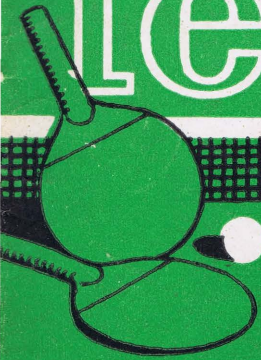


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 2 No. 2
SUMMER, 1947
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER



Contributors include:

B. VANA

(World Champion)

S. PROFFITT

J. CARRINGTON

R. SHARMAN

and Many Others

★

COVER PORTRAIT
BOHUMIL VANA
(Czechoslovakia)
World Champion

★

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TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

*Editorial, Advertisement
and Publishing Office :*

Kenworthy Buildings,
83, Bridge Street,
Manchester, 3.

Phone : BLackfriars 0494.

Managing Editor :

ARTHUR WAITE
(1931 International).

Advertisement Rates sent on
request.

Vol. 2 No. 2

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1947

One Shilling

Don't you Agree?

A LEADING player recently said to us, "The most important thing is to win your match at whatever cost. When I go on the table I don't care what type of game I play providing I win." Naturally, we expect players to give of their best, but we feel that our friend has a narrow outlook on our splendid game. We all earnestly desire to see table tennis continue to thrill and entertain the public. Our hard-working Associations are all striving to attract more and more people to the game, and it is the task of all players, especially international players, to play good table tennis. The open grip was welcomed because it opened out new possibilities ; the finger-spin service was forbidden because it threatened to rob the game of its spectacle ; the net was lowered in order to encourage players to shun all forms of "chiselling." It has been the constant concern of all National bodies to keep the path of progress clear of all obstacles that might tend to bring back any likeness, no matter how slight, to the old game of "ping-pong." In spite of all this work we regret that there are prominent players to-day who are prepared to play "ping-pong" if it means they will win. It is our opinion that the paramount thing for an international, or any player, to remember, is that the only thing that matters is that he or she should play table tennis to the best of his or her ability. We urge all Selection Committees to completely ignore players who have the slightest trace of "ping-pong" in their blood. We want players who will work for progress rather than purely self-interests. As one of our contributors states in an accompanying article, "Let's clean up the game."

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

ELISABETH BLACKBOURNE had an attack of chicken-pox after taking part in the U.S.A. National Championships. She was defeated in an early round in the singles event, but won the mixed doubles title partnered by Richard Miles. Elisabeth will be away from this country for some time, but she intends making a special trip back home in order to take part in the World's Championships.

In the Hungarian Championships, Sido beat Soos in the final. A winner of three titles in this event was World Champion Mrs. Gizi Farkas. In the ladies' doubles she was partnered by Trudi Pritzi, and in the mixed by Sido.

The men's doubles and singles games on the finals' night at the Wembley Open on May 16th were televised by the B.B.C. These were the first tournament games ever to be so "shot."

If people think that the black market has kept its grimy paws off table tennis, then they are quite mistaken. Listen to this. At a London club recently, we happened to see a player with a cardboard box containing table tennis balls—"a hundred of 'em," said the owner of the box. We pressed our inquiries further and discovered that the pills were a famous brand sold at one shilling each—normally. We asked the gent. in question how he managed to procure a hundred? His answer

was that he had obtained them from a certain famous star at 1s. 9d. each. What we should like to know is, where is the source of this obvious leakage which enables apparently favoured individuals to obtain enormous supplies of balls and sell them at fancy prices, while ordinary folk cannot get even a couple of "spheres" for practice purposes?

We hear from Czechoslovakia that a match between Andreadis and Tereba was reminiscent of the days when table tennis really thrilled the onlooker, with the defender standing well back and the attacker going "all out." In one long rally, Tereba smashed over a hundred and one consecutive forehand drives before winning the point.

A new sports shop at 5, Blackhorse Road, Walthamstow, is making a speciality of table tennis, although other sports gear is in good stock. Without revealing any of the partners in this concern we could mention that one of them would be . . . er . . . nice to come home. Best of luck "Sports Centre."

A pupil of Victor Barna, Charles Dubbouille won the title of French Champion.

A long standing idea of Geoff Harrower will come into being next season with the formation of an Inter-County League. It is hoped that eleven counties will take part and there will be a Premier and

Junior Divisions, with promotion and relegation. The Premier Division will consist of the stronger counties such as Middlesex, Essex, and Lancashire.

What to give for tournament prizes is just another of our everyday problems. One Secretary paid a lucky visit to a pawnshop where he obtained quite cheaply a number of second-hand medals. A little attention at the jeweller's and the old inscriptions were cleaned off and each medal made to look like new.

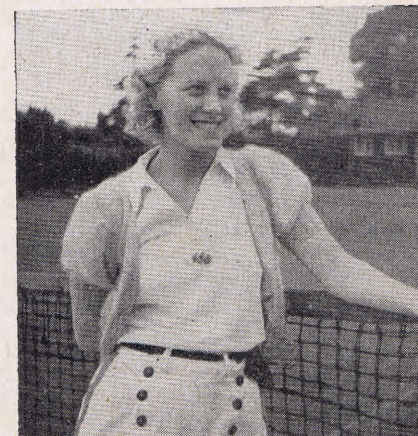
Another Secretary, tired of trying to obtain medals, eventually resorted to elaborately printed Certificates of Merit. But one particular Tournament Secretary hit on quite a novel idea; to all quarter-finalists in a Junior event went one year's subscription to *Table Tennis Review*. We appreciated the honour bestowed on the *Review*, and together with a complete set of back numbers we sent a letter of congratulations to each competitor. Congratulations again Messrs. G. Mallabad, M. Wolstenholme, J. Statham, and N. W. Horner, all of Bury, Lancs. We hope you enjoy your future issues of *Table Tennis Review*. We will be pleased to do the same for any other interested Tournament Secretary at special rates.

It is said that Laslo Bellak, the Hungarian international who toured this country along with Barna and Szabados some years ago and now resident in America, will accompany the U.S.A. team when they come over for the next World Championships. Many readers will remember the great showmanship of this fine player and his amusing and laughable tricks with both a ball and bat.

Ken Stanley is now living in Glasgow where he is open for coaching and exhibition work. One

of Ken's recent exhibitions was at the Kelvin Hall. Should he team up with Helen Elliot for Mixed Doubles championships it is more than likely that a number of future titles will go over the border. His presence in Scotland should mean a further fillip to a country that is making rapid progress.

Pictured on this page is Mrs. Rose Bromfield, wife of Leslie M. Bromfield, well-known table tennis enthusiast and sports dealer. That fascinating green table was the cause of their first meeting. Leslie recklessly offered a start of 16 points in each game, a challenge which cost him twenty-five bars of chocolate and eventually led the two to the altar. Rose has since made a good impression in the table tennis world, her latest achievement being to win the North Middlesex Ladies' Singles for the third successive time. In the last London Open she lost to Pinkie Barnes in the final. When not taking part in leading tournaments she keeps in form by playing her husband for his clothing coupons. We hear that in one desperate attempt to hold on to his last chance of a new pair of pants, Leslie insisted that it was his turn to receive sixteen start!



Present-Day Net Height

A HANDICAP TO PROGRESS

By STANLEY PROFFITT
(English Swaythling Cup Player)



STANLEY PROFFITT

WE raise our hats to World Champion Vana; give the glad hand to Tereba, Pagliaro, Leach and Andreadis, winners of the English, Scotch, Welsh and Irish titles respectively. These accomplishments against stern opposition, coupled with our lasses' magnificent team and individual displays, and we find another successful season has come and gone.

If you are given to rejoicing, now is the time, but there is a deeper reach of thought which perturbs the high-ups and sets a spark of controversy exploding like a jumping cracker time and again. It is the general playing standards and one hears plenty about the net height holding a big share in the blame.

Before any revolutionary steps are taken in this direction the Table Tennis House of Lords (International Federation) need a get-together to formulate a ruling on standardisation of playing surfaces. Unless some solution to this problem is forthcoming all ideas on net height will fall flat.

It would be a monstrosity to tinker with the net unless all countries fall in line with regard to playing surfaces. A first-rate example was in Paris, where, on the soft, slow tables, a lower net would have enlivened the issue. On the contrary, with ultra fast tops, the reverse helps appreciably.

It is obvious that foreign stars enjoy the excellence of English playing conditions, and it might be

said that we are in a position to give a lead to any changes that might be considered advantageous.

WHY THE LACK OF SPARKLE?

Considering that we enjoy such an enviable position in the table tennis world, it is alarming to see such a lack of sparkle in present-day playing standards. During the past season, I invited a number of tip-top sportsmen to various matches, and though they were entertained and their unanimous opinion was that each was a good show, they stated quite emphatically that there was a notable absence of those thrills which lifts a sport to a leading position.

In self-defence it might be said that British sport is suffering a transition period. County cricket, lawn tennis, and soccer, are far below pre-war levels. Wars and sporting crowns cannot easily be won at one and the same time.

But it must be generally agreed that table tennis is not quite the game that it was. No Barna-Szabados Wembley finals to warm the cockles of your heart, and very few long and exciting rallies that thrill you through and through.

