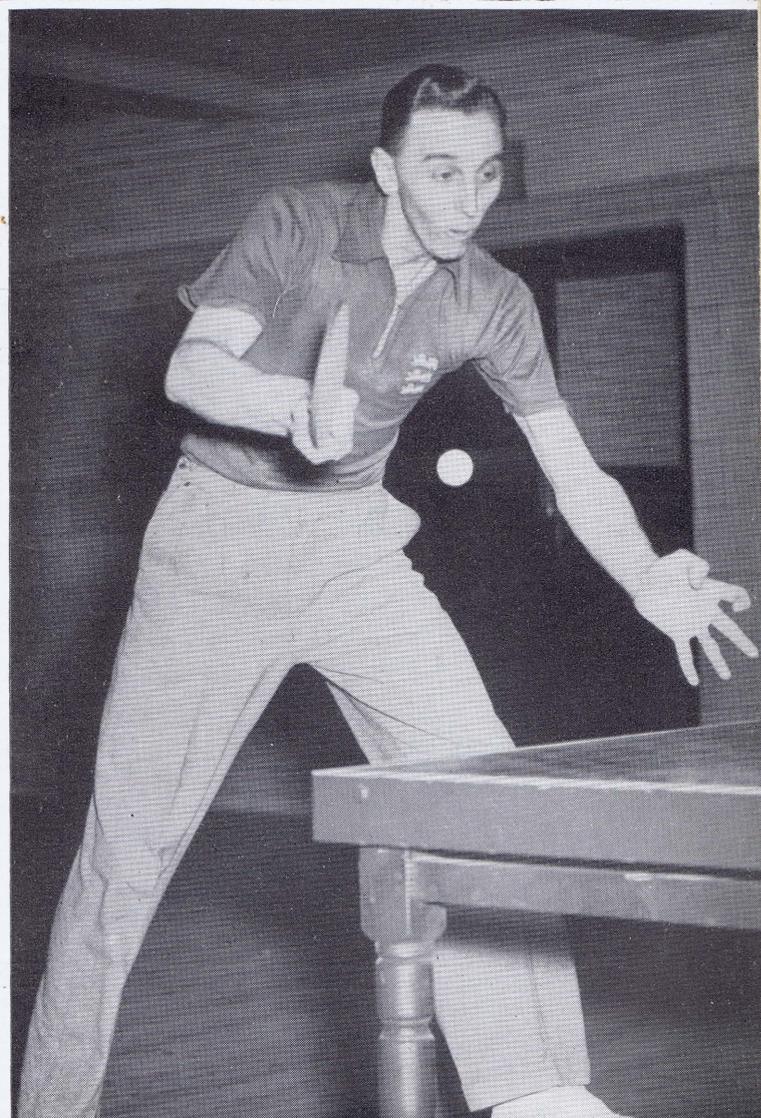
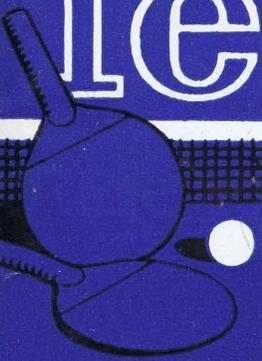


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 3 No. 4
MAR.-APR. 1949



NEWS



VIEWS



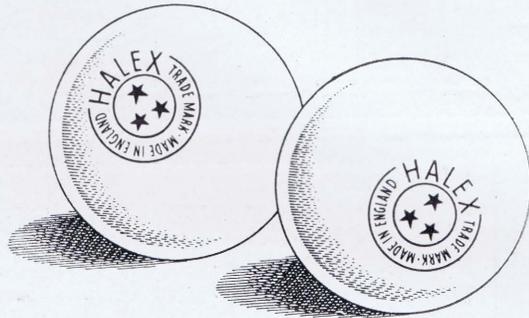
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Vol. 3 No. 4

MAR./APR., 1949

One Shilling

Johnny Leach—Cover Portrait

WE doubt if there ever was a player who dreamt harder, practised harder, and tried harder than Johnny Leach to win the world title. And yet we were all very sceptical of his chances. We had seen him beat Victor Barna, Richard Bergmann and other famous players, but few ever gave him more than an outsider's chance. "A first-rate player," we would say, "but he lacks fire and the ability to really kill." Even before the team was chosen for Sweden official E.T.T.A. views were that Leach was just about at the parting of the ways and that this season would decide whether he would ever reach the top or just remain as a danger to top-ranking players. A couple of days after Johnny had astounded the table tennis world we received a letter from a reader asking what was wrong with the conditions at Stockholm to enable Leach to beat all-comers. Well, the tables were said to be a trifle on the slow side, but other than that conditions were perfect. In any case, the tables were not so slow that they prevented favourites like Miles, Andreadis Vana, and Reisman from reaching the quarter-finals. There are still a few who regard the result as a "fluke"—but we don't! We give three hearty, rousing cheers to Johnny for his very splendid performance. At Stockholm, Johnny proved he was better than the best during that particular tournament, and we hope he will do it again at Budapest next year. To us, Johnny Leach represents everything that is typically English. He is modest and a true sportsman who knows how to lose as well as win. He is married and with a little boy, John William, who is nearly three years. Before concluding, we are sure that Johnny would want us to give recognition and thanks to one who has proved to be a great friend and technical adviser. He discovered Johnny when he was in his teens and since then has coached him to stardom. To Jack Carrington we also say "Thank you." May you succeed in finding England a set of three champions so that we might get that Swaythling Cup!



By GOSSIMA

THE finance of travelling prevents the Brighton Y.M.C.A. juniors from accepting the challenge of the Bolton Lads' Club. However, the Brighton boys are eager to take on any team with an average age up to twenty years. Their own ages average 18 years and six months. Any takers down South?

* * *

We hear that the exhibition match played by the Americans at Cardiff on February 23rd was a little disappointing and that bouquets for the evening should rightly go to the local Welsh boys, Stan Jones, Monty Smith and John Davies.

* * *

A new table tennis council has been born, namely, the English Table Tennis Players' Advisory Council. Its aims are set out clearly in a circular produced by the Acting Hon. Secretary, Miss M. King, and briefly they are to enable all players, far and near, bright stars and dim stars, to voice their opinions, grumbles and constructive suggestions. Candidly we feel that such a Council ought not to be necessary and whether this new body will be given much power remains to be seen. However, if you have something on your chest then the address is 7, Broadway Arcade, Catford, London, S.E.6.

* * *

Attendances at Wembley for the English Open were approximately 7,000 on Friday and 8,000 on Saturday. Financially, it was a

great success and should enable the E.T.T.A. to recover the money which was lost on the staging of the World's Championships at Wembley last year.

* * *

The standard of play at the English was much below that of previous years and this was accounted for by the poor foreign entry. Before the event there was a lot of speculation as to whether the Czechs. would be competing, but in December the Danish table tennis people received a note from Mr. Heydusek of Czechoslovakia saying they would not be going to London in February and that they would be willing to take part in the Danish Open Tournament for the Copenhagen Cup.

* * *

In February last, the Manchester *Evening Chronicle* staged an International Invitation Tournament at Belle Vue. Players taking part were J. Leach, A. Ehrlich, M. Lanskoj, J. McClure, B. Casofsky, H. Lurie and J. Carrington. Benny Casofsky started off well by making a convincing conquest of Lanskoj, but later fell to Ehrlich. In the final, Johnny Leach avenged his English Open defeat by Ehrlich.

* * *

The Schools' Table Tennis Championships organised by the *Sporting Record* is now nearing its conclusion and in the near future the semi-finals and finals will be held in London.

[Continued on next page

WHY NOT WEAR WHITE IN TABLE TENNIS?

BY SAM KIRKWOOD

* * *

IT has long been an accepted fact in English table-tennis circles that the wearing of white by players would be detrimental to the game. The white ball, flitting against a moving background of a white shirt, blouse or sweater, is generally considered to be "lost" for a fraction of a second, with disastrous results to the unsuspected player. Thus the regulation that only dark or coloured clothing may be worn.

Throughout the world this regulation has been religiously adhered to, no one thinking to query the alleged necessity for wearing multi-coloured apparel. Then, last season, the Americans had the idea that white would not only prove no hindrance to play but would do much to smarten up the appearance of men and girls. As an experiment, a major tournament was run in which all competitors were compelled to appear in white outfits. The result was an unusually dapper turnout—and no complaints were registered about impaired vision.

