully suggest that in future you take heed of the fact that reporters deem it rather essential that they get a clear view of proceedings? Press seats for this year's finals were sited immediately behind an enormous display of strung-together model giant bats and balls.

Nor were programmes available. It was only after protests and inquiries, and because many seats remained unsold, that the handful of scribes at the Royal Albert Hall were eventually given pews, which allowed an unobscured view of the arena, and also handed programmes.

OUR old friend, the sponge bat! Amusing to dwell upon what might happen in five years' time if "spongers" are in general use. Along comes a daring pioneer with a pre-historic (A.D. 1953) pimpled rubber bat—and rouses screams of protest from players to the effect that the noise of his hideous implement ruins their concentration. "Ban the freak!" demand sponge-users. Down, imagination... down, boy.

AS a pastime, and anticipating the International Federation, I've summed up the merits of individual players and national sides, mainly on World performance and list them in this order, with champions taking pride of place.

MEN (INDIVIDUAL): 1. I. Ogimura (Japan). 2. I. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia). 3. R. Bergmann (England). 4. Y. Tomita (Japan). 5. T. Flisberg (Sweden). 6. R. Miles (U.S.A.).

WOMEN (INDIVIDUAL): 1. A. Rozeanu (Rumania). 2. Y. Tanaka (Japan). 3. F. Eguchi (Japan). 4. E. Koczian (Hungary). 5. G. Farkas (Hungary). 6. R. Rowe (England).

MEN (TEAM): 1. Japan. 2. Czechoslovakia. 3. England. 4. Hungary. 5. Rumania. 6. France.

WOMEN (TEAM): 1. Japan. 2. England. 3. Hungary. 4. Rumania. 5. Austria. 6. Czechoslovakia.

Now I'm ducking—quickly.

ULTRA-KEEN types, these Table Tennis fans. Parties have already booked to holiday in Holland next year, to see the

Continued on page 30

It's that Bat again . . .

Discussed by M. S. HACKNEY

MORE SPONGE TROUBLE!

WHAT the devil of a shenanigans has blown up these past few weeks over that soft and deceptively innocent-looking babe, the sponge-rubber bat. Judging by the ill-concealed hoots of indignation wafted from sundry quarters, one would think the thing was a diabolical instrument specifically designed to annihilate Table Tennis and the more pure-minded of its followers.

IT seems even the Association are regarding the bat in the same way as some do the hydrogen bomb. At least the E.T.T.A. have gone to the extent of asking certain leading players for their views on the weapon. For what purpose is anybody's guess.

What do those players think? So far as I can judge, not one has a good word to say for the S.B. Some say outright that it should be banned, and at least one contends that it threatens to rob the game of spectacle. All give the impression that we'd be better off without it.

NO EVIDENCE

The curious part to me is that those who so hotly suggest it should be outlawed give no indication as to why they think this way. If experts offered concrete reasons explaining why the sport would be better without the bat, we might be inclined to show a little sympathy for their views. We might even begin to understand them. But they merely say "away with it" and let it go at that. Which, on the face of it, adds up to illogical nonsense.

Even the glib "rob the game of spectacle" opinion holds less than no water, knowing as we do that in recent years the game has been subjected to cascades of raspberries by virtue of its poverty of spectacle. A lot of us could declaim at length on ping-pong played with pimpled rubber!

Is fear behind all this "anti" splurge? The sponge-using Japanese took four of the seven titles at the World rally in Bombay two years ago, in the process shaking our aces rigid.

Also, Tage Flisberg, Sweden's sponge king, has this season been showing scant regard for Dickie Bergmann and Johnnie Leach. Perhaps this has created a complex amounting to near-panic amongst our

stars and also given our ruling body an attack of the jitters. Who knows?

Certainly the bat is awkward to play against. No-one denies it (I've had my bashings at the hands of sponge wallahs!). But is that any reason why it should be scrubbed out of the game? If it is, then a good case can be made out for shouts against every little thing we find awkward. Like a forehand or backhand smash, spin, the drop-shot, or anything else we can't take in our stride and which baffles us. There's no limit to what we could attack and rage against.

The S.B. comes within the rules. It infringes no regulation. It isn't freakish and has no magic powers. Which means that sponge-users have an equal right to condemn the orthodox article if they so wish. And why not? The farce has tentacles. What would be the official reaction of the Association to a round-robin from "spongers" appealing for a ban on pimpled rubber? Having loaned a big ear to wielders of the orthodox racket the authorities would be bound in all fairness to give serious heed to a protest from the other side.

Not for me to preach at the Association, but I hope they continue to bear in mind the fact that it's skill alone that really matters, regardless of whether a player uses sponge, a frying pan, pimpled rubber, or the lid of a top hat.

Spare a little sympathy for Middlesex County members, the Film Renters League. Last Christmas one of their best Committee workers, the very likeable secretary Vic Alderson, passed away. Then Frank Poole, for years a dominant and efficient figure as chairman, was transferred from London to the North of England on a business promotion, and thus was lost to the Renters. And now Sam Parry, their treasurer since pre-war days, has been killed in a motor accident.

Into the breach has stepped Harry Edwards, the Middlesex team manager, as chairman; but despite his sterling worth, the Film people are tottering under the combined effect of their series of misfortunes. Being resilient they'll weather the storm—but what an unhappy time they've been having.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS are suggested

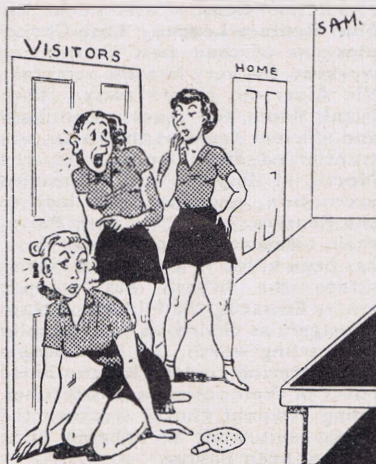
THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION put forward to the E.T.T.A. annual meeting proposals in connection with special awards to members with over 21 years' service to the game. Their views were that 21 years' service, without any thought of deriving any considerable income from the game, should be recognised.

Each member League, they said, should have the right of recommending to the County Association individuals whom they wish to be honoured; the County Association in its turn to forward, if approved, the names to the National Executive Committee for final approval.

The award should take the form of some simple plaque, such as the ones given to the tournaments run in aid of the World Championships, suitably engraved. The members so honoured to be called Life Members of the E.T.T.A. and to enjoy the following rights:—

- (i) Invitations to all E.T.T.A. functions, with complimentary tickets for wife and self.
- (ii) Their names to be compiled in seniority: e.g., date of being honoured. When future vacancies arise in the list of Vice-Presidents, the senior member of the Life Members Panel to be invited to accept the Vice-Presidency in question.

Arising from the discussion which followed, there was general feeling that something should be done either on a National level or on a County level.



"HEAR THAT?—concentrate on their No. 3, she's the weakest!"

THE STARS from BRADFORD

NEW event in the Bradford Closed Championships, the finals of which were held at St. Aidan's Hall in April, was the Veteran's Singles.

The winner was E. C. Close, who finished the season with an average of 83 per cent for the Co-operative Society's Office "C" in the Second Division. A notable performance considering he frequently opposes players half his age, as Mr. M. D. Shaffner, Chairman of the Bradford Table Tennis Association, remarked when presenting the prize to him.

At the other end of the age scale, 17-year-old Terry Miller, a member of the League and cup-winning Co-operative Society's Office "A" team, wound up a successful season by winning the Junior Singles. He beat another 17-year-old, Bob Martin from Butterfields. Terry lost only seven of 72 First Division sets this season, during which he has represented Bradford in Yorkshire Inter-League matches.

Closest final of the evening was the Men's Doubles, in which Yorkshire players F. L. Forrest and M. J. Pitts beat the Y.M.C.A. pair H. Soova and N. E. Vella, 19-21, 21-14, 22-20. Soova hails from Estonia and Vella from Malta.

Joan Bycroft (Butterfields) became a title-holder, winning the Women's Singles and sharing the Women's and Mixed Doubles championships. It was Miss Bycroft's fifth title win in as many days, for she triumphed in two events in the Yorkshire Closed Championships at Huddersfield.

During the evening a collection was taken for Charlie Walker, who in recent seasons was a prominent member of the Y.M.C.A. team and represented Bradford in Inter-League matches. Charlie is at present critically ill and it is very doubtful if he will ever play Table Tennis again.