The above remarks are facts which any old-timer will readily agree—

but we can do something about it! We should not be content to wait for the game regaining its lost ground, but instead steps can be taken to bring about a rapid improvement.

Well, what is it? The question must pose itself to readers.

My belief is that the six-inch net has served an admirable purpose, and to continue over a longer period may have a damaging effect on the younger generation.

Why do I say this? Well, an added half-inch establishing a $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. net—happy medium between present and past heights—would suffice in once again instituting top-spin, fleetness of foot, and those long breath-taking rallies, so pleasing to the eye.

The layman who pays good money cannot be expected to come up for another dose unless the spectacle is worthwhile, and I say, here and now, that the short rallies, prevalent last season are not entertainment value—hardly enough to attract Ma and Pa from the local cinema.

Granted, the English titles played to a capacity house, but the build-up to such is the intermediate events. If you have witnessed a North v. South clash, local championship or county match, you will get what I mean.

When this freak-boom period declines, financial resources are likely to drop. Something must be done immediately to avoid any loss of public interest and support.

NET MUST BE HIGHERED

The present net height encourages a lazily produced, flat "wallop" (distinct from the scientific flat hit). Footwork and brain need not co-ordinate and the tutors' advice is being jostled aside for a cumbersome, unwieldy method of approach. This unpurposeful kill leaves little chance to display those long retrieving efforts—rather it develops

into a toe-to-toe point snatching performance.

An increase in the height of the net, to my mind, serves a dual purpose:—

1. Necessitating a well-planned campaign in attack.

2. Reinstating thrilli-crammed rallies to the benefit of the public.

For a normal bounce, attackers would be compelled to use a degree of top-spin, which, while slightly retarding the speed, calls for strategy in luring defenders into presenting a clumsy reply. During this battle of wits, exciting incidents are bound to develop. Cutely delivered drop-shots, practically extinct other than in top grade, once again would come into their own. The opponent, temporarily driven on defence, would have an equal opportunity to engineer a counter hit and take over the aggression.

Variety would thus add a sparkle to the game, not only enchanting to the onlooker but bringing forth all the finer points of table-tennis.

American ace, Solly Schiff, doesn't see it my way. He urges a one-foot extension on table length and six inches on width, net to be adjusted accordingly, probably $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.

There's something in this, old pardner, but what price the pint sized player with a short ball?

an Apology

Owing to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to feature the promised article by Mr. Leslie Forrest, entitled "COACHING OFFICIALS." We hope to include this in our Autumn issue which will be out on October 10th

Without Reserve

By RON SHARMAN
(English International)

SOME of last year's tournaments were so well organised that they even outshone the best amongst those of pre-war days. Unfortunately, others were not so good—to put it mildly. Poor tables, slippery floors and indifferent lighting—these were some of the handicaps with which players had to contend. We all know that conditions cannot always be perfect, but consider how much enjoyment in the game is missed—both by players and spectators alike—when the real form of the player is hidden through no fault of his own. During next season then, I sincerely hope a real effort will be made to give players the best possible conditions.

I think I speak for many players when I say that it is regrettable that some tournament organisers should deem it necessary to charge competitors to watch the more fortunate contestants playing in the finals. I recall a Midlands tournament where even the finalists at first were actually asked to pay to enter the hall to take part in the finals. Surely, when a player has paid as much as half-a-crown to enter the singles, and probably another four shillings for the doubles, he should be entitled to standing room at least, for the finals, instead of being expected to pay another half-crown or so.

TOURNAMENT SEEDING

The seeding of players is not allowed in an open tournament, except by special permission of the E.T.T.A. Yet in the majority of the open tournaments, seeding is accepted as a matter of course. Most of us know that seeding is necessary

in order to ensure a spectacular finals night. Shall we agree then, that seeding is virtually unavoidable? If so, let us have it on a proper footing. Let the E.T.T.A. issue an official ranking list, so that a committee running a tournament may select from their entries the required number of players—in order of merit—according to the official ranking list, and not just please themselves.

VALUE OF A RANKING LIST

Now let us consider the question of the ranking list itself. I suggest that the E.T.T.A.—by means of local and then final trials—decide on the twelve leading players, who would then take part in a trial whereby each played the others. From the actual results obtained, a true ranking list could be compiled. If this were done just before the Swaythling Cup matches, the English team could be composed of the five top players in the ranking list. This would be fair to all the players and would ensure that the team was picked as a result of the form shown and not according to the whims and fancies of the Selection Committee.

Some people no doubt, will claim that by this method a young player would not get special consideration. But I think it better that he should not get special consideration. When selecting a team to represent England, age should not be taken into account. I have yet to see or hear of a young player who played for England before he really earned his place.

It is heartening to note that Geoff Harrower has been appointed to the National Executive.

Harrower's organising ability is well known and as he sees the game from the player's and the organiser's point of view, one can confidently hope for some changes for the better.

Hull visits Rotterdam

By MARCUS BISHOP

ON May 4th, an excited party of twenty-nine set out from Hull on the s.s. *Melrose Abbey* to play the return matches of table tennis with Rotterdam. The first of these matches took place in Hull last November when men's and women's matches were played between the two cities, resulting in wins for Hull in both cases after many hard fights.

This time, a fine cup had been presented by the Rotterdam Table Tennis Association, to be played for annually by the two cities, the town winning the most games on aggregate of women's and men's matches, to be the winner. A magnanimous gesture on behalf of the Rotterdammers was that if the result be a tie, then Hull should carry off the trophy, which was incidentally, named the "Wissell Prijs."

The previous visit to Hull had been only of three days duration, but we were scheduled to spend eleven days in Rotterdam. What a glorious eleven days they were too, with a trip to the bulb fields, a tour of Rotterdam and its harbours, a civic reception with coffee and biscuits in the Burgomaster's parlour, visits to a tea manufactory, a brewery (no cracks, please!), a zoo, and a tour of the

shops which were calculated to make our eyes pop out . . . and did!

As to the results—well we repeated our performances of last season and brought back the "Wissell Prijs." The men won 7-3 and the women 6-4. Notable performances were by Abe Abrahamson and Dai Davies (the Hull City footballer) who won both their two games. Very modestly I would also like to include myself as having won two games. Abe and I were both fortunate enough to defeat R. Willemstein, the Dutch international and Rotterdam No. 1. However, he took his revenge in no uncertain manner, for in the Singles tournament a few days later, he defeated yours truly deuce third game in the quarter-finals, Davies 16 third game in the semi-finals, and Abrahamson 19 fifth game in the final.

Our lady players, Mrs. Thompson and Miss Ombler played well, but my fiancée, Miss Norma Queskey, Yorkshire champion had one of her rare "off-days" owing to an indisposition and lost both her games.

We are already planning and looking forward to the third series of matches to be played next May, when the Hull Association will endeavour to repay the wonderful hospitality of our Dutch friends.



HULL PARTY LEAVING FOR HOLLAND

The Drop Shot

THE years dim the memory, but one particular table tennis personality will always remain vivid in my mind. Indirectly, I probably owe my present world title to him.

I refer to Robert Thum, an old-time Austrian international and a stylist who possessed a two-winged attack. Thum was forever taking the initiative, but his forceful strokes were regularly returned by such specialised defensive men as Malecek and Lauterbach, who, in their heyday were the Czechoslovakian stars. Moreover, continued under-spin usually resulted in the Austrian breaking down. To counter the burden of heavy drag, he would try pushing the ball back, but this only resulted in passing the aggression over to the opponent. When this happened, as it frequently did, Thum, stoutly built and therefore not so nimble of foot, found himself at a disadvantage.

On returning to Prague the following year we were amazed to find Thum had invented a new stroke. Our players wilted and slumped against it, and he regained some of his lost prestige.

Yes, this new stroke was the drop-shot.

I, a boy in short pants, sat watching and wondering. I resolved that this innovation was going to be part and parcel of my game. And so it came to pass. Ever since that day I have been grateful to the fair-headed man from Vienna and attribute my recent Paris success, as well as other triumphs to the careful practice and study I gave to the drop-shot.

A SHOT WORTH CULTIVATING

Table tennis is a young sport and it is continually going forward. Those who are unable to keep in

by

BOHUMIL VANA

WORLD CHAMPION

★

step must soon fall behind. With the improvement of the modern style of play the returns of defensive players are becoming more and more perfect and it is now very difficult to beat a first-class defensive player with drives alone. It is, therefore, essential for attacking players to build up a wide repertoire of strokes in addition to putting more speed into their drives. Often you see a player who possesses all it takes to make a world champion, and you wonder why he never gains a premier honour. My answer to this query is that once he masters the drop-shot, most of his troubles are over.

It is a stroke which is little or wrongly used, yet when played in the proper manner against defensive players it reaps in many valuable points. Considering it is such an "ace" shot it is given far too little attention, and last season I was surprised to find that the rank and file, particularly in England, rarely employed it.

The stroke is certainly not a stylish one for the bat must take all the speed from the ball and make it become dead, but used effectively it is better than the most stylish and forceful drive.

HOW TO PLAY A DROP

The best strategical uses are after a fusillade of hard drives designed to send the defender farther away and at a wider angle to the baseline, then place the drop, cutely and "dead" just over the net on the opposite side. Should the point not be won outright, there are then one or two

vulnerable spots to aim at, for the opponent, scurrying inwards to catch the ball, naturally leaves wide open spaces.

