

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ISSUE - 1955

Table Tennis *Review*

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No. 4

SPECIAL ISSUE 1955

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

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The UTRECHT STORY

From Our
Special Correspondent

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THE NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

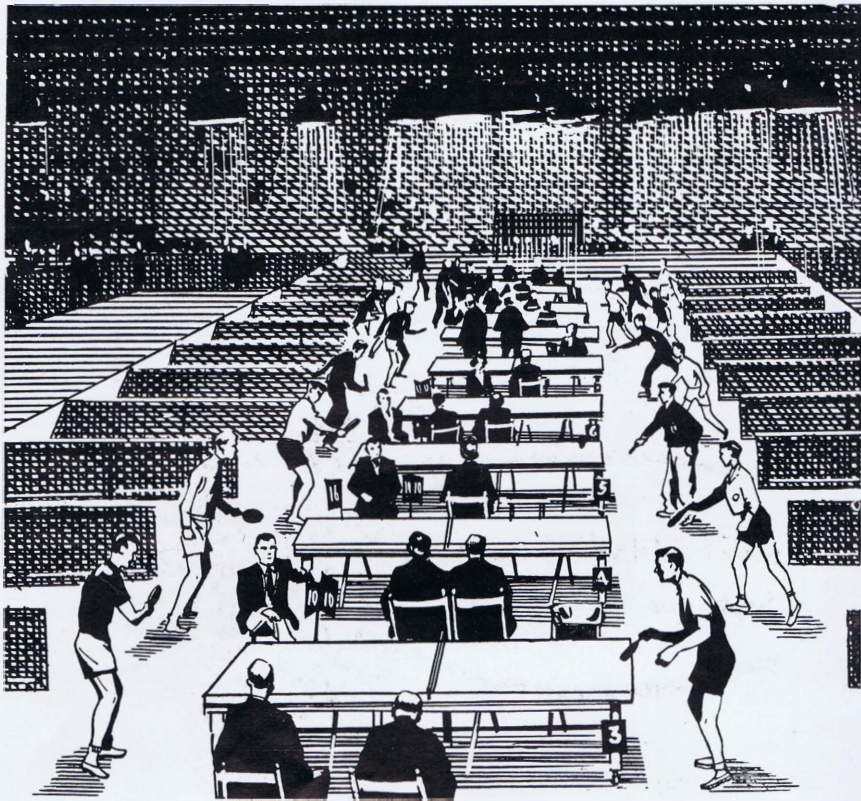
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J. CLAYTON

Pictured at Belle Vue
at the English Open, 1953





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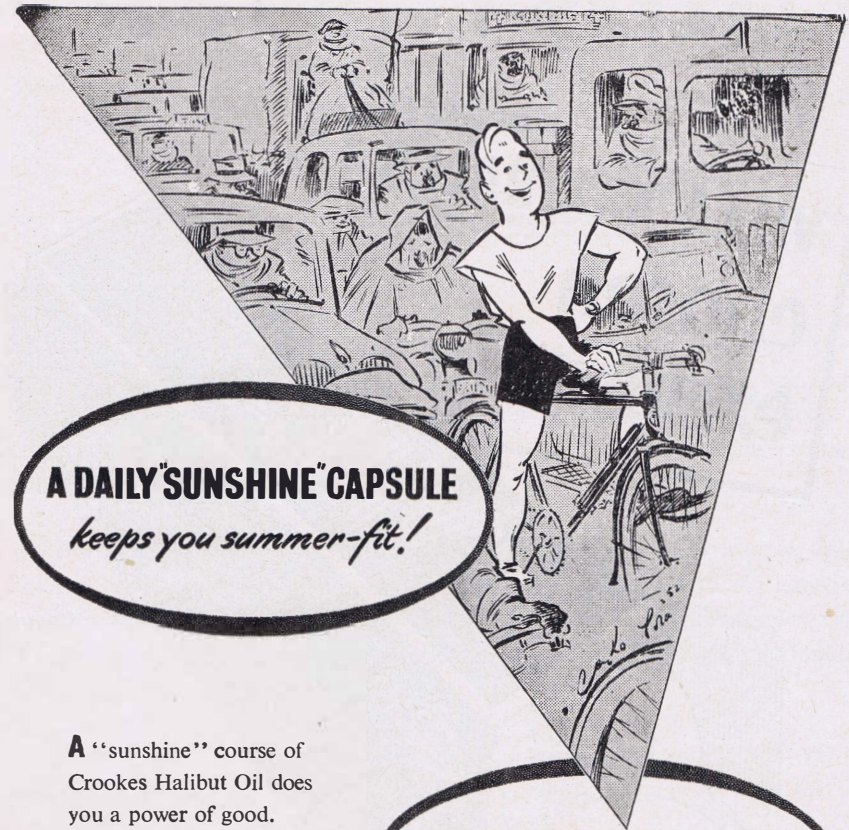
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TABLE TENNIS

VOLUME 9

No. 4

Review

WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS
ISSUE, 1955

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

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ONCE again poor old Great Britain is without an International title. Pardon me for binding our national individualities under one composite head; but who can doubt that any championship success—English, Irish, Scottish or Welsh—would have been heralded with unrestrained enthusiasm by all of us!

But first, in the great tradition of the game, let us congratulate those who did hit the high spots. And a magnificent tribute goes to the amazing Angelica Rozeanu for achieving her sixth successive Women's Singles title (a superb performance), a Corbillon medal, and winning the Women's Doubles with Ella Zeller.

Here's the joy of winning to Toshiaki Tonaka for securing the Men's Singles for Japan and to their successful Swaythling Cup team—but there's something else.

These islands may have been left in the "sackcloth and ashes" department, but never let us forget the fighting spirit of our representatives.

We must not lose the memory of the gallant battle by Aubrey Simons and Helen Elliot in the Mixed Doubles final; the unavailing last-ditch stand of the fabulous Rowe twins to retain their Doubles crown, and Diane's shock Corbillon win over Rozeanu. Finally a word of praise for Ann Haydon who certainly has got what it takes.

True, we came out trophy-less; but there's always a next time, and the powers that be have another breathing space to get the "storm troops" keyed up to their "fightingest" pitch.

The Editor.

Twins Lose Title at Utrecht

In the Women's Doubles, England was represented in four of the last eight pairs, but only the Rows reached the semi-final.

Elliot and Winn lost to Zeller and Rozeanu 21-19, 12-21, 19-21, 18-21, and Haydon and Werthl falling to Tanaka and Narahara 14-21, 11-21, 20-22.

Diane and Rosalind sent our hopes high by beating the strong Japanese pair Eguchi and Watanabi in the semi-final 21-19, 21-18, 21-17, while Zeller and Rozeanu disposed of the other Jap girls Tanaka and Narahara 21-19, 21-11, 22-20.

The final was the last event of the championships and the twins started shakily losing the first at 21-17. They improved tremendously and with well-placed drop shots and accurate hitting won the next two games at 16 and 17.

The English girls were away to a 5-0 start in the fourth game, and went on to 10-5 and 16-13—5 points for the title!—but Rozeanu the mighty was still there to win the next four points. The game went to 19-20 when, after a long rally, with Ros trying a hit, the ball just caught the top of the net and went off the table—two games all!

The final game, with the crowd on the side of the English girls, went point for point until the change at 9-10, then gradually the Rumanians drew away to win 21-16 and wrest the title from the hands of the gallant English girls.

NEW WORLD MIXED CHAMPIONS

THERE were bound to be new names on the Mixed Doubles trophy, for Gizi Farkas was not able to play, leaving **Andreadis without a partner.**

Sido and Rozeanu became favourites, but not for long. In their very first match they received marching orders from the Japanese pair Tomita and Eguchi, in turn beaten by Szepesi and Koczian.

Meanwhile our pairs were quietly but firmly being eliminated; Brian Kennedy and Ros Rowe losing in the third round to Stipek and Krejcova, and Johnnie and Di, playing at 9 a.m., were unlucky to lose deuce in the fifth to Tamaka and Narahara.

Whilst all this was going on, the popular Aubrey Simons and Helen Elliot were marching forward to a thrilling final.

Aubrey won the toss, Helen served to Koczian, and the British pair were always in front to win the first two games 21-18, 21-18. The third went to the Hungarians 18-21, but they were 5-16 down in the fourth.

How the British supporters roared. This was it—only 5 points for our first title. But no, for before we realised what was happening it was 16-15, then 17-18, and Szepesi finished the game with two lovely smashes.

The final game changed hands at 10-8 in favour of the Hungarians, who pulled away to win the vital match 21-15.

JAPAN

keeps the **SWAYTHLING**

ENGLAND 'CZECH(ED)'

ENGLAND started their bid in the 22nd World Championships in the massive Bernhardal, Utrecht, Holland, against Spain. Brian Kennedy gained our first win in this competition with a resounding 21-10, 21-10 result, and Brian Merrett made his debut with two wins without dropping a game, leaving Johnnie Leach to make it 5-0.

Before play started in the evening the impressive parade of all competing nations was led by the single entry from South Africa, with the hosts the Netherlands bringing up the rear of the 34 nations. Each captain was presented with a sheaf of tulips by charming Dutch girls, and an official welcome given.

Then on with the battle, with Bergmann in the team against Switzerland in place of Leach. All went well to a 3-0 lead, then Merrett went on against Urchetti, and after a dull game victory was recorded for the Swiss. However, Richard and the Yorkshire Brian clinched the issue at 5-1.

SOON OVER

Sunday saw the boys on the table again at 9 a.m. with Rhodes coming in for the first time and Leach and Bergmann being allowed an extra snooze, but the game was soon over and Lebabon was quickly taken care of to the tune of 5-0.

Kennedy and Merrett were given their rest against Wales in the afternoon, and again a five-nil win was added to our account.

Germany was the opposition at night in a match that proved our best, and indeed one of the best of the competition. Johnnie Leach took the table first against tiny Poldi Holusek, a two-coloured sponge bat merchant who soon had an early lead with his quick counter-hitting. Johnnie took command to get in front 19-16, only to lose the next three points, but finally winning the game 23-21. In the second game Leach dominated the play to count one for England with the score 21-16.

We expected fireworks when Brian Kennedy and Conny Freundorfer met, and we were not disappointed. Brian took the first 22-20 after leading 9-3 and being 19-20 down, but the dancing Conny waltzed away with the second and led 10-5 in the third. Brian drew level at 17, only to lose the next four points.

Bergmann's defence and strategy was shown at its best against hard-hitting Josep Seiz whom he defeated 16 and 16.

Leach sliced the first two balls against Freundorfer, who with a reliable attack in his opponent's backhand corner gained the first game at 14, but the second was a different picture with the score keeping close until the German, with a wonderful smash, won the set 23-21 to make the score two all.

Richard carried on his good work against Holusek. His clever placing of the ball made the German's attack less effective, and he won 21-14, 21-15.

