

SEPTEMBER, 1952

SIXPENCE

TABLET TENNIS



Portrait by Dorothy Wilding

Her Majesty The Queen

Contributors include:

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GEOFF. COULTHREAD

Table



Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by **LESLIE S. WOOLLARD**

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Vol. 11

SEPTEMBER, 1952

No. 1

EDITORIAL

The Royal Patronage

Buckingham Palace,
3rd June, 1952.

I am commanded by The Queen to inform you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant her Patronage to the English Table Tennis Association

Ullick Alexander,
Keeper of the Privy Purse.

THIS Message is a royal accolade for the sport of Table Tennis wherever it is played. To English hearts it is the fulfilment of a high hope and will bring a profound pleasure and a sense of loyal and proud affection for the Gracious Lady who has succeeded her illustrious father as our Patron.

His late Majesty KING GEORGE VI was, in his kindly wisdom and uncommon touch, deeply aware that few spheres of human activity are better calculated to establish goodwill and mutual understanding between nations and creeds than the fields of international sport. It is then part of England's rich heritage that Englishmen shall "play the game" for "the game's sake," and "playing the game" has thus become a deeply significant term which is universally recognised and honoured as an English way of life. Similarly, throughout the world there is a universal respect for the British Royal Family and their protagonism for the things which are of good repute. By her gracious Patronage, Her Majesty has perpetuated the honoured place of England in the table tennis world.

Her husband, THE DUKE, has also quickly won himself a place in the hearts of the people by his intimate association and lively interest in sporting activities. Seldom indeed, if ever, in our history have our sports been so well assured of royal interest and national goodwill. Though deeply conscious of the heavy and unceasing demands made upon our ROYAL PATRON and THE DUKE, the auspicious portents enliven our long cherished hope that they will grace one of our great championship meetings with their Royal Presence. It is a stimulating thought to even consider the tremendous impression and influence which would result from their presence at the World Championships of 1954. What incentive could be greater to us all then to ensure that England can and will stage a World Championship truly worthy of Royal Patronage.

THE EDITOR

★ IMPORTANT ★

News Reports, Letters, Notes, Photos, MSS., Suggestions, etc., should be addressed **DIRECT TO :**

The Editor,
LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,
12, Campbell Road, BEDFORD,
and should be posted early.

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All contributions appearing with the name of the writer are the personal opinions of that writer and are not necessarily those of the Association.

WELSH EDITION

The Welsh Edition of *Table Tennis* includes an extra 4-page supplement incorporating the Official News of the Table Tennis Association of Wales. All enquiries should be addressed **DIRECT** to Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.

YORKSHIRE EDITION

The Yorkshire Edition (like the Welsh) includes the full size *Table Tennis* plus a supplement incorporating all the features of the *White Rose Magazine*. All enquiries should be sent **DIRECT** to Mr. Leslie Forrest, 15, Briarfield Road, Frizinghall, Bradford.

INCREASE TO 24 PAGES

in the size of *Table Tennis* will permit an increase in the space available, and news items will be welcomed from all correspondents. They should be sent direct to The Editor, as any delays may preclude publication.



English Table Tennis Association,
214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square,
LONDON, W.C.2
Administrative Sec.: Mrs. K. PEGG
Phone: TRAFALGAR 2165
Telegraphic: ETABTENNIS, RAND

ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1952-53

THE English Open Championships will be staged at Wembley from 7—11th April, 1953, with the Semi and some Finals on Friday, the 10th April, and remaining Finals on Saturday, the 11th April, 1953.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1952-53

THE World Table Tennis Championships will be held in Bucharest, Rumania from the 20th—29th March, 1953.

WILMOTT CUP AND J. M. ROSE BOWL

The CLOSING DATE for entries for these two national team competitions is 30th September, 1952.

It is proposed that the Semi-Finals and Finals shall be played on 28th February, and all leagues have been given the opportunity of saying whether they would like to stage either event.

APPROVED BALLS

The following balls have been approved by the N.E.C. for the 1952-53 season: Villa XXX and XX; Dunlop-Barna 3 Crown and 2 Crown; Halex 3 Star and 2 Star; Haydon 3 Star and 2 Star.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR TRAINING COURSE

In conjunction with the Central Council of Physical Recreation (the C.C.P.R.) a T.T. Training Course has been arranged for the period 29th December, 1952 to 2nd January, 1953, and will be held at the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall, Salop. The total "all-in" will be 75/- per head, and preference will be given to applicants between 16-25 years of age. The Instructor for the Course will be the E.T.T.A.'s Honorary Director of Coaching, Mr. Jack Carrington.

It may be possible to accept a small number of potential coaches for specialised studies in Coaching given by Mr. Carrington, and leagues or counties should already have sent their nominations direct to the E.T.T.A. Individual applications for the Training Course should NOT be sent to

the E.T.T.A. but sent as soon as possible DIRECT to:

Central Council of Physical
Recreation,
6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

REGISTERED MEMBERS' COMMITTEE 1952/53

The ballot for the election of members for the above Committee was held in July/August, and resulted in the following being elected: Mrs. P. Allen, Messrs. G. V. Barna, J. Carrington, A. A. Haydon, A. W. C. Simons and K. Stanley.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Home International Matches so far arranged are against Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and France (Boys). Away Internationals arranged: France (Men); France (Women); and Wales (Mixed). The annual reciprocal Anglo-Swedish Junior tour was provisionally agreed for December 29th to January 21st, the English boys this year going to Sweden.

PRACTICE COURSE

It is proposed to hold a Practice Course at the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall in September for players selected by the Selection Committee, and no applications need to be made.

SUB-COMMITTEES 1952-53

On the 14th June, the National Executive appointed the following sub-committees:—(Names in alphabetical orders.)

Coaching: J. Carrington, M. Scott, T. Sears, E. G. White, L. S. Woollard.

County Boundaries: H. J. Amery, G. R. Harrower, F. G. Mannoch, A. K. Vint.

Disciplinary: M. Goldstein, G. R. Harrower, I. Montagu, M. Scott, W. Stamp, A. K. Vint, E. G. White.

English Open Championships: Miss L. Ferguson, F. G. Mannoch, I. Montagu, A. K. Vint, H. Walker, E. G. White, C. Corti Woodcock, L. S. Woollard.

Incorporation: G. R. Harrower, I. Montagu, A. K. Vint, E. G. White.

Magazine: G. R. Harrower (Advertising and Circulation Manager), I. Montagu, A. K. Vint, L. S. Woollard (Editor).

Open Tournaments: I. C. Eyles, G. R. Harrower, M. Goldstein, I. Montagu, W. Stamp, A. K. Vint, C. Corti Woodcock.

Grading: I. C. Eyles, G. R. Harrower, G. James.

Rules: G. R. Harrower, I. Montagu, A. K. Vint, E. G. White.

Selection and Ranking: I. Montagu (Chairman), G. R. Harrower (Hon. Secretary), H. J. Amery, N. Cook,

A. A. Haydon, T. Sears, A. Thompson.

Umpires: N. Cook (Chairman), Miss L. Ferguson (Hon Sec.), G. James, A. Montgomery, E. G. White, C. Corti Woodcock.

Victor Barna Award: G. V. Barna, G. R. Harrower, I. Montagu.

Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Competitions: M. Goldstein, F. G. Mannoch, I. Montagu, A. K. Vint, C. Corti Woodcock.

REPRESENTATIVES

The following representatives were also appointed for the forthcoming season:—

National County Championships Council: H. J. Amery and A. K. Vint.

Central Council of Physical Recreation: I. Montagu.

Sunday Freedom Association: C. Corti Woodcock.

ENGLAND BEAT JAPAN TWICE

At Osaka, Japan, on the 4th July, 1952, before 4,000 spectators, England beat Japan 3—1. The details were:

R. BERGMANN bt. M. Fujii 18, —12, 9, 12; bt. T. Satoh 17, 9, 14. J. LEACH lost to Satoh —15, 18, 13, 18, —17. BERGMANN/LEACH bt. Furusawa/Tomita —10, —19, 16, 13, 15.

At Tokyo on the 18th July before 5,000 spectators, England again beat Japan 3—1. The details were:

J. LEACH bt. N. Fujii 9, —11, 22, —8, 22; bt. H. Satoh 14, 11, 13. R. BERGMANN bt. H. Satoh 9, —18, 14, 16. BERGMANN/LEACH lost to Fujii/Hayashi —20, —15, —18.

ANALYSIS OF JAPAN TOUR RESULTS

R. Bergmann and J. Leach won 13 matches against other teams, winning 67 individual contests and losing only 4. Bergmann lost only once throughout (to Tsuruda 1—2) and J. Leach lost only to Satoh (4 times very narrowly) while in Doubles play they lost two out of three matches against Fujii/Hayashi. The analysis of matches played against the top Japanese three is:

	Satoh	Fujii	Hayashi
R. BERGMANN	6	2	4
J. LEACH	5-4	1	3

showing 21 wins out of 25 matches.

HONG KONG BEAT ENGLAND

Hong Kong, 12th August, 1952

At Hong Kong on the 12th August, 1952, England lost 1—3. The details were:

R. BERGMANN lost to Su-Chu Sih 1—3; lost to Wing-Ning Keung 2—3; J. LEACH bt. Wing-Ning Keung 3-1; BERGMANN/LEACH lost to Fu/Sih 1—3.