In its application, use the attacking forehand or backhand positions. Immediately before the point of impact, stop the racket dead in its track, thrusting the wrist slightly under, having all tension slackened. The oncoming ball will strike an immobile, freely-held racket and plop back lifelessly over the net.

The drop-shot calls for delicacy of touch, split-second timing and above all deceptiveness in execution. Make no mistake about it, it is a difficult shot to perform.

BE DECEPTIVE

Possibly it is easier to perform from the backhand, but I prefer the forehand stance oblique to the table, ensuring a greater deceptive measure. Go through the exaggerated swing-back motions as though packing a real "sizzler." It has the effect of making the watchful defender take a further step backwards anticipating the fancied smash hit. But alas, it is the drop-shot he has to contend with.

To place this trick shot in the centre by the net is courting disaster, many opponents are able to make the point with the "flick" as they come running in. By the same rule, it is again not practical off long baseline returns. The time taken for the ball to travel the distance towards the net enables the opposition ample opportunity to move into position.

THREE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES

The advantages obtained by using the drop-shot are as follows:—

(1) It compels the defensive player to leave the spot where he is endeavouring to "dig" himself in.

pre-war league. Quickly contacting the local Secretary, Mr. Ron Juler, I asked him if any of the lads could give me some practice, taking care to tell him just how good I was, of course. "Well," said Ron, "the only likely lad I have at present is Richard Bergmann. He is staying with me. How would he do?" So I clicked for private practice with the World Champion, an honour at least comparable with that of taking my bath in the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse.

Shortly after this, Barna and Bergmann started their Red Cross tours, and it happened that quite a number of their fixtures were within reach of my camp. On such occasions I was able to help out in their programme, and naturally this was better practice than I had been able to get in peace-time. Improvement came quickly, and towards the end

(2) Any quick to and fro movement will eventually take its toll and tire your opponent, resulting in a slight slowing down of his game should the event drag on to three or five games.

(3) A perfectly executed drop-shot which again and again finds your opponent hopelessly out of position will have a marked psychological effect on the victim. Nothing is so discomforting to find that one's opponent is able to dictate just how the game will be played, and those murmurs of praise from the spectators after each well-timed drop-shot can be most irritating to even the most untemperamental player.

One last point. All of us derive pleasure from "selling the dummy," or catching the opponent on the wrong foot, but beware you yourself are not caught napping because of an ill-timed, clumsy attempt at the drop-shot.

The Drop Shot Encounters

ARRINGTON

of English Official Magazine)

THE years dim the memory, but one particular table tennis personality will always remain vivid in my mind. Indirectly, I probably owe my present world title to him.

I refer to Robert Thum, an old-time Austrian international and a stylist who possessed a two-winged attack. Thum was forever taking the initiative, but his forceful strokes were regularly returned by such specialised defensive men as Malecek and Lauterbach, who, in their heyday were the Czechoslovakian stars. Moreover, continued under-spin usually resulted in the Austrian breaking down. To counter the burden of heavy drag, he would try pushing the ball back, but this only resulted in passing the aggression

on to the opponent. When this Les Mason, a regular sparring partner of mine from whom I had parted at St. Bride's only three days before, and here he was again, already a L/Bdr. by virtue of his long service of four days. When last I heard of him he was a sergeant and for all I know he may have stayed his dizzy ascent there.

I decided there and then that a table tennis bat must be part of my army kit at all times and by great good luck I never had to put it away entirely, although often I was reduced to pushing a barrack table against a stone wall for practice.

I MEET JOHNNY LEACH

On my very first leave I was invited to play an exhibition game at the Romford Y.M.C.A. club, and after the show they brought up to me a slim youngster of 16, junior champion of the club and league. Would I give him a game? Well, of course, I did, and duly noted that "balloon" defence and tenacity

which may still be seen in the now polished and aggressive play of our great new champion, Johnny Leach.

It was in Ireland in 1942, that Johnny crossed my path again, and our adventures together deserve to be the subject of a special story.

Meanwhile, I returned to my unit, keener than ever, with a promise from my friends Victor Barna and Alfred Liebster, to come and help me "shake them up" with a really first-class exhibition. This we managed to do, and I think it was actually the first of the scores of exhibitions given to Service units. *(The date was January, 1940; can anyone beat that).*

Afterwards I played a few return exhibitions with the foreign stars, around London. The only one which stands out in my memory was at the Catford Headquarters of the famous London Scottish Regiment. Here we arrived to find all the paraphernalia of a big evening—table, lights, chairs, refreshments, umpires and programmes. *Only no audience!* The date was June 9th, 1940, and the troops had been moved to secret stations in reaction to the German invasion of the Lowlands, and of course, security forbade informing the mere table tennis players about such things.

That was a serious summer, a summer for me of 16-hour days spent between lecture rooms and slit-trenches in the great officers' training school at Shrivenham. Wot, no table tennis? Too true, Mr. Chad, although my room neighbour was John Archer, brilliant young Wimbledon player and Surrey Junior Lawn Tennis Champion.

EXILED FROM T.T.

Churned out of the officer-machine, we were flung to the barbarous North, to wit St. Andrews, near Dundee. The Eskimos there had never heard of a table tennis table—what indeed would a village with three golf courses want with such things? True the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse kindly allowed me to use their bath on bath-nights, a privilege I could hardly have attained in normal times.

Nevertheless, I have a soft spot for this sweetly dignified little town on the bay. What a pleasant thing it would be if there were just such a lovely spot where old, old, table tennis players could live together in peace and seemingly exist on the sales of a few rackets and balls. For customers, the constant flow of younger enthusiasts visiting the place for a table tennis holiday and to drink in the atmosphere, and for diversion the occasional big championship when the youngsters could win the prizes but the old 'uns tell the tales. And the older the player, the more right he is!

Ah yes, a pleasant thought; as one who is fast approaching his prime, I have these thoughts more and more often nowadays!

Incidentally, I heard in the late war years that table tennis had since become popular in the St. Andrews-Leuchars area, having been introduced by the Polish troops. These Poles . . . they always know a good thing when they see it. My cousin in the W.A.A.F. says they always know a good line when they meet a good thing, but that is too complicated for me.

"WILL RICHARD BERGMANN DO?"

My next posting rescued me from the golfing Scotsmen and landed me at Chester. Here was civilisation again, the home of quite a flourishing

pre-war league. Quickly contacting the local Secretary, Mr. Ron Juler, I asked him if any of the lads could give me some practice, taking care to tell him just how good I was, of course. "Well," said Ron, "the only likely lad I have at present is Richard Bergmann. He is staying with me. How would he do?" So I clicked for private practice with the World Champion, an honour at least comparable with that of taking my bath in the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse.

Shortly after this, Barna and Bergmann started their Red Cross tours, and it happened that quite a number of their fixtures were within reach of my camp. On such occasions I was able to help out in their programme, and naturally this was better practice than I had been able to get in peace-time. Improvement came quickly, and towards the end of the run I suppose I gave the great champions an occasional ball to think about. After what I thought was my best performance ever against the "2 B's," my batman said to me "You played fine last night, sir. My, I'll bet you was — good when you was young!" The implication being that I would have knocked the stuffing out of those fellows. And they say no man is a hero to his valet.

Can't Dance?

Learn the modern dances in your own home! Surprise your friends—and yourself! Send two 2d. stamps—today for details of our Postal Course to Dept. T.T.2. London Dance Institute 19-23 OXFORD ST., LONDON, W.1

New Service Rule

Alterations to the Laws of Table Tennis

The following alterations have been made to the Laws of Table Tennis by the International Federation and accepted by the English Association.

LAW NO. 3.—*The Ball.* Delete "pale in colour" in line 2 and substitute "white, but not brightly reflecting."

LAW NO. 4.—*The Racket.* Insert comma after "weight" and add "providing it is not white, light covered or reflecting."

LAW NO. 10.—*A Good Service.* Add, between the first and second paragraphs another paragraph, in brackets, as shown below:—

"(In the delivery of the service the free hand of any two-handed player shall be open flat, with the fingers straight and together, thumb free, and the ball resting on the palm without being cuffed or pinched in any way by the fingers. The ball shall be released by the free hand either lifting upwards or dropping away.)"

APPENDIX TO LAWS. KNOTTY POINTS. POINT NO. 4.—*Hand-spin in service.*—Delete present paragraph, No. 4, completely and re-number Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8, to read Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7.

These alterations will be embodied in the Rules of the Game published in next season's official Handbook and will become operative from July 1, 1947.



E. WORSLEY

Hon. Secretary, Lancs. T.T. Association

Chief Organiser of the
next English Open



English Open for Manchester

With the World Championships being held in London the English Open Championships have been allocated to the Lancashire County Association. Mr. E. Worsley, go-ahead secretary of the L.T.T.A. has made preliminary arrangements to stage the event at Belle Vue, famous Northern and Manchester playground of sport and pleasure.

