

WORLD-WIDE CIRCULATION AND NEWS COVERAGE

Table Tennis *Review*



Vol. 9

No. 2

WINTER ISSUE 1954

1'-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

SCOOP!

★

Victor Barna

writes for

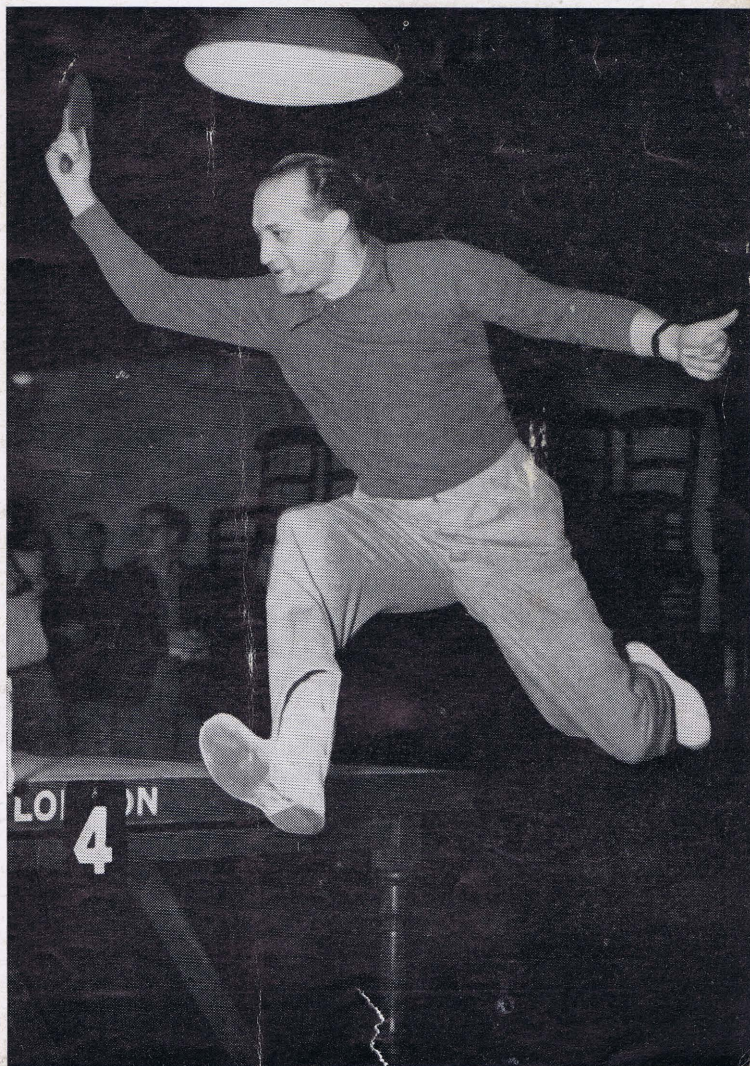
TABLE TENNIS
REVIEW'

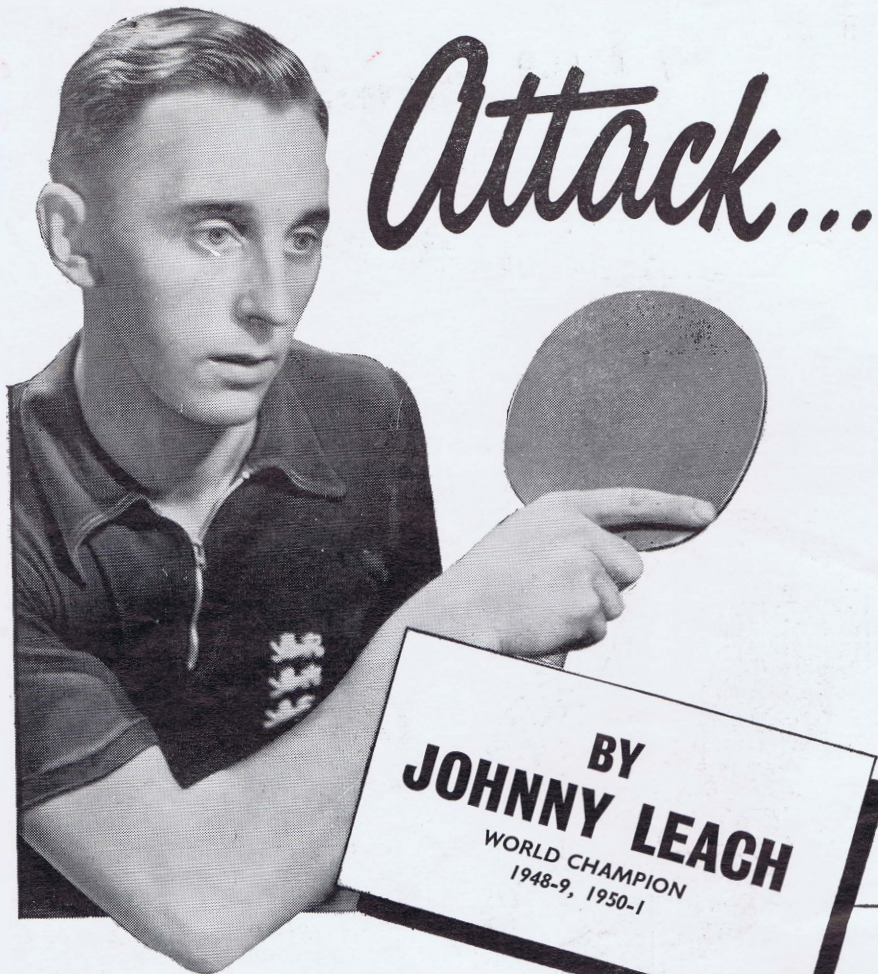
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APPEARS ON
PAGE 16

★

Cover Portrait:
THE 'MAESTRO'
IN ACTION





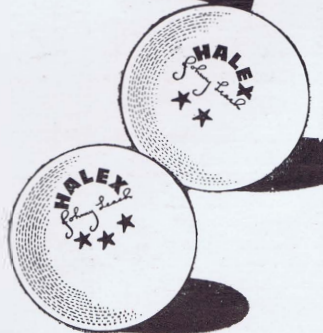
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BY
JOHNNY LEACH
WORLD CHAMPION
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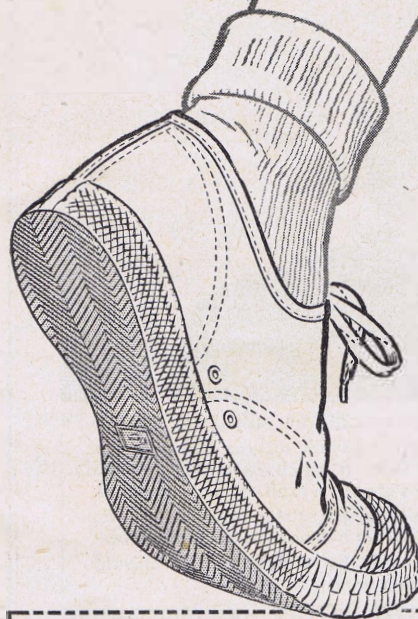


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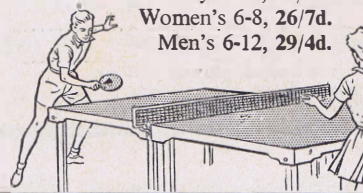
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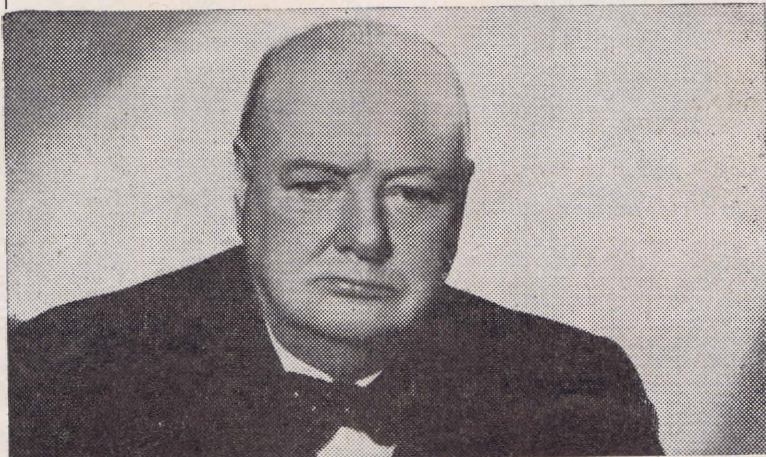
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TABLE TENNIS

Review

VOLUME 9
No. 2

WINTER 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

WITH this issue "Table Tennis Review" announces with pride that Victor Barna has contracted to write a series of exclusive articles for our readers.

Without question the greatest player the game has ever produced, and the most dominating personality who ever stepped up to a table, Barna's influence is equally strong as a writer, as his articles will prove. The first, which appears on pages 16 and 17, expounds his forthright opinions on the sponge controversy, and the others will be equally straight from the shoulder—the publishers feel sure you will enjoy them.

Incidentally, may I introduce myself: my name is Robert Blackburn, newly appointed as Editor of the "Review." Having assisted in the production of the magazine for the past two years I am now given full responsibility for the publication.

For my part it will be a pleasant duty to serve readers and the game to the full, but I can do it only with your assistance. To give the widest possible coverage I need the news from your league and your club. Don't get the idea that it's only the "big-shots" who make news. They do of course, but so do the little chaps, and the little clubs—so may I rely on you?

The Editor.

THE AUSTRIAN 'OPEN'

Two for Ros — One for Di

THE Austrian Open, held in Vienna October 30—November 1, brought the first international triumphs of the season to Rosalind and Diane Rowe, who returned to England with the Singles and Women's Doubles titles as their bag.

Rosalind was the heroine of the Singles, beating Trudi Pritzi, Austria's 1937/38 World champion and still good enough to rank No. 9 in the World list, in the quarter-finals; four-times World queen-pin Gizi Farkas, after a very tough and very close five-setter, in the semis; and Ilona Kerekcs, also of Hungary, in the final, after another five-set battle. Mrs. Kerekcs had beaten Diane 21-7, 21-18, 19-21, 20-22, 21-19 in the quarter-finals, so Ros had an extra incentive to win.

One of the big surprises was the defeat of holder Linde Werthl, the sporting pride of Austria and currently English Open champion, in the quarter-finals by Czechoslovakia's Elliska Krejcová, 17-21, 21-16, 21-14, 23-21.

The Middlesex twins easily retained their Doubles title, beating the Farkas-Kerekcs combination without dropping a set in the final, after beating Pritzi and Christianne Watel (France) in the semis in three straight.

In the Mixed Doubles the girls weren't so successful, Ros and H. Just (Austria) losing in the quarter-finals to Dr. Zarko Dolinar, the Yugoslav who with country-

man Vilim Harangozo holds the World's Men's Doubles, and Werthl 16-21, 11-21, 16-21; and Diane and Johnnie Leach losing in the next round to the same pair 22-20, 10-21, 21-13, 13-21, 13-21. Dolinar-Werthl went on to win the final against the all-Hungarian combination of Josef Koczian, back in circulation again after a long lay-off, and Farkas.

Leach, our only male representative, lost in the third round of the Men's Singles to Konrad Freundorfer, the German youngster, and in the second round of the Men's Singles, partnered by the young Hungarian Laszlo Foldy, went under to the Frenchmen S. Sala and S. Cafiero.

The Men's Singles went to that redoubtable Czech of lazy-looking style, Ivan Andreadis, who beat Dolinar in a four-set final. Ivan, with his countryman L. Stipek, also scooped the Men's Doubles.

MEN'S SINGLES: I. Andreadis beat Z. Dolinar 12-21, 21-18, 21-11, 21-11.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: R. Rowe beat Ilona Kerekcs 22-24, 22-24, 21-18, 21-19, 21-7.

MEN'S DOUBLES: I. Andreadis and L. Stipek beat K. Freundorfer and H. Rockmeier (Germany) 21-14, 21-14, 17-21, 21-10.

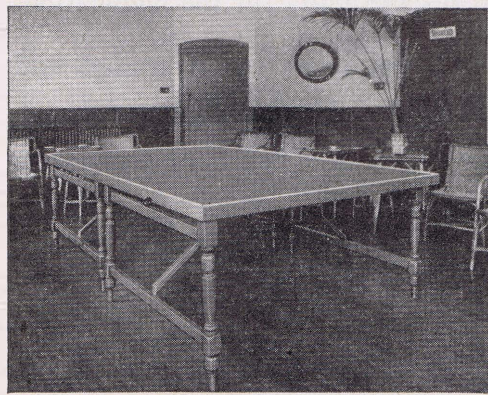
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: R. Rowe and D. Rowe beat G. Farkas and I. Kerekcs 21-16, 23-21, 22-20.