England Unbeaten in Japan

by

Johnny Leach

AOMORI, JAPAN, 24th June, 1952

WE arrived on schedule on Thursday, the 19th, after a reasonably calm flight, with night stops at Rangoon and Hong Kong. After a wonderful reception we spent four hours discussing the tour. It has been well organised, but rather hectic. The average journey takes 8 to 10 hours and the arrangement is for us to travel one day and play on the next. (To-day we were travelling by boat and train for 13 hours!)

We are to play a total of 15 matches, and by winning the first two, are as yet unbeaten. Last night Richard beat Hayashi 3—1 (three of the four games being rather close). I beat Satoh 24—22 in the fifth after winning the first two 14, 14 and leading 19—17 in the third. I was even leading 18—13 in the fifth! Richard did not play him, but we both



No. 751

The veranda of the Wataya Hotel, Kumamoto with the natural flowering tree in the background makes an almost theatrical setting for RICHARD BERGMANN (left) and JOHNNY LEACH, garbed in Japanese kimonos, during an interlude in their strenuous but victorious Oriental tour. (13/7/52)

meet him to-morrow night when he is playing for his home town, Aomori, and I also have to play an exhibition match with Hayashi.

There are very few sponge bats out here and there were none on the market UNTIL Satoh won the World's. The Japanese were so impressed with our open style of game (which they saw in Bombay), that they have formed an association called the "SHAKE HAND GRIP SOCIETY"!

Quite a number of their rules are different. For instance, the score of the person on the RIGHT hand side of the umpire is ALWAYS called first, whether he is serving or not. Then they allow 60 minutes for the best of 3 games and 100 minutes for the best of 5 games. This means that if the score is 1—all (in a best of 3) after playing for 55 minutes, you are only allowed 5 minutes to play the decider.

The Japanese toss twice for choices. The first is for choice of balls. Samples of all the approved balls are on the umpire's table, and the winner of the toss can select his preference.

Another interesting point is that they always score in English. At first we thought this was a special courtesy for our benefit, but now find that this has always been the custom.

IMPERIAL HOTEL, TOKYO, Sunday, 20th July, 1952

YOU will have heard the result of yesterday's International match in which England beat Japan. This was also our last match in this country. Our tour has been much more successful than we anticipated. Travelling to the many parts of Japan we have played 15 matches and won them all decisively, and so feel very confident that we have mastered the sponge bat and, of course, justified our style and equipment. Sponge bat adherents are a very small minority in Japan and at least 90% of the players use rubbered bats.

In every one of the places where we have played there have been complete "sell-outs." The welcomes can only be described as "terrific," starting off with a parade through the streets in open cars with hundreds of people lining the roads and throwing streamers at us.

At 4.30 a.m. to-morrow we fly to Hong Kong en route for the Philippines where we are to play 4 matches in Manila followed by 6 matches in the new Stadium at Hong Kong. We then visit Viet Nam for a few shows (mostly at Saigon) and then finish the tour with a fortnight through India and two nights in Karachi.

A.P.S. adds: "I have only had three games of golf since leaving home. Golf courses are very scarce in Japan—so is TIME."



No. 750

The Hon. IVOR MONTAGU (I.T.T.F. President and E.T.A. Chairman) discusses the sponge-surfaced racket of World Champion Satoh with IVAN ANDREADIS, Czechoslovakia's stylish No. 1, at a recent meeting. Meanwhile, Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach were actually in Japan establishing a convincing supremacy for "orthodox" styles. (12/7/52)

LATER FIXTURES

NOTIFIED

Nov.	19/22	Merseyside Open.
	22	Bath Open.
	25	England v. France (Men).
	28/29	Pontefract Open.
	29	Bournemouth Open.
	30	Kent Junior Open.
Dec.	2	Champion County v. Rest.
	4	Wales v. England.
	4/6	Welsh Open.
	7/13	Central London Open.
Jan.	3	Dorset Open.
	4/6	French Open (Paris).
	7	France v. England (W.).
	5/10	Metropolitan Open.
	12/17	South London Open.
	16/17	South Yorks. Open.
	18	Southampton Open.
	18/24	N.W. Kent Open.
	31/1	Kent Open (Folkestone). German D.T.T.B. Championships.
Feb.	6/7	Midland Open (Birmingham). Burma Closed (Rangoon).
	4/14	Middlesex (Herga) Open.
	20/22	Cheshire Open.
	23/27	Surrey Open (Epsom).
	28	T.T. Cups Finals.
Mar.	4	France v. England (Men).
	7	West of England.
	4/14	West Middlesex Open.
	14	Yorks Junior Open.
	20/29	World Championships.
	21	Grimsby Open.
Apr.	4/5	Scottish Open.
	4/6	N.E. England Open. Nigerian Championships.
	7/11	ENGLISH OPEN.
	17/18	Lancashire Open.
	17	Guernsey.
May	2/3	Bucks Open.
	4/9	Thameside Open.

THAMESIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

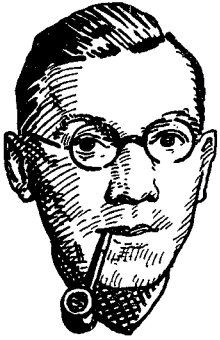
Plaistow, May, 1952

M.S.	J. LEACH	bt. H. Venner	16, 19, —18, —22, 10.
W.S.	Miss D. ROWE	bt. Miss R. Rowe	17, —18, 17.
M.D.	J. CARRINGTON/J. LEACH	bt. K. Craigie/H. Venner	16, —17, 12.
W.D.	D. & R. ROWE	bt. M. Franks/J. Roberts	17, 12.
X.D.	J. LEACH/D. ROWE	bt. D. Miller/M. Piper	14, 19.
B.S.	C. DARTS	bt. I. Jones	8, 14.

FIXTURE BOOK

In the Open Tournaments below, the Events shown are ADDITIONAL to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D., in every case. Where known the CLOSING DATE for Entries is shown in brackets after the Title. Organisers should check information and advise The Editor of any additions or amendments. All available information at the time of going to press has been included.

Date(s)	Details and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
1952			
Aug.			
4/14	SOUTH AMERICAN OPEN		Paraguay.
Sept.			
4/6	CANADIAN OPEN		
20/21	EAST OF ENGLAND OPEN (Sept. 12), Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness.	B.S. G.S.	Mrs. F. A. Merryweather, c/o Ruston-Bucyrus Ltd., Lincoln.
Oct. 4	YORKSHIRE OPEN		Mr. J. B. Leyden, "Cliffoney," Hartley Park View, Pontefract, Yorks.
11	DEVON OPEN Exeter.		Hon. Sec. of County Association is: Mr. W. E. Davey, 14, Kennerley Avenue, Exeter.
1/15	PARAGUAY CLOSED		
5/12	INDIAN OPEN		Indore City, Madhya Bharat State.
16/18	NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN (Oct. 4) Drill Hall, 606 H.A.A., R.A., Rusholme, Manchester 14.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Burnage, Manchester 19.
25/26	SUSSEX OPEN (Oct. 8) Sea End and White Rock Pavilions, Hastings.	B.S.	Mr. K. R. Hayward, Top Flat, 10, Wellington Place, Hastings.
Nov.	YUGOSLAV OPEN		Belgrade.
1	BIRMINGHAM OPEN Indoor Sports Stadium or Friends Hall.	B.S. G.S. J.D. Vet.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
4	AUSTRIAN OPEN		Vienna.
3/8	EAST SUBURBAN OPEN Y.M.C.A., Plaistow and Baths Hall, Ilford.	B.S. G.S.	
8	HARTLEPOOLS OPEN	B.S.	Mr. B. Ingram, 76, Chatham Road, West Hartlepool, Durham.
8/9	BELGIAN OPEN		Brussels.
9	PORTSMOUTH OPEN (Oct. 25) South Parade Pier, Southsea.		Mr. A. W. Williams, 85, Lyndhurst Road, North- end, Portsmouth.
14/16	SOUTH OF ENGLAND OPEN ()	B.S. G.S.	Mr. C. A. Bourne, 15a, Red- down Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.
15	HULL AND EAST RIDING OPEN (Nov. 6)	J.S.	Mr. H. Flinton, 28, Albert Avenue, Anlaby Road, Hull.



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"What weapons has the Lion but himself"
—Keats.

THE season ahead is one that cries for positive Action on many fronts. To those with English pride, to those who love the sport of Table Tennis—to you who read this—there comes the moral responsibility of taking some part in this Action. Our first big concern must be for the World Championship 1954 Fighting Fund in answer to the Appeal launched at the end of last season.

There have been scores of wonderfully encouraging letters and promises from tiny isolated clubs, to those large leagues (accepting a collective responsibility for their member clubs), but the amount is still nowhere near enough the £4,000 guarantee needed. There are still large numbers of clubs (or their leagues) mightily conspicuous by their absence.

As a constitutional problem, the E.T.T.A. felt that it must be referred direct to each member club. It put the matter frankly, fairly and squarely. It asked each club to undertake to raise 20/- in the next two years (10/- each year or a little more than 2d. a week). It asked each member club to write AT ONCE to the E.T.T.A. and say that it would raise that amount. We would like to report that EVERY club responded immediately, but we cannot.