White Compulsory

The success of this experiment has led to the American Table Tennis Association's executive committee passing a resolution to the effect that white uniforms be compulsorily adopted for several of this season's most important tournaments, including the (U.S.) national championships. It needs no prophet to foresee that white will shortly be compulsory for every tournament staged under the aegis of the U.S.T.T.A.

If Americans can play in white, why cannot we in this country? For too long now have spectators been afflicted by the sight of shoddily and frequently incongruously attired competitors in an end-

lessly drab variety of coloured shorts, shirts, etc. There is a lack of uniformity in dress which beyond all shadow of doubt robs the game of an atmosphere it badly needs. A turn-out of players dressed in white ("worn clean and in a dignified manner"—to use the words in the American resolution) would benefit the game immeasurably.

Brighter Table Tennis

Players would feel smart and react to that feeling, and spectators would enjoy the spectacle of immaculate young men and women performing at the green table. It surely is time some effort was made to do away with the tramp-like appearance of players who do nothing to relieve the bareness of large halls.

As for the "unsighting" of the ball, this has long struck me as a false theory. As a badminton player I have always played in whites and have never found that the white of my opponents across the net has caused me to lose the flight of the white shuttlecock. I have also played "friendly" table tennis in whites and never been told that my wear upset the other party.

The International Table Tennis Federation, who recommended the wearing of white to the U.S.T.T.A., will doubtless ask other affiliated countries to follow the lead given by our friends across the Atlantic. The sooner, the better, I say.

Continued from previous page.

It is interesting to note that by winning the World's title Johnny Leach has set up a new record inasmuch as the fact that it is the first time a married man with a family has ever won the event. Marriage generally means the gradual decline of a player for the obvious reason that less time can be given to practice and training. Johnny has received much publicity for his spectacular achievement, but we feel that one person has not been thanked

nearly enough and that person is Mrs. Leach. On behalf of all English table tennis fans we do indeed thank you most sincerely, Mrs. Leach, for the generous and unselfish manner in which you have co-operated with your husband. We are sure it has meant many sacrifices during the past couple of years, but we do assure you it has all been worthwhile, and we know your little boy will grow up to be as proud of his father as everyone in this country is to-day!

Table Tennis Down Under

THE first post-war Australian Championships were conducted by the Victorian Association in Melbourne. The Men's Open Title was won by former Polish player Dr. Walter Lowen. Lowen first arrived in Australia in 1937, and resided in Queensland before moving to Victoria whom he represented in the Championships.

I was unable to play in these events and also missed all other state titles owing to a three months' tour of New Zealand with Australian Phil Anderson who also missed these Championships. Bad weather caused us to be off loaded from the plane for over a week and when we arrived back in Australia the titles were well under way.

Walter Lowen, a pre-war Polish Champion and Swaythling Cup representative was far too experienced for his younger Australian opponents, his defensive play being very good, but even the Doctor himself admitted his attacking ability has waned over the past few years. However, he did use a backhand flick whenever the right ball came along.

Mark Dankin of New South Wales also formerly of Poland (he did not play until arriving in this country) was ranked No. 2 although he lost the semi-final to R. Summers (Vic.). Dankin beat Lowen and Summers in the Teams' Championship Final between Victoria and New South Wales and also won the New South Wales Singles Championship.

Table tennis in Australia is receiving valuable publicity from visiting international sportsmen who are keen table tennis players. American light-weight boxer Freddie Dawson when arriving in Sydney challenged any player in the country. The newspapers featured the challenge, but, Dawson's manager stopped him from playing, stating that different muscles were used in the two sports and that Dawson had come to Australia to fight and not to play table tennis. I had a game with Dawson and found him a good player, being a quick mover and possessing a very keen eye.

Professional tennis star Bobby Riggs also brought table tennis to the limelight and arrangements are now under way for Bobby and myself to do several exhibitions for various associations here.

By MICHAEL SZABADOS
(Ex-World Champion)



To the keen table tennis player this Press publicity is not as good as detailed reports on Championship play, but it is helpful for the game in Australia.

Many social and sports clubs are now showing a sudden keen interest in table tennis.

New Zealand Impressions

After a three months' tour of New Zealand with my Australian exhibition partner Phil Anderson in which we played in all main cities, I was impressed with the improvement in all departments since my first visit which was made in 1937 with Stephen Kelen. Particularly, I liked their junior development plans. Throughout the High Schools and Boarding Schools, table tennis is treated as a major sport. Local associations send the best available coaches, and officials do everything possible to encourage junior players. My services were greatly in demand for coaching and exhibitions and I saw a lot of promising youngsters. With such a scheme, New Zealand must progress and produce good players in the future. Publicity is easier to obtain than in Australia; daily papers giving table tennis a good share of their sporting pages. At the New Zealand Championships Press arrangements were very impressive, all leading Dominion papers being represented. Russell Algie who gained a lot of publicity by going to the Wembley World title was defeated in the New Zealand Championships by Neville Brightwell. Phil Anderson and myself met and defeated all leading New Zealand players, including Russell Algie, Bill Fogarty, Frank Paton and Neville Brightwell.

EXHIBITION Table Tennis IN Australia

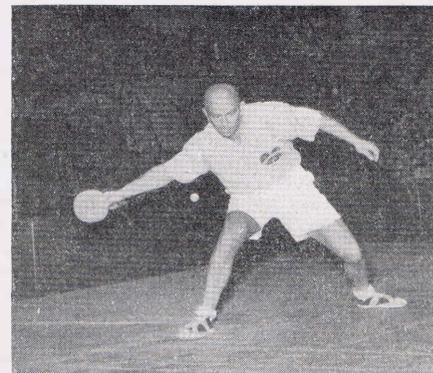
FOR the past twelve years, Robert L. Riggs has been a leading personality of American and world tennis. In 1938, he helped Don Budge to defend the Davis Cup for the United States, and in 1939, he won the Wimbledon title. Bobby Riggs has always been a keen table tennis player and, during December and January, he played table tennis exhibitions along with Michael Szabados in four Australian provinces. While provincial players who took part received nothing for their services, Szabados and Riggs took a percentage of the gate money.

Because of these exhibitions, table tennis obtained a good deal of valuable Press publicity. The prices charged at one exhibition at Wirth's Olympia were 3s. 3d., 4s. 6d. and 8s. 10d., the latter being the highest yet asked for table tennis events in Melbourne. At this event, Riggs gave a talk which was mostly about lawn tennis. His game at the table was interesting but certainly not attractive enough to bring people to see him a second time. Most Australian fans think his table tennis is over-rated.

At these exhibitions, the world-famous Szabados was always the star attraction and enthusiasts are waiting eagerly to see him play Barna when Victor makes his Australian trip later this year. Szabados is a good all-round stroke player, but his main point winners are a vicious forehand drive and a perfectly well-timed drop shot.

At the Melbourne exhibition, the Press gave prominence to the possibility of Szabados being beaten by the Australian Champion, Dr. Walter Lowen. During the championships, Szabados had been on tour in New Zealand and so their first meeting had of course, a certain amount of special interest. Lowen "fans" were confident that the ex-Hungarian would have his eleven-years' undefeated record broken. Although it was supposed to be an exhibition night, Szabados gave little away and won with convincing scores of 21-19, 21-11.

Michael Szabados, former Hungarian star, who won the World's Singles title in 1931 and along with Victor Barna held the Doubles Championship on six occasions, from 1928 to 1935, is writing a series of articles dealing with the supremacy of Hungarian table tennis during the years 1926-1936. We hope to feature the first of these in our next issue, out during the first week of May.



This Umpiring Business!

"A SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS"

says DERYCK HEAPS

(Cheshire County)

BRAVO, Mather! . . . Bravo, Harrower! Remember? It was Freddie Mather, describing himself as an ordinary club player, who offered in the last issue of *Table Tennis Review* a selection of comments on Geoff. Harrower's action in requesting the replacement of an umpire during the course of a tight struggle between Ken Stanley and the Middlesex player at the Birmingham "open".

Mather receives commendation for being sufficiently table tennis spirited to come before our own public and present a point of view, which, although personal, might well have been submitted from any one of the thousands of people in this country who not only form the bulk of competitive players but indirectly provide the financial wherewithal for the costly promotion of "opens", county matches, etc., in which participation is confined mainly to the few.

The fact that Mather missed a justifiable criticism which should have been his main point has prompted me to spend a half-hour or so by the fireside with typewriter and slippers, an unusual combination . . . but, Mather has hit upon an unusual state of affairs.

