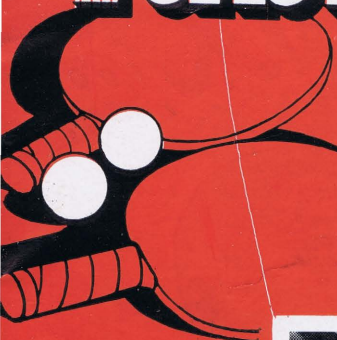


WORLD-WIDE CIRCULATION AND NEWS COVERAGE

Table Tennis *Review*



Vol. 9

No. 1

AUTUMN ISSUE 1954

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

Our

Special Correspondents
bring

The Views

BEHIND

The News

★

Tournament Diary

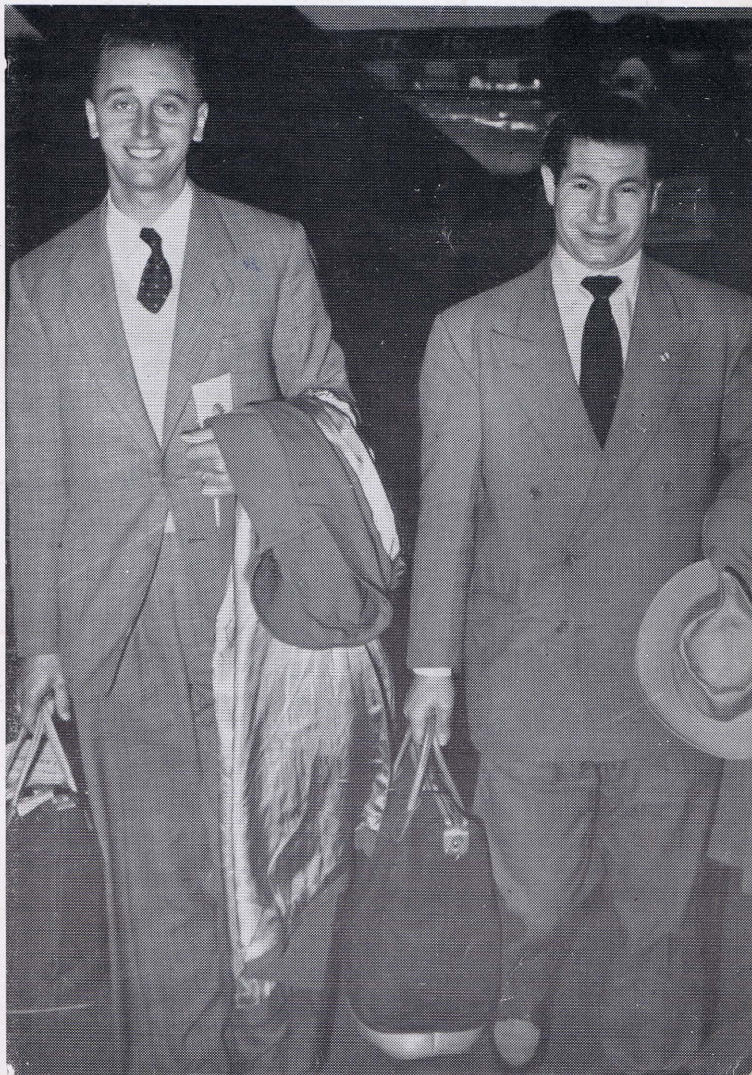
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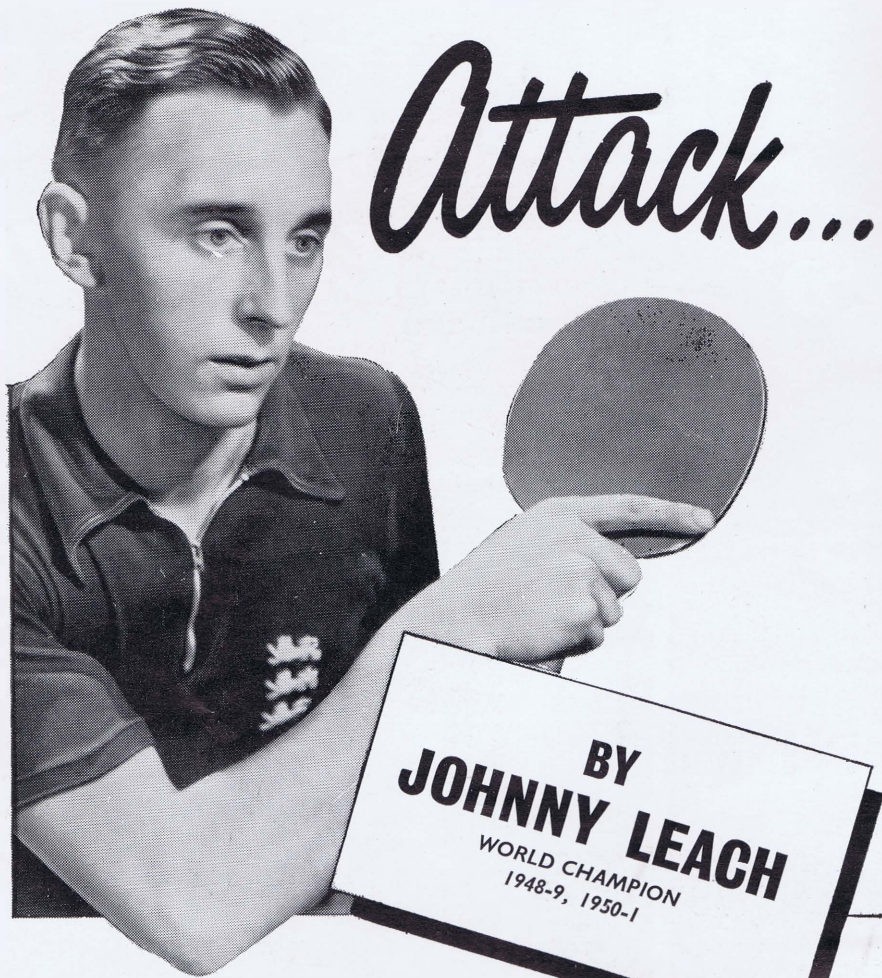
Leach-Bergmann Australian Tour

★

Cover Portrait :

Johnnie Leach
and Richard Bergmann
in happy mood on arrival at
Brisbane during their
Australian tour



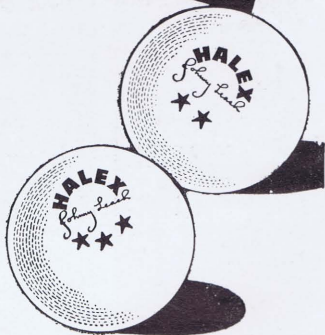


BY
JOHNNY LEACH
WORLD CHAMPION
1948-9, 1950-1

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PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

THIS issue marks the commencement of another season, and from enquiries received from all quarters of the globe, interest in the sport is going to be keener and greater than ever.

Demands for the *Table Tennis Review* indicate a complete sell-out.

Newcomers to the tables will need to keep up-to-date with events taking place both at home and abroad, since Table Tennis is an international sport, and they are advised to place a regular order for the "Review" which is the only magazine that covers Table Tennis exclusively.

If you want to learn from the masters you must read

"TABLE TENNIS REVIEW"

Issued quarterly (1/-), with an additional issue covering the World Championships event.

See page 15 for Subscription Rates

TABLE TENNIS

Review

VOLUME 9
No. 1

AUTUMN ISSUE
1954

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

Publishers: B.F.R. Publications Limited, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, 3. Phone: Central 0260

AND another new season is under way. The 1954-55 campaign brings with it new hope, fresh enthusiasm, and a resolution to do better than ever. In the clubrooms of youth where the keen youngsters taste the thrill of competitive play for the first time, and in the high places where the stars battle for international recognition, the fight is on, and everywhere there can be seen the zest necessary to put Britain back on top of the heap.

Be you international or beginner you can do no more than try, and the indications from all sources are that you are determined to give the effort everything you have. Given that effort we shall go close to real success, but being human we can only hope for the one thing against which none can legislate—that slice of good fortune so essential to any sportsman or woman. Here we keep our fingers crossed in the hope that fickle fortune won't be so fickle after all.

Here's wishing each and every one of you months of good sport, bags of luck, and above all, a season packed with friendship and healthy comradeship both on and off the table.

Now—on with the game!

The Editor.

Concerning TONY MILLER

"NOW I've got off the mark, perhaps I'll cease to be England's champion reserve." That's what Tony Miller, London stalwart who towers a lanky 6-ft. 3-in., said after learning that he had been selected for Surrey's first team. And with good reason.

Although he's been working like a beaver for some six years and notched his share of successes in all sorts of tournaments and representative games—as witness the fact that last season he was listed officially as England's No. 6 man—he has stopped, or been stopped, just short of the marks he aimed for.

For a long time he was almost a permanent fixture in his county's second-surrey side; he has been first reserve (jointly with county mate Harry Venner) for the Swaythling Cup side; and first reserve for a home international against Scotland. "So near yet so far" seems to be a tag specially concocted for him. Small wonder that his lack of full recognition in all directions was getting him down.

Having at last made the grade with Surrey, it may well be that that elusive England badge will at long last come home to roost on his shirt. At 27 he's by no means too old for top honours—particularly when we consider that the country's leading men have left the 30 mark behind them and still find favour with the selectors.

Tony deserves his badge for determination if for nothing else. There's no more dour or dogged player in the game, nor a more reliable team man.

It has been said in playing circles that

the main reason why Miller hasn't been made an England man long before this is because he is too unspectacular, too negative, too defensive. To this "charge" Tony has only this to say: "I play all out to win every time I go to the table, and use the tactics I think essential to the occasion. As for my style—well, I think you could name quite a few players who have performed very successfully and been popular without being ball-bashing tear-aways."

Anyhow, here's hoping he passes on the "champion reserve" title to someone else—for good.

NEW STAINES & DISTRICT PRESIDENT

It was announced at the fixture meeting, on September 30th, that Mr. B. L. Virgo had, for domestic reasons, tendered his resignation as President. Mr. Virgo, whose resignation was regretfully accepted, had been president since the League restarted after the war, and has given the League much valuable support.

His successor is Mr. Murray C. Gibbs, a vice-president for some years. Mr. Gibbs is already well known to many players of immediate post-war years, when he was an enthusiastic player with Bennett's Club. Since he gave up active Table Tennis he has been a regular supporter of the League at all its big matches and championships.

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HERE ... AND ... THERE

WHILE in America, Richard Bergmann is joining Dickie Miles, with whom he is to tour the States as part of the Harlem Globetrotters act.

The two Richards will of course do their stuff during basketball intervals, as did those much-suspended U.S. ex-Swaythling stars, Marty Reisman and Doug Cartland, in previous years.

Bergmann's stay in America is likely to extend over several months, but it's almost certain he'll come back to defend his English Open title and, later, spearhead England's Swaythling team at the World meeting in Utrecht.

If, by the way, that international with Hungary at Budapest does indeed take place in November, England may look a little blue without R.B.

Must tell you about the fanatically keen but very rabbitish youngster who got into such a frightful turmoil about the game that every night he suffered from nightmares in which he dreamed he was playing and narrowly losing to the world's great stars. This went on night after night, and the lad, hollow-eyed and haggard from the ordeal, went to a psychiatrist about it. Said the "trick cyclist": "Change the trend of your thoughts. Try to dream that you're holding a beautiful girl in your arms." Screamed the patient in a shocked voice, "What!—and miss my chance of beating Ogimura?"