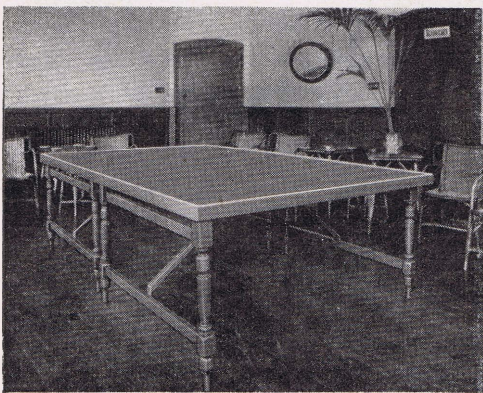
Brian Kennedy got off to a bad start against Seiz, and until he started attacking never looked like having a chance, but

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reached 17. In the second game Brian was never in it and only notched 8 points.

The atmosphere was tense when the two unbeaten players, Bergmann and Freundorfer, met. Richard was on top from the start, pinning the German down in his backhand corner, and was able to deal with occasional bursts of attack to win the first 21-16. With three forehand smashes he won the second at 21-17 to make it 4-3.

The large German crowd loudly cheered Josep Seiz in his match against Johnnie Leach, but the English contingent responded manfully, and Johnnie, playing extremely well, won in two straight 21-19, 21-15. And so the match, which had everything, went to England 5-3, leaving us still undefeated.

Rhodes, Merrett and Kennedy accounted for Saarland 5-1 on Monday morning. Rhodes unexpectedly losing to Hoffmann 23-21, 19-21, 18-21.

England v. Rumania, the two unbeaten teams in Group 4, was the big match for the night, with Brian Merrett being preferred to Brian Kennedy. He took the table first against Toma Reiter. Merrett won the first at 12, and then the big push started with time being called at 10-4 in the Rumanian's favour. In the final game the players were level at 13 when the umpire called "5 minutes more; next point wins." Reiter took the risk and the game 14-13.

Bergmann and Leach both had easy wins over Tiberiu Harastazi and M. Porescu.

SUPERB TACTICS

Two superb tacticians met in Bergmann and Reiter. The first game finished at 16-17 in the Rumanian's favour, but Richard made no mistake in the second, winning 21-7, and in the final game, after being a couple of points behind, Reiter threw discretion and the game to the winds, with the result 11-4 for the Englishman.

Following some anxious moments Merrett beat Porescu and Leach beat Harastazi both in the third game to put England at the top of Group 4. Britain won the 7 matches with 35 games against 7.

Meanwhile Czechoslovakia had sauntered through Group 1 without losing a game, Hungary won Group 2 with 7 wins and 35 against 6, and Japan led Group 3 with 7 wins and 35 games against 2.

For our match on the Tuesday night there was no change in the team that defeated Rumania. Merrett first met Ladislav Stipek, but found the Czech's close-to-the-table play too good for him. He had to bow to a 21-14, 21-13 defeat.

Richard went on with Vaclav Tereba. We thought "this is where it becomes 1-1," but it was not to be. Tereba has never

played better and Richard was down 21-12, 21-10.

Johnnie temporarily raised our hopes against Ivan Andreadis, playing brilliantly to win 16-21, 21-19, 21-13.

Bergmann and Stipek was the next on the card, and poor Richard never saw the way he went, 5-21, 12-21—what a performance!

Brian defended against Andreadis, but not good enough. Backhands and forehands flashed passed him to the tune of 21-11, 21-15.

At 4-1 down Johnnie met Tereba and raised our hopes by taking the first game at 16, just losing the second 24-26, and leading 10-5 in the third only to let the Czech creep up and win the match 22-20. The result 5-1 for Czechoslovakia so ended our Swaythling Cup hopes.

In the other semi-final the holders Japan represented by Tanaka, Ogimura and Tomita met Hungary's Sido, Szepesi and Koczian in a long-to-be-remembered match. It was Sido's match, for he played like a man possessed, beating all the Japs. With Koczian accounting for Ogimura everything depended on the last match which Tomita seemed to have in the bag, but Szepesi never gave up and reached 19-20 in the third, only to lose the vital point, leaving the Japs to enter the final with a 5-4 win.

"MOWED 'EM DOWN"

The biggest crowd so far was present for the Swaythling Cup final, and Czechoslovakia brought in Vana—what a treat to see him in action again—in place of Tereba.

With memories of last year's final still with us, when Ivan Andreadis mowed the Japs down, we wondered could he do it again. He did, and in no uncertain fashion, for he won all three in straight games. He seemed to paralyse the Japs, who must think of him as "Ivan the Great" or maybe "Ivan the Terrible."

Unfortunately his team-mates could not clinch the deal with another two sets. Stipek did not produce his previous form, and Bo Vana was only a shadow of his former self. So the Cup remained with Japan who proved worthy winners.

FINAL

Ogimura beat Vana 21-18, 21-18, beat Stipek 21-19, 22-20, lost to Andreadis 19-21, 19-21.

Tanaka beat Vana 21-9, 21-13, beat Stipek 21-12, 21-14, lost to Andreadis 15-21, 20-22.

Tamasu beat Stipek 22-20, 21-15, lost to Andreadis 11-21, 19-21.

WINNERS AT A GLANCE

★

MEN'S SINGLES
TOSHIAKI TANAKA
(Japan)

WOMEN'S SINGLES
ANGELICA ROZEANU
(Rumania)

MEN'S DOUBLES
ANDREADIS AND STIPEK
(Czechoslovakia)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES
ZELLER-ROZEANU
(Rumania)

MIXED DOUBLES
SZEPESI-KOCZIAN
(Hungary)

SWAYTHLING CUP
JAPAN

CORBILLON CUP
RUMANIA

Nostalgia!

So another Championship series has ended, but the memory lingers on—the memory of what?—

Of Angelica Rozeanu, the wonder girl.

Of the wonderful hospitality given by our hosts, the "Nederlandse Tafeltennis Bond."

Of the number of players buying sponge bats.

Of the breath-taking visit to Keukenhof, and the bulbfields.

Of the hundreds of bicycles, complete with pillion riders.

Of the colossal numbers squeezed into the special buses; no "five only standing" here.

Of the respect in which England's Ivor Montagu and Bill Vint were held.

Of the TEA . . . served there.

But, above all, of the unforgettable comradeship between players of all nations.

So roll on the next—but wait a moment, it's at Tokio, so it looks as though most of us will have to wait until the season after, at Stockholm.

Jack Carrington's

1955

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MEN'S SINGLES ...

TONAKA TOOK TITLE

in record time

THE English players lasted much longer than last year, for all our team, plus Harry Venner, reached round four. Then Merrett and Venner left Brian to American Harry Hirschowitz after a time-limit game, and Harry to Jozsef Somogyi, the Hungarian No. 5, who in the next round put paid to Ogimura's chance of retaining the title.

Meanwhile Leach, playing with his old confidence and skill, beat Yoshio Tomita 17-21, 22-20, 21-16, 21-10, and Kennedy had a good win over Guy Amouretti. Bergmann had so far received an easy passage, not dropping a game and leaving us three in the last sixteen.

Brian Kennedy was first to say good-bye, finding Toma Reiter's sponge defence too good for him, then Leach easily beat Hungarian Laszlo Foldi in three straight. Bergmann eclipsed Kalman Szepesi by three games to one.

IN LAST EIGHT

Now we had two in the last eight, but this was our black round. Both had to encounter sponge merchants, and Richard started off well against Dolinar, winning the first at 19, but losing the next at the same score. The Yugoslav piled on the pressure and Richard appeared to tire, losing the next two games and the match.

Johnnie met the much-improved Stephen Cafiero, who had collected wins over Freundorfer, Harangozo and Koczian. Cafiero, playing a spoiling game, was soon two games up. Then Johnnie had a bash and won 21-7; we felt that he had the answer, for he led 20-18 in the fourth, only to lose the next four points, and England's last hope had gone.

The semi-finals brought Johnnie's conqueror against Toshiaki Tanaka, the Jap No. 1. Was Cafiero going to add his scalp to his already fine collection? The Jap had other ideas, and went for him straight from the start repeatedly passing his opponent to win a most comfortable game 21-11, 21-15, 21-17, without even raising a sweat.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

The other semi-final was a battle of the giants between Dolinar and Sido, the two heaviest men in the competition. Sido, who had previously beaten all the Japs, gained some brilliant points with his backhand to win the first 21-11, but Zarko so

got his sponge bat and his hitting to work that he carried the next three games 21-15, 22-20, 21-18 to enter the final.

This, for the second successive year, was sponge v. sponge. Would Zarko add Tanaka's name to the victims on the wooden side of his bat? We very soon had the answer.

ALL AT SEA

Dolinar, who appeared nervous, was absolutely at sea and surely has never played so badly for years. The match started at 7-35 p.m. and was all over by 7-51, so two records must have been broken in this final—the shortness of the match and the number of balls put into the bottom of the net by Dolinar. Those he did get over were immediately dealt with by the Jap, who hit everything.

As one of our leading players said "Tanaka has no respect for the covering on a bat, and will hit rubber, sponge, or sausage skin; it makes no difference to him."

don't forget*to order your copy of the***SUMMER ISSUE***which will be on sale***JUNE 12***with*★ **VICTOR BARNA**★ **SAM KIRKWOOD***and local and national***NEWS and VIEWS**

There's that victory sparkle in the eyes of twenty-year-old law student Toshiaki Tanaka as he walks off with the Men's Singles Trophy after retaining the premier title for Japan at Utrecht.

CORBILLON CUP

'DYNAMITE DI' beat ROZEANU

but . . .

RUMANIA TRIUMPHED

THERE were three groups in the Corbillon Cup, seven teams in 1 and 2, and eight in group 3 which included England.

Everything went according to plan, with the three expected teams reaching the final. Rumania in group 1, Japan in group 2, and England in group 3—all without having a set taken from them.

England's victims were Germany, Austria, Wales, U.S.A., Sweden, Switzerland and Italy, with Ros Rowe playing in five matches, Di Rowe in six, Ann Haydon in four, and Jean Winn in two doubles only.

In the finals Rumania beat Japan 3-2, thanks to two wins by World Champion Rozeanu, and Zeller's final beating of Tanaka 14-21, 21-16, 22-20.

England had to take on the losers and relied on the twins. Rosalind, after winning the first 21-19, and losing the second 21-23 against Eguchi, lost the third 9-21. Diane never got her touch against Watanabi and lost 12-21, 10-21. We won the Doubles 10-21, 21-19, 21-13, and Ros was beaten by Watanabe 16-21, 21-8, 10-21 to give the Japs a 3-1 victory.

COPY-BOOK PLAY

This made the position that we had to defeat Rumania 3-0 to gain the Cup. We felt the girls could do it, especially after the result of the first match when Di went on against Ella Zeller—one of the most improved players on view. The Rumanian concentrated on long defence, but Di, playing copy-book stuff, waited for the right ball to hit, and ran out winner at 21-19, 21-17.