But before I begin, let me turn the spot-light on the fair-haired, almost portly Harrower and offer, in equal measure, similar commendation for his lack of temerity in a situation which has deterred other players from voicing protest through fear of public comment.

And just one more point. This time I change my spot-light into an arc of flood-lighting. The umpire of this match . . . the unknown man or woman whose adjudication on this particular point did not agree with the considered judgment of one of the players. May I ascend the Bench, be the wise and solemn judge, and say to him or her "I do not desire to hear you in the witness box. Your impartiality and good faith are beyond question. You receive in full abundance the Court's profound sympathy for having been subject to some possible embarrassment through no fault of your own. Even if an error was proved—and, I assure you, it was not—you are completely exonerated

from all blame because you took charge of this match on the orders of the officials of this tournament, who neglected to satisfy themselves beforehand as to your competency as an umpire."

Do you gather now what I mean by saying that Mather missed the main point? His attempts to bring Harrower to book for venturing to disagree with an umpire's decision were ill-directed. His criticisms of this incident should have brought forward to the public platform the ridiculous system whereby the officials of a tournament . . . "do hereby appoint in sole charge of this game" any guy or dame who can be cajoled into accepting the match ticket, pencil and one ball (to be returned).

Press Gang Business

Birmingham go one better. A player, by accepting the condition of entry, is ordered to umpire a game . . . and your match is the one immediately following the tussle you have just lost. You may be sweating profusely, you may not have time to don a pull-over, but you are ordered to take sole charge of a game between players who have perhaps sacrificed a day's holiday and are doing a round trip of 150 miles from their home in order to compete. Should these contestants remain silent if your adjudication is at fault, if your concentration wavers for a split-second? A wrongly awarded point could make that 150 mile journey fruitless.

No, the more you study this press-gang business of getting hold of umpires by hook or crook the more you realise that table tennis has now progressed sufficiently in this country to warrant a better basis for this temporary officialdom of a game.

I'm well aware that I'm laying myself wide open to a concerted attack from goodness knows how many quarters on the lines that tournaments have been run quite successfully for a quarter of a century on the present system, etc., etc., etc. Some old school ties (of the table tennis variety) may, or may not, come back with the retort "fiddlesticks, the

game's the thing!" or some equally fatuous remark on a like principle. To these prospective come-backs, I think I have a devastating reply which I would be better advised to save until the appropriate time. The temptation to overdo it now is, however, too strong.

What about the new service, I ask? Is it enforced strictly to the letter by umpires in "opens". Is the ball balanced on the hand as per the illustrations which accompanied the first introduction of this new rule? No! Umpires have failed most dismally in this respect. Eight out of every 10 services in an "open" are very poor imitations of the pictorial representation of the new service.

An Umpire is Born

And you can't blame those really splendid bodies of men and women who organise an "open." What work, known and unknown, they put into these events! And what a mess can be made of things if games get behind through lack of volunteer umpires. How disheartening it becomes when you have a game waiting to go on and it is impossible to get someone to take charge. You see a player sitting or standing alone. You offer an engaging smile and at the same time offer the match ticket and a ball (to be returned) saying "do you mind, please?" This is an umpire born, a man or woman fully competent to take full charge, to voice an instant decision, to firmly award a point on a foul, to resist the temptation to become too absorbed in the thrilling fortunes of a game, to announce the scores clearly, to avoid that curious psychological failing of repeated scoring mistakes which so often follow the initial error.

Yes, in this manner—and in others somewhat similar—is an umpire born.

This is too haphazard for big-time table tennis in England. And it is big-time. Thousands of pounds change hands on this game each year in income and expenditure accounts but this spontaneous umpire business is a relic of the days when ping-pong was treated and regarded as . . . ping-pong.

Qualified Umpires Wanted

Certificated umpiring is a subject which has been mooted before. It cropped up quite forcibly at the "World's" last February. There were three incidents there that could be attributed to faulty umpiring but I'm not sitting by the fire this evening with my typewriter and slippers to dwell too much on past events or to disparage in any way whatsoever the inestimable services of past and present-day umpires.

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My task to-night is to deal with the point that the admirable Mather missed. Briefly, it is this. The organisation of a registered board of umpires by the E.T.T.A., through their county associations, would raise the status of the temporary match umpire to that of a *real* official whose word would be absolute law during the progress of a match. Harrower, playing at Birmingham, was perfectly justified—and well within his rights—in making such a protest. But I'm absolutely sure he would have accepted the umpire's decision without comment had he been assured this lady or gentleman was the holder of some recognised certificate in that particular field of officialdom.

What a boon to organisers of tournaments would be a band of these authorised people, well-versed in the intricacies of tournament administration and firm in their dealings with players, not to mention spectators suffering from "fidgety breeches."

And the registered umpire? The rewards or compensation for service? Well, real prestige, realisation of effort, heartening knowledge of equal welcome at all the big events on production of badge or some other form of identification and, of course, hospitality.

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World Championship Story

by **STANLEY PROFFITT**

(Ex-Swaythling Cup player and member
of the English Selection Committee.)



"HE'S done it!!" The jubilant cry came from the English party as B. Vana hit the final point off the table and gave the world's singles championship to twenty-five-year-old Johnny Leach. An English-born player, champion of the world! It was perhaps incredible, but perfectly true. Johnny had gained the outstanding honour of being the first Englishman, born, bred and trained in our country to bring the title here since Fred Perry did it twenty years ago in Budapest.

When interviewed, Johnny's remarks were, "I can't believe it . . . may I have an orangeade, please?"

It was certainly a wonderful sight to see the English people rush on to that centre court of the Swedish Sports Stadium of Erikdalshallen and congratulate their hero. Batteries of press photographers and officials, etc., simply couldn't bar the way of those enthusiastic fans. That moment was one to be remembered and I am sure we all felt as thrilled as Johnny Leach himself.

Title for Scotland

Another Britisher, Helen Elliot of Edinburgh, along with Miss Gizi Farkas of Hungary, succeeded in capturing a world title, the first ever for Scotland, namely the Ladies' Doubles. After the finals it was a merry party of Scottish, Welsh and English people who sat down to supper in the Rainbow Restaurant of Stockholm.

The praiseworthy feat of Miss Pinkie Barnes (London) and Mrs. Joan Crosbie (Exeter) must not go unmentioned for these two girls reached the final of the Ladies' Doubles in spite of the fact that it was the first time they had ever played together.

In the Corbillon Cup England were again to the fore and Peggy Franks and Pinkie Barnes fought tenaciously against the Americans in the final. With just a little luck in the doubles event these two might easily have retained the trophy for England for the third successive year.

Bergmann's Excellent Start

Prior to the world's championships the Netherland Open had been arranged, and the English tourist party for Sweden felt that our best plan was to travel to Holland, take part in their championships and then travel by motor coach direct to Stockholm via Denmark, thus saving a considerable amount of money on train and boat fares.

And so at Utrecht (Holland) we saw Richard Bergmann in brilliant form. Though he was down 10-18 in the fifth game against Haguenaur (France) he went on to win 21-18. In the final event he made Michael Lanskoj, the brilliant young Frenchman, look like a novice. People began to chatter and it certainly looked as though Bergmann was all set for holding on to his world title.

The ladies' final in the Dutch event was an all-English affair with Pinkie Barnes beating her Corbillon Cup team-mate Peggy Franks.

On to Scandinavia

A motor coach trip through Holland, Northern Germany, and Denmark, and then across the Danish Islands and over the Baltic to Sweden certainly had its adventurous appeal. Candidly I felt rather excited about the nearly one thousand mile trip, but little did I realise at the start how exceptionally uncomfortable and tiring it was to be.

Equipped with a parcel of sandwiches we started that unforgettable journey at five o'clock on the Monday afternoon of January 31st. The trip was reasonably interesting but for the most time of the next twenty-eight hours we were sleepy, unwashed, uncomfortable and hungry. Few who made that journey will forget the welcome sight of the lights of Stockholm as we reached the end of a trip which had carried us through four countries.

Team Contests

As is usual at a World Championship gathering the first few days are taken up with the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup team contests, the former being the men's teams and the latter the women.

With a brilliant win of 5-0 over Sweden, England naturally enhanced her Swaythling Cup hopes, but as Czechoslovakia had beaten Sweden by a similar score the day before it was quite obvious that when these two teams met it would decide then who was to be the victors of Group A of the team contest.

