

Table Tennis REVIEW

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JANUARY-MARCH



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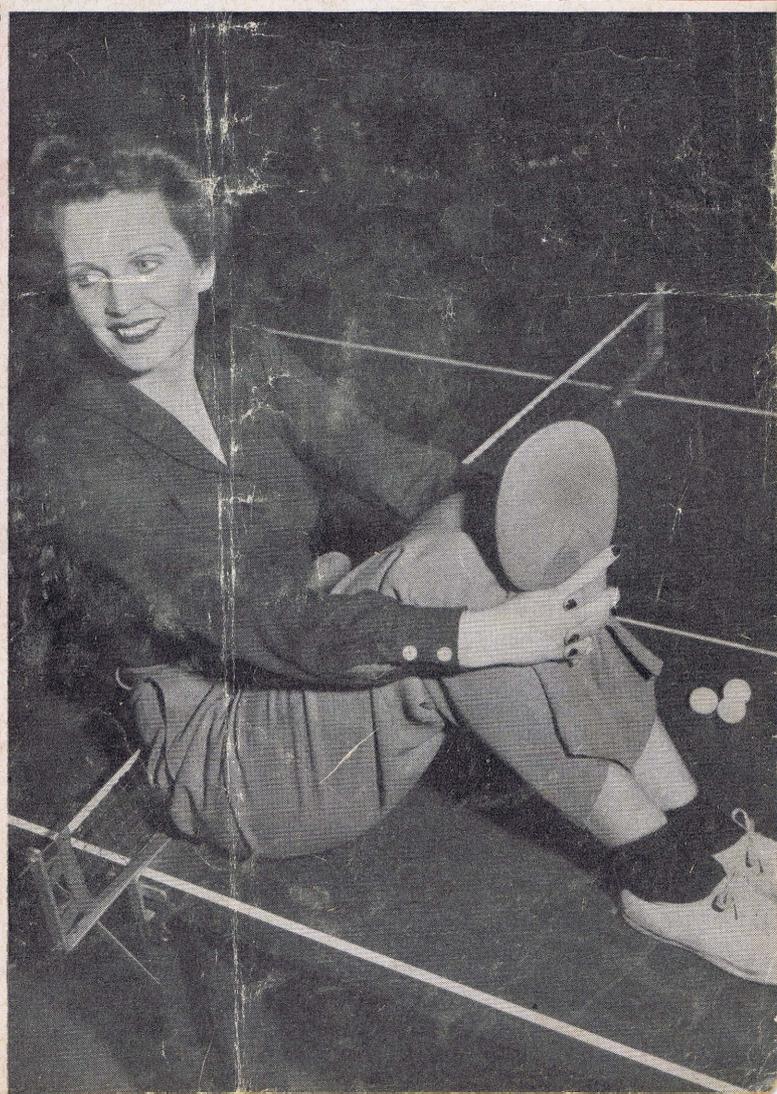
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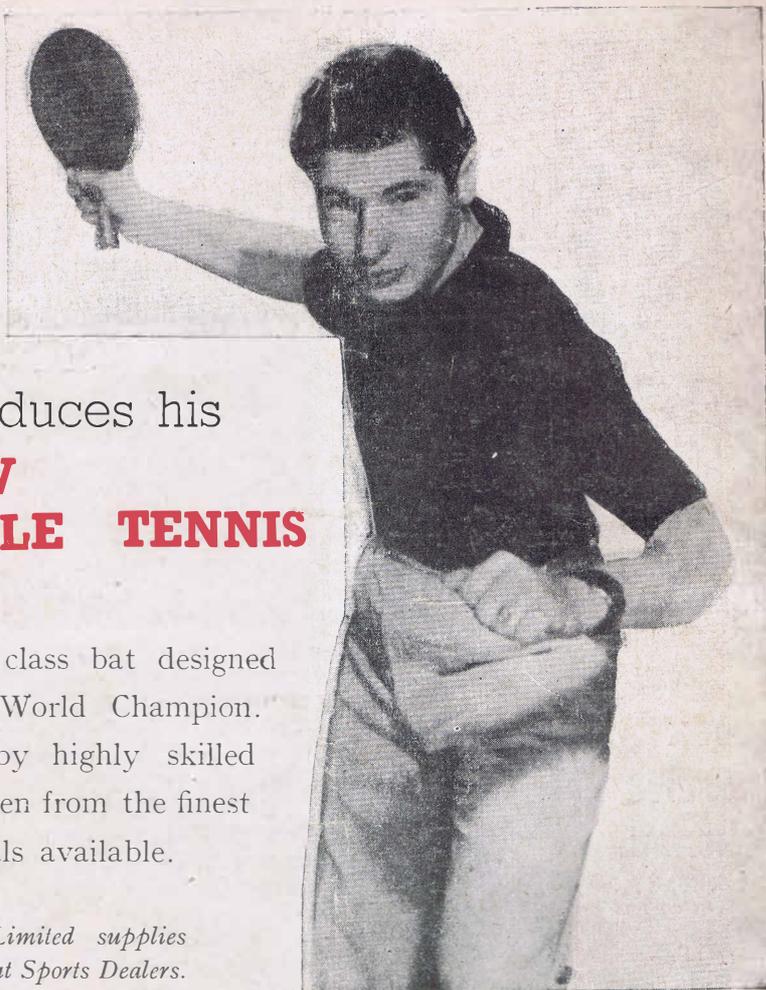
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Vol. 2 No. 4

JANUARY-MARCH, 1948

One Shilling



Progress...

WHETHER it is unpleasant or not, we must acknowledge the fact that the war put the clock of table tennis back a good number of years. When the threads were picked up again some three years ago, how did we stand? We had lost a great proportion of our supporters; our wealth of promising youngsters was gone beyond recall; our star players had pushed relentlessly into their thirties and with the years had gone much of their speed and skill; sports editors had forgotten the game that had crashed into Wembley Sports Arena; new and modern equipment had disappeared... in fact we were nearly back to those early pioneering days. Regrettable though it is to record, we have displayed second-rate table tennis to the public for the past three years. It is now cold, common logic that we should have learnt to walk again—what we did do was to run as fast as we ran in 1938-39. Ambitious officialdom pushed ahead with its plan at a pace which was too much for our slowly recovering playing standard. At Wembley in February, 1947, ten thousand people sat quiet and subdued waiting for the thrills that did not come. At the same event in Manchester this season, the box office receipts fell alarmingly and financially the affair was a failure. County Leagues and a County Association were formed and teams had long distances to travel and heavy expenses to cover, expenses which were not often justified by the number of tickets sold. One inter-county match showed a net loss of £20, while another showed a deficit of £10. Now we have the World's Championships at Wembley at a total cost of £8,000. This is certainly a magnificent undertaking and the English Association have shown courage—but have they shown wisdom? Whether mistakes have been made or not, we must give this game our unstinted support. Slowly but surely, table tennis is recovering lost ground and we are of the opinion that Wembley this year will see something of the old, spectacular table tennis. In this issue of "Table Tennis Review," Mr. Montagu makes an appeal—a very worthy appeal. We urge you to rally round and to help to move those tickets—80,000 of them!



By GOSSIMA

TAGE FLISBERG, No. 1 Swedish player tells me he beat Bohumil Vana in an inter-city match between Stockholm and Prague. Flisberg is thirty years of age and works in a tailor's shop. He has one little boy of six years. He went on to explain that out of a population of only seven millions there are 10,000 registered table tennis players in Sweden and over 700 affiliated clubs. Flisberg will partner Richard Bergmann in the Men's Doubles and Helen Elliot in the Mixed Doubles of the World Championships.

* * *

Mrs. Mae Clouther (cover portrait) has ranked in the first ten U.S.A. players since 1937. During the war she was hostess for the American Theatre Wing (Stage Door Canteen). She is the only player in the history of the game in the United States to be a finalist in three events of the National Championships for two successive years. In the United States teams trials of the Eastern group, Mae Clouther beat Riba Moness, then when East played West, Mrs. Clouther won the individual honours by winning all her singles matches, beating the two Thall sisters. Peggy MacLean, the No. 2 U.S. player who won the Canadian Open by beating Leah Thall, had an attack of nerves in the East v. West match and consequently lost all her games.

* * *

Mrs. Bunny Cooper, Ireland's No. 1 lady player, has a collection of over

one hundred trophies. She first came into game in 1939 and since then has won over thirty-six singles championships. Her brother, W. Heron, is an Irish table tennis international, and her sister, Pauline Heron, is also a prominent player. Mrs. Cooper acquired her international badge in 1946 and in that same year she beat the English international Peggy Franks in the Leinster Open Singles.

* * *

Mr. Maurice Rose, speaking to the French players at the English Open, expressed the opinion that our players don't get the right kind of food to make them champions. The following evening, Richard Bergmann won the Men's title after beating Amouretti, Andreadis, Koczian, and world champion Vana. Bergmann has been living on our rations for the past five or six years—so what!

* * *

Miss Christine Schofield, a vivacious young lady of 24, is the person responsible for the activities of the Bury and District League. An expert shorthand writer, Christine takes committee meetings in her stride and rules with a firm hand. The League has forty-one teams in four divisions, and two teams are run in the Lancashire County League.

* * *

Trophies of the Pontefract Open were valued at £150. Presentations were made by the Countess of Rosse

who is a keen table tennis fan. Brian Kennedy, the sixteen-year-old Leeds boy, was called upon to play event after event, winning the Men's Singles, Junior Singles, and runner-up in the Men's Doubles. Miss Nora Senior won the ladies' title. The tournament was played on Dec. 6th.

* * *

I hear that Tereba, of Czechoslovakia, will not be playing table tennis again. Reason? Well, he's now married!

* * *

Leslie Forrest tells me that the Yorkshire County Association have a card-index system which records full information concerning their leading players. Geoffrey Harrower states that as secretary to the English selection committee he keeps a card-index file of approximately seventy of the country's most promising players. Every match or tournament result is recorded on the card of the player concerned.

* * *

Andreadis told me he is in the Czech Army for six months. Time was allowed him for the English Open, and then extra leave was granted for a tour of India with Vana. Upon his return, he is booked for a Swedish tour, after which it will probably be time for the World's. So you see by the time Andreadis has finished with Wembley he should be almost a fully-trained soldier.

I asked him how it was possible to get so much leave granted. Vana then chipped in to explain that as Andreadis was his friend he had given him valuable advice. He had told him not to have any rank at all bestowed upon him and then without military responsibility of any kind it would be easy to obtain the necessary leave permits. "Well, anyway, it worked," said Andreadis, stroking a very militaristic haircut.

Make Your Club Worthwhile

★

By A. G. HEBDEN

IF your club is just a place to get a game of table tennis—a place to sit about in cold, chatterless groups—a place that has never changed—then it's time something was done to cheer things up.

Everybody is waiting for somebody else to make the first move. Now why shouldn't that unused box-room at the end of the hall be used? The idea strikes you? It could be turned into a cosy ante-room. A place to talk over your games—and ideas.

The making of this ante-room will certainly bring the boys and girls together. The boys repairing, or even making, a few chairs—the girls making cushions and planning the decoration. In this way, the club will develop spirit and fellowship.