Victor Barna may, so he tells me, accept the offer to coach in India for three or four months. It seems that a visit would be propitious for the undertaking of certain personal ventures, and while "Mister Table Tennis" isn't keen to be away from home for so long a period the chance to combine business with business might sway the issue. If he goes it will be at the end of the month, in time for the start of the Indian Open.

Happy to report that "Al" Ehrlich, who recently was in a bad way following a burst ulcer, has made a quick recovery and is active at the table. The doleful-looking but actually very cheerful ex-Pole has been coaching in Sweden these past few

weeks. No doubt he and that other sponge-bat user, a lean Swedish bloke named Flisberg, have been trying out on each other yet thicker and bigger "silent sound" weapons. Watch out, Richard!

Have heard tell that that hard-hitting Yugoslavian, Harangozo, who with "Tubby" Dolinar holds the World's Men's Doubles title, has threatened to bow out of competitive play. The story goes that Vilim is somewhat peeved that his country has not shown the "appreciation" he apparently feels is owing to a World champ and which Iron Curtain states have a habit of bestowing on their successful athletes. Thus the reported rumpus. My bet is that the star will be around for a long time yet.

Eyebrows were raised when Bobby Stevens, the Essex lad, whipped Brian Kennedy in last month's East of England tournament, at Skegness, which Stevens went on to win. But Bobby, a brainy player who knows what he's doing and is rarely guilty of a slipshod display, has been on the fringe of big things for some time. Although we can't pay too much attention to results thus early in the season, we can nevertheless hope that Bobby's win presages the advent of a star destined to gleam for a long time. Heaven knows, we can do with new blood in the upper circle.

Incidentally, that washbuckling partnership of Ivor Jones and Shirley Jones (not related, except for a mutual love of the cannon-ball zipper) displayed their usual brand of pyrotechnics when winning the Skegness mixed event. The easiest description of their game could be: "Crash—Bang—Wallop," or, "That's the Joneses—that was."

M. S. HACKNEY

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GORDON R. WALKER'S

SCOTTISH JOTTINGS

RENFREW FOUNDRIES, First Division Women's champions and holders of the Peter Coia Cup for the past two seasons, will be without star performer May Mattinson this year. May was West of Scotland Women's Singles champion two years ago, and last season was joint second in victories averages for league matches.

May's home is in the wilds of Rutherglen, and the journey to Renfrew was too long. So she will line up this season with Dalmal; a factor which may well upset the Renfrew monopoly, for Dalmal are not all that lowly, and May and her team-mates may well do the old club down before the season is very old.

Fun and games for all, and nervous strain for the stars, are always provided by the Y.M.C.A.'s gruelling pre-season trials. The Y.M., First League champions since 1950, and for two years holders of the Maxwell Wilson Cup, work on the principle of the survival of the fittest, and those surviving best, at the time of going to press are Metcalfe (two defeats), Mattinson (two defeats) and Campbell (three defeats).

Scotland will play Ireland at the Govan Town Hall, Glasgow, on Friday, December 3rd, and on the Saturday and Sunday the Scottish Open Championships will take place in Philip's Works Canteen, at Hamilton, Lanarkshire. It promises to be quite a week-end, but reports that Jack Hillan, the West's President and still playing at sixty, has already started training by running round the block twice each morning before breakfast, come from unreliable sources, and are probably spurious.

Scottish Table Tennis got off to a good start this season, when it was given a place in the Sports Exhibitions which took place

during the evenings at the Scottish Industries Exhibition. This is the type of occasion which can be very good for the game, because the audience contains so many people who know nothing of it, and are probably seeing it played properly for the first time; Helen Elliot and Jack Hillan made good use of the opportunity.

I hear that Monty McMillan, now serving with the R.A.F., in Yorkshire, has met up with a regular colony of Scots players in his area. Johnny Braithwaite, Alan Glass and Billy McCandlish are all there or thereabouts, and Monty will not want for practice. He has hopes of playing for the R.A.F., and is at present trying to get into a club where Brian Kennedy and young Thompson are members. Good company! Maybe this Forces lark isn't the hardship it's made out to be.

Reference. A. D. Culloch (*Daily Mirror* runner-up):—Attentive readers (laugh now) will remember that last season I tipped this player for the Scottish team. Unfortunately he too is soon to be due for call-up. No wonder the selectors are very much anti-conscription!

Table Tennis authorities up here are determined to send some Scots to the World Championships at the Hague, by fair means or foul, and I hear that a Sale of Work is shortly to be launched. Full marks for enterprise.

How they finished.—Winners in the West of Scotland Leagues for last season were as follows:—Division 1 Central Y.M.C.A., 2 P.O. Recreation, 3 Ferguslie, 4 (A) Chance Bros., 4 (B) P.O. Recreation, 4 (C) Pearce Institute, 4 (D) Thermo-tank, 5 (A) Baillieston, 5 (B) Lenzie, 5 (C) Coats' Staff, 5 (D) Hamilton, Women's A Renfrew Foundries, Women's B P.O. Recreation, Peter Coia Cup Renfrew Foundries, Maxwell Wilson Cup Central Y.M.C.A., House of Harris Cup Baillieston.

BRAZILIAN 'CHAMP'



FERNANDO OLAZARRI

In the last Swaythling Cup contest played at Wembley, the Brazilian team, consisting of the sponge-bat players Ivan and Hugo Severo and Dagoberto Midosi, were regarded as "dark horses." They made a great impression when they beat the French team, and also when Ivan Severo beat Aubrey Simons and Hugo Severo beat Johnnie Leach, but now these "sponge-pen-holders" have been completely mastered on their own ground.

In the Brazilian championships, which are played every two years, Hugo Severo was eliminated by teenager J. Roth, in the quarter-finals, while Ivan Severo was defeated by another teenager, Betinho, in the semi-final.

The Men's Singles title was won for the first time ever by a player using the orthodox grip and ordinary rubber, and his name is already familiar to Table Tennis magazine readers in this country—Ferdie Olazarri.

The final, between the eighteen-year-old Betinho, who uses the pen-holder grip and ordinary rubber, and the popular Olazarri, was fast and exciting. Betinho attacked continuously, but Olazarri's defence held firm and on many occasions he counter-attacked successfully. Scores were 21-14,

21-11, 6-21 and 21-19 in favour of Olazarri.

In the men's team event S. Paulo, consisting of Betinho, Roth and Olazarri, easily defeated the ex-Brazilian Swaythling Cup team, I. Severo, H. Severo and D. Midosi, who represented Rio de Janeiro, the score being 5 games to 1.

Yorkshire Victorious

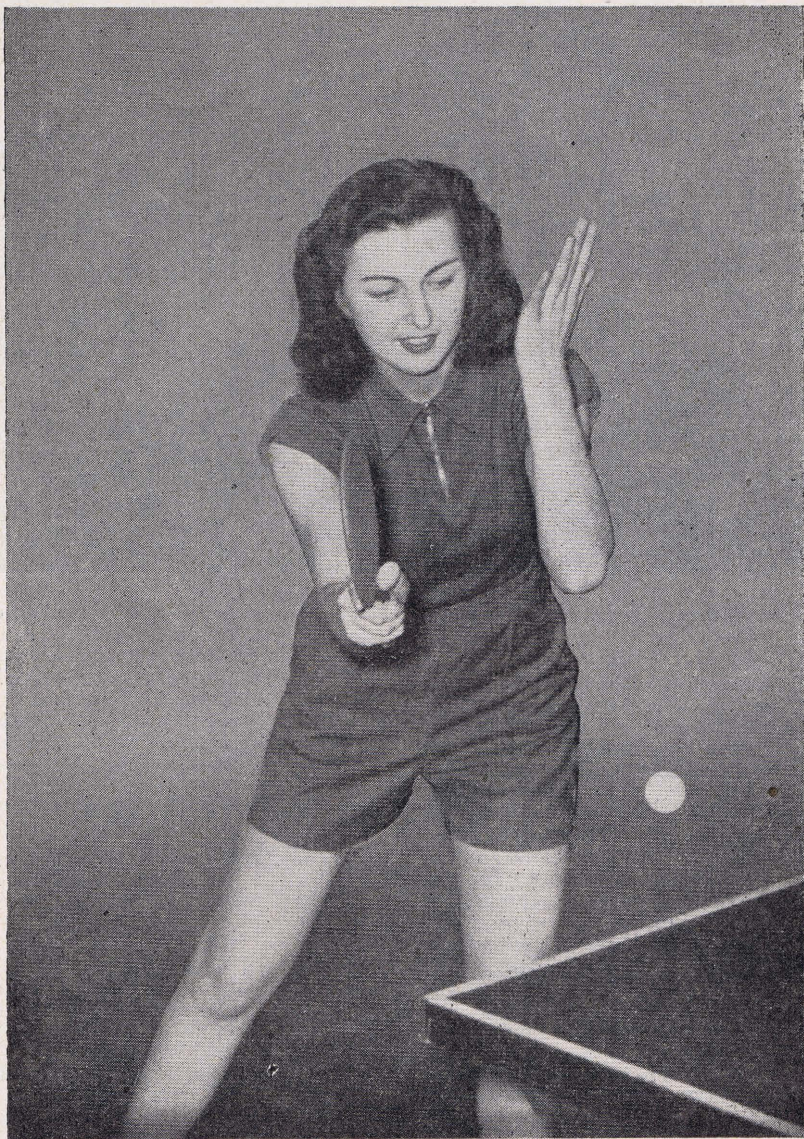
Yorkshire beat Durham by eight events to two in their first second division county match at Starbeck on Saturday, October 2nd.

RESULTS

S. Dyson (Huddersfield) beat G. Lumsden 15-21, 24-22; beat J. Whittingham 21-15, 19-21, 21-9. B. Pennington (Huddersfield) beat K. Holland 21-17, 12-21, 21-16; beat J. Whittingham 21-11, 21-16. R. Jackson (Hull) lost to K. Holland 13-21, 21-13, 16-21; lost to G. Lumsden 17-21, 21-15, 19-21. Miss J. Preston (Knaresborough) beat Mrs. G. Brown 21-18, 21-15.

L. F. Blyth (Leeds) and S. Dyson beat J. Whittingham and G. Lumsden 21-13, 21-14. Miss J. Preston and Miss P. Ingleson (Leeds) beat Mrs. G. Brown and Miss M. Howard 21-12, 21-14. L. F. Blyth and Miss P. Ingleson beat K. Holland and Miss M. Howard 21-11, 21-13.

Keep your Eye on Pam!



Remember this charming young lady? It's Birmingham's Pam Mortimer, rated as "up-and-coming" three years ago, and now ranked No. 3 (Group "A") Woman player in the E.T.T.A. list. "Nice going, Pam. Keep it up!"

THE MEANEST CHEAT OF ALL

CHEATING takes many forms, some more subtle than others, and all despicable. But the cheat who takes the biscuit for low cunning and mendacity is, for money at any rate, the person who deliberately robs his opponent of the pleasure of victory, be it in match or practice.

You know the type of chap I mean, because he's around everywhere. He's the gentleman who's all bounce, energy and eagerness when he's on form and belting you all over the place. There's absolutely no end to his zest and concentration when he has his winning patches. He's so enthusiastic at these times, in fact, that he can barely wait to get cracking on the next point. And he lets you—and everyone else—know all about it when he wins, never fear.