IT'S NOT SO EASY AS IT LOOKS!

decides PETE MAXFIELD

★ ★ ★

THE World Table Tennis Championships were over, at least where Television was concerned. I lay back in the armchair, exhausted and overcome with the brilliant play of some of the finest players in the world. Then it was that I decided to take up the game.

Next evening I went down to the local club with a friend of mine who, I understood, was no mean exponent himself. After half an hour's tense waiting on my part, my friend said "Come on, here's an empty table. Got your bat?" I nodded, and shyly, though somewhat proudly, flourished my new bat which I had purchased only that morning.

I walked to the table practising the shots I had witnessed on T.V. "I'll serve if you like," he said, "It doesn't really make much difference." "O.K." I said, dancing up and down as per the experts.

He served, and honestly I've never seen a ball perform such weird and wonderful gyrations as that one did. It swerved, dropped, rose again and then shot off at right angles, missing my bat by at least two feet.

I looked at my friend. "Are you sure that ball's round?" I asked, "Of course" he answered. I looked hard at the ball, tested it to see if it was weighted and was finally convinced that it was all right. "Must be the table" I muttered hopefully.

His next service went the same way as the other to prove it wasn't the ball or the table which was bad—but me!

"Match nerves" I thought, remembering what I had seen and heard on T.V.

After three more serves of terrifying variety I was given the chance of using my bat—it was my turn to serve. I bent down to the level of the table and served. the ball hit the edge and rebounded into my eye. At least I was keeping my eye on the ball!

My second sent the ball screaming into the crowd of onlookers who had gathered to watch the game.

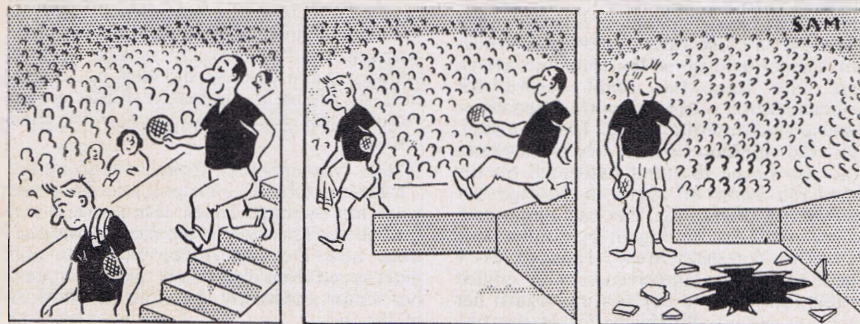
"Next time" I thought "I'll get it on the table," which I did, only to see it come back at twice the speed it left. I bounded over to meet the return and felt a blow right between the eyes.

"Oh, bad luck" shouted someone, which remark fetched a roar of laughter from the ever-growing crowd. "I'm afraid I'm more used to the sorbo bat" I tendered hopefully.

After the roars of laughter had again died down I served, masterfully, I thought. The ball hit the top of the net, ran along, balanced precariously for a second, then dropped over on to my friend's side of the table. This shot was met with a storm of "Ooohs" which I thought were of admiration. I glanced smugly at the crowd. "That's one of my best serves" I said. The remark was met with utter silence, which was better than the laughter!

My last serve was smashed back and fetched me a terrific crack on my fingers—my excuse for getting out of the game, I pleaded a broken finger. More laughter!

After this experience I've decided not to watch the ice hockey—I'd be dead within a second if I tried it!



The 'MIRROR' was TOO CLOUDED

by SAM KIRKWOOD

PERHAPS it was the stifflingly close evening; maybe the event followed too closely in the wake of the World Series to be anything but anti-climatic; it might have been the atmosphere of the half-empty hall; or possibly it was a combination of all these things: but whatever the reason Finals Night of the *Daily Mirror* national tournament at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on May 13 was, by and large, flat and lacking in sparkle as the proverbial flat beer.

The organisers would perhaps do well in future to hold their event earlier in the year, while Table Tennis still interests followers. And on the lesson learned from their latest rally they might also forget about doubles exhibitions by anyone except really tip-top pairings.

The special doubles match between past "Mirror" winners, Len Adams, Diane Rowe and Ann Haydon, and last year's runner-up Eddie Still, of Glasgow, grated on the nerves. It was a five-setter—and plodded its yawn-producing way to four games. For the record, Ann and Len won 17-21, 21-15, 21-18, 21-14.

However, on to the girls and boys to whom the evening really belonged, the finalists who had ploughed their way through round after round against 11,000 other would-be champions, to earn the right to appear in the huge circular hall.

Belle of the Ball

BELLE of the ball was without question Helen Houlston, fair-haired, blue-eyed, rosy-cheeked 16-year-old Edinburgh girl, who is a well-known battler North of the Border even though somewhat obscure in the Metropolis. The Scottish lass emulated Diane Rowe's feat of four years ago by taking both the girls' and women's titles. Diane was 17 when she pulled off the "double," so Helen's achievement must be rated a better one in that she is a year younger.

In the opening match, the Junior girls' final, she faced pert-nosed, curly-haired Sheila Ball, also 16 and from Southsea, and was given a close ride. Edgy, jack-in-the-box Sheila, a lover of the forehand attack and with somewhat scant regard for defence, belted everything that lifted more than an inch off the table. Her accuracy, alas, did not quite match her enthusiasm. And too prone to stand flatfooted on the backhand wing in order to indulge her passion for slamming, she was caught out of position time and again by counter-hits down her forehand area. Nevertheless I liked her fiery aggressiveness and angled hitting, and despite her beating regard her as being potentially the better of the two

girls.

Helen contented herself—rightly so—with defence, a steady, easy-flowing affair which Sheila couldn't succeed in penetrating often enough. The Southsea girl was twice within a point of taking the first game, working up from 19-20 to 21-20 and then to 24-23, only eventually to lose at 24-26.

The second was a point-for-point struggle, with Sheila, her nose in front throughout, scraping home at 21-19. Sheila seemed set for another win in the third, jumping off to a 4-0 lead and hanging on up to 13-12, when Helen took over to run out on top at 21-17, the winning point coming from a muffed service by her foe.

Sheila, still cheerfully banging away, looked to have Helen at her mercy in the next stanza, being 7-1 and then 14-8 up, but her steady rival pulled up, earning seven points in a row and going on to take the game, and match, at 21-19.

One-sided

THE Boys' event was a very one-sided affair in which tiny Eddie Hodson, 15-year-old Hornsey schoolboy, beat slender, tallish Derek Finan, of Dukinfield, Cheshire, with no trouble at all in three straight, 21-5, 21-17, 21-14. Or perhaps it would be more correct to say that Derek beat himself. Possibly due to nerves, the luckless Cheshire lad just couldn't do right, hit after hit of his going into the net or off the table, while his feet got "tongue-tied" in the most alarming fashion. Having reached the final the left-hander must be far better than he looked on this important occasion, and he has my sympathy on a showing I am positive did him no justice. Still, all credit to diminutive Eddie on his victory over a lad two years older than himself.

THE Women's final turned out to be the best match of the programme. Involved was our young Helen Houlston, still flushed with her win in the Junior competition, and Dorothy Ellis, well-built and determined looking Hayes girl ten years her senior and vastly the more experienced of the two.

In this match Helen left defensive tactics to Dorothy and assumed the attacker's mantle. Her hitting crushed Dot, no mean getter-backer, in the first two games to the tune of 21-12, 21-18. Then she faltered, lost her accuracy and dropped the next two 15-21, 11-21. Dorothy had kept grimly at it from 'way back and it seemed her tenacity had cracked the tiring Scottish girl. But no! Helen gritted her teeth and came back full of fight in the vital fifth session. Playing with renewed vigour and pulling out lovely winners, Helen stayed with Dorothy throughout. Down 19-20 in the very tense final phase, she saved match point, saved it again at 20-21 and once more at 21-22, dropped her own match point at 23-22, and just pulled out to take victory at 25-23.

Not Bothered

BY contrast the Men's match was too much of a foregone conclusion to grip, although it had its fleeting moments. David House, 18-year-old Bath favourite, flattened bit-hitter Alexander Culloch, of Paisley, 21-16, 21-10, 21-6. Showing a rocklike defence and brilliant footwork which enabled him to get to drop-shots and smash them to glory-be, David wasn't bothered at any stage by the much taller, 20-year-old Alec, who hadn't the strokes or tactical know-how to cope with his supremely confident and competent opponent. David broke his bat at the start of the third set, borrowed another, and sailed on unperturbedly to leave the Scotsman standing at six points.