In the Czech match Bergmann opened up the score in England's favour by beating Stipek 12-21, 21-12, 21-13, but after this our men failed miserably and finished up on the losing end of the score of 5-1. Barna put up a good show against Andreadis though he lost, but was much too slow for the nimble Vana. Bergmann was given an object lesson in tactics by Andreadis. The Czech would top-spin in his slow, easy fashion and then crack a winner past his opponent's defence. It was almost pitiful to see Bergmann so completely outclassed. There were no bouquets for Leach either, for his slow and cumbersome play. This put an end to our Cup hopes.

Meanwhile, Hungary in Group "A", trounced America 5-2 and Sido and Koczian demonstrated that they had improved tremendously since last year. The Hungarians, who had brought their own radio commentator and photographer were in high glee at their team's success for it was then virtually certain that they would meet Czechoslovakia in the Swaythling Cup final.

The defeats of Scotland against Brazil and Switzerland, namely 5-3 and 5-4, respectively, were disappointing and many said that their teams changes were indiscriminate and unnecessary.

Personally I thought Jacky Davies of Wales played really well against Douglas Cartland and Richard Miles. Stan Jones also put up a good game against Reisman in this match which ended in a clear victory for U.S.A. or 5-0.

Cup Final

HUNGARY v. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

This match may go on record as the best-ever Swaythling Cup final. It is certainly the best I have ever seen since I saw these two teams before in Prague, 1932.

Bohumil Vana was the master, winning all his three matches. Right from the start he gave Sido little chance to settle down and he took the first game at 21-19.

Then he saw the Hungarian produce a spell of super-attacking and with dynamic cracks from both wings he levelled the score in games with a win of 21-12. In the final game both players refused to adopt defensive play and there were some long spells of counter-hitting which sent the crowd wild with excitement. Sido had the lead at 20-18 but the fiery Czech pulled out his best when all seemed lost and won 22-20.

Young Stipek had the heartbreaking experience of playing really well yet losing each of his three matches, despite the fact that he was in a winning position in each match. He lost to Koczian and later was actually 18-10 up in the third game against Hungarian Sido but could not pull off a victory.

Koczian, the most improved player in the tournament, humbled the famous Czech player Andreadis to the tune of 21-18 and 21-16 and this brought the match score level at 2-2.

Soos was no match for Andreadis or Vana, but Sido's win of 21-16, 18-21 and 21-11 put Hungary ahead at 4-3. Koczian looked a trifle nervous when he went on to face Vana but he brought back some amazing returns and lightning counter-hitting. The rallies in these games were longer than in any other match but the Czech won 19-21, 21-9 and 21-19. The score then stood at 4-4 and it fell to the Hungarian Soos and the Czech Stipek to play the deciding game. Soos played an ice-cool game and won 16-21, 21-12, and 21-17, thus the Swaythling Cup was taken to Hungary for the tenth time.

Corbillon Cup

England commenced in great style with five to nil wins over Holland, Denmark and Brazil in the Swaythling Cup. The English women found the going a little harder in the Corbillon Cup but registered victories of 3-0 against Wales, 3-0 against Finland and 3-2 against France.

Great interest was centred in the Scotland v. U.S.A. match of the Corbillon Cup, and the Helen Elliot v. Peggy McLean match proved as thrilling as everyone expected it to be. The American lady champion, who was a good favourite for the Singles title, beat Helen but only after she had been forced to bring out her very best, the scores here being 16-21, 21-13, and 21-15. However, Helen had the consolation of beating Mildred Shahian in two straight games, giving Scotland its only win in a result of three matches to one.

England scraped home against Austria 3-2 and thus progressed to the top of Group "B", qualifying to meet the



The two French Swaythling Cup Players, M. Lanskoj and M. Haguenauer.

Americans in the final. The American women brought off a brilliant win over the Hungarians of three matches to two. Miss Peggy McLean (U.S.A.) proved what a world class player she is by beating the reigning world champion, Miss Gizi Farkas.

Corbillon Cup Final

AMERICA v. ENGLAND

As most readers know the English team this year had to be reconstructed owing to the absence of Vera Thomas and Dora Beregi, but even so our girls did remarkably well against the Americans. Peggy Franks exhibited her best form, and Pinkie Barnes displayed clever match technique.

Peggy Franks gave us an early lead with a clear win of 21-19, 21-19, over Mildred Shahian. Peggy refused to be subdued by Miss Shahian's forehand hit and she held the lead throughout both games.

Peggy McLean (U.S.A.), reached great heights against Pinkie Barnes and she insisted on dominating the game right from the first point. Scores here were 21-11, 21-14.

It was probably the doubles match which proved the turning point in favour of the Americans. Peggy McLean and

Thelma Thall took the first game 21-10, but recovering their poise, Peggy Franks and Pinkie Barnes replied with a win of 21-12. In the third game I consider England were a trifle unlucky. Throughout the whole of that vital game few points separated the two scores and had not an edge ball and a net cord helped the Americans to win 22-20, we may have had a different story to tell.

Peggy Franks fought valiantly against Peggy McLean. Her defensive play was magnificent but not quite good enough to stop the American girl from winning 21-16, 22-20 and thus gaining the cup with a win of three matches to one. Our congratulations are due to the very sportsmanlike victors.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Rule Change Required

The playing conditions, facilities and expert organisation at the Eriksdals-shallen, Stockholm, Sweden, were such that one sat down with a feeling that the table tennis was going to be of a high entertainment value. Only in odd games did players take advantage of the twenty minute time limit rule and this was generally when the defence on either side was too strong to penetrate.

However, I do feel that it behoves the International Federation to take stock of their rules, for had the special American ruling with regard to unenterprising play been adopted, then we should not have seen such a painful exhibition as was experienced in the women's singles semi-final between Gizi Farkas (Hungary) and Trudi Pritzi (Austria).

Farkas commenced against the Austrian playing her normal game but lost the first two games 12-21 and 13-21. It was obvious that in order to win some change of tactics was required. Pritzi's defence was so good that the Hungarian girl decided that the only way to win was to obtain an early lead and then push every shot carefully until the time limit was reached. She did this so successfully and so deliberately that although each of the next three games went to the full time limit of twenty minutes, the scores stood at only 8-1, 4-3, and 3-0.

Two thousand spectators watched this dull and uneventful play and they certainly gave vent to their feelings with jeers and cat-calls.

The American system is fool-proof against such deplorable play. Their ruling reads: whenever in any game the style of play is considered uninteresting to the spectators, or threatens to upset the schedule of other matches, it shall be

the duty of the umpire to call a "let" and to notify the players before the next service that the game will then proceed under the following rules:—

The Server shall be permitted to hit the ball twelve times, including the service stroke and if all such strokes are safely returned by the opponent one point shall be scored for the opponent.

The service shall alternate after each point when the rule is in force.

Politics and T.T.

Politics seemed to have crept into the tournament, for at a meeting of the International T.T. Federation the delegates from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia walked out when the applications by Spain and Japan to join the Federation were successful by thirteen votes to six. The six votes against came from England, Iran, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Hungary, who also held a proxy vote for Roumania. Some said that had the Czechs and Hungarians not been in the running for all honours the whole tournament would have had to have been reconstructed. As it was the delegates who walked out returned on the Sunday morning.

It now stands that Spain is a full member, and any country may accept an invitation from Japan to play international matches if they choose, but they are not allowed to enter world championships.

However, had the food been better perhaps tempers might not have become so frayed. We from England did expect to find Sweden a land of plenty, but unfortunately most things were scarce and one had to produce butter coupons in restaurants, and I am told that coupons were even issued for beer!

The Battle Begins

As the reigning champion, Richard Bergmann progressed to the fourth round with clear wins over Slar (Czechoslovakia)

The most improved player of the tournament,
KOCZIAN (Hungary)



and Olsson (Sweden), many began to favour him for retaining the title. Keith Hurlock of Epsom also made a good impression by making Soos fight every inch of the way. Jimmy McClure (U.S.A.) was seen to have lost a lot of hair but little vitality in the space of the years and he gave Monty Smith of Wales a lesson in table tennis.

Johnny Leach won his first round against fellow countryman Adrian Haydon (Birmingham), but he had to employ all his art and craft against the Leeds youngster, Brian Kennedy, winning with scores of 21-19, 21-15, 20-22, 21-15.

Ross Young (Scotland) did well to reach the third round where he fell to the Czech, Tokar. In the second round Jack Carrington (London) could not stand up to the vicious slashing of Richard Miles (U.S.A.).