But when he happens to be on the losing end, when he can't have things all his own way, that's when he goes into his beautiful act. Of what does the act consist? After trying his best to beat the hide off you and is gradually forced to the realisation that this time it's no go, he adopts an air of nonchalance, of bored indifference. His whole attitude broadcasts, as it is intended to: "The other bloke is only getting his own way because I'm fed-up with this fool game."

Is there anything more infuriating to the honest trier than to see "Mr. Cheat" at the other end play possum in this manner—this "Mr. Cheat" who's all show and fire when he's on top but who, when he's receiving a caning, makes a fine pretence of not taking you or the game at all seriously, of being oh so casual, lazy, couldn't-care-less?

Myself, I don't mind an "honest" cheat, like the chap who tries to pull a too-quick service or sneak a point on to his score; but the mean fox who tries, via his theatricals, to play down me and my efforts, who in his inferior moments attempts to act the all-high superior—him I could cheerfully clump with every atom of my strength.

This abominable hyena of Table Tennis went with Frank Burvill to a post and moved to take up a fresh job in Stevenage. He has been connected with Table Tennis since pre-war, and became secretary of V.C.D. Athletic during the war.

When Dartford League resumed, Mr. Burvill was on the original committee. In 1946 N.W.K.T.T.A. formed and Mr. Burvill was elected vice-chairman. When the N.W.K.-T.T.A. were the first local association to hold an open tournament in Kent he was appointed the organiser, and was largely responsible for its great success.

WILMOTT CUP AND J. M. ROSE BOWL

The Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl have this year attracted 101 and 73 entries respectively.

These competitions are for teams of men and women players representing Leagues and Directly Affiliated University Clubs attached to the E.T.T.A., and are based on a knock-out system. The entrants are drawn into geographical zones. The preliminary rounds reduce the entrants in each zone, and the closing rounds are between the zone winners.

Former International

The Wilmott Cup was presented to the Association in 1934 by the late A. J. Wilmott, former English Veterans' Singles Champion, also former English International and Chairman of the Equipment Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation. It is a Men's team championship. Matches take the form of 3-a-side, 9 singles. The original cup was lost in the bombing of the E.T.T.A.'s offices in 1940. The present Cup is a substitute. The holders are the South London League (they have won it six times in all—1936/7, 1949/50, 1950/51, 1951/52, 1952/3 and 1953/4—the only other League to compete with this record is Manchester, who have won five times). The winning South London team was again represented by R. Crayden, J. Head and H. Venner.

The J. M. Rose Bowl was presented in 1938/9 by the late J. M. Rose, ex-President of the South London Table Tennis League, and one of the pioneers of the game in this country, who decided to put up a trophy football, or tennis. The holders are tennis, of Len Hutton at cricket—all masters of ball control.

The Foundation

"Without absolute control," emphasised Hashim, strokes must be faulty, execution patchy, one's whole game, in fact, subsiding on a foundation of sand. My own game, such as it is, is built entirely around control. It took me many hundreds of hours of hard work to achieve it, and I keep practising hard, daily, to retain it. Without it I'd be an awkward stumbler."

Thinking it over, who can doubt that what he says is absolutely correct.

MELODY KELEB

*explains her theory on***'THE WAY TO WIN MATCHES'**

WHAT is the first essential to success in Table Tennis? It is to enter the game and to go on playing with the firmly set idea that you are going to emerge as the winner!

This is simple enough when you know you are up against an inferior player, and on such occasions tactical play is practically superfluous. Your game is so much faster and more consistent that you can hardly help winning.

On the other hand of course, if your opponent is the superior player who could even give you a ten points start, tactics would be comparatively unimportant. Unless your opponent was in very bad form at the time it would hardly matter what you did. You just could not win.

In playing against opponents with pretty much the same standard as your own, believing that you must be the victor will help you to achieve that aim. It is so important to have confidence in yourself.

Important Factors

Accuracy and surprise tactics are two most important factors. When a famous International was asked about his method for success, he said it comprised forty per cent. strokes, forty per cent. temperament, and twenty per cent. luck in the draw. This may perhaps have been an exaggerated opinion, but however good your strokes the controlling influence of a balanced match temperament is essential. It covers all the ground outside actual ability.



Remember this charming young lady? It's Birmingham's Pam Mortimer, rated as "up-and-coming" three years ago, and now ranked No. 3 (Group "A") Woman player in the E.T.T.A. list. "Nice going, Pam. Keep it up!"

stroke. Consequently, he can utilize slow top-spin and play the ball high over the net in the certainty that you will merely play the ball back defensively.

It is not easy to get very much chop on a very slow return. Should the half-volley be used, your return will lack sting too.

Should you possess exceptional patience, you can manage to last out against such tactics, but your play will still depend on your opponent's actions.

He will probably best you if he varies slow top-spins with occasional faster drives and drop-shots. The defensive player's tactical answer is sometimes to hit out as a tactical reply. Strange though this may seem, it means that the hitter will then be forced to maintain a fairly average speed for his attacking shots; as he will be afraid of bringing your hit into action.

A player having made a long series of defensive strokes previously makes it more difficult for hits to be returned.

Be sure to make one or two successive attacking strokes and this will show your opponent your ability to attack off a slow high return. Make them hard hits! Most defensive players have some kind of hitting stroke to punish loose returns with certainty.

Service Groundwork

From the attacker's angle, service can be used as the groundwork. Serve either to win the point outright or generally to make your opponent give a return which you can hit. Try not so much to keeping the ball in play as to preventing your opponent from doing so. It has more risk but it does

purely defensive or attacking players it is because he is not good enough at any one stroke to win the point, or has failed to utilize his whole game because of a defect in match temperament.

If advantage is not taken of his superior stroke equipment, he must go out for his shots when they are "on." The one-stroke player encounters no such difficulty in selection, for he can play only one stroke, although he sometimes harbours an abnormal sense of anticipation about the playing of his one special shot.

A definite strength in your game, and a stroke in which you have entire confidence above all others, will accrue with increased experience. The real strength of your play can be judged by your opponent's reactions.

Moment for Risk!

An experienced player can often ascertain how to overcome his opponent by observing his first few shots. Indications of nervousness or uncertainty at the critical stage of a match can carefully be observed. Then, is the moment to take that slight extra risk. To play for safety would only enable your opponent to recover.

By adopting an outward appearance of unruffled composure, you will eventually attain the habit of taking things calmly. Nervousness only betrays inexperience and tends to exaggerate all that happens in the match with the result that your weakness becomes your opponent's strength.

Concentrate on every point in the play. Every first-class player has a great ability to think of nothing but the match itself whilst playing. It demands the exercise of much will-power but it is the final asset to ensure a good match temperament and eventual success.

LOSS TO NORTH-WEST KENT

North-West Kent Table Tennis Association lost one of its key men when Mr. Frank Burvill resigned his post and moved to take up a fresh job in Stevenage. He has been connected with Table Tennis since pre-war, and became secretary of V.C.D. Athletic during the war.

When Dartford League resumed, Mr. Burvill was on the original committee. In 1946 N.W.K.T.T.A. formed and Mr. Burvill was elected vice-chairman. When the N.W.K.-T.T.A. were the first local association to hold an open tournament in Kent he was appointed the organiser, and was largely responsible for its great success.

*and a***SQUASH PLAYER says . . .****"It's CONTROL"**

★

ASKED to name the assets vital to a good game, we'd all doubtless vote for the same things: but it's a safe wager that few of us would agree on the one thing we think to be the most important of the virtues. Fitness? stroke-play? eye? anticipation? execution? speed? ball control? tactics? fighting spirit? Which gets your vote—and why?

Personally I have never been sure which to regard as the No. 1 of the lot, and thus was glad not long back to have the chance to discuss the matter with a man I regard as the greatest games player of this or any other age, to wit, Hashim Khan, the Pakistani thunderbolt. Not, perhaps, famous outside his own particular sphere, but one revered inside it as the most wonderful squash player ever seen.

Supreme Master

Hashim is a supreme master at every facet of the game commonly acknowledged as the world's fastest and most exhausting; a fantastic athlete who can almost make the ball turn a somersault in mid-air at will and keep going at full pace when even first-class exponents are ready to be put into an oxygen tent.

As squash and table tennis have something in common as ball games, I thought it no bad idea to hear what Hashim had to say on the important asset. His vote was cast without hesitation. It was Control. "In all ball games," he said, "you can't be a player unless you have perfect ball control. All else, with the exception of fitness, stems from that—speed, anticipation, strokes, the lot."

To prove his point, he reminded me of the superiority of the Hungarians at football, of "Mo" Connolly at lawn tennis, of Len Hutton at cricket—all masters of ball control.

The Foundation

"Without absolute control," emphasised Hashim, strokes must be faulty, execution patchy, one's whole game, in fact, subsiding on a foundation of sand. My own game, such as it is, is built entirely around control. It took me many hundreds of hours of hard work to achieve it, and I keep practising hard, daily, to retain it. Without it I'd be an awkward stumbler."

Thinking it over, who can doubt that what he says is absolutely correct.

S.K.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

by "Gossima"

THE Bishopsgate Institute, in the City of London, offers its members the use of nine tables every Wednesday from 5—10 p.m. throughout the year, for the sum of ten shillings. Few clubs in Britain, if any, offer so much for so little—yet, believe it or not, the Institute often sees no more than two or three players having a bash! And let there be no mistake about it: the tables and conditions are not far short of first class. Bishopsgate officials have for a long time now been trying to find out why facilities are all but cold-shouldered. And yet all around us we hear of players queuing up for games at too-popular clubs!

NOT all players are ambitious and goggle-eyed for bigger and more swank-worthy badges. In fact, some harbour less than no love for the big-time and honours. One such is Joe Brandez, North Middlesex representative, who during the past two years has claimed quite a few notable scalps, including that of Alan Rhodes.

Joe, a left-handed, close-to-the-table half-volley man of deceptively lethargic manner (like Andreadis), is looking for a little local club playing in a minor league. Says Joseph, "I want to play where I'm not known and people aren't after my blood. Last season every time I went to the table everybody thought it a good idea to better his reputation at my expense, so every game was a needle affair. I like to enjoy myself and not strain more than I can help." So he's on the look-see for a cosy little billet away from big-shots and honour chasers.

STRANGE how Jewish players have played such an important part in, and have shone so very brightly at, Table Tennis. Strange, because at all active games (with the notable exception of boxing) there have been remarkably few Jewish "names."

Look at the record books listing champions and stars of football, cricket, badminton, billiards, snooker, ice hockey and skating, athletics, speedway, and the

like, and you'll have a job to find a name with a Jewish owner. At lawn tennis there has been but one Jewish winner at Wimbledon—Dick Savitt, of America.

Yet at Table Tennis, possibly the most widely played and followed of all indoor sports, Jews have, since the earliest pioneer days, been pre-eminent and can boast a record second to none.

First and foremost, there is Victor Barna, who probably has done more than any other single person to popularise the game throughout the world, and whose playing record needs no recounting here. Second only to the illustrious Victor there is Richard Bergmann.

Other Jewish "greats" who have left their ineradicable mark are Miklos Szabados and Laszlo Bellak, who with Barna formed the "Three Musketeers" team so popular in pre-war days.