This Bath boy showed he has what it takes to reach the heights and we should be hearing a lot more about him in the near future.

Blistering Fury

RICHARD BERGMANN and Johnnie Leach fought an international doubles match against America's Dick Miles and France's Michel Lansky and were blasted off the table 20-22, 15-21, 19-21. Our pair couldn't stand up to the blistering fury of the Miles-Lansky attack and proved yet again that two defensive players, excellent though each may be in singles, don't always add up to a really effective top-class doubles team.

Victor Barna, immaculate in evening clothes, presented prizes after being introduced by Mr. Corti-Woodcock as not only the greatest personality in Table Tennis but of any sport.

Congratulating the winners, Mr. Jack Nener, editor of the *Daily Mirror*, explained that his paper runs the tournament not for circulation or prestige but simply because it likes to help young players. And I am bound to say that the way Mr. Nener, a big and bluff white-haired Welshman, said it, I quite believed him!

RAVENSBOURNE MADE A CLEAN SWEEP

RAVENSBOURNE Table Tennis Club won all six finals of the Dulwich and District Table Tennis League played at St. Barnabas Hall, Dulwich, in May. But they had to fight for every point.

The match of the evening was determined when J. Gray (Rav.) beat his club-mate D. Littlewort mainly by a wall-solid defence, and L. Witton (Aquarius) beat M. Ross (Rav.) by a strong, fast attack. Both sets were semi-finals in the men's Singles. The match fulfilled its promise, with Gray out to avenge his club's defeat in the semi by Witton. Witton's attack was tested to the utmost by Gray's accurate returning of almost impossible shots. After the set, the audience was convinced that the ball that passes Gray's defence will make a super-sonic bang.

Betty Isaacs cleaned up for Ravensbourne, winning the Women's Singles and as partner in the Women's and Mixed Doubles. But she and her partner were hard pressed in the third and deciding game of the Women's final: it ran to 28-27 before the winning point came.

Grove-vale club will be well to the fore next season if their Ed Sanders stays with them and improves as he has this season. Ed is only 16, but gave E. Meadows (Rav.) a good game for the Robert Jenkins Cup. This cup was presented by the Dulwich M.P., Mr. Robert Jenkins, for the top player in the Second, Third and Fourth Divisions of the League. Ed showed himself a well-balanced player with a sharp attack and a good backhand defence.

FULL RESULTS:—

Men's Singles, semi-final: J. Gray (Rav.) beat D. Littlewort (Rav.) 17-21, 21-16, 21-16. Men's Singles semi-final: L. Witton (Aquarius) beat M. Ross (Rav.) 21-16, 21-17. Men's Singles final: Gray beat Witton 21-8, 21-17, 21-19. Women's Singles final: B. Isaacs (Rav.) beat P. Squires (Dulwich Lawn Tennis Club) 12-21, 21-10, 21-19, 21-17.

Women's Doubles final: G. Tandy/B. Isaacs (Rav.) beat J. Lauper/P. Squires (Dulwich L.T.C.) 7-21, 21-19, 29-27. Men's Doubles final: D. Littlewort/J. Gray (Rav.) beat R. Dawson/L. Witton (Aquarius) 21-18, 22-20. Mixed Doubles final: B. Isaacs/D. Littlewort (Rav.) beat P. J. Syms/J. Harris (Honor Oak) 21-9, 16-21, 21-17. Robert Jenkins Cup: E. Meadows (Rav.) beat E. Sanders (Grove-vale) 21-16, 21-17, 21-19.

DO YOU DRINK?

if so . . . DO IT THE NATURE WAY!

DOES thirst prevent you from taking interest in a game or cause the postponement of play? If you are sorely tempted "to go on the bottle" while taking part in a tournament—if you lack vim then take my advice and DRINK THE NATURAL WAY TO ENERGY!

SUMMER is here with a vengeance bringing unquenchable thirsts. If you are "driven to drink" now more than at any other time of the year (and who isn't?) then for goodness sake leave those gaily coloured bottles of synthetic "energising liquids" well alone for this kind of drink never yet energised anyone! The most it can do is to create a "gassy stomach" and the resultant desire for "just one more"!

What makes you become thirsty? During the summer or after having indulged in strenuous exercise, or even having eaten wrong foods, the stomach becomes dry and acrid due to the lack of gastric juice so necessary for the proper digestion and assimilation of food. Thus, it is only a matter of time before you feel "blown up" and tired as a result of "gas" accumulating.

Sooner or later the day will dawn when you will suffer the pangs of "Water Brash," biliousness, acidity or acute indigestion. Such conditions are accelerated and aggravated by the imbibing of more "gas" contained in the synthetic "pep" so popular these days.

Palate Ticklers

These "palate ticklers" as our American friends call them, never slake the thirst but have entirely the opposite effect—making the mouth and throat dry and parched.

Do you easily become fatigued? Does that "done up" feeling come upon you whether taking an active part in a game or just sitting "doing nothing"? Are you always lacking in energy—sally forth with the best intentions but "konk out" before the half-way mark has been reached? If quenching the thirst becomes the most important thing in your life this season, (assuming always that there are no serious organic reasons for such a state of affairs) then it is time to take note!

It is not right to always feel tired. It is perfectly healthy to be so after having taken part in strenuous exercise—but you know that you cannot feel happy when you go to bed like "Wearie Willie." If therefore you have reached the depths of the abyss then you are fatigued! Fatigue is indirectly caused by thirst which creates a variety of symptoms—stomach rumblings, sluggish liver (my topic in the "Spring issue" and one which I hope has benefited you)

palpitation and other nervous symptoms difficult to "pin-point," but that they can be traced to thirst there is no doubt.

Now, the only way to drop the curtain on this constant panorama of physical symptoms and minor troubles is by drinking pure, natural juices. Though perhaps some of the juices I am about to describe may appear to lack the colour and sparkle of the synthetic "fizz" it will not be long before you find that their refreshing properties have remained after the liquids have entered the gastric regions. Instead of creating acidity with the result that your thirst—or at least, the symptoms of your thirst—the dry tongue—will have gone and you will experience freshness.

by

KENNETH RAWNSLEY

So, being sensible people take my advice and shun the "fizzy wizzy" bars which do a roaring trade out of those who cannot see through those coloured bottles!

Fruit juices are cheap and plentiful, and easily obtainable ready for drinking. You should obtain them from Health Food Stores. Orange, lemon and grapefruit juices will do the trick, though if you are inclined to be "liverish," then you would do well to avoid these particular juices. However, if you take half orange juice and half water you will be surprised how easily you can tolerate it without the drink being "thrown back" on you!

Home Brews

Leaving the ready-made drinks we come to those which we can "brew" at home in a few minutes. These drinks are all noted for their health-giving properties and have stood the test of time. By drinking them no longer need you fear being burned by the internal fire! So let's have a go at making first of all Honey Tea.

Pour one pint of boiling water over a tablespoonful of honey, stir to thoroughly dissolve. When cold drink the liquid freely
LEAVING THE HONEY IN THE JUG!

Barley Water is another "simple" drink. Take a large handful of Golden Barley (not the packaged variety) and pour one pint of boiling water over it. Strain the first quantity of water, then add a further pint.

Flavour with orange or lemon and drink to your heart's content. The kiddies will thrive on it! Now, here are a few juices which are easy to extract from herbs growing in the garden, fields and hedgerows:—

DANDELION JUICE

The drinking of this will prevent that "sinking" feeling! Take a large handful of the leaves, pop them into a jug and pour one pint of boiling water over them. You can flavour with orange or lemon. Those who are "sluggish" should drink the juice freely. It is one of the finest ways of keeping biliousness down and for breaking up gall-stones.

This is the season when the Stinging Nettle makes itself known. The juice is an excellent blood purifier and good for bladder complaints. "Pluck" the tops (with gloved hands!) and wash under the tap. Then put them into a pan and cover well with water. Bring to the boil slowly and simmer for five minutes. When cold, strain and drink whenever you feel like "opening up a bottle"! The juice must not be associated with Nettle Wine since in order to make this latter brew yeast must be added.