Collect dossiers from this and other magazines, such as instructional articles, tournament reports, controversial articles, photographs of stars, etc. In this way you can build up invaluable cuttings books for the use of members. It is surprising how much can be collected once a start is made.

Arrange discussions on any subject relevant to our game, viz., "Professionalism," or "How can the scope of our club be widened?" There are thousands of interesting subjects.

Write to other clubs, organise trips, pay other clubs visits. Go to them bubbling over with the right spirit. Let them see that you are a club and not a mass of individuals.

Now go to it, and make your club worthwhile. It's up to you!

Welsh Open Championships

Leach Injures His Thumb

BEFORE a crowd of about 1,200 at Cardiff on December 13th, Johnny Leach lost his Welsh Open title to Richard Bergmann in the fifth set of a terrific singles final.

After being two sets down against an opponent whose defence seemed impregnable, Leach took advantage of a momentary slackening of Bergmann's concentration when the latter was 12-5 up in the third. Using every shot in his locker, the holder took the next two sets in magnificent style, but in the decider, Bergmann's defence was once again rock-like, while his occasional phases of attack recovered their accuracy. Johnny went down fighting. The Welsh crowd applauded his gameness against an opponent whose footwork and sense of anticipation were features more for amazed respect than for applause.

In the semis, Richard beat Aubrey Simons and Leach beat Carrington. Simons did not seriously trouble the new champion, although the West Country player had done well to reach the semi-finals. Similarly, Leach had a comfortable victory over Carrington.

Head (London) played well to eliminate Harrower in an earlier round, though the latter was handicapped by his injured leg. Litten took a set from Bergmann, but fell away in the third.

Helen Elliot Beaten

In the women's singles Beregie, displaying much of her old aggression, hit through Pinkie Barnes to take the Women's title. Pinkie had played extremely well to eliminate Helen Elliot in the semi-final after being a set down. Beregie completely dominated Audrey Bates in the other semi-final, after the latter had had her own back for her defeat in the Midland Open final by Betty Steventon, by beating the latter.

The women's doubles were taken by Barnes and Beregie, who defeated Elliot and Steventon, while Bergmann and Beregie beat Carrington and Elliot in the Mixed final.

Accident to Leach

About the time of the latter game, a most unfortunate mishap occurred. Johnny Leach stumbled over a form, and in trying to save himself, injured his right thumb. Prompt medical attention suggested that a bone was broken. Leach

By H. ROY EVANS

insisted on playing the men's doubles, which he did with his thumb strapped up and even then he and Carrington beat Bergmann and Harrower in the final set of a tense battle.

On Sunday, Johnny Leach had his thumb set in hospital and it looks as if he will, after all, have to take the few weeks rest everyone says he needs.

In the Junior Singles, Norman Parker, (Pontypridd) though he dropped a set to Perham (Cae-philly) was much the better player and had little difficulty in winning the title.

Throughout the tournament play reached a high standard and except for a few minor hitches, the organisation stood up well to the strain. Play commenced at 6 p.m. on Friday and continued on twelve tables throughout Friday evening and all day Saturday.

Scores

Men's Singles—Semi-Final: R. Bergmann beat A. W. C. Simon, 21-8, 21-11; J. Leach beat J. Carrington, 21-15, 21-7. *Final:* Bergmann beat Leach, 21-13, 21-18, 17-21, 15-21, 21-10.

Women's Singles: Beregie beat C. Bates, 21-19, 21-12; Barnes beat Elliot, 11-21, 21-14, 21-16. *Final:* Beregie beat Barnes, 21-12, 21-11.

Men's Doubles.—Final: Leach and Carrington beat Bergmann and Harrower, 21-13, 19-21, 21-17.

Women's Doubles.—Final: Beregie and Barnes beat Elliot and Steventon, 18-21, 21-12, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: Bergmann and Beregie beat Carrington and Elliot, 16-21, 21-14, 21-12.

Junior Singles: N. Parker beat J. Perham, 21-12, 16-21, 21-10.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOVEMBER 15th and 16th, 1947

M.S.: Flisberg beat Koczian, 12-21, 14-21, 21-18, 21-17, 21-19.

W.S.: Mrs. Thomas (Dace) beat Miss Farkas, 21-16, 21-15, 21-17.

M.D.: Lisberg and Carrington beat Koczian and Miller, 21-19, 17-21, 21-19, 21-11.

W.D.: Farkas and Barnes beat Dace and Franks, 13-21, 21-12, 21-17.

Mx.D.: Flisberg and Franks beat Koczian and Farkas, 23-21, 21-18.

Hands Off the Net

By RICHARD BERGMANN

(World Champion 1936-37, 1938-39, 1939-46. English Open 1947-48)

THERE have been suggestions from various quarters to raise the net back to the 1938 height of 6½ inches. Some of these advocates for the higher net are players of repute, and their main line of argument is that the present height of 6 inches enables players of not so high a standard to execute wild, hitting tactics which would not come off on a higher net. The game is being robbed, so they say, of the long, beautiful rallies which we witnessed in pre-war days.

I am convinced that it would be a grave mistake to higher the net. Table tennis is now acknowledged as one of the fastest and most attractive of indoor sports, and the public come in their thousands to watch Open championship finals and, what is more, the interest is steadily increasing.

Surely the advocates for the higher net have forgotten what happened in days gone by. Chiselling became a menace to the game. Remember the incident in Prague in 1936 when one rally of dull, monotonous



RICHARD BERGMANN

“pushing” lasted for two hours and five minutes! Many spectators walked out with a determination never to watch “ping-pong” again.

True, we have the present-day time limit of twenty minutes per game, so there could be no repetitions of the Prague and other incidents, but even so there must be no obstacles in the path to progress. The 6-inch net has made table tennis even faster and has encouraged the attacking game. Long rallies can still be witnessed but these rallies are sprayed with much more excitement, for we see a great deal more counter-hitting.

I say let's leave the net where it is and get on with the job of improving our standard of play.

Friendly International Match

ENGLAND v. HUNGARY.

At Herne Bay, November 24th, 1947.

Result: Hungary 5; England 2.

Leach lost to Sido, 21-15, 8-21, 17-21; lost to Koczian, 8-21, 14-21.

Sharman lost to Sido, 21-18, 18-21, 13-21; lost to Koczian, 13-21, 18-21.

Mrs. V. Thomas lost to Gizi Farkas, 15-21, 11-24.

Carrington and Leach beat Sido and Koczian, 12-21, 21-9, 25-23.

Leach and Mrs. Thomas beat Sido and Farkas, 21-19, 16-21, 21-14.

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ALL THE WORLD WILL BE THERE

By IVOR MONTAGU

EVERY much appreciate the invitation of the Editor to contribute an article to *Table Tennis Review* on the eve of the most important and grandiose event which we have ever tried to tackle.

Maybe it was rather an impertinent idea trying to stage a world championship on the scale necessary, at a time of such difficulty in the country's affairs. But I suppose a bit of pride and pigheadedness was mixed up in the decision to do so—after all it's the 21st anniversary of the first championships which were held here and also the 21st anniversary of the E.T.T.A.

WE WANT YOUR SUPPORT

The difficulties are immense. I can't even begin to describe them. Wembley with one table is one thing, but with eleven tables, and to make the scores visible (you can't possibly make them simultaneously audible) to the remotest corners . . . just start thinking that one out! Every day we find we've bitten off more than we expected to have to chew, but there is no alternative, we must go on chewing!

But the difficulties will be overcome, not because Messrs. Corti-Woodcock, Harrower, Mann, Montagu, Pope, Rose, Vint are working, but because we are confident that table tennis fans all over the country will gird up their loins and give every possible support.

The said "girding up" in this case means: (a) giving as much time as possible to help (even if you are a provincial); (b) selling at least one, maybe two, season tickets each. (Please appreciate that the E.T.T.A. is the *only* national body running this huge event that does not ask for a national subsidy or guarantee fund.); (c) be gentle and don't trounce us for all our mistakes (only the ones that can be usefully corrected in time) until after the show. Adopt the principle not of mercy, i.e., "don't shoot the pianist, he's doing his best," but of your own self protection, i.e., "don't shoot the driver, there might be a crash"—you can all take it out of us afterwards.

RECORD NUMBER OF NATIONS

At the time of writing, we believe there will be more countries coming over for the championships than ever before.

When we made a recent check we found that there were actually more intending to enter than so far are entered for any single event of the Olympic Games! That's something. Well, this provides its own problems. Just count up. Every country has the right to seed up to four Singles entries (the maximum permitted in the Men's Singles is 128) and if there are thirty nations how much room does that leave for English entries, especially if you keep eight places for winners in a qualifying competition? So don't let players feel insulted if there is a qualifying competition. Plenty of No. 5 Swaythling Cup players may have to be in it too. After all, it is only what has to happen at Wimbledon.

BARNA AND BERGMANN

You know that this year Barna and Bergmann, who have been so long with us, will now, as British citizens and E.T.T.A. members, be in our team. My lips are sealed about what I thought of this decision, but whatever views anyone may have on the general principle, I am confident that every follower will give the whole team his loyal backing and appreciation. I can say, and I think I know the opinions of the representatives of foreign countries as well as anyone here, that our reputation abroad stands sufficiently high in table tennis circles for none to suppose that England, in following the rules of the game and the general practice accepted for the competition, is guided in its decisions by a lust to win rather than by principle.

With Elizabeth Blackburn, alas, away in U.S.A. our own girls will have a ——— (beg pardon, Editor) of a time trying to hold that Corbillon Cup. They'll do their best, but will need your support, so roll along in your thousands.

THE PROMISE OF YOUTH

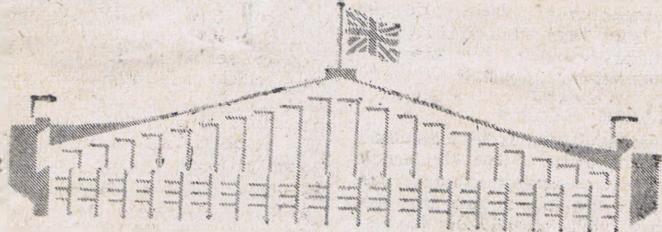
Wembley, on February 4th to the 11th, offers the opportunity to see, to be thrilled, to enjoy, to be edified, and to learn. It will not come again for years. Talk about what the E.T.T.A. is doing for youth! What you can do for youth is to send youngsters up there for a holiday. They'll never learn so much or get so keen (nor will you grown-ups).

I've seen youngsters this year already better and certainly more promising than many a player whom we have taken abroad to play for England in lean years past. If they remain keen and keep it up I believe in three seasons, two seasons, or even one, our strongest team members will, as in years gone by, once more be the youngest. This just could not happen in the first years after the war, as anyone will understand who bothers to count up the years of war and subtract from the ages of those who are still lucky enough to be young.

A GREAT LOSS TO THE SPORT

With regard to Mr. Pope's decision not to go on being Secretary, I won't say what this means to me. Those who know us both can guess. Indeed, I don't know

how long I'll be able to keep my heart in T.T. and carry on without Bill, and I've no doubt the same goes for Bill Vint. But that is not what I intend to write about here. I only wish all counties, leagues, clubs, players and fans of to-day will realise and appreciate what it means to T.T. Whatever there is of T.T. to-day has been built by Bill. This is not cant. Nor is it, of course, to forget the keen and loyal service of thousands of others. When Bill Pope came to the table tennis organisation here in London we were not a very highly reputable, self-confident, self-contented sect. Bill has grown up with the whole thing until it is now the huge (I nearly said unmanageable) national and world-wide giant it is to-day. He is bequeathing us something . . . Let us receive it with pride and affection in our hearts.