Rosalind was away to a 4-0 lead against Rozeanu, but the champion drew level at 13, and went away to win 21-17. Ros took the next 22-20 after being 18-20 down, and the final game looked all Rozeanu, for ends

were changed at 10-3 in her favour. But the English girl thought differently and caught up at 16-all, only to lose 19-21. Never has Ros played better and lost; her attack from slow top spin to the final kill was a joy to watch. How the ex-ballet dancer recovered some of those smashes was just unbelievable.

TABLE TROUBLE

There was a considerable delay before the Doubles started, as Rozeanu complained that the table was not level, and after many consultations it was changed. This waiting may have had something to do with the play of the twins, for they did not settle down, and the Rumanians were worthy winners 21-17, 21-15.

Then came Diane's best win of the championship, for she well and truly beat Rozeanu—her only defeat of the championships—21-12, 21-18. Di was always in the lead, and her hitting was just superb, passing her opponent time and again—there was no doubt about it. Di was just Dynamite.

The atmosphere was tense for the last game, for if Ros beat Zeller the cup went to Japan. What a game it turned out to be, with the Rumanian playing as never before. How close it was can be seen from the scores 21-19, 12-21, 21-19 in favour of Zeller who was the heroine, and quite rightly mobbed by her team-mates—three happy girls who took the Marcel Corbillon Cup from the hands of the donor.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

ANGELICA

HIT 'EM FOR SIX!

AS in the Men's event our team showed up well, the Rowe twins and Ann Haydon being in the last eight. Then it was curtains for our girls. As Ann wittily put it, "We must belong to the same union—one out, all out."

Rosalind had another shot at the World champion. Following her performance in the Cup match we had great hopes, but she lost the first 15-21. In the second she used her hit and drop shots to advantage to repeatedly catch Rozeanu and win 21-16. The third game saw the English girl gain the lead, but a bad spell let in the Rumanian who caught up, just pipping Ros on the post. The last game went to the holder 21-12, and so it was over until next year for our champion.

Diane, after taking care of Fujie Eguchi three games to one, played hard against Eva Koczian, and if she could have managed the first game I feel sure she would have been in the semi-final. She lost this game 23-25, won the second 21-17, and in the third was up 13-9, only to lose the lead and the game 21-17. The Hungarian gradually drew away in the next game to win the match 21-13.

Ann Haydon had an excellent third round win over Yoshiko Tanaka 3-1, but fell at the next fence to Linde Werlt the Austrian hitter 19-21, 21-13, 10-21, 16-21. I feel that she would have done better had she used her natural attack more instead of trying to pin the redhead in the backhand corner.

Rozeanu cruised through her semi-final against Kiiko Watanabe to the tune of 21-10, 21-11, 21-17, whilst Werlt won a five-set match against Koczian after being two down 21-15, 18-21, 13-21, 21-11, 21-17.

One wondered if Angelica could last out the final against the speedy Linde, for she had played in every Corbillon Cup match, Singles and Doubles, "and, surely she cannot go on for ever," we said.

We felt we were right as Werlt, or to give her her full title of Rumpler-Werlt, got away to a 4-1 lead. But the champion proved how very wrong we were as with ease she dealt with all Werlt's vicious forehand drives, and even had time to pass the Austrian girl with backhand and forehand.

She drew level at 5-all, and was never behind again at any time during the match. Rozeanu won 21-13, 21-5, 21-8 to retain the title and gain the record of six successive wins. What a woman—what a player!

Englishmen

soon out of Doubles

ENGLAND'S strength was certainly not in the Men's Doubles, for as early as the third round we were left with only two couples to keep the flag-flying.

The old firm of Leach and Bergmann and the merry Ivor Jones and Peter Pudney, who had to say cheerio in the next round being given the exit notices by Sido and Koczian, who went on to beat Johnnie and Richard in the next round 19-21, 22-20, 21-17, 21-18.

The match which will be remembered in this event was the semi-final between Andreadis and Stipek against Ogimura and Tomita. After two games all, the last set actually went to 33-31 before the Czechs entered the final. In this marathon the winners only had match point on four occasions, while the Japs had nine chances with just one point for victory.

The holders Dolinar and Harangozo had quietly worked their way to the final, which proved to be rather one-sided, for Andreadis and Stipek had things all their own way to win 21-10, 21-7, 21-18 to gain the title.



With a Corbillon Cup medal to add to her sixth successive Singles title, it's no wonder Angelica Rozeanu (left) looks radiantly happy. Her Rumanian team-mates are Sari Szaz (centre) and Ella Zeller.

WHO * WHAT

WHEN * WHERE
in Ireland

THE Rhanbuoy Cup is awarded annually to the player who has shown most ability or promise during the season. It is risky to prophesy, but I don't see how the I.T.T.A. can overlook the performances of Sean Clerkin, who has had the kind of season that most players can only dream about. In a single week he took six titles in the Irish Close and Leinster Open Championships.

* * *

Mount Y.M.C.A. have for the ninth successive year won the Division I championship in the Belfast and District League, beating their closest rivals, Ards, by five games to four in a really exciting match. The ladies also won their section of the League without dropping a match.

Although membership rarely exceeds thirty-five, no fewer than eight internationals—including Victor Mercer, Ivan Martin and Ernie Allen—have played for the club in the last three years. The number of trophies—excluding league awards—won by members now exceeds the two hundred mark.

* * *

Surprise results in Irish table tennis are few and far between nowadays, so it was a real tonic to see unassuming Arnold Griffith take the Belfast and District Men's Singles title, beating internationals Ivan Martin and Harry O'Prey on the way. Let's hope that in the near future he will again make us sit up and rub our eyes.

* * *

In this season's four-cornered inter-provincial championship held in Sligo, Ulster had little difficulty in retaining the title which has been theirs since the inception of the competition five years ago.

The only player to emerge without a defeat was Ulster's Ernie Allen, whose success was no doubt partly due to his dexterity with the sponge bat. Allen, incidentally, is the only top-ranking Irishman to have been bitten by the sponge bug.

RESULTS

Ulster beat Connaught 20-0, beat Munster 19-1, beat Leinster 15-5. Leinster beat Connaught 20-0, beat Munster 16-4. Munster beat Connaught 20-0.

PRESENTED BY

BILL RAVEY

*

WELLINGTON HALL, Belfast, provided the setting for the Irish Open, and on this occasion most of the titles went to cross-channel players. Brian Kennedy took the Men's title, beating Bryan Merrett in a very closely contested final.

At one stage Merrett led 19-16 in the fourth set, but Kennedy, at times reduced almost to "safety" tactics, hung on tenaciously to take this set and the next for victory.

Kennedy and Merrett went on to take the Men's Doubles by defeating Harry O'Prey and Colin Senior of Ulster.

The Women's Singles went to that little Welsh bundle of energy Shirley Jones, who sailed through the prelims and won in straight sets against Ulster's Margaret Lyons in the final.

Helen Houlston, although losing to an inspired Margaret Lyons in the semi-final of the Women's event, gained some consolation by taking the Women's Doubles title in partnership with Shirley Jones.

This really was a "night out" for the cross-channel visitors, the only Irish player to win a title being 16-year-old Ray Linden (Ulster) who defeated N. Hardy (Ulster) in the Boys' Singles final.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: Kennedy beat Merrett 21-10, 13-21, 16-21, 21-19, 21-19.

MEN'S DOUBLES: Kennedy and Merrett beat O'Prey and C. D. Senior 21-13, 18-21, 21-13, 21-16.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: S. Jones beat M. Lyons 21-13, 21-16.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Jones and Houlston beat J. Owens and D. Fearon 19-21, 23-21, 21-17.

MIXED DOUBLES: Merrett and Miss Jones beat Kennedy and Miss Houlston 21-18, 21-8.

BOYS' SINGLES: Linden beat Hardy 21-9, 22-20.

MERRETT
wins at
SCARBOROUGH

A magnificent entry of 200 enjoyed a week-end of sunshine and Table Tennis, for the Easter North-East Open is now one of the most popular holiday tournaments.

The presence of the English Swaythling and Corbillon teams attracted a number of onlookers, and other interesting entries included the Australian team and Yugoslavs Dolinar and Gabric.

Dolinar was expected to retain his Singles title without difficulty, but was surprisingly beaten by Bryan Merrett in a tremendous semi-final. Merrett's amazing retrieving always worried the titleholder, and he went on to beat Kennedy, who seems fated to be runner-up in this event, in the final.

Diane Rowe won the Women's title for the third successive year, beating a rather nervous Peggy Franks 21-10, 21-17 in the final, and Ann Haydon annexed the Junior Singles by defeating A. Teal (Hull) in the ultimate round.

Local chairman, Mr. A. Harrison, successfully defended his "Over 60 Challenge" by defeating his sole opponent 'Pop' Primevesi—'Pop' is a youthful 80—"Well done!"

There is just one word of complaint about the arrangements. The heat in the small Finsla Hall (only 450 spectators could squeeze in) was a trial for both players and lookers-on.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Merrett beat Kennedy, 20-22, 21-17, 23-21.

Women's Singles: D. Rowe beat P. Franks, 21-10, 21-17.

Junior Singles: Ann Haydon beat A. Teal, 21-19, 21-16.

Youths' Singles: M. Maclaren beat R. Dorking, 19-21, 21-11, 21-15, (Final).

Veterans' Singles: Final, W. C. T. Pryer beat W. Bedford, 17-21, 21-7, 21-7.

Men's Doubles: Dolinar and Leach beat Kennedy and Thornhill, 21-16, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: J. Winn and Haydon beat Ingleson and Rhodes, 21-9, 21-9.

Mixed Doubles: Kennedy and R. Rowe beat Bergmann and A. Haydon, 21-18, 21-13.

E. Moorehouse.

WEST TRIUMPHANT
IN
SCOTTISH 'CONFINED'

Whether the cause was the absence of guiding light Helen Elliot or not, no one knows, but the East players were unusually lax in letting the West steal both the Singles titles in this tournament.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—A. Metcalfe (Glasgow) beat V. H. Garland (Aberdeen) 21-19, 17-21, 22-20.

Women's Singles—Mrs. Josephson (Glasgow) beat Mrs. Mattins (Glasgow) 16-21, 21-10, 21-16.

Women's Doubles—Miss Cababe (Edinburgh) and Miss Criuchshank (Glasgow) beat Miss H. Houlston (Edinburgh) and Miss Black (Dundee) 21-16, 21-17.

Men's Doubles—A. Laidlaw (Edinburgh), V. H. Garland (Aberdeen) beat E. Still (Glasgow) and C. Mattinson (Glasgow) 21-18, 11-21, 21-12.



CONGRATULATIONS Ros! During the World Championships at Utrecht, Rosalind Rowe announced her engagement to Dr. J. A. Cornett, whom she met when the twins were sailing to New Zealand in 1953.

It is possible that the romance may split England's glamorous duo, but all Rosalind says at this stage is: "I don't know whether Diane and I can continue playing together."

KENNETH RAWNSLEY

discovers . . .

How the other half lives!