While writing about the Stinging Nettle, if your doctor has advised the eating of Spinach and you find it either difficult or expensive to buy here is an excellent substitute. "Pluck" the nettle tops, wash well and boil as for extracting the juice. Strain off the liquor and put the tops on a plate. Add a dab of butter, a little pepper and salt and you have a dish fit for a queen!

For Anæmia

Here is a drink which in recent years has come into its own (and rightly so) since it is excellent for those suffering from anæmia. If you are as "white as a corpse" drink Marigold Juice. Take a large handful of the flowers and wash well. Place in a jug and pour a pint of boiling water over them. Flavour with lemon or orange. Alternatively, add a few dandelion or nettle leaves and you will get a "tang" which no alcoholic beverage can give. Drink it freely—good health goes with it!

By now you should have become full of "bounce," but the time will surely arrive when you will need a reserve of energy—and quickly too! When you feel like "swallowing the Atlantic Ocean" that is the time to look to your thirst! Get back to nature if you want to drink energising beverages and at the same time avoid the symptoms of internal disorders. Even if you do possess a stomach like that of a horse that is no reason why you should ill-treat it. So, take my advice and drink the natural way to energy.

The way to good health is through Natural drinks!

West of England 'Open'

Two more Titles for Simons . . .

THE semi-finals of the Men's Singles were an all-Gloucestershire affair, **Aubrey Simons beating Barry "Sponger" White, and Brian Merrett beating "unknown" Roger Haydon.**

Jean Winn (Surrey) won the Women's Singles title, after surviving a tough draw which included the Welsh internationals, Betty Gray and Shirley Jones. Jean beat Joy Seaman (Middlesex) in the final, thus reversing their Midland "Open" result.

Jean Winn and Joy Seaman (who beat the Rowe twins in the West Middlesex "Open") accounted for Audrey Bates and Betty Gray, the No. 1 Welsh pair, in the Women's Doubles final. Jean and Joy are fast becoming a very sound combination indeed.

The dynamic partnership of Ivor Jones (Essex) and Shirley Jones surprised by losing to Aubrey Simons and Margaret Fry (Glos.) in the Mixed Doubles. Margaret Fry impressed us throughout this match.

Ivor Jones also featured in the Men's Doubles final, partnered by Alan Sherwood, but was once again on the losing side, their conquerors being Harry Venner and Jackie Head (Surrey).

One of the brightest games of the finals was between Michael Maclaren and Terry Densham (Surrey) in the Boys' Singles. Michael, playing on top of his form, just won at "deuce" in the third game.

Praise is due for the fine arrangements for refreshments, which were very tasty at extremely reasonable prices.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES : A. Simons beat B. Merrett, —14, 17, 12.

WOMEN'S SINGLES : Miss J. Winn beat Miss Y. J. Seaman, —19, 17, 13.

MEN'S DOUBLES : J. Head/H. Venner beat I. Jones/A. Sherwood, 10, 16.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES : Miss J. Winn/Miss Y. J. Seaman beat Miss B. Gray/Miss A. Bates, 13, —22, 14.

MIXED DOUBLES : A. Simons/Miss M. Fry beat I. Jones/Miss S. Jones, —18, 10, 11.

BOYS' SINGLES : M. Maclaren beat T. Densham, 13, —16, 22.

NEWS

from

QUEENSLAND

MAIN interest during April was the Brisbane Championships held April 20th-23rd. The Championships included events for all grades and entries were very good in the Men's Section, but, unfortunately, Women's interest was lacking, there being only four entries in the Women's Open Singles.

Results of the Open Events were:—

MEN'S OPEN SINGLES

Semi-Finals : H. Porter beat A. Robinson —10, 10, 20, —13, 15. C. Shaw beat R. Picking —12, 13, 17, 15. FINAL : H. Porter beat C. Shaw —18, 16, 20, —13, 16.

WOMEN'S OPEN SINGLES FINAL :

S. Irvin beat L. Pearce 16, —15, 14.

JUNIOR BOYS' SINGLES FINAL :

J. Stanaway (Qld.) beat B. Griffen (N.S.W.) 16, 19.

MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL : P. Anderson/H. Porter beat A. Robinson/C. Shaw 13, —20, 18, 19.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL : S. Irvin/G. Hutchinson beat L. Pearce/J. Clements 14, 17.

MIXED DOUBLES FINAL : P. Anderson/S. Irvin beat H. Porter/J. Sainty 18, 10.

SHOCK result in the Men's Singles event was the defeat of National Champion, Phil Anderson at the hands of an inspired Ren Picking. Anderson may have underestimated his opponent, but that does not detract from Picking's performance, which was marked by consistent and ferocious hitting on both wings and steady defence. Anderson, down 2-1, led Picking 20-17 in the fourth game, but Picking turned on amazing attacking form to level 20 all : Anderson's confidence was shaken and he overhit to give Picking the game and match 22-20 ; 3-1.

The Semi-finals and Final of the Men's Open Singles provided a large and appreciative crowd with some first-class Table Tennis. In both Semi and Final, Brisbane and Queensland title-holder, H. Porter was taken to five games and had to call upon all his skill to retain his title.

The Men's Special Singles was won by Keith Geyer who defeated 15-year-old N.S.W. boy, Rodney Howard, 2-0.

Lurline Pearce put up some solid opposition to Sherry Irvin, before going down 2-1 in the final of the Women's Singles. Miss Irvin, who is playing in Men's "A" Grade Teams competition in the current season was too steady for her opponent in the deciding game.

Thameside Open

WITH entries received from the Indian and Australian Swaythling Cup teams, and the Welsh Internationals Shirley Jones and Betty Gray this, the last London Tournament of the season, promised to be extremely interesting. Unfortunately the Indians did not arrive in time and were scratched.

Main shock was the defeat of Johnnie Leach by the former Junior International from Essex, Ken Beamish. Although Ken deserves credit for his victory, it should be mentioned that Johnnie was "dead on his feet," having only that day arrived back from Ireland, where he played in the Leinster "Open" the previous evening.

However, Leach shared both Doubles titles, partnered by Jack Carrington and Diane Rowe in the Men's and Mixed respectively.

Elsie Carrington played extremely well, beating Joy Seaman (Middlesex) in the quarter-final, and took the ultimate winner, Shirley Jones, close in her semi-final of the Women's event.

FINALS:—

MEN'S SINGLES : K. Craigie beat K. Beamish, 15, 9.

WOMEN'S SINGLES : S. Jones beat B. Milbank 7, 18.

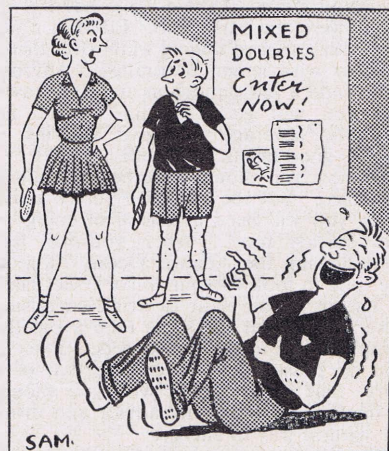
MEN'S DOUBLES : J. Carrington/J. Leach beat B. Brumwell/R. Dorking 18, 12.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES : J. Winn/Y. Seaman beat B. Gray/S. Jones 15, 19.

MIXED DOUBLES : J. Leach/D. Rowe beat R. Crayden/J. Winn 15, 18.

BOYS' SINGLES : M. Maclaren beat R. Dorking 18, 19.

GIRLS' SINGLES : J. Fielder beat S. Pickard 13, 18.



"Do you think it IS jealousy?"

HERE TO STAY?

One nation at least has no qualms about the use of sponge bats following the sensational Japanese successes at the Wembley World series. Hungary has declared its policy and now decided to manufacture them.

Prototypes are now being made at a Budapest rubber factory and leading players will give them extended tests. Mass production will begin when the experts have decided they are satisfied.

BARBARA MILBANK'S

LONDON NOTICES

ANOTHER season has now come to an end—and what an exciting one it was!

I am sure that those of you who were lucky enough to witness the World Championships will agree that there was something very special about them; and for the less fortunate ones unable to get to London—well, the last issue of the *Review* really did cover all the events excellently.

My personal feeling at the event was one of pride that our Association was capable of organising such a fantastically large scale tournament, with players from all parts of the world striving (in a very sporting manner) to bring honour to their country. This was only made possible by the wonderful co-operation between the respective sections of the administration.