Another disappointment for England was the elimination of Victor Barna by Guy Amouretti (France) in the first round, the scores being 21-16, 21-6, 21-16.

Fifteen-year old Douglas Ellison, of Bolton gave us hopes for a future English star when he beat Kawczyk (Poland) and only just lost in the second round to A. Bolgar (Hungary).

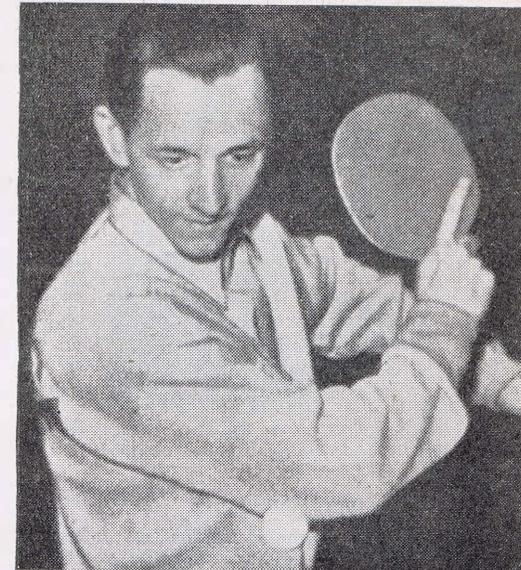
England's One Hope

In the first round Monty Mohtaudi (Iran and Birmingham University) had a close tussle with Jacky Davies (Wales). The Welshman was just beaten at the post, the scores give some indication of the struggle, these being 21-13, 15-21, 21-9, 20-22, 23-21.

It was a great blow for England when Richard Bergmann failed against Soos, 18-17, 21-17, 20-14. This match was a sensation of the tournament especially as two of the games were awarded to Soos because of the time limit rule.

When the quarter-finals were reached England's only hope was Johnny Leach. Johnny was then an outsider for the title with his next opponent, Richard Miles as the much fancied favourite. Unperturbed, the Englishman surpassed himself, using his brain to such good effect as to blunt the edge of the American's assault. Leach retrieved shots in a manner that amazed not only the crowd but Miles himself. This was perhaps the most brilliant match of the tournament and the result was in doubt until the very last point, but Johnny just managed to take that final deciding game, making himself a very worthy winner.

Andreadis, who had started as one of the favourites went out as an easy victim to Marty Reisman in the quarter-finals. However, in the semi-final Vana whipped



BOHUMIL VANA (Czechoslovakia)

Reisman as easily as the American had beaten Andreadis.

Showing the form he had displayed against Sido and Miles, Leach delighted the English contingent by beating Soos and thus qualified for the final.

Leach Wins

The final, after the magnificent table tennis witnessed in the earlier rounds, was something of an anti-climax. Leach and Vana were obviously tensed up and determined not to throw points away and therefore the play was of a more subdued nature. However, with the prospect of an English-born player winning the world title for the first time for twenty years, the English crowd sat in a sweat of excitement. They followed each rally with bated breath. Johnny did not let them down.

Vana commenced with high-speed tactics but could not force Leach into a defensive position. The Englishman kept his head and refused to allow his opponent to dictate how the game should go. Down 4-0 in the first game, Johnny levelled the scores, took the initiative, and amidst wild excitement went on to take the first game.

England's hopes drooped when Vana fought back and made the score in games equal. Undismayed, Johnny calmly dictated (we spectators were far from cool and calm!) from the baseline and was not

slow to jump in for the kill. The third game went to England but Vana again equalised at 2-2. The atmosphere during that deciding game was so tense I am sure it could have been sliced up with a knife. Both men were tired but determined. At the change-over Johnny held the lead 10-6 and before play recommenced Vana was surrounded by his fellow-countrymen who showered advice upon him. Johnny was content to hold a few words of council with the non-playing English captain, Adrian Haydon, and no doubt learned more from his one adviser than his opponent did from his crowd of seconds. At any rate, it is safe to say that Johnny certainly got more fresh air. When the game resumed, Johnny began to pull away. Vana made one desperate effort when he took four consecutive points, but after this he cracked up and Johnny Leach (England) was the world champion!

Women's Event

In the women's singles two Britishers reached the quarter-finals, Peggy Franks and Helen Elliot. It was pleasing to see how free of nerves was the English girl, who exhibited her fine repertoire of strokes to full advantage throughout the tournament. It was no disgrace for her to lose to Gizi Farkas, in fact, had Dame Fortune smiled on her just a little in the second game which she lost 25-23, the ultimate result might have been very different.

Helen Elliot was disappointing and she was badly beaten by Hruskova 21-10, 21-8, 21-15.

The final between Farkas (Hungary) and Hruskova (Czechoslovakia) was a strange one. Farkas played attractive table tennis in the first two games but lost them 21-19, 21-18. She then resorted to the same tactics as she had used against Trudi Pritzi in the semi-final. Her opponent went on the offensive but could do nothing against the cast-iron defence of the Hungarian girl who then took the next three games with convincing scores of 8, 9 and 9.

* * *

As we boarded our coach for the long weary trip back to Holland we felt elated by the fact that this time we had with us an English world champion. We also had plenty of material to gossip about, especially later when we heard that Gizi Farkas had been arrested for alleged shop-lifting of woollen wearing apparel. In a Danish town we heard that the Swedish police had put her on a plane and sent her back home.

Women's Doubles

Quarter-Finals.—H. Elliott (Scotland) and G. Farkas (Hungary) beat K. Pithie and R. Tolan (Scotland), 21-14, 21-5, 21-6, F. Kurstova and T. Kotatkova (Czech) beat M. Franks and A. Wood (England), 21-15, 18-21, 11-21, 2-16, 21-19, L. Barnes and J. Crosbie (England) beat B. Eriksson and I. Persson (Sweden), 17-21, 21-10, 21-8, 18-21, 21-12, R. Karpati and E. Mezei (Hungary) beat G. Kristiansson and S. L. Lungberg (Sweden) 21-3, 21-10, 21-9.

Semi-Finals.—L. Barnes and J. Crosbie beat R. Karpati and E. Mezei 21-19, 21-16, 21-11.

H. Elliott (Scotland) and G. Farkas beat K. Furstova and I. Kotatkova 21-8, 21-5, 21-5.

Mixed Doubles

Semi-Finals.—Sido and Farkas beat Leach and Franks 15, 12, 15, Vana and Hruskova beat Reisman and McLean, 11, 11, 13.

Final.—Sido and Farkas beat Vana and Hruskova, 13, 15, 17.

Men's Doubles

(*Outstanding Results Only*)

First Round.—Boros and Pierce (England) beat Jones and Roy Evans (Wales), Ellison and Devereux (England) beat Slar and Svoboda (Czech).

Second Round.—Barna and Leach (England) beat Bednar and Just (Austria), Miles and Cartland (U.S.A.) beat Sido and Soos (Hungary), Bergmann and Flisberg (England) beat Ellison and Devereux, Reisman and McClure (U.S.A.) beat Simons and Sharman (England), Sears and Kennedy (England) beat Agopoff and Lansky (France).

Third Round.—Bergmann and Flisberg beat Garland and Hillam (Scotland), Larsson and Grive (Sweden) beat Sears and Kennedy (England).

Quarter-Finals.—F. Tolkar and I. Andreadis (Czech.) beat V. Barna and J. Leach (England), 21-15, 22-20, 21-11, R. Miles and C. Cartland (U.S.) beat M. Haguenaer and G. Amouretti (France) 21-17, 24-26, 21-19, 21-19, R. Bergmann (England) and T. Flisberg (Sweden) beat V. and T. Harangozo (Yugoslavia) 13-21, 21-16, 21-19, 21-16, Vana and Stipek (Czech) beat L. Larsson and B. Grive (Sweden) 21-2, 21-13, 21-14.

Semi-Finals.—F. Tolkar and I. Andreadis beat R. Miles and D. Cartland, 21-13, 24-22, 14-21, 21-8, B. Vana and L. Stipek beat R. Bergmann and T. Flisberg 21-11, 20-22, 21-14, 21-15.

HOW I LOST

By

Richard Bergmann

(*Ex-World Champion*)



AFTER beating Johnny Leach by three games to two in the recent Metropolitan Championships little did I know as I shook hands with him that I had beaten the World's Singles Champion, for 1949. After this I took part in the French Open, the title of which also came my way, and then, prior to the World's, I again beat Johnny in the Final of the Dutch Open, accounting for Lansky and Haguenaer in earlier rounds. It did appear that I was all set to retain my world title.

