

WORLD-WIDE CIRCULATION AND NEWS COVERAGE

Table Tennis *Review*

Vol. 10

No. 1

AUTUMN ISSUE 1955

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

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Szabados**
on
Coaching

★

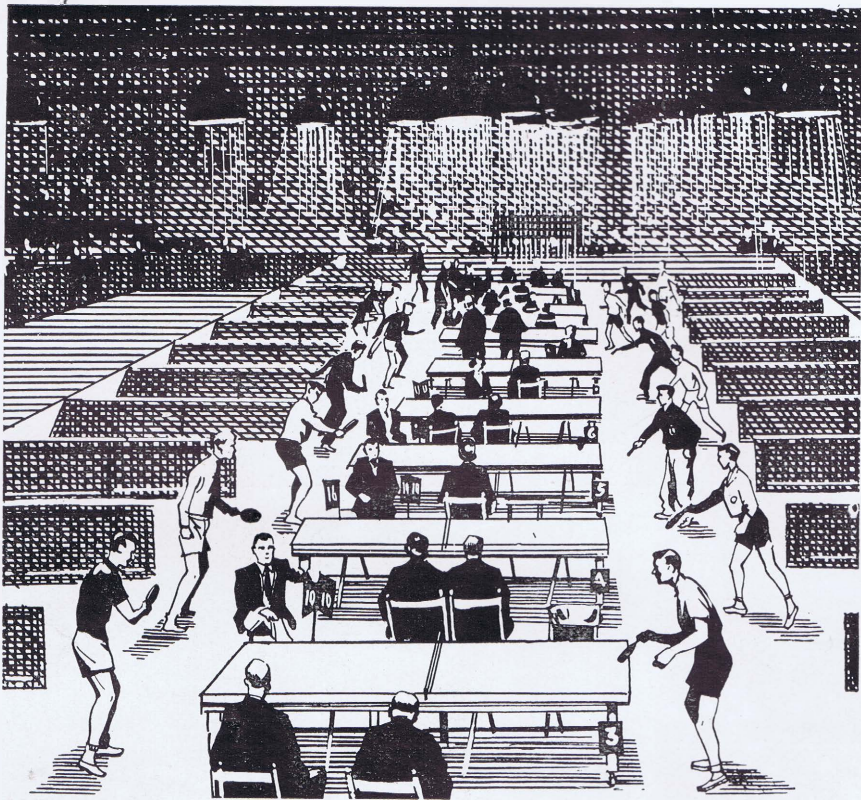
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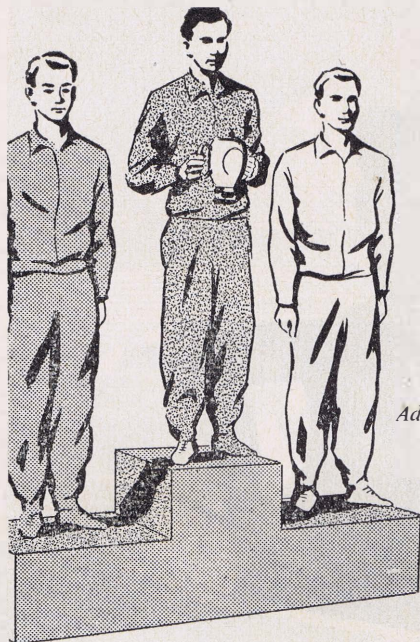


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TABLE TENNIS

Review

VOLUME 10
No. 1

AUTUMN ISSUE
1955

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

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ARE we, at long last, to have the pleasure of welcoming the Russians to the Table Tennis playing fold?

It looks that way. The opening in that hitherto grimly clamped down iron curtain has not only blown a peace-laden stream of optimism throughout the world but has brought Soviet athletes out of their seclusion.

Russia is showing that she is as keen on international sport as any other land, as witness developments in soccer, boxing, athletics and her acceptance of the invitation to participate in next year's Olympic Games. There is no reason to believe that she will lag behind in Table Tennis.

It was announced soon after last year's World Series at Wembley that Russia, who had had officials at the tournament, had applied for and received membership to the International Federation. Although for some reason or other she did not compete in the Utrecht rally, the situation has changed considerably and for the better since then and the odds are that Soviet players will break the ice, as it were, by putting in an appearance at Tokyo.

Not only would this be a tremendous boost to the sport in general, but would contribute a very real help in cementing the friendly relationships we all desire. And that last is the all-important thing, ranking over and above mere Table Tennis results.

As for play itself, there have been conflicting reports on the Russian standard. However, if we are to judge by the thoroughness of their training methods and consider the potential of their 200,000,000 population, we can safely take it that they are capable of holding their own against the best, to say the least of it.

It is exciting, even now, to envisage an England versus U.S.S.R. international, isn't it? Let us hope it becomes a reality—and the sooner the better.

The Editor.

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THE REVIEW'S FEARLESS COMMENTATOR

SAM KIRKWOOD HITS OUT

WITH all due respect I say that the Table Tennis authorities in England ought to have their heads examined. In our midst we have, and have had for many years now, the greatest champion of all times, Victor Barna. Many countries deem it an honour when he visits them, even though they pay him a fat fee and extend first-class hospitality for doing so.

Currently Australia, the West Indies, India, Turkey and Japan, among others, are pressing him to play exhibitions and coach. He could leave tomorrow for a permanent T.T. job on the Continent and receive the salary, treatment and respect accorded a high-ranking Minister.

Yet this champion of champions, with his unsurpassed knowledge of the game and genius for passing on that knowledge, isn't apparently deemed fit to be asked to help the game in England!

NEED IS GREAT

Are we so rich in first-class coaches that we can afford to ignore the greatest expert in the world? On the contrary, judging by the up-and-coming talent, which strikes one by its poverty, we need him more than bad teeth need the attention of a dentist. Whereas the majority of T.T. countries

would give their right arms to have him permanently in their midst, we give him the cold-shoulder. Are we nutty, or are we?

So far from appointing him as an official national coach, the authorities cannot even see their way to invite him to be non-playing skipper of one of our World teams—a job for which he is ideally suited and in which he would be of invaluable service.

When he retired from competitive play a season or two back, I expressed the hope that the Association would not be so foolish as not to avail themselves of his services in a non-playing capacity. But while there was a great *houha* at presenting him with a TV set and many lush speeches, no one has seen fit to keep him active in the game on a national scale.

HISTORY NOW

In 1938 Victor was given charge of the Swathling Cup team's training and even had more than a little say in the selection of the side. It is history that England fared more than passably well in the tournament. We were happy to use his services then—even though he was a Hungarian, who played for his country in the self-same series! Now that he is a Briton and, incidentally, infinitely more experienced, he is given the go-by.

There are about 70 nations affiliated to the International Federation. Without question England is the one country of the whole lot which could so coolly spurn his services. Can anyone give a logical reason for this?

Read what other countries say

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Has BERGMANN been wronged?

WAS the relegation of Richard Bergmann, from No. 1 to No. 2 in England's official 1955/56 ranking list, and the promotion of Johnnie Leach to the premier spot, unfair to the one player and flattering to the other?

The deposed player, at least, is in no two minds about it. He calls the ranking list—or at least the two top positions connected with it—"cockeyed and illogical."

Bergmann visited me to air his views on the matter a few hours before he left England, on October 6th, for America, to continue his tour with the Harlem Globetrotters. He spoke forcefully, but without anger on what he considers to be an injustice to himself.

"The ranking has dumbfounded me," he said. "I want followers to know that I consider myself England's No. 1 player, ranking list or no ranking list. Not because my name is Richard Bergmann, or because my record is greater than Johnnie's, as is my reputation, but because hard facts show that even though the past season was, for me, a mediocre one compared to other years, I still showed better performances on balance than the player officialdom has seen fit to place above me.

OUT ALTOGETHER

"I did not start playing in England until near the end of the season, so if I had insufficient performances at home to justify my not being considered for ranking, I should have been left out of the list altogether.

"I would have preferred that to being dropped a place, anyway. But if home performances was the all-important factor taken into reckoning, how is it that Leach was judged top man on his very average record? On the 'home' basis Harry Venner came out best, yet is no higher than No. 5.

LET FACTS SPEAK

"If, on the other hand, account was taken of international play, then I think I can show that, on balance, I was the country's most successful player. Let facts speak for themselves."

And these are the facts Richard produced. Bergmann was in America most of the playing season with the Harlem Globetrotters. During his absence Leach competed in the Austrian, Yugo-Slav, Scandinavian and French opens and did not win

a Singles title in any tournament. In unofficial "invitation" matches he won against and lost to Flisberg and Ogimura. In England, he scored an early season open success in the North of England, but subsequently suffered defeats against home players not of World class.

by

SAM KIRKWOOD

On March 11th, Richard finished his U.S. tour and a week later played in his first official 1954/55 tournament, the American Open, beating Swaythling players Bernard Bukiet and Johnny Somael on his way to the final, which he lost 3-1 to Dick Miles.

ONLY WIN

On his return to this country he played for the Rest of England against Czechoslovakia, who won 6-1, Bergmann beating Vhynanovsky to register the home side's only win.

In the English Open, Bergmann, to quote his own words, "failed dismally," losing in three straight in the 3rd round to Jimmy Lowe. This was the first time since November, 1947, that he had lost to an English player in an official tournament in England (it was Leach who inflicted the earlier defeat).

Leach, on the other hand, played brilliantly, beating Tereba in the quarter-finals and losing a close five-setter in the next round to the eventual winner, the World-ranking Dolinar.

"My defeat by Lowe," commented Bergmann, "was something my unfriendly friends were happy to pounce on as proof that I am a has-been. That freak result—and I say it with due respect to Jimmy—was something which has been remembered very vividly, while my subsequent wins against World players appear to have been of no significance."

To continue. There followed the full-scale international, England v. Czechoslovakia, in Liverpool. England lost 6-1. Bergmann scored the solitary win, against

Continued on page 24

It's FAST! It's FURIOUS!

It's PELOTA!!

STAYING in the South of France recently I spent an afternoon at Pau, the ancient capital of Navarre, watching Basque champions playing their national game, Pelota.

Of the tennis type, Pelota is played with a ball and racquet. But the ball is smaller than our tennis ball and harder. It weighs 120 grammes (about 4-oz.); is made of rubber and wire, and covered with leather. The racquet is a wicker scoop called a 'Chistera' or 'Cesta.' This encloses a glove into which the player puts his right hand; it is fastened to the wrist by a strap. The former type measures about three feet in length; the latter is not quite so long.

There are several forms of the game, which is still very popular on both sides of the Pyrenees, though it was introduced into Spain proper from Basqueland, on the Southern side only in 1858.

One kind of Pelota is played by several players a side and bare hands, or hands just protected by a leather cover, against a front wall. But the game I saw was the one adopted by the championship players. This is how it is played.

THREE-A-SIDE

There are three players a side. The 'Server' bounces the ball upon a 'But'—a stool—which is placed at about thirty feet from the main wall, called a 'Frontón.' He directs it towards this wall at a height of over three feet from the bottom and below a net at the top. As it rebounds it is struck by one of the opposing side. The ball must be always in motion, never retained in hand. And the scoring is like tennis, proceeding: 15:30:40: to 'Game.' The ball must be played on the volley or after it has bounced once. Each party has twelve balls.

The court is a concrete floor, 200 feet in length by 65 feet in breadth, having a 36 sq. feet wall at each end. The inner court, in which the ball must hit to score, is 36 feet wide. Alongside is a parallel court of 29 feet, within which it is not a fault if the ball strikes. At about 3 feet from the base of the 'Frontón' runs an iron strip the whole length. This, if hit, resounds all over the court and declares a 'fault'!

SCORE CHANTED

The score is marked up on a scoring-board for all the spectators to see, as in England, but also it is chanted in Eskuara, the ancient Basque language! This, I thought, very beautiful though quaint.