30 NATIONS COMPETING IN THE
WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
 FOR ONE WEEK
Wednesday, February 4th to 11th, 1948
 Every Evening (except Thursday) at 7 p.m.
 Also Saturday Afternoon at 2 p.m.
 Reserved Seats : 21/-, 10/6, 7/6, 6/- (all 3/6 sold)
 Day Sessions : 9-30 to 5-30 p.m. Saturday 9-30 to 1 p.m.
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WEMBLEY

Entertainment Value in Table Tennis

By T. BLUNN, Chairman Lancashire Table Tennis Association.

SCIENCE v. ENTERTAINMENT

IT IS quite easy to show where entertainment value arose in table tennis but the more I considered the question the more obvious it was that table tennis was losing its grip on the entertainment side. I tried to convince myself that I was wrong and that there was only a temporary lag in the interest shown by the general public, but more recent events have finally convinced me that it is the players and fans who are supporting the game and that once their appetites for top ranking players have been satisfied a serious position will arise. The reason for this appears to me to be that the science of the game has improved to the detriment of its entertainment value. This fact seems to be borne out by the agitations that are going on at present for a return to the higher net. There are many who think that this would bring back those thrilling games that we used to enjoy before the net was lowered. But I contend that it will also bring back the same conditions that necessitated the change in the first place.

CHANGE THE RULES

I have considered this matter from all angles and have come to the conclusion that the present rules are inadequate and will not produce the kind of play that the public demand. The thrills are missing and, to bring in a current expression, there is not sufficient incentive. I do not blame anyone for this position, it could have arisen in any game and after all we are only a very young organisation and must learn through experience. I could fill the rest of the article with examples of what I am trying to get at, but those who remember the Barna-Szabados finals of pre-war days will understand.

I suggest, therefore, that a slight alteration to the rules should be made in order to provide the incentive for brighter and more entertaining play. The alteration that I would make is very simple and because of that it requires to be considered very carefully and even tried out extensively before judgment on it is passed. It is simply this, that if a player wins a rally by executing a shot which his opponent fails to touch with his racket in any way, he should be awarded two points instead of one. On a first consideration there does not appear to be

anything startling in this proposal but the implications are not apparent and are apt to be overlooked. Here are the advantages as they appear to me.

GREATER CRAFT REQUIRED

A player will be able to take exactly twice as many risks as he would do normally and if he beats his opponent in only one shot in three, he will keep the scoring level.

The drop shot and half volley will be developed out of all recognition as obviously the first step to take in order to completely beat your opponent will be to get him on the wrong foot or off his balance. The drop shot and the half volley are the two shots that are almost missing from English table tennis and yet are prevalent on the Continent, "from whence cometh all World Champions."

The position at deuce will be doubly exciting as the double point could win the game or transform a point down into a point advantage in one shot. Interest would be captured, throughout the game as at the end of each sequence of services a tense position would arise. The double point would either reduce your opponent's next sequence to four or would assure that you win the first point of your own next sequence. In fact, now that I come to think about it, the double point will have the effect of reducing the number of your opponent's services throughout the game. Your own services will also be reduced, but that will not matter as you will have already won a point in lieu of it.

I think we can take it for granted that an element of risk satisfies the public appetite in any sport, and imagine the possibilities that the double point has in this direction. The spectacular dives and leaps to the table will be worth while and risks that now appear to be unnecessary, will be taken. That is what the public want.

I could think of many other advantages and so will you if you consider all the possibilities and also if you try the rule out in your practice games. One game is not sufficient, but a general idea can be obtained after about half a dozen sets.

Will you try this idea out at your club and drop a line to the Editor who will pass your opinions on to me?

Tom Blunn's next article will be in the nature of a "post mortem" on the E.T.T.A. Balance Sheet.

News Paragraphs on the coming World Championships

FOLLOWING the decision of the Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association, that the players who have already represented other countries could qualify to play for England in the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup team matches, the Selection Committee has selected the following to represent England in the World Championships at Wembley, February 4th to 11th, 1948:—

A. A. Haydon (Birmingham),
non-playing captain.

J. Leach.

V. Barna.

R. Bergmann.

A further two players are to be selected following a trial.

The team matches play three a side, each playing each of the opponents best of five games. As there will be three matches each day, resting players become an important factor, much depending upon the skill and knowledge of the non-playing captain.

Mrs. Thomas (Vera Dace) and Miss M. Franks have been selected to represent England in the Women's team matches, with Mrs. Knott (Birmingham) as non-playing captain. Miss E. Blackburn, of Exeter, England's No 1 player, is now at an American university and is unable to return for the Championships. Two further members of the team will be selected early in January.

Among the countries to be represented in the Championships will be Portugal, Italy and Greece—the first time they have taken part.

Finland will not be competing this time and Palestine are uncertain. Poland and Yugoslavia will now definitely take part, and Iran hope to send a team.

R. A. Algie, the New Zealand champion, is working his passage to England in order to take part, and the Chilean Champion, Lt. Riveros, is being sent by a Chilean newspaper.

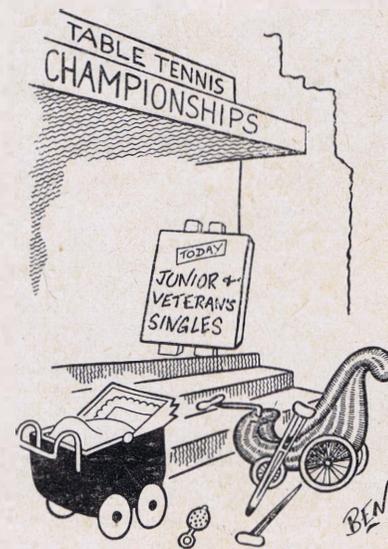
The U.S.A. teams for the World Championships are:—

Men.—W. Price (capt.), G. Nash,
R. Miles, M. Reismann.

Women.—Misses L. Thall, T. Thall
M. Clouther.

The 1949 World Championships will be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

The entries in the Men's Singles are restricted to 128 players, and as there will be over twenty nations competing this means that practically every contestant in the Men's Singles will be a Swaythling Cup player.



English Open Championships

Belle Vue, Manchester — November 18th to 21st, 1947

BELLE VUE, Manchester, is a gigantic place, embracing zoological gardens, amusement park and sporting arenas, but Belle Vue in November and Belle Vue in August are as unlike as two top-grade table tennis balls. The place had a melancholy note. Even the animals were surly and unfriendly.

However, inside the Tudor restaurant the bright 150-watt lamps, green tables, commissionaires in uniform, cafe girls in white overalls, all gave the place an air of distinction. It really looked like the English Open Championships.

First result to come to the umpires' table was that of George Goodman, Manchester Swaythling Cup player, who beat the local young star Ron Allcock, 22-20, 21-15, 21-18. George appears to be a forgotten man these days in spite of his good performances. The third result was the very decisive victory of Miss E. M. Steventon over the French champion, Mdme. Betling, scores being 21-11, 21-12 and 21-13.

As the morning wore on the stars began to make their appearance one after another. Andreadis, of Czechoslovakia, accounted for R. J. Mackay, of Birmingham, while Ken Stanley beat W. Bedford, of Huddersfield. T. Flisberg knocked out the Sunderland star R. Reay.

A LAD TO WATCH

One of the first day's most enjoyable games was between 16-year-old Brian Kennedy, of Leeds, and international Leslie Cohen, Manchester. Cohen was repeatedly driven back by the young Yorkshire lad's fierce forehand drives. After winning two games each, the fifth and deciding game was tensely contested. At 20-19, Kennedy was leading and pressed on with a terrific smash. With a supreme effort Cohen retrieved and his return hit the top of the net and rolled over to strike the edge of Kennedy's half. The fifth game went to Cohen 22-20.

Vi Patterson, of London, making her first appearance in Manchester, made a good impression, putting up a splendid fight against World Champion, Mrs. Farkas of Hungary, scores being 21-11, 22-20 and 21-19 in favour of the Hungarian.

The two London international girls, Peggy Franks and Pinkie Barnes, had a stern struggle. Pinkie showed better



Mrs. G. FARKAS (Hungary),
World and English Open Champion.

form than last season and is certainly one of the favourites for Elizabeth Blackburn's Corbillon Cup place. However, Pinkie could not hold her stylish opponent, Peggy Franks winning 21-16, 20-22, 21-15, 19-21, 21-14.

ELLIOT v. FRANKS

In the second round of the Women's Singles, Peggy Franks met Helen Elliot, and this game proved quite as good as it promised to be on paper. Helen mixed her game well and drew first blood at 21-16, but Franks equalised with a score of 21-10. In the third game, Peggy Franks appeared agitated and her hitting lacked sting. What a really top-class player she could be if she only had a big-game temperament. Elliot took the third game and after some good defensive play Franks made the score in games level. The fifth game was a thriller with each girl attacking and defending, but

the game and match went to Scotland at 21-17.

And so the first day's play wore on. Scotland's No. 2 lady player went out to Molly Jones, of Cheltenham, while Benny Casofsky accounted for Jack Carrington. Jack followed the trend of men's fashion by appearing in shorts.

The final game on Tuesday evening gave the crowd value for money. In the third round Hymie Lurie, proved that he can still play first-class table tennis by beating dark and thick-set Agapoff, of France. The Frenchman played in grey shorts, pale blue jersey and boxing shoes. Lurie's cool and cleverly directed attack soon gave him the lead, and though Agapoff repeatedly tried to take over the attack, Lurie stood his ground and counter-hit. Lurie took the first two games, 21-14, 21-14. In the third game at 18-20, Agapoff served directly into the net to give the match to Lurie.

SECOND DAY'S PLAY

First result of the morning was Betty Steventon's win over Molly Jones, 21-12, 21-12, 21-12 in the third round, while in the third round of the Men's Singles, Ken Stanley went down with honours to Andreadis, scores 21-19, 21-11, 21-17.

In a second round match, Koczian did not find Goodman an easy proposition, although he won 22-20, 21-23, 21-11, 21-15. Ronnie Hook, of Kent, beat A. Shepherd, of Bolton, three games to two, but then fell to Koczian in three straight.

LEACH TAKES HIS REVENGE

Haguenaer, of France, tall and dark, holds his racket without any finger resting on the backhand surface. He lacks a backhand attack but has a most devastating forehand. In the fourth round Johnny Leach allowed his French opponent little scope, attacking continually to Haguenaer's backhand. His win of three straight games avenged his defeat two days previously by the same opponent in the England v. France Europe Cup match.

KNOCKING UP

Why do officials insist that local players should not knock-up between matches, yet the stars are allowed to pounce on a vacant table and carry on undisturbed for some time? One visiting star who was never away from the tables was Koczian, of Hungary. Morning, noon and night found Koczian practising and



Left to Right; Jack Thompson (Lancs. Tournament Secretary), G. Amouretti, (France), I. Andreadis (Czech.), E. Worsley (Lancs. County Secretary).