TABLE Tennis players, from the novice to the top-notch, are really versatile folk, but have you ever wondered what the stars do in the daily grind of the workaday world? Let us take a 'look-see,' and learn how the other half lives.

The late Dr. Stephen Smith, born in 1823, lived on bread and milk, became a noted New York physician, and reached no mean proficiency at "ping pong." He played the game to combat the depression which descended on him after a heart-breaking day in the New York slums, and once won a championship sponsored by the medical profession.

Deadly Business

A YORKSHIRE player who can "knock the ball about" derives health from his favourite sport—and he needs it. During the daytime he's a funeral director.

A tiny blonde young woman from Leicester always wears a smile when a bat is in her hand, yet in her "official" world she's always living with the dead! Her job is highly skilled, important and means a lot to those who have lost loved ones—embalming is her line!

A Lancashire man, still in the "struggling" class, hits the ball in local events in the Morecambe region as a let-up from his daily task as a taxidermist—a stuffer of birds and animals for the museums!

Martin J. Dupraw, of White Plains, New York City, is a man with many strings to his bow. A Master of Arts and Bachelor of Law he still finds time to devote a couple of nights a week to Table Tennis. A former champion of New York State, he won six silver loving cups at the age of nineteen and is still going strong!

His occupation? He's an official shorthand writer in the Supreme Court of the U.S., and he's the world shorthand champion into the bargain!

Palace Guest

ANOTHER reporter whose duty it is to check on criminal cases in the Bronx division of the Supreme Court, is Charles Lee Swem, the star of shorthand. In former years he too devoted much time to the Table Tennis game and became

"tops." A former World Shorthand Champion, he became personal stenographer to President Woodrow Wilson.

He once took part in a London tournament while accompanying Mr. Wilson on a tour and during his stay lived at Buckingham Palace as a guest! Now long past the age when active Table Tennis gives him pleasure his hobby is writing. A man of talent? He sure is brother!

Cortez W. Peters, present World Typing Champion, is also a champion at Table Tennis, though in the novice class. Owner of three business schools he tours the States and Canada giving typing demonstrations and "plays" on the side! Starring in the "It's Stranger Than Fiction" film, he kept a Table Tennis ball dancing on the keys while typing to music!

Ever heard of Edicoe Needles? He lives in Detroit, works on the railroad and is known as the Pork Chop Champion! He plays Table Tennis "on the side" and gets a thrill out of it.

Eddie thinks nothing of eating a huge meal just before going into play. Standing over 6 feet and weighing 210 pounds he can pack away 60 large pork chops and follow up with 25 pies at a single go! He washes them down with 28 bottles of soft drinks or beer. His daily intake of food is equal to that of a family of five for one week!

Day of Rest

ON Sundays—his day of rest—nothing but chicken is on his table. On Saturdays he plays Table Tennis and works up an appetite. Maybe one day he'll have a go at eating those little white balls!

Yes! Table Tennis players do possess talents and put them to work in all directions. And one thing stands out like a majestic sentinel—the spirit that enters into their play is present in everyday life—a sport for which every man and woman is surely the better. What price success if we lose our souls in the process? Table Tennis players are hardly likely to do that! **WHAT'S YOUR "OTHER" LINE?**

**SCOTLAND LOSE
TO WALES**

THE international itself was a thrilling affair, with Scotland not disgraced, although a little disappointed.

Helen Houlston was again landed with the crucial match, with Scotland down 3-4. Bravely she tried against the vastly more experienced Betty Gray, and indeed got off to a murderous 11-4 lead in the first set, but Miss Gray soon took command and it was all over bar the shouting.

RESULTS

(Scottish names first) :—

Men's Singles—T. Gilmour lost to D. Norris 14-21, 13-21: J. Campbell lost to A. Morris 11-21, 18-21: E. Still lost to D. Phillips 17-21, 16-21: V. H. Garland beat G. Morgan 12-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Men's Doubles—E. Still and V. H. Garland beat G. Morgan and D. Phillips 21-17, 19-21, 21-11: T. Gilmour and J. Campbell lost to D. Norris and A. Morris 16-21, 14-21.

Women's Singles—Miss H. Elliot beat Miss S. Jones 21-11, 20-22, 21-17: Miss H. Houlston lost to Miss B. Gray 14-21, 17-21.

Women's Doubles—Miss H. Elliot and Miss H. Houlston lost to Miss S. Jones and Miss B. Gray 10-21, 15-21.

*Davidson Starred
in Lanarkshire Tourney*

ONLY really notable thing here was the sudden all-conquering rise of Edinburgh's John Davidson, who, not to speak of the earlier rounds, put up a magnificent performance in disposing of John Miller in the quarters and Tommy Gilmour in the semis.

Davidson seemed to lose the place in the final against Still, and many of us attributed this to nerves on the part of a newcomer to the close hush of a finals arena. The player himself, however, was big enough to deny this. In the searching of minds which always accompanies the rise of a new finalist, it was discovered that Davidson has the best match average in the Edinburgh league.

English Swaythling Cup player Betty Steventon was Helen Elliot's opponent in the Women's Singles final, but she fared no better than the many others who have occupied this position.

In the Open Doubles, McMichael and Gilmour beat Still and Mattinson to add another title to their steadily growing list.

**FOOD for
THOUGHT**

THE Restaurant Hall at Wembley Stadium, where the "English" preliminaries were played, is cosy, excellently appointed and tastefully decorated—but it is not ideal for Table Tennis. This, at least, is what players say—and they should know.

Amongst the stars who have frequently complained of the conditions are Bergmann, Barna, Haguenaer and Stipek. The last-named, a most placid and cheerful sportsman, said "Here is no good. . . it is terrible." And he was no disgruntled loser concocting an alibi, for he had just won through to the quarter-finals of the Singles.

It seems that the composition of the floor has a peculiar reaction on the ball, making it difficult to control and causing it to do things it shouldn't. Another contention is that lighting is uneven and upsets vision.

Further important point stressed is that while the Empire Pool itself provides almost perfect conditions, several days' play in the restaurant has a definite unsettling effect when successful competitors switch halls.

If we are to accept the evidence of world-class stars, there is little doubt that the restaurant is unsatisfactory for Table Tennis and that a different venue is desirable—indeed, essential—for the opening rounds of Britain's most important tournament.

This, of course, is no reflection on the very co-operative Wembley authorities, who worry and work to provide the best available, and whose premises are top-rate for the purpose for which they were designed. Nor is this an attack on or criticism of the organisers, who most certainly wish to provide perfect playing conditions. But facts must be faced and the problem discussed for future action.

CORRECTION

Recently a statement in the Review indicated that **IVAN ANDREADIS** was using sponge. **This has been proved incorrect.**

The ANDREADIS bat is, of course, made by Messrs. J. Rose and Son Ltd. of Slough, who have been told by the player himself that he has never played with a sponge bat and does not intend doing so.

Ed.

FITNESS . . . by Victor Barna

The third dynamic article by the game's greatest personality

FITNESS plays an important part in every sport, including Table Tennis. However, Table Tennis players—especially in this country—with the exception of a very few, do not take the slightest notice of it. It is unfortunate, because without physical fitness one cannot be mentally fit. The two go together and without them it is very difficult—if not impossible—to have one's powers of concentration fully at command.

Even players of international standing show a deplorable lack of common sense in this matter. I have often seen them reach the final of an open tournament and then go off and watch a football match, for example, instead of using the Saturday afternoon for resting and preparing themselves for the evening. That means walking miles and standing for hours; and if in the evening they feel stiff and tired, they just cannot understand why. This applies not only to the leading players, but unfortunately to the rank and file of our Table Tennis community.

I cannot help smiling when I recollect what that happened in my younger days. My pals Bellak, Szabados, Hazi, Boros, Glancz, and others, and I used to practise together most evenings from 7 p.m. until about 10 p.m. Afterwards we would go along together to a cinema or a restaurant, or to some other amusement. Nobody lectured us about fitness, or even mentioned the word. Nevertheless, when the World's or any other big tournament approached, it was funny what sort of excuses we found to explain cutting out the amusements and going straight home after practice instead, to get a good night's sleep. We were too young and sensitive to admit to each other that we wanted to make sure of being fit for the strenuous matches ahead.

GREAT BELIEVERS

The Continentals are, of course, great believers in fitness: in fact, all their training revolves around it. They hold, and rightly so, that you must practise in exactly the same way as if you were actually playing in a tournament, and that therefore you must be as fit for the one as for the other.

The worst possible thing is to practise when you are tired and do not feel like it. In that case it is far, far better to rest than having an aimless bash.

A few of our top players, including the Rowe twins, Leach and Bergman, understand the importance of fitness, and train accordingly. Actually, Richard Bergmann is the outstanding example. He might lose an exhibition or a minor tournament through not being fully wound up, but you will never find him getting beaten in a really important event on account of any

physical shortcomings. He knows exactly what he needs to get absolutely fit—which I am afraid is very seldom the case with the great majority.

How to get fit? Well, in one way it is easy to answer; in another, difficult. Different sportsmen have different ideas. A footballer has to be fit practically all the year round; a boxer, rarely—just for the fight. A Table Tennis player's position is between the two, though special training is necessary for an event which lasts for more than two or three days.

PREFERENCE

My personal preference is for jumping, running, walking and P.T., though during the off-season other sports such as swimming, football and tennis are good enough to keep one in trim. At the approach of a big event, jumping should be cut out, as it is easy to pull a thigh muscle or sprain an ankle.

The process of getting into top gear must be slow and gradual. The main thing is to avoid exhaustion. If you do too much, you will wear yourself out instead of doing yourself good. Start off with slow walks and occasional sprints for 20 minutes or so—not more. Later on, do less walking and more running and sprinting: say for half an hour.

Building up in this way, methodically, you can make yourself really fit. But let me say once again, however:—"Do just as much as you can, but do not exhaust yourself." One other important thing: run properly, without dragging your feet. Lift your knees high—body forward: kick yourself away from the ground when sprinting.

P.T., showers, and hot baths will help a great deal to round off your training.

There will be many, I know, who will protest "We work: we do not have the time to do all this." My reply is that if you are keen enough, you will find the time for it. It is up to you.

Just as it is essential to get fit in readiness for a tournament, so is it just as important to remain fit while it lasts. When you have finished your matches, don't loiter about watching others. Instead, go home, or go and rest, and so prepare yourself for the



following session or the next day. Yes, I know that everybody likes to see what the others are doing, but you must get the better of your curiosity. You will hear all the news later on!

Have you ever seen Sido, Rozeanu, or other great players hanging about the hall after they have finished playing? Of course not, unless they have finished with the tournament altogether. They realise that every little counts when the final day arrives, when stamina and fitness become far more important than mere stroke production.

RELAX!

Just one more thing. Between matches, waiting for your next round, don't walk about. Let the friends you want to meet, the people who want to meet you, come to you. They will, you know. It is far better to sit down when you can, and relax as much as possible. I don't know about others, but I always used to feel that it was better for me to have to play one or two more rounds rather than hang about the place waiting. I know of nothing more tiring than that.