The Belle Vue management gave Mr. Worsley an enthusiastic reception and are exceptionally keen to put the tournament over in a really big way. We are convinced that the English Open, which is to take place during the inclusive dates of November 18th to 21st, will this year be staged in a manner that has never before been equalled in the North—and maybe in the South, too!

What the Stars are Doing

WORLD Champion Bohumil Vana begins an exhibition tour of Sweden from August 9th to the 21st, to be followed immediately by a three-weeks tour of Southern France. For his French tour, he will be joined by his fellow countryman, Andreadis. Andreadis joins the Czechoslovak army in October and consequently he may not appear in next season's world championships. During May, both Andreadis and the French player Amouretti, were busy coaching Dutch players.

We hear that Tereba (Czechoslovakia), English Open Champion, has definitely decided to give up table tennis.

Laslo Bellak (Hungary) and lady partner are engaged in a table tennis

music hall act. At the moment of going to press, they are appearing in Stockholm, afterwards playing in Denmark and Holland.

I. Kelen, famous pre-war Hungarian Swaythling cup player is a captain in the Australian Army of occupation in Japan. Szabados, another well-known Hungarian Swaythling Cup player is still in Australia.

Richard Bergman, now a naturalised Englishman, has received offers to tour both India and Spain. The Indian T.T. Association invited Vana to accompany Bergmann, but Vana is unable to accept owing to his European tours. Providing permission was granted by the E.T.T.A., both Vana and Bergmann would be willing to make a tour of English provincial towns at the end of September, including of course, our own No. 1, Johnny Leach.

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An Unofficial Ranking List

IN the absence of any official Ranking List by the E.T.T.A., we approached six reliable table tennis personalities with an invitation to give us their ideas on the ranking of English players (excluding Barna and Bergmann). From the six lists submitted, we formed a census of opinion and this resulted as follows:—

1. Johnny Leach.
2. Benny Casofsky.
3. Ernest Bubley.
4. Ron Sharman.
5. George Goodman.
6. Eric Marsh.
7. Ron Crayden.
8. Ken Stanley.
9. Jack Carrington.
10. Hymie Lurie.
11. Eric J. Filby.
12. Geoff Harrower.

In past issues we have named Casofsky as being No. 2 and the above further confirms our views, even so, we might say that Casofsky's star seems to be on the wane, finishing on an exceptionally low note at the end of the season. His defeat in the Cheshire Open by Shepherd of Bolton, followed by Hymie Lurie's splendid victory over him in the final of the Manchester Closed, were certainly not the results expected from such a high ranking player and member of the Swaythling Cup team. A lot of hard work is demanded this summer, Benny, if you want to hold your place in the face of such a strong challenge as Ron Sharman and Ron Crayden.

Having seen Ken Stanley play on a number of occasions during the past season we have no hesitation in saying that his entry in more open tournaments would soon earn him a place in the Swaythling team.

We know that our Ranking List will be strongly criticised by our friend George (Eli) Goodman. He has already very emphatically stated that our No. 2 is "well out of position." George helpfully remarked that there is little doubt that Bubley should be second to Leach, but when pressed for his No. 3 player, George hesitated . . . rather modestly we thought . . . but he did go on to state that his own Swaythling Cup record was far superior to Casofsky's.

The publication of a Ranking List invites a shower of criticism, but we welcome all views. We will be delighted to publish a selection of the more interesting letters received, and also form another Ranking List which will be a census of readers' opinions. Do write and tell us what YOU think.

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Big Sister or Younger Brother?— *which helps which?*

By D. A. K.

IS table tennis the nursery for good lawn tennis? It has often been suggested that the reverse is the case. In my view, however, the "big sister" gains much more from her "younger brother."

I have seen many players attempt to bring lawn tennis tactics to the table tennis table. Some have held their racquets similarly to their larger ones, but with not very great success.

They are usually impeccable stylists, pretty to watch, but lacking the "devil" and the accuracy of the solely table tennis player. Maybe that being used to the larger court they find it difficult to keep the smaller ball "on the island."

Moreover, and here I am inviting brick-bats, table tennis being the faster game, decisions have to be made more rapidly.

And it is here, perhaps, that lawn tennis benefits most from the indoor sport. In ringcraft, or rather, courtcraft, the table tennis player finds that his opponent has drawn away, even slightly, towards one side of the table. Instantly, indeed instinctively, for there is little time to think, the ball is flashed away down the opposite white line.

In lawn tennis, owing to the greater distances covered, the opponent's movement is more pronounced and the open court more obvious. The lawn tennis player with the "table tennis mind," accustomed to "split second" decisions, finds ample time to take advantage of such openings. A "canny" table tennis player usually

makes a "cunning" lawn tennis player.

I have stated that lawn tennis gains more from table tennis than the reverse. Many will not agree, but it is significant, that whereas many table tennis players proceed to make their name—and probably their fortune—on the grass court, how many lawn tennis players have entered, or even remained in table tennis with success?

Fred Perry, the only Englishman to hold the world's championship, was a table tennis player first and a lawn tennis player second. Once he entered lawn tennis, he was lost to table tennis.

I am sure that Jean Nichol (to use "our" name for this charming player) would be the first to agree that she has not fulfilled all the high hopes at the indoor sport that were once entertained for her.

The same may be said of Eric Filby. Fortunately, he is still with us and still figuring prominently in many tournaments, but attractive, and at times brilliant, as this player undoubtedly is, he has never become the giant killer that at one time appeared possible.

Table tennis is essentially a game of tactics, of spin countering spin, of change of pace and direction. With the smaller and lighter racquet this can be done easily and effectively. It is perhaps more difficult with the heavier lawn tennis equipment. But the table tennis player attempts it, perhaps involuntarily and should he succeed, it will lift him from the ranks of the ordinary club player to that of glittering prizes!



A Short Story by "INKSPOT"

IT is oft said that fate plays some cruel tricks, and in Peter Popplewell's case it struck very much below the belt. Peter was not a ladies' man by any means, but in spite of this he could appreciate an attractive figure. His ideas on the depth of female eyes, the ideal shade of hair, were of a definite high standard. In fact, his standard was fixed so high that he had never yet met his ideal.

However, love is just around the corner, and one evening at a local league match he found the one and only girl who could conform with the Popplewell specification, and what is more, he appeared to have made a distinct hit with her. Not only did she give him her undivided attention, but actually smiled the most inviting of smiles.

Now this sort of thing is all very well in the right place, and at the right moment, in fact all T.T. males are greatly in favour of it, but just at that particular time Peter found it a trifle disconcerting. You see he was in the middle of a vitally important game, his team were drawing by two events to two, and this happened to be the final and deciding event.

Peter first noticed those nerve-shattering smiles when the score was 17 points to 3 in his favour. He had won the first game with a score of

21-5, and as the event was the best of three games, it looked as though Peter was to be the hero of his side. The result of the match was undoubtedly in the bag. Then fate played his fifth ace. The previously discussed vision of loveliness came and sat down in the front row of seats. Mechanically Peter began to serve. Smack! It was a very poor service that had almost pleaded to be hit good and hard. Again he served . . . this time off the table. At the end of his service the score was 17-8, and that was the beginning of Peter's decline and fall.

Concentration went to the four winds, or as many winds as happened to be knocking about. His wonderful forehand drive lost its superlative adjective, and his backhand flick was a flop. Yet in spite of his poor display the girl still dispatched smiles that travelled on Cupid's arrows. A wonderful girl.

Of course, Peter lost the match for his team. You can't expect a fellow to keep his head when he finds that his ideal girl has apparently hitched her wagon to his star. Maybe the love-stunned Popplewell did not realise he had lost. Love works on a similar basis to influenza. It attacks different people in different ways.

However, fate still had another

ace. Immediately after the final point of the game, the young lady from the front seats rushed to the table and flung her arms round the winner's neck (N.B., not Peter's neck) giving him a long, affectionate kiss. She had passed Peter as though he had been no more than an E.T.T.A. official. Peter snorted and trudged angrily into the dressing-room. Some fellows would have made a scene, but not a Popplewell. Peter had his own miserable method of nursing a broken heart.

He existed for about a week in a sort of stupor, then slowly began to show signs of life. The old haunts saw his youthful face once more, and in one of these "old haunts" he met his late opponent and victor, who insisted on standing him a glass. In the midst of an elbow-raise Peter popped an inevitable question:—

"I say, old man, who was the pretty girl who kissed you at our league match?"

"Only the wife," was the rather sad reply.

"The wife!" repeated Peter.

"Yes," confirmed the fortunate husband, "She made ten shillings in bets on that match. Marvellous little person, my wife."

Peter made no further remark except to order a nerve tonic.

Moral: Keep your eye on the ball.

A Few of Next Season's Events

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| English | — Nov. 18th-21st. |
| Merseyside | — Nov. 27th-29th. |
| Lancashire | — January, 1948. |
| World's | — Feb. 4th-11th. |
| North of England | — Feb. 12th-14th. |
| Cheshire | — March, 1948. |

THIS GIRL PUT SCOTLAND ON THE MAP



HELEN ELLIOT

Scottish International and holder of a number of Open titles. Helen is putting in plenty of Summer practice. Watch her break the headlines next season.