English Open Ch's.—contd

practising. His match in round four on the Wednesday afternoon with G. Harrower provided him with more practice and he severely trounced the London international, 21-13, 21-12, 21-8. Harrower's game was restricted owing to his knee injury.

Too Young at 41

We asked seventy-year-old Mr. O. W. Tarrant, of Swindon, if he was going to win the Veterans' event. He shook his head ruefully and said, "No, I'm afraid there are too many youngsters in it."

Flisberg beat E. Marsh, of West Drayton, 21-15, 21-18, 21-9, and then followed a classic match between R. Bergmann and G. Amouretti (France). Bergmann was on his toes right from the first point, attacking strongly in spite of heavy forehand and backhand chop from the Frenchman. Both players won a game each and in the third game Bergmann changed his tactics, taking fewer risks and waiting for his openings. During the fifth and deciding game, perhaps the most worried person in the Tudor Restaurant was Amouretti's team-mate, Agapoff, who sat biting his nails and shaking his head nervously each time Amouretti made a mistake. Bergmann won with scores of 21-13, 18-21, 21-17, 11-21, 21-13.

Misses Patterson and Rivett played an attacking game in their second round doubles match against Farkas and Pinkie Barnes, but their opponents were content to allow them to make the mistakes and good defensive play gave Barnes and Farkas the match in three straight.

Dale Wood, of Manchester, won the Junior Girls' Championship, beating D. Banks, of Crewe, in the final 21-15, 21-18, while E. Reay, of Sunderland, beat T. A. Harrison, of Scarborough, in the Veterans' final 21-18, 21-16.

Towards the end of the day's play, Manchester lost two of her Swaythling Cup players from the tournament. Lurie

fell to Flisberg 21-16, 19-21, 21-8, 21-12, and Casofsky was beaten by Vana in three straight.

KING'S HALL

In a quarter-final played in the King's Hall on the Thursday evening, Flisberg was decisively beaten by Vana, who produced a defence which must have surprised many. Heavy, close-to-the-table-chop eventually wore the Swede down, result being 21-16, 21-18, 20-22, 21-18.

In another quarter-final match, Johnny Leach gave one of the most disappointing displays of his career, and never once did he look like the player upon whom we had built so many hopes. Koczian, his Hungarian opponent, played a sound defensive game, but Johnny's hits lacked power. Scores were, 21-16, 17-21, 21-19, 21-19. This match certainly possessed a variety of "noises off." From outside came a Royal Wedding firework celebration and fairground music, and from inside, the tap, tap, of Geoff. Harrower's typewriter.

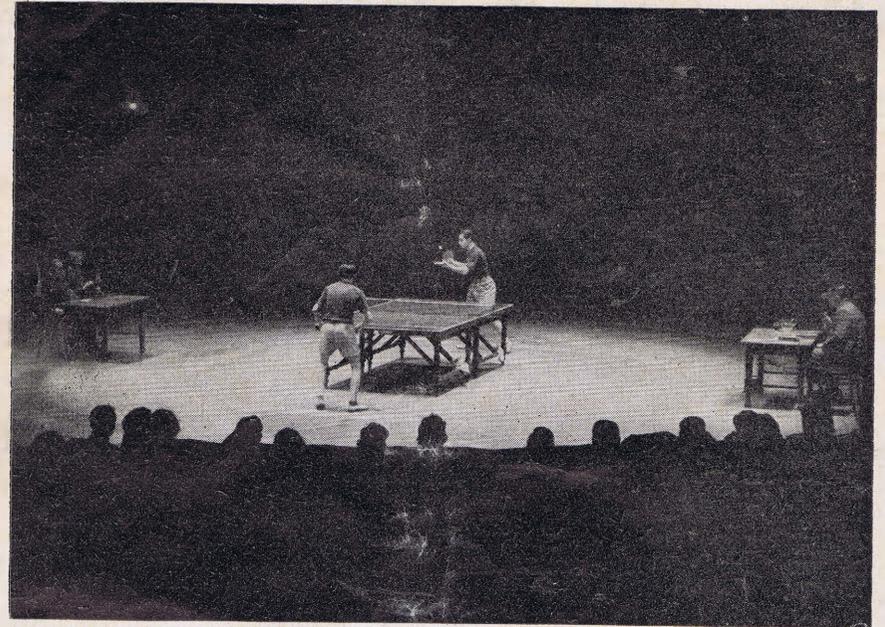
The Vera Thomas v. Helen Elliot semi-final was probably the best game of the Thursday evening's play. Vera's play was good, but she seems to have reached the zenith of her form. On the other hand, the Scottish girl is still improving. Thomas won 15-21, 21-19, 21-17, 21-23, 21-16.

BERGMANN v. ANDREADIS

If Bergmann had a slice of luck at all it was in the third game with the score at 1-1 when Andreadis missed a couple of "sitters" at deuce. From then on it was obvious that Bergmann would be playing again on finals night. Such, however, are the forcing strokes of the Czech, that Richard had little chance to show his attacking powers. His cast-iron defence with an occasional flashing forehand carried him safely to victory, 12-21, 21-17, 24-22, 21-10.

FINALS NIGHT

In two semi-finals, Bergmann beat Koczian 21-13, 21-10, 21-17, and Vana beat Bordrez (France) 21-14, 21-15, 21-15, then came the match for which fans had waited ever since Bergmann withdrew his £500 challenge—Richard Bergmann (England) v. Bohumil Vana (Czech. and World Champion). Both players started carefully with Bergmann doing most of the defending except for an occasional short attack. First game went to Vana



Koczian (Hungary) v. R. Bergmann (England),
Bergmann playing a flawless service.

at 17 and right from the start of the second game Vana began to attack again, but Bergmann was content to dig himself in and with a rock-like defence took the second at 10. The third game, and still Vana's pace did not pause for a moment. At one time, Bergmann tried to capture the attack, but Vana just counter-hit. It was soon obvious that Bergmann was going to rely on his defence to carry him through, although whenever Bergmann did come up to smash, he hit the ball much harder than Vana. With skill and craft that should earn him the world title, Bergmann won the English Open by taking the third and fourth games at 19 and 11.

Afterwards Bergmann told *Table Tennis Review* that he won because he played to Vana's weak spot. Being a one-wing attacker Vana's favourite stance is to play his forehands from the backhand side, resulting in a definite weakness on his extreme forehand side.

ENGLISH OPEN

FINAL RESULTS.

Men's Singles: R. Bergmann beat B. Vana, 17-21, 21-10, 21-19, 21-11.

Women's Singles: Mrs. G. Farkas beat Mrs. V. Thomas, 21-16, 21-17, 17-21, 16-21, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: Bergmann and Flisberg beat Koczian and Sido, 21-19, 23-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Farkas and Barnes beat Thomas and Franks, 22-20, 22-24, 21-17, 13-21, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: Sido and Farkas beat Leach and Thomas, 21-10, 21-12, 21-12.

Boys' Singles: Thornhill beat Costello, 21-19, 21-18.

Girls' Singles: Wood (Manchester) beat Banks (Crewe), 21-15, 21-18.

Veterans' Singles: Reay (Sunderland) beat Harrison (Scarborough), 21-18, 21-16.

Men's Consolation Singles: Marsh (Drayton) beat Davies (Manchester), 21-17, 21-19.

Women's Consolation Singles: Mackay (Birmingham) beat Egerton (Birmingham), 21-19, 21-16.

Prestige! At What Price?

By JACK KURZMAN

THE decision of the Selection Committee to include Barna and Bergmann in the Swaythling Cup team and possibly Mrs. Devenny (nee Beregi) in the Corbillon team, has caused dismay to many of us who were looking this year for young new players to take the places of some of our former Internationals now past their best.

As Secretary of the Selection Committee for the past two years I was astounded at the complete change of view of this new committee. Under Clause 10 of the regulations governing the Corbillon and Swaythling Cup competitions, all these players were eligible last year and due consideration was given to their inclusion both by the Selection Committee and the full committee of the National Association. The decision not to include them was unanimous and some of the arguments in support of this decision were as follow:—

First of all, these National Competitions are designed to compare the respective strength of each country's table tennis. To import into the team two former World Champions who learned the game in the countries of their birth and had already represented these countries in this self-same competition would not show the strength of English table tennis and even though it be allowed by the rules, is surely against the spirit of the competition.

There is the argument that these players should not be barred from International play, but all of them have had more than their share of International matches, and if it were desired to recognise their domicile here, they could easily be given a

Dear Editor,

As requested, I enclose an article for your Magazine, on a topic which is to-day uppermost in the minds of many table tennis players.

This article was originally written for the official magazine in response to a request made to me by Jack Carrington to write an article on any subject.

I was at a later stage approached by the Editor with a request that certain parts of the article to which the National Executive Committee (to whom he obviously has to submit articles of a controversial nature) took exception, be deleted. I refused to do this as there appeared to me nothing in the article to which any fair-minded person could take exception.

It appears that the National Executive are afraid of criticism and certainly will not allow criticism of their decision to appear in the official magazine. Surely this is reason enough why your magazine should continue to thrive and be supported by all table tennis fans. From my experience your journal is a free forum and publishes both points of view.

Most national journals open their columns to writers expressing different opinions to those of the proprietors, but those controlling our official magazine only allow milk and water criticism of their actions, anything calculated to bring pressure of opinion against one of their decisions is vetoed, thus freedom to criticise is barred in "Table Tennis."

Yours sincerely,
JACK KURZMAN.

cap in friendly home internationals as was done in the case of Beregi.

To include these players, and they do of course merit a place, means excluding those born in this country. It means less opportunity to blood some younger players fighting for

international recognition. Beregi and Barna are both past their best and this may well be the last year in which they will merit their places; why not then give these places to younger players from whom we should reap benefit next season?

It is possible that a Swaythling Cup team which includes Barna, Bergmann and Leach might well win the Swaythling Cup for England, but who would cheer such a victory? Certainly not I! And would such a victory raise the prestige of English table tennis in the countries of the world, or would they say we had to import a Hungarian and a Pole to win the Swaythling Cup for the first time?

To tell me that Bellak may play for the U.S.A. or that such transfers have been done on the Continent many times, means nothing. We in

this country, have always played to the spirit of the game whether we win or lose, but it now appears that the Selection Committee is so keen to provide a team capable of winning the Swaythling Cup that they are prepared to sink the honour of English table tennis.

I hope that those of you who read this article and agree with my feelings will write to the Association expressing your strong disapproval at this decision and asking that it be reversed before it is too late, so that if an English victory is obtained in an International competition, we will have something to cheer, as we did when our girls so brilliantly won the Corbillon and Europe Cups last year, and if we lose we shall at least be able to hold up our heads and feel that we played the game in the true spirit of English sportsmen.



Mr. H. OLDROYD, President E.T.T.A. presents
The English Open Trophy to R. BERGMANN (England).

Viewing the News

by
**STANLEY
PROFFITT**
(English
Swaythling
Cup
Player)



A NEW slogan for our publicity men might be "Become a table tennis star and see the world." During the past three months our own Vera Thomas and Peggy Franks made a successful tour of Sweden, while the Swedish players Flisberg, Fredrickson and Cromeroyd journeyed to Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. On their way back to Budapest, Sido, Koczian and Mrs. Farkas called at a few Dutch towns, and the Czechs, Vana and Andreadis, finally made their Indian tour after this had been cancelled twice owing to the riots.