And surely no introduction is needed for "Ai" Ehrlich, Alfred Liebster, Michel Haguenuer, Dick Miles, Sol Schiff and Marty Reisman among many others to attain world status.

PRIOR to 1939, Table Tennis in Britain, as on the Continent, was almost monopolised by Jewish aces, England's teams relying to a large extent on such men as Hymie Lurie, Ernie Buble, Benny Casofsky, Eli Goodman.

Jewish girls have not been so much to the forefront, yet even so who could list outstanding players without mention of Angelica Rozeanu and Dora Beregi?

The record is indeed an astonishing one, marking as it does a vivid contrast to failure in other sports. Why this should be so offers a wide scope for theory and conjecture—and the serious student undertaking research would doubtless find himself with a fascinating subject on his hands!

It is, incidentally, a little saddening to reflect that with Bergmann, Ehrlich, Haguenuer and Rozeanu on their last playing legs, there seem to be none to uphold the great traditions Jewish exponents have established in Table Tennis above all other games.

FINLAND MAKES HER BID

by R. D. LEWIS

TABLE Tennis in Finland is a relatively new sport, being practically unheard of before the war and confined almost exclusively to the capital, Helsinki. Sooner or later, however, the game was bound to catch on in this, the most sport-minded of all nations, and since 1945 no mean progress has been made.

In so far as sport is concerned, the Finns are interested in doing things well or not at all, and their records in the spheres of running, throwing, boxing, wrestling and skiing are nothing short of fantastic for a country of only four million inhabitants. Once they have taken up Table Tennis seriously (and today they have), then it is only to be expected that they will make a success of it, and present-day pointers support this assumption.

It is true that Bergmann and Leach murdered the Finnish national team in December 1953, but that is not all the story. What is more significant is the fact that three of the four players opposing the English cracks were aged 20 or under, and at the last Finnish Championships the five consistently best players in the country, Juhani Berg, Huttunen, Ellonen, Lehtonen and Saari, were all in their teens!

These five players can truly be regarded as boy wonders, since not only have they been playing Table Tennis for an extremely short period, but they had to teach themselves how to play!

Our juniors have had the benefit of watching Leach, Barna, Bergmann and Co. from the age when they are big enough to hold a bat. They have the opportunities provided by coaching schemes, private lessons, and in some cases personal encounters with the stars.

On the other hand, there are no professional T.T. players in Finland, and visits by foreign stars are far too infrequent. There was only one solution—the Finns would have to get their knowledge from books. Juhani Berg, the 1953 Finnish Champion, laboriously translated Jack Carrington's book into Finnish, and type-written copies of the translation were passed around. Berg and Saari studied the book carefully, modelled their own play on Carrington's principles, and then personally toured several smaller Finnish towns giving exhibitions. (18-year-olds teaching youngsters!)

Their efforts are slowly paying dividends. Ellonen, a deceptively lazy-looking school-boy with a lightning backhand flick has already won a spate of national tournaments. Lehtonen, a young caretaker in the Finnish Parliament House with the stiffest poker face in Table Tennis, has already beaten Flisberg, and must be regarded as one of the best players in

London Notes

ALTHOUGH another Table Tennis season is now in full swing, I would like to record outstanding Tennis successes by some of our well-known youngsters during the past summer.

Girls' Singles in the Junior Wimbledon tournament was won by Ann Haydon (Warwicks. and England). Jill Rook (Surrey and England) reached the semi-final.

Terry Densham (Surrey and England Junior) won the Surrey County Boys' Singles title, while Jill Rook won the Girls' Singles. Both Terry and Jill participated in all the Junior Doubles finals also.

Returning now to our own sport, Bobby Stevens (Essex) seems set to "go places" this season. He has made a good start by winning the Men's Singles in the East of England "Open," and is currently ranked No. 2 in his county.

Talking about tournaments, it seems that entry fees are more expensive than ever. The fee for three senior events in many large tournaments is about 9/-. The reason given would most likely be that the cost of staging them has necessitated the increase, but the Eastern Suburban "Open" still costs only 5/6d.—nearly half the price!

BARBARA MILBANK

Scandinavia. Huttunen, Berg and Saari are all students, the last-named being a beautiful stylist, whose impeccable foot-work impressed even the great Victor Barna.

The Finns are keen, they are making every effort to break into the game. At the moment they are fighting against severe handicaps. Playing conditions are bad, they need new tables, they need more international experience, they need a world-class professional to coach them for a few months in the year, and, above all, they need the money to pay for these things.

ENGLISH RANKINGS

for
1954-55

★

E.T.T.A. rankings announced this month place Richard Bergmann (Middlesex), Johnnie Leach (Essex) and Aubrey Simons (Gloucestershire) as 1, 2 and 3 respectively in the Men's section, with Ros and Di Rowe (Middlesex) and Cathie Best (Yorkshire) in that order for the Women. Group rankings are Men—"A"—R. J. Crayden (Surrey); "B"—R. Allcock (Lancashire); Women—"A"—Miss M. Franks (Essex); "B"—Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex). The full list is:—

MEN

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. R. Bergmann (Middlesex) | 5. K. Craigie (Surrey) |
| 2. { J. Leach (Essex) | 6. B. Kennedy (Yorks.) |
| A. W. C. Simons (Glos.) | 7. B. Merrett (Glos.) |
| 4. H. T. Venner (Surrey) | 8. L. G. Adams (Middx.) |

GROUP "A"

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| R. J. Crayden (Surrey) | A. Rhodes (Middx.) |
| J. Head (Surrey) | J. P. Shead (Sussex) |
| R. Hinchliff (Yorks.) | M. H. Thornhill (Middx.) |

GROUP "B"

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| R. Allcock (Lancs.) | R. Griffin (Glos.) |
| R. Baker (Lancs.) | D. House (Glos.) |
| B. Brumwell (Essex) | I. W. Jones (Essex) |
| D. C. Burriddge (Middx.) | J. Lowe (Middx.) |
| B. Crouch (Middx.) | M. G. Maclaren (Surrey) |
| R. Dorking (Essex) | R. J. Stevens (Essex) |

WOMEN

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Miss R. Rowe (Middx.) | 6. Miss Y. Seaman (Middx.) |
| 2. Miss D. Rowe (Middx.) | 7. Miss B. Milbank (Essex) |
| 3. Miss C. K. Best (Yorks.) | 8. Miss J. Rook (Surrey) |
| 4. Miss A. Haydon (Warwicks.) | 9. Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey) |
| 5. Miss J. Winn (Surrey) | 10. Miss Y. Baker (Essex) |

GROUP "A"

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miss M. Franks (Essex) | Miss M. Piper (Surrey) |
| Miss P. Gall (Surrey) | Miss J. Roberts (Surrey) |
| Miss P. Mortimer (Warwicks.) | Mrs. J. Willcocks (Devon) |

GROUP "B"

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex) | Miss M. Fry (Glos.) |
| Miss M. H. Cherry (Middx.) | Miss M. Jones (Glos.) |
| Mrs. M. Cumberbatch (Warwicks.) | Miss J. Mackay (Warwicks.) |
| Miss D. Ellis (Middx.) | Miss A. Wood (Lancs.) |

You have seen this picture before, but since it captures the triumph of the 'World' Women's Doubles victory we make no excuse for using it again to salute "THE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR"



SO much has been written about the achievements of Rosalind and Diane Rowe that few superlatives are left. The award of the Victor Barna trophy to this brilliant combination of charm and playing skill does away with the need to search the dictionary, for it tells more eloquently than any words, of the high place they hold in English Table Tennis.

The citation for the joint award mentions their advancement of English prestige abroad, their recovery of the World Doubles title, and their winning of the Austrian, English, French and Welsh titles in one season.

"Table Tennis Review" salutes these sporting "Players of the Year"—long may they continue to grace the green tables, both at home and as our ambassadors overseas.

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CAPITALS PLEASE

SAM KIRKWOOD'S COLUMN

THAT book by Victor Barna we've been talking about for a long time now, may shortly get under way. Victor's had a substantial offer from a major publishing firm to "give out" with his reminiscences, anecdotes, views, and anything else he cares to write about, for worldwide distribution, and the "Immaculate One" is seriously ticking over prior to an assault on his typewriter.

With so much matter at his finger-tips, it isn't a question of what to write about but rather one of what to leave out. One thing he's determined on: not to spend time on another text-book of the type of which there are already too many. He feels—and rightly so, in my opinion—that readers will expect from him a work that's interesting, not a coaching anthology.

He is also firm in his resolve not to employ a ghost writer. He says, "I want people to read what I have to say. If it's to be a book by Barna, then Barna must write it, no-one else." Writing the tome is going to be a tough grind—but he has the consolation of knowing that he has a ready-made public that adds up to an international best-seller. That's something worth working for, quite apart from anything else!

INTERESTING correspondence has reached me on the "lay off Ann Haydon and her father" topic I touched upon in the last issue. The unanimous opinion is that Ann is placed in a false position when Adrian is captaining a team of which she is a member, and that it would be better, perhaps, if in future she weren't subjected to embarrassment. Meaning, of course, that it would be advisable to appoint another skipper—one who cannot be accused of partiality. That seems a sensible—indeed, the only—solution to me. It would certainly make for a happier frame of mind for Ann and relieve her father of a sticky responsibility.

AUBURN-HAIRE, pale-faced Linde Wertl has become a bride, having trodden the altar a few months back. Prior to the

World Series, the taut-nerved Austrian girl said she hadn't yet made up her mind about matrimony, as she had many Table Tennis engagements to fulfil within the coming months. It seems that her defeats at Wembley made up her mind for her, and her groom possibly owes thanks for his married status to the Jap girls who shattered Linde's hopes of becoming Angelica Rozeanu's successor.

THE 1954/55 major tournament fixture list tells me that the English Open is being held (at Wembley Empire Pool) from March 29 to April 2. As the World Championships are being staged, at Utrecht, from April 15—24, this could mean that our home tournament will be graced by an international entry of the type to make it a really worthwhile affair.

And how badly we need world stars to brighten up the "English," which of latter years has been little better than an average open competition. I'm not alone in hoping, most fervently, that the Association bigwigs will do everything in their power to bring even a sprinkling of World competitors to these shores for a warmer-up—and so gladden our eyes, which are satiated with second-rate play.

ROSALIND and Diane Rowe have been awarded the Victor Barna Trophy. In making the announcement, the Association state that the joint award was made to the girls "for advancement of the prestige of English Table Tennis during the season by their skill and conduct in the game at home and abroad, noting particularly: (1) The Australian and New Zealand tour; (2) Recovery of the World Doubles title; (3) Undefeated in Women's National Doubles competitions; (4) Winning in the one season the Austrian, English, French and Welsh titles; (5) In the World Championships comprised the team which defeated Japan, the eventual winners of the Corbillon Cup competition." A fine list of achievements and one which does the twins credit. But—I remain firm in my opinion that Richard Bergmann is the one who should have been remembered.

The 35-year-old veteran, apart from his individual achievements, almost literally

carried the Swaythling Cup team on his sturdy shoulders and was the only one—the Rowes included—who stood firm when we had our backs to the wall in that England-Hungary international last year. I said some time ago that if he wins the World and English titles and remains undefeated in a Swaythling Cup series, he stands a chance of being honoured. I was hinting that I regarded it as an impossibility for Dick to be named for the V.B. Trophy.