MIXED DOUBLES: Dolinar and L. Werthl beat J. Koczian and Farkas 21-13, 20-22, 21-16, 21-19.

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EASTERN SUBURBAN 'OPEN'

Craigie wins again

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



KEN CRAIGIE (Surrey) won the Men's Singles title without much difficulty, beating Len Adams (Middlesex) 16, 10 in the final, and Peter Pudney (Essex) caused a minor surprise by beating No. 4 "seed," Alan Rhodes (Middlesex) 20, —9, 18, and thus qualified for the semi-finals. The remaining semi-finalists were all seeded players.

The most spectacular match was in the preliminary rounds between Keith Hurlock (Surrey) and Bobby Stevens (Essex), Stevens winning 19, 17. Tremendous speed, hard hitting and fantastic retrieving by both boys made this clash outstanding.

Jackie Head appears to be conquering his nerves well now, and consequently he is a more forceful player than previously. His defeat of Derek Burrige (Middlesex) —10, 18, 17, and Bobby Stevens 11, —16, 17, speaks for itself.

Other results worthy of mention are: Jimmy Lowe (Middlesex) beat Micky Thornhill, Ivor Jones (Essex) beat Brian Brumwell (Essex), and Alan Rhodes beat Tony Miller (Surrey).

WOMEN'S SINGLES

After a shaky start this season, Betty Isaacs (Surrey) regained her form to win the Women's Singles title by beating Barbara Milbank (Essex) 18, —21, 18 in the final. Betty played a sound all-round game with emphasis on attack whenever possible.

In their quarter-finals, Betty beat the No. 1 "seed," Joy Seaman (Middlesex), while Barbara was strongly challenged by Elsie Carrington (Essex).

The surprises were caused by Joy Fielder (Kent), who beat Jill Rook (Surrey) and Peggy Franks in the third round and quarter-final respectively. Another young lady who impressed was Jean Latty (Essex), losing only —17, 16, —19 to Peggy Franks in the second round.

MEN'S DOUBLES

The final between Stevens/Jones and

Craigie/Rhodes was the fastest match of the finals. The audience absolutely gasped with amazement at many of the counter-hits—mainly executed by the former pair. A very lively affair altogether.

The winners (Stevens/Jones) had extremely tough opposition throughout the tournament: Lowe/Thornhill, Head/Carrington, Dorking/Brumwell and Adams/Crayden, in that order. Craigie and Rhodes were more fortunate, having only one hard round, against Hurlock/Burrige in the quarter-final.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

The final between Jean Winn/Joy Seaman and Barbara Milbank/Elsie Carrington was an evenly balanced match, both pairs taking every opportunity to hit. There were no results of interest in the preliminary rounds.

MIXED DOUBLES

Neither pair in the final were "seeds." The No. 1 seeded couple, Ken Craigie/Jill Rook, lost to Jimmy Lowe/Betty Isaacs in the quarter-final, and the No. 2 "seeds," Alan Rhodes/Jean Winn lost in the semi to Jackie Head/Joy Seaman.

The winners' (Head/Seaman) hardest match was in their first round, when they defeated Bobby Stevens/Yvonne Baker 22, —18, 13.

BOYS' SINGLES

Laurie Landry (Middlesex) gave Terry Densham (Surrey) little chance to attack, and dominated the game by hard hitting

Continued overleaf

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Dec. 10—11
WELSH OPEN.

Jan. 3—8
Metropolitan Open (London, W.1)

Jan. 7—8
Pontefract Open (Pontefract).

Jan. 10—11
FRENCH OPEN.

Jan. 15
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE.

Jan. 15—16
BELGIAN OPEN.

Jan. 16—22
North-West Kent Open
(Bexley Heath).

Jan. 21—22
South Yorkshire Open (Sheffield).

Jan. 23
Southampton Open (Southampton).

Jan. 27—29
Cheshire Open.

Jan. 29—30
Kent Open (Folkestone).

Feb. 2—3, 7—12
Middlesex (Herga) Open (Harrow).

Feb. 5.
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE.

Feb. 12 and 19
Midland Open (Birmingham).

Feb. 21—25
Surrey Open (Epsom).

Feb. 26
WILMOTT CUP AND
J.M. ROSE BOWL
SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS.

Feb. 28, Mar. 4, 7—12
West Middlesex Open (West Ealing).

Mar. 5
NATIONAL COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURE.

Mar. 12
Yorkshire Jnr. Open.

Mar. 18—19
Lancashire Open (Blackpool).

Mar. 18—19
West of England Open (Bristol).

Mar. 26
Grimsby Open (Cleethorpes).

Mar. 29—April 2
ENGLISH OPEN (Wembley).

April 9 and 11
North-East England Open
(Scarborough).

April 15—24
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Utrecht).

April 25—30
Thames-side Open (Plaistow).

EASTERN SUBURBAN 'OPEN'

Continued from previous page

as usual. The Landry-Densham match is becoming a regular feature of Finals Night, and often proves to be one of the highlights of the evening.

A bigger audience might have added more excitement to the Finals proceedings, but even so, the standard of play was good.

Good playing conditions and the availability of showers helps to give this tournament a good mention, and especially when taking into account the moderate entry fees charged.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-finals: K. Craigie beat J. Head 17, 17. L. Adams beat P. Pudney 17, 12. Final: K. Craigie beat L. Adams 16, 10.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Semi-finals: B. Isaacs beat J. Fielder 19, 9. B. Milbank beat J. Winn 23, 16. Final: B. Isaacs beat B. Milbank 18, —21, 18.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-finals: R. J. Stevens/I. W. Jones beat L. Adams/R. Crayden 18, —6, 16. K. Craigie/A. Rhodes beat R. McCree/L. Sawyer 14, 16. Final: R. J. Stevens/I. W. Jones beat K. Craigie/A. Rhodes 10, 19.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-finals: J. Winn/Y. Seaman beat J. Rook/P. Gall 19, 14. B. Milbank/E. Carrington beat B. Isaacs/M. Fry —19, 14, 11. Final: J. Winn/Y. Seaman beat B. Milbank/E. Carrington 22, 21.

MIXED DOUBLES

Semi-finals: J. Head/Y. Seaman beat A. Rhodes/J. Winn 14, 16. L. Adams/E. Carrington beat J. Lowe/B. Isaacs —13, 12, 18. Final: J. Head/Y. Seaman beat L. Adams/E. Carrington 19, 12.

BOYS' SINGLES

Final: L. Landry beat T. Densham 10, —16, 16.

GIRLS' SINGLES

Final: J. Fielder beat S. Pickard 11, 15.

BURRIDGE TRIUMPHS
in SUSSEX 'OPEN'

(FROM OUR
OWN REPORTER)

AFTER Derek Burridge (Middlesex) beat Aubrey Simons in his 'semi,' many spectators wondered how he would fare in the final, but when Harry Venner (Surrey) hit Peter Shead off the table in a very convincing manner, it looked as though Venner was a 'safe bet' for the title.

Venner set out to prove this, and in the first game of the final obtained a 17—8 lead. Burridge, however, determinedly retrieved the ball from all angles, and, point by point, caught up and won the game at 19. Venner was obviously shaken, but with aggressive hitting in the second game, led 10—4. It seemed impossible that Venner would again lose his lead, but Burridge held on grimly, to level the score and eventually win 21—12.

This match was definitely the most breathtaking of the tournament, and Burridge must certainly have enhanced his chances of an International 'cap' by his performance. In his quarter-final he beat Alan Rhodes (Middlesex) 15, 11.

Venner had a comparatively easier path to the final, and his hardest match was against Ivor Jones (Essex), whom he beat 20, 12.

Of the four players seeded in this event—Simons (1), Venner (2), Adams (3) and Head (4)—Len Adams (Middlesex) lost to Alan Rhodes in the Fourth Round, and Jackie Head (Surrey) failed to survive the Second Round. Seeding in tournaments, by the way, is based on the National Ranking List.

The highest score reached in the tournament was when Burridge beat Roy Turner (Surrey) 18, 31!

GOOD STANDARD

Although the final between Barbara Milbank (Essex) and Jean Winn (Surrey) was of good standard, Barbara appeared to have things under control on the whole. In both the first and third games she obtained a lead of about 7—1, and made sure of retaining her lead in the third game to win the title.

The best matches were between Jean Winn and Yvonne Baker (Essex), and between Barbara Milbank and Ann Haydon (Warwicks.), both being decided at 19 in the third.

Nowadays the preliminary rounds of the Women's Singles appear to be much harder than those of the Men's Singles in comparison, and the more interesting results in this tournament were as follows: Pam Mortimer (Warwicks.) beat Jill Rook (Surrey) —20, 14, 10, beat Peggy Piper (Surrey) 9, 16, lost to Jean Winn 13, 18. Wendy Bates (Sussex) beat Dot Ellis (Middlesex) 17, 17, beat Margaret Cherry

(Middlesex) —19, 16, 12, lost to Barbara Milbank 6, —17, 10.

POINT OF INTEREST

An interesting point in the Men's Doubles is that the final between Bobby Stevens/Ivor Jones (Essex) and Len Adams/Derek Burridge was a repeat of the final of the Birmingham "Open," which was decided only about five hours before the Sussex "Open" finals.

This was because, owing to lack of time at the Birmingham "Open" the previous week, the Men's Doubles final had to be held over until this tournament. In the afternoon Adams/Burridge beat Stevens/Jones, but were unable to do so a second time, in the evening.

The biggest surprise in the earlier rounds was when R. Etheridge/Thorn (Kent) beat Aubrey Simons/Jack Carrington, but the triumphant pair went down to Adams/Burridge in their next round (quarter-final) 8, —18, 12. It may be concluded that Etheridge, who is now playing with sponge, did most damage. A. R. Millar/T. Kirby (Surrey) beat H. Venner/D. Miller 10, —17, 18 in the fourth round.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Betty Isaacs/Pam Mortimer beat Doreen Spooner/Jean Winn in their quarter-final, and Barbara Milbank/Elsie Carrington beat Yvonne Baker/Peggy Piper. The Isaacs/Mortimer combination is new this season, and promises to do well, but the Milbank/Carrington pairing carried off the final.

MIXED DOUBLES

To reach the final, Harry Venner/Ann Haydon beat Bobby Stevens/Yvonne Baker 16, —19, 15, Jack Carrington/Barbara Milbank 15, —17, 12, and Alan Sherwood/Pam Gall 20, 18. Alan Rhodes/Jean Winn had an easy passage to the semi-final, but then did well to beat Aubrey Simons/Peggy Piper —12, 14, 13. Venner and Haydon won the event.

BOYS' SINGLES

Terry Densham (Surrey) reversed his previous week's defeat (in the Birmingham "Open") by beating Laurie Landry (Middlesex) 14, —14, 12, Densham using his backhand counterhit to good effect against Landry's constant stream of strong attacking.

SPACE for

(A HIGHLY IMPROBABLE STORY . . .
BUT IT COULD HAPPEN!)

SPORT

The year — 2155. Inter-planetary communication has long been established.

In the field of sport, though scientific inventions have revolutionised the various equipment, the basic quality of skill remains.

Table Tennis is still Table Tennis. No longer, however, is the I.T.T.F. the length and breadth of unity. Now there is the Universal T.T. Organisation (U.T.T.O.), and a regular programme of fixtures is carried on between Earth, Mars, Jupiter and their neighbours.

But certainly the most exciting match of recent years was the U.T.T.O. Team Championship Finals between the Earth and Mars. A neutral ground could not be arranged, and it was agreed to play on Mars.

On the night of the great match, a fleet of 12,000 space-ships lined the rocket-ways of the space-airports of the Earth. The number of Earth spectators travelling was estimated at 1,400,000—a universal record. The number who watched on their inter-planetary T.V. sets was somewhere in the region of 88,000,000.

The Space-Traffic Police had the usual harrassing time dealing with the same old re-incarnation of stupid, reckless drivers, but all ships reached Mars without any serious mishap.

TELESCOPIC SIGHTING

The match was held in the Mars Capital Hall, a vast edifice seating five million persons. It was as easy to see in the outer seats as at the front, thanks to the new telescopic 'view-all' frontal-frames (fitted with auditory amplification) that were fixed to the front of each seat.

The Martians had a committee that knew how to organise. Almost before the Earth team had stripped off their Travel-Suits, the preliminaries had been arranged. The match would be the usual nine sets, but the duel between the two No. 1 players was to be played last of all, to round off the evening.

The Earth Team's No. 2 (a Hungarian) started off the match by playing against the Mars' opposite number. This latter, a calm unruffled spin-merchant, is reputed to have once imparted so much sidespin on a ball that it travelled round the face of Mars and landed on the table from the other side of the planet! (This may perhaps be an exaggeration, however. You know

how Table Tennis players talk.)

The Hungarian was plainly bewildered from the start by the fantastic sidespin, and lost in two straight games.