A National Championship is always an opportunity for old friends to organise a "get-together" and the English Open at Belle Vue was no exception. During a gossip at an adjacent "milk bar" it came to light that old favourite Miklos Szabados has been the proprietor for some years of a table tennis saloon in George Street, Sydney. It was only quite recently that he had the electric sign over the door changed from "Ping-Pong" to "Table Tennis."

It was at this premier event that wise-cracking Freddie Cromwell (now on the retired list with other old soldiers like myself) caused something of a laugh. The giant Sido was playing diminutive Ron Thompson and both were wearing the "new-fangled" head-gear. Freddie watched for a few moments, then dipping his hand into his pocket produced a fragile hair-net which he passed over to Leslie Cohen saying, "You'd better wear this in the next round." Those accustomed to the sight of Leslie and Freddie will appreciate the humour for both are "near the canvas" so to speak.

Manchester's Treasurer "Pop" Marsden caused another laugh when he endeavoured to sell the Mancunian booklet "Twenty-One Up" to a party of foreigners. It was here that France's No. 1 lady player, Mrs. S. Betling, stepped in to explain that our

guests would be unable to appreciate it as they could not speak the lingo let alone read it. This small, dark girl, born of an English mother and French father often lent her services as interpreter. As a linguist she rivals Ivor Montagu, speaking Portuguese, Russian, French, English and Finnish. I learnt that she spent three years as hostess-interpreter at a Casino in South America.

The Thursday evening, the night of the semi-finals of the English, was also a night for celebrating the Royal wedding, and the gardens of Belle Vue were gay with music from the amusement park, displays of fireworks, singing and dancing. Inside the King's Hall the festive spirit gradually deflated as one spineless exhibition of the table tennis art superseded another. On that particular night all the "fireworks" were certainly outside the King's Hall. Anxious thoughts are spreading among the fans, for only a few players to-day are upholding the proud traditions on which the game was built. The ordinary pleasure-seeking public must be given more thrills, otherwise our gates will diminish. What's to be done about it? Some blame the war, rationing and general conditions, etc., and there is no doubt that these have had their damaging effect, but even so they have nothing to do with players standing practically immobile while they crash unstoppable smashes direct from the service. In my opinion, the height of the net must be raised slightly. Others who support this view are Victor Barna, Ivor Montagu, Gilbert Marshall and Maurice Rose. One has only to witness the careless, erratic play of our youngsters to realise the dangers of a low net.

Competition *Two Guinea Prize*

BEST LEAGUE HANDBOOK

We invite all league secretaries to send in a copy of their handbook before February 10th. A prize of *Two Guineas* will be donated to the funds of the League which in the opinion of the judges possess the most useful and attractive League Fixture Handbook.

This competition is open only to Leagues and not Country or National Associations. Size of the handbook will not be taken into consideration.

Address your entries to: *Table Tennis Review*, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3.

* * *

Yorkshire Table Tennis Magazine

We are happy to congratulate the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association on the appearance of the first issue of its official magazine, *The White Rose*. Edited by our old friend Leslie Forrest, Secretary of the Y.T.T.A., and assisted by the Chairman, Maurice O. Shaffner, this new magazine is completely a Yorkshire affair.

It contains the sort of news that table tennis enthusiasts like to read and no Yorkshire league, however small, is deprived of the opportunity to tell the rest of the county about its activities.

Original contributions will be a feature of the magazine and articles by well-known personalities will appear from time to time.

Yorkshire players can obtain copies from their League Secretary or specimen copies can be obtained, price 7d. post free, from: The Editor, *White Rose*, 15, Briarfield Road, Frizinghall, Bradford. A subscription for four issues costs 2s. 4d. post free.

Merseyside Open

(LIVERPOOL, NOVEMBER 27th/29th, 1947)

THIS season's Merseyside was a pale reflection of its predecessors, and many of the advertised stars failed to appear. Even so, a number of pre-war favourites were present, including Ken and Eric Hyde and A. G. Millar, of Manchester. Ken Hyde and Millar met in the third round with Ken proving the victor, 21-14, 21-17. Soon after Ken Hyde was comfortably defeated by Ken Stanley, who is now resident in Lancashire once more.

Harrower, playing a careful, defensive game, accounted for Shepherd, of Bolton, and MacKay, of Birmingham, while Mitton showed good form in beating Ron Rumjahn and Leslie Cohen. Later, Mitton fell to Bergmann, and Harrower to Stanley.

In the Men's Singles final (Bergmann v. Stanley) Ken Stanley displayed terrific form which in the opinion of many throws out a serious challenge to Leach for the position of leading English-born player. The game was a thriller with many exciting rallies which raised the crowd to periods of intense excitement. The swift, long distance counter-hits of both players were a delight to watch. Bergmann was hard pressed, but proved a worthy winner.

FINAL RESULTS

M.S. : Bergmann beat Stanley, 21-14, 16-21, 21-18, 21-11.

W.S. : Helen Elliot beat E. Mansell, 21-10, 21-12.

M.D. : Mitton and Whiteley beat Cohen and Harrower, 21-19, 6-21, 21-14.

W.D. : Senior and Lightfoot beat Elliot and Steventon, 18-21, 21-15, 21-12.

Mx. D. : Cohen and Adele Wood beat Stanley and H. Elliot, 11-21, 21-11, 21-10.

Juniors : Brown beat Simons

Commencing a Course of Instruction

By KEN STANLEY (*Swaythling Cup Player*)

(I) Practice Night

FIRST STEPS

HOW many people practise as they should? Not many from the hundreds I have seen. The average practice night means walking into the club, changing into pumps and then on to the table, playing games to win instead of trying to steady and perfect your game. Let's do it as it should be done, and then we will be getting somewhere in a short time, and also find we are beginning to enjoy this practice night more than ever.

The first and foremost thing is to change into flannels—or shorts, pumps and sweater. It will be well worth while to study the best players first, noting their arm action, just when they hit the ball and how; position of feet when the stroke is made and body action. Then pick out the shots you like best. Don't try and model yourself on one player alone.

The next step is to practise these strokes yourself away from the table. In front of a mirror is the best way. You can then study yourself for a change, the most important point to watch being the position of your feet when you make the stroke. Keep practising before the mirror until you feel confident that you have the correct action, so that when you come to play the strokes on the table they will come almost automatically.

It is impossible to learn strokes correctly on the table, for the beginner must think of footwork, arm action and timing, etc., all at the same moment.

DEVELOPING YOUR STROKES

Once on the table for serious practice concentrate on playing each

stroke slowly. Never mind about speed and super-smashes—they will come in due course. Play forehand attack to your opponent for a good fifteen minutes, trying to keep the ball going as long as you can with slow top-spin. At the same time your opponent can get down to improving his forehand chop. Then switch over to backhand attack—the same thing, slow top-spinning to your opponent's backhand defence.

After fifteen minutes on each wing allow your opponent to take over the attack, and this time you concentrate on tightening up your defence.

Continue this method of play until you can execute slow top-spin drives for twenty times or more. Next try making a number of drives down the forehand side and then switch suddenly to hitting down the backhand.

Remember it is not blind hits that win big games but all-round steady play. To me Richard Bergmann is a perfect example of steadiness, and you can take it from me that this is the way he has reached the top. Get a good solid foundation to your game and perfect slow, steady stroke play.

ANGLE SHOTS

The next stage is to learn and practise hitting with angle on the ball, trying to move your opponent as far from the middle of the table as possible. Let me stress once again that with all these shots aim at keeping the ball going as long as you possibly can—not at winning the point. Even if you get a high one resist the temptation for that grand slam, and play back once again with slow top spin. This not only helps you in perfecting the stroke or angle, but also helps to give you that extra concentration which is what most English players have lacked against

Continental opponents. Arrange for your opponent to stay on defence and not to hit a ball, then gradually work him out of position with slow, angled top spin until you think you have him where you want him, then try a drop shot—and keep trying that drop shot. This is one of the most important shots in the game, and yet it is the most neglected.

ENTER THE OPENS

To the younger players who are really keen I would give this advice—don't overplay yourself. Three times a week with the type of practice I have mentioned is plenty. Try to spend at least one night of the week training; skipping is one of the best exercises for it improves the footwork and helps to speed up your game.

Enter as many of the open tournaments as you can, for it is in these that you have the chance of playing against the best players in the country, and also a great chance to study the game as it should be played.

It is in these tournaments that you will realise that training is essential. The amount of stamina required to reach the final of a big tournament is easily, in my opinion, equal to that of 90 minutes' first-class football, so if you have your eye on the three titles get cracking with that skipping rope now.

I feel that enough instructional articles on stroke play have already been written and have therefore not attempted to include this in my article.

* * *

In the next issue I will be taking this practice one step further, covering: Speeding up from slow top spin, variation of chop spin, and general tactical play. So until then, remember the old motorist's slogan, "It's better to get there slowly, than not to get there at all!"

THE HISTORY OF THE GROWTH
OF A LEAGUE

Twenty-one Up!

A twenty-page booklet telling the interesting history of twenty-one years of table tennis in Manchester. Contributors include Stanley Proffitt, Leslie Cohen, Fred Cromwell and Arthur Waite. Price 7d., post free, obtainable from the Manchester League Treasurer: H. Wilkinson Marsden, 8. Eileen Grove, Rusholme, Manchester, 14, or the office of *Table Tennis Review*.

Crossword Puzzle Result

A good number of entries were received but only three all-correct solutions were received, these being from Mr. Greenbury, London, N.W.6, A. V. Meyern, Bentley Hill, Middx., and Miss P. S. Pellow, Y.W.C.A., 4, Manston Terrace, Exeter. The three names were placed in the Editor's hat and Miss Pellow was the lucky one to receive the prize of one guinea.

Europe Cup

(Men's Western Zone Semi-final.)

FRANCE 3 ENGLAND 2

Played at Birmingham, November 17th, 1947.

Scores, in actual match order:—

Harrower lost to Haguenaer, 21-18, 9-21, 20-22, 12-21.

Leach beat Amouretti, 21-23, 21-11, 22-20, 21-23, 21-19.

Leach and Carrington beat Haguenaer and Amouretti, 21-17, 21-19, 15-21, 19-21, 21-17.

Harrower lost to Amouretti, 17-21, 12-21, 17-21.

Leach lost to Haguenaer, 17-21, 18-21, 15-21.

Reserve player, Sharman; non-playing captain, Haydon.

Some of My Stage Experiences

By ALEC BROOK *(Swaything Cup Player)*

(Who writes with the kind permission of the "Sunday Empire News.")

JUST seventeen years ago, when I was leading a quiet, nonchalant life as an office accountant, I started to play table tennis. Since then, I have had the most varied, wonderful and exciting time for which any person could wish. It is this sport which has taken me half-way round the world, into big cities and to tiny hamlets, and which has thrown me in the paths of thousands of people whom I would never otherwise have met.

I started to think back when the editor suggested I should write something interesting concerning my table tennis experiences, and I came to the conclusion that to record the incidents I personally found interesting would require not an article, but instead a volume. I have decided, therefore, to recall one or two of the more outstanding incidents which occurred during my connections with the stage.