Naturally, there are many other things, such as loosening up, etc., to be taken into consideration. But the point is that fine strokes alone are not in themselves match-winners. You have got to be fully fit physically and mentally, and you must have the stamina to last you right through to the end of the most gruelling test. To neglect this is to invite defeat, however brilliant your game. This is nearly as true even if your interest in Table Tennis is only in having fun, because no-one can deny that winning is more enjoyable than losing!

BLACKPOOL HIGHLIGHTS

NORMAN GROOM proved himself once more to be the best player in the district, by taking the Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships. It was his third successive year for winning the Men's Singles and his fourth altogether.

His opponent, Ken Mills, although attacking very well, could find no way of breaking through Groom's defence. In the third of a three straight victory, Groom mixed defence with some excellent backhand flicking, which often found his opponent on the wrong foot.

In the Men's Doubles final, he was ably partnered by Derek Hill, and after narrowly losing the first game against G. Hannam and D. Schofield, they went on to win the next three fairly comfortably.

The Ladies' Singles went, for the third time, to Miss Kay Benson, after a very close first game with Mrs. M. Wade. Miss Benson, after being behind up to 18 each, ran out an easy winner in the second. She later partnered Mrs. Wade in a somewhat one-sided victory in the Ladies' Doubles final, over a much less experienced, but nevertheless very game pair, Miss D. Bowers and Miss P. Payne.

Mrs. Wade and Norman Groom won the Mixed Doubles.

The most exciting game of the evening was the Junior Singles final, which was won for the second successive year by Jeff Goldstein. He beat Brian Morris 21-16, 16-21, 23-21.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: N. Groom beat K. Mills, 21-10, 21-9, 21-16.

LADIES' SINGLES: K. Benson beat M. Wade, 21-19, 21-8.

JUNIOR SINGLES: J. Goldstein beat B. Morris, 21-16, 16-21, 23-21.

MEN'S DOUBLES: N. Groom and D. Hill beat G. Hannam and D. Schofield, 19-21, 21-9, 21-13, 21-18.

LADIES' DOUBLES: K. Benson and M. Wade beat D. Bowers and P. Payne, 21-7, 21-4.

MIXED DOUBLES: Mrs. M. Wade and N. Groom beat Miss K. Benson and C. Lowe, 22-20, 21-7.

LESLIE M. GLASS

SAM ★ ★ ★ KIRKWOOD'S ★ ★ ★ COLUMN

"HUNGARIAN BULLETIN" a booklet containing 25 articles on famed Hungarian sportsmen, has an interesting write-up on Ferenc Sido, the 1953 World Champion. The article strains in its efforts to make the giant's loss of his title last year seem due more to the sponge bat rather than the skill of Ichiro Ogimura, his successor.

A lot is said about Ferenc's sponge phobia, which "tied his nerves into knots" when facing the Japanese.

The genius who thought this one up seems to have overlooked a most important point. And that is that a worthy World champion must be prepared to face and overcome every type of opposition, including Japs with sponge bats. If a reigning kingpin's nerves fray at contact with anything out of the ordinary, then obviously the time has come for him to make way—he's past it. After all, Andreadis met the terrible Japanese and beat them all—yet he's not the champion.

It is also a fact that prior to last season, Sido had been playing for years against ordinary rubber bats, yet only once succeeded in taking the title. The article does him a disservice with its fatuous attempt to make a "sponge martyr" of him.

Said write-up is also specifically inaccurate when it reports: "A whole array of Corbillon and Swaythling Cup victories are attached to the names of Mechlovits, Maria Mednyanszky, Barna, Bellak, Szabados, Sido, Gizi Farkas . . ." While Hungary has an unsurpassed record of achievement in the Swaythling event, she has never once won the Corbillon trophy.

The editorial of the last issue devoted itself, commendably, to expressing the hope that Table Tennis wouldn't be overlooked when and if the L.C.C. get cracking building their proposed sports headquarters de-luxe at Crystal Palace. It was an ironic coincidence that almost simultaneously there was published a report that not a single penny has been donated by the public towards financing the project. With

£1½ million to find for that sportsman's dream, I think we can stop fretting temporarily at any rate, about Table Tennis receiving due consideration at Crystal Palace!

While games averages provide some clue to form and are of academic interest, it seems there is a lot to be said against them . . . or, at least, their publication for the perusal of players concerned. For some tend to regard their average as more important than the performance of their team and develop an insular outlook bordering on selfishness. To such an extent in some cases, in fact, as to make them cook up reasons for not playing against sides fielding players they know stand a chance of beating them.

I have met several such average-lovers in my experience and they have mucked their teams around good and proper, being on hand against the "soft" sides and being otherwise engaged when most needed against the tougher teams.

League authorities publishing averages might reflect a little on the damage statistics can do, and do do, here and there. Officials can keep their figures for private reference and to help them choose representative sides. For myself I say: keep me from the man or girl bitten by the "average" bug.

Latest touches of fashion provided by competitors at a certain London "open" struck these fastidious eyes of mine and knocked them for a squint. There was a gentleman indulging in a knock-up with a fag-end perched between his lips; a lady attired in Bohemian black-and-white check slacks; an obviously ambitious male in brief shorts set off by blue walking shoes; juniors with hair hanging over their eyes and way down their necks, à la Teddy Boy.

And still these couldn't-care-less types get away with it, more's the pity for self-respecting contestants, headache-ridden organisers, and the sport in general. Now I'll be told I'm a would-be dictator who wants to knock the "democracy" out of our "homely" game. Which, of course, is another way of saying:

Let's wear anything we like—it's good enough for this game, anyway.

SELECTORS APPLAUDED

for

'Youth-Experience' Choice

THE national selection committee are to be commended on taking their courage in both hands and choosing no fewer than three youngsters for the five-man Swaythling Cup team. Regardless of what happened at Utrecht (I write before the World Series), their decision is one I heartily applaud, in that it shows the future is far from being ignored.

It is always sad to see established stars dropped, and this applies in particular to Aubrey Simons, a magnificent and stout-hearted Cup performer for several seasons and the hero of our first-ever win in 1953; but inevitably there comes a time when youth must have its way. To hope for the best without working for it, to give way to sentimental feelings by retaining stars who, though they have served us brilliantly in the past, are now obviously beyond their peak, or at least badly off-form, is to do a grave disservice to the sport in general and stem progress.

Splendid Idea

It was a splendid idea of the selectors to retain two of the experienced veterans to act as a spearhead to the young trio. Old heads are invaluable in the merciless turmoil of world struggles.

But here I must ask a pertinent question which most followers have asked: Was Harry Venner justly treated in being overlooked? I am not alone in thinking that the

Surrey man had, by virtue of his fine "open" record, superior to that of any player in the country, earned a place. I am definitely convinced that he warranted a trip to Holland in preference to Johnnie Leach, whose form throughout the season was somewhat indifferent, to say the least of it.

Harry, in fact, merited recognition even over Richard Bergmann, who had, at the time of selection, not played a single tournament match. I hold no special brief for Venner, but I must say I feel the selectors denied him the break he had earned the hard way and deserved one hundred per cent.

For the rest, I congratulate the authorities on their forward step in infusing the Cup side with young blood.

A TABLE TENNIS official who has gained civic honours is Councillor Stanley Browning of Heywood, Lancs., who is to be Mayor of the Borough.

Councillor Browning was the founder of the Heywood and District Table Tennis League and was the secretary from 1946-51. He is now League Chairman. In 1948 he won the town's Doubles championship, and at 33 he will be one of the youngest Mayors in the country.

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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English Prize for 'Pirate' Dolinar

by **SAM KIRKWOOD**

ZARKO DOLINAR, Yugoslavia's "Sportsman of the Year" and holder of the Yugoslav and Scandinavian championships, has an outsize bat, one side of which is sponge-faced and the reverse side wood. On the wood surface is the skull-and-crossbones insignia, with the names of the more prominent of his victims etched below it.

At the English Open, played at Wembley, the buccaneering penholder added several more names to his list—"scalps" earned by hard work, skill and a crushing smash. Dolinar was a worthy winner of the Singles and a very popular one—there are few nicer persons in the game than he.

SENSATIONAL

Before going on to the achievements which saw him the first Yugoslavian ever to win the English title, let's touch on the events which, only for the newspaper strike, would have grabbed headlines. They were the defeats of the favourite, Ivan Andreadis, by Brian Kennedy, and the holder, Richard Bergmann, by Jimmy Lowe. These were sensational upsets and, together with the remarkable return to form of Johnnie Leach, gave rise to hopes that there was a definite chance that the title might after all be won by an English-born player for the first time since 1924.

Lowe, national junior champion in 1950, bested Bergmann in three straight sets—21-15, 21-11, 21-19—in the fourth round. Surprisingly enough, Jimmy won mainly via defensive play, and there was no fluke about the victory. Without detracting from the performance, it is only fair to say that Bergmann had had no match play this season, looked overweight and far from being at peak fitness. This was the first time since 1947 that he had been beaten in an open tournament by an Englishman.

Andreadis stopped his rocket in the fifth round, being two games to the good and then fading out badly, to the tune of

21-7, 16-21, 21-16, 15-21, 10-21. Kennedy was beaten to the punch in the early rounds, but as the Czech tired, the Yorkshire lad stepped up his own attack and Ivan hadn't the energy or speed to get within reach of his opponent's hefty forehand smashes.

Andreadis, in short, gave every appearance of being far from fit—but that does nothing to steal any merit from Kennedy's win.

DEVASTATING

Also of particular interest in the early rounds was the second round meeting between ex-World champion Bohumil Vana and Leach. Vana is as slight as ever, but gone is his devastating attack. He now is more of a defensive player. After losing the first game at 17, Johnnie took the next three at 18, 18 and 9. That final game score tells its own story of Leach's complete command over his famed rival.

But if Vana's brilliance has vanished his sportsmanship hasn't and it was typical of him to congratulate his conqueror and thank officials with a courteous bow and pleasant smile.

Vyhnanovsky, the so-called Czech "mystery man," turned out to be an efficient rather than a spectacular player and he accounted for Alan Rhodes—21-15, 21-10, 21-17—in the third round, before being "gated" himself in the next stanza by U.S. champion Dick Miles, 21-19, 15-21, 14-21, 20-22.

In the fourth round, Vaclav Tereba, the Czech star who now uses sponge and played two classes above the form he showed in last year's World meeting,

annihilated Tage Flisberg in just over 14 minutes—21-18, 21-13, 21-11. Tereba was infinitely the superior player and gave the Swede no chance to bring his attack into action.

"Al" Ehrlich had little trouble in eliminating red-headed E. Klein, the American lad who earlier in the season made a reputation by winning senior and junior Canadian titles, in the first round, 21-15, 21-18, 21-19. Ehrlich went out in the third round to Andreadis, 21-14, 19-21, 17-21, 11-21.