Each 'miss' scores a point to opponent.

The admirable character of Pelota is the speed with which the game is played. Eye and muscle work together astonishingly. Alacrity of limb and mind are requisites that are essential to this fast game. Sometimes it was quite impossible to see the ball returning to the 'Chistera', but one realised it had rebounded, since it was hurled forth again on the instant.

The players wore white flannels and had attached to their epaulette a bunch of red or green ribbons to indicate their side. I noticed that they played in complete silence, though the audience were very audibly appreciative!

AMAZING SKILL

After the first game they shook hands and everyone cheered vociferously. Then they took over the larger scoops, the 'chisteras' and played the game with those. To see these you might think they would impede the ease, but the grace and dexterity with which the players 'wield' them is amazing.

But why has England never adopted Pelota? Tennis, cricket, soccer, rugby, squash, badminton, golf and other games she has favoured. Is it that the 'scoop' seemed to the daring Britisher 'an easy way'? In fact it is not so. If it is easy to catch the ball in the cesta or chistera, it is by no means an easy task to hurl it out again neatly and precisely with the requisite accuracy and speed.

WHY NOT?

One feels that research into Elizabethan English sports literature might yield interesting facts in this regard, for surely when Spain held court in early Tudor times in England some of the blue-blooded Basques must have figured there and could these in sporting England have refrained from introducing their own special counterpart of tennis?

Every week in the Spanish periodicals, e.g. *The Vanguardia*, accounts are given of winners and scores at Wimbledon of

BY

Constance Greystan

Continued on page 24

KENNETH RAWNSLEY

reporting from . . .

BRADFORD

BRADFORD Table Tennis Association's season opened on September 19th, with the exception of matches in the Women's division, which begin in October.

Taking part in League matches are 64 clubs with a total team membership of 116, grouped into eight mixed divisions and one Women's division.

Of the new clubs Saltaire Methodists will compete in the Fifth Division, with Simes Street Presbyterian in the seventh and a second team in the Eighth Division.

A big First Division surprise, due to the retirement from the game of several senior players, has been the withdrawal of the Holme Lane Memorial Institute first team, which, apart from having maintained a place in the First Division since the Association was founded in 1945, were members of the pre-war Bradford League.

Last season's Holme Lane second team now takes over the job of the seniors in the Third Division, with a second string composed of budding players in the Sixth Division.

Bradford's oldest club, Clayton Heights, winners of the First Division Championship from 1947 to 1950 and twice holders of the Challenge Cup will, for the first time, have two teams by virtue of their "B" team having won the Second Division Championship and achieved promotion along with the British Electricity Authority and the Jewish Institute. And according to those who know, the Institute has some really good players!

RECORD-HOLDER

Philip Sharp, Geoffrey Hewitt and Harold Binns of the Clayton Heights Club will play for the "A" team. Jim Holcroft, a member of the Bradford Association Management Committee and registered for the "B" team, holds the record of never having missed a League match in seven seasons. Some record!

The Bradford City Police are good at other things besides fighting crime. In their "A" Fifth Division League they can put up a first-class show. Last season in the Third Division championships their aggregate was 50 points from a possible 52. This season the contestants will be members of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Leading players changing their clubs include Maurice Pitts from the Co-operative Wholesale Society to the Metal Box Company; Alan Goldsbrough from Holme Lane Club to Y.M.C.A., and

Harold Wilks from Listers Mills to Lund Humphries.

A key match in the Third Division is that between two promoted clubs—Adwalton Moor Y.F. and St. Mary's "A" who returned a record, winning 221 sets out of 260, to top the Fifth Division.

Bradford's leading sponge expert, Eric Murgatroyd, who topped last season's individual averages, will again lead the Windhill Liberals.

Taking it all round, there is again going to be some first-class Table Tennis in Bradford this season.

Australian Mail . . .

EACH issue of the Review brings a swelling post-bag from Australia.

Latest fan to join the ranks of letter-writers from the Dominion is Miss Hilda Robinson of Maronbra, New South Wales, who writes:—

"I would like your magazine sent the quickest way, as soon as it is published. I really find the articles quite interesting, and being English myself enjoy reading it even more.

"As for me, or my friends giving you any suggestions, at the moment I can think of only one, and that is the articles by such good players as Barna, etc.

"They, in my opinion, are as good as having coaching lessons, because with experience such as Barna has, anything he says must be of great help to the player who is keen on improving his game.

"I think more articles by him and other leading players should keep on being written in Table Tennis Review.

"At the present time the Australian championships are being played in Melbourne, and most of my friends who are keen on Table Tennis have gone to compete there.

"I will not be playing myself, as I am not good enough yet, but hope next year to play."

Editor: Thank you Miss Robinson. We will always endeavour to keep readers happy by giving them what they want.

E.T.T.A. COACHING PLANS AND TOURNAMENT DEFINITION

THE basic Coaching Diploma has now been issued to 27 successful candidates, spread over 12 counties, and 31 other candidates are working towards qualification. Further candidates may be enrolled at any time and they will be given opportunities to attend special Courses of Instruction.

Interested senior players whose standards may not, at present, be high enough to qualify can gain valuable knowledge and experience by attending such courses. The official application form is available from the E.T.T.A., which states:—

"We hope to continue the series of Local Coaching Demonstrations by our Hon. Director of Coaching, which proved very useful in fostering instructional work at league level.

"These are usually held on a Saturday or Sunday or sometimes as a 'short weekend,' the local organiser providing a clubroom or hall large enough for demonstration on one or two tables, the students paying merely the enrolment fee of 2/6d. per head.

"Areas served in this respect last season were Southsea (Hants), Wallasey (Cheshire), Exeter (for Devon & Cornwall) and Weymouth (Dorset).

"We shall be pleased to hear from Counties (or Leagues, with approval of their Counties) who can provide a venue and who consider that such a demonstration would be of value to their members.

"Students at these functions may be either potential Coaches or interested players who may graduate to become coaches later in their career. Juniors and schoolchildren are usually permitted to attend as observers without charge."

COACHING FILMS

THE following Coaching Films can be loaned free of charge (except for postage) to affiliated organisations:—

(i) HALEX Film *Stockholm World Championships*. A 20-minute 16-mm sound film, with sound commentary by Jack Carrington, showing Johnnie Leach winning his first World Singles title against Vana, with appearances by Bergmann, Miles, Reisman, Barna, Andreadis, Sido, Gizi, Farkas, etc.

(ii) HALEX Film *Wembley World Championships, 1954*. A 20-minute 16-mm sound film, with sound commentary by Jack Carrington, showing sequences from all five World Finals at Wembley (which introduced 16 different finalists); instructional sequences showing Tereba, Stipek, Roothoft, Craigie, Ehrlich and the Japanese stylists.

(iii) DUNLOP Film. 16-mm, with sound commentary by Raymond Glendenning. A 10-minute film showing Victor Barna and Michael Szabados in instructional match play, and exhibition sequences.

A combination of two of these films could provide the basis of an evening's entertainment in a club, school, or canteen; many organisations have used them to increase attendances at their Annual General Meetings, etc.

All the films are on non-inflammable stock; advice on the loan of projectors can usually be obtained from your Local Education Offices.

IN order to dispel any misapprehension regarding the correct designation of tournaments, the E.T.T.A. has issued the following statement.

"An Invitation Tournament shall be any tournament promoted by an affiliated body and approved by the County Association for the area in which the proposed tournament is to be held of invited affiliated players and for which general invitations to play are not issued.

"In the event of an Invitation Tournament including players in the area of another County, then the invitations shall be given only with the consent of the E.T.T.A. and the County Association concerned.

"A Closed Tournament shall be any tournament the entries for which are restricted to affiliated playing members of:—

- (i) a particular club or
- (ii) a particular league or
- (iii) a particular county or
- (iv) a defined area within a county approved by the appropriate County Association or
- (v) an area approved by the E.T.T.A."

SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

SCOTLAND has yet another Table Tennis casualty, for Eddie Still will be under martial orders for the next two years.

If any more of our stars go this way, the S.T.T.A. will be starting campaigns for the abolition of conscription. However, on the bright side, Johnny Braithwaite can't have long to go now, and Billy McCandlish I know is either out or due out soon.

Internationally speaking the loss of Still is a blow. Bertie Kerr of Edinburgh will be in uniform for quite some time yet, but Victor Garland must have a better season than last, for his form was definitely at the zero mark for most of last season.

We look for great things from young Helen Houlston, who performed so well in last season's World Championships that she drew the delighted attention of Table Tennis's top brass from several countries. On the male side we have a number of people who have been knocking on the door of the international stage for some time.

Glasgow's Central Y.M. have been quietly nursing a number of likely youngsters recently, and they are likely to be brought to bear in some of the bigger matches; they are not over worried by the loss of Still. At any rate, it will be years yet, despite the optimists, before we are likely to worry England, though I hope we will, at least, hold our own with Wales and Ireland from now on.

It is extremely improbable that any official representation of Scotland will leave for the next World Championships in far-off Tokyo, although I would not be amazed if we were individually represented by at least one star.

Now is the regrettable hour to say good-bye to one of our most charming personalities—Mrs. Ismene Cababe of Edinburgh. Shy and unassuming, her friendship had to be sought, but it was worth seeking, for her's was an urbane and informed mind, and she had travelled widely, and was an interesting and lively talker.

A native of Cyprus, she has chosen this troubled hour to return to her homeland—an action much in character. With her go our good wishes and concern for her personal safety. *Hasta la vista*, Ismene.

G. R. WALKER



Charming subject of this all-action shot is BARBARA MILBANK (England and Essex). Combining grace and determination in her play, Barbara, a valued "Review" columnist, is becoming widely respected as a shrewd commentator and critic, and since she writes as well as she plays, that's not at all surprising.

Reminder!

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Table Tennis Review
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You can't afford to miss it
(ORDER COUPON ON PAGE 18)

Diminishing Gates mean Real Worry

LAST season officials were worried—very understandably—by seriously dwindling gates at open tournaments. Attendances have dropped to an almost frightening degree and it doesn't need an intellectual to reason that something has to be done about it.

Perhaps the chief reason for public indifference is lack of stars with pulling power. Last season Bergmann, the Rows and Leach were either completely absent from England or else away for most of the time. In any case our top players have been on show for years and while the public isn't exactly bored with them, it is true to say that it is nevertheless not tempted to go out of its way to see repeat performances from players whose every stroke and mannerism is known by heart.

We all enjoy Bergmann and company, but one can have too much of a good thing—and we have had this particular good thing for some years now. Cash customers want to see new faces—and there just aren't any around. That's why box-office takes have nose-dived.

POINTLESS!

Promoters can't do much about providing new personalities, but they can be practical and retrench until such time as names with pulling power come along. In other words there should be a whittling down of the tournament calendar, for there seems little point in staging competitions of little public appeal, and when cash deficits seem to be the only reward for hard work and worry.

This isn't defeatism, but plain sense, as some organisers apparently realise. Next season's itinerary, I notice, finds three "opens" scrapped. They are the Metropolitan, the Thameside and the Pontefract.

The extent of the dryrot Table Tennis is suffering in this country is possibly reflected in the fact that not so many seasons back the "Met" regularly had to hang out "House Full" notices.

Let's hope for the appearance of men and girls capable of breaking the "star barrier" and colourful enough to bring back the palmy days of yore.

R.F.

WANTED!!!

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THE EDITOR WILL DO THE REST

Americana!

ARE you a "Slang-It"? Slang enters into every form of sport and Table Tennis is certainly no exception—at least not according to our American friends. Every stroke, every action in the game has its own special word. Here are a few. Take your pick.

Absent Treatment. A poor show up at a game.

At tops. In first-class condition.

Balloon Score. A high score.

Battle Scene. The scene of a game or tournament.

Biscuit Hooks. The hands.