Improving Your Game

by Nora Senior
(Yorkshire County Player)

A WEEK ago, Jimmy, a young boy of 15, asked me a perfectly straightforward question, "How can I become good at table tennis?" I coughed discreetly, asked the lad if I could have time to think of a suitable reply, then proceeded to jot down the following various points which I consider essential to improve a beginner's game.

First of all, I maintain a person should be "whole-hearted" about the game. By that I mean it is necessary to play conscientiously *all* the time, not just from September to April each year. I personally make a point of devoting at least one evening every week throughout the summer to table tennis and at least three evenings a week during the winter.

A beginner *must* master the accepted orthodox strokes, and though sparkling forehand drives and back-hand flicks may prove elusive, it is necessary to have a good style backed by one's confidence to get through with that style. Once a player finds the swing of a natural orthodox stroke, concentration should be made on that stroke and coupled with confidence to play it when required.

My next two points relate to those members of the body which are farthest removed from the "swinger of the bat," viz., the feet and the head. Movement is one of the main



MISS NORA SENIOR

pointers to distinguishing the average player from the "star." Watch Johnny Leach! I consider his footwork as good as any I ever hope to see—Bergmann too! It is evident that these players have carefully studied footwork, and my advice to learners is to watch good players whenever they can—see them PUT their feet where they should be, and not be content to stay where their body happens to have "taken root." Move well, learn to take the ball "on the run" as footballers do. Many winning shots come from drives taken "on the run." Regarding the head, my advice is, carefully study all persons you play, and every shot you make. Concentrate on dominating the game. If you want to attack—use your head to outwit your opponent and bring about the opening to get your attack going; if you want to defend, then play your balls to *make* your opponent "have-a-go."

I would also advise all youngsters to be sure and play with "better

Bergmann Returns to Tournament Play

IT is welcome news for table tennis fans everywhere to hear that Richard Bergmann, undefeated World Champion, has returned once more to big tournament play. Despairing of finding a taker for his £500 challenge to any player anywhere, and being too restless to be a mere spectator at major events, he decided to battle once more for the various open titles.

Since his return, he has carried off the three Singles titles. These are given below, and shown also are those leading players who received defeat at his hands.

| BUCKINGHAMSHIRE | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|
| Sharman | .. | 2-0 |
| Marsh | .. | 3-0 |
| WEMBLEY | | |
| Leach | .. | 2-0 |
| Barna | .. | 3-1 |
| MIDDLESEX | | |
| Crayden | .. | 2-0 |
| Marsh | .. | 2-0 |
| Leach | .. | 3-1 |

Continued from opposite page.

players." Take your City's No. 1 a packet of fags—you'll be O.K. Attend as many tournaments as possible, not necessarily to play in the earlier stages, nor to treat it as a "day out," but to *look* and *learn*, for I sincerely believe a host of benefit can be derived from all tournaments by intelligent spectators.

Finally, practice hard and long. Don't be impatient, and if you feel you're becoming stale from over-play, leave table tennis strictly alone for a week, then returned refreshed and full of determination to eventually represent your City, then your County and, who knows, even your Country! It's up to you!

He will be seen in the English Open and also the World's Championships next season, when he is bound to make a strong bid to recapture the title he allowed to go to Bohumil Vana without a fight last February in Paris. His present form shows all its old splendour both in attack and defence.

Bergmann's idea of present world ranking is as follows:—

1. Vana (Czechoslovakia).
2. Tereba (ditto).
3. Andreadis (ditto).
4. Miles (U.S.A.).
5. Leach (England).

His answer to our question of where he placed himself was "Wait and see."

Richard has been putting in a little time coaching Peggy Franks, our No. 3 lady player. One spot of advice he gives her in regard to attacking strokes, is worthy of record: "Sacrifice speed for certainty"—meaning of course, that it is better for the attacker not to rush a "kill" but to work up to it carefully and methodically. Very, very sound advice, that.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FEBRUARY

Next season's World Championships have now been arranged to start on Wednesday, February 4, concluding on Wednesday, February 11, 1948. They will take place in London with the finals to be played at Wembley Stadium.

The 1947-48 season happens to be the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of the English Table Tennis Association, and the World Championships are a fitting event which will come at the peak of what should be an ambitious celebration programme. It is hoped that thirty nations will take part in this premier tournament.

Some "Stars" Don't Twinkle

By SAM KIRKWOOD

I THINK it might be said with confidence that table tennis has bred countless thousands of magnificent sportsmen (and sports-women) who have placed the spirit of the game above results. Indeed, the camaraderie that exists between players is unique: the bond is national and international. No matter where a player might go he is certain to find friends among fellow enthusiasts, and is accepted by them as a comrade.

Yes, the vast majority of players in this country love the game for the game's sake and enrich the sport and those who play it by their disinterested in personal honours and glory. Unfortunately, however, this attitude does not always carry into the rarefied atmosphere breathed by top-flight players. From my own personal experience—a pretty extensive one both as player and spectator—I have noticed a singular phenomenon, namely, that once some exponents achieve a measure of success which earns for them representative honours of some sort, they begin to indulge in the fantasy that they are some species of superior beings who should "mix" only with those of their own standing (whatever that might be).

This, of course, by no means applies in general, yet there are nevertheless enough conceited stars to make one wonder whether the present system of distributing honours, and leaving those honours to be enjoyed—and abused—by those unworthy of them, is all it might be, and what might be done to put an end to the activities of the "bad eggs."

BAD TABLE MANNERS

Examples of rank bad behaviour from people who should, but apparently don't know better, spring easily to mind (no doubt readers could name several instances from their own experience). For instance, a certain "crack" with an England badge to his name left his club and played in lower-grade class. It goes without saying that he was much too good for the opposition. But this particular gent. wasn't content with merely winning; no, he had to—shall we say?—"take the mike" out of opponents by imitating every stroke they made immediately after they had executed it, with a semi-sneer and carefully exaggerated play both of which clearly said, "See, stooge, *this* is how it should be done." Every man he came against he antagonised.

Take again the instance of another international who would not play "ordinary" players unless they were prepared to wager that they'd get so many point against him, and whose "fans" had the pleasant habit of standing directly behind the challenger and passing loud remarks in an effort to unnerve him and make him lose his money. This "sportsman" always puts money first with personal vanity a close second, sportsmanship trailing hopelessly behind as an also-ran.

These are by no means isolated cases of snooty big-shots and their unpleasant habits. By no means..

I have been present at tournaments where, after getting fairly and squarely beaten, some big names have loudly and bitterly complained of bad conditions, the "luck"

enjoyed by their conquerors, and so on. I have been present at tournaments where leading lady players have burst into tears or given vent to childish fits of temper after defeat, being barely able to mumble their alibis for sobs and rage. I have witnessed stars arriving late for their games and uttering not a word of apology or explanation to waiting opponents or the spectators (who, after all, paid to see table tennis), but instead entered wearing a kingly air as though they expected everyone to praise heaven that they (the stars) had deigned to turn up at all.

A CLEAN-UP REQUIRED

I could quote case after case of rank shoddy manners and ill-bred lack of sportsmanship on the part of some of those who have been awarded representative honours. So what? So this.

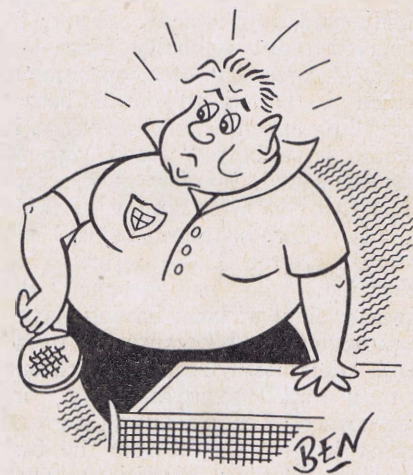
With a big future ahead in which we all hope that England will gain a little glory in the table tennis world (if in nothing else), officials must take steps to ensure that if stars and potential stars don't behave, then, so far as representative honours of any sort are concerned, they, to use an Army phrase, have had it. The E.T.T.A. don't need to snoop or pry. It's surprising how news of this-and-that gets around. A little careful observation and investigation once a report of persistent misbehaviour on someone's part has been received, is all that would be necessary. Then action with a capital A. The Association must be strict with ill-mannered tournament and league players and should come down on them like a hammer on an anvil, if the game's fine spirit is to flower at full bloom.

Let selectors turn a blind eye to "flash" boys, no matter how great their skill and instead concentrate on players who, if not perhaps world beaters, are undoubted gentlemen in

the true sense of that horribly maligned word. Better to lose international contests in the true spirit of the game than to win with players who might leave a nasty stain on the Union Jack.

For the good of the game in general, in fact, certain not-so-twinkling stars should be permanently blacked out. When all's said and done table tennis is not a racket for the few to indulge their conceit and fill their pockets at the expense of the many, but the world's greatest indoor sport for sportsmen of all classes and shades of ability.

Let's clean up the game—and keep it clean.



"And what makes
you think
I'm serving
outside
the sideline?"

The Wilmott Cup Flop!

HAVE you ever heard of an English Cup Final with one of the teams playing the match one man short, or a similar thing happening in a Davis Cup Final, or in any other sort of National or International Final? Yet this really *did* happen in a Final of the game that we love.