Earth's No. 3 (Japanese, complete with Radar sponge-bat) then played Mars No. 3, the 'difficult child' of Martian Table Tennis. Once, after disagreeing with a decision, this Martian had frizzled the umpire to a cinder with a Ray-gun. For this, he was duly suspended for six months; a severe punishment perhaps, but umpires were scarce at the time. This set also went to Mars—(Score 2-0 to Mars).

Then Josiah Hilton, No. 1 Player of the World, came on to play against Mars No. 2, the famous spin-merchant. Josiah was frankly puzzled at the start as the ball kept swerving out of vision, but managed to get his radar-detector tuned more accurately as the game proceeded. He pulled this one off at deuces, and won the second with a comfortable margin.

by STANLEY PRESTON

Mars No. 1, Clud Hardhit, was renowned for his ability to play every style in the book and a few more besides. He had, so far, never lost an inter-planetary set. He held his record by wiping-off the Hungarian, and, after the interval, doing the same to the Japanese player.

Score Mars 4, Earth 1. The last four sets needed by Earth.

As was to be expected, a natural gloom enveloped the Earth commentators. One of them desperately remarked: "Our players seem tired from the long journey." From this typical comment it will be seen that excuses are as prevalent in 2155 as they were in the 1950's.

However, the next three sets gave Earth spectators a wonderful renewal of hope.

Josiah comfortably beat the Mars No. 3, and the Japanese player upset the Mars spin-merchant, by putting so many variations on the bounce of the ball. The Martian jerked backwards and forwards so much that he developed a 'conditioned reflex' and could do nothing else.

The Hungarian then surprised everyone by tearing to victory in a ding-dong battle against Mars No. 3.

Score: Mars 4, Earth 5, and the last set to go. Could Earth's No. 1 beat Clud Hardhit and pull Earth to victory, or would Mars bring the match to a draw?

Unofficial betting showed Clud to be the favourite, and as he marched up to the table his attitude of confidence seemed unshakable. I will quote here from the commentary:

"Clud Hardhit, the player who remains unbeaten in Universal Singles, stands at the north end of the table, holding the Atomic Bat in his hand. As we know, Clud can change his style a dozen times in a set, and usually he changes bats as often. The Atomic Bat is fairly dated, nowadays, but for viewers who are unfamiliar with the game, the rules of two centuries ago still stand—the bat may be of any size, shape or materials.

NOT UNUSUAL

"The Atomic Bat is not unusual in appearance—but incorporated in the handle is a switch that activates the sensitive material of the blade, adding impetus to the normal stroke. . . . But here now comes Josiah! There's quite an ovation—he's at the table now. There they go—they're knocking-up for a few moments.

"I think Josiah looks just a little nervous—there's hardly any expression on his face, but he doesn't look *quite* happy. I think I've time to say that Josiah is now using that very old-fashioned relic of the twentieth-century, the ordinary rubber-covered bat. . . . But now the umpire has signalled and the players are ready to begin."

Josiah won the choice of serving and the game started. Great excitement followed as Josiah took the first three points with his serves alone. Clud scowled and signalled that he wished to change his bat. A murmur rippled along the audience as he picked up the Hydrogen Bat, a modification of the Atomic one, with a greater range. The next two points were Clud's, and then he took over the serves. Clud won the next seven points in a row, and Josiah was looking troubled, but he managed to take 4 of the next nine. 14-7.

Then things brightened for Josiah. He made a spectacular effort and crept up to level. The Martian watchers were horrified, as was Clud, who immediately threw down the Hydrogen Bat in disgust, and withdrew

from a cover the Jet Turbine Bat, the latest known weapon in Table Tennis. It is very difficult to master, but can be devastating in effect. The principle is a miniature turbine in the handle which controls flaps on the blade.

Clud had mastered it, for he whizzed his way to twenty with the loss of only one point to Josiah. 20-15. The next point went to Clud and with it, the first game. The Martians went crazy with excitement, and it was some moments before the set could be continued.

Game two started, with Clud serving, but a change seemed to have come over Josiah. He seemed frenzied, and unexpectedly began to force the tempo of the game. He played so fast that Clud seemed to be having difficulty in adjusting the Jet of his Turbine Bat.

It was a clever move. Clud was at a loss from the start, and Josiah took the game at 11-21.

JET ABANDONED

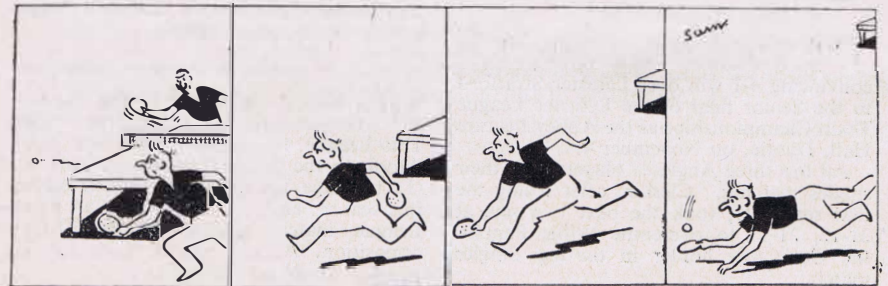
Third game: Josiah serving, Clud still using the Jet. At change of serves it was Josiah leading 1-4. Clud, who had expected Josiah to tire, had to abandon his Jet bat.

In the next fifteen minutes he had tried all the bats again and one or two earlier types also, and the score stood at 19-18, Clud leading. In the words of the commentator:

"... These men are tired. Anything can happen. Josiah taps it back, Clud blocks, Josiah whips it over—Oh yes! 19-all! A beauty! . . . ball in play again—Clud gives a terrific return—Josiah just held it—Clud's dropped it back to safety; Josiah chops again—Clud swipes, and it misses the end of the table. . . ."

"... 19-20, Josiah in the lead! Off again—Josiah sends a short one over, Clud has to jump for that one and it lands high of Josiah's side—Josiah swings—Oh yes! It's there! *It's there!* A terrific shot from Josiah as Clud was off-balance—Oh dear! It caught the net and *trickled over*. . . . Yes, Match win for Earth!"

Yes, an exciting match. But as will be seen, even in 2155 we have no way of avoiding that old, old bogey, the net-trickler.



IRISH 'ROUND-UP'

... PRESENTED BY DEREK JONES

PLAYERS from the home province scored outstanding successes in the finals of the Ulster Open Table Tennis Championships at Rostrevor on October 30th. Five of the six titles stayed "at home," the remaining one going to Dublin, Ireland's two top ranking Internationals, Miss Joy Owens and Miss Deirdre Fearon, winning the Ladies' Doubles.

It was a great night for International Harry O'Prey of Newtownards, who completed the "hat-trick." His victory in the Men's Singles final over Leinster number one and fellow International Sean Clerkin, the young left-handed Dubliner, who put up such a fine show against Johnnie Leach in last season's Irish Open semi-finals, has made the Ulsterman firm favourite to play as Ireland's number one in the coming International matches this season.

It was the Women's Singles semi-finals that produced the real shocks of the night, with both Joy Owens and Deirdre Fearon crashing to defeat at the hands of Ulster girls. The two Dublin Internationals did not even take a set between them in the semi-finals. Hats off to the Ulster girls Miss M. Wilson and Miss M. Lyons, who caused the upsets, before Miss Lyons eventually went on to take the title in a ding-dong decider.

Results were : Finals : Men's Singles, H. O'Prey (Newtownards) beat S. Clerkin (Dublin) 21-12, 19-21, 21-7, 21-8. Ladies' Singles : Miss M. Lyons (Rostrevor) beat Miss M. Wilson (Belfast) 21-19, 19-21, 21-16. Men's Doubles : O'Prey and C. Senior (Belfast) beat E. Martin and E. Allen (Belfast) 21-18, 21-14. Women's Doubles : Miss J. Owens (Dublin) and Miss D. Fearon (Dublin) beat Miss Lyons and Miss J. Lynn (Belfast) 22-20, 21-8. Mixed Doubles : O'Prey and Miss Wilson beat Martin and Miss Lyons 19-21, 21-19, 21-19. Boys' Singles : R. Linden (Rostrevor) beat T. Cummins (Belfast) 21-8, 21-10.

THE powerful Anglesea team, led by Sean Clerkin, swept through to a convincing 4-1 win over Leinster Stratford in the Senior final of the Leinster League Team Championships at the Abbey Lecture Hall, Dublin, on November 4.

All top three Anglesea players won their singles matches. Clerkin, after losing the first set 18-21, took the next two sets at 21-12, 21-13 to overcome Willie Pappin, the Cork title holder in the top Singles match.

Teenager Michael Behan beat Noel Kerr 21-19, 21-14, while No. 3, Joe Veselsky, defeated Bertie Huet 23-21, 19-23, 24-22 in a real thriller.

Other finals resulted : Intermediate—Adelaide Road 4 ; Old Corps 3. Junior—Navan 4 ; Old Corps 1. Ladies—Kenilworth 4 ; Anglesea 2.

MICHAEL BEHAN has become Ireland's number one prospect. This youngster, still a schoolboy at Blackrock College, Ireland's finest rugby union "nursery," of which he is senior boy champion, has been steadily improving since he lost to Graham Holden, the young English lad from Reading, in last season's Irish Open Boys' Singles final.

Michael has had his reward, although he has had to try and fit in Table Tennis between his studies. In addition to being on the winning Anglesea team, in which he is No. 2, he won his place on the Leinster Senior team in the Interprovincial championships at Sligo on November 19th and 20th.

Filling the number three spot, he was the youngest member of the side, which included Clerkin, Pappin, Harry Thuiller, now doing a great job coaching Dublin's youngsters, Joy Owens and Deirdre Fearon.

THE Irish Table Tennis Association has arranged an extra International for this season, which must be considered a "scoop" for the I.T.T.A. ! After the match against Scotland at Glasgow on December 3rd, a German team will visit Ireland.

The Germans have been "booked" for two Internationals against Ireland, the first in Belfast on December 17th, and one on the following day in Dublin.

At the time of writing the German team was not known, but it's on the cards that it will be led by K. Freundorfer, Senior champion of Germany, as well as being the junior champion of Sweden, Yugoslavia, France and England.

MEN behind the scenes of the Parishes League are really on their toes. This League, formed five years ago, has a "look to the future" two-point plan... (1) to stage an individual championship this season, and... (2) to fix up an Inter-League match against selected Dublin opposition. An appropriate motto for this League would be—Progress !

Helen Elliot shocks Garland !

GORDON R. WALKER REPORTS ON THE HIGHLAND 'OPEN'

FOR those keen enough to equip themselves with snow-shoes and electrically heated flying suits, the first tournament of the season is the Highland Open, and this took place at Elgin in Morayshire on Saturday, October 30th.

Elgin is the northernmost point in the country at which a Table Tennis championship is staged. This year seven Scottish Internationalists braved the perils of the frozen North, and I am confident that more than one of these intrepid people wished he had stayed at his own fireside!

Woman defeats Man

What a headline for the feminists! And what a blow to Man. I am not surprised to hear that Victor Garland has decided to take up crofting in the Outer Hebrides. In the Open Singles of this tournament, for which man or woman may enter, Helen Elliot defeated Garland in the final, and in three straight sets at that! In these columns I have before now referred to Miss Elliot as the queen of Scottish Table Tennis. Am I now to crown her king? Come on, Victor! The honour of the supreme being is at stake. Challenge her, man; challenge her! (and may the best man win).

Meanwhile we must be men enough to offer our congratulations to Miss Elliot on what must be the most piquant achievement of her career; certainly the crowd were vociferous in their appreciation of the ironic situation as the famous Elliot attack blasted the famous Garland defence, rated by many as the best in the country.

Notable quarter-finals departure in this championship was that of Glasgow's Eddie Still at the hands of Johnny Miller of Edinburgh. Miller is one of those aggravating people who will be brilliant in one round, and defeat a star, and then lose in

the next round to a tenderfoot (though this was not the case in this particular tournament).

Miss Elliot had no difficulty in winning the Women's Singles title against Mrs. I. Cababe of Edinburgh, also in straight sets.

Popular Victory

An extremely popular victory in the Doubles final was that of R. Park and A. Masson of Aberdeen over T. Gilmour and R. Topley of Dundee. It is now some time since I earmarked young Park for the high spots; the Dundee pair are no push-over, as their semi-final victory over Helen Elliot and Johnny Miller shows, and the Aberdonians did very well to win a closely contested final. Holders of this title were Victor Garland (Aberdeen) and Ron Forman (Dundee), who were defeated in the quarters.

Altogether Garland had a very unfortunate tournament and it is to be hoped he has not lost the grand form he maintained throughout last season.