Blast away. Start playing.

Bombardier. A hard hitter.

Bother the record. Setting up a new record.

By a nose. To win by a narrow margin.

Coast home. Winning easily.

Courting death. Taking unnecessary chances.

Crack a banda. Breaking a record.

Crew. A table tennis team.

Drop the decision. Lose the game.

Even Stephen. An even score.

Flash one's stuff. To show off.

Free-style guessing. An idle prophecy of the outcome of a game.

Give the record a tumble. To throw out an old-time record.

Hang up one's shoes. To throw up the sponge; quit the game.

Hit the skids. To go down fighting.

Hot as a furnace. Playing fast.

In the brew. As arranged; according to schedule.

Knock the cat west. To outstrip your opponent.

Legitis. The "shakes"; wobbliness; feeling queer; getting the "blue funks."

Make him step. To shake up your opponent.

Muscle racket. In training for a tournament.

New wrinkles. New rules.

Nurse the Balls. Proper care of table tennis balls.

Oral Calisthenics. Shooting lines.

Pee-Wee game. Amateur table tennis; "ping pong."

KENNETH RAWNSLEY

THE E.T.T.A. STATES ITS OBJECTS ON AFFILIATION

TO meet enquiries regarding the affiliation of Clubs, the English Table Tennis Association has issued the following statement.

The Association has for its objects the adoption of uniform laws of play and to act as the governing body of Table Tennis in England.

There are 347 Leagues in membership, with over 8,000 clubs and nearly 200,000 players.

The membership of the Association consists of County Associations, local Leagues and Associations and directly affiliated individuals. The County Association has in membership all the local Leagues in its area and a League or Association (which is normally a town) enrolls all the Table Tennis clubs in the locality either senior or junior. Leagues affiliate to the national body and this automatically covers all the players belonging to that League, which gives them the opportunity to:—

- (i) meet players of other clubs in the local League or in friendly games
- (ii) take part in closed and invitation championships
- (iii) compete in Open tournaments, which are organised in all parts of the country
- (iv) be selected to represent their County in the County Championships
- (v) take part in County, League and Club competitions
- (vi) be selected to take part in inter-town matches
- (vii) take part in national coaching courses and in County coaching schemes (where these are arranged).

Players who have ability can be selected to represent England in the World Championships and also in international matches with Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, Sweden and any other country in membership with the International Table Tennis Federation and also to take part in the tours abroad.

Membership brings Leagues, clubs and players into the International Table Tennis Federation (consisting of 67 national associations), which is constantly working for the raising of standards of the game, not only from the playing point of view, but also in equipment and playing conditions.

The Association has appointed an Honorary Director of Coaching, who plans, organises and conducts training courses.

Any league, club or individual playing under the laws of the game is eligible for

membership. Annual subscriptions are reasonable and special concessions are given to bona fide youth clubs.

For full details and application for membership forms, apply to the English Table Tennis Association, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2 (Telephone—TRAFALGAR 2165.)

TABLE TENNIS TEASERS

(Answers on Page 32)

1. **England have only once won the Swaythling Cup. In what year?**
2. **Name the three former Hungarian stars who were known as 'The Three Musketeers.'**
3. **Those of us who play tennis know the weight of our rackets: but how many of us know the average weight of a Table Tennis bat? Is it (a) 3 ozs. (b) 6 ozs. (c) 8 ozs.?**
4. **A former England international always wore a glove on his playing hand. Who was the player, and why did he wear the glove?**
5. **Can you name the trophies awarded for the following world titles: (a) Men's Singles (b) Ladies' Singles (c) Men's Doubles?**
6. **Four of the following stars have something in common: Dolinar, Andriadis, Ehrlich, Flisberg, Tanaka. Which is the interloper?**
7. **One of the first world-class players to develop the long-range defensive type of game was an Englishman. Who?**
8. **Name the 15-year-old girl who won both the Girls' and Women's titles in the 1953-54 Daily Mirror Championships.**
9. **What Austrian player has often been referred to as 'The Queen of Chisellers'?**
10. **One of the Rowe twins is left-handed. Which one?**

SAM ★ ★ ★ KIRKWOOD'S ★ ★ ★ COLUMN

MARK this date in your diaries, you fans. The 1955/56 World Championships has been arranged for April 2—11. The venue, of course, is Tokyo. What an exciting time is promised to the men and girls selected to fly to the Land of the Geisha Girls! If the prospect of a trip to the other side of the globe doesn't spur competitors to half-kill themselves in the forthcoming "opens," nothing will.

AN official from Turkey, one Hassan Akev, tells us that T.T. affairs in his country have taken a remarkable upward trend in recent times. Only two years ago, so he reported, there were a mere 200 registered players. Now the number is over 4,000—and growing rapidly. Players in Istanbul are clamouring for Victor Barna to play exhibitions there and it is likely, if Victor accepts the offers to coach in India, that he will show his paces in Turkey's capital, which he is eager to visit. The upswing in Turkey, incidentally, reflects the rising popularity of the game in many Eastern countries.

SPEAKING of India, the Rowe Twins have received an offer to undertake a tour there. The trip would end with the Indian Open round about Christmas—or start at that time, whichever is most convenient to the girls. If Ros and Diane can't make it, then Rumania's Angelica Rozeanu and Ella Zeller have expressed their willingness to take over. Invitations have also been extended to Sido and Koczian, of Hungary, and Harangozo and Dolinar of Yugoslavia.

CELEBRATION of another sort brought together in force the T.T. clan. 'Twas the 21st birthday party of perky little Yvonne Baker, the England and Essex girl. The affair took place in a hall, and of an assembly of some 60 or 70 people I am assured that at least six weren't players or officials, but mere members of the family!

Yvonne had previously been given a birthday "present" to remember. It happened when she was in Holland for the World Series. Very early one morning several enterprising English boys and girls lifted her bodily as she slept in her divan and tumbled her into a bathing pool. What Yvonne thought about being tipped into water while still asleep is anybody's guess!

FROM Sydney, Australia, has come a letter from Miklos Szabados, ex-Hungarian World champ, saying how delighted he was to read the articles by Vic Barna in the "Review." "The best I've ever read," enthuses "Mick," who goes on to say that after reading so many alleged coaching hints by so many alleged experts, it was refreshing in the extreme to read well-informed matter by the world's No. 1 Table Tennis authority. Szabados says the articles are being widely read "down under" and being quoted in clubs.

SCENE is Finals Night of a minor league in London. One of the male competitors is a bulky individual with tree-trunk legs freely sprinkled with black hair, an ample seat, massive chest and a lovely head of skin. Said gentleman has a hefty forehand hit hurled at him, the ball passes him and he jumps for it with elephantine grace and misses it entirely. Going to the barrier to pick up the ball, the massive one looks earnestly at the crowd and says without twitching an eyebrow, "Ah, but you ought to see me in 'Swan Lake.'"

LIVERPOOL progressed comfortably into the second round of the Wilmott, with an easy win over the Potteries at Hanley.

The visitors were represented by L. Davies, E. J. Rumjahn and L. Mulholland—the latter filling the place of R. M. Rumjahn who was unable to play.

Their win, by six events to nil with three games not played, showed them in devastating form as can be judged by the fact that they got through without conceding a set and that only two of the six events went to three games.

Dates at a glance . . .

Tournament Diary 1955 - 1956

- Oct. 1
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Oct. 8
Yorkshire Open (Huddersfield)
- Oct. 8—9
Bucks Open (Slough)
- Oct. 13—15
North of England Open (Manchester)
- Oct. 22
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Oct. 23
Portsmouth Open (Southsea)
- Oct. 29—30
Sussex Open (Hastings)
- Oct. 29—Nov. 1
AUSTRIAN OPEN (Vienna)
- Oct. 31—Nov. 5
Eastern Suburban Open (Ilford)
- Nov. 5
Hull Open (Hull)
- Nov. 12
Birmingham Open (Birmingham)
- Nov. 12
Hartlepoons Open (Hartlepoons)
- Nov. 13
Kent Junior Open (Herne Bay)
- Nov. 19
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Nov. 18—20
South of England Open (Croydon)
- Nov. 24—26
Merseyside Open (Liverpool)
- Nov. 26
Dorset Open (Weymouth)
- Nov. 26
Peterborough Open (Peterborough)
- Nov. 28—Dec. 3
Middlesex (Herga) Open (Harrow)
- Dec. 3
Bath Open (Bath)
- Dec. 4—7
SWEDISH OPEN (Stockholm)
- Dec. 10
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 1956
- Jan. 2—7
Central London Open
- Jan. 7
Yorkshire Junior Open (Leeds)
- Jan. 14
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Jan. 15—21
North-West Kent Open (Barnehurst)
- Jan. 21
South Yorkshire Open (Sheffield)
- Jan. 21
WELSH OPEN
- Jan. 22
Southampton Open (Southampton)
- Jan. 28
Lancashire Open (Bolton)
- Jan. 28—29
Kent Open (Folkestone)
- Jan. 31—Feb. 2
FRENCH OPEN (Paris)
- Feb. 4
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Feb. 6—11
South London Open (Walworth)
- Feb. 18
Midland Open (Birmingham)
- Feb. 20—24
Surrey Open (Epsom)
- Feb. 25
WILMOTT CUP AND J. M. ROSE BOWL SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS
- Feb. 28—Mar. 2
ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Manchester)
- Feb. 28—Mar. 2 Mar. 5—10
West Middlesex Open (W. Ealing)
- Mar. 10
Grimsby Open (Grimsby)
- Mar. 17
West of England Open (Torquay)
- Mar. 24
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Mar. 31 and April 2
North-East England Open (Scarborough)
- April 2—11
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Japan)
- Dates not yet finalised for :—
North Midlands Open.

England will rise, when we . . .

'CUT OUT THE PAMPERING'

says M. S. Hackney

IN the not-so-long ago it was the common cry that young players in this country weren't receiving nearly as much encouragement as was deemed necessary to help them develop their potentialities. Many were the heart-wringing tales of poor boys and girls being left to their own devices, of neglected souls who wasted their youthful sweetness on the desert air, as it were. This was put forward as one of the prime reasons why England was straggling in the race for international honours.

In the last decade things have changed a lot. Youth is encouraged to the maximum of official resources. Let a boy or girl show ability a little above average and he or she is given facilities to enter tournaments, to play exhibitions and enjoy trips in this country and abroad. Their names are blazoned in print and they are treated on a level with established stars.

So far from being neglected, today's youngsters are pampered and spoiled to an extent which tends to make the more "susceptible" amongst them self-important to a degree which is not only distasteful to the observer, but seriously stunts and, more often than not, kills the progress of the players in question.

On a Plate!

Where before they had little or nothing, today they have everything (except talent and experience) handed to them on a plate—and the standard of English play has remarkably little to show for it. Indeed, in the circumstances it would be astonishing if it were otherwise!

With all the coaching schemes and financial assistance and tours abroad, what stars have we produced—or look like producing? You name them, I can't!

Since the war we have produced only two male stars of World class—Leach and Simons. And they are no product of any kindly Association scheme. They achieved star status by hard work and the will to make good. Both are worthy of the greatest respect everywhere the game is played.

No Successes

Of the scores of younger men boosted in recent years as outstanding material, and treated as such, how many have made or are likely to make the grade? Not a solitary one! And why? Could it be because everything is made too easy for the kids, who apparently never have

drummed into them the cruel fact that there is absolutely no substitute for hard work? Is it not true that by overmuch generous treatment youngsters become soft and get it into their heads that they know it all?

No one but a fool would advocate that encouragement isn't necessary or that youth should be left to make its own way to the top. But haven't we gone to such extremes in the opposite direction that we are killing by kindness?

By all means let's look after the kids—and administer a hefty kick in the pants to them when they deserve such, instead of drooling over them like pets and feeding them fruits they haven't even begun to earn.