FOOTLIGHT NERVES

It is nearly nine years since I first appeared in front of the footlights, beginning a profession which I had previously believed to be easy and somewhat coated with honey. I was soon to be disillusioned, as believe me, it is far from that. The work is really wonderful, but no employment can ever be more exacting.

There is an adage in the theatrical profession which says "Every single performance must be one's best." How true is that saying! At no time can one be certain who is watching the show; it may be a friend, relative, agent-booker, anybody. One bad show can cost an artist hundreds of pounds in future engagements, so knowing this before he starts, he always performs under a terrific tension until the act is

Alec Brook and Victor Barna are partners in what is probably the most thrilling table tennis stage-act in the world.

over. I have never myself seen Victor Barna nervous when playing in a competition, yet I've seen him shaking on the stage and have been the same myself, particularly in the early days and also when opening in a new production.

LUCKY BREAK

A typical instance of being booked through being watched without knowing it, was the London Palladium show. We were playing in the Tower Circus at Blackpool for a summer season, when one afternoon, the late Mr. George Black slipped in to see the matinee, where for various reasons, one does not always give of one's best. The first we knew about it was the arrival of the contract together with a letter, stating he had enjoyed our act and would we keep ourselves available for his forthcoming new show.

We had a most successful and enjoyable run at the Palladium although at times it looked as if disaster might overtake us, in the way of the "Doodle-bugs." There were some narrow squeaks in those days and many times we heard the infernal machines cut out right overhead, when we were in the middle of a game. One came down so near that we found half the scenery on the table and at that particular moment we would have preferred to have been under the table. However, thanks to God's providence, we survived without any serious mishaps.

WANTED—A COMPERE

Another time, in the same show, we had a different sort of fright:

Most of those who have seen us know we have a comperer with us who not only keeps the score but also gives comments about the play, explaining the rules and various strokes. During this run, the gentleman, who was a little elderly, was not enjoying the best of health, possibly the "doodles" were upsetting him; anyway, unfortunately he collapsed after the first house one day and was unable to carry on, leaving us with exactly forty minutes in which to find ourselves another comperer. It was nigh on an impossible task as so few theatricals can even score, let alone give a good commentary on the game. Whatever could we do? Victor and I were frantic and he suggested getting someone in table tennis circles, who could just introduce us in a nice way and keep the score, without getting nervous. Who could we think of who could go on the stage at the London Palladium for the first time without being nervous? Victor thought of Mr. Raymond Mortlake Mann, his old friend, and we tried to get him on the telephone.

We tried his home, then his work and after what seemed hours to us we eventually contacted him and he agreed to come along as quickly as possible. With no time to get suitable evening dress he arrived just ten minutes before we were on. What we told him, I never remember, but while I cleaned his shoes, Victor brushed his clothes and we both talked twenty to the dozen, trying to tell him a little of what he should do and say. By then he should have been in a worse state than us, but Raymond was splendid. Victor and I put more than usual into our game and played as men possessed. We got through remarkably well and, after three performances, Raymond was like an old hand. He is still with us.

AN ESCAPED LION

Yet another frightening thing happened while we were in the circus. We usually followed the big lion act, and one afternoon just as we were leaving our dressing room, we heard screams. We reached the ring and saw one of the lions on top of the trainer, whom he was badly mauling. People were fainting and many started to rush for the exits. Somehow, the trainer recovered and although badly hurt was able to get the lion out of the ring.

Everybody was excited and there was a feeling of suspense. Had there been another animal act following, I think it would have been most difficult to calm everyone down, but the table tennis being so different, people seemed to relax much more quickly and after we had finished the management congratulated us on carrying through with such success.

TEACHING THE STARS

We have a lot of grand fun playing with the stage stars, and if we had the time and the capabilities, Victor and I could by now be everything from a juggler to a dancer. Everybody likes table tennis and they all want to learn. I remember spending a lot of time with Harold Ramsey trying to learn to play the organ, the condition being I should teach him table tennis. I am not sure who was the biggest mug!

Another time, I was asked if I would take on the job of teaching two actors the game who had to play table tennis in a film, the actors being Roger Livesey and Kim Hunter. Neither of them had played before and it took about two months to get them playing a reasonable game, but Michael Powell, the producer, was tremendously enthusiastic over the ultimate shot in the film.

Just a Gossip

With SAM KIRKWOOD

THE Central London Championships played at the Memorial Hall on December 6th were strangely lacking in colour and glamour, all the Continentals being absent on tour elsewhere. They were poor fields to conquer, the men's event being taken by Johnny Leach who had an easy passage to the final where he completely overwhelmed Ernie Bublely with scores of 21-10, 21-12, 21-15. The Bublely star appears to be on the wane.

Gwen Mace returned to T.T. after a long lay-off and proved she was too good for our old friend Dora Beregi (now Mrs. Duvenney). Dora is still rusty, but the classy style is still there.

The Rivett and Wilkinson girls sprang a surprise in the women's doubles by beating Pinkie Barnes and Vi Patterson, and it was no fluke either, scores being 21-17, 21-15, 21-15.

It has been obvious that petite Peggy Franks, surely the game's prettiest girl, has not been quite her old self. She looks pale and drawn, and her game lacks its famous "bite." Reason is that during the summer she suffered a serious bout of rheumatic fever which kept her in bed for weeks. At one time her doctors thought she had a serious lung complaint; happily for the girl and the game, they were quite wrong. We heard Peggy commenting on her state, when talking to friends at the Bishopsgate Institute, London, where she likes to practise. Said she, "I'm only 22 but I feel like 90." Perhaps she should have laid off table tennis this season and given herself a chance to recover all her strength and vitality.



Miss GWEN MACE
New Central London Open Champion

I see that a Swedish team of juniors, aged 15 to 18, are to tour England just prior to the world series in London next month. They may play a Youth International. A good idea! This will give our best youngsters a chance to "feel their way," as it were, in the International sphere. The Rows and Applebys and Thornhills can learn a lot by competing against foreigners; our potential Internationals should be developed when they're young—the younger the better. We can sorely do with some new blood; "boys" like Carrington and Harrower, in their late thirties, have earned a rest.

Winner of the Canadian Men's Open title a few weeks back was one Marty Reismann. Competing against him were the cream of Canadian players and U.S. players

Sol Schiff, Jimmy McClure and Bill Price (U.S. team skipper). Marty also won the Junior Championship, he being only 16 years old. The boy is American, the son of a hard-working taxi-driver, and it is claimed for him that he's so good he's certain to take the world title in a year or two. Reismann's strength, so I hear, lies in his terrific two-wing attack and galvanic footwork. He may be seen in England within the coming year. If he's as good as critics say he is, he'll certainly shake up some of the old Continental maestros.

Had a talk with Leslie Bernard, Hollywood boy film actor, who appeared in "The Jolson Story" and now on a visit here with his parents. Leslie says that many film stars are keen table tennis fans and play on the set while waiting for their turn to be "shot."

Other items of interest from the States include (1) Reba Moness, a leading lady player, is shocking lovers of the conventional by playing in slacks made from leopard skin. (2) A new plastic ball has been tested by the U.S.T.T.A. It is reported that this ball has met all specifications and is of unusually high quality. (3) Louis Pagliaro, three times U.S. singles champion and semi-finalist at the world championships in Paris, is classed as the outstanding American male player of all time. (4) Entrants competing in future National Championships will be compelled to wear on the backs of their shirts a two-inch high felt lettering of their names and the States they represent. (5) During the Canadian Championships (see Marty Reismann paragraph) players experimented by wearing an all-white costume, white shirts, pants, socks and shoes. Why the experi-

ment was made, or how it panned out, I have yet to find out.

Watching a 6 ft. 3 in. tall player in action the other evening reminded me that I once played probably the world's biggest table tennis exponent. It was at a famous holiday camp last season, and the chap in question was Ted Evans, of Staines. Ted, a stripling of 22 summers, hit the ceiling at 7 ft. 8 in. and weighed 24 stones. The big boy's knees were on a level with the table top, and he could reach to the net when sitting (he liked to play sitting down). One of his hands could cover a complete bat—in fact, it could almost cover a table! It's good to look back and think that I gave two feet in height, 30 inches in reach, and 12 stones in weight to Ted, and beat him. Has any reader met a bigger player?



"But I keep telling you, Sonny — We haven't anything that resembles a table tennis ball in the shop."

Selecting an International Team

ON this page we reprint a letter sent in by a Northern reader which we feel is a fair representation of public opinion. Personally, we agree with most of the remarks, one exception being with reference to Jack Carrington, whom we definitely consider to be worth a position on England's teams as a doubles partner to Johnny Leach. Granted that Carrington has passed his best and cannot be chosen as a singles player, but we challenge anyone to name a doubles pair with brighter prospects than Leach and Carrington of winning the World's Doubles title.

Geoffrey Harrower's performance against France in the Europe Cup was disappointing and many fans are asking why a player with a damaged knee (cartilage trouble) was included in this most important match. Our quest for information brought the following facts to light.

Harrower had the best record against the Frenchmen and is the only English player to have beaten Amouretti. In a short trial held prior to the match, Harrower beat Johnny Leach in two straight games and also Ron Sharman in two straight. (Then along comes A. A. Haydon, non-playing captain, who beats them all!) From these results we were told that it was fairly obvious which players should be chosen. Benny Casofsky was not considered because of his injured knee (cartilage trouble) and both Hymie Lurie and Ken Stanley had to be overlooked because no information was to hand on their form.

We contend that the selection committee should be composed completely of experts who really understand the technique of the game, and who no longer take active part in first-class table tennis themselves. There is certainly no room on such

24, Bannerman Avenue,
Prestwich.

Dear Editor,

I have noted that every England team this season has, with the sole exception of Ben Casofsky, consisted entirely of South of England players, as though there were no Northerners worth noticing.

Harrower and Carrington, both nearer 40 than 30, are still being awarded international badges. Why? Influence in the right quarter? Our teams always carry too many old-timers—old-timers who should be pensioned off and given a rest. It's safe to say that if Messrs. Harrower and Carrington hailed from Manchester, they'd have been sent to stud years ago—like Lurie, Proffitt, Cromwell and Miller.

I submit the time has come when a North of England man should be given a place on the Selection Committee. It's very nice for Harrower to be Secretary of this Committee and have a hand in picking himself (he certainly doesn't turn himself down!) above younger and better players, but this just isn't good enough.

We Northerners demand a representative on the Selection Board—a representative in touch with the vast body of players up here and one capable of fighting for our rights and recognition. We have a right, as paying members affiliated to the E.T.T.A., to have our chosen man to see we get a fair deal. The composition of the present Selection Committee is not good enough, not unbiased enough, not alive enough to what's going on away from London.

Whom would I like to see as Northern Representative? Why not Stanley Proffitt, the old Swaythling Cup player and International? Stanley knows all the answers, knows the game inside out, is a Northerner born and bred, is "alive," is not afraid to speak up for himself and those around him, and would most certainly not choose himself for international games. He is the ideal man for the job. How about it, E.T.T.A.?

Incaidentally, I have no axe to grind. I am just an average club player who wants to see justice done. And I want to see England progress, not go backwards.

RON SILLCOCK.

[EDITOR'S NOTE; Northern Officials are consulted from time to time regarding selection of teams.]

an important committee for the official who is competent only in the administrative side of the game.

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Our Mail-Bag . . .