RESULTS

OPEN SINGLES : Semi-finals : V. H. Garland beat R. L. Forman (Dundee) 15, 16. H. Elliot beat J. Miller (Edinburgh) —21, 13, 15. Final : H. Elliot (Edinburgh) beat V. H. Garland (Aberdeen) 11, 11, 17.

OPEN DOUBLES : Semi-finals : Topley and Gilmour beat Elliot and Miller 13, 21. Park and Masson beat A. S. Anderson and T. Leiper (Aberdeen) 6, 16. Final : Park and Masson (Aberdeen) beat Topley and Gilmour (Dundee) —13, 21, 16.

WOMEN'S SINGLES : Semi-finals : Miss H. Elliot beat Miss D. Black (Dundee) 5, 5. Miss I. Cababe beat Miss E. Dunbar (Dundee) 13, 19. Final : Miss H. Elliot (Edinburgh) beat Miss I. Cababe (Edinburgh) 14, 10.

IF you have any difficulty in obtaining a regular copy of "TABLE TENNIS REVIEW" from your local Newsagent, Bookshop or Bookstall, then you can complete the coupon below to be certain of receiving your direct supply of the coming interesting issues

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CAPITALS PLEASE

HERE ... AND ... THERE

MAX Marinko, one-time user of a wooden spade which he called a bat and now a devotee of sponge, has made a name for himself across the Atlantic by winning the Canadian Open in Vancouver. The last time we in Britain had acquaintance with Max, a Yugoslav now domiciled in Austria, he took a fearful thrashing from Devon veteran Lionel Kerslake, who in one game left him standing at four!

FROM across the Herring Pond also comes news of a "wonder boy," whose name is given tersely as Klein, without a Christian monnicker. Klein, a 16-year-old from Los Angeles, startled critics by winning the Men's Singles, Men's and Mixed Doubles and Junior Singles titles at a major open tournament. In the quarter-finals of the Men's Singles he beat Bernard Bukiet 3-1, in the semis he toused Sol Schiff in three straight, and in the final he accounted for Johnny Somael 3-2.

Bukiet and Somael were in the most recent U.S. Swaythling team, while Schiff we know of old as a world-class battler. So it was quite a performance for Klein.

Which reminds me that last season an official publicity sheet giving details of players competing in the World Series contained the name of a 16-year-old "wonder boy," one Bernard Bukiet (the same as mentioned above). Those of us who took the first opportunity to see him were surprised to see that Bernard was either a man of 30 and over, or else a boy who had worried himself into looking twice his age. We found out later that the report on his age was a mistake. I trust the latest American juvenile discovery won't turn out to be Garrett Nash using a nom-de-plume.

AN admirer of foot-work in all its forms I went along to see a company of visiting Japanese dancers at a London theatre, anticipating a display of rhythmical energy à la Ogimura—Tomita—Watenabe. The dancers, advertised as ballet exponents, displayed about as much life as a tortoise suffering from sleeping

sickness. If they had displayed a fifth of the litheness, movement and bounding vitality of those little 'uns who stunned us at Wembley, above said dancers would have gotten a much bigger hand than they did—at least from yours truly. As it was—I'll stick to Jap Table Tennis players for entertainment.

I DON'T remember anyone so young as Ann Haydon being in a World ranking list. The not-yet-16 Birmingham lass has No. 12 spot—and, incidentally, is one above Kathy Best, who is given priority at No. 3 over Ann in the English rankings. I'm convinced it's only a question of a very few years before Ann tops the global table.

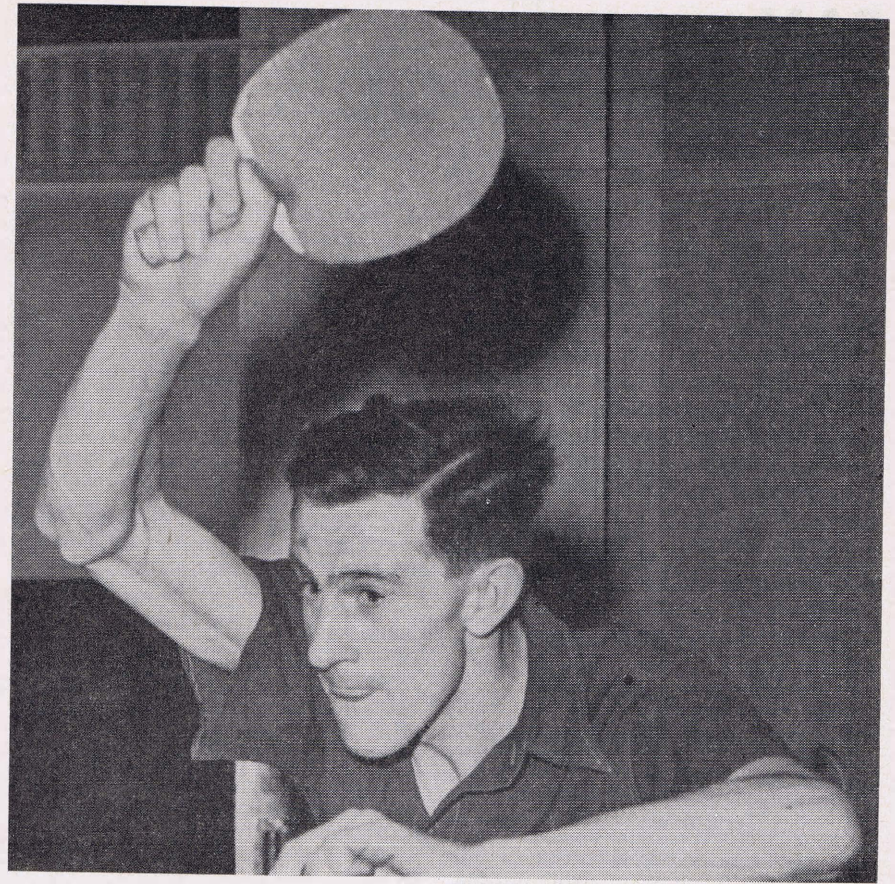
If I were asked to name the white players most likely to be World champs in four or five years' time, Ann would be my choice on the distaff side and Konny Freundorfer for the men. England has never had a woman holder of the World singles—and Germany has never boasted a champion in either event. Who knows what the near future will bring?

"HARRY the Torso" is one of those characters who are around at open tournament after tournament, playing eagerly and hopefully yet never successfully. Harry, who comes by his "Torso" nickname because he's almost as broad as he's tall, trolleyed his ample frame up to me the other day and told me he was faring surpassing well in his latest competition. "In the quarter-finals, I am," he beamed amiably.

I congratulated the cheerful one and asked him how he had done it. "I had a bye in the first round, a walkover in the second, and my opponent in the next sprained his playing wrist and couldn't play. Not bad, eh?"

Having a fastidious dislike of mentioning the word "luck" to anyone with a chest over 45 inches (unexpanded), and also because "Harry the Torso" is a most placid and likeable character, I merely congratulated him on his progress. And why not? After all, if it weren't for men and girls like him, who enter tournaments and help to pay expenses and prizes for the stars, there'd be precious few opens—if any. May you yet win a tournament, Harry—how, doesn't matter a damn.

M. S. HACKNEY



FOLLOWING spectacular successes during 1953/54, Ken Craigie, England and Surrey County representative, looks forward to even bigger things this season. One of the few home stars who believe that attack is the best form of defence, Ken's target is a place amongst the first three of the Swaythling Cup team. Ken is pictured in a typically aggressive mood.

CAPPED

Congratulations to
DEREK BURRIDGE of Middlesex
on his selection for England.
His first cap takes him into opposition
with the German touring side

Greetings

The Publishers and Editorial Staff cordially extend to our readers and friends their wishes for a very happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year

SAM ★ ★ ★ KIRKWOOD'S ★ ★ ★ COLUMN

EMINENT newcomers to the "sponge" group are Andreadis, Sido, Stipek, Tereba and Vana. Stipak, that brilliant yet erratic Czech attacker, won a major European tournament with his new implement. In the same tournament, Laszlo Foldi, the young Hungarian, using an ordinary rubber racket, beat Andreadis and Vana, to reach the final.

Strange that Andreadis, whose great wins over the Jap Swaythling Cup aces last April endeared him to the Wembley crowd, should experiment with a "soft 'un." Possibly the game's supreme exponent of the classical style, he'd be about the last man in the world to benefit by a changeover.

Even Frenchman Haguenauer has been bitten by the bug, I hear, and been trying his hand with the very weapon which, not so long ago, so disgusted him when he faced it in the French Closed that he surrendered his match!

Myself, an impartial observer with nothing to lose or gain either way, I still maintain that if you've got ability you can push ahead regardless of the material covering your blade. Players are worrying themselves into a psychological "state" over nothing—or, more explicitly, they're tending to confuse the man behind the bat with the bat itself.

APPARENTLY there was some excitement in the Bucks. Open at Slough earlier in the season. The somewhat obscure Hertfordshire player, Prior, sprang a surprise by beating Brian Brumwell—but that wasn't the cause of the minor schemozzle. Oh, no. Word had got around that Prior had just won over £5,000 on the football pools, and the week before had clicked for over £38,000! Such phenomenal luck warranted the buzzes of admiration, astonishment and envy that hovered over the player's head. Ken Craigie, the winner, and Harry Venner, the runner-up, received prizes for their efforts—but I bet both would rather

have had a slice of the Herts. man's luck and the fortune that went with it.....

LOU Laza, the Aussie with the freakish grip, plays cricket in the Sydney League back home. He must be pretty good, for last summer, playing as a professional in the very rugged Lancashire League, he topped the batting averages with over 80. So he'll be a "flannelled fool" (as Kipling termed a cricketer) up North again next summer. In the meantime he's trying to earn his keep via exhibitions and stage engagements with Alec Brook. Lou, whose out-of-this-world style makes for a colourful eyeful, is yet another sponge addict. I could think of less frustrating assignments than facing the "down under" man at the table.

CAN Middlesex retain their hold on the National County Championship title now that they no longer have Victor Barna with them? Other counties have stronger male players, but the champions have the inimitable Rowe Twins to do battle and probably win for them against the girls of any other team. Can Ros and Di see them through?

I have a sneaking fancy that Surrey may prove to have superior all-round strength. Ken Craigie, Harry Venner, Tony Miller, Jackie Head, Ron Crayden, Jean Winn, Jill Rook and Betty Isaacs add up to a very powerful combination capable of breaking the Middlesex monopoly. And, anyway, it wouldn't be a bad thing if the title were to be wrested from the king-pins, who have held sway ever since the tournament's inception seven years ago.

FETED one year, ignored the next. That's the way it goes for sports stars, including those in Table Tennis.

Last season the Austrian authorities, with a not-so-hot entry for their Open, were happy to invite an English team to compete. They did the honours with expenses, of course. Last month's Open, however, attracted the strongest field for a

long time, with Hungarian, Czech, Yugoslav and Rumanian aces turning up. With so many stars coming along, our people were given the old one-two, to wit, the cold shoulder. That's why Johnnie Leach and the Rowe girls paid their own way to Vienna, travelling overland by Johnnie's car.

As a matter of courtesy one would have thought that at least the Rowes, as reigning Doubles champions, would have been invited over as guests of the Austrian Association to defend their title. We can appreciate the keenness of our players to fight the giants in Vienna, but I'm danged if I'd have turned up after what seems to be really cheesy treatment from the Austrian bigwigs. Last year our stars were considered Box Office.

THE Bill Stamp proposal (discussed on another page) brings to mind an aspect of the Registered Players and the National Executive Council which is far from satisfactory. It is a fact that while the Chairman and Secretary of the R.P.s may attend N.E.C. meetings, they have no vote. They are allowed to speak but have no power to alter anything, even matters relating to their own affairs. So far from anyone trying further to shove the R.P.s around, I should like to see them given voting power.

If the R.P.s are important enough to warrant having their own special organisation, they should be important enough to have the means to uphold and further the prestige of that organisation. As it is their representatives attend meetings and are forced to obey rules made by others, whether they like it or not—and frequently they most certainly don't like it. Frankly, for all the scope the R.P.s committee is allowed, it might as well not exist.

FIGURES on the cost of staging the World Series at Wembley have now been published. The tournament showed a deficit of £1,991—a lot of money, but less than half the sum originally estimated by the Association, who calculated that their balance sheet would be £4,000 in the red.

That appeal last year to clubs to lend a much-needed hand by donating one pound each met with a magnificent response and brought in £3,000, as well as a direct gift of £500. The appeal circular, it will be remembered, stressed that should by chance the tournament break even, donations would be repaid.

True to their promise, so far as circumstances dictate, the Association offer to refund 10/- to each club which gave £1. They have also suggested that they be allowed to keep the balance in hand to help meet the expense of sending Swaythling and Corbillon teams to the 1956 championships. As the World Series for that year are provisionally arranged to be held in an unspecified country in Asia, it will readily be understood that the cost of shipping players to the Far East will be an enormous one.