Tenacity Needed

What am I getting at? Just this. Make the young blighters work, work and work. Cut out every shred of pampering. Make them feel that are being favoured by getting special treatment and not that they are doing anyone a favour by holding a bat. Impress on them a million times that to get to the top they've got to have tenacity and pluck and stick-at-it qualities in the face of disappointment, quite apart from a lot of skill.

Any young player who dares speak of "sacrifice" in connection with his T.T. should be scrubbed-out permanently. A player plays solely and simply because he wants to, and no-one forces him to. If he regards practice, training and all the rest of it as a "sacrifice" then his heart isn't in the game. He's merely a dabbler who wants a good time, trophies and praise the easy way. In short, he's a dead loss from our point of view.

Sacrifices

The player with his heart in the game loves playing for the sake of playing and is prepared to forgo other interests in the

Continued on page 29

Estreham's success story

SO far the Editor's appeal for club news, made in the summer issue, has been disappointing in the matter of awakening publicity by secretaries—but offsetting this is a success story from Streatham, London.

It comes from Mr. Thomas Wernham of the Estreham Table Tennis Club, who writes:

"Reading through the 1955 Summer Issue of *Table Tennis Review* I noted your appeal and feel that the activities of my club deserve special mention.

"I have been secretary of the St. Leonards Snooker Club at Streatham for the last ten years, and in the period 1953-1954 I had numerous enquiries for Table Tennis, but was unable to satisfy the demand.

"One day I met one of these people on top of a bus, and was asked if I had thought about forming a Table Tennis club in Streatham. I was told 'others had tried it and failed; in any case it was the wrong time of the year, as the season would soon be at an end.'

"I had never played much Table Tennis, but here was a challenge.

"I immediately approached the Editor of the local paper with my No. 1 question—'Table Tennis anyone?' to which I had about twenty enquiries.

"I then issued 1,000 circulars and wrote to all the big people in Table Tennis—displayed posters in the town and personally

canvassed all the big shops from one end of the High Road to the other. No stone was left unturned to ensure that the publicity was going to do its work.

"I eventually secured a hall and again circularised the district to the effect that a public meeting would be held on May 5th, 1954, with a view to the formation of Streatham new Table Tennis Club.

"On a pouring wet night, over 100 people turned up and the meeting was an unqualified success—80 members were secured and each paid 26/- for the first quarter—June to August. (It is now £2 a quarter).

"A new era had commenced—Table Tennis in the summer! A fool had stepped in where angels had feared to tread!"

I like, personally, the tone of that circular, which Mr. Wernham sent out. There's something warm about the passage which reads "to open a club, where those interested in Table Tennis can spend an evening in congenial and jolly surroundings."

Continued on page 29



JOHN WOODLAND (on right) receiving Singles Trophy from MR. CAST, South London League President. In the centre is MR. TOM WERNHAM, Chairman and Founder of the Estreham (Streatham) Club

FOCUS

on the LADIES

THE new season promises great things from the hot-bed of rising talent which is being encouraged by the spread of coaching schemes, with emphasis on the younger generation.

With the exception of the Birmingham Association, who are striving hard in this direction, more advantage is being taken of coaching in the Southern area of the country than in the North.

Young Wendy Bates from Brighton, Sussex, shows great promise of reaching the top of the ladder in coming years, with good strokes, determination and a cool match temperament. Already a Junior International and Senior County player, Wendy needs watching—don't be misled by her size!

Another girl worth watching is Florrie Wright from Yorkshire—also a Junior International and Senior County player. Florrie's speciality is a hard drive, which goes exactly where it is meant to, and more often than not wins the point.

ROSY FUTURE

A rosy future in senior competition is forecast for Joy Fielder (Kent), who at present equals Wendy's and Florrie's achievement of being a Junior International and Senior County player. Joy is happy when the opponent lets her dictate the game, but rather susceptible to counter-hitting. Joy is also present "Daily Mirror" Ladies' Singles Champion.

The more established girls, Jean Winn (Surrey), Yvonne Baker (Essex), Jill Rook (Surrey), Betty Isaacs (Surrey) and Pam Mortimer (Warwicks.) are all likely to retain their places in the National Ranking List below the Rowe Twins, Ann Haydon and Kathie Best.

Of these, Jean may have gained valuable experience of Continental conditions from her trip to the World Championships last April, when she was deservedly selected for the England team. She is a very consistent player, and has won fourteen "Open" Singles titles and numerous doubles titles since only 1952.

From the remainder, Yvonne and Betty participated in an International Tournament held at Warsaw during August, and so may already be 'in the swing' of things for the coming season.

Pam Mortimer is always sure to put up a great battle whoever her opponent may be—in fact, the bigger the name, the

harder she fights. Her close-to-the-table attacking game is very sound and comparable to that of Betty Gray (Wales). Apart from being as keen as mustard on Table Tennis, Pam also has a family sporting rival in her cousin, Angela Mortimer, the tennis star, and as Angela has made great strides this summer, I feel this may spur Pam on to even greater efforts!

WILL SHE — WON'T SHE ?

I am curious to see if Peggy Franks, one of the 'old gang,' will be around the tournaments again this season. Last year Peggy emphatically denied any suggestion that she was keen to "get back," yet nevertheless succeeded in clinching a number of 'Open' titles. With her experience of World class, it is quite on the cards that she would again become a dominating force if she got down to the game seriously.

by
BARBARA MILBANK

Elsie Carrington (Essex)—"the best non-International in the country"—is now packing a powerful hit with her sound defence, and promises to be well on form. Last April, Elsie won all three titles at the Essex County Closed Championships. She has also been doing good service acting as Captain to England Junior teams abroad.

STRONG THREATS

Our regular "foreign" visitors, Helen Elliott (Scotland) and the Welsh girls, Shirley Jones and Betty Gray, offer strong opposition and threaten to carry home many titles. Helen, to my mind, was playing fine stuff last season and showed a great improvement on her previous year's lapse. Shirley and Betty are the strongest Women's Doubles partnership next to the Rowe Twins, now that the Jean Winn/Joy Seaman combination has dropped out.

It only remains now to wait and see how things "pan out," so go to it, all of you, and good luck!

T.T. WARMS FROZEN NORTH

I HAVE recently returned from a holiday in Norway. You need not envy me for it. One had to explain that to show how, even towards the frozen north, Table Tennis is a game to rouse enthusiasm.

We had reached the delightful town of Andalsnes, about one and a half degrees from the Arctic Circle, when, in wandering between the snow clad mountains, we heard through the open windows of the nearby school the unmistakable "click-click" of a Table Tennis ball.

Peeping through the window I found it was so, and was soon engaged in conversation with the local schoolmaster.

"Why do some students play Table Tennis during the lessons of the rest?" I asked.

"They don't" he replied in perfect English. "In Norway, we treat some games as lessons and Table Tennis is one of them. We feel that dexterity in some games aids the eyes, ears, muscles, and the whole body. Moreover, in a game where quick thinking is allied to speedy movement, we feel this far better than sitting at a desk with pencil, paper, scissors... well, we know what is general in British schools in hand and eye training" he smiled.

CASUAL APPROACH

So do I, being in charge of a number of schools, yet I hardly think that one would be allowed to use Table Tennis as an aid to hand and eye training, though I wonder why not?

The fact that the Norwegians have not swept the board in world competitions, is the fact that they approach all games in the most casual manner. Yet, could this not be the forcing house of our own Table Tennis?

If as a result of long experience and experiment we find that such games are better than our usual methods, could they not be allowed here? And many would be given the rudiments of the game in their formative years. Their muscles, eyes, hands, would be trained for the game when they were best able to take the game in.

It is a dream, perhaps, but the mind goes back to the snow capped mountains, and the open window through which came the sound of Table Tennis AS PART OF THE SCHOOL TRAINING.

H. STONELEY

Ann is Riding High

THERE'S no stopping Ann Haydon. During the summer, following fine performances, she was awarded a senior international lawn tennis badge. At 15 a Corbillon Cup representative and at 16 an England tennis "cap." And she's still at school!

If Ann has one overriding ambition it must be to emulate the remarkable feat of the immortal Fred Perry, who won the World T.T. Singles and was Wimbledon champion for three successive years. We can only wish her good luck for the future, both for her own sake and the country's.

Jill Rook, the 18-year-old Surrey girl, has also been enjoying a successful tennis season, one of her best efforts being her winning of the Surrey County tournament, against mature, experienced players.

Jill, who was the English Table Tennis junior champion before Ann, would be a lot better at both games if her attitude were different. A naturally gifted player, she has no "hatred" of her opponents and is therefore that important bit lacking in "bite."

That, in my opinion, is why she hasn't quite fulfilled her early promise. She's good—but how much better she'd be for that venom which is the hallmark of every great champion.

Heart-Cry from Liverpool

THE big Liverpool League is in a decline. Its Committee makes strange decisions, without reference to the wishes of the Annual General Meeting. No stars have been produced since the war, and inter-town matches get no support.

Can it be that Mr. Stamp and his followers on the Committee have gone their own course, and so lost touch with the ordinary membership?

The Committee's latest action has been much criticised, and was to refuse re-admission this new season to a noted team in Division I. That team is about the strongest in the League.

This harsh decision was given without warnings, or notice,—or even reasons. Mr. Stamp has also refused permission to appeal.

When such events occur, it is hardly surprising that Table Tennis in Liverpool is in such a bad way.

J. WATTS,
7, Latham Grove, L'pool, 21.

BILL RAVEY says

NEW SEASON MAY BE STIFFER FOR ULSTER

ULSTER, outstanding inter-provincial team champions for the last five years, may not have things all their own way in this season's four-cornered competitions at Limerick in November. The Northerners do not expect to have much difficulty in coping with Munster and Connaught, but in Leinster they will find stiffer opposition.

The retirement of Harry O'Prey, Ulster's king-pin in the past, has naturally aroused much speculation as to the outcome of the competition, and in some quarters Leinster are being tipped as future champions.

Can the Ulster players, without O'Prey, hold their supremacy? Last season they beat Leinster by 15 games to 5, and on that occasion O'Prey won against three of his four opponents. This time it is almost bound to be a closer affair, with much depending on the new addition to the Ulster side.

At the moment Arnold Griffith would seem to be a natural choice, but the form of other players in early tournaments must be taken into account. As for the other three men on the Ulster team, I can't see anyone displacing Ivan Martin, Ernie Allen and Colin Senior, all of whom have served Ulster with distinction in the past.

Leinster's greatest asset will, of course, be Sean Clerkin—currently Ireland's No. 1—who in his best form could win all his games against the Northern players. His team-mates this year may be Michael Behan, Wesley Pappin and Harry Thullier or Ernie Sterne.

It is likely that the ladies will be Joy Owens and Dierdre Fearon for Leinster, and Margaret Lyons and Mary Wilson for Ulster.

Personally, I believe the combined strength of the Ulster players is still

sufficient to win them the championship for the sixth successive year. But make no mistake, the competition will be keener than ever it has been.



BILLY VINING, of Bangor, Co. Down, has for the third successive year won the Table Tennis tournament at Butlin's Mosney holiday camp.

Billy thought his run of successes had ended when he learned that his opponent in the final was to be a certain Mr. Stipek. Happily, his assumption that the illustrious Czech of that name was seeking fresh honours, proved incorrect. This Mr. Stipek was, in fact, a competent Londoner, against whom our Billy successfully defended his title.



THOSE of us who have spent the summer wallowing lazily in the scorching sun, should spare a thought for the small panel of coaches who have during the last two or three months spent much of their time instructing beginners. Coaching sessions have been held weekly in the City Y.M.C.A. Belfast, and the secretary of the Coaching Committee, Mr. Jimmy Cross, tells me that the results have been most encouraging.

It goes without saying that these young men, who receive no payment for their services, must truly have the interests of the game at heart.