Some of us in local administration know just how indifferent some club secretaries really can be (unfortunately for the game). Now the League Secretary and his officers are, in a way, also officers of the E.T.T.A. No one can know the local individuals as well as these officers and who, more than a League's Officers, should be anxious to uphold the status, honour and reputation of their league? In the writer's opinion this position puts a moral responsibility bang on to the shoulders of the league official to ensure that his clubs are "Present" when the Roll is called. Leagues, for instance (as many have already done) can write to the E.T.T.A. and say "We will guarantee so much as from the clubs of this League!

The E.T.T.A. want to know URGENTLY. It can even be helpful (although in a negative way) if clubs would say if they are not intending to contribute.

Some leagues and clubs are only now holding their meetings, and guarantees are still coming. The E.T.T.A. ANXIOUSLY AND URGENTLY wants a DEFINITE answer from EVERY club or from the League which represents them. If you are a player, will you make it a point of honour to see that your club or your league DOES give this definite answer VERY SOON. (Remember, the money itself is not needed immediately). A full report and review will appear in the October *Table Tennis*.

Some very frank, "off the record" discussions with prominent personalities over recent weeks have suggested subjects for several interesting and provocative features for future issues. From next month, *Table Tennis* will have 4 EXTRA pages. News,

photos, drawings, reports, letters, ideas, etc. are always welcome from everyone everywhere, and it is hoped that some new arrangements will enable us to cope promptly with all that you send.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,
The Editor

The First One

THE East of England Open Tournament makes its now almost traditional entry as the FIRST Open of the New Season, and is again staged at Butlin's Skegness Holiday Camp, this time on Saturday and Sunday, 20th/21st September. Considerable effort has

gone to ensure ideal conditions. In the rounds, 13 Jaques Tables will be used, each having a runback of 14 feet and a side space of 18 feet.

There is something different about the East of England. It is usually played in a friendly, almost a holiday spirit. Those who are "rusty" come to play themselves in, while the summer practice fans are going like rockets. Top-notchers can afford to lose a match here without any loss of prestige, and the unknowns have many chances. This is a happy meeting place for north and south and it is timed so that most can participate. The holiday atmosphere, and of being able to play until late and then merely walk "round the corner" to bed helps to make the weekend enjoyable and also makes many new friends.

"OFF"-DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

YOUR correspondent is firmly convinced that the only justification for the term "OFF" Season is that it marks a period when players and officials get OFF to do the many things left undone. It is a kind of "close" season of an ever-dwindling length in which T.T. personalities, like oysters and game, can live without fear of demands, destruction, defeat or defiance. The last lonely match of a season (sneaking time from cricket and tennis) is like the "Bang" of the starter's gun that presages "THEY'RE OFF."

Here and there a few forlorn and harassed officials wander, like conscientious groundsmen through the debris bequeathed them by a thousand fans. But "the captains and the kings have departed" and they are left alone to build their paper houses and make their cardboard crowns. And when a Season's sun sets on the English game, the table tennis of the southern hemisphere are already embroiled in the progress of a new season.

For JOHNNY LEACI and RICHARD BERGMANN there was not even the pause of a comma. They took the last late and lonely international match (with France) in the compass of their triumphant passage round the world . . . playing, playing, playing . . . through semi-tropical zones to playing on and on until they return just after the Official Re-opening of the English season * KEN STANLEY, official coach to New Zealand, had already arrived at Wellington and taken up his duties on April 1st for a successful six-month tour which will delay his return until October * That elegant aristocrat of the world's T.T. courts, VICTOR BARNA (with the enchanting Suzy) slipped quietly away from England, like royalty incognito, bound for Iberia and other places * Meanwhile, in the Central European centres where T.T. never stops, England's international T.T. ambassador IVOR MONTAGU, saw and was seen keeping closely in touch * Between ladders of coaching courses, JACK CARRINGTON put the finishing touches to a roomy, one-table T.T. hall at the bottom of his garden, before taking up—in early August—his official duties as Sweden's National Coach for the 4th season, with assistant coach ELSIE CARRINGTON. The first date of his Scandinavian engagement was at the National Sports College of Denmark. Jack and Elsie are due back about mid-September.

Hardly had the "OFF" bell gonged the official end of 1951-52, then the wedding bells began to chime. And keep on chiming! What "starry" weddings they were too! . . . On May 31st the Essex and Ilford star KEITH COLLAR married Betty Sutton at St. Andrew's Church, Ilford. Honeymoon in Devon. As partners in lawn tennis, they won the *Evening News* X.D. championship last year and are the most formidable L.T. mixed twosome in their district * Next international "PINKIE" BARNES married (honeymoon in Devon and Cornwall), and Manchester's "own" international, ADELE WOOD about the same time * Then on June 9th come the "Quiet Wedding" of England's "Bombay" hero—AUBREY SIMONS.

Marriage seems to have brought a change to the run of bad luck which touched Aubrey Simons last February. His injured leg was repairing slowly and he was unable to play cricket for Gloucestershire, while at his club try-outs his form was very indifferent. Then, from the first match after the honeymoon, the Simons score book read: 70 not out . . . 51 not out . . . 42 not out . . . 107 not out . . . averaging 111 so far! With an Aubrey Simons married to Lady Luck and feeling thoroughly fit after his enforced "taking-it-easy," look out, England. * All good wishes to the new mixed doubles teams.

We hear that the Lincs. leaders FRED and DEREK MERRYWEATHER holidayed in Cornwall and bruised their merry way to a mastery of surf-riding. Derek Merryweather, by the way, has continued to play cricket for Lincs. County . . . for the record, in the first match of the season against Notts. 2nd at Trent Bridge he notched 66 and 37 not out.

The acrobatic Chilean VICENTE GUTIERREZ (pictured in *May Table Tennis*) has extended his stay in England and has been engaged for many exhibitions. PETER SKERRATT, now in the Services, is stationed in Germany, a hard blow for Lincs. Premier Division entry.

For many people one of the biggest surprises of the OFF season was the refusal of GEOFF. HARROWER to stand for re-election as Secretary for Middlesex because of his heavy commitments. The office has been filled by popular PETER LOWEN. Much of Geoff. Harrower's summer has been taken up with the compilation of the *Table Tennis Annual*.

Into this brief chronicle of off days, highdays and holidays comes an unhappy note of sad misfortune. At 9 p.m., 21st July, Liverpool's cheerful master-organiser and N.E.C. Member, BILLIE STAMP, fell in the garden. A splinter of bone was dislodged and "locked" the knee causing him to tear all the upper leg muscles of his one and only leg. He was operated on almost immediately and spent 4 weeks in bed with bandages and splints up to the thigh. He appears to be "a darling" at the Royal Southern Hospital from where we hear that, "he is a wonderful person really, and a marvellous patient." He has been surprisingly cheerful for one of so active a nature, and with humorous relish says that the special weight-reducing diet is something he has been meaning to get down to for a long time. He is most determined to be about for his "special pet"—the Merseyside Open—in mid-November. Meanwhile, MRS. "NAN" STAMP has carried on like an Ulysses at the Labours, with a smooth efficiency that is remarkable when she must be so harassed. Liverpool also had a good Committee and they are sure to rally round. The good wishes of all T.T. enthusiasts will, we know, go out spontaneously to Billie and Nan.

L.W.

The Passing of Ferenc Soos

by Ferenc Gyorgy

“SOOS! Ah, le Soos! Il est unique!” cried the entranced audience in Paris at the time when Ferenc Soos played in the *Ville de Lumiere*. Frenchmen appreciate the spirit underlying good sport and it is, therefore, understandable that they were ‘fous’ for Soos with his clever play, so full of varied ideas and cunning inventions. Many people have reckoned Soos as the player with the most skilful technique in Europe. He had table tennis craft to his finger tips, and his play combined the arts of mental agility and skilful conjuring.

It is not generally known that the T.T. players of the world can thank (???) Ference Soos for the Flat Hand Service Rule. It happened in this way at the Paris World Championships in the memorable Soos v. Bordrez match.

In Bordrez, Soos met another “Artist of Service” of his own calibre, and NEITHER player was able to take the first 15 services! Obeying the wonderful finger-spin tricks, the ball danced, rolled, twisted, turned and bounced like a thing bewitched, and

was so strange and baffling that it was accompanied by the loud laughter of the spectators. The T.T. chiefs (although they appreciated the finer points) had to take some action against such tactics, and the new Service Rule was the result. Yet, even deprived of his service tricks, Soos remained one of the great players of the world and was the finalist of the World Championships in Budapest in 1950 when he lead Bergmann 2—0 in that unforgettable fight and came within a point or so of the world title.

And now a tragic twist of Fate.

But do you know the secret of Soos? When he was 15 years old he was seriously ill with bronchial catarrh. That is why he had no powerful hit. Instinctively he did not dare to attempt a strong drive for fear of tearing open his cicatrized lung. Because he could not become a powerful hitter, he had to make good the deficiency with his wiles and brilliant control technique.

To add to his misfortune, Soos has always been a passionate motor-cyclist.

Fate warned him: two motor cycles were stolen from him. He bought a third, and running it through wintry weather, he caught a chill and suffered a relapse of his old illness. Then came that superhuman struggle with Bergmann. It was the *coup de grace*. He spent four months in various sanatoria and put on so much weight that he became unrecognisable. Neither, alas, could you recognise his play. When he continued to play (against his doctors’ warnings) there was no trace of his former skill. His weak heart and lung handicapped his movements. Again and again he was defeated by nameless players. His face was white and he became quickly exhausted. Soos fans (of which the writer is one) were deeply touched. Then he leaned on his old bat and said:

“If I don’t win now I am dead, and you can bury me!” and he went out to play his last opponent, the little Vegh, and the junior player beat the former titan in straight games. It seemed almost an omen, because for a Hungarian the word “Vegh” means “Finish”.