I am referring, of course, to the "Wilmott" Cup, the English Table Tennis Inter-league National Knock-out Tournament, the final of which was played in Enfield, between London—who had only one man available at the advertised starting time, but two forty minutes later—and Exeter, on Saturday, May 10th.

This was the climax of a very badly run tournament. First, it received scant publicity from the Press—a necessity for a tournament which is bound to entail heavy travelling expenses, and secondly, it should have been "zoned" up to the semi-final, in view of the fact that there is little money in table tennis. For instance, in the 4th round, Exeter had to travel to Norwich, who had reached the quarter final without having played a previous round, because of "byes" and "defaults." Now Norwich is a young and comparatively inexperienced League, but in a grand effort to give the visitors the best possible playing conditions, they spent £10 on the lighting arrangements alone and altogether lost £12 in staging the tie, which they lost 9-0. Can you imagine Norwich making an application to enter the Tournament next season?

In the semi-final, Exeter travelled to Birmingham, who have over 1,000 registered players and yet less than 50 people were present to see Exeter win 8-1.

I feel—and many others—that something ought to be done by the E.T.T.A. about the Wilmott Cup Tournament, and also the Rose Bowl too, for in their present forms they are most unsatisfactory.

By L. C. KERSLAKE
(Vice-Chairman and Press Secretary,
Exeter and District T.T.L.)

The Wilmott Cup Final Incident

After travelling from Exeter to London it must have been far from pleasing to the Exeter people to find that the Londoners were prepared to play them with only two men. One hour before the match was due to start Ron Sharman was in attendance, while Johnny Leach was unavoidably delayed by crowds going to a Greyhound meeting and arrived three-quarters of an hour late. Such incidents happen in the best of regulated families, and in any case Leach is too keen to be late for an event if it could be avoided, but what happened to the missing player—George Goodman? He didn't turn up at all! And where was the reserve?

Final Results

LONDON v. EXETER.
(London players named first.)

R. Sharman lost to R. Litten, 21-16, 14-21, 18-21; J. Leach beat C. W. Davies, 17-21, 21-10, 21-13; Sharman beat Davies, 21-6, 21-11; Leach beat F. G. Grigg, 21-15, 21-8; Sharman beat Grigg, 21-19, 21-13; Leach beat Litten, 21-10, 13-21, 21-15; E. Goodman—absent—lost to Litten, Grigg and Davies, w.o.

LONDON 5 - EXETER 4

Lack of Publicity for Wilmott Cup

WITH the World Championships on their hands and the usual season of packed events, the E.T.T.A. will have just as much as they can manage, and unless the Wilmott and Rose Bowl tournaments are given to an outside body to organise and then stage the finals, then these two Knock-Out Tournaments are likely to be an even greater farce than they were last season.

The unsatisfactory results are no doubt the cause of insufficient Press publicity, and it is almost unbelievable that an organisation such as the English Table Tennis Association do not have an efficient Press Relations Department, if they can be considered as having one at all. *Table Tennis Review* receives scanty material from the national body and we know of sports journalists up and down the country who never hear of major events until they are over and done with. One London journalist has already suggested to the E.T.T.A. that they issue a weekly or monthly bulletin to the Press, for as he states, "what the public doesn't know it can't be interested in."

We know that this will entail extra work, and that the London office is continually in arrears with its office administration, but this situation only exists because the powers that be are loath to part with any of their authority. With the formation of the new Counties Association we will perhaps see an improvement in this matter and a lessening of pressure on Victoria Street.

In any case, Press publicity is far too important to be dismissed with a remark that "we are too busy to attend to it at the moment."

In the meantime, what is to happen to the Wilmott and Rose Bowl events? Unless they are efficiently

organised they will continue to be a drain on League funds.

We would like to stress the fact that the E.T.T.A. cannot be expected to run a tournament successfully without the full support of the various leagues. It is evident that during the past season, some secretaries did not show their full quota of interest. Manchester did not send in their entry until it was too late to be accepted, while Birmingham table tennis fans showed a very lukewarm interest. Also witness the byes and defaults received by Norwich from teams that did not fulfil their engagement. If these Inter-League Knock-Out Tournaments are to continue, then a nation-wide effort must be made, inspired by efficient administration from the London office, or better still from some go-ahead provincial league.

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WEMBLEY OPEN FINALS

BARNA v. BERGMANN
By TOPSPIN

WITHOUT wishing to seem ungallant, I must be truthful and say that the finals of the Wembley Open, held at Wembley Town Hall on Friday, May 16th, before an estimated audience of 1,500, were conspicuous for the poor show put up by the girls.

Worst game of the evening was the ladies' doubles between the Misses B. Wilkinson and D. Privet, and Mrs. P. Pitcher and Miss M. Bennett. The audience all but sighed audibly with relief when the Wilkinson-Privet combination eventually emerged winners by 22-20 24-22.

The ladies' singles final, contested by Miss Vera Dace and Miss L. R. ("Pinkie") Barnes, was little better. Both girls revealed marked backhand weaknesses and inaccurate forehand strokes, and the play degenerated into ping-pong. Vera, being steadier, won 21-19, 21-17.

Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington retained their men's doubles title, their victims being R. Bergmann and I. Boros. Carrington was the star of the match, playing a strategic attacking game and covering up in nice style the

defects of a badly off-colour Leach; 21-8, 21-19, 16-21, 14-21, 21-17.

Dace and Barna had little difficulty in putting paid to Miss I. M. Lentle and Leach in the mixed doubles event, winning in two straight sets, 21-12, 21-14.

CLASH OF GIANTS

The men's singles were the tit-bit of the evening. Earlier on Barna had easily disposed of R. Crayden, 21-14, 21-9, and Bergmann had annihilated Leach 21-14, 21-12 in the semi-finals. In the final, Barna showed that if he is no longer the world's best player, he is still very much the world's supreme stylist and showman. Flicking from all angles with immaculate ease, Victor took the first game 21-17. Bergmann tightened up and a superlative exhibition of table tennis developed. Victor attacked and Richard defended, and the defender was too young and accurate for the old master, who succumbed after a magnificent showing by 21-17, 11-21, 12-21, 13-21.

Bouquets to Mr. R. C. Mortlake Mann and his associates for their excellent organisation of the series.

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Bergmann Leads the Field

NO surprises were forthcoming in the finals of the Bucks. Open, held at Slough on Saturday, May 3rd, when survivors of a record entry—nearly 500, which was more than 120 over last year's total—gave the big gathering an entertaining evening.

Miss Molly Jones (Gloucester), who recently gained international honours against Scotland and who will be remembered as the winner of the Metropolitan Open, succumbed in two straight sets to Miss Vera Dace in the Ladies' Singles. Molly just did not possess the guile, or initiative to give Vera much trouble.

Young Bernard Crouch (Staines), made a deep impression by beating the experienced Jack Glickman, taking the second set after being 10-17 down. In the following round Crouch took Sharman to three games, refusing to be demoralised after losing the first set 6-21.

Michael Thornhill (Staines) was also impressive, winning the Junior Singles comfortably.

The first semi-final was dull, English international Ron Sharman defending throughout in order to force his renowned antagonist, Richard Bergmann, to take up the attack. At times, Ron showed his beautiful backhand flick, but Bergmann's footwork in moving from defence to attack was always impeccable. The scores in favour of Bergmann were, 21-15, 24-22. In the other semi-final, Eric Marsh beat R. Crayden, 21-12, 21-9.

Richard Bergmann beat Eric Marsh in the final, 21-15, 21-19, 21-15. Marsh did well to score so many points against a manifestly superior opponent.

Wedding Bells for Vera !



MISS VERA DACE
(Corbillon Cup Player)

A SPORTING WEDDING

Miss Vera Dace, famous English Corbillon Cup player, is to be married to Mr. A. H. Thomas of Bromley, on August 16, 1947. Mr. Thomas is a well-known Beckenham C.C. cricketer and all-round sportsman. The two met in February at a dance organised by the *Sporting Record* and an engagement announcement soon followed. The wedding is to take place at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, London. Our best wishes, Vera, to the happiness of you both.

League Brevities

BECKENHAM.

Winners of the Individual Championships were as follows:—*M.S.*: F. H. D. Meads; *M.D.*: F. H. D. Meads and L. Taylor; *L.S.*: Miss M. Lister; *L.D.*: Misses M. Moore and M. Lister. *Mx.D.*: G. G. Guntrip and Miss M. Lister.

CHELTENHAM.

Championship winners:—*M.S.*: E. Cowley; *M.D.*: P. Cruwys and S. Griffin; *Juniors*: L. Baldwin.

ESSEX.

Championship winners:—*M.S.*: G. C. Wheeler; *L.S.*: Mrs. M. J. Davis; *Juniors*: T. Dix.

GUILDFORD.

Championship winners:—*M.S.*: G. Lilywhite; *M.D.*: P. Thorn and E. Snelling; *L.S.*: Mrs. Ryecroft; *L.D.*: Mrs. Fry and Miss Prosser; *Juniors*: C. Fowler; *Junior Doubles*: B. Harris and W. Goff.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.

This new County Association is managed by the following:—*Chairman*: A. Rawlings (Southampton); *Secretary*: Miss L. Ferguson (Southampton); *Treasurer*: H. A. Richards (Winchester); *Match Secretary*: R. H. Merson (Alder-shot).