"OLD-TIMER"

That other French old-timer, Michel Haguenauer, 1953 winner, survived to the third round, thence was given a straight-set beating, 13-21, 16-21, 12-21, by U.S. Swaythling man Bernard Bukiet, who was well mastered in the following session by Tereba, 13-21, 18-21, 12-21.

Aubrey Simons, playing more like his old self, progressed to the fourth round, before going out to the Czech, Ladislav Stipek, 19-21, 18-21, 17-21, in an always interesting game. Harry Venner, too, reached the fourth round, only to come up against Dolinar and receive a 14-21, 13-21, 15-21 beating.

Young Swaythling Cup hope Brian Merrett was very convincingly trounced by Lou Laza, the sponge-using Australian, 12-21, 18-21, 15-21. Laza was defeated in the third round by Venner after a close battle—21-19, 20-22, 21-18, 15-21, 10-21.

WORTH WHILE

The quarter-finals were played in the Empire Pool before a poor crowd—without doubt due to the lack of Press publicity. This was a pity, for two or three of the evening's events were worth going a long way to see.

First Richard Miles and Jimmy Lowe. Lowe was relying on his heavy chop to wear the American down. Alas for Jimmy, Miles, who though he seems to have lost the severe forehand hit, can chisel with the best and a protracted contest of patience went to the U.S. Champ: 22-20, 21-14, 13-21, 13-9 (time limit).

The Tereba-Leach match was very different, being a brilliantly exciting duel in which we were treated to world-class displays of defence, attack and counter-attack by both men. Tereba, a delightfully open-styled player who hit cheerfully on both wings and favoured a pile-driving forehand smash, started as though he meant to pulverise Johnnie. But Johnnie, looking superbly fit, slugged it out with the Czech and spectators relished a rare exhibition of spectacular Table Tennis. I have not seen Leach play so well for several years. Tereba cracked midway

through the final set and Johnnie was a magnificently worthy winner at 19-21, 22-20, 21-18, 16-21, 21-14.

Dolinar, the sponge expert, was in opposition to Stipek, who uses rubber on sponge, and the match was a gripping one, with both men hitting hard and often, yet also showing fine defensive qualities. Dolinar was excellent value for his win at 14-21, 21-18, 21-18, 21-18.

GONE ADRIFT

The fourth "quarter" clash saw Brian Kennedy pitted against Rene Roothoof. Brian started off well enough, defending fluently and hitting with a deadliness which left the debonair Frenchman helpless. Two games to one up, the Yorkshireman seemed to have the match well in hand, but then things went wrong. Either Brian lost his concentration or he tired. Whatever the reason, Roothoof went on to take the fourth and fifth sets: 21-19, 13-21, 16-21, 21-16, 21-17.

The semi-finals saw our last man out of the running. But what a fight Leach gave Dolinar; Johnnie refused to be a chopping block and decided to harry the Yugoslav champion. This he did with speedy half-volleying and fine forehand smashes. Dolinar took the first game at 21-16, was 19-20 and 20-21 down in the second, but pulled out to win 23-21 against a somewhat too eager Leach, who really went to town in the next two sets, overwhelming his man 21-17 and 21-12.

In the fifth however Johnnie's tempo slackened and Dolinar seized his opportunity to run away to a 13-7 lead and carry on to 20-16, when he sent over an unreturnable smash to clinch the match.

Although beaten, Leach roused the crowd to enthusiasm with his unwonted show of fire and spirit and he received a great reception, as of course did his conqueror.

NOT STIRRING

The Roothoof-Miles semi-final had come and gone without creating a stir of any sort. Miles couldn't penetrate the Frenchman's defence and seemed to throw the towel in. I have long been inclined to the view that Miles lacks fighting spirit and his latest showing confirmed this opinion. Anyhow, Roothoof took this most disappointing match 21-11, 21-18, 21-17.

The final between Roothoof and Dolinar was something of an anti-climax. Roothoof was splattered all over the Empire Pool by the Yugoslav, who, in horse-racing parlance, won in a canter. There is nothing else to say of the match, except to report that it was absolutely one-sided and compared very unfavourably with the Leach-Dolinar contest. Score: 21-15, 21-12, 21-13.

★ ★ ★ ENGLISH 'OPEN' ★ ★ ★

WOMEN'S SINGLES

ran true to form

THE organisers anticipated Diane Rowe-Ann Haydon and Rosalind Rowe-Helen Elliot semi-finals and were never in any danger of being inaccurate prophets. There were no surprises, no upsets and certainly no sensations.

Ros Rowe, the No. 1 seed and hot favourite, walked away with the title, winning every game with ease and without conceding a single set. In no case was she extended. In the final she made Ann Haydon look less than top class, completely outplaying her in every phase of the game, including attack. Ann was rattled off in double-quick time 15-21, 10-21, 16-21, yet even so that 16 points she got in the third game was the highest score registered against Ros in the tournament.

CUT A WAY

Ros had cut her way through Scottish champion Helen Elliot in the semi-final 21-13, 21-9, 21-11, and had beaten Pam Mortimer 21-12, 21-9, 21-11 in the previous round, after slaying Wales' V. Rowe 21-9, 21-9, 21-10, and Mrs. V. F. L. Cherriman, of Middlesex, 21-5, 21-8, 21-9.

Despite her thrashing, Ann did extremely well to reach the final. She had beaten Diane Rowe in the semis, 21-19, 15-21, 21-18, 10-21, 21-15, after a game in which nerves played a big part. Diane could not get her attack going, while her defence was often awry. Ann, too, was edgy and up to the half-way stage of the final set, victory could have gone to either side. But it was then that Diane "blew-up" while Ann seemed to settle down.

Shirley Jones, the Welsh terrier, was disappointing against Diane in the quarter-finals, playing recklessly and never looking like getting anywhere with her hitting, which was indiscriminate and wild. Shirley gathered 15, 17 and 14 points.

One of the best matches was that between Betty Isaacs, the Surrey girl, and Helen Elliot, in the quarter-finals. This was a dour struggle, with Helen just pulling out 21-15, 21-17, 17-21, 19-21, 21-13. Betty had previously triumphed over Corbillon Cup team member Jean Winn in the second round, 21-15, 21-9, 21-23, 17-21, 21-19—a fine performance.

CONQUERED

Leah Neuberger (Thall) did best of the American candidates, reaching the quarter-finals, in which she was conquered by Ann

Haydon, 18-21, 14-21, 21-15, 13-21. E. Thorsson, the pretty Swedish girl, was also eliminated by Ann in the third round, 17-21, 12-21, 24-22, 16-21.

The Rowes made the Doubles crown their own for the sixth successive time. Strangely enough they had their toughest game in the first round, in which the Scottish-Welsh combination of Helen Elliot and Betty Gray took them to five sets, 21-19, 19-21, 22-20, 17-21, 21-13, and had them very worried indeed. After that the twins sailed through on three-straight wins, outplaying the Haydon-Winn combination 21-19, 21-11, 21-17 in the final.

MEN'S DOUBLES

THE Men's Doubles saw Bergmann and Leach fight their way through to the final against Andreadis-Stipek, after a narrow escape against the Swedes, Flisberg and Malmquist, in the third round. In this game the English pair were down 2-1 in games and trailing 12-19 in the fourth. They rallied in spirited style, to level at 20-all and take the game and succeed in the fifth: 21-15, 7-21, 17-21, 22-20, 21-16.

There was no such spectacular comeback against the Czechs in the ultimate round, the harder hitting pair gaining a good win at 21-9, 21-10, 20-22, 21-16.

Highlight of this event was the dashing play of the Essex boys, Ivor Jones and Bobby Stevens, who scored a very popular win over Vana and Hagenauer in the third round, 21-13, 19-21, 21-13, 20-22, 21-14. Ivor and Bobby went out in the ensuing round to Stipek-Andreadis, 7-21, 12-21, 21-17, 10-21. Holders Aubrey Simons and Kennedy were knocked out in the fourth stanza by the Americans Hirschowitz and Gusikoff, 18-21, 21-15, 20-22, 15-21.

SAILED THROUGH

A surprise win came the way of Simons and Helen Elliot in the Mixed Doubles. They blended together very nicely and sailed through at the expense of Dick Miles-Sally Green Prouty (U.S.A.), 14-21, 21-16, 21-19, 20-22, 21-14; Rhodes-Winn, 21-13, 21-8, 21-18, and then the holders, Leach and Diane Rowe, 21-17, 14-21, 21-8, 16-21, 21-16. It was noticeable that Aubrey was playing crisper Table Tennis than had been the case for a long time and,

like Leach, seemed to have recovered something of his normal form.

In the other half, Andreadis and Peggy Franks had accounted for Al Ehrlich and Miss Thorsson 21-18, 21-9, 13-21, 21-7; Gusikoff-Neuberger 22-20, 21-17, 21-19; Johnny Somael-Pauline Robinson (U.S.A.) 21-6, 21-14, 21-17; and in the semi-final scored nicely against Kennedy and Rosalind Rowe 19-21, 21-19, 21-16, 21-15.

POOR AFFAIR

The final was a poor affair, never looking other than an easy thing for Simons and Elliot, who barely raised a sweat in emerging champions at 21-8, 21-18, 21-12. With Peggy Franks playing a completely negative game and Simons and Elliot on the aggressive, Andreadis was forced to desperate measures and tried to hit the unhittable.

He failed, of course, but it was easy to appreciate that circumstances had dictated his policy. With no wish to seem ungallant or decry a girl who did her best, the weakness in the Andreadis-Franks combination was Peggy. However, it was nice to see a title go to such gallant battlers as Aubrey and Helen.

OTHER RESULTS

MEN'S VETERAN SINGLES:

A. D. Brook (Middlesex) beat L. Kerslake (Devon) 21-16, 14-21, 21-17.

WOMEN'S VETERAN SINGLES:

Mrs. I. Hunter (Devon) beat Mrs. C. Cook (Yorkshire) 21-19, 22-20.

BOYS' JUNIOR SINGLES:

B. Onnes (Netherlands) beat H. Terbeck (Germany) 13-21, 21-15, 21-18.

BOYS' JUNIOR DOUBLES:

E. Klein (U.S.A.) and B. Onnes beat T. Densham (Surrey) and L. F. Landry (Middlesex) 21-12, 12-21, 22-20.

GIRLS' JUNIOR SINGLES:

Ann Haydon beat W. Bates (Sussex) 21-9, 21-7.

GIRLS' JUNIOR DOUBLES:

Ann Haydon and J. Filder (Kent) beat F. Wright (Yorkshire) and W. Bates 21-14, 17-21, 21-19.

JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES:

E. Klein and W. Bates beat D. Backhouse (Staffs) and Ann Haydon 21-16, 21-18.

Watch this Boy!



JACKIE TAYLOR, 15-year-old Salford star player, runner-up in three events of the Salford and Eccles Championships. Member of the Manchester Junior team and also a leading cricketer. You will be seeing more of Jackie Taylor in the future. Watch out in those Junior Open Tournaments!

SCOTLAND LEADERS

MATCH averages for the West of Scotland League have now been compiled, and the first division has been cleanly swept by Eddie Still, whose average is 100%.