There can only be hope that this is not really the finish for a great player.

Living up to their Motto



No. 758

In the issue of *Table Tennis* for LAST September, we wished success to the West Skirbeck T.T.C. of Boston, Lincs., who proposed to live up to their “Latinised” motto of *Ad Summum Et Practicis*. We must now add our congratulations, for the result has been that the men’s team have won promotion to the First Division and the Ladies’ Team are now the League Champions. They are seen above with their club badge and trophy, l. to r.: Mrs. E. Renshaw; (seated, centre) Miss Margery Jackson, the hon. sec., and Miss S. Aspinall.

“Our Champs”

By WALTER STEINTZ

There is a chap who once he’s beaten, curses
And calls narrow defeats, “reverses”.
But Champs enjoy good player’s interference
And call it afterwards “experience”.

BARNA

Our Victor seems as young as ever
And so clever.
It isn’t only us who get the kick
Out of his famous backhand flick.

LEACH

They say that he is in the money
Our Johnny.
And when he’s had a little rest
He’ll be the best.

BERGMANN

As favourite he’s always in the running.
He’s stunning—and cunning.
Let’s hope next time he even traps,
Perhaps—the Japs.

ROWE TWINS

I’ll never know which of our Twins
Wins
Because I can’t make out who’s who,
Can you ? ?

The Dunlop T. T. Film

LAST season we mentioned the 10-minute Barna-Szabados T.T. Film made by Dunlop Sports Co., and which is loaned free of charge to any club, school or organisation interested. It has already been seen by thousands (whose main criticism is that it is too short!).

TABLE TENNIS has now been able to scoop three "stills" from the film and pick up a few fragments of the lively and instructive commentary given by

RAYMOND GLENDENNING

"..." Miklos Szabados, 11 world titles, says table tennis is almost as tough as boxing... Table tennis IS tough, as you will see from this demonstration. The very speed which makes it more and more popular with the players and so thrilling to spectators demands perfect physical fitness. Keen eyesight, split second thinking, perfect timing and the stamina of a trained athlete...

The most famous personality in the game is Victor Barna... With the backhand drive his pressure on the bat comes from the thumb instead of the forefinger, but make sure your grip isn't too tight. It must be supple. The left shoulder is turned back and as the movement of the arm is upwards, the ball must be hit on the upward bounce, and never as it's dropping. A right handed player must stand sideways to the net with his right foot nearer the table...

In attack, Victor Barna plays "lifting" shots, taking the ball early on the rise, until he gets the return he wants. Then he goes for the kill, hitting the ball at the top of the bounce with absolute finality...

You must know how to attack. Championships are not necessarily won through the mistakes of your opponent, but defence is still the foundation... This is slow motion to show you what it really looks like... Now for a close up of these world stars...

Watch Barna's footwork. Backhand drive, forehand drive... In slow motion we clearly see his arm jerk... The most difficult stroke is to return a chop with a chop. Here is the best way of doing it...

Barna says the right temperament is a gift from the gods, for a real champion knows that poor concentration means poor play... Match point. Barna presses... The game is lightning fast and packed with action... a thrilling display of skill which is the result of months—years—of methodical practice... That's Table Tennis—a game that's got EVERYTHING."



No. 752

"In serving, the palm of the hand must be flat, the fingers straight and the thumb free..."



No. 753

"With the backhand drive..."



No. 754

"Szabados is fighting back..." A fine-angled picture showing a deep, low chop return from the agile Szabados and the poised, tiptoe alertness of Barna already prepared for the return.

PRESENTATION FOR THE COACHING SCHEME

THE Dunlop Sports Co. have very kindly presented a copy of their Barna-Szabados T.T. Film to the National Coaching Scheme, for which it thus becomes one of the first "visuals aids".

IT'S NEARLY READY!
THE
TABLE TENNIS ANNUAL
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER

An Official Publication for the E.T.T.A.

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Many Special Articles, including :

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"GRADE OPEN TOURNAMENTS" by LEO THOMPSON
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GEOFF. HARROWER (Editor),
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County Championships

By GEOFF HARROWER

Counties are now busy preparing for the coming season, a season which will be a testing one for the National County Table Tennis Championships.

Why do I say this? Because of the heavy increase in Entertainments Duty, the further increases in travelling and hotel costs, and the reduced spending power which makes it more difficult to fill halls to watch sporting events.

I have always contended that it is the duty of County Associations to run County teams, especially Junior teams and teams which give the lesser known players a chance to shine, BUT . . . only so much money can be spent in this direction, and one can see the point of a County which withdraws a team because it loses more money than can be afforded.

The answer lies in the ordinary player and supporter to rally round and make sure that each county match is well supported. This is especially true in the larger centres of population when second team matches are being played. Several counties have second teams much stronger than the first teams of other counties, and yet they do not draw the support.

We are pleased to welcome Worcestershire into the fold, and I am sure that it won't be long now before the areas of the country where there are no County Associations will have shrunk even more, or perhaps have disappeared altogether.

Equally so we are sorry to lose the senior team from Nottinghamshire, and trust that they will re-join next season.

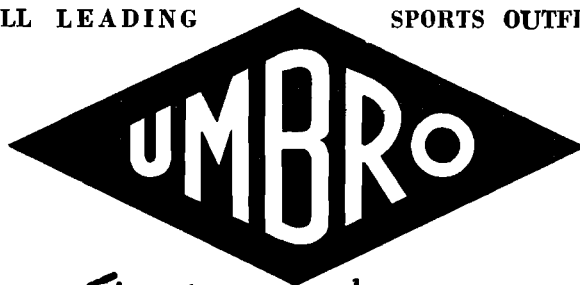
As matches do not start until October, a list of the competing counties, and their divisions, together with the October fixtures, will be given next month. In the meanwhile, West Country followers should make a note of this date, etc.:—

Champion County
v.
The Rest of England
on
Tuesday, 2nd December,
at
Cheltenham Town Hall.

Tickets at 7/6d., 5/., 3/6d. and 2/6d., all reserved, from Mr. J. W. Price, 81, Moored Crescent, Cheltenham.

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SPORTS OUTFITTERS



The choice of champions

MISS HELEN ELLIOT

winner of the following titles :

World's Women's Doubles 1949/50 Scottish Women's Singles 1945/51
Scottish Mixed Doubles 1949/51 Scottish Women's Doubles 1946/51
English Open Mixed 1950/51

Miss Elliot wears "UMBRO" table tennis wear

OUT and ABOUT

with

Peggy Allen

SEPTEMBER's here and already another table tennis season is almost upon us. It seems hard to believe that the Thameside was held four months ago and now the East of England is only three weeks away.

NEW DOUBLES COMBINATIONS

Just now conversation seems to centre around new doubles combinations and forthcoming tournament dates. I hear that Joy Seaman and Jean Wynn are to pair up for the season and if last year's singles form is anything to go by, these two should be carrying off some ladies' doubles trophies soon.

Another new "mixed" combination is that of Peggy Piper and Derek Burridge who won last year's Bournemouth Open in such fine style. Peggy seems to hit with more confidence in doubles and is able to kill a ball just as decisively as her partner. Both are under 21 so they should have many years of success ahead.

BILLIE STAMP'S ACCIDENT

The Merseyside Open is included in the new tournament list after a lapse in 1951-52. I was sorry to hear that Billie Stamp (hard working Secretary/Treasurer of the Liverpool League and one of the North-Western representatives on the National Executive), is in hospital having damaged his one and only leg. His wife is rising nobly to the occasion by taking over some of his many duties, but the tournament committee will be sorely tried if Billie's recovery is long delayed.

PINKIE BARNES MARRIED

Pinkie Barnes was married on the 6th June to screen and television actor Sam Kidd. They now live in a delightful flat in Kensington where Pinkie, combining the duties of housewife and career woman, is just emerging from the "settling in" or should I say "settling down" phase. There is too much T.T. in Pinkie's blood to keep her away from the table for very long and she assures me that she hasn't a notion of giving up the game in spite of her manifold chores.

JILL ROOK IN LAWN TENNIS SEMI-FINAL

I notice that Jill Rook (our English Junior T.T. champion) is hitting the lawn tennis headlines again. Last year she was the losing finalist in the *Evening News* under-15 section, and this year she has reached the semi-final of the 15-18 group in the same competition.*

KEN STANLEY'S NEW ZEALAND SUCCESS

Ken Stanley writes to say that he expects to arrive back in London on the 11th October after six wonderful months in New Zealand. Everyone has been extremely kind out there and he finds the food out there both excellent and varied. Since he left England in March he has travelled 2,000 miles in New Zealand and he will have travelled another 1,000 before he leaves, covering 22 towns altogether. There is tremendous enthusiasm for the game everywhere in spite of the fact that in many

Aubrey Simons Married



No. 757

On June 9th, England's popular Swaythling Cup international (and T.T. Bat manufacturer) AUBREY SIMONS was married to Miss Jeanne K. M. Prowse at the Horfield Parish Church, Bristol. The good wishes of all will go with them. Aubrey's heroic battle in the Bombay Swaythling Cup final with a badly injured leg will always be remembered in T.T. history.

places equipment is poor and clubs often have to hire halls for their practice nights.