The warm Egyptian sun appears to have had a greater attraction for my world's first round opponent and so I went direct into the second round where I met Slar, who I thought had retired two years ago. I took no chances and beat him 3-0. Then came the Swede, Olsson, conqueror of Stipek and again I won 3-0.

In the fourth round I met Soos of Hungary. I did not give this opponent much thought, and how sorry I was afterwards, when it was too late. I started off in the same manner as I had always beaten him, namely, playing carefully and waiting for my chance to give him a quick forehand smash. I was in the lead, 7-3, in that first game when suddenly, my attacking shots began to hit the top of the net and go out, or else fall dismally into the net. This happened with regular precision.

Soos did not attempt to hit any winners, knowing full well that he could not penetrate my defence with his jelly-like attacking shots. Finding my attack was letting me down I lost confidence and degraded myself to the dull game of waiting longer than usual for openings.

This first game was carried on to 17-17, and then the twenty-minute time limit

was reached bringing with it the rule that whoever won the next point won the game. I seized an opening having caught Soos on the wrong foot, but my forehand drive went—net and out! And so Soos took the first game, 18-17.

In the second game I went to pieces, and Soos wore me down at 21-17.

There was two-and-a-half-minutes to go in the third game, and Soos was in the lead 10-9, and then the ball cracked! There was quite a lot of fuss on both sides until another ball was agreed upon. The game then continued in the same uneventful manner. Suddenly I saw an opening, but off the table it went. Then came another missed chance and the score was 12-9 for Soos. There was only half a minute to go and I knew then that the title was lost. I went on all-out attack but with no success. The result shook me, but it seemed to shake Soos even more.

My verdict is that I did not deserve to win. I still stick to my old theory, that it is the player who scores 21 points the first who is the better player, and next time I will make sure that I get them first.

True playing conditions were somewhat queer, especially the tables which hand-capped attacking players most of all, but after all it is up to a player to adjust himself to all conditions.

What of Johnny Leach, our new World Champion? He thoroughly deserves his victory, for his draw in the tournament was the hardest of all. To knock out three favourites is no mean feat. I shall enjoy playing him during the coming season, and to knock the "stuffing" out of him if I can. In any case I am determined to get back that world title even I die in the attempt.

WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S SINGLES

STOCKHOLM, FEBRUARY, 1949

2ND ROUND.
 Bergmann (England) }
 Slar (Czechoslovakia) }
 Olsson (Sweden) }
 Stipek (Czechoslovakia) }
 Tsaffos }
 Soos (Hungary) }
 Sorensen (Denmark) }
 Vogrins (Yugoslavia) }
 Bordrez (France) }
 Johnsson }
 Lauffer (Austria) }
 T. Harangoza (Yugoslavia) }
 Anderson (Sweden) }
 McClure (U.S.A.) }
 Just (Austria) }
 Flisberg (Sweden) }
 Leach (England) }
 Kennedy (England) }
 Sturani (Italy) }
 Bednar (Austria) }
 Agopoff (France) }
 Lanskoj (France) }
 Urchetti (Switzerland) }
 Sido (Hungary) }
 Jones (Wales) }
 Tokar (Czechoslovakia) }
 Malmborg (Finland) }
 Young (Scotland) }
 Andersson (Sweden) }
 Fredriksson (Sweden) }
 Carrington (England) }
 Miles (U.S.A.) }
 Vana (Czechoslovakia) }
 Olson }
 Koczian (Hungary) }
 Blomquist }
 Svensson }
 El Bish Lawy (Egypt) }
 V. Harangozo (Yugoslavia) }
 Osterholm }
 Ehrlich (Poland) }
 Cartland (U.S.A.) }
 Ellison (England) }
 Bolgar (Hungary) }
 Horskovic (Italy) }
 Larsson (Sweden) }
 Schuech (Austria) }
 Amouretti (France) }
 Reisman (U.S.A.) }
 Eckl (Austria) }
 Dolinar (Yugoslavia) }
 Mojonnet }
 Mohtaudi (Iran) }
 Marinko (Czechoslovakia) }
 Bergh (Finland) }
 Neumann }
 Simons (England) }
 Biese (Finland) }
 Varkonyi (Hungary) }
 Pierce (England) }
 Severc (Brazil) }
 Haguenaier (France) }
 Andreadis (Czechoslovakia) }

Bergmann }
 Olsson }
 Soos }
 Vogrins }
 Bordrez }
 Harangozo }
 Anderson }
 Just }
 Leach }
 Bednar }
 Lanskoj }
 Sido }
 Tokar }
 Young }
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Bergmann }
 Soos }
 Harangozo }
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 Sido }
 Tokar }
 Miles }
 Vana }
 Harangozo }
 Ehrlich }
 Amouretti }
 Reisman }
 Marinko }
 Varkonyi }
 Andreadis }

Soos }
 18/17, 21/17 }
 20/14 }
 Harangozo }
 12, 15, -16, }
 -21, 14 }
 Leach }
 -18, 10, 16, }
 17 }
 Miles }
 16, 11, 15 }
 Vana }
 22/20, 22/20, }
 14 }
 Amouretti }
 -17, 16, -14 }
 22/20, 15 }
 Reisman }
 18, 17, 18 }
 Andreadis }
 8, 10, 7 }

Soos }
 -19, 17, }
 28/26, 18 }
 Leach }
 12, 20, -18 }
 -11, 18 }
 Leach }
 22/20, -13, }
 18, -12, }
 24/22 }
 Vana }
 17, -17, }
 -12, 15, 8 }
 Vana }
 23/21, 13 }
 15 }
 Reisman }
 18, 13, 17 }

WINNER :

J. LEACH
 (England)
 19, -11, 17
 -14, 17
 FINAL.

Women's Singles Championship

Holder:
Miss G. FARKAS.

3RD ROUND.

Delay (France)	}	Delay, 3-1	}	Thall, 13,	}	Hruskova,	}	Winner:
Vannoni (France)		Thall, 3-0		—11, 16,				
Zelenkova (Czech.)	}	Elliot, 3-0	}	Hruskova,	}	G. FARKAS	}	(Hungary)
Thall (U.S.A.)		Hruskova, w.o.		10, 8, 15				
Elliot (Scotland)	}	Pritzi, 3-0	}	Pritzi,	}	Farkas,	}	8, 9, 9
Marchionne (Italy)		Hruskova, w.o.		8, 16, 14				
Persson (Sweden)	}	Furstova, 3-2	}	Farkas,	}	8/1, 4/3, 3/0	}	
Hruskova (Czech.)		Pritzi, 3-0		11, 23, —18				
Pritzi (Austria)	}	Franks, 3-1	}	Farkas, 3-0	}		}	
Beolet (France)		Franks, 3-1		15				
Shahian (U.S.A.)	}	Farkas, 3-0	}		}		}	
Furstova (Czech.)								
Franks (England)	}		}		}		}	
Kotatkova (Czech.)								
Van Wijk (Holland)	}		}		}		}	
Farkas (Hungary)								

SWAYTHLING CUP

GROUP "A"	Versus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Matches Won.
1. Finland	—	0-5	0-5	0-5	4-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0
2. France	5-0	—	5-2	5-0	5-0	0-5	4-5	5-0	5
3. Yugoslavia	5-0	3-5	—	5-0	5-0	0-5	1-5	5-0	4
4. Luxemburg	5-0	0-5	0-5	—	5-2	2-5	0-5	0-5	2
5. Norway	3-4	0-5	0-5	2-5	—	0-5	0-5	0-5	1
6. Hungary	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-2	5-0	—	5-2	5-0	7
7. U.S.A.	5-0	5-1	5-1	5-0	5-0	2-5	—	5-0	6
8. Wales	5-0	0-5	0-5	5-0	5-0	0-5	—	—	3

Winners: HUNGARY

GROUP "B"	Versus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Matches Won.
1. Brazil	—	5-2	0-5	3-5	3-5	3-5	5-3	1-5	1-5	1-5	2
2. Denmark	2-5	—	0-5	1-5	4-5	4-5	5-2	0-5	1-5	0-5	1
3. England	5-0	5-0	—	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	1-5	5-0	8
4. Holland	5-3	5-1	0-5	—	5-4	5-4	5-1	0-5	0-5	0-5	5
5. Italy	5-3	5-4	1-5	4-5	—	5-4	5-0	1-5	0-5	0-5	4
6. Switzerland	5-3	5-4	0-5	4-5	4-5	—	5-4	1-5	0-5	0-5	3
7. Scotland	3-5	2-5	0-5	1-5	0-5	4-5	—	0-5	0-5	0-5	0
8. Sweden	5-1	5-0	0-5	5-0	5-1	5-1	5-0	—	0-5	5-3	7
9. Czechoslovakia	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	—	5-1	9
10. Austria	5-1	5-0	0-5	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	3-5	1-5	—	6

Winners: CZECHOSLOVAKIA
FINAL: HUNGARY beat CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5-4

CORBILLON CUP

GROUP "A"	Versus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Matches Won.
1. Denmark	—	0-3	0-3	3-0	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	1
2. Holland	3-0	—	0-3	3-0	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	2
3. Yugoslavia	3-0	3-0	—	3-0	0-3	0-3	1-3	0-3	3
4. Norway	0-3	0-3	0-3	—	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0
5. Scotland	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-1	—	1-3	1-3	1-3	4
6. Czechoslovakia	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-1	—	1-3	1-3	5
7. Hungary	3-0	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-1	3-1	—	2-3	6
8. U.S.A.	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-1	3-1	3-2	—	7

Winners: U.S.A.