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

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CAPITALS PLEASE

MIKLOS SZABADOS

shows the way

HOW TO BECOME A CHAMPION AT TABLE TENNIS — that is what Miklos Szabados offers in his instruction book of that name, at 3/6d, published by the Speciality Press Ltd., Melbourne.

Making his home in Australia, Miklos has undoubtedly given a tremendous impetus to the game "down under," and from a lifetime's association with Table Tennis, anything he has to say about it must be of vital importance.

Naturally this book contains the expected full quota of illustrations and detailed text, and there is also a potted history of the game.

But purely for food for thought I commend to you the preface. Down to earth comment relegates "showmanship" to its rightful sphere, pin-points playing psychology, and underlines the menace of bad stroke making.

Self-Speaking

I certainly enjoyed reading this 52-page pocket edition, but I am letting a letter from Miklos speak for itself.

He says in it:—

"I have purposely kept the book to essentials, with no padding.

It is my firm belief that the classical all round style of game as developed by Victor Barna and myself is the answer to the sponge bat, or penholder type of game.

Victor, I believe, was right on the ball, when in the Review recently, he said the answer to the sponge bat was consistent change of pace. The penholder game, with the consistency that the perpetual use of the one type of stroke can produce, is an old story to me and those of my generation, who came to the top by beating the penholder champions.

No Prevention

However, I do not think the classical all-round game should prevent any player developing a 'speciality' of his own. While a great all-round player, Victor Barna, developed his incomparable flick. However, this, the edifice of his game, was built on the sure foundation of all-round mastery. Personally, I found my forehand backhand shot a great points winner against penholder players, who grew accustomed to the orthodox all-round player. However, I do not advocate its use by any player who does not find he has some flair for it.

When in Japan in 1938, I won a big invitation tournament against the leading Japanese players, nearly all of whom were penholders. I found then, however, that one could not afford to allow the Japanese to work themselves into an attacking rhythm, which would allow them to dominate the game. It was necessary, from time to time, to attack vigorously, and drive them away from the table.

I then gave my views, which were published at the time, that the Japanese style of game would allow them to dominate proceedings against defensive players, who could not take the attack frequently, to prevent the Japanese working themselves into a one-stroke attacking surge that was likely to swamp a very sound defence.

Title Winners

I also expressed the view, which was published, that a Japanese would have an excellent chance of winning the world championship when they entered a team.

I believe it is most important that a top-spin forehand player should develop a kill shot with the same action. It is a fault of some top spin players of the highest class, that although they have a remarkable mastery of the game as a whole, they lack a kill shot, which is as essential to a champion Table Tennis player as a knockout punch is to a true champion boxer.

I believe my book shows how to develop this kill shot as a continuation of the normal top spin drive. I believe this shot can be taught to players with some aptitude. I know one player of world class, once a purely defensive player, whose forehand attack I helped to develop to a stage where it was not only most reliable, but a really 'wicked' shot.

No Half-Measures

Years of coaching have shown me that the shots in Table Tennis can be taught. How well these shots can be used will, however, depend on the willingness of the learner to practise, his natural aptitude, and ability to play patiently until the right opportunity offers to bring his attack into effect. Once a player starts to attack there should be no half measures. A good drop shot makes any attack twice as dangerous.

I shall be a very happy man if my experience can help to improve the standard, or produce a champion in our game, the greatest and most truly international of all sports."

DEREK C. GARDINER *reviews the . . .*

SOUTH AFRICA v. ISRAEL

Tests

IT is now possible to form an overall picture of the five Test Matches played between the visiting Israel team and the South African Union. Doubtless you are all aware of the bare results and how South Africa bowed the knee to the tune of five defeats to nil, some by large margins, but from the detailed reports of the games you should be able to visualise the series as a whole, and form your own impressions of our crushing defeat, for it was no less than crushing.

To what can be attributed our lack of success against a country which does not rate very high by the best International standards?

First our own bad play was largely responsible for we seemed to fritter away many golden opportunities. Many, in fact most, of the players chosen for the series played well below their normal form and it was tragic to see two splendid players Mike Fry and Peter McKie dropped from the South African team, although we must hasten to add that their indifferent form left the selectors no choice.

To our own indifferent form must be added the high standard and great consistency of our visitors, particularly Finkelstein Yeshua and Mrs. Leipnik. Our players seemed to have no answer to the craft of Finkelstein and the success of the visitors must mainly be attributed to the spell he wove around our players. There is little doubt that the confidence of many of the South Africans was so shaken against Finkelstein that others in the Israel side could drive home the advantage against still shaky opponents.

Both McKie and Fry had the beating of the others in the Israel team, but Fry was so shaken by the tremendous trouncing meted out to him by Finkelstein in the Transvaal matches (even before the first test) that he never recovered his form at all and McKie seemed strangely ill at ease for so confident a player.

Anyway let us get on with the story of the matches as they have been submitted by our correspondents in Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, and to open the story we will turn to the Transvaal where the tour both started and ended.

1st TEST, JOHANNESBURG

Teams: S.A.T.T.U.—Rex Edwards (Captain), Mike Fry, Peter McKie, Ron Litten and Moyra Hart. ISRAEL—Simcha Finkelstein (Captain), Isaak Vardy, Joseph Yeshua and Elizabeth Leipnik.

First on the table was McKie to face Finkelstein and here he found that he had to do all the running, but could never match the spin and sponge of the Israeli and came out the loser.

In the second game Edwards beat Vardy in the third, and put the Springboks on level terms, but with Fry, Litten & Hart, McKie & Edwards, losing their respective games, and great effort by Edwards to defeat Yeshua the score stood at 5-2 after the first night.

In the second half only one game went South Africa's way, in spite of truly determined efforts by the home team.

Scorecard: (Israeli players first)—Finkelstein beat McKie, 10, 14: beat Edwards, 11, 11: beat Fry, 15, 12. Vardy lost to Edwards, 22-24, 21-19, 9-21: beat Fry, 12-11 (Time limit), 20-17 (Time limit): beat McKie, 22-20, 14. Yeshua beat Fry, 25-23, 22-20: lost to Edwards, 12, —18, 20-22: beat McKie, 19, 13. Mrs. Leipnik beat Mrs. Hart, 15, 15. Finkelstein / Leipnik beat Litten / Hart, 13, 19. Finkelstein / Yeshua beat McKie / Edwards, 10, 15. Finkelstein / Vardy lost to Litten / Edwards, 18, —12, 21-23. Yeshua / Leipnik beat Edwards / Hart, 15, 19.

2nd TEST, PORT ELIZABETH

Teams: S.A.T.T.U.—Rex Edwards (Captain), Mike Fry, Theo Paitaiki, Ron Litten and Mrs. Evelyn Chiat. ISRAEL—Simcha Finkelstein (Captain), Joseph Yeshua, Isaak Vardy and Mrs. Elizabeth Leipnik.

Two changes were made here from the first test, Paitaiki and Mrs. Chiat coming in for McKie and Mrs. Hart.

The old story came true again with Finkelstein proving a stumbling block, for although the score was 3-3 at the end of the afternoon session the match ended in a comfortable win for Israel by the margin of 10-4.

The two new caps played well, especially Paitaiki, who proved his worth with a win over Vardy in the Singles, and a fine effort

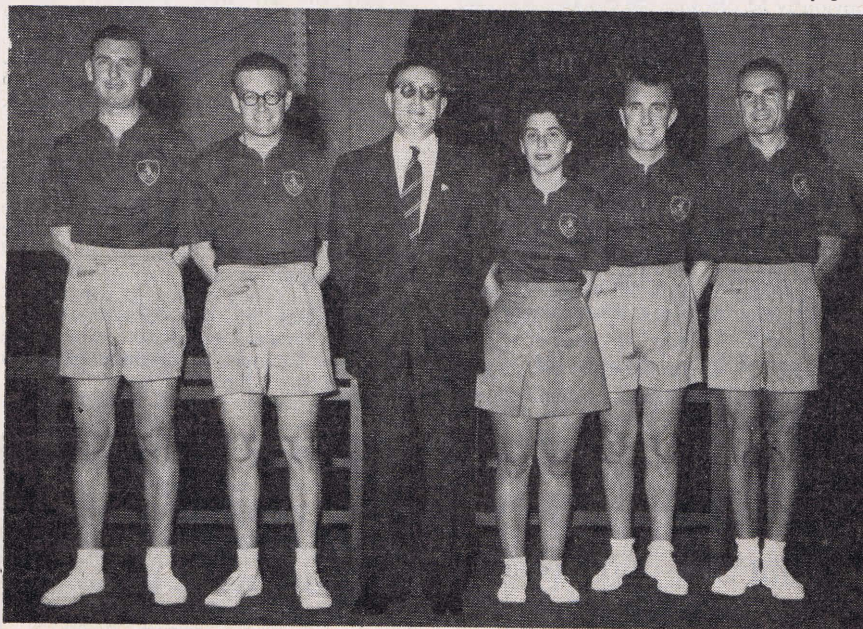
with Litten in the Men's Doubles, to defeat Vardi & Finkelstein.

Scorecard. Finkelstein beat Paitaiki, 11, 13: beat Fry, 8, 12: beat Edwards, 18, 14. Yeshua beat Edwards, 18, 16: beat Paitaiki, 15, 17: beat Fry, 18, 15. Vardy lost to Paitaiki, 22-24, 9, —16: beat Fry, 3, 11: lost to Edwards, —17, —7. Mrs. Leipnik beat Mrs. Chiat, 23-21, 19. Yeshua / Mrs. Leipnik lost to Edwards / Mrs. Chiat, —15, —15. Vardy / Finkelstein lost to Paitaiki / Litten, —16, —19. Finkelstein / Leipnik beat Litten / Chiat, 16, 15. Finkelstein / Yeshua beat Litten / Edwards, —19, 16, 16.

3rd TEST, CAPE TOWN

Fry, the S.A.T.T.U. Singles champion was dropped from this match and McKie took his place. The only other change was in the Israeli team, where Luceanu replaced Vardy in the Men's Doubles. With three home players in front of a capacity crowd of nearly 1,100 each night, great hopes were centred on this match.

Once again after the first night session the Springboks were only 4-3 down, but Finkelstein with a personal record of 3 Singles and 3 Doubles to his credit swung the game to a 10-4 victory for his team. Mrs. Chiat again failed to beat Mrs. Leipnik in one of the most vital games of the evening, being unable to cope with an opponent on her very best form.



This is the Springbok team which fought out the Third Test, at Cape Town. L. to R.: Peter McKie (W.P.), Rex Edwards (Capt., Transvaal), Max Kalley (Vice-Chairman, S.A.T.T.U.), Mrs. Evelyn Chiat (W.P.), Ron Litten (Transvaal), Theo Paitaiki (W.P.)

Scorecard. Finkelstein beat Paitaiki, 10, 17: beat McKie, 9, 14: beat Edwards, 10, 11. Yeshua beat McKie, 14, 12: beat Paitaiki, 17, 17: beat Edwards, 17, 18. Vardy lost to McKie, —18, —14: lost to Edwards, —18, —18: lost to Paitaiki, —19, —13. Mrs. Leipnik beat Mrs. Chiat, 18, 17. Yeshua / Leipnik lost to Edwards / Chiat, —12, —16. Finkelstein / Yeshua beat Litten / Paitaiki, 13, 17. Finkelstein / Luceanu beat Edwards / Litten, 17, 16. Finkelstein / Leipnik beat Litten / Chiat, 15, 10.

4th TEST, DURBAN

With the rubber lost the selectors made further changes in an effort to secure at least one match.

Rex Edwards was unable to play due to business reasons and Monty Shotland was appointed in his place. Derek Wall replaced McKie and Mrs. Pam van de Vyver came in for the Women's Singles, while Mrs. Chiat remained for the Doubles.