This is an excellent performance, despite the wag who says that he should do better next year!

Those on Eddie's heels in first division are Charlie Mattinson, Jack Hillan and Alex. Metcalfe, in that order.

Other league leaders—

2nd Div.: I. M. Connell (Polloc).

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4th Div. A: R. Milligan (Hillington).

B: R. Mitchell

(Shettleston F.C.).

C: J. Kellog (Woodside).

D: L. Armstrong (Kappa).

ENGLISH 'OPEN' SIDDIE LIGHTS

STOPPING to watch a Doubles match between Australian and American pairs, I was puzzled by one of the players. He had the figure of U.S. champ Dick Miles, the same hair, and wore his clothes the same way. He even had the same style, together with the mannerism of wiping the palm of his playing hand on the table. I was partly convinced it wasn't Miles, and similarly partly convinced that it was. For the face was completely different.

The puzzle set me making hurried inquiries and I learned that it was indeed Richard—whose appearance had been altered by a plastic operation to the nose. The American looks younger and more handsome.

❖ ❖

CAN also report on the changed appearance of another U.S. player, Leah Neuberger (Thall), of the Corbillon team. Leah is now a blonde à la Marilyn Monroe, and seemed rather hurt that while I had been fascinated by Dick's transformation I had not commented on her hair switch.

often awry. Ann, too, was edgy and up to the half-way stage of the final set, victory could have gone to either side. But it was then that Diane "blew-up" while Ann seemed to settle down.

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AFTER presenting the Men's Singles trophy to Dolinar, the Dowager Lady Swaythling inspected his bat, then requested him to show her how he held it. Taking the bat from her the trophy fell from the Yugoslav's grip, but he grabbed it quickly and saved it from damage, grinning broadly with relief. Quite unlike the young foreigner who won the same trophy a few years ago and on the way to his hotel by cab flung the cup contemptuously on the floor and sniffed, "The 'English'—so what?" It's good to record that the person in the cab with him (a foreigner from a different country) chided the brash youngster in no uncertain terms.

We can be sure that Zarko is a proud man to have won the "English" and will cherish his silver symbol for as long as he has it in his possession.

❖ ❖

WHAT a cheerful crowd are the Czech trio, Andreadis, Tereba and Stipek. All three carry comfortable tummies and exude, off table, an infectious sense of fun and high spirits. Not long after "Andy" suffered his sensational defeat at the hands of Brian Kennedy, he was enjoying school-boy pranks with his team-mates and laughing as though he hadn't a care in the world.

Stipek, by the way, now uses a "sponge-rubber" racket, which he showed to old-timer Ernie Buble, commenting that it (the bat) was an even deadlier weapon than the violin with which the English ex-No. 1 used to regale friend and foe alike in his tournament days.

Nothing perturbed, Ernie said he was now making a racket of wood, vellum, sandpaper, sponge, rubber and tin, with a special magnet and control devices. "When the ball hits my bat," explained the inventor, "the magnet will hold it. Then I press the switch to send the ball to whichever part of the table I choose, and at any speed I desire. What can stop me becoming World champion when I'll be able to make the ball hit an edge at 600 miles an hour?" Stipek couldn't answer that one.

S.K.

by G. R. WALKER . . .

STILL takes the West Scotland 'Open' Title

VICTOR GARLAND continued an off-colour season, losing to Gordon Fraser of Edinburgh in the third round. Monty McMillan and John Braithwaite were home on leave, but McMillan went out in the third round to Johnny Miller, and Braithwaite in the fourth to Ron Forman.

Another early exit was made by John Campbell, who lost to young Stewart of Dundee in the second round.

Up-and-coming Eddie Latham made his way to the quarters before losing narrowly to Tom Gilmour of Dundee. Alex. Metcalfe lost to Still in the quarters, and in the semis Fraser met Miller and Still was against Gilmour.

Miller had little trouble with Fraser, and after a fast-moving mixed game, which made us wonder if this was the same pair who had exasperated the crowd at Murrayfield, Still emerged a worthy winner from the other half.

Excellent

The final between Miller and Still was an excellent match with many changes of fortune and plenty of entertaining play. I am happy to record that Still's demeanour under pressure has improved beyond all recognition, and I am sure he must realise that his play is vastly the better for it. Miller came back from 9-14 in the third to lead 17-14, but Still was not to be robbed and won by a head at 21-19.

Best performance of the tournament was that of Dundee's young Diana Black, who beat eminent West players Mrs. Mattinson and Mrs. Hawkins in successive rounds, and in the end was by no means disgraced in narrowly losing to Mrs. Cababe of Edinburgh, who then lost to Helen Elliot in the traditional "I'll never do it" manner.

In the other semi Helen Houlston continued the good work of a very successful season in beating Mrs. Josephson of Glasgow. Helen senior gave short shrift to Helen junior in the final, and that was that.

Fast establishing a reputation for doubles are Edinburgh's McMichael and Dundee's Tommy Gilmour, who defeated Park and Masson in an anti-climax final.

No Fuss

In the Women's Doubles the two Helens defeated Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Mattinson with the minimum of fuss.

I wonder where the two Glasgow players have put all the shots they so startlingly revealed in the TV match against the same pair. For special occasions only? Mixed Doubles title went to Elliot and Miller, who in the final beat the came-from-nowhere Frasers of Edinburgh, who in their amazing run to the final beat the Mattinsons and Harry Baxter and Mina Josephson.

In the Junior final Barclay further established his growing supremacy over Latham of Glasgow Central Y.M. Some of the stars could be doing with this lad's confidence. At the ripe old age of 13, he has another five years to go on collecting junior titles and at the moment, at least, I don't see anybody likely to stand in his way.

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JIM HARRIS'S WIN

in

'BEST-EVER' BECKENHAM FINALS

IN one of the finest finals ever staged by the Beckenham League, Ron Etheridge, holder of the Men's Singles title for the past four years, was defeated by fellow clubman, Jim Harris, 21-19, 18-21, 21-17, 21-12.

The strength of Harris's backhand was constantly in evidence, and he played a consistently thoughtful and constructive game. There were many fine rallies, and the audience thoroughly appreciated the quality of the play.

Earlier, in the semi-finals, Harris (Bromley United Services) had beaten Derek Bines (Elmers End) 21-17, 21-17, while Chris Hora (Bromley U.S.) disappointingly went down to Etheridge at 15-21, 10-21. Previously, however, Hora had won the Junior Singles title for the second time in three years, defeating P. Hulston (St. John's [Eden Park]) 21-10, 21-13.

In the final of the Ladies' Doubles, the result was in doubt until the end. At one time Vera Straker and Betty Hartley (Coney Hall) appeared to have the match

in hand after winning the first game 21-12 and leading in the second. Then Nora Stephens (Forest Hill) and Elizabeth Wakelam (Fairfield) drew up and eventually won the last two games and the title 21-19, 21-18.

The holders of the Men's Doubles title, John Nixon (Forest Hill) and Jim Harris (B.U.S.) won surprisingly easily against Etheridge and Hora 21-17, 21-7, 21-18. It would have needed a very fine pair to defeat them.

Vera Straker won the Women's Singles title for the first time by her victory over Jean Simmons (L.E.S.S.A.) 21-18, 21-18, and the Mixed Doubles went to Geoff Murray and Edith Sell (Parkside) who beat John Lloyd (Chequers) and Nora Stephens 21-11, 21-11.

During the evening the Mayoress of Beckenham (Mrs. C. B. Curtis) presented an inscribed silver tray to Mr. Cecil Burton on behalf of the League. Mr. Burton has relinquished the secretaryship of the League after ten years.

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SAM KIRKWOOD again asks

How do Registered Players Stand?

A REPLY TO BILL STAMP

BILL STAMP and his league members wish to exclude Registered Players from the National Executive Council. If it is not because they fear the possibility of moral misconduct on the part of R.Ps. out to feather their own nests, what is their reason? And if they do indeed believe there might be sharp practice by "pros" in power does not this clearly infer that the integrity of R.Ps. is suspect?

Victor Barna, Chairman of the Registered Players, said: "It is an insult to imply that R.Ps. 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 N.E.C." Mr. Stamp responds to this very understandable and logical protest by saying, with wide-eyed innocence: "I have never stated or implied this at all, but it is interesting to learn that people are thinking along these lines."

Come, come, Mr. Stamp, this just isn't good enough. What you seem to have overlooked, or have carefully omitted to specify in order to bolster your argument, is that "people" have been forced to think thus solely because of your proposal, and for no other reason.

STRANGE that the Liverpool chief should be surprised when those whom, for obscure reasons, he obviously holds in scant respect, rise in arms against the insinuation that the sport would be all the cleaner and sweeter for their exclusion from the N.E.C.!

The proposal in question is too pointed not to give offence, as even the altruistic Liverpoolians must realise.

Asserts Mr. Stamp: "Table Tennis is big business for some people (and good luck to them), but they should not be legislators as well, or we shall quickly lose the hard-won concessions we have recently gained."

What vague double-talk is this? How many players in England derive even a moderate full-time living from Table Tennis? It is doubtful if there are six. Our top girl stars, the internationally famed World champions, Rosalind and Diane Rowe, are happy to work at a holiday camp during the summer for their keep and a few pounds a week, if they have no tour abroad. It would be surprising if more than four other stars contrived to earn all the year-round and by no means lavish livelihoods directly from the sport.

Yet there is talk of "big business" for some folk, as though a substantial number of fortunates were making thousands. Furthermore, what precisely are these recently gained "hard-won concessions" it is alleged we would be in danger of losing if R.Ps. were allowed on the N.E.C.? And how would they be lost? Mr. Stamp must know that N.E.C. members Ivor Montagu, Geoff Harrower and Jack Carrington are R.Ps. How does this tie-in with his contention in this particular instance, and do the officials in question endanger "concessions"?

AFORESAID Messrs. Montagu, Harrower and Carrington incidentally, prove that it is possible for a person to be both an honest administrator and an R.P. The trio in question have, inevitably, been criticised from time to time on points of policy, but none has ever questioned their integrity or selfless devotion to the game and its followers. We might go even further and claim that the game would be infinitely the poorer without them and their services. **Yet they are Registered Players.**

Mr. Stamp and his supporters are invited seriously to consider an aspect which would make a burlesque of, and shatter their scheme, if it ever reached fruition. It is this. Should R.Ps. be banned from holding office, there is nothing to prevent them ceasing to be R.Ps. and thus becoming eligible for a place on the N.E.C. Nothing can force R.Ps. to remain R.Ps. If, for example, the Stamp proposal went through, Montagu & Co. (to return to them) would automatically be ineligible for office. But, with no trouble at all, they could circumvent the rule by resigning as R.Ps. What, then, will the Stamp "barricade" have achieved?

MR. STAMP refers to the country's 170,000 players, about whom he is rightly solicitous. Those players are at

Continued on page 32

Stanley Preston's 'SHADY SCORER'

IN most ordinary matches the scorer-umpire is usually one of the players in the team. The more dubious, shady types will perhaps gain great psychological advantages by proper (or improper) use of this situation. (If you are not a member of a dubious, shady team, please don't read on).