So our Association again are in dire need of financial assistance and look to the bulk of the sport's followers to help out. That help will be readily forthcoming. Among other things it will show a little appreciation for the wonderful work put in by the Association in making the Wembley meeting a credit to English Table Tennis.

We have been generous in our praise of that never-to-be-forgotten tournament and those who slaved and worried to make it the success it was. Now we have the chance to offer more than kind words. Count that ten bob (if it's owed to you) as a sort of down payment for services rendered by our parent body.

SMACK in the kisser for those who persist in the "safe" course of remaining faithful at all costs to the old brigade and by so doing turning a "Nelson eye" to the not-too-distant future. I refer, of course, to Ken Burrige's fine victories in the Sussex Open, in which he beat first Aubrey Simons and, in the final, Harry Venner. And both in straight sets. Yet 21-year-old Ken rates no more than a place in Middlesex's second team!

Last year Vic Barna told me he thought Ken a very promising lad with a big future ahead, and even undertook to train him free of charge. I know one tournament success doesn't make a champion, but the youngster's wins over two of our four top men shouldn't be overlooked.

On the same day as Ken's successes, by the way, Johnnie Leach succumbed to Konrad Freundorfer, the 17-year-old German boy, in the third round of the Austrian Open. How does all this match up with those (including friend Robert Fenton) who speak so wisely of the virtues of "experience"?

ULTRA-modern text-book lesson: "Topspin causes the ball to draw a Gina Lollobrigida-Marilyn Monroe outline in the air. Dragspin's reaction can be compared with the silhouette of a female English star."

★ THE GREATEST PLAYER OF ALL ★

Victor Barna

EXPLODES THE "SPONGE" MYTH

In the first of four brilliant exclusive articles

IN the last two years there has been a lot of talk about sponge, and sponge bats. Ever since Satoh won the World Championship in Bombay in 1952 sponge became a miracle—a "secret weapon"—in the mind of many a Table Tennis player. And since Ogimura and his Japanese pals waged their victorious "blitzkrieg" at Wembley, sponge came off the secret list and became "the weapon"—the only thing that matters.

Before going any further, I must say that people in this country, players and officials alike, have been very rational about it all. Although there are the inevitable few who have taken it up, there is no sign of panicking. But the news from abroad is different, and it may possibly affect this country too.

Apparently Sido, Andreadis, Haguenaer and most of the Hungarian and Czechoslovak cracks have changed over to sponge. These are the very same people who fought tooth and nail for its abolition. And now that sponge has not been banned, as a gesture of defiance, and with the cry "Well, we can be invincible too," they have adopted "the weapon."

Personally, I think it will not be long before they change back to rubber, because they will soon realise that the drawback of sponge far outweighs its advantages; furthermore, they will have no answer when they are up against another sponge-bat exponent. So far I haven't seen Andreadis, Sido and company wielding their brand new bats—but I can hardly wait for the day.

NOTHING NEW

The point is that there is nothing new in sponge. Players used it long ago and there was a time when it was fairly popular.

Why, then, did sponge practically disappear from the scene; and why does it seem to be so successful now? Let me take the first question. Players realised that, with sponge, it is extremely difficult—if not impossible—to gain perfect ball control. That meant a wholly unreliable defence, and an attack which, though potentially decisive, is extremely hazardous.

As I see it, the great advantage of sponge lies in its speed at impact. When you attack you can put the ball away more decisively than with any other bat. And this leads me to the second question: "Why is it so successful now?" The answer is: because

the trend of modern play has become almost entirely defensive in character. Players such as Bergmann and Leach could, and did, win several world titles with a more or less defensive game alone. The rest of the stars followed suit, practising and polishing their defence, which ultimately brought about the "pushing" and "time limit" regulations.

Against this, Flisberg and Dolinar, among others, found the answer in sponge; and I for one cannot blame them for doing so. For many years these two were among the world's best, without getting quite to the top. As their careers were nearing the end they had nothing to lose, and it must be admitted that sponge paid both of them handsome rewards—even though not the World Championship.

FLABBERGASTED

As to Satoh, the Japanese themselves were flabbergasted by his success. The controversy over sponge is far bigger in Japan than it is here. As a matter of fact, sponge is not popular there, as the great majority of her players—about 80%—prefer to use the orthodox pimped rubber sheeting.

To me, the success of the Japs at Wembley was due not so much to sponge as to the great skill of their players. Actually, only two of them used sponge, but I am quite sure that they would have been just as outstanding with any kind of bat.

Don't run away with the idea that I dislike sponge—that is not the case—but I do truly believe that pimped rubber is the superior article. I have played against many sponge players in my time, and have never lost to one of them. You may say that perhaps those particular opponents were not good enough to take advantage of sponge. Maybe so, but I don't think so.

If I am wrong in my assessment, there is only one reason to account for it. It is that



the players of to-day must be using a different sort of sponge.

Of course, people fail to realise that sponge can be very dissimilar. Flisberg's sponge is different from Dolinar's, and the Japanese sponge is quite unlike anything else in size, thickness and material. There is less difficulty, in my opinion, in dealing with the Japanese sponge than, say, Flisberg's. On the other hand, the Japs have far better ball control than the Swedish star; and therein lies the heart of the whole matter.

Naturally, any player using sponge will select the material with extreme care; that is what everyone should do, anyhow. But with the orthodox pimped sheet, what do you see but players using any old thing and being quite content to get accustomed to it. People like this either haven't got a clue or else are not interested enough to pick the best.

The point is that all of us old-timers, Szabados, Bellak and the rest, were very fussy indeed as to what sort of rubber we used. Why should the sponge player be so particular about his sponge, and the rubber player be so careless?

GOOD AND BAD

Truly, I can't help smiling when I hear about "slow," "fast" or "medium" rubber. What do they mean, anyway—good for defence, good for attack, or what? I know only good and bad. If it is good, it should be good both for defence and attack because it grips the ball well and so makes perfect control possible. In short, I have no doubt that the best rubber is better than the best sponge.

I think perhaps I have said enough about the relative qualities of the two; and I wish now to answer the many enquiries I have had recently, seeking advice on how to play against sponge. As briefly as I can state it, this is my advice:—

1. Chop as hard and as frequently as you can. Sponge people don't like heavy chop.
2. In general, treat every incoming stroke as you would treat a chop: that is to say, slide your racket under the ball, holding it practically horizontal.
3. Whenever you can, hit! but only once. If the ball comes back, don't hit again; chop, and wait for the next chance.
4. When defending, go back one step further than usual.

I do hope, for the game's sake, that I am right in thinking that rubber is better than sponge. If I am wrong it is only to be expected that everybody will use the sponge bat; and what will happen then, will not be a subject for guess-work. We have seen the final of the World Championship at Wembley, and I saw the final of the Dutch Open just previously. On both occasions two sponge-men played each other. Nobody, in his wildest dreams, could have called these matches "spectacular." They were not even worthy of being described as sporting events.

Table Tennis is a young sport; and it still needs nursing. Can the game stand any more World finals like the last one? Not many; but we needn't despair. The future of the game is assured; furthermore, we know that the International Table Tennis Federation, the body responsible for its welfare and control throughout the world, is watching the situation and weighing up the threat, with the utmost care. I trust its counsel will be wise and that they will not let the sport down.

BARNA'S NEXT ARTICLE

will come to you from India where he is coaching at the invitation of the Government.

The subject will be of his own choosing, but whatever it may be, you cannot afford to miss it!

**Make sure by ordering your
"Table Tennis Review"
NOW**

TRIPLE WIN FOR PAPPIN!

Wesley Pappin, the Leinster Interprovincial and Irish International from Dublin, opened the Irish Table Tennis season with a real bang when he swept the boards by capturing all three titles in the Cork Open Championships in October.

But what a fight he had to put up against Tom Seacy, one of Cork's top ranking players, before he took the Men's Singles crown in a great five-set final. It was a real thriller; so close that over the five sets, Pappin had only ten winning shots to spare over Seacy—102 to 92.

Yes, it was a memorable decider, with the Cork man showing a rare fighting spirit to hit back and level the match at two sets all, after losing the first two by desperately close margins. But the gallant Seacy could not keep up this dramatic revival, which had the home crowd thinking in terms of a Cork victory, as Pappin pulled out all he knew to race through the final set.

Cork fans however did taste the fruits of victory when in an all-local Women's Singles final Miss F. Dawkins kept one of the titles "at home" by beating Miss M. Sullivan in yet another grand match, which saw the winner coming from behind to clinch the issue in a thrill-packed final set, in which the result was in the balance right up to the winning shot.

Big upset in the championships was caused by 21-year-old Willie Walsh of Galway who, in the second round of the Men's Singles, knocked out Noel Kerr, one of Leinster's leading players, who with Pappin scored an all-Dublin victory in the final of the Men's Doubles. By his win Walsh has come right into the limelight, and I think we are going to hear a lot more of this youngster from the West.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: W. Pappin (Dublin) beat T. Seacy (Cork) 21-18, 22-20, 20-22, 18-21, 21-11.

Women's Singles: Miss F. Dawkins (Cork) beat Miss M. Sullivan (Cork) 12-21, 21-12, 21-19.

Boys' Singles: B. McMahon (Dublin) beat B. Markey (Cork) 21-11, 21-8.

Men's Doubles: W. Pappin and N. Kerr (Dublin) beat J. Christie and T. Seacy (Cork) 21-15, 16-21, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Miss F. Dawkins and Mrs. S. Roberts (Cork) beat Miss E. Green and Mrs. M. Stokes (Cork) 23-25, 21-17, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: W. Pappin (Dublin) and Mrs. S. Roberts (Cork) beat J. Christie (Cork) and Miss F. Dawkins (Cork) 21-12, 21-15.

Welsh Events to Note

December 10th—Wales v. England—Mixed (Newport).

December 10th/11th—Welsh Open—(Cardiff).

December 13th—Wales v. Germany—(Neath).

December 14th—Wales v. Germany—(Milford Haven).

December 15th—Wales v. Germany—(Ogmore Vale).

January 8th — Flintshire Open — (Rhyl).

January 22nd—Ireland v. Wales—Mixed (Dublin).

January 29th—Swansea Open.

February 12th — Gwent Open — (Newport).

February 18th—England v. Wales—Junior (Worthing).

February 25th—Scotland v. Wales—Mixed (Aberdeen).

March 26th — Ogmore Open — (Nantymoel).

April 9/11th—Welsh Closed Championships—(Cardiff).

Kennedy Fails in Bid for Record

Brian Kennedy (Leeds and England) failed in his bid to equal Benny Casofsky's record of winning the Men's Singles title three years in succession in the Yorkshire "Open" Championships.

Five of the six titles changed hands, with the ex-Yorkshire county player, J. Hitchcock (Halifax) retaining the Veterans' Singles.

The new Men's Singles holder is Johnnie Leach, who defeated Kennedy in the final game 21-13, triumphed with Kennedy in the Doubles and achieved further success by winning the mixed event with Helen Elliot, Scotland's No. 1 woman player.

Helen also won the Women's Singles and the Doubles with Mrs. J. Braddock (Manchester).

Big surprise in the Women's Singles was the defeat of the Bradford Champion, Miss Joan Bycroft, by Mrs. M. Dyson (Huddersfield).

Midwinter Nightmare

conjured up by S. DE LA MARE

(And probably caused both by the success of Eastern European footballers and the news that a certain Eastern European country may compete for the first time in the World Table Tennis series).



Time: Now.

Scene: A State Training Camp for Table Tennis players, miles from anywhere. The opening setting is a snow-covered field. A bleak Siberian wind is blowing and snow falls, chillingly, dismally, greyly.

Dramatis Personae: Swaythling and Corbillon Cup candidates, Commissar of Training, State experts, officials, observers, specialists, coaches, sentries, etc.



Commissar of Training (his moustache stiff with ice): "We've been P.T.-ing only three hours, yet I see Comrade Ivan Orkwudsurv is breathing a little heavily. I thought we were getting a little fit. I see I was mistaken." (He glares at his squad, clad only in vests, shorts, socks and plimsoles. The surrounding State experts, officials, observers, specialists, coaches, etc., also glare, and many of them take notes).

Senior Official: "Remember Chataway and Joseph Kucs!" (The whole assembly repeat the battle cry).

The Candidates are given two more hours of drill. Only when the snow is up to their thighs and impedes their movements does the Commissar, after a word with surrounding State experts, etc., call a halt.

Commissar: "Under State Regulation 649/XEV/FB/123, Section 2b of the Inclement Weather Act, 1948, I am empowered to call a halt to proceedings.

... your seats including internationalists Ray Hinchcliffe (Yorkshire) and Ron Alcock (Lancashire). On Saturday last, he won the Hull and East Riding Open Men's Singles and Men's Doubles.