Following the usual pattern the Springboks held the Israelis to only a 4-3 lead by the end of the first night, due once again to some very fine play by Paitaiki, ably supported by Shotland and Litten.

On the second night the struggle for supremacy was keen and Wall and Paitaiki secured a fine Doubles win, with Wall gaining an excellent win over Luceanu in

Continued on page 32

COMMENTS on COMMENT!

IN a "straight-from-the-shoulder" letter to Sam Kirkwood, Mr. J. M. Blackman, of 34 Smithies Road, Abbey Wood, London, S.E.2, writes:

"I can't let pass your backhander at the Japanese World Champions in the otherwise excellent description of the 'Daily Mirror' finals, 1955.

"Somebody is supposed to have said they both cried off against Leach and Bergmann, because Richard beat Tanaka 18, 9, at Leeds. But what of Ogimura? Was he worried at the prospect of having to beat Johnnie Leach again? No, the Japs have in Mr. Hasegawa, a coach who understands fully the psychological ill-effect of funkng an opponent without reason.

"Tanaka won his title without meeting Leach, Bergmann, Sido or Andreadis (both the latter beat him in the Swaythling of course). Therefore from the Japanese point of view it is important that he should find the way through these masters—but obviously he can only be put in when fully fit.

Moral Support

"As you, yourself, say about the Rowe twins, all the players from Utrecht were tired, some more than others. The Japs were very hard hit by having such a small team numerically, that Ogimura and Tanaka had to play almost in every team match, while Leach and Bergmann could rely more frequently on reserve players. Further, the Japs are the exception to Barna's remark that the best players go home to bed when they finish. The Japanese stay to support their colleagues whenever there is one in action.

Not Alone

"Don't think that I have singled you out for attack in writing this. I feel there are too many people in England always ready to think the worst about foreigners, especially the Japanese (and Russians). "I look to the Table Tennis fraternity to end such wrangling."

And Sam Kirkwood replies . . .

"I QUITE agree with Mr. Blackman that there should be no 'wrangling' in Table Tennis and that foreigners should be

regarded rather as sporting brothers rather than somewhat crafty enemies. And if Mr. Blackman will read or re-read my reports on non-British players, and particularly on the Japanese, he will find that my comments are not exactly unfriendly.

"The remark about which he complains is not so much a 'backhander' as a comment based on information from very reliable sources.

Late Announcement

"The point to remember here is that a substantial proportion of the Albert Hall audience paid money in the belief that they were going to see two Japanese stars in action. Only when those spectators were in the hall was the announcement made that the players weren't going to appear.

"The announcement was that the men in question had been advised by doctors not to play for five days owing to strain. Yet on the following day, if my memory serves me aright, they played in Paris.

"Certainly they were tired, very tired. So were some of the English players, who nevertheless did appear at the Albert Hall.

Cast No Doubts

"The issue, however, is not quite as serious as Mr. Blackman would have it and I end by quoting the remark I wrote about the Japanese in my report of the 1954 World Series: 'And let it be said that the Japanese boys and girls are fine little sports. They played to win (as did everyone else), but their behaviour was in every way impeccable. Let no one begrudge them their triumphs or cast any doubt on their sportsmanship.'

"I think we can leave it at that."

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FROM AUSTRALIA . . .

Queensland 'Open'

RESULTS · RANKINGS

MEN'S SINGLES:

Semi-final: H. Porter beat R. Millard (T'ville), 13, 13, 16. C. Shaw beat J. Stanaway, —19, 11, 14, 11.

Final: H. Porter beat C. Shaw, 15, 17, —11, 14.

WOMEN'S SINGLES:

Final: S. Irvin beat B. Juds, 13, 16.

MEN'S DOUBLES:

Final: H. Porter/C. Shaw beat B. Weber/K. Murphy, 14, 11, 15.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES:

Final: S. Irvin/D. Weatherley beat N. Redhead/I. Baulch, 14, 18.

MIXED DOUBLES:

Final: G. Millard/O. Carey beat H. Porter/S. Irvin, —18, 18, 17.

JUNIOR BOYS' SINGLES:

J. Stanaway beat A. Kenyon, 11, 11.

JUNIOR GIRLS' SINGLES:

B. Cremin beat M. Geddes, 6, 10.

MEN'S CONSOLATION WINNER:

J. Leahy.

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION WINNER:

N. Redhead.

The Men's Teams Championships was won by Brisbane.

The Women's Teams Championships was won by Townsville.

Queensland Ranking List:

MEN: H. Porter, C. Shaw, J. Stanaway, R. Millard, B. Weber, J. Leahy, G. Brydon, N. Barry, G. Millard, L. Handcock and L. Boson (equal).

WOMEN: S. Irvin, B. Juds, O. Carey, D. Weatherley, O. Thorn, J. O'Shaughnessy, B. Cremin, S. Smith, S. Weber, D. Hughes and N. Redhead (equal).

1955 - 56 ENGLISH RANKINGS

★

MEN

1. J. A. Leach (Essex)
2. R. Bergmann (Mddx.)
3. B. H. Kennedy (Yorks.)
4. B. Merrett (Glos.)
5. H. T. Venner (Surrey)
6. D. C. Burrige (Mddx.)
7. A. W. C. Simons (Glos.)
8. K. Craige (Surrey)
9. A. Rhodes (Mddx.)
10. R. Hinchliff (Yorks.)
11. R. J. Stevens (Essex)
12. J. W. Lowe (Mddx.)

GROUP "A"

- L. G. Adams (Mddx.)
- B. Brumwell (Essex)
- R. Griffin (Glos.)
- J. E. Head (Surrey)
- I. W. Jones (Essex)
- A. R. Miller (Surrey)
- A. Shepherd (Ches.)
- M. H. Thornhill (Mddx.)

WOMEN

1. Miss R. Rowe (Mddx.)
2. Miss A. S. Haydon (Warwicks.)
- Miss D. Rowe (Mddx.)
4. Miss C. K. Best (Yorks.)
5. Miss M. Franks (Essex)
6. Miss J. Winn (Surrey)
7. Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey)
8. Miss B. Milbank (Essex)

GROUP "A"

- Miss Y. Baker (Essex)
- Mrs. J. Crosby (Devon)
- Miss M. Fry (Mddx.)
- Miss P. Mortimer (Warwicks.)
- Miss J. Rook (Surrey)

HAS BERGMANN BEEN WRONGED?*Continued from page 5*

Andreadis, while Johnnie lost to Stipek. The following day, in Wolverhampton, England beat U.S. 5—4. Bergmann beat Dick Miles and Leach lost to Somael.

The World Series in Utrecht. In the Swaythling match versus Rumania, Bergmann beat Reiter, that country's No. 1, who didn't meet Leach. Against Germany, Bergmann won all three games in two straight, including among his victims Freundorfer, who beat Leach in two straight. In the Czechoslovakia match, England lost 5—1, Leach notching the only win, against Andreadis, and losing to Stipek. Bergmann lost in straight games to Stipek and Tereba.

In the Singles, Leach beat Severo (Brazil), Cor Du Buy (Holland), Tomita (Japan) and Foldi (Hungary), and lost in the quarter-finals to Cafeiro (France), an unranked player. Bergmann beat Weiss (Saar), Grenton (Jersey), Robinson (Australia) and Szepesi (Hungary), and lost in the quarter-finals to the ranked Dolinar.

AGAINST JAPAN

Returning to England, both men played for England against Japan, in Leeds. Bergmann beat the new World Champion, Tanaka, in two straight, and Leach lost to Ogimura.

Following this, Bergmann played for the South of England against Japan at the Albert Hall and beat Tamasu, who earlier in the day had outclassed Jimmy Lowe. Leach did not play in the Singles.

Having got this side-by-side comparison record off his chest, Bergmann fired this parting shot. "I don't want favours, thanks or sympathy, but I have a right to expect fair play. And nothing will convince me that I haven't been thrown out of the No. 1 place, which I earned on merit.

GOOD FRIENDS

"I have nothing against Johnnie personally, of course—we are good friends. But as a player—well, I'm willing to lay the odds I can beat him any day, anywhere: more important, I can beat the men who beat him. If he's my superior—even on last season's showing—then I'm the Shah of Persia!"

Bergmann, who begins his "globetrotting" with three weeks in Mexico before showing his paces with Rene Roothoof throughout America and Canada, is contracted to play with the Harlemites until April.

He is definitely not competing in the English Open, but has, so he told me, notified the Association that if he is wanted for the World Series he will obtain leave of absence to return to England in the middle of March in time to enplane for Japan.

IT'S PELOTA!*Continued from page 6*

tennis; of the 'Fotbol' and Rugby in England, then of those games played also in Spain, along with those of Pelota. It is the popular game in Spain and South America. Professional players tour Southern Europe and the East, giving exhibitions of this game of wonderful speed and accuracy. One feels that England might well compete in this, since she excels in all forms of sport, but what could she expect to gain from the enterprise?

There are several aspects which present themselves as possible advantages. Firstly, if introduced into England, say by tennis enthusiasts, there would be a new goal for a championship. Then this game would most certainly become a sharpener of speed for all forms of ball games, if attempted with any degree of seriousness. Travel to the places where Pelota is played would become a pleasant form of combined work and holiday for those who wished to make Pelota their study in either a professional or amateur manner. Then, again, in the initial stages of the game in England, there would be need for coaches and pros, until matches could be undertaken with the Basques and South Americans themselves and...who knows? ..the final stage...Olympia.

SPACE PROBLEM

I have wondered why Pelota has never become a more general game and I can only suggest to myself as a reason up to now, that it is the space required for the court. This, in our modern way of considering sports as the training ground of life, is now negligible surely?

The betting is fast and heavy, I hear, and quaintly arranged in Spain, the bets being hurled enclosed in a small wooden ball, which has a screw to open and close, and which is swiftly returned with the winnings in the same manner, all amid the excited voices of bookies!

I did not notice anything in the way of betting at Pau, but I did feel that English tennis players, indoor or outdoor, would have loved to have seen the game.

THE Buckinghamshire County Association is to be congratulated on the production of a bright new magazine "SAND TO SPONGE."

The October issue has some "zippy" contributions — but perhaps the most encouraging of all is the announcement that Bletchley's team strength has risen from 13 to 34 since last year!

The MALTA STORY

TABLE TENNIS was introduced to Malta in the early thirties by the Royal University Sports Club, which is the official club of the students of the Royal Malta University. The game soon gained popularity and the Civil Service Sports Club also reserved a room at their club for this new, exciting sport.

However, sports clubs in Malta are somehow dominated by what are called Band Clubs, whose aim is to foster music in the Districts. So for a good number of years the game was reserved for these well-organised sports clubs, until a band club, which at the present time is well-known in the field of sports, introduced the game to its members. Guest players from the University and the Civil Service were invited and a few members who set their heart on the game soon learned the ins

and outs and were giving a good game to the visitors.

The energetic committee of the St. Cajetan Band Club of Hamrun did their best to help the game, and Y.M.C.A. and Service Units players were invited to an evening of Table Tennis every now and then. This proved to be a great encouragement. Best players in these years were Bonavia, Chetcuti, Cassar, Felice Gay and Vella.

Continued on page 30

Players, guests, with officials of the Malta Table Tennis Association, after the finals. Sitting, left to right, are Mr. J. Grixti, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. J. Cassar Naudi, President; The Hon. Dr. J. Frenco Azzopardi; Mr. Jos. Debattista, Hon. Secretary; and Mr. Robert Bencini, President of the St. Cajetan Band Club. Standing, third from left, holding the Cup, is A. Pellegrini Petit, who won the National Singles Championship, and at the extreme end of the row is Alfred Spiteri, runner-up in the Singles and captain of the St. Cajetan Band Club, which won the Teams Championship.

IRISH EVENTS

★

ULSTER OPEN, Warrenpoint, Oct. 28th, 29th.