Ken will be competing in the New Zealand Championships during the first week in September, playing in the men's doubles with a young schoolboy, Murray Dunn, who, incidentally, ranks as the No. 1 of Wellington. His partner in the mixed will be a young Maori girl, Ann Malcolm, who, Ken feels, could be very good with the right type of practice.

The Yorkshire Open is to be held on the 4th October this year so Ken won't be able to defend the singles title which he has held for the past two years. I know this will be a bitter blow to him as he had hoped to equal Benny Casofsky's record of three consecutive wins. Nevertheless, I imagine the album of memories he has collected in the last few months will be some compensation for his disappointment.

* By the time you read this, the result will be known, and I'll tell you in the October issue.

DR. CARL LINDE

We regret to announce the death of Dr. CARL LINDE which occurred on the 13th April, 1952. A message of sympathy and appreciation has been sent to the Swedish Table Tennis Association by the E.T.T.A.

Dr. Linde took part in the Founding Conversations of the International T.T. Federation at Berlin in 1926 (with Messrs. Montagu and Pope) and was Founder and First President of the Swedish T.T. Association which he represented at the London Congress in the same year. He contributed actively to the foundation of the I.T.T.F. and took a prominent part in the Stockholm meeting of 1927 and also did a very great deal toward raising Sweden to the high level of esteem and international respect which she holds to-day. While his worth to the Swedish Association cannot be easily replaced, his memory will be fortunately perpetuated by The Linde Cup.

Summer Play DOES help the Game

The World Champion

By A. A. WALL

West Bromwich D.T.T.A.

I READ a lot about the suggestions for using the Summer for improving one's play; some say leave the game alone for a spell, others practice hard, but I believe the only answer is to keep on playing.

Four years ago we ran a Ladies' Summer League and asked our top ladies to leave the field clear for the juniors, which they generously did. The following year the Junior Boys clamoured for two divisions of their own and we naturally obliged. This year the Senior men could no longer withstand the temptation and 24 teams came into the picture. With no Cup matches or individual competitions to interfere, the league progressed swiftly and many budding players among the Juniors came to light. The local Grammar School has this year come into the picture with a number of players, while the age of the younger players has dropped lower and lower with each succeeding year. From last season's eleven years, this season has produced a number of ten-year-olds, and two nines and even an eight have tried their hand.

The atmosphere of these matches is as keen as in the winter, while it is often found that an average age of

fourteen-year-old team is looked after by an old and seasoned veteran of 17. Remarks are allowed in the Junior matches, and many a 12-year-old receives audible advice from his "coach," usually an elder brother, while a poker-faced ten-year-old receives the Umpire's decision of a service fault with admirable tranquillity.

As Match Secretary I am perhaps the only official concerned in these Summer matches, but I would like to say that in our four Summer divisions, there has not been one dispute in spite of any tempers the hot weather may have affected. Juniors are also umpiring and, here again, I do not believe they can begin too early. I have actually seen a seven-year-old girl begin to count until the game got a little too fast for the small brain.

I have not heard of any other Associations running Summer Leagues but I do think that they are well worth the little extra trouble. We do not require extra registration for the Juniors for we usually find we gain in the end as they practically all join us for the winter session.



No. 755

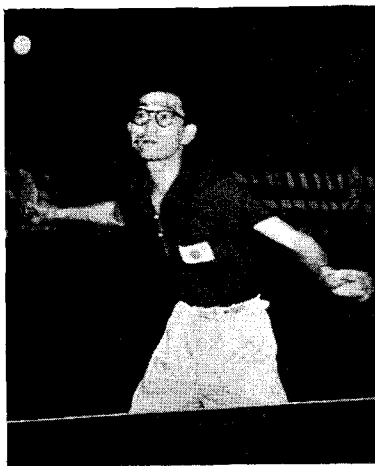
SHIH SUI-CHO, of Hong Kong, has been called "one of the marvels of China." He hits very hard on both wings with a "penholder" like style. Has victories over Satoh, Hayashi, Sido, Szepesi, and took Koczian to 5 games in the Bombay World Championships. Last month he added Bergmann to his victims.

"Tournaments MUST be Seeded"

declares ANTHONY WICKENS

18-year-old of Magdalen College, Brackley, replying to Mr. Wall's suggestion for Unseeded Tournaments in the May issue of *Table Tennis*.

A World Beater



No. 756

An action picture of the current World Champion, Hiroji Satoh of Japan, using the now famous sponge-faced bat with which he won the world title at the first attempt and on his 28th birthday. He was defeated 6 times by Bergmann and 5 times by Leach in the recent tour.

I KNOW it is impossible for some people to let the good people have the limelight without complaint, but surely that is not the sort of sentiment which should be published in a high class "Sporting" magazine like *Table Tennis*, which, incidentally, I read thoroughly every month. When someone boasts or otherwise conveys that he has reached such and such a final, the obvious retort is "Oh, and whom did you beat on the way?" What a fool he feels when he has to answer "Oh, nobody much, it was an unseeded tournament, all the good players were in the other half". Surely his merit is only due to the luck of the draw and playing in the final brings little honour to such a one.

If the purpose of a good tournament is for the best player to win, i.e., to get to the "round" beyond the final, surely the aim should also be for the best two to get to the final, the best four to the semi-final and so on.

It goes without saying that one cannot "arrange" a tournament right to

the last degree, therefore, the luck of the draw is brought to bear on play in the earlier rounds and perhaps adds a little extra spice. Thus those who deserve it, i.e., the seeds or those who beat them on merit, are those who will reach the penultimate rounds. I personally, and I'm sure the majority of readers will support me, should be very dismayed if I saw D. Rowe v. R. Rowe in the first round of the tournament unless it was, say, a World Championship, and should reckon that the Referee did not know his job.

Finally, I would question Mr. Wall's right to call the "proper" function of a knock-out competition "a free draw and sudden death". Did he get this out of the Oxford English Dictionary or the "Wall Encyclopaedia"?

May I end in apologising to Mr. Wall, who I am sure means well, if he does not consider I have the right to criticise him, but, like my fellow students I have the interests of our noble game at heart.

The Daily Mirror

National Table Tennis Tournament 1952/53

ENTRIES CLOSE 29th SEPTEMBER . . . MANY TROPHIES, PRIZES AND COACHING AWARDS . . . CASH GRANTS FOR CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

THE DAILY MIRROR has been one of the oldest and strongest allies of organised Table Tennis in England, and the announcement of their great new nation-wide Tournament will give interest and pleasure to many thousands of enthusiasts in Great Britain. It should also do much toward fulfilling the avowed objects of promoting the interests of Table Tennis in this country. The Tournament is organised with the blessing and the full collaboration of the T.T. Associations of England, of Scotland and of Wales. The Hon. Referee is the Hon. Ivor Montagu and the Consultative Committee consists of Messrs. A. K. Vint, H. Roy Evans and R. D. Dykes.

Full details and latest news is published in *The Daily Mirror* and preliminary announcements have been sent to the secretaries of all affiliated clubs. Brief particulars are:—

Closing Date: All entries must be received by *The Daily Mirror* not later than the 29th September.

Entry Forms: Club secretaries or individuals to apply directly to *The Daily Mirror* National Table Tennis Tournament, Geraldine House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4, stating:— (1) Name and address—in block letters—and (2) the event to be entered. (Secretaries should state the number of forms wanted for EACH event).

Events: There are FOUR events, ALL singles, NO doubles, i.e., 1. Men's Singles, 2. Women's Singles, 3. Boys' Singles, 4. Girls' Singles.

Eligibility. The Tournament is open to all British players living in England, Scotland or Wales, whether affiliated or not, EXCEPT (1) winners of any SINGLES event in an Open Tournament, and (2) anyone—senior or junior—who has played in the National County Championships. Juniors may also enter senior events. Junior Internationals, Junior Singles Open Tournament winners and Junior County Players are eligible ONLY for the Senior event. Juniors must not have reached their 17th birthday on July 1st, 1952.

IMPORTANT: Do not forget to write the name of your Club and League on your Entry Form as this may qualify for an additional £60 in prize monies.

AREAS, ZONES AND PRIZES

Great Britain will be divided into 4 geographical Areas, and sub-divided into 16 Zones. Each Zone will pro-

duce one Zone Champion who will be a semi-finalist in the Area. Area Champions will be semi-finalists in the Royal Albert Hall final.

Each one of the 60 Area and Zone Champions will receive plaques, and, in addition, the last 16 players will receive Cash Vouchers (Seniors £5, Juniors £2), PLUS a week's Training Course. Event winners will also receive a magnificent trophy (and replica). Cash grants can also be awarded to clubs and leagues and county associations in amounts of £10, £20 and £30 respectively.

THE ZONES

A.1—Scotland (North and East).
A.2—Scotland (West and South).
A.3—Northumberland and Durham.
A.4—Cumberland and Westmorland.

B.1—All Yorkshire.
B.2—Derby, Notts., Lines., Rutland, Leics.
B.3 & 4—Lancashire, Isle of Man and
Cheshire.

(To have 2 area semi-finalists, as the Zone is very populous)

C.1—North Wales:
Montgomery, Merioneth, Denbigh,
Flint, Caernarvon, Anglesey.
C.2—South Wales:
Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecknock,
Radnor, Carmarthen, Pembroke,
Cardigan.
C.3—West Central:
Shropshire, Staffs., Hereford, Worcs.,
Gloucestershire, Warwickshire.
C.4—East Central:
Hunts., Northants., Beds., Cambs.,
Bucks., Herts., Oxfordshire.