May I, as the secretary of the Norwich League which has been quoted in the Wilmott Cup controversy, be allowed a few comments on the article you published by Mr. Jack Kurzman. Firstly, may I say we have no criticisms at all about the Wilmott Cup competition and just did our best and we are certainly not grumbling about the financial loss. We took it all as part of the game.

I should like to say, however, that we do not accept Mr. Kurzman's statement that we are an inexperienced League. The Norwich League was founded in 1935 and we were playing in the Wilmott Cup before the war. I have been secretary since 1938 and we have now staged three exhibitions by internationals attracting nearly a thousand people each time. Most of my committee have been officers for all these exhibitions and I think this will show that we are far from inexperienced. Our problems at the moment are due to the lack of suitable halls for staging inter-league matches owing to destruction caused by the heavy blitzing of Norwich during the war. In consequence of this, the Wilmott Cup match with Exeter had to be staged at much greater expense than we would have wished. It was certainly not inexperience that caused us to lose £12 on the tie, but merely that we did our best in difficult conditions to give the Exeter team a warm welcome.

It is only fair to add that for the coming season my committee has decided not to enter for the Wilmott Cup. This has nothing to do with the organisation of the competition, but we feel we have not the public interested in this particular cup. Instead, we are competing in the newly-formed East Anglian League of Leagues which will afford good inter-league matches with other leagues in East Anglia, and by which means we hope to build up public interest in other competitions. H. E. BETTS,
Hon. Sec. Norwich T.T.L.

I think that our only chance of winning the Swaythling Cup is by playing the team of Bergmann, Barna, and Leach, and for me it would have no suspicion of a "bitter sweet" taste. The two players in question wish to be regarded as Englishmen and I am sure that the majority of followers of the games would not deny them places in the English team. Surely it would encourage a few of our other top-class players to make efforts to earn a place on the team.

D. G. FULLICK, Menston, Nr. Leeds.

IN SEARCH OF A LAUGH . . . with Inkspot

A bloke I know went after a flat the other day for himself and his bride of six years standing. Said the house agent, "It's five pound a week. Take it or leave it, but if you take it I must warn you that the following are strictly forbidden: Radios, gramophones, piano playing and table tennis."

My friend looked up timidly and asked, "I have a new pair of shoes that squeak a little—will it matter?"

Mary Lou, that's my girl friend, went to apply for a job at a restaurant and the manageress asked her whether she could serve at the table. Mary Lou was quick to explain that previously she had always served on one knee and from under the table, but now she was making progress with the open-palm method, and though she missed the table now and again, she was making rapid improvement.

There's a fellow down my street who holds more trophies than anybody I know. His name is Gluckstein and he has three large, shiny metal balls above his shop doorway.

I asked Mary Lou the other day if she had ever heard of a fellow

winning a tournament playing on one leg. But Mary Lou is too cute to be caught napping. "Don't be silly," she replied. "You only play on one leg when you lose."

Harold is a delightful person and I have always liked him. He is one of those people who, when they take up anything, they do it really thoroughly from top to bottom, back to front, end to end, and inside out. You know the kind I mean. Anyway, Harold decided to read history up at Cambridge and when he came home for the summer vacation he was full of it. He argued for hours with the Vicar on Queen Elizabeth's Church Settlement, and on Thomas à Becket. Harold seemed to be very down on poor old Thomas, but the Vicar was all for him.

My own knowledge of history is limited to a few stories of the great, which, having captured my youthful fancy, have lingered on in my memory. I can, for instance, recount the touching tale of King Alfred burning the cakes, King Canute getting his feet wet, or Walter Raleigh spoiling his best tailor-made cloak in the service of his queen. But ask me to place a

battle or date or king, and I am done for.

However, when Harold challenged me to play table tennis with him after tea one afternoon, I accepted the challenge gladly, little guessing what I was in for. All went well until the score reached 14-12.

Harold was serving. He had just landed a ball on the edge of the table which completely beat me.

"14-12," called Harold, then after a moment added, "Henry IV leads an expedition into France."

"I beg your pardon?" I said. "Nothing," said Harold. "Sorry," and he served again.

The next point was mine because Harold served into the net.

"14-13," I called out joyfully. "Accession of Henry V," replied Harold without a pause.

I took no notice, but merely supposed that the joke would not last long. The next point was Harold's.

"15-13," he shouted. "Battle of Flodden."

This was getting beyond a joke, and I began to rack my brain for a date to retaliate with, but 1066 was out of the question, and 55 B.C. was not very hopeful. Those were the only two dates that I could summon to mind. The next point was Harold's again, making the score 16-13, and bringing forth a remark from him to the effect that some Elector of somewhere had married someone from somewhere else in that year. Harold then got in a beauty. It bounced on the extreme corner of the table, had a little game all on its own on the mantelpiece, and finally settled in the coal-box.

"17-13, Treaty of Utrecht," announced Harold jubilantly.

It was while I was fishing for the ball in the coal-box that a dim

memory came to me from my school-days. Something quite important had happened in the year 1815. "Oh yes—I believe that's right," I thought. I decided to make a tremendous effort to make the score 1815 to give me my chance.

It was now my service and I clutched the ball with grim determination. "The score is 17-13," I announced.

"13-17. You're serving now," contradicted Harold.

That was a nuisance. I had not thought of that. "Oh well," I said carelessly, "never mind, we'll put the higher score first, it's less muddling."

Harold grunted, "All right" in an indulgent way, and I breathed again.

I got a fearsome serve in and won the point. "17-14," I said and waited for the inevitable. It came. "George I," said Harold.

I managed to win the next point by a fluke. "17-15," I said.

"Rebellion of James Edward Stuart," I was told without a pause.

Now I was safe, for I had only to lose the next point to get my long-awaited chance.

I aimed at the top of the grandfather clock.

"Your point, 18-15. Battle of Trafalgar," I yelled out.

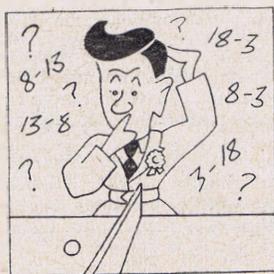
Harold looked at me for a moment incredulously and then he burst into peals of laughter. I did not like that laugh somehow, it had an ominous sound.

"Well I've got you at last," I began nervously.

"1815," shrieked Harold between his outbursts. "You mean Waterloo. Trafalgar was in 1805."

As I said before, Harold is a delightful person but it's a thousand pities that he is so thorough.

MR EASY-ONE (The Table Tennis Novice)



County Associations

DO THEY HELP OUR ADMINISTRATION ?

By IVOR C. EYLES (Secretary, Western Counties League)

BEFORE putting my opinions before the readers I would like to make known my credentials. I have been connected with the game since 1924 as player and official. During my spell of official duty as General Secretary of the Bristol Association I largely helped the organisation to increase from two men's divisions to six men's divisions, one women's and one doubles divisions, with a playing strength of over 1,000. I was also a founder member of the Western Counties Table Tennis League, and have held the office of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer since 1935, and am also the present Hon. Tournament Secretary of the Bristol Association. Before the recent war I was one of the originators of the scheme for County Associations, so that I am not against the development of such bodies.

DOUBTFUL IMPROVEMENT

It was my pleasure a few weeks ago to attend a meeting at Cheltenham to discuss the formation of a County Body for Gloucestershire. What in brief is the advantage? I am told that the E.T.T.A. are campaigning for County Associations, and that the formation of same would relieve very great pressure on the Central Office in London and would, being in more close contact with the Provincial Associations or Leagues, save the very long time lag, which is experienced with the National Body in dealing with a mass of administrative matters. But, is this borne out by the present National Rules governing County Associations?

In these rules in every case, one finds that after saying each County Association shall have complete autonomy in administrative matters affecting its county, that most of the rules carry a clause, "must be approved by the National Body," "subject to be over-ridden by the National Executive," or, "Clubs and Leagues may with the approval of the National Body contract out." Therefore, it seems to me that county administration, under such, is a very doubtful improvement in bringing to each league its administrative queries duly settled.

The time lag is further delayed if each county member puts forward its business

to the County Body, who, after due deliberation, have then to put the matter forward to London for approval, then back to the County Secretary, then back to the member—what an improvement! One present county rule gives the County Body power to suspend a player or club, but one finds that this may be over-ruled by the National Body, which to my mind makes the County Body look rather ridiculous.

INCREASE THE REBATE

Then perhaps one reaches the whole crux of County Administration in Finance. It is possible for a County Association to obtain a refund of 1/- per club from the E.T.T.A., not automatic mark you, but only if the County apply for same. What a figure to make the nucleus of your County finance! Some time ago the fees to the National Body were increased to find the salary for an *Organising Secretary*. *Has this person been of any help, or is he allowed to try and organise?* Now, according to the E.T.T.A., County Bodies are almost indispensable, so that the cross roads have been reached, the work is now to be done in the County, and quite right, so that I presume with County Bodies established all over the country it will whittle down the expenses of the Central Office, and therefore this rebate should be much more.

In smaller (numerically) counties such as Gloucester, with only six associations or leagues to complete the County Body, this extra rebate is of vital importance, and the view has been expressed that if the National Body wishes to solve the administrative time lag by the formation of County Associations it must help with the practical side of the question, and seriously consider an increase in the rebate of 1/-.

OVERHAUL THE RULES

I feel that the rules governing County Bodies should be drastically overhauled. First, I would take away from County Bodies the right to approve major tournaments. This I feel, should be done by the National Body. Certain very important tournaments should be classed as a *Major Open* tournament, the dates

should be settled in the close season and all associations or leagues could leave these dates free in their winter programme. I would then give complete autonomy to County Bodies, that subject to the laws, regulations and standing orders of the E.T.T.A. it could administer and govern, free from any over-riding restrictions of the National Body. It should be in a position to sanction the *Junior Open Tournaments*, *Closed Tournaments*, local leagues, or suspension of players or clubs, without fear of its decisions being over-ruled by the National Executive and would thus save the National Executive from wasting time on trivial domestic matters, and thus allow them to concentrate on the National matters which affect all.

FINANCE

I would suggest that each county body should be responsible for forwarding to the National Treasurer the various fees which its constituent members are subject to, and this would obviate having to apply for a rebate and would once again relieve the Hon. Treasurer of considerable work. This would work as follows: If the National Body (or providing such alterations to the rules can be carried at the next A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A., and believe me they will be submitted) will reduce their subscriptions to 5/- per club with one team, it would allow the County Association to continue to charge 7/6 per club with one team, but only remit 5/- to the National Treasurer.

NO CONTRACTING OUT

I sincerely hope, that County Associations will be *compulsory on all*, and furthermore *no contracting out allowed*.

The case of leagues, such as Salisbury, a Wiltshire league, being allowed to join a Hampshire Association should not be allowed. This strikes me as rather silly. Surely if Salisbury are that keen on county administration they should "have carried the torch" for a Wiltshire Association. Furthermore, what would be the attitude if a Gloucestershire Association was formed, and the leagues who have been in close contact with us over the years, such as Swindon, Bath and Exeter, who with no county bodies of their own, wished to join us? What would the National Body say, after creating a precedence in the Salisbury case? To my mind it is all so absurd to allow leagues from one county to compete in another. Where you have such as Bristol in two counties is another matter.