LEINSTER TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, Dublin, Nov. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 10th, 16th, 24th.

INTER-PROVINCIAL CONTEST, Limerick, Nov. 18th, 19th.

DUBLIN JUNIOR, Crofton Club, Nov. 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th.

IRELAND v. ENGLAND, Belfast, Dec. 1st.

LEINSTER OPEN, Dublin, Dec. 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th.

WATERFORD OPEN, Waterford, Dec. 3rd.

CO. ANTRIM, Ballymena, Dec. 16th, 17th.

ULSTER COUNTY SINGLES, Monaghan, Jan. 7th.

LIMERICK OPEN, Limerick, Jan. 14th.

LEINSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (Dublin Zone), Dublin, Jan. 17th, 19th, 24th, 25th, 26th, Feb. 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th.

IRISH CLOSE, Sligo, Jan. 20th, 21st.

MID-ULSTER, Cookstown, Jan. 27th, 28th.

MUNSTER OPEN, Waterford, Feb. 4th.

LEINSTER BRANCH DANCE, National Ballroom, Feb. 7th.

IRELAND v. SCOTLAND, Bangor, Feb. 9th.

CO. DOWN, Bangor, Feb. 10th, 11th.

LEINSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS (all zones), Dublin, Feb. 16th.

EAST OF IRELAND, Dublin, Feb. 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th.

ENGLISH OPEN, Manchester, Feb. 28th—Mar. 2nd.

NORTH OF IRELAND, Derry, Mar. 2nd, 3rd.

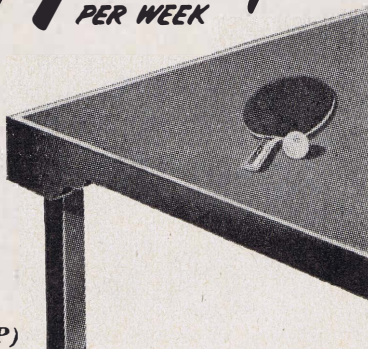
WALES v. IRELAND, Wales, Mar. 10th.

IRISH OPEN, Dublin, Mar. 14th, 15th, 16th, 20th, 23rd, 24th.

NORTH-WEST, Strabane, Mar. 16th, 17th.

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55/TT58

AUSTRALIAN

CARNIVAL

by **C. M. GRUBER**

THE 1955 Australian Table Tennis Carnival was held at Earls Court, Melbourne, a place which, last year, was described by Richard Bergman, as well up to world standard. Seven titles were to be decided and 155 players entered from all states of Australia. Among them were numerous state and ex-state champions, plus four members of world championships teams: Jennings, Peters, Robinson and Wheeler, the holder Phil Anderson being still in England.

There were hardly any surprises before the Men's Open reached the quarter-finals stage, save for the elimination of Cec. Wheeler, in the first round by Victorian McIlvena, who is a pen-grip sponge man.

In the quarters Jennings was untroubled in beating B. Peters 16, 13, 16, while Bill Bates (Vic.) accounted for the No. 3 seed, H. Porter of Queensland —14, 15, 19, 17.

Hard-hitting McIlvena found a match in Ken Evans, who won 14, 20, 19, but Arden Robinson was 2-1 down against Victorian Vic Matison (No. 2 in 1952) before he could summon all his ability to clinch the next two games and the rubber 17, —12, —13, 18, 14.

Compared with the quarter-finals the semis were somewhat of an anti-climax. Bill Bates, who was a quarter-finalist in 1954 and also West Australian champion before returning to his native Victoria, is a dour defender who was in good form. But what could he do against the brilliance of Geoff Jennings, who hit winners at will? Geoff made short work of it and Bates never got going, losing 12, 6, 10.

SOUND ALL-ROUND

Ken Evans, also an old campaigner and a semi-finalist in 1953, when he was beaten by Lou Laza, was expected to give Robinson a run for his money. However the Queensland seemed to have fully recovered from his near-defeat the previous day, and his sturdy defence, mixed with slashing forehand drives, had Evans running all over the place. Evans, not so fleet as years ago could not move quickly enough and had to submit 16, 18, 17.

Applause greeted Jennings and Robinson when they took up their positions for the final. The former was odds-on favourite, not having dropped a single game during the whole championship, while Robinson was beaten in Teams matches and had a narrow shave in the quarters.

Being aware of Robinson's strong attack Jennings took no chances and attacked himself, changing rapidly from backhand to forehand and vice versa.

Though his opponent made good recoveries he just was not in the game and Jennings won the first two games untroubled, 12, 18.

Then suddenly Robinson took charge and Jennings was pushed back into a defensive game. The straight-set theory quickly vanished and pessimists gave Jennings away, remembering the 1954 final, when he had also led 2—0 against Anderson and then lost the next three.

The war of the giants went on after the break, with Robinson still in charge of the game, winning 16, 19, thus equalising to 2—2.

A bitter battle of driving and counter-driving was waged in the decider with Robinson leading 12—10, when the players changed ends. The spectators roared encouragement to Jennings, while his little wife was near to tears. For those who do not know, I must mention that Geoff moved to Victoria in April and is playing for that state now instead of for New South Wales.

STIRRING FIGHT

The fight went on with undiminished energy and Jennings' brilliant backhand (taught by Barna!) enabled him to draw level at 16 all. Then Robinson began to falter and though he made a last minute do or die effort, it was too late and Jennings ran out the winner 21—17.

The ovation given by the onlookers almost shook the hall to its foundations. And there was pride on the faces of Mrs. Jennings and Geoff's coach Keith Bowler.

Compared with the Men's Singles, the other events shrank into insignificance.

In the Men's Doubles the two top-seeded pairs Jennings-Griffin and Evans-Matison were beaten in the semis and Robinson-Shaw (Queensland) were left to fight it out with Victorians Peters-Sibbison.

This was a dour scrap as all players, but Robinson, relied on chopping rather than having a bash, and the Queenslanders just scraped home, —9, 15, —17, 12, 19 after a doubtful edgeball was awarded to their benefit.

Continued on page 29

How to overcome 'TOURNAMENT CREEPS'

by KENNETH RAWNSLEY

NOT long now before the season is in full swing! Are you ready for that tournament? Are you looking forward to reaching the top? Or are you one of those who get "tournament nerves"?

IT'S here!. The season which gives us every opportunity and excuse for a first-class game; the time when we all look forward to spending pleasant hours at the table. Yet do we ALL really look forward to beating the other fellow? I wonder!

Table Tennis tournaments like all other competitive events are merely tests. So if "nerves" figure in your play; if they "get you down" follow my advice. Then you won't feel so worried about the "creeps" coming on!

Ever had the "creeps"? Be honest, of course you have! We all have and I am the first to admit it. You know the sensation—rather like going into a dark room when young or walking through a cemetery at midnight! Something like the feeling that comes over you when watching a shadowy hand flick out of a dark alleyway at the cinema! Yes, the "creeps" can play a part on making Table Tennis players give up the ghost.

"NERVES" get us all at times even though we hope they won't. No man or woman living possesses "nerves like steel." I once knew an engineer who could take a car round a racing track at terrific speed without batting an eye-lid and yet, the presence of a cat in his room gave him the "creeps." Why? I wouldn't know in his case, but I know what causes "nerves" in Table Tennis players and others.

All of us are conscientious in our play, endeavouring all the time to out-match the opponent, or else put up a good show. We just don't take kindly to the idea of the "other chap" beating us and it's a good point though unfortunately we can't quite make it. Why? Simply because we've got "tournament nerves."

What does the other fellow across the table feel like? Does he feel the same? He may not look to have nerves, but if he's honest he has AND POSSIBLY THEY ARE WORSE THAN YOURS!

Why doesn't he show them? Probably because long training has brought him to the pitch when they are not as glaring as in your case, but they are there just the same.

No matter how expert we may become, no matter how hard we try, the stark truth remains—WE ALL GET "NERVES"! It's just a question of keeping them under control.

EVERYONE who takes part in a test of any description is nervous—from the winner to the loser. A test is never a joke except afterwards! But in the heat of the fray, when both sides are pitting their skill, nerves are present, though when one is "lost" in a game the possibility of them showing is more remote than in a friendly game. Still, they are there—NEVER FORGET THAT. And don't be ashamed because you are nervous.

Even the champions—the top-flight men you read about but may seldom play against get "nerves" for they are only human after all, though sometimes when they hit the ball we wonder if they really are!

They get "nerves" but have learnt to conquer them at the table AND YET when they leave the room they are probably just a "bag of nerves." That's what doctors and psychologists call "nerve reaction."

I'm not a doctor but I know that there's a lot of truth in this assertion. And now that we know what causes "tournament nerves"—that highly competitive fever, that desire to outmatch our opponent—let us look at the problem from the angle of a "cure."

You will note I quote the word "cure," for, technically speaking, there is no such thing. The most you can do is keep your *physical nerves in order*. And there lies the whole secret to the problem.

BELIEVE it or not (and ask your doctor if you doubt my word) PHYSICAL NERVES ARE THE UNDERLYING REASON WHY YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE OUTWARD EMOTIONS. The word "nerves" is often thought to mean the physical motions—the touching of a tie, the pulling up of shorts and other little acts peculiar to us all, BUT THAT IS NOT SO.

Continued on page 32

AUSTRALIAN CARNIVAL

Continued from page 27

Standard in the Women's Singles sank to a lower ebb than ever before, when two chisselers, Norma Buckland (Victoria) and Pat Cathcart (N.S.W.), who eliminated title-holder Dorli Shipp in the semi (another pushing contest), chopped and pushed for over one hour, till Norma finally won, —11, 15, 17, —17, 11. She had been a finalist twice before, having lost to Dora Beregi and Dorli Shipp respectively.

The N.S.W. girls got revenge in the Doubles when Cathcart-Bowler beat Buckland-Znaminko at half past one in the morning—not the best time to expect top performance from any player!

Evergreen Michael Szabados showed that he had plenty of sting left when he and Pat Cathcart took the Mixed Doubles title, trouncing favourites Ken Evans/Norma Buckland.

Both junior titles also changes hands, holder Barry Griffin (N.S.W.) being beaten by Queenslander J. Stanaway, 23, —9, 20, in the Boys' Final and Junior girl champion, Val Stringer, from South Australia, had to admit defeat against Victorian Helen Sullivan, 15, —17, —18.

The Team championship provided the sixth win in a row for the girls from N.S.W., who beat Victoria 6—5 in the decider, Dorli Shipp just holding off Helen Sullivan in the last rubber.

In the Men's event Jennings proved to be a key-man, helping Victoria to a well-deserved win. Queensland finished second and N.S.W., with no replacement for Jennings, third.

Thus the championships brought four wins to Victoria, three to N.S.W. and two to Queensland, showing the close rivalry between those states.

The other three states were merely also-rans. Indeed in the Men's Open, the quarter-finalists consisted of six Victorians and two Queenslanders.

The carnival also proved the value of overseas experience and we can see forward to the Tokio Championships when Jennings, Robinson and several other players will add further to their knowledge.

TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

★

The Tops in T.T. Topics

CUT OUT THE PAMPERING

Continued from page 14

attainment of his sports ambition. Nor does he kid himself that he is doing it for the benefit of his country. No World class player hit the heights other than by lavishing heart, mind and body on the game and by taking obstacles in his stride.

Nowadays youth enjoys the sweets of stardom almost before it has learned to hold a bat. Small wonder that so many have become bigheaded.

I'm exaggerating? O.K. Look around at our so called young stars and mark down how many strike you as worthwhile prospects. Look back at the product of recent years and name those who have made the grade. And think of the great stars who, so far from being mollycoddled in their teens, really had it rugged in every way.

Many of our young 'uns look good in their track suits and hairnets, off the table, but in performance and outlook they fall miles short of those of the genuine up-and-comer, for which no thanks are due to their well meaning guardians.