D.1—Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and London E.
and E.C. Postal districts.
D.2—Middlesex, Berks., and London N.
N.W. and W.C. districts.
D.3—Kent, Sussex, Surrey, and London S.E.
and S.W. districts.
D.4—Wilts., Hants., Lo.W., Dorset, Somers.
set, Devon, Cornwall.

Introduction To →

By LESLIE S. WOOLLARD

THE Silver Jubilee has left, in its passing, a milestone which can have far-reaching effects on English Table Tennis. When the A.G.M. (the highest authority in the country) unanimously agreed that Mr. JACK CARRINGTON be appointed the Hon. DIRECTOR OF COACHING it also, *ipso facto*, launched the National Coaching Scheme.

For 3 years the National Coaching Scheme has, through many discussions, researches and experiments (e.g., Lilleshall in April, 1951), sought to find a practical solution. It outlined its broad policy in the Annual Report, and it recognises that with an initial budget of £50 there must be limitations on what can be done. Nevertheless, it believes that with the co-operation and enterprise of leagues and counties, that it is a Scheme which can develop mightily from its modest beginning. It is a Scheme which must flourish from the success it merits.

Mr. Jack Carrington, the Hon. Director of Coaching, needs little introduction in his unenviable appointment. In 1949, one of the keenest advocates of a Coaching Scheme, our late Secretary, Mr. "Bill" Pope, wrote: "Jack Carrington has had a great amount of experience in dealing with the problems of the learner . . . and I know him to be a top-class player, a thoughtful student of the game, a good teacher, an attractive writer. If I were asked to recommend a teacher, there is no one in the game to-day whom I would recommend with more confidence."

Since those days, Jack Carrington has established himself by result and precedent as one of the most sought after coaches in the world. He has specialised not only in the TEACHING of the game but ALSO in Teaching others to Teach, and he is always aware that there are other important things to be taught outside the realm of good play. Modest and popular, double World Champion Johnny Leach calls him "World's No. 1 Coach" and publicly ascribes his personal success to Jack's coaching. The highly successful courses organised by Jack abroad and in the home counties and leagues has invariably impressed all those who have participated or witnessed them. His personal qualities as a Teacher are fortified and enhanced (particularly for mixed groups) by his partner, MRS. ELSIE CARRINGTON, who has proved an adept pupil-teacher in her own right.

(Continued Col. 1 next page)

The National Coaching Scheme

(Continued from previous page)

England is fortunate in being able to produce many good players with the ability to unite playing skill with teaching ability. **KEN STANLEY**, freshly returned from his successes as New Zealand's National Coach is one such fine example. No one, surely, will question the desirability of benefiting from the skills of top-notchers. This brings up the delicate subject of Registered Players among which there are occasional and understandable rivalries promoted more by circumstances than by personalities.

Although the Registered Player is often maligned by officials, I would submit that the very nature and organisation of our game creates the necessity for the R.P. Many officials who criticise are, indeed, those who actually (if sometimes indirectly) force a player to take on the comparative protection of Registration. Instruction on a national scale offers scope for everyone possessing the interest and ability, but particularly for the special skills and experience of the internationals. Jack Carrington is thus again a happy choice for Director of Coaching, for not only is he Secretary of the R.P.'s Committee, but has, by practice, already proved his desire to fairly co-ordinate the best players into the Scheme where they can best benefit everyone concerned.

The establishment of the National Scheme at this initial stage means—very briefly—that the E.T.T.A. have set up a specialised advisory office to help any affiliated county or league in the country to acquire its own coaching scheme. While the financial responsibility lies substantially with the counties and leagues, Mr. Carrington will be able to advise, discuss, negotiate, liaise, suggest methods and services available, and suggest functional principles for the local scheme. (The National Coaching Committee have made a strong recommendation that local schemes should preferably be on a county basis.)

On this page the new Director makes his first announcement. *Table Tennis* intends to set aside one page in each issue to give information and news on Coaching and brief reports of developments by enterprising associations or leagues.

WE of the E.T.T.A. Coaching Committee have set down on paper a plan to spread and improve Coaching knowledge and facilities. But it is not always wise to announce publicly the Objectives of a new venture, because it is so easy for Hopes to become Promises. Then a hope disappointed becomes a promise unfulfilled.

It is better at this stage to mention just the broad theme of our proposed work, leaving the details to be announced as they develop in succeeding months.

All new ventures, to succeed, require Capital, Labour and Technical Experience.

In plainer English : Cash, Work and Know-How.

It is my task, as E.T.T.A. Director of Coaching, to give as much time as I can to the administration of the plan and the inspiration of the pioneer helpers so that they can carry on and spread the good work.

By Jack Carrington
Honorary Director of Coaching

As for the Know-How, this does not mean merely how to hit a table tennis ball ! It means also how to open peoples eyes to the full beauties of the game ; to make people realise their own athletic capabilities ; to interest them in studying for its own sake ; to stage instructional meetings economically and beneficially ; to increase and improve the " incidental " aids to good propaganda, such as films, charts, etc.

Experience gained in years of private, club, county and national coaching, will, I believe, ensure that what money E.T.T.A. can devote to Coaching, will not be wasted on aimless experiments.

Which brings us back to the third requirement : Cash. The National Executive Committee have to face the fact that no such grant as is enjoyed by the F.A., the L.T.A., the A.A.A., or the Fencing Association, is likely to come our way from the Ministry of Education.

They are, therefore, exploring various other possibilities of creating a Coaching Fund and this obviously means that we must curb ambitious ideas for some time.

So far we have staged one National Course for potential Coaches (Lilleshall, 1951); we are planning this winter to run several week-end Courses catering for both Potential Coaches and Individual Students.

These Courses are open to all Club players who wish to improve; we hope to make them available to several areas where big table tennis events are not often seen. If any readers interested in such week-ends will advise me, it will help us to estimate the possibilities in their areas.

Other phases of our Coaching plan will be explained in later issues.

N.C.S. NOTICE BOARD

WEEK-END TRAINING COURSES FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS AND POTENTIAL COACHES

Dec. 19—21 at The National Recreation Centre, Bisham Abbey, near Maidenhead, Berks. Approx. Cost 35s. 0d. per person (including board residence).

Dec. 17—19 as above **For School Children only** (up to 16 years). Approx. Cost 30s. 0d. per person (including board residence).

1953

Jan. 23—25 (probable date) at Harrogate. Approx. Cost 37s. 6d. per person, including hotel accommodation and food.

For Application Forms apply to:—E.T.T.A. Office, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.

Dec. 29—Jan. 2 at The National Recreation Centre, Lilleshall, Shropshire.

Cost per person £3 15s. 0d. all-in.

For Application Forms apply to:—C.C.P.R., 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

Bold Action for Dress Standards

A Forthright Appeal for Vigorous Action on T.T. Dress

THE only rule which now governs T.T. dress is the international one which prohibits white or light coloured clothes. There is no regulation dress. While the E.T.T.A. feels that there should be a limit to the possible variety of attire, they are now attempting to carry out by recommendation what was not carried out as a rule, and have issued this recommendation for the action of T.T. officials, and perhaps, for the precept of top players.

The question of dress is bound up with the progress of the game. A player who thinks only of his (or her) personal angle shows an utterly selfish outlook and gives no consideration to the advancement of the game.

AN ANALOGY

I well remember during the last war when the Home Guard was first formed. They would parade round the streets in civilian clothes equipped with any sort of appliance to represent a rifle. Gradually they began to take shape; first a rifle, then a beret and then the full uniform. They became and looked like an army. They were dressed for the occasion and nothing else mattered. The people had faith in the Home Guard; they were no longer a section of the civilian community which had chosen to fight for the country in one particular sphere. They were an army and looked every inch an army.

So with Table Tennis, the players who enter serious competitive play have faith in their own abilities to succeed. The administrators who sponsor these players and provide the competition also have faith in the players and in the game. They know that in Table Tennis they have something that can provide entertainment, recreation and happiness to thousand. But what is the use of something being good if it does not look good?

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD IMPRESSION

The first impression on the public is vitally important because it is from those who first watch, and then copy, that the players and supporters of the future are drawn.

It is easy to see that dress plays a very big part in presentation. We must convince the public that we are

by Tom Blunn

Chairman, Lancashire T.T.

Association

in earnest, that we take our game seriously and really put our best into it. That is why dress matters; that is why the dress should suit the purpose for which it is intended and do nothing more or less. There are numerous examples in other sports where the dress which has been adopted is all that is suitable for the conditions under which the game is played and yet allows the game to be played to the best advantage and gives the impression that those taking part have heart and soul in the game. In other words, nothing else matters.

When the original dress rule was drawn up it called for nothing more than for clothes normally seen in the wardrobe of most younger people, that is, something which is within the price range of all. The same principle is still being adhered to. Although it may appear desirable, there is as yet no suggestion of a uniform dress. ALL that is required is that the shirt should not be of a light colour, and that the dress on the whole should be clean and tidy, and, if I might add, respectable.

Surely, that is not much to ask? Most players would not dream of playing in a dress which did not conform to those conditions.