Visitors were so impressed with our umpires, that I understand a number of them have been invited to the next World Championships, being held in Holland next April.

Each year brings a new idea or problem and, of course, the present one is the sponge bat. In the London area I should say at least 40 per cent of the players are trying sponge, and feverishly endeavouring to decide whether to use it next season or not! This applies to all classes of players, from internationals to beginners. Next season promises to be extremely interesting.

Before I close—please do not hesitate to write to me and tell me your news, views or queries. In the immediate future I will be especially interested to hear what your summer activities included, and how you fared. An interesting letter may win you an autographed bat!

Montagu and Vint RETURNED UNOPPOSED

WITH no nominees against them, the Hon. Ivor S. Montagu and Mr. A. K. Vint continue their great work for the game, as chairman and treasurer, offices to which they were returned unopposed at the Annual Meeting of the E.T.T.A. in Caxton Hall, London.

Mr. Vint also carries the dual role of secretary. The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E., was re-elected president, and members elected to the National Executive Committee were:—

REGIONAL MEMBERS :

Midland : M. GOLDSTEIN
M. E. SCOTT

North-Eastern : E. REAY

North-Western : N. COOK, W. STAMP

Southern : F. G. MANNOCH
W. G. GOLDFINCH

South-Western : H. J. AMERY

Eastern : L. S. WOOLLARD
H. WALKER

London : G. JAMES, D. P. LOWEN

Yorkshire : L. E. FORREST

National Members : J. CARRINGTON
G. R. HARROWER

North-Eastern : In view of the fact that the elections in this Region had resulted in a tie, the National Executive Committee recommended a further election. In the event of a further tie the National Executive Committee to fill the vacancy.

INVITATION

THE E.T.T.A. have received invitations to send a men's and women's team to tour Hungary in November and to take part in their championships. The proposal is being given careful consideration.

OUT OF THE BOOK!

by FRED K. SMITH

DELVING into the record book is fascinating, and the author of this article, which it was not possible to include in the "World" Championships issue, has provided an abundance of statistics up to 1953, which make compelling reading. We have included a panel of this year's winners, just to bring you right up to date.

SWAYTHLING CUP

IN 1953 England won the Men's Team Championship, more familiarly known as the Swaythling Cup, for the first time (at the twentieth attempt). Austria had ten attempts before succeeding in 1935-36. England's team was beaten in the 1951-52 final by the Hungarians, and so contested the final two years in succession.

For the first three years of the Competition—1926-27 to 1928-29—Hungary, Austria and England finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. It was not until 1951-52 that England's team reached the runners-up position. England is the only country to have been represented in all Swaythling Cup competitions. She was one of the original seven nations to enter teams in this competition, the others being Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, India and Wales. England holds the record for having a team competing for the most consecutive years, twenty-one. Czechoslovakia comes next with eighteen consecutive appearances, and France third with fifteen.

The English Swaythling Cup team of 1926-27 was probably the youngest ever to take part in a World Men's Team Championship. The members were C. H. Bull (17 years old), A. A. Haydon (16) and F. J. Perry (17). English players who have played for successful Swaythling Cup teams are: R. Bergmann (2) 1935-36 (for Austria) and 1952-53; B. H. Kennedy (1) 1952-53; J. A. Leach (1) 1952-53; and A. W. C. Simons (1) 1952-53. Bergmann is the only person to help to win the Swaythling Cup for two countries. He was only sixteen when he helped to record Austria's success of 1935-36.

Richard Bergmann and Johnnie Leach have each won individual world titles, but Kennedy and Simons have so far been unsuccessful. F. J. Perry and F. H. D. Wilde are two former England players who played in both Swaythling and Davis (lawn tennis) Cup competitions.

CORBILLON CUP

ENGLISH representative teams have won the Corbillon Cup (Women's Team Championship) twice, in 1946-47 and 1947-48.

Only Czechoslovakia and Rumania, with three successes each, have won more times, although Germany and U.S.A. have also two wins each to their credit. England's team has retained the Corbillon Cup once, and only Czechoslovakia and Rumania can also claim this distinction. Rumania holds the record for having a team in the final for the most years in succession with four times, but England's teams have been in three successive finals: 1946-47 and 1947-48, when they were the winners, and also in 1948-49.

In 1947-48 England's Women's Team won the Corbillon Cup Competition when it was held in their native country, while in 1937-38 they were finalists in the Corbillon Cup event staged in London. England's team has been runners-up four times: in 1937-38, 1948-49, 1951-52 joint, and in 1952-53. Only Hungarian teams have been finalists on more occasions, five, and they have never won the trophy yet.

No country has ever been represented in all thirteen Corbillon Cup competitions, so this particular record can never be held, but England, 12 (exception 1938-39), Hungary, 12 (exception 1938-39), and Czechoslovakia, 12 (exception 1951-52), have each had teams competing on twelve occasions.

England entered a team in the first Corbillon Cup Competition of 1933-34. Other teams participating came from Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary and Holland. Czechoslovakia holds the record for being the country which has had a team competing in this particular competition for the most consecutive years, with eleven. Next come England, Austria and Hungary, with seven consecutive years each. The original England team occupied fourth place after Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia in the first ever World Women's Team Championship. England won the Corbillon Cup for the first time, at her sixth attempt.

English players who have competed in successful Corbillon Cup teams are: M. Franks-Hook and V. S. Dace-Thomas (twice)—only M. Ketternova, A. Rozeanu and S. Szasz can beat this, with three appearances each—D. Beregi-Devenny (1947-48), E. Blackburn (1946-47), M.

1954

TITLE HOLDERS

SWAYTHLING AND CORBILLON CUPS

JAPAN

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)

Osborne-Knott (1946-47), E. M. Steventon (1947-48), once each. The Misses Osborne and Steventon are the only ones never to win an individual world title as well.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

OF the individual World championships, Hungary has won nine Men's Singles titles, England five, and Czechoslovakia three. Hungary has won sixteen Women's Doubles titles, Czechoslovakia six, and England five. Hungary has also won twelve Mixed Doubles (Women) titles, Czechoslovakia and Rumania three each, and England and U.S.A. one each. So far England has not produced a winner or winners of the Women's Singles, Men's Doubles or Mixed Doubles (Men) Championships. Hungary holds the record for the most titles won by any one country, with eighty-three. Czechoslovakia comes next with twenty-seven, and England a poor third with eleven world individual titles. They are five Men's Singles, five Women's Doubles, and a half share in the Mixed Doubles Championships, or five men's and six women's successes.

England's winners of world men's titles are three in number: F. J. Perry 1-0-0; J. A. Leach 2-0-0; and R. Bergmann 2-0-0 (also 2-1-0 for Austria). English women who have won world titles number six. They are: W. Woodhead 0-0-1; M. Franks 0-1-0; V. S. Dace-Thomas 0-1-0; D. Rowe 0-1-0; R. Rowe 0-1-0; and D. Beregi-Devenny 0-1-0. G. V. Barna holds the record for the greatest number of individual world titles with fifteen. M. Szabados comes next with ten wins, B. Vana next with eight successes, and F. Sido next with seven world titles. R. Bergmann has won five world titles (4-1-0). The record for the greatest number of Men's Singles title successes also belongs to Barna with a total of five. R. Bergmann has won this title four times, and B. Vana and J. Leach twice. Of the twenty annual competitions for the Men's Singles Championship, Hungary has taken the supreme honour on nine occasions and England five times.

SUCCESSIVE YEARS

OF the nineteen yearly competitions for the Women's Doubles Championship, Hungary has annexed the trophy on six occasions with a national doubles pair, Czechoslovakia thrice, and England twice. Hungary holds the record for the longest national tenure of the Men's Singles Championship with six years from 1929-30 until 1934-35.

Englishmen were holders of this title for four successive years from 1947-48 until 1950-51. The following English players have won one world title and been finalist in one other in the same year: R. Bergmann, 1947-48, won Men's Singles, finalist Men's Doubles; V. S. Dace-Thomas, 1947-48, won Women's Doubles, finalist Women's Singles. Bergmann achieved this feat twice as an Austrian, in 1936-37 and 1938-39. Richard Bergmann won his first world title, the Men's Singles, in 1936-37, and his last, also the Men's Singles, in 1949-50, thus making a total of thirteen years between his first and last world championship wins. B. Vana is the only player who can beat this long title collecting career. He won the 1936-37 Mixed Doubles Championship to start with. His last successes were winning the Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles of 1950-51, thus making an interval of fourteen years between his first and his last successes.