"Last season, he won the Singles and Men's Doubles in the Hartlepool Open, the Mixed Doubles at the Grimsby Open and the Men's Singles and Mixed Doubles in the South Yorkshire Open.

Arnold now works as a clerk in a Manchester office, but still carries on with his entertaining, doing on an average two shows a week."

We shall now proceed into the Film Hall for the day's opening lesson. Right turn, at the double, forward march. H'up, h'up, h'up."

The Candidates, followed more sedately by the State experts, etc., double to the Film Hall, in which is a cinema screen, by the side of which stands a blackboard. An enormous sign hangs from the roof. It announces "Remember Chataway and Joseph Kucs! Take heed and learn!"

The Candidates sit on backless stools. At the back, in armchairs, sit the State experts, etc. The Senior Official raps out an order and the film is screened. It shows the world's leading Table Tennis stars, both in normal time and slow motion. The Candidates take notes, while a State Expert points out the strengths and weaknesses of each player.

After three hours, the film ends. Observers, one for each stroke, take turns at the blackboard, using diagrams to explain what tactics, as applicable to a given stroke, to adopt against each player just viewed.

When the session is over, the Senior Official orders the Candidates to the Food Hall. There, closely watched by dietary officials, the Candidates are each given a chicken, four-inch-thick steak, six raw eggs, half a pound of butter, a loaf, two pints of pure cream, four pints of fruit juice, and six pounds of assorted raw fruits. The Candidates eat silently, purposefully. Near

Continued on page 30

... chance of setting up an all-time record of six World Singles wins is too tempting to be overlooked. Certainly anyone who can so convincingly beat a 21-year-old star of the calibre of Ros Rowe is not ready for the ashan, not by a long chalk.

Harangozo was said to be leaving competitive play because he was peeved at not receiving "appreciation" for being half the team to win a World title. Obviously the matter has, happily, been straightened, and Vilim is still with us. May that long continue to be the case.

Kirkwood for Youth!

A prompt reply to Robert "Are you too old?" Fenton

★ ★ ★

I MORE than suspect I am one of the critics who, said contributor Robert Fenton in the last issue ("Are you too old if you are still good enough?"), "cry that our top-line males are growing too old to face the international cockpit—that youth must get its chances—and that Selectors should build for the future."

Confessing most cheerfully that the cap fits me perfectly, I accuse him of being contradictory, paradoxical and not knowing his own mind.

In his article he suggests (1) that "many critics and reporters" make extravagant claims for various young players; (2) says that "dark hints" are thrown out implying the Selectors coddle old favourites at the risk of losing matches; and (3) asks if a man is to be dropped when he passes a certain age, irrespective of form.

ADVOCATE OF YOUTH

Firstly, can he specify even one of the alleged "many" critics he claims throw lavish praise on behalf of some youngsters? I don't know of any such claimants. I myself, an avowed advocate of youth, have suggested, and do most emphatically suggest, that the time has come to try out such younger players as Brian Kennedy and Brian Merrett—but no one who has read my articles can say I have ever claimed or even hinted any lad to be a genius or anything like one. What I *have* said is that certain boys are promising material ready for and deserving of a chance.

On point two, why is criticism of the Selectors for their seeming penchant to cling to old-timers construed as something rather sinister? Even Selectors can be wrong, honest triers though they may be. Are those in a position to speak and wish

Boys' Singles: B. McMahon (Dublin) beat B. Markey (Cork) 21-11, 21-8.

Men's Doubles: W. Pappin and N. Kerr (Dublin) beat J. Christie and T. Seacy (Cork) 21-15, 16-21, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Miss F. Dawkins and Mrs. S. Roberts (Cork) beat Miss E. Green and Mrs. M. Stokes (Cork) 23-25, 21-17, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: W. Pappin (Dublin) and Mrs. S. Roberts (Cork) beat J. Christie (Cork) and Miss F. Dawkins (Cork) 21-12, 21-15.

years he has behind him.

The writer then professes to want youth to have its chance—and goes to some pains to show why they shouldn't! "Don't let us rush our fences," he warns. We field five over-thirties in our Swaythling Cup side, rank the same men as our top five players and look like taking the arena in the 1955 World Series with the quintet, and we are urged to be cautious!

I may be crazy, but I see nothing in choosing a couple of younger men to play with the best star veterans. Are we indeed "throwing youth to the lions" by bleeding them in good time, and in good company, in the arena of international competition? Must the youngsters wait until those at the helm are decrepit and completely gone before they are given their break? Is it "panic" to press the Selectors to plan and act for the future NOW?

RECKLESS?

Perhaps Mr. Fenton will agree with me that our top men can hardly be considered favourites to take the Swaythling Cup. Why not, then, give some of the boys a break? Or would that be reckless of us?

The writer talks about experience necessary for all-round success. If our lads aren't given the right opportunities how in heaven's name can they gain experience? If they fail, as they might, we can always try others. But we must experiment if we are to progress.

Incidentally, I remind Mr. Fenton that the Japanese Swaythling side, unquestionably the best in the world, was comprised of players the most senior of whom was 22 and the youngest 19. Proving, among other things, that bags of experience isn't altogether essential to make a showing in the top class.

Mr. Fenton ends by asking, somewhat Johnnie Leach, who defeated Kennedy in the final game 21-13, triumphed with Kennedy in the Doubles and achieved further success by winning the mixed event with Helen Elliot, Scotland's No. 1 woman player.

Helen also won the Women's Singles and the Doubles with Mrs. J. Braddock (Manchester).

Big surprise in the Women's Singles was the defeat of the Bradford Champion, Miss Joan Bycroft, by Mrs. M. Dyson (Huddersfield).

He Makes 'em Talk!

NOW here's a sound suggestion from Mr. G. Brown, Hon. Secretary of Inglewood (Sale) T. T. League, who wrote on November 7th. "It has occurred to me that an interesting series of articles for your magazine would be of various players who have hobbies."

He goes on, "One such person is Arnold Shepherd of Sale, who is a ventriloquist. Arnold is a Cheshire County player for the fourth season in succession. He also plays in the Manchester League and has represented Manchester for several years.

"Arnold is 24 years of age and this season he has won the North Midlands Open Men's Singles and Men's Doubles



ARNOLD AT "WORK"

at Nottingham. In this, he defeated three of the four seeds including Internationals Ray Hinchcliffe (Yorkshire) and Ron Alcock (Lancashire). On Saturday last, he won the Hull and East Riding Open Men's Singles and Men's Doubles.

"Last season, he won the Singles and Men's Doubles in the Hartlepoons Open, the Mixed Doubles at the Grimspy Open and the Men's Singles and Mixed Doubles in the South Yorkshire Open.

Arnold now works as a clerk in a Manchester office, but still carries on with his entertaining, doing on an average two shows a week."

Belgrade Victory

ANOTHER important national title came the way of fabulous twins Rosalind and Diane Rowe, when they annexed the Yugoslav Open Doubles crown at Belgrade, where the tournament was staged from November 6th-8th. A week previously they had taken the Austrian Open Doubles crown, with Ros further winning the Singles.

Their latest victory confirmed that they are undisputed queens of the Doubles realm. In the final they beat the tough pairing of Austria's Linde Werthl and Hungary's Eva Koczian 21-14, 21-13, 13-21, 21-15.

Ros progressed to the Singles final, but World champion Angelica Rozeanu, that very brilliant Rumanian expert, was much too strong for her, winning 21-15, 21-13, 21-11. Ros also reached the final of the Mixed, but again had no luck. She and her partner, Vilim Harangozo, of Yugoslavia, went under to the all-Hungarian combination of K. Szepesi and Koczian, 21-13, 21-14, 21-15. Ros and Vilim had beaten Diane and Johnnie Leach in the semis, 21-15, 13-21, 21-14, 21-19.

SITUATIONS CLARIFIED

The home country had two wins, Harangozo and Zarko Dolinar, as anticipated, putting the Men's Doubles title under their belts, to join their joint World crown. They beat Leach and Tage Flisberg, the Swede, in the final to the tune of 21-16, 21-18, 21-15. And Dolinar put it across Flisberg 18-21, 21-12, 21-14, 21-17, in the Singles final.

The tournament, incidentally, seems to have clarified situations reported during the summer. Rozeanu was said to be contemplating retirement, apparently feeling that at 34 the time had come for her to bid farewell to the game she has graced so honourably for so long. It seems that the chance of setting up an all-time record of six World Singles wins is too tempting to be overlooked. Certainly anyone who can so convincingly beat a 21-year-old star of the calibre of Ros Rowe is not ready for the ashan, not by a long chalk.

Harangozo was said to be leaving competitive play because he was peeved at not receiving "appreciation" for being half the team to win a World title. Obviously the matter has, happily, been straightened, and Vilim is still with us. May that long continue to be the case.

WORLD RANKING LIST 1954 - 55

MEN

1. Ogimura (Japan)
2. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia)
3. Flisberg (Sweden)
4. Bergmann (England)
5. Sido (Hungary)
6. Tomita (Japan)
7. Dolinar (Yugoslavia)
8. Roothoof (France)
9. Miles (U.S.A.)
10. Harangozo (Yugoslavia)
11. Tereba (Czechoslovakia)
12. Van Hoa (Vietnam)
13. Leach (England)
14. Stipek (Czechoslovakia)

WOMEN

1. Rozeanu (Rumania)
2. Eguchi (Japan)
3. Wertl (Austria)
4. Farkas (Hungary)
5. Tanaka (Japan)
6. R. Rowe (England)
7. Watanabe (Japan)
8. Koczian (Hungary)
9. Pritzi (Austria)
10. D. Rowe (England)
11. Watel (France)
12. Haydon (England)
13. Best (England)
14. Krejcová-Furstová (Czechoslovakia)

Australian Carnival at Perth

DUE to the vast distance from the Eastern States, Perth did not see the large entry that these carnivals usually attract. However, all States were represented in both Men's and Women's events—individual and teams.

In the Men's Singles, Phil Anderson, the reigning champion, maintained his reputation of being the best Table Tennis player this country has produced, by successfully defending his title. His path to the final was by no means an easy one. He was taken to five full games by three players, Mark Dankin (N.S.W.), A. Robinson (Qld.) and G. Jennings (N.S.W.). Dankin led 2-1 and Robinson 2-0, in their matches with Anderson.

The Men's Teams event was dominated by two States—Queensland (holders of the Spalding Shield) and New South Wales. Both teams were undefeated until they met in the final tie.

This match saw Jennings at his very best and he won all three singles and led his team to victory with both doubles. In his singles with Anderson and Porter (Qld.), Jennings acquired a few net cords at crucial moments. At 19 all, with Porter in the deciding game, he got two net cords to win 21-19. This, of course, in no way detracts from Geoff's game and, as Barna has pointed out, "Luck is part of the game" and "Luck evens itself up in the long run." New South Wales won the match 6 rubbers to 5, taking the Shield from Queensland.

RESULTS :

MEN'S SINGLES : Semi-Finals—P. Anderson beat A. Robinson -19, -19, 5, 15, 13. G. Jennings beat W. Bates (W.A.) 9, -19, 14, 16. Final—P. Anderson beat G. Jennings 19, 14, -12, -22, 16.

WOMEN'S SINGLES :—D. Shipp (N.S.W.) beat N. Buckland (Vic.) 15, 16.

MEN'S DOUBLES :—Jennings/Griffin (N.S.W.) beat Anderson/Porter (Qld.) -19, -18, 9, 19, 13.

BOYS' JUNIOR SINGLES :—B. Griffin beat N. Norman 14, 15.

Australian rankings announced after the Carnival were :—

MEN

1. P. Anderson (Qld.), 2. G. Jennings (N.S.W.), 3. H. Porter (Qld.), 4. M. Dankin (N.S.W.), 5. A. Robinson (Qld.),

WOMEN

1. D. Shipp (N.S.W.), 2. N. Buckland (Vic.), 3. M. Bowler (N.S.W.), 4. S. Irvin (Qld.), 5. M. Edwards (S.A.),

London Notes

MMARGARET FRY, former Gloucestershire County player and English International, is now representing Middlesex in the National County Championships.

Margaret has been residing and working in the London area for the past two years, and thoroughly enjoys her numerous Table Tennis matches for the West Ealing Club and the greater number of tournaments she can now enter.



The Manor Place Baths at Walworth is fast becoming a very popular venue for Table Tennis events, and rightly so, for it has good facilities for playing, eating and cleaning up.

This season it is being used for the South London "Open" for the first time, the Central "Open" for the second time, and the London Business Houses' "Closed" Championships, for the third or fourth year running.



This season the "Open" titles are being well shared out, whereas in previous years (especially immediate post-war) the "top dogs" in each tournament were sure to carry off all the titles. This, I maintain, proves that the general standard of play in England is rapidly rising. A glance at the following results shows that Ken Craigie (Surrey) is the only player to win two Singles titles:—

EAST OF ENGLAND

MEN'S SINGLES. Winner: R. J. Stevens. Runner-up: K. Hurlock.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Winner: B. Gray. Runner-up: S. Jones.