The Rowes (whom I like and respect) have had a fine year, including 21st birthday presents from the Association. Richard, apparently not so popular with the people who matter (here R.B. and I have much in common!), has worked hard for a raspberry. Surely the young twins could have waited? For Bergmann time is fast running out—yet it seems that his tremendous services to England, including the winning last year of the Swaythling Cup (yes, without him we'd never have won it), are always to be overlooked.

IT'LL be interesting to see which new users of the sponge bat take the field this season, and how they fare. During the close season several internationals, including one or two who not so long back were hotly criticising it and demanding that it be banned, have been practising with it, apparently in the hope that it'll put points on their game. If their experiences parallel mine, they'll revert to pimped rubber. I found that while sponge lends a kick to a hit, it's hard to pick up and control a spinner—deucedly hard. My opinion, for what it's worth, is that the "sponger" suits a particular type of game, mainly the unorthodox game in which top-spin hitting predominates. But for the orthodox (or classical) stylist the soft 'un is more of a nuisance than it's worth. Still, we'll see what we shall see from accredited exponents.

TALKING of styles, incidentally, I wonder why it is that so very few girls have a backhand that's worth a toss? Our leading girls have, in the main, a strong forehand defence and attack, but on the other wing shakiness and tentativeness prevail to a marked degree. Even our very top lasses have nothing to boast of in the backhand department, and that's why none at the moment looks even remotely like collaring that World Singles title. If I had the job of coaching our young females I'd forget their pretty forehands and make 'em sweat hour after hour on the other wing until they showed some semblance of control and attacking know-how on that side.

Arthur Waite Calling . . .

NORMAN DAVIS, who played for Manchester in the immediate post-war years has now been resident in Durban, S. Africa, for a number of years. In the recent Natal Championships he took three titles, Men's Singles and both Men's and Mixed Doubles. Norman is now ranked No. 1 player in Natal, with his fellow Mancunian, Ken Twitney, ranked at No. 7. Norman is endeavouring to get professional coaching recognised by the South African Table Tennis Union. He says, "I feel we should create professional coaches as is done overseas. When a person pays for his coaching he takes a far keener interest than if the advice is given gratis. Many times I have spent hours explaining the finer points of the game, tactics, etc., only to see the same player later completely disregarding my advice. One wonders whether one's advice is appreciated."

MR. JAMES E. SHROUT is, this year, retiring from the Presidency of the U.S.A. Table Tennis Association. Business duties make it imperative that he takes a less active interest in the game. Upon retiring he said, "The U.S.T.T.A. must have a paid secretary if it is to grow and become the kind of organisation we all want it to be. There is so much work which needs to be done that only a fully employed person could do it with any degree of success."

Mr. ShROUT's words will probably find an echo in a number of Table Tennis leagues in England. The popularity of the game is now growing to such amazing proportions that the work of an ordinary league secretary demands a great deal of time. Some leagues do make an effort to reimburse the secretary by paying out a yearly honorarium, but there are many who feel that all such work should be voluntary.

ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE

As the result of the second Ballot for the election of a representative for the North Eastern Region on the National Executive Committee Mr. E. Reay was successful, receiving 10 votes against the five recorded for Mr. J. Waugh.

BERGMANN and LEACH

'DOWN UNDER'

CECIL SHAW'S special match reports and impressions from BRISBANE

OUR correspondent is as equally well known for his ability at the green tables as he is at writing about the game and its personalities. Here from Brisbane are his pithy comments on the famous English pair and what the Australian enthusiasts thought about them.

RICHARD BERGMANN: This was Bergmann's first appearance in Brisbane, as on his last Australian Tour in 1949, with Victor Barna, Queensland was not included in the itinerary. Richard amazed onlookers with his impregnable defence and lightning forehand attack, his wonderful anticipation and superb footwork—the fruits of years of intensive training and competitive play. Bergmann is the perfect showman and comedian. His novelty act, sitting in a chair, created a very favourable impression with Brisbane audiences.

We are told that Bergmann, over recent years, has become heavier and slower, but there was nothing heavy or slow about him in Brisbane. He was fantastically swift and we can only comment that, if he has slowed down, we would like to have seen him when he was "fast"! (or before he slowed down).

JOHNNIE LEACH: This was Johnnie's second appearance here—his first was in 1951 when he toured Australia with Frenchman Michel Haguener. The writer's impression was that Leach's defence is not quite as solid as it was previously, but his attack—notably the forehand—has improved out of all recognition. Johnnie is capable of turning on a terrific spell of forehand hitting when the occasion calls for it. Like Bergmann, it is obvious Leach keeps himself in perfect physical condition and his sportsmanship is unquestionable.

ENGLAND v. QUEENSLAND (Sept. 3)
Four players represented Queensland against the visitors—Phil Anderson (National and State Champion), Arden Robinson, myself and Ren Picking. With the exception of Anderson, the local players were clearly outclassed, though they gave reasonable accounts of themselves. The match opened with Phil Anderson playing Johnnie Leach, and the Australian, throwing everything into a ferocious attack, won 21-12, 21-18. The remainder of the matches call for little comment, being one-sided affairs, but never-

theless entertaining enough. Other scores:

Bergmann beat Shaw 21-12, 21-19.
Leach beat Robinson 21-9, 21-9.
Bergmann beat Picking 21-11, 21-16.
Leach beat Shaw 21-7, 21-8.
Bergmann beat Anderson 21-11, 21-15.
Leach beat Picking 21-11, 21-15.
Bergmann beat Robinson 21-9, 21-19.
Leach/Bergmann beat Anderson/Robinson 21-15, 21-19.

The evening concluded with a Leach v. Bergmann challenge match which brought out the best in Leach's attack. He blasted Bergmann off the table to the tune of 21-11, 21-13. (This made local players, who had fared badly against Leach consider themselves not so bad after all!). A capacity house of 800 generously applauded all matches.

ENGLAND v. BRISBANE (Sept. 9th)

This match again saw Australian champion Phil Anderson in splendid form. Maintaining a consistent, forceful attack, he beat Johnnie Leach by 21-13, 21-19. Leach apparently had no answer to his opponent's attack; although he was repeatedly losing by defending, he showed no desire, nor, indeed, ability to wrest the attack off the Australian. Anderson obviously was full of confidence, gained by his prior victory over Leach, while the latter, on the other hand appeared uncertain.

The two Englishmen played their challenge match over the best of five. On this occasion, Bergmann was much too solid in defence and, mixing his remarkable retrieving ability with fast forehand hits, he outshone Leach by 21-17, 18-21, 22-20, 21-13.

After this, Bergmann put on his novelty act and played against the Queensland Women's champion, Miss Sherry Irvin, while he sat in a chair. Richard won a "nerve-racking" match 22-20, though we are inclined to believe that Miss Irvin (ranked No. 5 in Australia) may have fallen victim to Richard's "winning ways with women."

ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA (Sept. 10th)

The Australian team was Geoff Jennings and Henry Porter (Singles) and Phil Anderson/Henry Porter (Doubles). The match being played on "Davis Cup" lines—best of five rubbers, each best of five.

Australian Impressions: Geoff Jennings: (N.S.W. and Victorian champion: Australian Junior Champion). Brisbane followers of the game were impressed with the improved form of Jennings who last appeared here in a local championship and Inter-State match last year. His backhand attack and defence (both sides) show marked improvement and he turned on a brilliant, if at times somewhat erratic, performance.

Against Leach, Jennings held commanding leads in two games, only to lose both through hasty, over-anxious hitting. He was unlucky to have an edge ball decision against him at 18-all in the third game. However, Leach appeared greatly relieved at the conclusion of the close match. It seemed only a certain amount of inexperience and youthful impetuosity were the influencing factors in Jennings' loss.

Against Bergmann, an overflowing crowd of 1,100 were given a good exhibition of fast hitting and brilliant retrieving. Once again, experience helped Bergmann to get out of tight corners and Jennings too often obliged his opponent with a wild, unsuccessful smash, after he had caught Richard on the wrong foot.

Henry Porter: (Ranked No. 4 in Australia): Porter was in the unenviable position of meeting the English players for the first time. Lack of prior experience against them and a certain amount of nervousness resulted in his playing below his best. However, the Australian gave a good account of himself.

In the final games against Bergmann, he began to find better form and was unlucky not to take the third. Richard returned a series of smashes yards from the table and Porter, doubtless surprised and over-eager, netted the easy kill. Scores:—

Leach beat Porter 21-15, 21-11, 21-15.
Bergmann beat Jennings 21-16, 21-16, 17-21, 21-19.
Leach beat Jennings 21-16, 21-19, 21-19.
Bergmann beat Porter 21-10, 21-19, 22-20.
Leach/Bergmann beat Anderson/Porter 21-12, 22-20, 21-14.

This final victory gave the tourists a 4-0 "Test" victory sequence.

Bergmann accepted a week's coaching engagement in Melbourne, before proceeding to the U.S.A., where he is to embark upon a lengthy exhibition tour with U.S. Champion, Richard Miles. Johnnie Leach flew to England.

While in Queensland, both Englishmen saw something of our tropic North, and played matches in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton. Bergmann availed himself of a car trip to the famous seaside resorts of Southport, Surfers Paradise and Burleigh Heads, near Brisbane, while Leach played his inevitable rounds of golf in the "off the table" hours.

The Queensland Table Tennis Federation is pleased to report that a substantial profit was made out of this tour and this State will look forward to further tours by leading International players—not only from the financial viewpoint, but the publicity (so badly needed and so hard to get) provides a terrific impetus to the fast-growing sport of Table Tennis in this part of the world.

QUEENSLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: P. Anderson beat H. Porter 18, 20, 15.

Women's Singles: S. Irwin beat N. Buckland (Victoria) 7, 12.

Men's Doubles: P. Anderson/H. Porter beat A. Robinson/C. Shaw 17, 16, —19, —20, 14.

Women's Doubles: N. Buckland /L. Pearce beat S. Irwin/D. Weatherby 8, —20, 16.

Boys' Junior Final: J. Stanaway beat W. Jones —16, 14, 20.

NEW SOUTH WALES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: G. Jennings beat J. Klesman 3-0.

Women's Singles: P. Cathcart beat M. Bowler 2-1.

Men's Doubles: G. Jennings/B. Griffen beat J. Klesman/B. Messenger 3-2.

Junior Boys': B. Griffen beat W. Jones 2-0.

FRIEND WANTED

YOUNG Jack Stanaway, the Queensland junior star, has written to *Table Tennis Review* seeking a pen-friend. His address is 51, DAVID STREET, ALDERLEY, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, and he says:—

"I am wondering if you can find me a Table Tennis pen-friend from the British Isles. It does not matter if the friend is male or female as long as he or she is a keen Table Tennis fan. I would like all correspondence to be by Air Mail as it is much quicker.

I will answer all correspondence received. I am 16 years of age and hold nearly every important Queensland junior title."

WEST BROM. District A.G.M.

AT the twenty-second Annual General Meeting of the West Bromwich District Table Tennis Association at the E.M.B. Clubroom, two changes took place amongst the officials—H. W. Collett of Y.M.C.A. taking over the general secretaryship from A. A. Wall, who has held the office for nineteen of the Association's twenty-one years. Mr. Wall was elected Inter-League Secretary. Mr. T. E. Jones retained the chairmanship, whilst others re-elected were Mr. E. A. Stott (treasurer); Mr. J. R. Williamson (match secretary); Mr. T. L. Corbett and Mrs. M. Cumberbatch (auditors).