THE DEVIATIONISTS

But there are others. Players who have recently decided that they can wear just what they like. Most open tournaments reveal two distinct types of deviationists. The first are those whose dress is untidy, of many colours, and a disgrace to the game. The second are those who are over-doing it with the sole purpose of making a "reputation" in the game which they cannot always earn on merit alone. The first type is usually confined to men and the second almost exclusively to ladies. Generally speaking, the standard of ladies' dress is higher than that of the men, but there is this unfortunate tendency for more of them to enter the second type, that is, by over-doing it.

TWO FINE EXAMPLES

I cannot help but recall two of the best dressed lady players that I have seen—Vera Dace and Betty Blackbourne, and when they failed to bring back the supreme honour in 1947 we all felt that they had done their best. They gave sufficient attention to their dress but nothing more. When they went to the table they had nothing to fear about their dress—they knew they were properly dressed and their whole attention was, therefore, devoted to the game. To those who aspire to follow in the steps of these two great players I would say "Be known by your play, not by your appearance. Let your dress be proper but not conspicuous, so that when you have finished your game the question will be how did she play, not how did she dress."

SHOCKING BAD MANNERS

Also there is a growing tendency to wear long sleeved cardigans for the first game and to remove these if the set goes to three games. This is a shocking example of bad manners and leaves a terrible impression on anybody watching the game for the first time. At a recent international match a player who was wearing his newly acquired international badge for the first time showed his appreciation by playing most of the time with a horrible cardigan which almost smothered him. Needless to say he did not figure in any of his team's victories that evening. Was it a coincidence or just retribution?

The multi-coloured shirt, dirty trousers and cardigans are growing amongst the men, whilst at the other extreme we find a tendency towards "fancy pants".

THE ANSWER

There is a dress which is a happy medium which is within the scope of all players and which is adequate for the purpose. The E.T.T.A. now recommend that such a dress should be worn at all events under the Association's jurisdiction. This applies mainly to Open Tournaments and international matches but also covers many other events held each season. It does not apply to club matches, local league competitions or closed events, but obviously the best way is

(continued on page 18)

Spotlight on YOUTH

FOCUSED BY PETER MADGE

IT was something of a shock when the 'phone rang one sunny August morning—in fact, the only sunny August morning—and our Editor came blithely over the wire demanding this copy within three days. Here, then, are a few notes from the close season.

I hear that Notts. finances will only allow for one team in the County Championships this season and that they have decided to keep the Juniors going. Wise move, although it won't please Billy England who is no longer eligible. Billy, by the way, now works in a Nottingham sports shop.

A cryptic note from Bryan Merrett tells me of two new juniors, a boy and a girl, who are beginning to make their marks in the West. More of these next month. Bryan himself has had a restful summer, dividing his attentions about equally between the fair sex and the fair game

MEMO : Note that the Kent Junior Open is to be held on November 30th. Don't miss it, Southerners.

Congratulations to Junior T.T. International Billy Knight who has this summer added two Senior International Lawn Tennis caps to his sporting laurels. He played against Scotland and Ireland and by the time this appears in print may well be the holder of the Junior Wimbledon title. At THE Wimbledon, Billy won through the Northern qualifying competition and was unfortunate to be drawn against Jaroslav Drobny in the first round proper. I saw the match and got a real kick out of seeing him foil several tactical moves by Drobny, probably the cleverest player in the amateur game to-day.

Left-handed Billy Knight from Northampton hit the bell in the 1952 Lawn Tennis season when he took 6 games off Don Candy, the seeded and a leading Australian player, in the British Hard Court L.T. Championships in April. Candy declared that Billy (still a schoolboy) was "a great fighter."

Her First Prize



No. 759 Photo by D. Offer

This little lady is beaming with delight as she holds in her tiny hands her first T.T. prize won in the English Championships at Wembley. Maybe it is only a cracked ball discarded and errant, but to her it is a worthy prize . . . perhaps an omen. She is the daughter of Eileen Mullender (winner of several pre-war doubles titles as "E. Finch") and the grand-daughter of Mr. Harry Finch, the well-known County Umpire.

Billy is a good all-round sportsman. Although only just turned 16, he is a rising lawn tennis player and international; a junior international T.T. and No. 1 for his county; a keen Rigger player and a finalist in the county squash rackets. He proposes, however, to follow Fred Perry's advice and concentrate on Lawn Tennis in the future. Experts promise him a successful future. Good luck, Billy.

Attractive Pamela Mortimer from Birmingham spend a profitable holiday week near Ilford recently and was shown around by Essex leading teen-ager Yvonne Baker. Pamela envies the Londoners and near neighbours their coaches and nice clubs.

John Hunt, the Bishops Stortford livewire and junior international, now in the R.A.F. was recently stationed in the wilds near Salisbury and hasn't yet managed to get himself into the R.A.F. team. Only consolation is his occasional week-ends off spent in solid T.T. practice . . . Ivor Barnett of Bedfordshire II doesn't think himself so lucky in doing his National Service in the Army. They have not got round to reckoning it as a sport yet! Keep hearing a lot of mysterious rumours about new dark horses in

12 year-old Champion



No. 760

ANGUEL SLADCAROFF, 12 years old, seen in play in the final of the J.S. event of the Bulgarian Championships, when he beat Apeloff to win the National Junior title.

OTHER RESULTS WERE:

M.S. CHIVATCHEFF bt. Popoff 3—1.

W.S. ZLATKOVA bt. Peef 2—0.

G.S. BATCHVAROVA bt. Valtcheva 2—0.

junior fields and look forward to seeing some good fireworks soon The young coloured French boy Sala (who beat all our junior internationals) is reported to be really hot, so with him and the German youngsters (not to mention the Swedes) we shall need some real talent from somewhere.

DON'T FORGET . . . Let me have your Letters, News, Suggestions, Ideas, etc.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

TABLE NO. 8... MEN'S DOUBLES...
CHEETHAM & FOWLER...

REFRESHMENTS

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TEA 3P A CUP	SANDWICHES 4P BUNS 3P SLABOKE 3P BISCUITS 2P
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BLANKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
LONGSET HALL
CMISLEMORE

"Told you, didn't I?"

No. 761

Tom Blunn on "Action for Dress"

(continued from page 15)

to start at the very beginning and always be dressed properly.

It should not be necessary to force players to wear a proper dress, but unfortunately experience has shown that too many in the past have failed to shoulder their responsibilities and consequently the present state of indecision surrounded by ridicule and disgust has been reached.

HOW IT CAN BE DONE

So it is left to League Secretaries, Tournament Referees and the like to put the house in order and a more difficult job I cannot imagine. What the N.E.C. really intended when it suggested the substitution of a recommendation for a rule, I don't know, and I did not get any indication at the A.G.M. at which the suggestion was adopted, because the N.E.C. was too occupied in contesting other resolutions than justifying its own. Be that as it may, the plain fact remains that a halt must be called to the present trend and an all-out attempt started for a proper dress that is worthy of a great game. The Association has decreed that this must be done by way of a recommendation and it will have to be done that way.

It is up to League Secretaries and tournament administrators to see that the recommendation is implemented to the utmost and any player ignoring a request to wear what the officials consider to be a proper dress must be

treated with the utmost severity. There should be no bowing to celebrities; in fact many well known players figure amongst the deviationists and it is regrettable that the younger players are already copying their extreme dress.

The recommendation is the only weapon available for this season and handled judiciously it can be very effective. I appeal to the administrators of the game, therefore, to use the recommendation as much as possible and give a 100% backing to the E.T.T.A. in its effort to remove this blot on its reputation.

Likewise, it is up to the E.T.T.A. to see that a proper standard of dress is maintained at the English Open and in all international matches. From past experience it is apparent that there is room for a tremendous improvement. Let the Association show the way!!

If the dress problem is tackled vigorously by all, there will soon come a time when neither a rule nor a recommendation will be necessary as players will automatically dress properly and adequately.

T. BLUNN

TABLE TENNIS TUITION

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UNIVERSITY COLOURS FOR T.T.

To The Editor. Cricklewood, N.W.2.

Dear Sir,

Whilst I am in general agreement with the remarks expressed in your May editorial, I feel that I must correct you on one small point.

The University (i.e., London), does award full colours for T.T. There thus seems little ground for your worrying that a few "provincial colleges" such as Oxford and Cambridge, only award a half-blue. This is not altogether surprising however, as London regularly massacres these decadent establishments at Table Tennis, as it does in so many sports. Please do not think that I am in any way biased.

Lawrence Cooklin

WESSEX T.T. LEAGUE

From D. J. Cousins

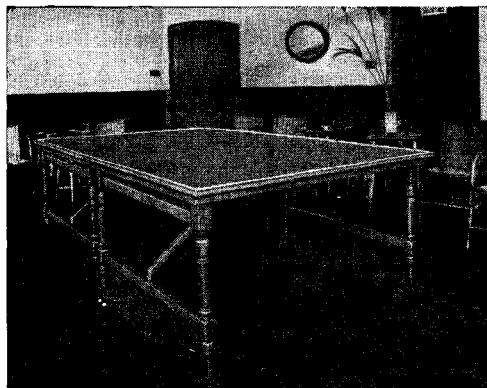
THE Wessex League was formed in 1949 to organise inter-town play in the Somerset and Wiltshire areas on similar lines to the Western Counties League. By concentrating on the younger players the League provides a useful "nursery" for the senior league, and has attracted teams from Swindon, Devizes, North Somerset, West Wilts, Weston-super-Mare and Bath.