The aim of the ideal Shady Scorer is to upset the susceptible type of opponent.

Study your man, while the players are "knocking-up." Watch for traces of nervousness—make a mental note of anything that seems likely to upset his concentration.

As you know, players will "knock-up" all right unless the scorer intervenes, but choose your time immediately the opponent has either missed the table or dropped the ball into the net. (This will leave him with a slight feeling of annoyance at himself).

You must then hold the ball and ask the players if they are ready to start. There are two useful ways of asking. You can just ask sharply: "Ready?" or you can use the following type of sarcasm: "You don't mind if we make a start—we're not getting any younger . . ."

You then spin the ball along the edge of the net with the finger. There are two ways of doing this: (a) the efficient way, in which the ball travels the width of the table and returns to your hand; or (b), in which the ball shoots off the other end of the table. Use whichever you think suitable, to create "atmosphere."

VARIETY

Now follows a typical routine of "shady scoring." This gives a great variety, but naturally nobody would need to use them all in a game. Against a highly-nervous opponent, the repetition of just one of these examples should be sufficient. But let us assume that the opponent is a particularly phlegmatic type, with nerves so well sheathed that he seems hardly to notice you are there.

To begin with, you must say "Love all," or "Love-Love." Contrive (if your team-mate is serving) to say this quickly and very quietly just when the opponent is scratching his head or tucking in his shirt. Alternatively, if the opponent is serving, open your mouth as if to speak, then pretend to check up that both players are ready. Prolong this just sufficiently to get the opponent keyed-up, and if possible, off-balance. His first serve may go altogether wrong.

At this stage, score each point in an almost inaudible voice. If this seems to leave the opponent unaffected, deliberately switch over to a loud, booming tone. If

there is still no reaction, then you must be a little more subtle, and become "emotionally involved."

This can be effected in various ways, and the most primitive is to show a feeling of bias towards your team-mate. Every time your team-mate gets a good shot home, say "Good shot!" "A Good One!" or, just simply "Shot!" When the enemy hits a beauty however, just keep a frigid silence.

But a much more subtle ruse is to side with your opponent, on the shots he muffs. When he misses the end of the table, or pops one into the net, say with deep sympathy: "Oh, hard luck!" Provided he misses a large number, your cloying sentiment may give him a gradual feeling of martyrdom; may even, build within his mind a superstition that he is "off-form," or "going-off."

DESPERATE REMEDIES

If even these attempts fail, and the opponent goes blithely on with his massacre of your poor team-mate, you can always try more desperate remedies. There are "imaginary distractions." You can keep turning irritably to the spectators and saying, "Will you please be quiet." This works best if the spectators are actually as quiet as mice, because the opponent will probably think you are mad.

If still no effect, there is the "half-strangled cry." That is, announce each point in a voice shrill with emotion, in an attempt to pass this stress on to him.

Assuming the opponent has the imperturbability of a vertical marble slab and has remained unmoved by all these attempts, then you may have to resort to the "Deliberate Mistake." Here you say: "12-14—pause—I mean, 11-15." Or you can appear to lose your grip altogether—"Whose point was that?" "Did that touch?" "Was that a double-bounce?" "Did that hit the top or the side of the table?"

If, despite all these attempts, your team-mates continue to lose, then—the less said the better.

If the results are favourable, then I am glad to have helped you to better yourselves, and trust you will always play good clean games in the great tradition of Table Tennis sportsmanship.

BILL RAVEY declares . . .

Practice is not enough!

ARE you one of those unfortunates who, having devoted many a patient hour to the game, have begun to scorn the idea that practice makes perfect—at least so far as Table Tennis is concerned? Having managed to progress up to a mediocre standard only, have you found further progress impossible or, worse, has your game begun to "slide?"

Yes? Well then, don't just swear. It is time to start thinking hard.

First of all, think about your feet. In spite of all your efforts, are your movements still too slow and cumbersome? If so, find an open space or a large room somewhere (would a gymnasium be wishful thinking?) and get down to a few speeding-up exercises.

Although your hip and knee joints may feel loose enough, they are probably far more stiff than you imagine, and this has got to be remedied at the outset. An easy and very effective exercise for limbering up the hip joints is to stand with the left hand resting upon the back of a chair and, using the chair as a support, to swing the right leg in wide, circular movements, first in a clockwise, then in an anti-clockwise direction. Having done this, say, twenty times in each direction, turn round and repeat the exercise for the left leg.

A few minutes of the familiar "knees-bend" exercise is as good as anything for loosening-up the knee joints, and a useful variation of this is to *spring* up from the squatting position, launching your body as far as possible into the air in the stretch position.

Skip to it!

When you have really chased all the creaks out of your legs, and only then, you can turn your efforts to pepping up your footwork, and at this stage it is advisable to concentrate on attaining speed, balance and lightness of foot rather than correct foot-positioning for the various strokes. Skipping, in moderation, is beneficial, since in addition to toning up the reflexes of your legs and arms, it helps to build up your stamina. If you find the knack of skipping hard to acquire, try "jigging," i.e., skipping with an imaginary rope; it is the next best thing. Whichever you do, a couple of non-stop three-minute sessions daily will be ample.

The directional foot movements required in Table Tennis are of such a nature that some form of specialised routine is advisable in training. You will probably have found that movements towards the table, whether straight or diagonal, don't present much difficulty—although some players slow

themselves up unnecessarily by taking steps that are too long—but that it is not nearly so easy to retreat quickly or to move sideways. No doubt, if nature had intended us to walk backwards and crab-wise, things would be different.

Backward running at a brisk pace is, therefore, very helpful, particularly if you play a defensive type of game. But you may find it fairly difficult at first—mainly because you don't have eyes in the back of your head! The sideways running routine is just as useful, and I know of at least one world-class player who particularly recommends it. The best way to perform this exercise is to lift one foot to the side and to trail the other lightly across to meet it.

But, most important of all, remember always to balance upon the balls of your feet—it will eventually become second nature to you.

Smooth — Rhythmic

Now, let's suppose that the weakness of your game lies not so much in your footwork as in your stroke-play. The trouble may be that you, like so many others, tend to regard a stroke merely as the act of striking the ball. In fact, it is nothing of the kind. A stroke is, or should be, a smooth and rhythmic arm movement, at one stage of which the ball is struck.

To acquire this essential smoothness and rhythm in the arms you should concentrate on exercises designed to loosen up the arm joints and tone up the appropriate muscles, including certain muscles in the back. Practically any text-book on gymnastics will give you details of a wide variety of arm-stretching and arm-swinging exercises. All arm stretchings involve alternate flexing and stretching of the elbows, and since the movement is always carried to the limit they are excellent exercises both for the muscles and for the elbow joints. In addition, they help to speed up the reflexes.

Circular swinging, as opposed to arm stretching, exercises will help you to achieve the essential mobility of the shoulder joint and the shoulder blade, and as the best possible aid to good stroke production you should concentrate on those of the "forward-upward" type.

Continued on page 32



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ISRAELI VISIT MAKES S. AFRICAN HISTORY

THIS year Table Tennis history will be made in South Africa with the first official visit by an overseas country. Although South Africa has played host to representatives of almost every sport in the world, circumstances peculiar to South Africa have made Table Tennis visits impossible until, at a recent meeting of I.T.T.F., the South African Table Tennis Union was made a serious correspondent of that body.

Although this did not enable the Union to participate in world competition, it did give her the right to invite other affiliated countries to tour, and immediately the I.T.T.F. decision was made known, negotiations culminated in the acceptance by Israel of a visit to South Africa.

In the early thirties the great all-rounder Fred Perry was undertaking a tennis tour of South Africa and as he was the world Table Tennis champion he was eagerly received and it was his exhibitions and teaching that placed the game on the right footing.

In 1950 the World Champion Richard Bergmann came on a privately sponsored visit and played through the length and breadth of the land. By this time the "invasion" of South Africa by English Table Tennis players was well under way and apart from a host of average players, the South African Table Tennis Union gained three very fine players in Ron Litten, Rex Edwards and Norman Davis and these three dominated play for several years, Edwards winning the Union championship for five successive years. Elizabeth Blackburne, fresh from appearing in a World's Singles final, also came to South Africa and for several years reigned as queen of the tables.

GROWING STRENGTH

During this time the Union was going from strength to strength and welding the players and Provinces under its control into a powerful unit. Now the ambition of every player in the Union has been realised and the Israel Table Tennis team is assured of a tremendous welcome in a country which has always had its doors wide open to sportsmen from the four corners of the world.

At the time of writing, the composition of the Israel side is unknown, so it is difficult to form any estimation of the ability of the visitors. However, a study of Israel's record at the last World series in London would indicate that they are

likely to be somewhat stronger than their South African opponents.

The Israel side will consist of four men and one woman and in addition to matches against Transvaal, Western Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Border, Eastern Province and Griqualand West will play five matches against the South African Union in Johannesburg (2), Cape Town, Durban, and Port Elizabeth.

DEREK C. GARDINER.

HOW DO R.P.s STAND? *Continued from page 27*

liberty to elect whom they most trust and wish to represent them. If they have confidence in R.P.s., it is their privilege to do so and none has the right to prejudice this trust or undermine their beliefs without providing concrete evidence. The Liverpool district may have, and is indeed entitled to have, its own ideas on this particular matter, but Liverpool is not England.

It will be interesting to see how other areas react to the Liverpool views on some of the game's most highly respected individuals.

Ignore all the technical talk, trimmings and verbal by-play and the issue is simply this, and nothing else: Are Registered Players to be trusted? And that is the issue Mr. Stamp refuses to define openly and frankly.

PRACTICE IS NOT ENOUGH

Continued from page 29

If you do these arm exercises vigorously for, say, a quarter of an hour every day, you should soon notice an appreciable improvement in your stroke-play.

Unless your abdominal muscles and muscles of the spinal column are doing their job properly, you will make heavy weather of all those little body twists and turns that are called for in Table Tennis. Try touching your toes without bending your knees. Difficult? Then you are not nearly supple enough about the middle. There are numerous trunk exercises that you can do to some advantage, e.g., trunk bending backward; downward; sideways; and trunk circling and twisting. But a warning: these exercises are quite exhausting, so perform them in moderation at first!

How often have we heard the unsuccessful player remark "I just don't seem to have the right mental attitude. Can't muster up any real keenness." What this type of player usually fails to realise is that the proper mental approach to the game depends very largely on his or her physical condition.

You may have heard the Latin quotation *Mens sana in corpore sano*. It means "a healthy mind in a healthy body."

For Table Tennis you certainly need both.

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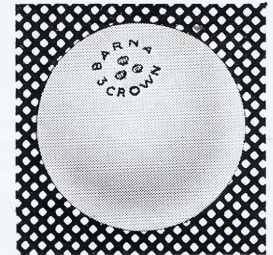
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