LANCASHIRE COUNTY.

In a play-off staged at Stockport on May 17th for the League Championships, Liverpool Ladies beat Crewe Ladies by five sets to nil. Manchester Men's team beat both Altrincham and Bolton and gained the championship cup.

MANCHESTER.

Closed Championship results were:—*M.S.*: H. Lurie; *M.D.*: B. Casofsky and A. G. Millar; *L.S.*: L. Reubens; *Juniors*: H. Thompson. New Secretary for the League is Leslie Jones and the new Chairman, G. H. Jones.

NORTH MIDDLESEX.

Ladies team won the Rose Bowl National Championship. Individual Championship results were:—*M.S.*: G. R. Harrower; *M.D.*: G. R. Harrower and L. M. Bromfield; *L.S.*: Mrs. R. E. Bromfield; *L.D.*: Mrs. Purvis and Miss Pugh; *Mx.D.*: Mr. and Mrs. Harrower; *Girls' Singles*: Miss M. Pugh; *Youths' Singles*: D. Martin.

SWANSEA.

Throughout Summer months the younger players are being coached by Welsh international D. J. Thomas. League has 700 registered players.

SOUTHPORT.

Championship results:—*M.S.*: J. Watts; *M.D.*: J. Watts and H. Johns; *L.S.*: Miss D. Brewster; *L.D.*: Miss D. Brewster and Mrs. G. Tebble; *Mx.D.*: H. Johns and Miss M. Travis; *Juniors*: A. Crowther.

STOCKPORT.

Championship results:—*M.S.*: F. Hughes; *L.S.*: Miss I. Grimstone; *M.D.*: H. Airey and J. Collins; *Juniors*: C. Brindley.

WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol won the Burton Cup in a play-off for the League Championship, defeating Birmingham by ten events to one. Birmingham ladies won the championship of their section.

Our Tournament Reports

Being a quarterly magazine, it is obvious that our tournament reports will be out-of-date news to some readers, but we feel that you still want to have reviews of the various tournaments which take place during each quarter, and therefore we will continue to print eye-witness accounts of all the leading events.

Grimsby Open

A feature of the play was the outstanding form of Derek Merryweather of Lincoln in winning the Men's Singles. A surprise in the Women's Singles was the comfortable win of Miss Mavis Crust of Spalding.

FINAL RESULTS.

Men's Singles: D. Merryweather (Lincoln) beat G. N. A. Fox (Lincoln), 21-18, 21-16.

Women's Singles: M. Crust (Spalding) beat P. Langrick (Grimsby), 21-10, 21-13.

Youths' Singles: D. L. Wilkes (Lincoln) beat P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe), 21-10, 17-21, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: A. Hall and N. Ingham beat V. Lees and N. Haste (all of Grimsby), 18-21, 21-5, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: J. R. Molson and M. Crust (Spalding) beat D. Merryweather and F. A. Sewell, 18-21, 21-18, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: M. Isaac and P. Lammin (Grimsby) beat V. Leam and E. Dixon (Grimsby), 21-12, 21-14.

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Aldershot Wins Best League Handbook Competition

AFTER a careful scrutiny of all the League Handbooks which were submitted for this competition, announced in our Spring Number, we reduced the number of possible winners to the following entries:—Aldershot, Bradford, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Leeds, Liverpool, Lowestoft, Norwich, North Middlesex, St. Helens, Western Counties, West of Scotland, Worcester, and Wolverhampton.

After much thought on the part of the judges the "finalists" became Aldershot, Bradford, Liverpool and Wolverhampton.

The Liverpool and Bradford handbooks were very similar, and excepting the Birmingham book which had 152 large-size pages, they were the largest we received. The setting down separately of each club's fixtures for the season has its advantages, but in these days of high printing costs we doubt very much whether it is worth while.

The Wolverhampton entry proved a worthy finalist, but when its sixty large-size pages were compared with Aldershot's forty-eight, we could not see that any additional useful information was given to the club player.

There was a good economy of space in the Wolverhampton book by the arrangement of fixtures in the following manner:—

| Match No. | Week Comm. | Match No. | Week Comm. |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Oct. 14 | 10 | Jan. 20 |
| | Post Office v. Young Cons. | | |

etc.

As it will be seen from the above, the same fixtures were used for the

second half of the season, each week's matches then being numbered from ten onwards, only of course, the home team became the away team.

The Wolverhampton book gave a comprehensive survey of past League champions and tournament winners, including details of the previous World and English Championships.

ALDERSHOT HANDBOOK

A paragraph in the Introduction written by the Aldershot Secretary, R. H. Merson, reads: "This season sees the formation of a Ladies' League and the production of our *first handbook*. The latter is by way of an experiment. It has been compiled in a hurry and no doubt leaves much to be desired. I nevertheless hope that it will prove successful, thus paving the way for a bigger and better one next year. We are indebted to E. R. Laithwaite for much of the work that has gone into this handbook..."

Our congratulations go to the Aldershot and District League and a cheque for one guinea has been sent to Hon. Treasurer E. F. J. Ashley as a donation to the League's funds.

Page 3 of the Aldershot Book gives an entry form for the League's Closed Championships, an innovation which other leagues might care to follow. A great saving in postage and printing is saved by this useful idea. Pages 10 and 11 give the League Club tables at the close of the previous season and also the averages of the leading individual players.

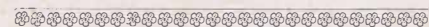
Pages 12 to 15 give reproductions of the tournament sheets of the previous season's Individual Championships from Round Three onwards and then follows the League's various championship records.

The centre four pages are an art paper supplement giving ten attractive photographs of Aldershot's leading table tennis personalities, including a group picture of the championship team.

The League rules are, of course given, followed by the rules of table tennis. At the back are ruled pages to enable a club player to keep a record of his various performances.

* * *

We plan to repeat this competition in the middle of next season and we then hope to offer more and larger prizes. Watch for the announcement in a future issue.

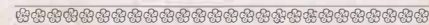


Past REVIEW Competitions

We regret that we were unable to find space in our last issue to announce the winners of past competitions, but these were as follows:—

MOST INTERESTING EXPERIENCE.—A box of Dunlop-Barna balls were sent to Mr. G. Ormerod, Ramsbottom, M. Levinsky, Luton, and B. Buckley, Nottingham. Unfortunately, we did not find any of the letters received, worthy of publication.

T.T. REVIEW FEATURES VOTE.—A cheque for one guinea was sent to Miss H. Bristow, Morecambe, for her forecast of the order of merit for *Table Tennis Review* features.



DON'T DELAY

With paper supplies anything but promising, you would do well to place a regular order for *Table Tennis Review* with your newsagent or Sports Dealer, or better still fill in the Subscription form in this issue.

The change to quarterly publication has enabled us to increase our circulation, but we are fast approaching the limit. You may be disappointed next time.

Back Numbers Available . . .

Back numbers of *Table Tennis Review* can still be obtained from the publishing address: Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3. The magazine has been published monthly from September, 1946, to February, 1947, Nos. 1-6, Vol. 1, price 6d.

Past numbers include articles by Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach, Ron Sharman, Fred Cromwell, Helen Elliot, Pinkie Barnes, etc. There is a complete course of instruction by Stanley Proffitt, a number of joke sketches by "Ben," and many photographs of the stars. One or two of the numbers are running low, so write now if you require to make up a complete set of Volume One.



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SOUVENIR NUMBER

We have a few copies left of our last quarterly number which includes full reports of the World Championships and English Open.

Articles by Bohumil Vana, Victor Barna, Richard Bermann, Geoff. Harrower, Leslie Cohen, etc. Price: ONE SHILLING, Post Free.

There's no such thing as a Table Tennis Season

By L. WOOLLARD

WHAT'S all this talk of "end of the season"? No wonder Great Britain has only ever once won a world championship!

Table tennis is a healthy, vigorous, front-line sport of international dimensions. It's grown up. It must be ranked as a sport, more than a pastime, and all who have the interests of the game at heart must fight the lethargic line of least resistance die-hards who unconsciously prevent the development of table tennis to its fullest potential.

Table tennis is quite certainly a Summer sport.

Victor Barna, who has won more world championships than probably anyone else ever will, did not reach his pre-eminence by fluke or chance. Constant practice and *all-the-year* play was an integral part of his outstanding success. Summer time is invaluable for real, solid practice. Barna and his colleagues used, in Summer time, to play out of doors and this meant allowing for air currents, wind, etc., with the highly satisfactory result that accuracy, when it came to indoor games, was improved by as much as 20 per cent. (What a difference that must mean.)

When one considers the outstanding brilliance of Victor's Hungarian colleagues of those days, Bellak, Szabados, Kelen, who played under such conditions, it is not difficult to understand their vast supremacy. Speaking of outdoor play, Barna once asserted in colloquial idiom, that it was "Ten times better."

Incidentally, it should also be appreciated that lawn tennis is a natural tie-up for the Summer months, and it might be profitably noticed that those who play a good game of lawn tennis frequently shine on the table. Fred Perry (the only

Britisher to ever gain a World Championship) is an outstanding example, while Eric Filby and Vera Dace are the more prominent of current players.