The Executive Committee elected were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bratt (Hateley Heath), Mrs. M. Cumberbatch and Mr. A. Deeley (St. Philip's), Mr. C. Page (Harwood), Mr. F. Morris (Swan Village Methodist) and Mr. D. Backhouse (W. B. Highway). The latter, who has distinguished himself this past year in playing for England Juniors, is now branching out in another direction in the sport, this time as an official, and is easily the youngest member ever to be elected to the League's Committee.

FIRST TOURNAMENT

This year West Bromwich houses the Midland League Closed Championships, which will take place at the Birmid Club, on January 22nd. This is the first major tournament held in West Bromwich. Four teams, Men's, Ladies', Juniors' and Veterans', have been placed in the Midland League and matches will be played against Birmingham, Derby, Leicester, Worcester, Cheltenham, Nottingham and Wolverhampton. A new venture is the placing of a team in the Staffs County League, Division 2 (South).

Since the disbanding of the South Staffs Area League last season, the placing of two of their trophies was necessary. The D. W. Turner trophy, given to the West Bromwich Association for inter-league competition, was to be loaned to the Staffs County Association, subject to the donor's consent. The A. E. Haskew-A. A. Wall Cup was presented to the West Bromwich Association for Ladies' Doubles competition. The Churchfield Tavern Cup given by the late Mr. Smith had, through his wishes, been handed over to the Association. This was to be decided at the next Committee Meeting.

The resignation of the champions, Victoria, was received with regret, whilst new clubs welcomed were W. B. Labour Club, Accles & Pollock, Princes End Youth Club, Hopes.

Is Swaythling System Unsatisfactory?

IN the name of plain common sense, I hope we shall never again tolerate the confusing and thoroughly unsatisfactory system used to decide the last Swaythling Cup and Corbillon Cup winners.

At the Wembley rally I was asked by puzzled fans to explain how the "three-leg final" system worked—and, truth to tell, I had to ask an official to give me the low-down on the situation, being myself hazy on the subject. The official programme wasn't much help, in that it offered no explanation, merely stating which group winner would play whom and when.

Even now, I wager, there are many who are scratching their heads and wondering how it came about that Japan was handed the Corbillon trophy, after being beaten by England—a result, incidentally, which comprised the ultimate and unanswerable criticism of the three-group plan.

The Japanese victory (from which no-one detracts, let me hasten to add) is explained thus: Hungary beat England 3-1 and lost to Japan 1-3, and England beat Japan 3-2. With all three teams having won one and lost one match each, Japan emerged top by virtue of five games won against four each by England and Hungary.

Had all teams won an equal number of games as well as matches, the Cup would have gone to the side with the biggest total of sets won. If all had been level on sets, I presume points aggregate would have been the deciding factor. And if the trio had been level on points—well, who knows!

NOT DECISIVE

All very far removed from being clear-cut or decisive, you must agree. And let me make it clear that I'm not lashing out because I would have liked to see England pull through. Believe me, I am by no means forgetful of Hungary, who so fairly and squarely beat our representatives.

With England beating Japan, Hungary beating England, and Japan beating Hungary, each team could, with some justification, lay claim to an equal share of victory—a state of affairs which could only arise from an "Irish" final with three contestants.

It is obvious that a three-leg final is undesirable from every point of view and should be discarded for all time. If we want the trophies to go to teams all can applaud as worthy, clean-cut winners, then we are bound to adopt either the two- or four-group system—depending on the number of entries—and so leave the way clear for ONE final, and ONE final only.

S.K.

Your Tournament Diary 1954-55

- | | |
|--|--|
| Oct. 2
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE. | Jan. 15
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE. |
| Oct. 9
Yorkshire Open (Leeds). | Jan. 15—16
BELGIAN OPEN. |
| Oct. 9—10
Bucks. Open (Slough). | Jan. 16—22
North-West Kent Open
(Bexley Heath). |
| Oct. 14—16
North of England Open (Manchester). | Jan. 21—22
South Yorkshire Open (Sheffield). |
| Oct. 22—23
Birmingham Open (Birmingham). | Jan. 23
Southampton Open (Southampton). |
| Oct. 24
Portsmouth Open (Southsea). | Jan. 27—29
Cheshire Open. |
| Oct. 30—31
Sussex Open (Hastings). | Jan. 29—30
Kent Open (Folkestone). |
| Oct. 30—Nov. 1
AUSTRIAN OPEN (Vienna). | Feb. 2—3, 7—12
Middlesex (Herga) Open (Harrow). |
| Nov. 1—6
Eastern Suburban Open (Ilford). | Feb. 5.
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE. |
| Nov. 6
Hull Open (Hull). | Feb. 12 and 19
Midland Open (Birmingham). |
| Nov. 5—7
YUGOSLAV OPEN (Belgrade). | Feb. 21—25
Surrey Open (Epsom). |
| Nov. 8—13
South London Open (Clapham). | Feb. 26
WILMOTT CUP AND
J.M. ROSE BOWL
SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS. |
| Nov. 13
Hartlepoons Open. | Feb. 28, Mar. 4, 7—12
West Middlesex Open (West Ealing). |
| Nov. 14
Kent Junior Open (Herne Bay). | Mar. 5
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE. |
| Nov. 19—21
South of England Open (Croydon). | Mar. 12
Yorkshire Jnr. Open. |
| Nov 20
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE. | Mar. 18—19
Lancashire Open (Blackpool). |
| Nov. 20
Bath Open (Bath). | Mar. 18—19
West of England Open (Bristol). |
| Nov. 24—27
Merseyside Open (Liverpool). | Mar. 26
Grimsby Open (Cleethorpes). |
| Nov. 24—Dec. 11
APPROXIMATE DATES
JUNIOR TOUR OF SWEDEN. | Mar. 29—April 2
ENGLISH OPEN (Wembley). |
| Nov. 27
Dorset Open (Weymouth). | April 9 and 11
North-East England Open
(Scarborough). |
| Nov. 27
Peterborough Open. | April 15—24
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Utrecht). |
| Nov. 29—Dec. 4
Central London Open (Clapham). | April 25—30
Thames-side Open (Plaistow). |
| Dec. 10—11
WELSH OPEN. | |
| Jan. 3—8
Metropolitan Open (London, W.1) | |
| Jan. 7—8
Pontefract Open (Pontefract). | |
| Jan. 10—11
FRENCH OPEN. | |

EAST of ENGLAND 'OPEN'

SURPRISE of this first tournament of the season was the elimination of the four men seeds, Brian Kennedy (Leeds), Jackie Head (London), Ray Hincliffe (Huddersfield) and Ronnie Allcock (Manchester). K. Hurlock, the eventual runner-up, disposed of Head, A. Rogers (Stevenage) beat Allcock, C. King (Manchester) was the winner against Hincliffe, in a three game rubber, and R. J. Stevens (Surrey), the eventual winner, beat Kennedy.

The final between Stevens and Hurlock (Surrey) was the best ever at Skegness, both players on top of their form, in an all-out attacking and counter-attacking rubber.

The women seeds came through as expected, but a surprise was Shirley Jones' win over Helen Elliot (Scotland's No. 1). The young Welsh girl was, however, well and truly beaten in the final by her compatriot Betty Gray, who seemed to have the secret of stemming her opponent's fierce attack.

The Welsh pair retained their women's doubles title and Ivor Jones (London) and Shirley Jones also retained their mixed doubles crown.

The men's doubles was won by a new combination A. Sherwood and P. Pudney (London), who beat B. Kennedy and L. Blyth in the final.

RESULTS.

MEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: R. Stevens (Surrey) beat D. Schofield (Stockport) 15-21, 21-16, 21-14. K. Hurlock (Ewell) beat J. R. Gregory (London) 21-17, 23-21. Final: Stevens beat Hurlock 21-15, 20-22, 25-23.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: Miss B. Gray (Swansea) beat Miss M. Fry (London) 21-14, 21-11. Miss S. Jones (Swansea) beat Miss H. Elliot (Edinburgh) 21-23, 21-16, 21-14. Final: Miss Gray beat Miss Jones 21-16, 21-18.

MEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: B. Kennedy and L. Blyth beat K. Hurlock and M. MacLaren 21-18, 22-20. P. Pudney and A. Sherwood beat F. Kershaw and D. Backhouse 21-17, 23-21. Final: P. Pudney and A. Sherwood beat B. Kennedy and L. Blyth.

Coaching Diplomas

The National Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A. has approved the award of the Basic Coaching Diploma to the following:— J. Senescall, K. McMillan (Yorkshire); T. Williams (Suffolk); H. Venner, K. R. Graigie, R. J. Crayden (Surrey); G. R. Harrower (Herts); T. E. Sears; L. G. Adams (Middlesex).

These are the first awards under the newly instituted Diploma scheme, and a number of other candidates are already seeking qualification. Candidates are normally called on to attend short theoretical and practical courses, and the scheme is open to any interested member. Official application form will be sent on request from the E.T.T.A. offices, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C. 2.

PLUM for SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD has once again been given a Premier Division game in the National County Championships.

Essex go to the cutlery capital on Saturday, February 5, and although the venue has yet to be decided, this is a date to be noted by the enthusiasts.

The Sheffield and District League will also stage the South Yorkshire Open Tournament on Friday and Saturday, January 21 and 22.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: Miss H. Elliot and Miss M. Fry beat Miss F. Wright and Mrs. J. Braddock 21-14, 21-11. Miss B. Gray and Miss S. Jones beat Mrs. K. Simpson and Miss C. Clark 21-12, 22-20. Final: Miss Gray and Miss Jones beat Miss Elliot and Miss Fry 23-21, 21-14.

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BOYS' SINGLES: Final: D. Backhouse (Birmingham) beat A. Teal (Hull) 21-15, 21-14.

GIRLS' SINGLES: Final: Miss F. Wright beat Miss J. Chadderton 21-7, 21-13.

The Stars Foretell . . .

(OR DO THEY?)

by STANLEY PRESTON

MOON SUBJECTS

(June 21—July 21).

You will have a surprise on the 18th, a disappointment on the 19th, and very nearly a nervous breakdown on the 20th. Things will straighten themselves out by mid-season, however, and you will most certainly play well during March, when the three-stars are in your sign. There will be financial improvements on Fridays.

Avoid using your forehand drive during this season. Lucky Number: 21.

MARS SUBJECTS

(Mar. 21—Apr. 20 and Oct. 23—Nov. 22).

A partner will cause you some worry in your eighth doubles match. You will be dazzled by a red-haired man with a green hat, blue eyes and a white shirt.

Expect a shortage of cash by mid-week, right through the season. Lucky Stone: Gall.

SATURN & URANUS SUBJECTS

(Dec. 21—Jan. 19 and Jan. 20—Feb. 18).

You will have some embarrassing moments during mid-season. Avoid sponge-bat players. There are prospects of plenty of travel, and you will be 'on form' on all Thursdays and Fridays during the season. Don't use back-hand flick on Mondays.

JUPITER SUBJECTS

(Nov. 23—Dec. 20 and Feb. 19—Mar. 20).