BUCKS.

MEN'S SINGLES. Winner: K. Craigie. Runner-up: H. Venner.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Winner: S. Jones. Runner-up: B. Milbank.

NORTH OF ENGLAND

MEN'S SINGLES. Winner: A. Simons. Runner-up: K. Stanley.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Winner: R. Rowe. Runner-up: D. Rowe.

BIRMINGHAM

MEN'S SINGLES. Winner: R. Hinchliff. Runner-up: D. Burridge.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Winner: H. Elliott. Runner-up: B. Milbank.

SUSSEX

MEN'S SINGLES. Winner: D. Burridge. Runner-up: H. Venner.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Winner: B. Milbank. Runner-up: J. Winn.

BARNA REPORTING

FROM NEW DELHI, INDIA

THE All-India Championships, which I attended as the guest of the very hospitable Gaekwar of Baroda, were enlivened more by the juniors than the seniors.

Thirty-five-years-old Chandarana, back from his retirement, won the Men's title. The Ladies' Singles was taken by Nileena Pandari, who beat Sayeed Sultana. The Men's Doubles went to two Egyptians.

The youngsters, as I said before, provided the fire and sparkle. The age limit here for juniors is 16 and I must say there are several good prospects who seem to have the makings of champions.

The Asiatic Championships are being held in Singapore from December 11 - 19, and there is a chance that I shall be there—as an observer, of course.

The venue for the 1956 World Series will be discussed at Singapore—and the general feeling, as I see it, is that Singapore is preferred to Japan as a tournament ground. Asia, of course, have the right to stage the 1956 championships.

Most countries in this part of the globe, incidentally, would prefer the World tournament to be played every two years instead of annually.

EASTERN SUBURBAN

MEN'S SINGLES. Winner: K. Craigie. Runner-up: L. Adams.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Winner: B. Isaacs. Runner-up: B. Milbank.

SOUTH LONDON

MEN'S SINGLES. Winner: H. Venner. Runner-up: I. Jones.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Winner: J. Winn. Runner-up: B. Isaacs.

Bobby Stevens (Essex) is outstanding in doubles events, having won five Men's Doubles titles (three with Ivor Jones, two with Bobby Raybould) and one Mixed Doubles with Yvonne Baker.

Among the juniors, Terry Densham holds most titles, with three "Opens" to his credit, as does Joy Fielder (Kent), followed by Laurie Landry (Middlesex) and Florrie Wright (Yorks.) with two each.

BARBARA MILBANK

Company — Right Dress!

... by BARBARA MILBANK

★ ★ ★

WHAT a difference there is in the outfits nowadays to those of only a few years ago! (I am talking, of course, of Table Tennis kit, although this applies to other outfits also.)

When I became interested in the game, six years ago, the vogue for the 'gentle sex' was grey skirts, quite long. This in turn changed to slacks, then shorts with many pleats, shorts with only one pleat, until, more recently, straight shorts became popular. At present it is a question of how much shorter to wear them!

The Rowe Twins adopted a skating-type skirt for several of their appearances. These were very becoming, but I can't help feeling that the straight shorts look more businesslike.

SMART BOYS

THE smart boys used to wear grey worsted slacks, and many folk were stunned when Johnnie Leach, on his return from the Continent a few years back, sported a very brief pair of blue shorts. However, the practicability of shorts (as brief as you like, within reason) soon became apparent, and the "official" uniform as recognised by most is grey shorts and the E.T.T.A. Table Tennis shirt; there are no shirts smarter than the official E.T.T.A. type, I think.

Of course, track suits are **THE THING** for keeping warm while waiting to play, especially since they were adopted by the E.T.T.A. as part of the England team's uniform. I believe Elsie Carrington was the first to introduce the fashion in this country, at which time others thought they were very funny. Why, I don't know, but new ideas take a time to get used to. The only snag with track suits is the amount of room needed in one's case for them.

The standard of dress is now, thank goodness, better, but even so there are unfortunately still many players who look untidy in ex-W.D. khaki shorts, dirty plimsolls and socks. It not only lets themselves down, but also gives the game a bad name with the casual observer. And, I don't like to mention it, but please wear a clean shirt for each evening's play.

"WINMANSHIP"

FOR myself, when I take the trouble to look neat, with clean and ironed

clothes, clean white plimsolls and socks, I certainly feel hundred per cent. more prepared for my matches. I am sure you offenders would, too, if you try it. This is admittedly psychological, but your opponent will also feel impressed, and this may make him nervous! Just a small part of "Winmanship."

It's good to note that the E.T.T.A. has this season set up a Dress Committee to look into all matters appertaining to dress, which will include not only clothing, but also design of badges for E.T.T.A. functions, etc. A high standard at the top should in time be reflected throughout clubs at every level.

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N.E.C. Official seeks exclusion of 'Registereds' from Council

BILL STAMP, the North-Western Regional Member, has forwarded a proposal for discussion by the Executive Council.... a proposal which some consider to be an astonishing one, to say the least of it.

The gist of Mr. Stamp's motion is that Registered Players should not in future be allowed to be nominated for positions on the National Executive Council. And the reason why the N.W. chief wishes to exclude them is because he apparently feels it isn't right that persons who earn money from the game should be in a position to affect resolutions relating to the country's great mass of "unregistered," or non-money-earning, players.

Mr. Stamp has a reputation as a hard-working and efficient official who has given many years' distinguished service to the sport, and none can doubt that he has forwarded his resolution after careful thought and with sincerity of purpose. But surely it is a very odd sort of notion?

Does he seriously believe—and, on the face of it, it must be taken that he does—that the handful of people who earn a pound here and there by their talents are opportunists likely to try to force issues rewarding to themselves but detrimental to the average player?

This is what Victor Barna, Chairman of the Registered Players, has to say about it: "It is an insult to imply that Registered Players may be so concerned with earning all the money they can as to be tempted to find ways and means of getting more, via the National Executive Council.

"JUST PLAYERS"

"We in Table Tennis have long been proud of the fact that we have no amateurs or professionals, but just players. *Other sports point to us as a grand example of how to eliminate the curse of 'shamateurism.'* Does Mr. Stamp wish to erect the pro-amateur barrier, and all it means, in our game? It seems like it.

"In any case, I wonder what the Hon. Ivor Montagu, Geoff Harrower, Jack Carrington and Leslie Woollard, all Registered Players, have to say? They are members of the N.E.C.—and they give invaluable service to the game, regardless of time, expense and headaches. Is the proposal directed against them as well?"

One can hardly blame the R.P.'s Chairman for feeling that way about it. What's the answer, Bill Stamp? In all fairness to the Registered Players, the N.E.C., all affiliated players and yourself, you should explain, in precise terms, why you have seen fit to forward your proposal.

Well, is there?

IS there a player living (or dead, for that matter) who hasn't at some time or other cursed himself for a fool, a dolt a shystering apology of a ping-pong dabbler, after losing an evenly fought match? You know the sort of thing which brings forth bitter self-criticism and moans of self-pity.

We're fighting point for point in the latter half of the deciding set and are perilously/happily (whichever you prefer) near the magic "21" mark. That's when the mood of indecision, the cause of all the trouble, hits us smack in the kisser. Shall we dig in and play cautiously, take no semblance of a risk, out-do Old Man Job himself in patience? Or shall we take a chance like a man and crack the tempting ball, and our foe, to perdition?

If our decision, whatever it is, comes unstuck... woe is us! In addition to our own very real remorse at our failure, we have the extra burden of taking the strain of our somewhat displeased comrades' "friendly" remarks.

If our smashes were muffed, we were, of course, wild clots who panicked and chucked away the game in criminally reckless fashion. If our defensive phase saw us beaten at the post, then we were crummy stick-in-the-muds too cowardly to play Table Tennis, dolts who deserved to be beaten for showing no initiative when obviously the party at the other end was ready for the slaughter house.

It is no consolation to know that had we won, our hits would have been hailed by the all-wise observers as masterpieces, or our defensive phase eulogised as a superb strategical measure.

It seems that whatever you do on such an occasion is completely and utterly wrong—if you lose. The fact that a match has gone close seems to be enough thoroughly to convince us poor mortals that we had the match in the bag and only our own lunacy handed the sweets of victory on a golden platter for our enemy to nibble.

What makes me go all Hamlet like this? The other eve I lost three close league games. I've been cursing myself in triplicate ever since. **G.H.W.**

★ SCOTTISH HIGHLIGHTS ★

THE Scottish Table Tennis Association has, this season, for the first time in its history, published an Official Ranking List, as follows:—

MEN

1. V. H. GARLAND (Aberdeen).
2. E. STILL (Glasgow).
3. R. KERR (Edinburgh).
- 4-6. J. CAMPBELL (Glasgow).
- A. METCALFE (Glasgow).
- M. McMILLAN (Glasgow).
- 7-8. A. D. CULLOCH (Paisley).
- R. L. FORMAN (Dundee).
- G. S. FRASER (Edinburgh).
- 9-12. T. GILMOUR (Dundee).
- A. K. LAIDLAW (Edinburgh).
- E. A. TEASDALE (Edinburgh).

WOMEN

1. Miss H. ELLIOT (Edinburgh).
2. Mrs. I. CABABE (Edinburgh).
- Mrs. O. HAWKINS (Glasgow).
- Miss H. M. HOULISTON (Edinburgh).
- 3-6. Mrs. M. JOSEPHSON (Glasgow).
- Mrs. M. MATTINSON (Glasgow).

It is the intention that those bracketed together are recognised as being of equal official status. For this reason the ranking is markedly non-committal, but it is at least a list, which has been badly needed for some time, and we may hope that next season the powers that be will have more confidence in their own judgment and give us a more definitive Ranking List.

REINFORCEMENT for Renfrew Foundries, who, as I reported last issue are without May Mattinson this year, come in the shape of Mrs. Rena Barr (née Tolan). Mrs. Barr has played for Scotland and won the West of Scotland Women's Singles title. Three years' absence from competitive play, however, may prove too much of a handicap to be overcome in the first two or three matches. Nevertheless, by about mid-season, Renfrew are sure to reap the benefit of this signing.

AS I predicted last issue, the advent of May Mattinson to the Dalmal side has made a considerable difference to their playing strength. First to taste the new mixture were the formidable Maccabi Institute side, who lost 5-4 to Dalmal recently. Further upsets will not surprise me. At the moment it looks as if the league championship will develop into a three-cornered battle involving Renfrew Foundries, Dalmal and Maccabi Institute.

SCOTTISH CALENDAR

December 3rd, 1954, International v. Ireland, Govan Town Hall, Glasgow.

4th/5th, Scottish Open Championships, Hamilton.

January 9th, 1955, Murrayfield Open, Edinburgh. 21st/22nd, West of Scotland Open, Glasgow.

February 5th, Midland Open, Dundee. 12th/13th, Semi-finals Inter League Championship. 25th, International v. Wales, Herdew. 26th, North of Scotland Open, Aberdeen.

March 5th, Lanarkshire Open, Hamilton. 12th/13th, Final, Inter League Championship.

April 9th/10th, Scottish Closed Championships, Edinburgh.

AN overdue bouquet is hereby addressed to Edinburgh's Miss Helen Houliston. In the *Daily Mirror* Tournament last season, Miss Houliston went to the Albert Hall, London, and came away with both the Girls' and the Women's Singles titles. For a young and relatively inexperienced player, Miss Houliston did very well to win the senior title, especially as the final was a particularly steamy affair, finishing at 25-23 in the final set. Many vastly more experienced players would have lost the place in such hectic circumstances. I use the phrase "young and relatively inexperienced player" advisedly, for there are always those who are prepared to hustle the promising teenager towards the stars; there is the old Scottish saying, "ye maun creep afore ye gang." I will say, however, that I hope to see young Helen picked to play for her country against Ireland.

IN the past few seasons we have beaten Ireland twice, both times in Ireland, but I think that this time we have more than a chance to beat them on our own soil. Scotland's recent policy of sticking to a youthful side in the face of heavy defeats should start to pay off this season. Last season we came within an ace of beating Wales.

Though this season has started with a heavy defeat by England, this was not exactly a surprise, and I am hoping that the game against Ireland will be a very different story. Unfortunately, we will again be without Bertie Kerr, who is at the moment with the Forces in Germany, but I feel that if Miss Houliston is given her chance, and plays up to her recent form, and Alec Metcalfe replaces McMillan, who has not quite found his old self for some time now, we may well do the trick.

G.R.W.

South London 'Open'

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HARRY VENNER (Surrey) won the Men's Singles title, beating all his opponents in straight games. The first game of the final against Ivor Jones (Essex) was exceptionally fast, with both counter-hitting very angled shots; Jones led up to 19, but then Venner clinched the next three points. In the second game, however, Ivor was more slap-dash, and soon found himself trailing far behind and lost game 13.