GROUP "B" (Won by England)	Versus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Matches Won.
1. England	—	3-0	3-2	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-2	6
2. Finland	0-3	—	0-3	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0
3. France	2-3	3-0	—	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-2	5
4. Italy	0-3	3-1	1-3	—	0-3	0-3	1-3	1
5. Sweden	1-3	3-0	0-3	3-0	—	1-3	0-3	2
6. Wales	0-3	3-0	0-3	3-0	3-1	—	1-3	3
7. Austria	2-3	3-0	2-3	3-1	3-0	3-1	—	4

Winners: ENGLAND.
FINAL: U.S.A. beat ENGLAND 3-1

LANCASHIRE, Jan. 20/22, 1949

Men's Singles.—B. Casofsky beat G. Harrower, 16, 12.

Women's Singles.—Miss H. Elliot beat Miss E. Steventon, 14, —19, 12.

Men's Doubles.—V. Barna/G. Harrower beat R. and E. Rumjahn, 16, 17.

Women's Doubles.—Misses A. Wood/H. Elliot beat Misses E. Mansell/J. Roberts, 11, 13.

Boys.—R. Baker beat F. Daly, —18, 20, 19.

Girls.—Miss A. Wood beat Miss S. J. Wood, 13, 9.

HULL, Jan. 15th, 1949

Men's Singles.—George Mitton (Halifax) beat Brian Kennedy (Leeds), 21-15, 21-18. (Semi-Finalists were S. Rosenberg (Leeds) beaten by Kennedy and A. Thompson (Leeds)).

Ladies' Singles.—Miss M. I. Lightfoot (Leeds) beat Mrs. N. Bishop (Hull), 21-18, 21-16.

Youths' Singles.—Brian Kennedy (Leeds) beat F. L. Forest (Bradford), 21-17, 18-21, 21-12.

Men's Doubles.—Kennedy and Thompson (Leeds) beat E. Beedle and M. Segal (Hull), 21-15, 18-21, 21-16.

Ladies' Doubles.—Mrs. Bishop (Hull) and Miss Lightfoot (Leeds) beat Mrs. M. Green (Hull) and Mrs. B. Wood (Bradford), 21-8, 21-10.

Mixed Doubles.—Miss M. Lightfoot (Leeds) and G. Mitton (Halifax) beat Miss K. Peake and P. Sherratt (Scunthorpe), 21-12, 21-18.

HAMPSHIRE, Jan. 16th, 1949

Men's Singles.—Muller beat Head, 20, —22, 15.

Women's Singles.—Mrs. George (Weybridge) beat Miss Benstead (Finchley), 17, —12, 21.

Men's Doubles.—Markwell/Langner (Essex) beat Carrington/Head (Surrey), 14, 19.

Women's Doubles.—Mrs. Horn/Mrs. Wilson (Salisbury) beat Mrs. George/Mrs. Atherton (Surrey) —12, 12, 14.

Mixed Doubles.—Suggitt (Aldershot) and Mrs. Horn beat Venner and Mrs. Heading (Surrey), 11, —19, 16.

Junior Boys.—A. England (Bournemouth) beat D. Matthews (Morden), 17, 17, 11.

AT LAST

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A BAT THAT HAS WHAT IT'S CALLED

BALANCE

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English Open Championships

Barna's Great Performance

DESPITE the fact that the Americans took four of the five titles the man who won the greatest triumph at Wembley on Finals night was 38-year-old Victor Barna. Victor, in the sunset of his brilliant career, came near to snatching the championship for the sixth time. The maestro who, at his peak 15 years ago was an invincible world champion, roused the crowded Empire Pool to a height of enthusiasm and admiration of a high order by his showmanship, fighting spirit, and consummate ease, and astute tactics.

None will take credit away from Marty Reisman who played superbly throughout, but Barna, 19 years senior to the American boy in the men's singles final, showed us a glimpse of his old artistry.

If ever a crowd helped to win a game for their favourite it was in the third when each of the men had won a game. Reisman, in the lead at 20-15 forced Barna to defend. With cool calculation, deft footwork and encouragement from his fans, Victor gradually closed the gap and amid thunderous applause won the game, which gave him the lead of two games to one. Thereafter he fought valiantly against tiredness and youthful exuberance. Now Reisman produced his whizz-bang drives and after many colourful rallies won the next two games to take the match, thus adding the English title to his recently acquired Canadian one.

With form playing pranks earlier Barna had been fortunate up to the semi-final. Michael Lansky (France), however, stimulated by a third round victory over Richard Bergmann, was a different proposition. The Frenchman, nevertheless, appeared nervous and Victor Barna easily avenged his defeat by Lansky in the Netherlands tournament.

Reisman, after dismissing Ehrlich in the quarter-finals, figured in a classic duel in the other semi-final against his fellow-countryman Richard Miles. This developed into the key match of the tournament for Miles, the only man ever to win the American championships four years in succession, was the favourite for the coveted prize. Here we saw two distinct styles. The younger American stood practically flat-footed hitting from both wings with amazing accuracy, whilst Miles chopped viciously, only occasionally

cracking a forehand smash. During the encounter it was whispered in the Press-Box, that whoever won between these two would eventually take the title. What a unique forecast. The scores 19-21, 21-8, 21-16, 18-21, 21-15, in Reisman's favour signifies how closely contested were the games.

Other Events

The women's final was a big disappointment. One anticipated a ding-dong struggle after Helen Elliot's wonderful exhibition when she showed Mildred Shahian the way the Scots play in Edinburgh. In the semi-final on Friday evening American Peggy McLean had other ideas and proved this beyond doubt when they met. Helen, worried by neuralgia, was too erratic to make much impression. Needless to say Miss McLean cut and carved at ease and like Reisman is now the respective holder of the Canadian and English titles.

Dick Miles and Thelma Thall, 1948 world championship doubles combination, defeated Marty Reisman and Peggy McLean, in fact the Americans took the bulk of the "bacon" across the water, for Peggy together with Thelma crowned a grand evening's work by out-manoeuvring Peggy Franks and Adele Wood in the women's doubles final.

The only English consolation as far as actual results are concerned was the pairing of Barna and Bergman who became doubles champions for the first time with a victory over Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington.

Lesser Stars Shine

Rarely has there been such thrilled-crammed table tennis at a Wembley finale. The fact that many of the famous Continental stars were missing passed unnoticed. Of the host of notabilities sat enthralled in their seats none applauded more than enchanting Jean Simmonds.

It was, indeed, a championship which brought new players before the public eye and we offer our congratulations to Dennis Miller, Jackie Head and Bernard Crouch who appeared at Wembley in the quarter-final stages.

Nineteen-year-old Miller, a former junior champion, completed the outsize job of upsetting Michael Haguenaer in

the second round and trounced Swaythling Cup player, Aubrey Simons, for the right to meet Dick Miles. For Haguenaer it may be said that his leg injury sustained during an early round doubles match at Paddington handicapped the rhythm of his strokes, but nothing can detract from the Middlesex boy's performance.

Jackie Head (Surrey), an ex-R.A.F. globe trotting type, hit the headlines when he defeated another French star, Guy Amouretti. His ability and enthusiasm along with Bernard Crouch (Middlesex), speaks well for the experience gained in the National Counties' competition.