You Jupiter subjects are inclined to under-estimate your playing abilities. A little more confidence and you might be

LOOK at the 'time!' He will then urge the lukewarm tea opponent to play his set immediately. By the time he has played his set, his tea will be cold. The player with the scalding tea will have got his just about right to drink, and he will have to leave it to play his set. When he returns, his tea also will be cold. The idea is not so much to cause your opponents to die of thirst as to upset their concentration by instilling in their minds an unconscious desire to hurry the set and get back to their cups of tea.

In conclusion, I might add that if, despite the use of these and similar devices your team is still being regularly beaten, then you will no doubt have to fall back on sheer practice. If this fails, there are other games, such as bowls or golf."

out for plenty of 'net-tricklers.' You can expect some uneasy moments unless you are particularly careful with your footwork. Lucky Word: "Existentialism" (If you can pronounce it).

MERCURY SUBJECTS

(May 21—June 20 and Aug. 22—Sept. 22).

You Mercury types are a lively lot, and your style inclines towards attack. Due to the influence of Saturn on Mercury, however, you would be advised to go more defensive this season.

You will meet some strangers, usually in groups of four.

VENUS SUBJECTS

(April 21—May 20 and Sept. 23—Oct. 22).

Concentrate on your backhand chop, which is your greatest weakness. Your love-life will slump considerably in the next few months, but your Table-Tennis will benefit from this.

Try to mix with only the best all-round players, even if this means travelling from home and living in Yorkshire or Lancashire. Lucky Colour: Table Green.

SUN SUBJECTS

(July 22—August 21).

You have warm personalities and will have plenty of opportunity to shine this season. You will also have chance to show a marked improvement in scoring and refereeing. Accept gladly all requests for you to referee. The better you get at this, the more times you will be asked, and this is good for your Id, Ego and Super-Ego.

Table Tennis friends in Amsterdam, for the organization of which we shall do our utmost.

"In the name of the organizing committee,

D. Kunst, Amsterdam,
Sept. 4, 1954."

The WINTER ISSUE of
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DECEMBER 1st, 1954

STANLEY PRESTON says . . .

'There's no place like home'

(BUT CAN YOU BELIEVE HIM?)

FEW clubs seem to be getting the most out of their natural 'home' match advantages. The following is based on intensive research into the matter.

First of all, take a look at the room. If it is ideal from the point of view of size and flooring, you must alter that immediately. For instance, if it is free from awkward bulky objects, fit at least one immovable object which can cause a definite change in the shape of the room. Most effective is a piano, positioned at an angle where it will make it difficult for a player to get back when doing forehand chops. Your team will, of course, learn to play under such conditions, and thus gain a slight advantage. If the flooring is good, you must rectify this by deliberately creating flaws in it.

And the Lighting

NOR must you overlook the lighting. Varying wattages—lighting too dim or too bright are common enough ruses, but if you have an electrician in the team no doubt he could devise a wiring system which flickers at irregular intervals.

Wall distractions are useful. Mirrors at either end of the table are still used by many clubs, but this is too obvious to deserve more than passing mention. Far better to have a picture of "The Founder" (a bewiskered, stern-eyed Victorian) which you will not see.

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Behaviour Jitters

FROM the use of inanimate objects we pass on to *Behaviourism*. It should be your aim to get your opponents "jittery," and the first essential is to train a neurotic team captain. This role could be sustained quite easily by any of your players with a flair for amateur dramatics, though any average player should be able to master the rudiments.

Always arrange for the late arrival of the rest of your team, that is, within seconds of the League Ruling time. In the meantime, the neurotic team captain will have got into full swing. From the moment of his arrival, he must work himself into a mock panic. He will dart about, muttering impatiently, and frantically grab chairs and begin to stack them in a corner. He will stack one too many in a pile and as he turns away, the whole will collapse with a sickening crash. He will then ask unintelligible questions of the opposing players, and dart away before they can answer. As a player lowers himself into a chair, he will scream: "Don't sit there!" and pretend either to flick away dust or to push down a loose screw.

Naturally, he will enlist the opponents' aid in assembling the table. Here, the makers' warped genius can be made to assist. Few tables exist which can be assembled smoothly and easily in a few seconds. If the legs have struts and pins, ensure that

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GIRLS' SINGLES : Final : Miss F. Wright beat Miss J. Chadderton 21-7, 21-13.

them will find it—this will give the ring of authenticity.

With the fuse repaired and conditions back to normal, now is the time to begin the match, and at the same time introduce a number of minor irritations.

Invaluable

A HOPELESS scorer is invaluable, and should be easily supplied from the ranks of any team. He can upset even the steadiest of players, and provided your players are trained to immunity, you can rely on taking an odd game or two by this method.

A recurrent caretaker is another useful irritant. Preferably, he should be extremely friendly. His role is that of an amiable well-meaning chatterbox with absolutely no knowledge of the game. He can be used about four times in a match. Each time he should barge straight into the room, and in the middle of the game come and stand beside the opposing player and shout across to the home player, such inanities as: "What time do you want tea?"; "Oh! beg pardon, am I in the way?" or "You'll let me know when you finish, won't you?"

A biased spectator can work wonders. He must exclaim "Good *Shot!*" at every moderate stroke your player makes, and whenever the opponent sends across an untakable smash, he should murmur "Hard *Lines!*" The repetition of just these two phrases over and over again can drive a normal player to the fringe of despair.

Finally, the value of refreshments should not be overlooked. Scalding tea and lukewarm tea can help your game in the following way:

Give the player who is due to play next, the lukewarm tea, and the one who will follow after him, the scalding tea. Then, your neurotic team captain should glance anxiously at his watch and say "Heavens! Look at the time!" He will then urge the lukewarm tea opponent to play his set immediately. By the time he has played his set, his tea will be cold. The player with the scalding tea will have got his just about right to drink, and he will have to leave it to play his set. When he returns, his tea also will be cold. The idea is not so much to cause your opponents to die of thirst as to upset their concentration by instilling in their minds an unconscious desire to hurry the set and get back to their cups of tea.

In conclusion, I might add that if, despite the use of these and similar devices your team is still being regularly beaten, then you will no doubt have to fall back on sheer practice. If this fails, there are other games, such as bowls or golf. . . ."

GRATITUDE from HOLLAND

EVERYBODY likes a pat on the back. Now and again, and Table Tennis players are no exception. Here's one from Holland. When a party of Dutch players toured in this country in August, they were so impressed by their reception that an official put their gratitude on paper, with the request that their thanks be made public. We do that gladly, and here is the letter in full:—

"FROM August 15 till August 22 a party of 32 Dutch Table Tennis players have paid a visit to London. As the leader of the party that had the privilege to be the guest of the Wandsworth & District Table Tennis League and the Sutton & District Table Tennis League, I want to convince, on behalf of the participants, our English friends of our thankfulness once more for all their kindness and the very good time by which we are deeply impressed. We highly appreciate the magnificent organization of the Leagues' officials and the wonderful hospitality of the hosts and hostesses.

"We thank the English Table Tennis Association for giving us the names of the excellent Leagues aforesaid, and all the people concerned for having done so much to make our stay as pleasant as possible. We shall never forget.

"Back in Holland we flatter ourselves with a pleasant feeling that our hearty departure will not be a farewell for ever, because we are looking forward to next year. Then we shall have the honour to make welcome our English Table Tennis friends in Amsterdam, for the organization of which we shall do our utmost.

"In the name of the organizing committee,
D. Kunst, Amsterdam,
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South African 'Open'

THE Open Championships of the South African Table Tennis Board were concluded in Cape Town in July. This was one of the most interesting championships which the Board staged.

Three Provinces participated in the Inter-Provincial Shield, namely, Natal, Eastern Province and Western Province. Natal retained its Provincial Shield with an 8-6 victory over Western Province. It fielded its youngest ever team, consisting of Natal champion M. Moolla, Damjee (Natal Junior champion), the defending S.A. Champion Cassin Peer, P. R. Mistry and the Singh sisters.

Among Natal's women players, Miss K. Singh did exceptionally well. She reached the Women's Singles final, the Women's Doubles final with her sister, Miss P. Singh, and the Mixed Doubles with M. Moolla. She was most unfortunate to be beaten after close tussles in all three sections.

The Open tournament provided some real fireworks. Damjee, the Natal Junior Champion, more than justified his selection for Natal by beating three Provincial Champions, Groenewald (Western Province), Pillay (Eastern Province) and M. Moolla (Natal). He, together with Mistry, is regarded as a future international Table Tennis prospect by his coach Norman Davis.

In the quarter-finals Peer (the defending Champion) eliminated L. Koopman in three straight sets. Charles Ellman, in the semi-final, was no problem to Cassim and made a quick exit.

CHAMPIONS ROUTED

In the other half Mistry, a comparative unknown, provided a surprise by routing three Provincial Champions: Moolla, Pillay and Groenewald. He knocked out Moolla in the semi to enter the finals.

Cape Town is indeed Table Tennis minded. On finals night the hall was packed to capacity. Mistry was indeed the favourite and the best outsider.

Peer won the first game 17-21. The second game went to Mistry 21-10 and also the third game 21-17. In the fourth set the crowd held its breath as the score rose to 19-16 in favour of Mistry. After a nerve-racking struggle Peer equalised and managed to scramble home with a 22-20 win. From the commencement of the decider, the score was running level. Fortune swayed from one player to another in a most bewildering fashion. Never did

A Table Tennis Enigma

A PUZZLING difference between the habits of British and American Table Tennis enthusiasts is revealed by sales reports of one of Britain's biggest plastics firms.

It indicates that the British show a preference for a bare bat handle. Americans demand plastic grips.

The Managing Director of the plastics firm is doubly puzzled. Why should British enthusiasts play without covered handles? He set inquiries going, and reports came back to him that British players, selected as "guinea pigs" to try out plastic grips on their bats, said they preferred them, particularly when the hands were hot.

"Yet the fact remains," said Mr. Anselm, Managing Director of Creators, Ltd. of Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey, "that while we are constantly getting demands from the States for plastic grips for Table Tennis bats—one New York firm alone orders more than a quarter million a year—British sports goods manufacturers seem sure the British would not take to plastic grips.

"What is the truth? I cannot believe the British scorn any comfort with their sport. And, let's face it, the 'feel' of a bat is important to a player's game."

the Champion experience such vicissitudes. The score reached 22-all. It was Peer's service and he took a chance and served with some spin on Mistry's forearm. As he had anticipated, it was smashed off the table. That made it 23-22 in Peer's favour. The set, match and title went to Peer when after a few rallies Mistry overhit. Peer sank into the nearest chair while the hall was still resounding with cheers for a truly great Champion!

Miss Iris Coetzee, the 1952 S.A. triple champion, again recorded the hat-trick by taking all three titles. She is a performer in a class all her own.

Other results were:

WOMEN'S SINGLES: I. Coetzee beat K. Singh 21-16, 19-21, 21-16, 21-14.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: I. Coetzee and E. Young beat Misses P and K. Singh 22-20, 19-21, 22-20, 21-14.

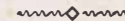
MIXED DOUBLES: W. Ellman and A. Scholtz beat M. Moolla and K. Singh 21-13, 21-15, 16-21, 18-21, 21-10.

MEN'S DOUBLES: C. Peer and M. Moolla beat C. Ellman and E. Sangster 21-10, 17-21, 21-12, 15-21, 21-12.