Venner beat the previous holder, Jackie Head (Surrey), in the semi-final, and Tony Miller (Surrey) 13, 14, and Micky Thornhill (Middlesex) 12, 16 in previous rounds.

Jones played well against a determined Derek Burridge (Middlesex) in his semi, winning 12, —17, 14, and earlier victims included Ken Craigie (Surrey), the No. 2 "seed," 14, 21; Bobby Mackay (Warwicks.) 17, 18, and Alan Sherwood (Middlesex) 11, —20, 22.

To reach the semi-finals, Burridge beat Len Adams (Middlesex), No. 3 "seed," 14, 9; Ron Etheridge (Kent) —19, 14, 17; and Jackie Head beat J. Parker (Wembley) —16, 13, 18, the latter having beaten Alan Rhodes (Middlesex). Both Etheridge and Parker play with sponge.

Other good performances were: Mike Darlington (Essex) beat Jimmy Lowe (Middlesex) —18, 18, 17; Ron Etheridge beat Keith Hurlock (Surrey) —14, 15, 10; Peter Pudney (Essex) beat Bobby Stevens (Essex) —20, 17, 17, and Jack Carrington (Essex) beat Les Sawyer (Essex) —14, 15, 17.

In the "Group" matches, John Hunt (Herts.) beat Tony Miller 23, 17, although Miller was Group winner; Bobby Stevens beat Peter Shead (Sussex) 11, 17, and Peter Pudney beat Roy Turner (Surrey) 15, —18, 19.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Although losing 4-10 and 13-17 in the third game of the final against Betty Isaacs (Surrey), Jean Winn (Surrey) fought gamely back to win at 17. Jean found Betty's defence practically as firm as a rock, and many of her usual "kill" shots were returned with comparative ease. Jean won —18, 16, 22.

The semi-final between Jean Winn and Yvonne Baker (Essex) was, as at the Sussex "Open," very exciting and was Jean's "closest shave," —18, 16, 22. Jean also beat Margaret Fry (Middlesex) 16, 10 and Doreen Spooner (Middlesex) 12, 10. Betty Isaacs beat Barbara Milbank

(Essex) in her semi 19, 15, and Joy Seaman (Middlesex)—previous title-holder— 10, 12 in the quarter-final.

By-the-way results: Yvonne Baker beat Jean Mackay (Warwicks.) 18, 11 and Jill Rook (Surrey) 12, 14.

MEN'S DOUBLES

The holders of this title (I. Jones/A. Sherwood) lost to Bobby Stevens/Bobby Raybould (Essex) in the final 20, 15, after beating Crayden/Adams 18, 15, and Rhodes/Craigie 17, 18 in the semi- and quarter-finals.

Stevens/Raybould also did well to beat Venner/Lowe (No. 2 "seeds") 19, —17, 20, Head/Hurlock 20, —20, 12 and Burridge/Thornhill 18, —17, 11.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

The final was a repeat of the Eastern Suburban "Open" the previous week. Jean Winn/Joy Seaman scraped home against Barbara Milbank/Elsie Carrington (Essex) in the first game, 21, and won the second at 18, thus retaining their title.

Winn/Seaman beat Jill Rook/Pam Gall —18, 19, 15 in their semi, and Milbank/Carrington beat Jean Mackay/Doreen Spooner 19, 16, Peggy Piper/Yvonne Baker 16, 18 and Betty Isaacs/Margaret Fry —14, 9, 9 in their half of the 'draw.'

MIXED DOUBLES

The final between Jimmy Lowe/Betty Isaacs and Alan Rhodes/Jean Winn was about the best match of the night, the former pair winning 20, 19, after beating Ron Crayden/Jill Rook 11, 14, Alan Sherwood/Pam Gall 10, 20, Len Adams/Elsie Carrington —19, 12, 13 and Derek Burridge/Peggy Piper 11, 9.

The runners-up, Rhodes/Winn, beat Jack Carrington/Barbara Milbank 9, 14, Bobby and Jean Mackay 19, 13, Bobby Stevens/Yvonne Baker (title-holders) 16, 14, and Ivor Jones/Doreen Spooner 19, 19. A notable win was recorded by John Hunt/Janet White over Micky Thornhill/Margaret Fry 15, 15.

JUNIOR SINGLES

The finals of the Boys' and Girls' Singles were played off before Finals Night; Terry Densham (Surrey) beat Eddie Hodson 21, 8 (Hodson beat Laurie Landry in his semi), and Joy Fielder (Kent) beat Beryl Spooner 5, 16.

Top marks for organisation and playing conditions.

by KENNETH RAWNSLEY . . .

KEEP-FIT DEPARTMENT

THE COLD WAR!

DO you "take cold?" If chills and influenza lay you low, sapping vitality and preventing you from taking part in your favourite sport during the winter months—if colds are "getting you down"—THEN THIS IS THE ARTICLE YOU'VE WAITED FOR!

Winter is here and Christmas is coming. This is it! The season of "goodwill to all men." You have earned the respite (or at least I hope you have!) so enjoy yourselves—eat, drink and be merry while you have the chance—for believe me, you are soon to embark on War—THE COLD WAR! It is now we see that undignified and heart-breaking army of men, women and little children bravely battling against a bombardment of colds, coughs, sneezes and influenza! Does 'flu pay its yearly call at your home? If not then you're lucky!

It is difficult in this so-called "enlightened" age to envisage any other single complaint which wreaks greater havoc on body and mind than does the common cold which, if it is not attended to quickly and *naturally* can lead to influenza, pleurisy, pneumonia and more serious diseases. Though millions of pounds and thousands of research hours are yearly being expended, this—in spite of serum injections and numerous "cold cures"—stark fact remains that, like the poor, this deadly enemy is always with us!

There are many reasons for such a state of affairs, not the least of which are (1) a changeable climate and (2) the wrong approach to living.

Yes, I know you eat all the good food your pocket will allow, but is it **NOURISHING** food? I'll bet some of it isn't! Again, you may take great care of yourself, wrapping up in warm clothing, but that is not sufficient!

You "take cold" more often during the winter simply because the outside temperature of the body is higher than is the internal! By wrapping yourself up well you are, at least, ensuring that the whole area of the body is kept warm, but that is not sufficient. You must ensure that the internal heat is greater than the external.

Don't "Make-Do"

HOW do you do this? By taking into your stomach hot liquids, hot foods (not sandwiches please!)—that's one way, though of course there are others too. If for reasons of travelling or lack of necessary facilities your work does not permit you to buy hot lunches, then don't for goodness' sake "make do" with cold sandwiches! Get a wide-mouthed Vacuum jar and take

your hot lunch in that—you'll be surprised how better you feel during the afternoon! They are cheap and last for years!

One of the finest ways of combating chills is to take stimulants but, here again, as in treating any other physical condition you must resort only to **NATURAL** stimulants—not the alcoholic kind. When you resort to whisky or rum you merely get temporary stimulation and that is not sufficient. You need a form of stimulation which will last the whole day through.

The finest natural stimulant is Composition Essence. If you go to a herb shop you will be able to purchase a large bottle for a shilling. Cheap enough! Use it in milk or water or add a teaspoonful to your morning cup of tea and you will not feel cold during the daytime! Eat nourishing foods—honey, cereals, shredded wheat, wholemeal bread and any other *natural* foods calculated to put energy into you and maintain vitality. If you can maintain that vitality you will not have much to fear.

But what happens when you **DO** get a cold, cough or an attack of influenza? Well, that depends on how you treat it! What happens when you do resort to "patent" remedies? The drugs contained in them merely suppress the symptoms, keeping them "under control," **BUT ONLY FOR THE TIME BEING!** Sooner or later (usually in a matter of two hours) the old symptoms come to the surface again and then you take another tablet and so the endless round goes on. Never at any time do you thoroughly shake them off.

Stood the Test

I will tell you what to do the next time you feel a cold coming on—and this remedy which has stood the test of time will also save you from other complications and can be taken if you should get influenza!

If possible, go to bed and put a hot water bottle at the feet. Get someone to prepare this medicine: 1 oz. Elderflower Herb, 1 oz. Peppermint and 1 oz. Yarrow. Mix well, pour a pint of boiling water over it, sweeten with honey or treacle and drink a cupful as hot as possible. The next morning you *will* feel like jumping over a five-barred gate and the symptoms will not bother you!

Continued on page 30

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THE COLD WAR*Continued from page 28*

If possible drink a cupful during the daytime and in any case a cupful last thing at night.

If you prefer it, there are numerous essences on the market containing these ingredients and are just as efficacious and easy to prepare.

If you are inclined to be "chesty," possibly through not taking proper care of yourself, then here is a remedy which also has stood the test of time. Take 1 oz. each of Elderflower Herb, Peppermint, Yarrow and Horehound. Prepare as previously described and take warm in teacupful doses whenever you get an attack of coughing. You will be surprised how quickly you obtain relief, and there will be no danger of getting complications either! It's as safe as lying in bed! Of course, should you get a severe attack of influenza then you must take Elderflowers, Peppermint and Yarrow every three hours and stay in bed until the temperature has gone down.

For goodness' sake don't take a hot infusion and then take part in a game, otherwise you may find yourself playing somewhere else! If required in the case of a cold take a cupful during the daytime. Providing you limit it to three times a day you do not need to worry, but if you take it more often you will get a "sweat on" and then trouble will come along.

If colds "sap" your energy then add a little Composition Essence to the medicine I have prescribed. It will tone you up and give you some degree of stimulation, keeping your spirits up and the temperature down!

"Secret" Method

HAVING found the "secret" method of combating colds and keeping them down to a minimum (even herbal remedies cannot keep them away entirely) you will naturally want to know how to combat that "tired feeling" associated with 'flu—you know the symptoms—the general lassitude, the "could-not-care-less" attitude; the sleepy feeling; "don't-want-to-go-to-work" spirit (some people get this at other times too!) and a feeling of intense weariness and depression. Here is another remedy just as effective. Get 1 oz. Mistletoe, 1 oz. Valerian and 1 oz. Gentian. Mix well, pour over them one pint of boiling water and flavour with honey or treacle. Take a wineglassful COLD four times a day, preferably half an hour before meals and you will soon be "fighting fit!"

Gentian is the finest herb known for creating an appetite and it will prevent that "sickly" feeling too!

If at any time you wish to contact me, your S.O.S. will not go unheeded providing you enclose a stamp. The Editor will forward all letters.

MIDWINTER NIGHTMARE *Contd. from page 19*

the end one or two show signs of slowing up.

Chief Dietary Expert, "Comrade Olga Poushemova, you are not doing your duty to yourself or the State. Eat, or Miss Eguchi will take advantage of you. Remember Chataway and Joseph Kucs!"

Spurred on by this sinister warning, the Candidates put in a brave spurt and finish every scrap in 30 seconds dead. They are then ushered to the Sleeping Hall, where they are escorted to their cots. By each door and window stands an armed sentry, and State experts, etc., sit by with watches and note-pads. A gramophone plays a lullaby to sooth the athletes to sleep.

Four hours later the Candidates are roused, taken to the Bath Hall, where after a supervised shower and massage they are given electrical, orthopaedic, therapeutic, trichinological, dental and chiropody treatment. They are then X-rayed, psycho-analysed, weighed and examined muscle by muscle.

A State Observer makes a detailed report on each Candidate, and Comrade Boris Chopenoff is expelled immediately for being half-an-ounce overweight and a millimetre deficient in bicep development. The Senior Official orders a minor official to radio the State Headquarters of Sport for another Candidate. He returns five minutes later to report that Comrade Stefan Heftikrak is already *en route* by plane to the Camp.

Under Escort

The Candidates are then taken to the Forehand Hall and a Table Tennis table, flanked by sentries.

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Each Candidate in turn goes to the table, where the State Forehand Specialist demonstrates and lectures. Then follow visits to the Backhand Hall, Service Hall, Footwork Hall, Attack Hall, Defence Hall, Dropshot Hall, Middle-game Hall, Spin Hall, and other Halls covering every shot and phase of the game. Candidates and the etc., finally go to the Practice Hall, where the Candidates engage each other, every stroke being supervised by the particular specialist concerned.

At every stage film shots had been taken and together with notes and reports these will later be sent to the State Headquarters of Sport by escorted plane, for scrutiny and comment.

Now the Candidates are ordered to the Supper Hall and.....(at this point the nightmare victim awoke screaming and in a sweat, but happy that he was a self-taught player who once won a game in the third division of a minor league).

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Printed by The Liverpool Printing and Stationery Company Limited, in England
at Mercer Court, Redcross Street, Liverpool, 1, for the Publishers,
B.F.R. Publications, Ltd., Exchange Alley, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, 3.