English players who have regained their titles after losing them are R. Bergmann and J. Leach. Bergmann lost the Men's Singles title three times but regained it after only one season's interval, while Leach did likewise on one occasion. Only three people have won world individual titles before and after the 1939-45 war

Continued on page 30

GET OUT IN THE SUN (if any)

TABLE TENNIS REVIEW



DOOMED to the wilderness or no, I again raise a lusty voice in condemning the playing of Table Tennis throughout the summer months as potty, crazy and dangerous. And I say this with all the emphasis I can muster, despite (or because of) the experts who regularly, at a season's end, blithely advocate practice during the "closed" months.

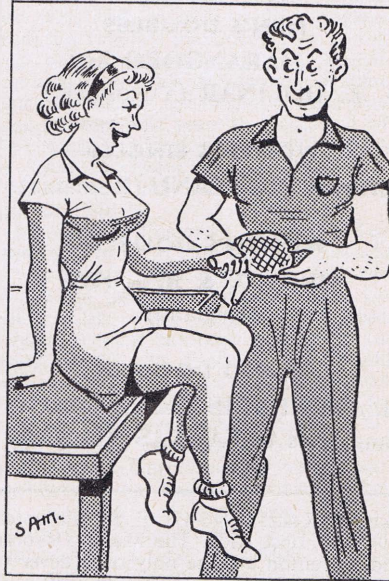
The main consideration to these learned advisers seems to be the improvement of a stroke, or footwork, or a follow-through. My shouting is based on something more vital—health. With all due respect to the sport and all in it, I don't think I'm out of order in saying it is only a game. Pleasant, but only a pastime. Exhilarating, but only a hobby. And health far transcends any game, is more important than the most devastating of forehands, forces a badge a cup or even a World title into insignificance.

I said last year (and how some berated me for my ignorant assertion!) that during the summer months youngsters should breathe fresh air while they could and as often as they could, get into the open at every opportunity and forget Table Tennis parlours and all appertaining to them. I say again: Bah! to the experts and their insinuations that an improved stroke (or whatever it is) is so important as to warrant neglect of outdoor life. They don't say it like that, but that's the sum total of their exhortations.

Dusty Confines

What prompts me to go to town again on this matter is the news that yet another of my young club comrades has been stricken with T.B., due, in the main, to a too passionate love of Table Tennis, which forced him to imprison himself in dusty confines summer and winter, umpteen evenings a week. It isn't so long back that a player (about whom I wrote at the time) left a sanatorium, after a two-year spell recovering from a lung complaint, aggravated by his attachment to the table. An unfortunate coincidence? It is also, perhaps, an unfortunate coincidence that several, always-at-it, Continental stars have been in and out of sanatoria, and that so many others, green of face and weedy of physique, seem to be halfway to the grave?

Just look around you at those who are always having a bash. Do they strike you as robust-looking athletes, or do they give the impression of being sorely deficient in colour and muscle. For that matter, if you're a several nights a week player just



"Of course it's a sponge bat. I sponged the bat off Fred and the rubber off Joe."

look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself if you can afford to spend summer hours indoors, in stuffy atmosphere, trying to better that half-volley.

This is not an attack on Table Tennis, or a warning to give it up. It also doesn't infer that it is an unhealthy sport. The game is in every way an excellent one. But I do most emphatically contend that the conditions in which it is generally played are suitable for winter only, and even then not in excess.

To blazes with those well-meaning know-alls who would have you do yourself no good at all. Let others who want a perfect drop-shot fill their lungs with dust and dirt in trying to achieve one. Listen to yours truly, Jack and Jill: the greatest gift on earth is good health. So get out into the open all you can and stay out.

S.K.

SPORT CAN BE DANGEROUS

by DONALD F. FEATHERSTONE, M.C.S.P.

WHEN, at the 34th minute of the game, Wally Barnes, the Arsenal right-back, limped painfully off the field at Wembley three years ago, not only did the Arsenal's hopes of winning the F.A. Cup from Newcastle United vanish with him, but a brilliant player suffered a severe injury necessitating weeks of treatment and the use of crutches.

Within the last few years two British heavyweight boxing champions have retired because of injuries received in the ring, and countless other athletes, both known and unknown, have had their careers cut short by injury—the occupational hazard of sport.

Others have been even less fortunate. John Thompson, brilliant Celtic and Scotland goalkeeper, lost his life when diving at the feet of an opposing forward. Ken le Breton, daredevil speedway rider was killed on the track and Georgie Flores, a young American boxer, was but one of sixteen fighters to lose their lives in the ring in America in one year.

Obviously, that is the black side of the picture. Luckily most injuries are of a relatively minor nature and as long as sport takes place men will be hurt participating therein.

In the year 200 A.D. it is recorded that the gladiators of Marcus Aurelius had a team doctor, one Claudius Galen, to tend their wounds, and to-day it is well known that certain leading athletes apparently only hang together by the skill and ingenuity of trainers and surgeons.

This is the case in football, cricket, ice-hockey, speedway, boxing, wrestling, steeplechasing, and even in amateur circles few players go right through their active careers without receiving at least one serious injury.

Statistics of the Carnegie Foundation in U.S.A. show that at 22 colleges with 43,923 participants in inter-collegiate athletics, about three per cent. of all men who took part sustained serious or potentially serious injury. It is considered that the most dangerous sports in America are wrestling, American-style football, basketball, boxing, waterpolo, swimming, baseball and track athletics, in that order.

British Universities are averse to regimentation in physical training and games, and no statistics of casualties are available, but it is stated by Dr. Salisbury Woods of Cambridge University, that approximately the same percentages apply, and that the order of games in proportion to the casualty lists is—rugby football, boxing, soccer, cross-country running, ice-hockey,

track and field athletics, rowing, swimming and fencing.

Dr. Woods goes on to say that football is the most hazardous of University sports, the high incidence of injury undoubtedly arising not only from the tradition of ignoring all hazards in going for the ball, but from lack of proper training, the playing of men who are over-tired, and of inadequate medical supervision of doubtfully fit players.

Accidents Happen

IN its fight against injury, it is estimated that the average professional football team wraps its players in over half of a mile of adhesive tape during the course of the season!

Accidents happen in all sports, foils can get broken at fencing, gymnasts can fall and ropes break in the gymnasium. Sometimes, when a cricket ball comes hurtling into the wicket at about 90 miles an hour, the batsman forgets to duck and once hit, he is likely to remember the stunning impact for a long time. A very famous batsman was hit on the head by an equally famous fast bowler and stated that a bell kept ringing in his head for months afterwards. Seven years later, he still had a lump on his head and got a bad headache whenever a storm was brewing.

Ice-hockey stands high on any list of damaging sports, most professional players have as much fancy stitching in their heads and faces as could be found in a rug, the hard rubber puck travels fast and can lay open a cheek or scalp like a razor. The players' skates are sharp, and a swift header into the boards is not the equivalent of sinking into a featherbed. Hockey sticks have been known to connect with more yielding substances than the puck, and the players can always start a fight, if things become dull!

Injuries are the occupational hazard of boxing, many bouts being ended quickly by the referee because of physical danger to one of the fighters. Boxing is far more interested to-day in the prevention of permanent injury than it was in 1910, when Bat Nelson fought Ad Wolgast. As Bat came out for the 40th round with his guard

up, he squared off against a ring post, thinking it was his opponent! Only then did someone decide to stop the fight.

More careful physical examinations weed out the obviously unfit, and a very useful accessory is the foulproof cup, invented by a man with the Runyonesque name of Foulproof Taylor. Taylor would haunt gymnasiums, wearing his cup of aluminium and sponge rubber, challenging all comers to hit him in the lower abdomen. When Taylor remained erect and smiling, his invention's worth was quickly demonstrated and fewer American titles changed hands with the new champion writhing on the canvas.

Research

A PHYSICAL training college in this country recently carried out research into injuries sustained by students during training, finding out that only six men of a class of sixty escaped reportable injury during the term, a total of ninety-three injuries being sustained. It was proved that the majority of accidents occurred when the men were tired, and that men over thirty years of age are definitely not so supple or resilient as their younger colleagues.