KEEP-FIT DEPARTMENT

IT'S ALL HONEY!

claims KENNETH RAWNSLEY



ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR HEALTH? Who isn't! Do colds interfere with your play, making it impossible to attain perfection, no matter how hard you strive? If the future looks dreary and you are unfortunate enough to "enjoy poor health," then give honey a trial. Your worries (apart from the cost of living) will vanish and you will take on a new lease of life—yes, even at the age of FORTY!

Everywhere there is a keen "nip" in the air telling us that Winter is just around the corner. It is at this time of the year when the housewife and mother becomes over-anxious about the future health of her brood. Perhaps little Tommy is prone to catching cold and every winter ill, or Father may be inclined to be "chesty" (due no doubt to not taking proper care of himself!) or Mother, herself, may lack the vitality so necessary towards resisting infection. The wise housewife, however, appreciates the importance of eating proper foods AND taking natural medicines in an endeavour to attain good health. Hence the news that honey should be placed on the shopping list will be received with feelings of wonder!

ELIXIR

Described as the "Elixir of Life" honey has been recognised for over three thousand years by doctors, dieticians and nurses as being both a food and a medicine. One aspect of it as distinct from other foods is the fact that it can be preserved almost indefinitely, as evidenced by the fact that in the British Museum there is a quantity dating back to the Babylonian era!

The best person from whom to obtain pure honey is of course the Apiarist, since it is his job to understand the different blends and he is in a unique position to advise as to which is most likely to fall in with your special requirements. Failing such a person in your locality then consult the proprietor of the nearest Health Food Store where a wide range is received at regular intervals. While it is true that all of it is good, it is the transparent, solidified, white granular blend which is by far the best, as this keeps the longest and is most pleasant to the taste, earning for itself the

title "Sweet Medicine"!

Country folk, particularly in the Yorkshire Dales, place great faith in Spring Honey for those who "take cold" easily, while Leicestershire women regard the Summer blend as being the most efficacious for rheumatism and allied complaints.

Lancashire has always been noted as being the Land of Honey (without milk) and it is said that prior to the war more of this food was consumed in that county than in any other throughout the land! Be that as it may the fact does remain that Lancastrians do eat lots and lots of it.

NO "REPEAT"

The variation in colour and flavour depends of course upon the flowers and trees from which the nectar is collected. Virgin Honey is extracted by bees which have not swarmed. Holly is dark, bordering on black, and being very luscious in flavour is not very popular with the kiddies! Sycamore and Chestnut are excellent blends, while Lime Blossom is sweet and luscious. Australian Honey is a great favourite and easier to obtain now than it was a few years ago, and has the added attraction that it does not "repeat itself" like other blends have a tendency to do! Canadian is good, and of course American—the latter is now almost impossible to obtain so don't go pestering the Apiarist for this one!

There is yet another form known as the Honeycomb which is familiar to all of us, but, here again, being of a luscious nature it is difficult to assimilate by those who have sensitive digestions!

The difficulty in relation to this food, as in others, is that since the war a substance honey, made for a conglomeration of synthetic substances, has flowed on to the

market, but is very definitely **not HONEY!**

Note the high sugar content in pure honey, and you will not go far wrong. Therefore, all the more reason why you should obtain it from a reputable source.

According to eminent medical authorities the energy value of this sweetmeat is far greater than that of meat! One pound of the pure variety is said to possess the vitamin content equivalent to thirty times the same quantity of beef. Those who are constantly tired take note! One pound is said to possess more vitamins than 30 eggs or eight pints of milk!

Now as to the cures to be obtained from this delicacy.

A teaspoonful at bed-time will ensure sound sleep when all other means have failed. If your Tommy catches cold he should be put to bed and given a teaspoonful in a glass of hot milk. The next morning he will be as lively as a cricket!

By taking honey every day your entire system will be fortified, resulting in tone to the muscles and an increase of flesh. It is most excellent for anaemia, being a great blood enricher. Its chief constituent being formalin, honey provides an excellent tonic for the heart.

For the alleviation of rheumatism or the "screws," an infusion of one pint to one dessertspoonful, drunk warm, will result in relief from pain and if persevered with for a little while the complaint will ultimately vanish.

Those subject to constant colds and influenza should get into the habit of eating as much honey as possible, either in sandwich-spread forms or else in teaspoonful doses.

UNEQUALLED

For the alleviation of external wounds it has no equal. Do you suffer from boils, abscesses or carbuncles? If so you will know how painful they can be! Well, here is a quick and painless way of "drawing" these "seats of inflammation" to a head. Mix a thick paste of flour and honey and apply to the area on a cloth of white lint (not boracic please!). In a few hours the area will burst. If you should be bitten by a dog, cleanse the area and apply a little honey to the painful spot. It will quickly heal the wound and painlessly too!

Do you "run" splinters into your hands while chopping wood? Most folk do! The next time this happens, simply dab honey and flour on and soon you will be able to extract the splinter with the aid of tweezers. This is a sure way of bringing them to the surface and will save angry words too!

When applied to a burn, honey forms a seal excluding air and at the same time assists in the promotion of rapid healing.

After a visit to the dentist apply a little

to the gums and pain will vanish like magic! If you don't believe me, ask your dentist—he knows! If baby keeps you awake at night through cutting teeth, just rub the little one's gums with this remedy and soon the tears will cease to flow. Sleepless nights should be a thing of the past if you use honey! Similarly, a teaspoonful in a little warm water can be given for colic or "wind" with equal confidence. Simple but effective!

Instead of marmalade or jam try eating honey on toast in the morning. If you have got out of the wrong side of the bed honey will soon sweeten you up! In winter you will be fortified when on the way to work and have the knowledge that you are doing your best to prevent infection.

For all common eye troubles this medicament has a distinct appeal. If your blood is out of order, leading to styes, simply apply a poultice of flour and honey as in the case of boils. Of course, in serious eye infections a doctor must be consulted, but it is surprising how few such cases occur when treated promptly with honey!

CHARM RETAINER

Where is the lady who does not aspire to that "schoolgirl complexion"? I'll bet there are none among my readers! Well, here is a very cheap way of attaining your heart's desire! Simply apply a little honey to the face and hands after washing and you need not fear that your husband or boy friend will look at anyone else, since, after all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder! Retain your youthful charms by using honey as a skin toner.

By the way—when next you cut your finger just before washing-up, apply a little of this "miracle healer." It will form a seal against air and dirt. After a minute, washing-up operations can safely be commenced, and if your work takes you into water a good deal use honey on your hands and prevent them from getting chapped and red! It's the tip of the century! Use honey in your cakes and pastries and reap the reward of good health.

So now you know that honey has many uses. Our grandmothers made liberal use of this food and medicine. You too can use it with confidence. While it may not really work miracles it comes very close to doing so and—you never know, it may be the very remedy for which you have long been waiting.

If you are feeling older than your years then start the Honey Treatment now and keep it up.

Further information on this subject may be obtained from the writer upon receipt of a 2½d. stamp. Address: 94, Haycliffe Road, Bradford, 7, Yorkshire.

World Table Tennis Championships

AT WEMBLEY APRIL 1954



TABLE TENNIS BALLS Villa XXX

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Spalding Table Tennis Equipment includes:—

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ARE YOU TOO OLD . . .

IF YOU ARE STILL GOOD ENOUGH?

asks ROBERT FENTON

SO often, during the past few seasons, we have heard the cry that our top-line males are growing too old to face the rigours of the international cockpit—that youth must get its chance—and that the Selectors should build for the future!

Although the solutions to the problems of leavening experience with youth have been many and varied, there are aspects which have escaped the critics.

Since national Table Tennis success depends on individual—and not so much team—skill, the Selectors must suffer tremendous headaches in knowing where the injection of youth must cease, in order that a balance of strength be preserved, and that victory chances remain reasonable, if not certain.

Many critics and reporters lay extravagant claims for this player or that—maybe their claims are justified, maybe they are carried away by enthusiasm for the players they favour. Whichever way it goes the final arbiters are the Selectors who must stand or fall by their decisions.

NO BRIEF

I HOLD no brief for the Selectors, but surely they cannot be regarded as being limited in their assessment of skill or sufficiently biased in favour of any particular players that they would sacrifice their country's chances to satisfy personal whims!

I don't think anything like this could ever be suggested, but dark hints are thrown out now and again. . .

What is a Selector to do—a certain player is under consideration for honours, and he is playing at the top of his form—is he to be dropped like a hot brick because he has passed a certain age?

To my mind the time to drop out of the "big time" is when you are at the top—but I also believe it is a matter between the player and his conscience. At the table he may look convincing—but no one knows better than he when the snap has really gone for good, when the timing slips too many cogs, and when the skids are beginning to feel slippery.

Unfortunately few who reach the pinnacles in any sport want to step dramatically out of the limelight when there is still the

remote chance of another triumph, or while there is a faint possibility of proving that they are still as good as they were.

HONESTY

THERE is nothing more pitiful than to hear the critics (and every spectator is a critic in his own right) say "He was good a couple of years back." The man (or woman) who can match up to every demand made on his or her physique and skill is entitled to as many hours of glory as possible, but when these demands prove too much (even though the fact can be disguised) the players concerned should be honest with themselves and everyone else and gracefully hand over to others.

And now over to youth. Let's get away from any illusion that the speed and zest of youth can make up for lack of experience in the fierce glare of top class competition, and eventually, international play.

Youth must invariably bow to age in the matter of experience—if the stars of tomorrow are willing to listen to the veterans, and digest any tips of value, then they are well on the way to the top, where they will stay, providing there is always a willingness to learn from anyone who has any valuable knowledge to pass on. If they become big-headed (and there are a few big-heads, who think they know it all at a very tender age) then it's fatal.

NO RUSH

DON'T think I am against giving youth its chance—just the opposite. I am all for it—but don't let us rush our fences too fast. The stars of one period grow old together, but don't panic and throw youth to the lions when a few veterans can provide the streak of seasoned campaigning so necessary for all-round success.

Table Tennis requires the highest degree of physical fitness and mental alertness—but so do other sports.

What greater demand could be made than to spend a full day in the cricket field and then have to play your part with the bat—need I mention the great over-30's (some well over), need I say Hutton, Edrich, Washbrook, or have I made my point?

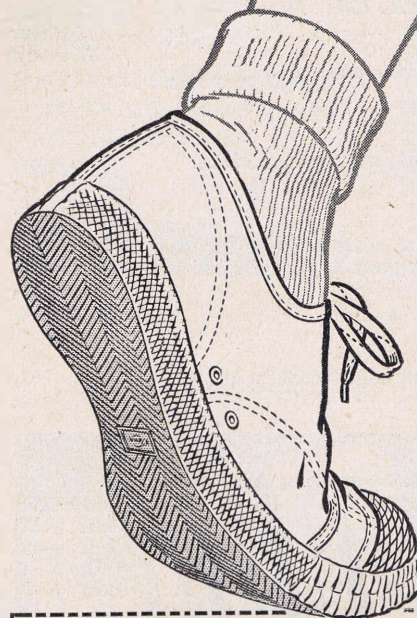
And I take it you have heard of Stanley Matthews, Joe Mercer, Tommy Lawton—football is no game for weaklings or the aged and infirm.

Yes, let us have youth by all means, but in a steady controlled flow.

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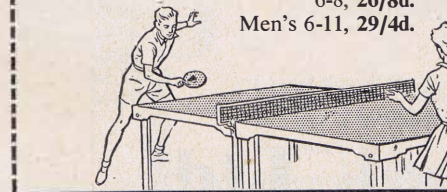
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