In conclusion, I would therefore, ask all leagues and associations to study this business of county administration very keenly, and if you think such as I, table your amendments to the present rules and submit for consideration at the next A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. I am convinced that county administration properly conducted and with complete freedom to run and put its own house in order, would be of great assistance to the National Body. It would deal with all the very small minor matters which only concern the county, thus leaving the National Body to concentrate on the national angle. With strong County Associations, a strong County Championship, a strong inter-city league and with the right kind of coaching to the players and *good selection* of teams, it may be possible one day to find an English team capable of winning the Swaythling Cup, and to bring back to the old country a few of the premier titles

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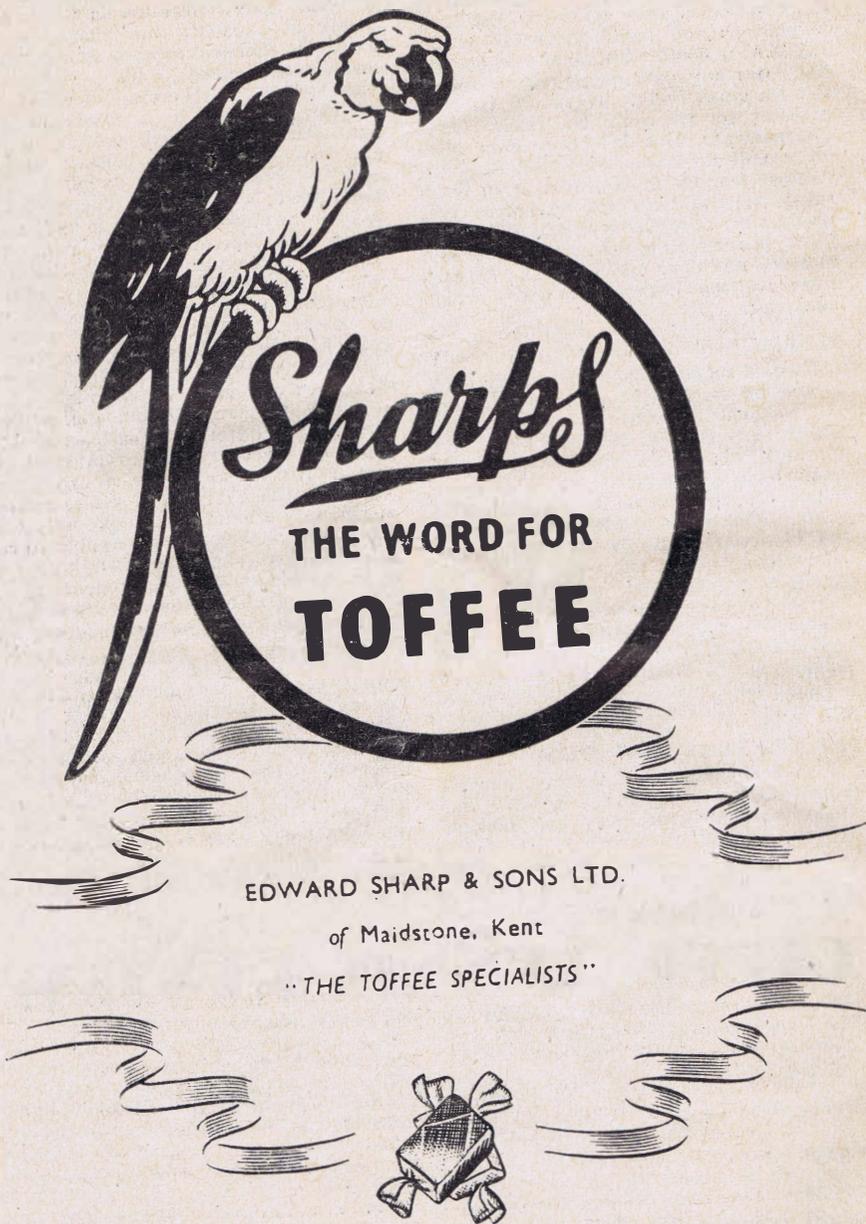
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The price of the monthly publication was sixpence (16 pages), and back numbers for the months October, November, December and January can be obtained price sixpence each from the publishing office, September and February issues being sold out.

We are able to supply copies of the quarterly publication back numbers; price one shilling each (32 pages).

* * *

County Dublin Open Finals

Played NOVEMBER 15th, 1947

WINNERS:

Men's Singles: H. Morris.

Ladies' Singles: Miss I. Howard.

Men's Doubles: H. Morris and J. Hanrahan.

Ladies' Doubles: Mrs. Darlington and Miss A. Coombes.

Mixed Doubles: M. W. Heron and Miss P. Heron.

* * *

Sussex Open

HASTINGS, NOVEMBER 22nd-23rd, 1947

Men's Singles.—Semi-finals: Andreadis beat Bordrez, 21-15, 21-11; Sido beat Flisberg, 18-21, 21-15, 21-8. *Final*: Andreadis beat Sido, 13-21, 21-11, 18/21, 21-13, 21-19.

Women's Singles.—Semi-finals: Mrs. Farkas beat Mrs. Evans, 21-15, 21-8; Miss Beregi beat Mrs. Ward, 21-12, 23-21. *Final*: Mrs. Farkas beat Miss Beregi, 21-15, 21-12.

Junior Singles.—Final: J. Osborne beat J. H. Harrington, 21-18, 21-11.

Men's Doubles.—Final: Sido and Koczian beat Flisberg and Andreadis, 21-12, 19-21, 21-17.

Women's Doubles.—Final: Mrs. Farkas and Miss Beregi beat Misses Cuss and Doughty.

Mixed Doubles.—Final: Sido and Mrs. Farkas beat Flisberg and Miss Beregi, 21-9, 19-21, 21-14.

Eastern Suburban Open Championships

Ilford, November 3rd to 8th, 1947

THE first Men's Singles semi-final saw Richard Bergmann in aggressive mood against Ron Sharman, who put up a grand display despite losing in straight games. The other "semi" brought Johnny Leach and Geoff. Harrower together once more and Johnny soon showed the audience that he was on top of his form in beating Geoff. in straight games—and Geoff. was retrieving marvellously at times.

The Bergmann v. Leach final provided the spectators with more than half-an-hour of thrills—thrills that reminded "old-stagers" of the days of Barna, Szabados and Bellak.

The first game went to Leach after a hard tussle, but the second saw Bergmann take an early lead of five points. Leach, however, caught up at "sixteens" and with luck favouring him slightly went on to take the game at "deuce." The third game produced even more thrills than the first two and Johnny found himself obliged to defend more. Even so, Leach gained a short lead, which, by means of brilliant all-round play, he was able to hold until the opportunity occurred to turn to attack once more, when he went on to win the last game by six points.

The Men's Doubles final stressed once again that Jack Carrington and Johnny Leach are easily our best doubles pair.

"Turn-up for the book" was the defeat of Pinkie Barnes by "Pip" Milburn, after a marathon third game, 28-26, and many were surprised when Ron Crayden gained a creditable win over Ernie Bublely.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles.—Semi: R. Bergmann beat R. Sharman, 21-11, 21-14; *Semi*: Leach beat Harrower, 21-10, 21-15.

Men's Singles.—Final: Leach beat Bergmann, 21-15, 22-20, 21-15.

Women's Singles.—Final: Mrs. V. Thomas beat Miss M. Franks, 19-21, 21-12, 21-10.

Men's Doubles.—Final: Carrington and Leach beat Bergmann and Sharman, 21-13, 21-14.

Women's Doubles.—Final: Mrs. V. Thomas and Miss Franks beat Mrs. I. Lentle and Miss A. Fowler, 21-18, 21-9.

Mixed Doubles.—Final: Leach and Mrs. Thomas beat Bergmann and Miss Franks, 21-17, 21-19.

For Your Diary . . .

Date	Tournament or Match	Address for Enquiries
Jan. 7...	Surrey v. Middlesex	L. A. Preston, 22, Digdens Rise, Epsom Surrey.
Jan. 9...	England v. Wales (Bath)	E.T.T.A., 69, Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Jan. 10	Middlesex v. Lancashire (Greenford)	G. Harrower, 34, Gallants Farm Road, East Barnet.
Jan. 11	Kent Open (Herne Bay)	F. G. Mannooch, 161, Borden Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent.
Jan. 13	Scotland v. England (Scotland)	R. W. Stewart, 45, Hope Street, Glasgow C.2
Jan. 17	Southampton Open	Miss L. Ferguson, 20, Atherley Road, Southampton.
Jan. 24	Lancashire v. Yorkshire (Preston)	E. Worsley, 13, Nursery Road, Prestwich, Manchester.
Jan. 31	Essex v. Warwickshire (Plaistow)	R. D. Rosser, 11, Tudor Gardens, Upminster, Essex.
Feb. 4 to 11	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	At Wembley.
Feb. 12 to 14	North of England and Lancashire Open	At Manchester.
Feb. 21	Surrey Open	At Croydon.
Feb. 28 (Finals)	Midland Open	At Birmingham
Mar. 6 (Finals)	West of England Open	I. C. Eyles, 115, Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol 4.
Mar. 8 to 13	Middlesex (Herga) Open	At Harrow.
Mar. 13 (Finals)	Cheshire Open	At Wallasey.
Mar. 20	Grimsby Open	
Mar. 23	Ireland v. England	Ireland.
Mar. 27	Irish Open	Belfast.
Mar. 27 to 29	North Eastern Open	Scarborough.
Apr. 3 (Finals)	London Open	
Apr. 10 (Finals)	Yorkshire Open	
Apr. 17 (Finals)	West Middlesex Open	At West Ealing.

Note.—The North Eastern Open held during Easter week-end at Scarborough, promises to be an enjoyable affair. All enquiries to M. Newsome, 117, Mount Park Avenue, Scarborough.

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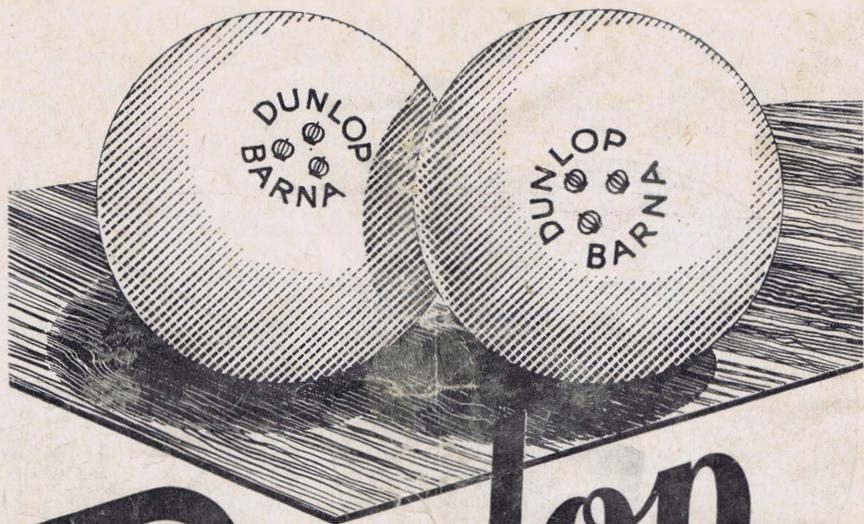
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