A prominent factor in sports injuries are the particular games that are being played; there is more likelihood of injury in a body-contact sport than in swimming, for example. Forty-one accidents were sustained during gymnastics and only one in the course of boxing!

The apparatus plays a big part. Ropes can break away from their fastenings, the padding in protective mats slips so that bare patches are left, gymnasium floors are sometimes too highly polished, buttons can come off the tip of fencing foils or a man can fall from a vaulting horse.

Space is important, there will be less injuries in a large hall than in a small one where men constantly crash into each other. It seems that in all branches of sport there is always the man or boy who will have the last jump, throw or kick. When the order is given to cease throwing the javelin or discus, this enthusiast pops up with his crazy desire to have just one more throw, and a dangerous weapon falls into the middle of an unsuspecting crowd walking off imagining the exercise to be ended.

Leadership is the answer to this problem, and it must be of a high standard so as to command respect and obedience. As man comes in a variety of strengths and sizes, all men cannot jump, throw or climb as well as each other, therefore some form of progression and grading is necessary, giving a target that can be adjusted to compensate for lack of skill or sheer physical strength. If this is not done, the smaller or weaker man injures himself in his keenness to outdo or equal his fellows.

Logbook Details

ONE of the few recorded instances of accurate records being kept concerning sports injuries took place during one season at Southampton Football Club, when the club physiotherapist maintained a daily log-book containing details of injuries and treatments. Charts were also kept, showing in graph form the rise and fall in injuries and treatments, together with players missing games, etc., as the season progressed. At Southampton it is possible for the fullest scope to be given to such research as a first-class treatment room is maintained, supervised by a member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, working with a doctor and an orthopaedic surgeon.

That season the club used 84 players in 173 matches, of whom sixty per cent. received some form of injury requiring treatment, and twenty per cent. missed one or more games through injury. The injured men visited the treatment room on 2,612 occasions and received 5,192 treatments, giving a daily average of three players treated 12 times and receiving 24 treatments. The number of treatments given to the players varied from one man who received only eight throughout the season, whilst another player had one hundred and twenty four!

It was found possible to assess "injury expectancy" by means of assuming that each game represented one exposure to injury and that an injury is only tabulated if it is sufficiently severe to cause a game to be missed, the result showing that nearly 58 exposures can be averaged before serious injury results. However, when every injury that required even minor treatment was tabulated the figures altered astonishingly. From a position where a player is able to play almost 58 games before serious injury, it is shown that he is prone to minor injury every third game! The great difference in these figures indicates that the immediate inception of accurate treatment, with thrice daily treatment sessions, will greatly prolong the playing life of the professional footballer.

Dominant Injuries

THE types of injuries received by the footballer, as recorded at Southampton, showed that bruises and knocks predominated, followed by lacerations and abrasions, then came strains, and then sprains. The knees were the most injured part of the body, followed by the calves, thighs, feet and ankles in that order. A similar questionnaire carried out amongst track and field athletes showed pulled muscles to be top, with sprains second.

In women's hockey a similar questionnaire said that bruised shins, strains and pulls were the most common injuries. The most

serious injuries in any sport are fractures, and a very frequent injury causing much trouble is concussion. It seems that the better some parts of the body are protected, the more vulnerable other parts become; for instance, suspected ankles are strapped as a matter of routine, this leaves the knee to bear the shock. As a result, the knee is the most injured part of the body, and knee injuries are increasing as compared with ten or fifteen years ago.

In almost any sport, shoulder injuries are caused when a player is knocked off his feet and tries to break his fall by landing on his outstretched arms. The full effect of the fall is passed up his arms to the muscles and bones of the shoulder girdle and something has to give way. The unprotected legs and arms get a lot of injuries. Wrists and fingers are hard to protect and break easily, the nose and face suffer frequently also.

An American football coach at one of the leading colleges recently stated that players with bandages on their faces seem to arouse sheer blood lust in the opposing team, who spend a great deal of time trying to remove the bandage and deepen the wound underneath. As a result this coach uses inconspicuous collodion, as is used in boxing, to cover the wound and hold it together during a game, a proper bandage being applied when the game ends!

Prevention

RECENTLY, the sports world has seen numerous instances of injury altering the course of events, players have had to be flown out to Australia and New Zealand to reinforce injury-depleted cricket and rugby teams. The British Speedway Match-Race Champion, Waterman, had to relinquish his title through injury. Lester Piggott, the youthful jockey, had an enforced rest when his leg was broken, and so it goes on. How can it be prevented? Or rather, can it be prevented? The modern code in sport is that control of injury and the development of a team go hand in hand, if sports are to be of lasting benefit then the number of injuries must be cut down, both in severity and frequency.

The occurrence of sports injuries is to be deplored, but not such a large percentage of them are really serious. The necessity for competent coaching and medical supervision is recognised by the sports organisations in this country. With such supervision those in charge of athletics would do well not to focus their attention on possible injuries, but on the positive benefits that sport brings to young people. To live a decent, clean life requires the whole character and personality of a man, the lessons and spirit learnt in the gymnasium and on the sports field are invaluable aids to that end.

do you suffer from these?

asks STANLEY PRESTON



Atavism. Regression to ancestral modes of behaviour. Shows itself when you snarl or mutter under your breath during a losing set. If you carried an axe in your pocket, you would probably use it on your opponent if he was leading 21-20 and dropped over a "net-trickler."

Compulsion-Neurosis. An irrational urge (such as touching every lamp-post, etc). It shows itself in certain players, who between "rests" will change their bat to the other hand and pat the table. They pretend to be cooling the hand, but in fact are victims of compulsion-neurosis.

Escape-Tendency. An attitude of evasion towards difficulties. The "raw player" may revert to this tendency if, on entering a local tournament, he finds himself drawn against a County player.

Free-Association. To allow the thoughts to flit from one thing to another. This is prevalent among many scorers, causing moments of chaos to games.

Phlegmatic. The type who never gets excited. If this kind of player upsets you, it may console you to learn that he probably has a deficiency of thyroid. Don't jeer this fact at him, however, or he may (quite phlegmatically) chop off your fingers with the edge of his bat.

Pseudo-Memory. A false memory of an experience which has not occurred. We all know the type of player who says something like the following: "Johnnie Leach? Oh, I played him once, at an Open Tournament." "Course, you can guess what happened. He beat me, right enough." (Then, quickly, with an intensely earnest expression) "I didn't do so badly in the first game—I got to eighteen. But the third game, he wiped the floor with me..."

Then he slinks swiftly away, and he is lost in the crowd before the significance of the "second game" dawns on you.

HERE AND THERE

WORLD champion Ogimura or no World champion Ichiro Ogimura, many Asiatics consider the real No. 1 player to be Si Sui Cho, the Hong Kong terror the Japanese fear, and who definitely has what it takes, as several of our Western top-notchers who have visited Hong Kong and been beaten up can also ruefully testify. Cho uses a rubber bat and the penholder style, and is a very fast attacking player of lightning speed of foot and blistering hitting power. He is freely reputed to be an A-bomb and H-bomb rolled into one—and then some. Unfortunately for us over here, if fortunately for male competitors, he was denied a trip to Wembley almost at the last moment. It seems that Hong Kong sent in her entry too late for acceptance.

The many friends and admirers of "Al" Ehrlich will be sorry to hear that the popular ex-Pole is, at the time of writing, seriously ill in a French hospital, following a burst ulcer. Here's wishing the very likeable "Al," who played in London last April, a quick and full recovery.

Last summer Ros and Diane Rowe were enjoying a tour "Down Under." This summer the doubles champions are earning a crust by working at the Butlin holiday centre at Filey, where they're coaching, giving exhibitions and organising weekly tournaments for campers. By the time this appears in print it is likely that Brian Kennedy will be performing similar duties at Butlin's Ayr camp. Brian, by the way, has made a speedy recovery from an operation for the removal of his appendix.

It is on the cards that an English team will visit Hungary in November to play an international match. Last November, you'll recollect, we beat Hungary 5-4 at Wembley after being 1-4 down. Would that the same could be said of our footballers!

The New Zealand authorities are very pleased with the showing put up by their team at Wembley—very pleased. The boys have improved considerably and obviously learned a lot in England. They hope to have the chance of going to Holland next April, although the bugbear is the cost.