A little more whip and less strawberries and cream might help to shake England out of her present Table Tennis rut, and make her a real challenger for World supremacy.

ESTREHAM'S SUCCESS STORY

Continued from page 15

But one vital fact cannot be overlooked—Mr. Wernham wanted publicity, so he went to the right place—his local paper—and get it just for the asking!

Table Tennis Review offers that facility to all who want it—at only the expense of a postage stamp.

But let us get back to the Estreham Club. By September 1954 it had three teams fighting in the South London League—and two of them won the championships of their divisions.

That was the perfect backing to the Estreham badge motto "*Facta Non Verba*"—"Deeds, not Words."

Reading through the batch of press cuttings forwarded by Mr. Wernham, I see that the club remained open throughout the summer, with very good support.

Coming up for season 1955/56 the Estreham folk will play at more commodious premises, at Howland Hall, just off the Streatham High Road, and with a new £50 table added to their equipment.

Nice going Estreham! It's always pleasant to read of success against the odds and the dismal Jimmies.

There must, however, be more stories of a similar nature elsewhere—so send them along—they could be an inspiration to others, who are tottering on the brink of taking the plunge, without being just able to make up their minds.

THE MALTA STORY *Continued from page 25*

However, as this club was frequented by many members and non-members, the game became so popular that in a short time other band clubs, together with Catholic Action Centres, introduced the game, and so in the space of a few years the game gained immense popularity.

But the cradle of Table Tennis in Malta remained the St. Cajetan Band Club, and it was befitting that this club should organise the first competitions for clubs and also for individuals. After the war another club did its very best to encourage the game. Melita F.C.—which was the only amateur football club at that time—started to organise open competitions, which were also of great help.

In 1953, the St. Cajetan Band Club decided that it was high time to form an Association, and an extraordinary general meeting, calling all Table Tennis enthusiasts, was fixed. The response to this meeting was more than was expected and in a matter of one month the Malta Table Tennis Association was founded. I was privileged to be the Hon. Secretary, and so during January the first real Malta Table Tennis Championships were staged.

The St. Cajetan Band Club team consisting of A. Spiteri, A. Vella and A. Lentini won the National Teams Championships and A. Pellegrini Petit, of the Civil Service Sports Club, carried the National Singles Championship. The Challenge Cups for these championships were kindly donated by the Malta Tobacco Co., Ltd. and by the Rediffusion Co., respectively.

The Championships were a huge success and 73 entries for the Singles and 28 for the Teams took part. The public also did its best and all the thrilling finals took place in front of a record crowd.

GOOD RESULTS

Last year, two more Championships, besides the Teams and Singles, were introduced. The National Doubles and the National Women's championship were also staged with good results. The good crowd which attended the earlier rounds forced the Association to hire a spacious hall for the Finals, and the directors of the Phoenicia Hotel kindly consented to let us stage the finals in their ballroom.

On the first day, the National Teams Championship, between St. Cajetan Band Club and Melita Football Club, took place and in a thrilling final in front of a packed house, the holders beating Melita by six games to three.

On the second day, the National Doubles Championship between A. Vella and J. Gambin of Dockyard Services Sports Club and A. Pellegrini Petit and L. Xerri of

**PLAYER
OF THE YEAR**

CONGRATULATIONS to Diane Rowe on being awarded the Victor Barna Trophy.

She was deemed "Player of the Year" for her feat in beating "Angel" Rozeanu and Ella Zeller in the England—Rumania Corbillon Cup final tie, which England lost 3-2.

It must have been a toss-up whether she or Ros, who incidentally to my way of thinking showed a better international record than her sister, or both together, would 'click' for the honour. But Diane has come through and none will begrudge the game little battler her award.

Certainly not Ros, who has for five years always had her nose a little in front and scooped more of the cream than her sister.

Melita Football Club was played. The latter won by three games to two.

THRILLER

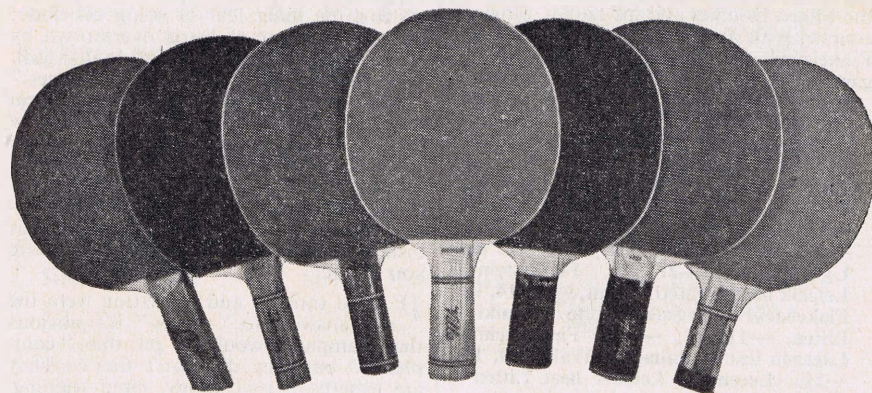
In the Ladies' Championship, Mary Rose Xerri defeated her twin sister Margaret in three straight sets, in a thrilling finish.

A. Pellegrini Petit won the Singles championship for the second year, by overwhelming Malta's steadiest defender, Alfred Spiteri, by three games to two.

After the final, His Honour the Lieut. Governor, who together with Mrs. Trafford Smith, witnessed the events, presented the cups and trophies to the winners.

The Malta Table Tennis Association will be staging the 1956 Championships during the early months of the year, and it is hoped that it will be another success. However, besides the staging of the Championships, the Association will, this year, do its best to affiliate with the International Table Tennis Federation, in order that teams from abroad can be invited to our little Island which, as many foreigners have remarked, is mad about any kind of sports.

J. DEBATTISTA

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SOUTH AFRICA v. ISRAEL

Continued from page 21

the Singles. Unfortunately close defeats in the Mixed Doubles and the Ladies' Singles, coupled with another fine performance by Finkelstein gave Israel the match by 9 games to 5.

Scorecard: Finkelstein beat Wall, 12, 11; beat Paitaiki, —7, 13, 13; beat Shotland, 16, 15. Yeshua beat Wall, 18, 14; beat Paitaiki, —13, 8, 11; beat Shotland, 19, 11. Luceanu lost to Wall, 23-21, —17, —13; lost to Paitaiki, 18, —16, —10; lost to Shotland, 9, —17, —17. Mrs. Leipnik beat Mrs. Van der Vyver, —15, 23-21, 17. Finkelstein / Leipnik beat Paitaiki / Chiat, —18, 14, 18. Finkelstein / Yeshua lost to Paitaiki / Litten, —11, 11, —15. Finkelstein / Luceanu lost to Paitaiki / Wall, —9, 14, —11. Luceanu / Leipnik beat Litten / Chiat, —7, 18, 18.

5th TEST, JOHANNESBURG

For the final test Rex Edwards returned to the side with Shotland remaining as non-playing captain. Gordon Curtis replaced Wall and the Israeli side remained the same. From the very first service the Tourists never looked liked losing their unbeaten record and romped home comfortable winners 11—3, in the all day match.

Edwards was in fine form in front of his home crowd and robbed Finkelstein of his unbeaten record in a great Singles match. He also had much to do with the two more Springbok successes, winning a further Singles and a Mixed with Mrs. Chiat.

Scorecard: Finkelstein lost to Edwards, 18, 20-22, —12; beat Paitaiki, 10, 16; beat Curtis, 16, 16. Yeshua beat Edwards, 16, 23-25, 13; beat Paitaiki, 9, 18; beat Curtis, 22-20, 18. Vardy lost to Edwards, 10, 11; beat Paitaiki, 17, 18; beat Curtis, 10, 17. Mrs. Leipnik beat Mrs. Van der Vyver, 9, 17. Finkelstein / Leipnik beat Paitaiki / Van der Vyver, 17, 9. Finkelstein / Luceanu beat Paitaiki / Litten, 16, 18. Finkelstein / Yeshua beat Paitaiki / Edwards, —19, 12, 10. Luceanu / Leipnik lost to Edwards / Chiat, 16, —14, —18.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 11

- 1952-3.
- Barna, Bellak and Szabados.
- 6 ozs.
- Ernie Bublely. He was a violinist and wore the glove to prevent his fingers from blistering.
- (a) St. Bride Vase. (b) G. Geist Prize. (c) Iran Cup.
- Andriadis. The others use sponge.
- Fred Perry.
- Helen Houliston.
- Trudi Pritzi.
- Diane.

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TOURNAMENT CREEPS *Continued from page 28*

"Nerves" is merely a contrite word meaning the inner tremblings of the system; the inner fear of being out-done; the constant fear of being overthrown by an opponent or being made to look a fool. These are covered by the word "nerves."

So, look to your physical nerves, and you need not worry so much. Yes, I know that mind training plays its part; so does relaxation, but in the final analysis, looking to the physical or Motor Nerves, as they are called, is the only possible and common-sense solution towards keeping down this insidious, devilish sensation of losing before you begin.

IF mind training and relaxation were the real answers to "nerves" it's obvious the champions wouldn't get this "complaint" but they do, don't they? They are experts in psychology, mind training, relaxation and all the other paraphernalia of masters in their play, but in the final reckoning they look to their physical nerves and general health.

What are the methods to be used to "cure" this condition? Well that depends on your outlook on life. If you believe in drug tablets there are hundreds of so-called "nerve" cures on the market, but they DO NOT CURE! Only by looking to your system in a Natural way can you hope to combat this threat of failure—this feeling of being outmatched.

The next time you are called upon to take part in a tournament (or any game at all) drink a full glass of cold water, fifteen minutes before the start. You'll be surprised at the way it "plays" on to your nerves, for water is a sedative. It calms your Motor Nerves—soothing them and giving you a wonderful feeling of being "on top"—ready to "have a go" at the World Champion himself! It's worth it, believe me.

BUT if you are one of those poor individuals who suffer from "nerves" all the time; those, who, when a tournament is mentioned, "take fright" and say "I can't play—it's my nerves" then there is another remedy that has stood the test of time—a herbal remedy.

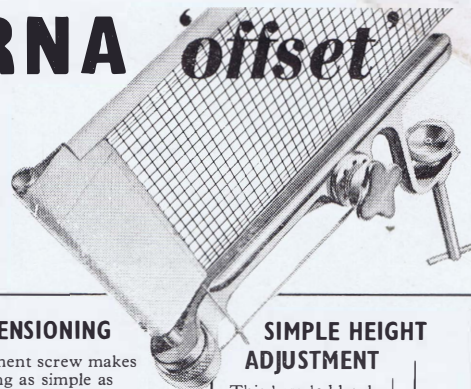
Take one ounce each of Scullcap and Valerian. Pour two pints of boiling water over the herbs, flavour with Honey and when cold, strain and drink a wineglassful three times daily, AFTER MEALS. Speaking from experience, this remedy will buck you up!

Nerves or no nerves the fact remains that you can conquer them easily and quickly by looking to your general health. Build it up and down will come that sensation of "creeps"! If not let me know and I will try to build up your nerves.

Stamped envelope please for advice.

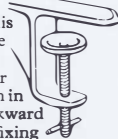
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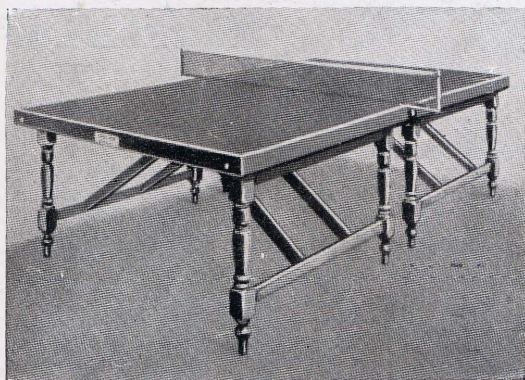
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