PLAN NOW

The onus of initiating a progressive policy falls on the League Committees who have to push with energy, the clubs and their officers on the one side and the E.T.T.A. on the other. An organisation, whatever it is, will only be as active and healthy as individuals make it, and League Committees should be elected not so much from the best players, but from the enthusiasts who have the interests of the whole sport at heart. Small and indifferent leagues are small and indifferent because they think that way.

It seems obvious that League Committees should be active throughout the Summer months and that they must plan with ambition and foresight, recognising that there is a constant flood of new enthusiasts from both youth clubs and the forces. The success of any league next season depends on what is planned and decided now, and during the Summer months.

It is spring-cleaning time. Get out of the ping-pong rut. Think big to be big. Do not be afraid to experiment. Try to foster and maintain the interest of the many dabblers, for not only are they potential league players, but they are also the audiences who will make your tournaments successful. Try and fit them into a re-adjusted league.

SUGGESTIONS

Here are a few suggestions worth considering by local committees. Not all of them will be suitable for all districts, but each district can use

some of them for a progressive planning by adaptation or combination.

Grouping divisions carefully, aiming to keep play to a more equable standard, even if it means fewer matches. It is bad policy to let a good player play against a poor opponent too frequently, and affects both adversely.

Inter-division matches, with or without handicaps, mixed or otherwise. A "Doubles" division, mixed or otherwise.

An "Adoption" system, whereby a leading local player in a Senior division will "adopt" one or more promising juniors.

Any particularly strong ladies' team to play in one of the men's divisions on an equal basis. Not only will this strengthen that particular ladies' team, but will give much encouragement and stimulation to the remaining teams of the ladies' division.

A league "ladder" system, similar to the method used in many clubs, but to apply to all registered players of the league. To avoid frivolous challenges (and incidentally help the league funds) a nominal Challenge Registration fee could be required by the challenger.

These are only starting points for progressive thinking. The main thing, is that NOW and throughout the SUMMER months is the time to work on these plans. Next season is too late.

Remember, too, that a good press is an integral part of any progressive campaign. See that EVERYONE knows what you are planning and what you are doing. Be optimistic, enthusiastic, successful. Enthusiasm is a snowball and nothing succeeds like success. Build this publicity campaign up carefully from now and through the Summer, so that everyone in your district can set targets for their clubs and for themselves.

Tournaments and exhibitions should be regular features throughout the year, and why not open-air tournaments occasionally; not a milk-and-water garden fete affair, but the real thing.

While on this point of tournaments it is well to remember that a worthwhile open tournament will attract internationals and other top-line players. This has the double benefit of (a) income from proceeds augmented by increased attraction, and (b) the educative value of seeing good play, which stimulates individual improvement.

Why not a "County Table Tennis Hall," the facilities of which would be common to all leagues (if more than one) of that county? As an inspiring reminder, at the time of the Hungarian world supremacy, there were in Budapest alone, four or five halls each having between 30 and 40 tables, and this apart from the many club halls!

DECENTRALISE ADMINISTRATION

There is room for much improvement in the relations and liaison between leagues. The obvious answer is decentralisation into regions. Table tennis is now obviously too big to be run successfully from one London office. It is important, too, that any regional grouping cannot be done arbitrarily; it must be planned by those with local knowledge of travelling conditions and facilities.

The young player of to-day is the British hope of to-morrow, and is deserving of every practical assistance possible. League committees should not only recognise and act on this, but should also endeavour to have a junior representation to deliberate with them.

Summer-time is NOT OUT OF SEASON for table tennis. It is our Second Front.

Cheshire Open

By **Billie Stamp**

(Popular Liverpool League Sec.)

The Cheshire Open, came to a successful conclusion on Saturday, April 19th, at the Shaftesbury Boys' Club, Birkenhead, where seven tables were in use. A. H. Shepherd, of Bolton, sprang a surprise by winning the Men's Singles event, and he thoroughly deserved his success as he varied his game to suit the circumstances, and in the final against Casofsky gave the impression that he has the big match temperament. He had won the first two games very easily and was down 17-20 in the third which might have altered the whole course of the match had Casofsky won, but Shepherd stuck to his man, drew level and eventually won the game and the match at 24-22.

R. Allcock of Manchester, won the Junior Singles and although he won rather easily against J. P. Shead, the young Blackpool player, I think more will be heard of both these lads and also Miss Dale Wood, the 15-year-old Manchester girl, who gains more confidence from every tournament in which she plays.

A continuance of present form should place Shepherd well in the running for international honours next season.

FINALS RESULTS

Men's Singles : A. H. Shepherd (Bolton) beat B. Casofsky (Manchester), 21-9, 21-10, 24-22.

Men's Doubles : P. U. Rumjahn and B. Casofsky beat R. Hetherington and L. Cohen, 21-14, 21-19.

Women's Singles : Miss E. M. Steventon (Nottingham) beat Miss Dale Wood (Manchester), 21-17, 21-19.

Women's Doubles : Misses K. and L. May (Liverpool) beat Mrs. J. Flint and Miss K. Benson (Blackpool), 21-8, 14-21, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles : B. Casofsky and Miss K. May beat L. Cohen and Miss Dale Wood, 21-18, 21-19.

Junior Singles : R. Allcock beat J. P. Shead, 21-23, 21-7, 21-8.

DELAY IN SUMMER NUMBER.

Owing to production difficulties it was not possible to bring this Summer Number out in July, and we offer all readers our sincere apologies. We will make every effort to bring future issues out on the advertised date. Autumn issue will appear on October 10th.

R. BERGMANN

WORLD CHAMPION, 1936-7, 1938-9, 1939-46

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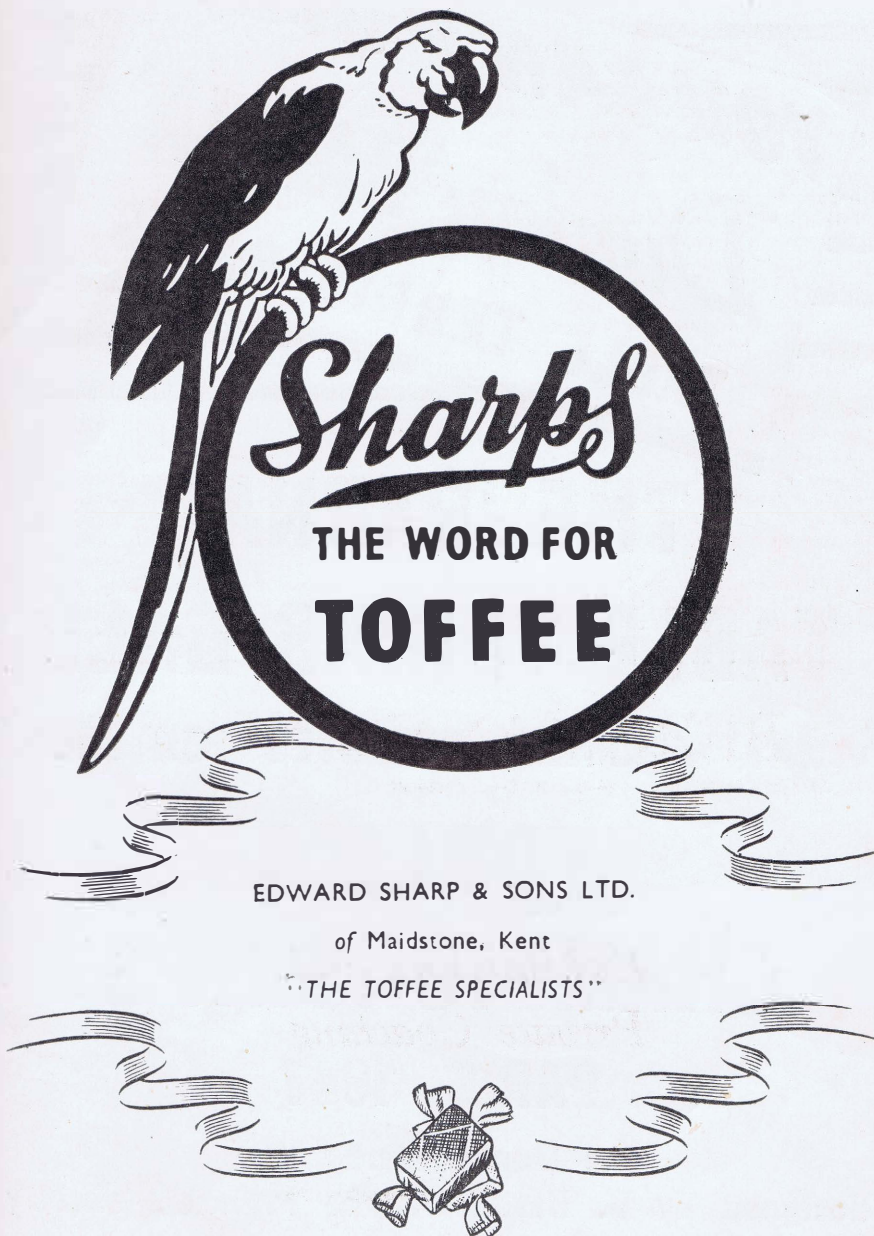
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