Places in the League for 1951-52 were: 1. Weston-super-Mare, 2. Bath and 3. Devizes. The latter played extremely well to take third place on their first year of entry.

Sir Guy Nugent is President of the League, and Mr. R. G. Williams (Bath) is Chairman.

Mr. L. J. BLOXHAM who wrote "It's No Nightmare" in the May issue, desires us to correct his address from Leicester to DERBY.

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ENGLAND BEAT FRANCE 5-0

Paris, 8th May, 1952

R. BERGMANN bt. R. Roothoft 19, 20.
J. LEACH bt. M. Hagenauser 18, 12. K. CRAIGIE bt. M. Lansky 19, 20. B. KENNEDY bt. G. Amouretti 7, 16. BERGMANN/LEACH bt. Lansky/Roothoft 19, 20.

JUNIORS:

FRANCE BEAT ENGLAND 5-4

Bercy-Place, 10th May, 1952

B. MERRITT lost Sala 19, -13, -9; bt. Ross 9, 15; bt. Cereau 15, 16. C. BOOTH lost Sala -18, 19, -17; bt. Ross 13, 15; bt. Cereau 18, 14. C. INGBER lost Sala 18, -11, -11; lost Ross 15, -19, -17; lost Cereau 19, -19, -16.

ENGLAND BEAT BELGIUM 5-0

Brussels, 9th May, 1952

B. KENNEDY bt. Buyens 15, 16, 8; bt. Delabarre 17, 18, 19. K. CRAIGIE bt. Buyens 9, -11, 10, 17; bt. Delabarre 5, 11, 13.

We gratefully acknowledge the gracious courtesy of "The Times" in permitting us to publish in full the Fourth Leader from "The Times" of February 20th, 1952, a delightful commentary on a matter of controversy.

The Tables Turned

SINCE the vast majority of us are inexpert there is always a certain satisfaction, concealed perhaps but undoubtedly felt, when the expert comes down with a bump. We love to see the clever turning out not quite so clever as they had thought, the mild and innocent triumphing and the sceptic cast out. Particularly do we rejoice when some elder fashion of our own youth, long since rejected by the juveniles of to-day, bobs up again with renewed glory. So it is likely that a small item of news of a few days back from India was read with malignant chuckles. There arrived at Bombay a party of five Japanese players to take part in the world's table tennis championships. Such slight sensation as they created was of a somewhat condescending order. It was as if Rip van Winkle, having had some local reputation at ping-pong in the Catskills, should wake up to face the champions of what had become during his slumbers a highly skilful and athletic game. They brought with them bats of antique shape; almost square, if it can be believed, and having surfaces of crêpe long since abandoned in the best circles. More than that they held these fossils of the past not with the modern and universal grip, but in a method technically known as the "pen-holder grip," now scarcely ever to be seen, as we gather, even on the domestic dining room table.

And yet they won. They won the men's singles and the men's doubles and the women's doubles, defeating in the finals of these last two events illustrious British couples, and we feel a little amusement as well as great admiration. It is almost as if a small boy arriving for a first summer term at his private school should bring with him a bat, bought in a toyshop by some valued aunt or godmother, having not the ghost of a splice, to be received with cold superiority by his elders and more practical disfavour by his contemporaries. Suppose him then to go in against the mighty bowlers of the first game and hit them to all parts of the field, even as NYREN'S famous countryman "with an arm as long as a hop pole" treated the immortal Lumpy in a single-wicket match. On that occasion we are told that the whole ring roared with laughter at the old bowler's confusion, and on this occasion, too, there is a temptation to imitate Mr. Mantalini and "laugh demneby".

WORCS. FORM COUNTY

From I. R. Crickmer

CHIEF item of note during the Midland closed season has been the formation of a Worcestershire County Association, this long-awaited step being taken at a meeting in Worcester in June.

The new body comprises eight Leagues, with a playing membership of nearly 2,000. A county team has been entered in the Midland Division of the County Championships, and the County League, hitherto administered by the Worcester City League, has been transferred to the new Association's jurisdiction. Worcestershire Closed Championships and several other activities to foster the game within the county are contemplated for the coming season.

The Chairman of the Association is Mr. C. Jarvis of the Kidderminster League, and the honorary officers are all Worcester League members—Mr. I. R. Crickmer (Hon. Gen. Sec. and County League Secretary), Mr. D. J. Moss (County Match and Tournament Secretary) and Mr. A. K. Thomas (Treasurer).

MANCHESTER

Adele Wood Married

THE congratulations of all are extended to ADELE WOOD (now Mrs. Pettifer) on her recent marriage.

The Manchester League continues to expand in its own inimitable way. The Executive viewed the 19 resignations with some concern but the entries of 28 new teams were received somewhat jubilantly as it means that the league's 9 men's divisions and 3 women's divisions remain at full strength without having recourse to contracting its divisions by the simple process of fewer teams per division, a policy, easy for the management but hard on the player as its most obvious implication is less fixtures per team.

The North of England Open will be held at Norman Drill Hall on October 16th, 17th and 18th. This is the same venue where this event was so successfully staged last season.

The closed championships will be held on December 29th/30th and January 2nd/3rd.

It is interesting to note that for the first time for some years Manchester ladies had a slight set-back to their all conquering run as Liverpool managed to tie for top place, but Liverpool was easily overwhelmed in the resultant play-off.

Frank Gee

AN URGENT NEED FOR NATIONAL CENTRE

By GEOFF COULTHREAD

WE HAVE not yet reached maturity in our development as a first-class sport, and we must have a National T.T. Centre in the Central London area before we can do so.

If we are to achieve the dignity and status to which we lay claim, then there will just HAVE to be an improvement in the venues selected for some of the main events on the tournament calendar. Some conditions are not worthy of the game. Some are very good and deserve all the praise and support which can be given, but they are comparatively few.

With a central metropolitan home for the game, most of the trouble would be obviated. Until such a time we must continue to use Baths Halls, Drill Halls and Works Canteens, NONE of which can qualify the claims of T.T. to rank as a first-class International Sport in its own right.

A normal finals programme usually last 3 hours and if spectators (perhaps first timers), have to sit out this time in an inadequate hall, then we stand to lose both their support and their future recommendation, and T.T. depends very substantially on its C.P.P. (Cash Paying Public).

We need to build and maintain a public which will support the game financially and so make possible the improvements which are so vital in order that we may expand. Our duty and our interest is quite plainly to present good play to the audience with maximum comfort and the best possible view of the matches.

A national playing centre is the logical essential for progress and I think London the most suitable place for obvious reasons. The E.T.T.A. is not a wealthy body, and it would take some time before it could be achieved. Nevertheless, the earlier a decision is reached then the sooner something is likely to be done.

In the meantime, I appeal to all tournament organisers to give the best conditions to players and spectators, and not to rest easily satisfied until they attain the requisite standard, of which too many have been woefully short.

CIVIL SERVICE T.T. CHAMPIONSHIPS

May, 1952

- M.S. L. G. Adams bt. C. Crane 17, 16.
K. R. CRAIGIE bt. K. Spychalski 11, 12.
K. R. CRAIGIE bt. Adams 17, 14, 13.
W.S. Miss E. STEVENTON bt. Miss J. Roberts 13, 15, 19.
M.D. K. R. CRAIGIE/M. CLOSE bt. L. G. Adams/K. Spychalski 10, 15, 21, 16.
W.D. Miss M. H. CHERRY/Mrs. J. LAUPER w/o J. Roberts/S. M. Wright-Swatman, Scr. (illness).
X.D. K. R. CRAIGIE/Miss J. ROBERTS bt. L. G. Adams/Mrs. J. Latper 14, 16.
J.B.S. H. S. BUIST bt. L. K. Pearce 9, 12.
J.G.S. J. GATEHOUSE bt. J. G. Kite 20, 21.
V.S. G. E. HEYWOOD bt. R. R. Russell —15, 13, 13.

G. A. Owen

RE VARSITY T.T. COLOURS

WHILST I am in general agreement with the remarks expressed in your May editorial, I feel that I must correct you on one small point.

THE University (i.e., London), does award full colours for Table Tennis. There thus seems little ground for your worrying that a few "provincial colleges," such as Oxford and Cambridge, only award a half-blue. This is not altogether surprising, however, as London regularly massacres these decadent establishments at Table Tennis, as it does in so many other sports. Please do not think I am in any way biased.

Lawrence Cooklin

To All Organisers of Open and Closed Table Tennis Tournaments, County, League, and Club Secretaries.

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President South London Table Tennis League

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INTERNATIONAL SELECTORS AGAIN RUN COURSE AT LILLESHELL

The training and practice week-end run by the International Selection Committee last season (reported in last October's *Table Tennis*) proved so successful that it has been decided to repeat the dose this year, and 16 players have been selected to be at the Lilleshall National Recreation Centre from the 5th to the 8th September.

Geoff. Harrower runs the course, and he has the collaboration of Adrian Haydon, Tommy Sears and Alan Thompson. The 16 players invited are:—Kathleen Best, Ann Haydon, Pam Mortimer, Diane Rowe, Rosalind Rowe, Joy Seaman, Jean Winn, Ron Baker, Cliff Booth, Derek Burridge, Bob Griffin, David House, Jimmy Lowe, Bryan Merrett, Alan Rhodes and Aubrey Simons. Jill Rook and Billy Knight were also invited, but were unable to accept because of Junior Wimbledon.