Surprising happenings in the French Closed a few weeks back. Sponge-using Cafeiro beat Roothoft and then faced

Haguenauer in the semi-finals. After losing the first game Haguenauer refused to continue, conceding the match to Cafeiro. What the spectators thought, anyone can guess. Playing Amouretti, the title holder, in the final, Cafeiro used a rubber bat, ostensibly making the switch to prove his successes were not entirely due to sponge. Alas, Amouretti, in one of his not-so-temperamental moods, beat him up with hardly any bother. Which seems again to prove that it isn't good policy to switch one's horse (or bat?) in mid-stream.

The U.S.A. are dallying with the idea of staging a World Championships and have made tentative inquiries to see how the ground lies in this direction. No World tournament has ever been staged in the United States, who feel that after several visits to Europe they'd like to play the host. They also feel that an international rally would help to give the sport a big boost throughout their vast land. Indeed it would—and quite possibly—attract Mexico, Uruguay and other South American countries, as well as "outside" countries (like the West Indies) within striking distance of Stars and Stripes territory.

The world-wide demand for Victor Barna continues as strong as ever. He has had an offer to tour South Africa next summer. If he goes, there is a likelihood that he will be accompanied by the Rowe girls and Johnnie Leach. He has also been asked to visit Japan to give exhibitions. Vic has further been invited to play in Yugoslavia, as well as coach in India under a Government-sponsored scheme. The latter proposal suggests he arrive for the November 15 start of the Indian Open at Bangalore, where he would be the guest of the Maharajah of Baroda, and then put in a month's work apiece at Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras. While the South African trip is a possibility, the Japanese and Indian invitations may have to be declined, owing to Victor's many business commitments. Yugoslavia? He's going there for a holiday, so it's likely he may be persuaded into his fighting kit. Dolinar, for one, has written to say he devoutly hopes so.

Marcel Corbillon, famed donor of the Corbillon Cup, has been elected chairman of the French Association. He succeeds Monsieur Belot, who held the position for several years.

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OUT OF THE BOOK

Continued from page 23

hiatus: R. Bergmann, B. Vana and G. Pritzi.

England has produced two players who have won world titles at the first attempt: R. Rowe and her twin sister, D. Rowe (Women's Doubles 1950-51). R. Bergmann is one of only two players to win world titles for more than one country, the other being G. Pritzi.

The partnership of F. Sido and A. Rozeanu is the only international pairing to have won more than one world title, and this has been done in consecutive years. English players who have won world titles in partnership with foreigners are D. Beregi with H. Elliot (Scotland) Women's Doubles 1949-50, and W. Woodhead with L. Bellak (Hungary) Mixed Doubles 1937-38. Richard Bergmann was only 17 years and 10 months old when he won the 1936-37 Men's Singles Championship—the youngest player ever to win this particular title. He won his last title at the age of thirty-one. J. Leach won his first at the age of 26 years and 3 months, and his last when aged twenty-eight. F. J. Perry was only nineteen when he won his sole world title.

THE RECORD

G. V. Barna holds the record for being the man to appear in most world championship finals with a total of nineteen appearances. Vana is next with fifteen, Szabados after him with eleven, then Bergmann and Sido with nine each, then the unlucky L. Bellak with eight, and then Leach and I. Kelen each with six finals behind them. F. J. Perry and A. A. Haydon made two finals appearances each. M. Mednyanszky appeared in more finals than any other player, including Barna. She contested twenty-two finals in all. A. Sipos comes next with fifteen, then Farkas with fourteen, and afterwards A. Rozeanu with eleven finals appearances to date. D. Rowe heads England's list with four finals appearances, and after her come R. Rowe and D. Beregi (Hungary-England) with three, V. S. Dace-Thomas and W. Woodhead with two, and E. Blackburn, B. Somerville, J. P. Crosby, M. Osborne, L. R. Barnes, Miss Gleeson and M. Franks with one final appearance each. In 1951-52, J. Leach and D. Rowe appeared in the Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championship finals, but neither player won even one title.

English players who have not defended their world championships are R. Bergmann (Men's Singles of 1938-39 and 1949-50), V. S. Dace-Thomas (Women's Doubles of 1947-48), D. Beregi-Devenny (Women's Doubles of 1949-50), and W. Woodhead (Mixed Doubles of 1937-38). The winners of a world title in their native country include these English players.

SAM KIRKWOOD

Continued from page 12

1954/55 World Championships at Utrecht, from April 16—24. With all-in expenses in the region of £25 for the eight-day soiree, England should have several hundreds of spectators tip-toeing through the tulips, to land a crumb or two of moral support to our aces.

SENSIBLE move on the part of the I.T.T.F. in amending the Service Rule so that the ball needn't be thrown straight up from the palm of the hand. Under the old impractical "projected vertically" rule umpires needed a plumb-line and the vision of a couple of hawks to carry out their duties efficiently. Not carrying lines and possessing only normal vision, matters (apart from the ball) were getting more than a little out of hand. The law being unenforceable, the Federation have bowed to the inevitable—or, more precisely, the will of the majority.

R. Bergmann, Men's Singles 1936-37 Vienna and 1947-48 London; V. S. Dace-Thomas and M. Franks-Hook, Women's Doubles 1947-48 London; and W. Woodhead, Mixed Doubles 1937-38 London. D. Beregi, a former Hungarian, helped to win the Women's Doubles title of 1949-50 in Budapest, the city of her birth.

FIRST WINNERS

The first players to win world titles for England were Men's Singles—Fred Perry, Women's Doubles—Vera Thomas and Peggy Franks, and Mixed Doubles—W. Woodhead. Perry won in 1928-29, Thomas and Franks in 1947-48, and Woodhead in 1937-38.

The last players to hold these world titles were Men's Singles—J. Leach, 1950-51, Women's Doubles—D. Rowe and R. Rowe, and Mixed Doubles—W. Woodhead. The nearest English players have got to winning the Women's Singles is the final: 1946-47, E. Blackburn, and 1947-48, V. Dace-Thomas. English players have also reached the finals of the Mixed Doubles Championship; in 1951-52, J. Leach and D. Rowe.

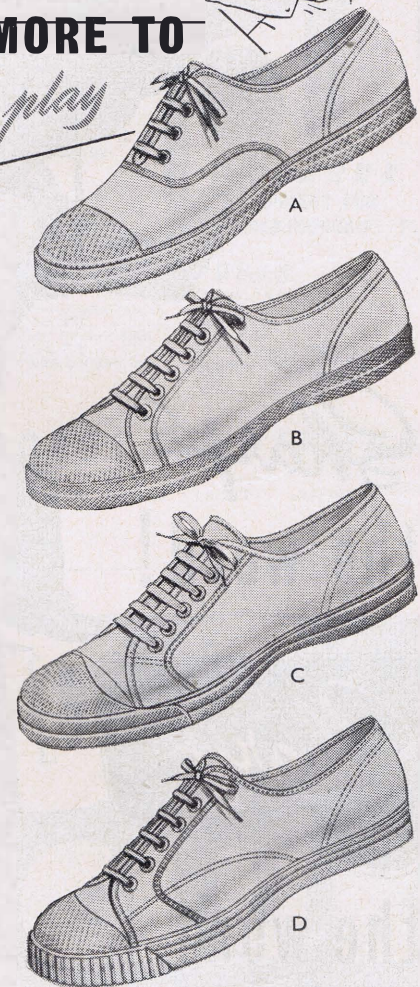
The following pairings have reached the finals of the Men's Doubles Championship without succeeding in winning it. 1927-28, C. H. Bull and F. J. Perry, 1934-35, A. A. Haydon, 1946-47, J. Leach and J. H. Carrington, 1947-48, A. A. Haydon, and 1951-52 and 1952-53, J. Leach and R. Bergmann. R. Bergmann has won the World and English Open Singles Championships in 1938-39, 1947-48 and 1949-50, while D. and R. Rowe won both these important titles in 1950-51.

No left-handed Englishman has won an individual world title, though among the women V. S. Dace-Thomas, D. Beregi-Devenny and D. Rowe have been successful.



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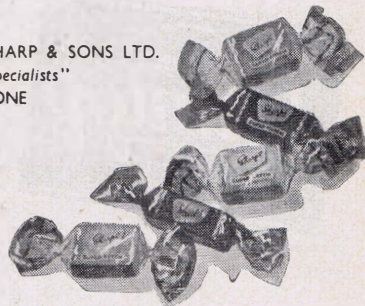
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