The selectors were set a problem when Bobby McKay (Birmingham) beat International Brian Kennedy in three straight sets. Meanwhile other Midland players created surprises, first when Wally Poole and Maurice Kriss scored over McClure and then when Claire Bullock, substituting for Mrs. Lentle in the women's singles, reached the quarter-finals accounting for Corbillon Cup player, Adele Wood, 20-22, 23-21, 10-21, 22-20, 21-16.

Keith Hurlock (Epsom) gave Reisman a shock after the American had held a comfortable 2-0 lead in the third round. The Epsom boy attacked splendidly to draw level before losing in the fifth game.

Leach and Bergmann Out

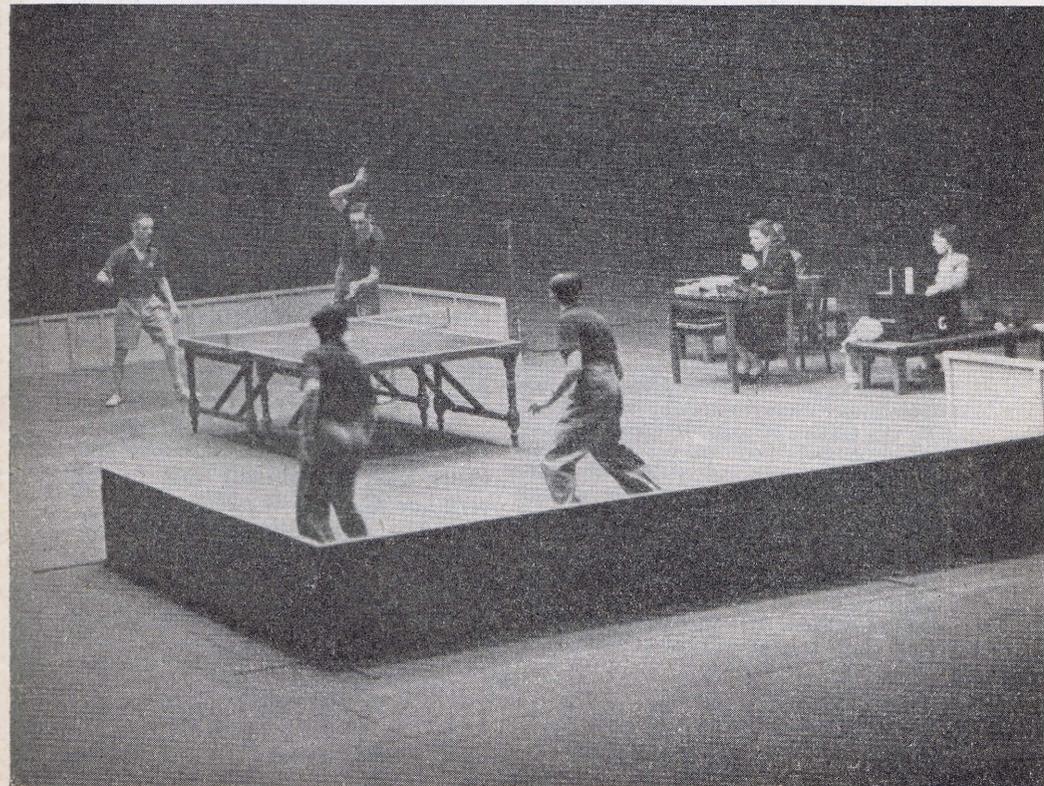
The greatest shock to the Paddington spectators came when world champion, Johnny Leach, went out to A. Ehrlich, the veteran Pole now resident in France. A great crowd gathered round to watch their hero swamp Ehrlich, but they were confronted with the unusual spectacle of the older man (some say Ehrlich is 42 years old) standing up to the strain with much more assurance than 25-year-old Johnny.

Those of us at Stockholm had noted the marked improvement in form of Ehrlich and taking into consideration that reaction is always likely to set in after a world championship win, it was no surprise to us when Johnny faded out in the fifth game.

When the English Championships have immediately followed the World's, only two players have ever completed the double, namely, Barna and Szabados.

The slump of Richard Bergmann at Stockholm and in London is unaccountable. He was only a pale, grey reflection of the player who won the world title last March. But if the stars are on the wane there are scores of potential champions among the juniors, and it was a revelation for those of us who sat through the sessions at Paddington on Saturday.

DOUBLES FINAL: J. Carrington and J. Leach (facing camera), R. Bergmann and V. Barna.



Junior Singles

Douglas Ellison (Bolton) had a number of near-scares before he eventually won. He played better than in the earlier rounds, but a grand testimonial to his fighting qualities was in the final against Louis Devereux (Torquay) when, after losing the first game 11-21, he pepped up his attack to such purpose that the scores read, 21-19, 21-9.

An interested spectator at Paddington one afternoon was 76-year-old Mrs. Marsland who claims to have been finalist in the 1901 English Championships staged at the Albert Hall. She used to play with a banjo-type vellum racket and after watching some of the present-day players her only comment was that we had taken up the game where they left off.

THE FINALS

Men's Singles.—M. Reisman, U.S.A., beat G. V. Barna, England, 21-19, 17-21, 20-22, 21-16, 21-16.

Women's Singles.—Miss P. McLean, U.S.A., beat Miss H. Elliot, Scotland, 21-12, 21-16, 21-16.

Men's Doubles.—R. Bermann and G. V. Barna, England, beat Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington, 21-17, 9-21, 21-14, 21-15.

Women's Doubles.—Miss P. McLean and Miss T. Thall, U.S.A., beat Miss A. Wood and Miss M. Franks, England, 21-12, 21-17, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles.—Miles and Miss Thall, U.S.A., beat Reisman and Miss McLean, U.S.A., 21-18, 21-13, 16-21, 17-21, 23-21.

Junior Winners.—Boys: D. G. Ellison, Bolton. Girls: Adele Wood, Manchester.

BOOK REVIEW

TABLE TENNIS By VICTOR BARNA
(Published by *Sporting Record*, price One Shilling).

An attractive 32-page booklet (the size of *Table Tennis Review*) giving full instructions on how to develop one's game. All the various strokes are given detailed attention and there are eight large-size photographs which clearly illustrate difficult points. There are some helpful paragraphs on such things as, Tactics, Temperament, Vital Points, Timing, Stamina and Practice Methods. Here is a book for which table tennis fans have been waiting since the post-war table tennis era began. It is our answer to many inquiries for a really helpful instruction book.

Things I Noticed About the English Open

By BILL PARKER

1. The disappointment of the players on discovering that no refreshments were obtainable at Paddington Baths, on the first day's play. (This was rectified next day when light refreshments were supplied by an efficient staff.)

2. The poorness of the men's changing accommodation at Paddington.

3. The smooth way in which the playing schedule proceeded throughout the Tournament.

4. The bad taste of those spectators at Wembley who clapped when the umpire of the Reisman/Miles' match was relieved of his job after the first game. (How many of those spectators would have accepted the responsibility of umpiring at Wembley, knowing that they would receive no payment of any description but were open to kicks from all and sundry?)

5. The way Lanskoj persistently cupped his hand when serving without being penalised. This was most apparent in his semi-final match with Victor Barna whose service was always strictly correct. (How I wished the "new" service would either be respected and enforced, or else given the sack!)

6. The splendid publicity given by the Press *before* and *during* the Championships.

7. The poor publicity given by the Press *after* the Championships. (This was undoubtedly due to the *very late finish at Wembley.*)

8. The generally competent administration of the Championships.

9. The sacrifice made by all the voluntary workers. Hats off to every one!

Those American Girls! . . .

By Peggy Allen

Peggy usually directs her feature article "For Ladies Only" but on this occasion we are sure that our strong, hard-hitting masculine readers will enjoy hearing all about the charming American Corbillon Cup team winners.



PEGGY ALLEN

I HAVE just said "au revoir" to three of the nicest girls it has ever been our privilege to entertain in this country.

Every sport possesses its own colourful personalities and Peggy McLean, "Tybie" Thall, and "Milly" Shahian are, without doubt, the merriest, friendliest, and most modest table tennis stars we have seen in England for a long time. They have endeared themselves to everyone who met them during their week at the English Open Championships.

Miss Peggy McLean

First of all I'll introduce you to Peggy. She comes from New York, is small, dark, and usually more serious than the other two. She has a dry sense of humour, an insatiable curiosity regarding English ideas and methods and in order to acquire the *correct* "slant" on English life perused the London "Times" with great interest during her stay in London.

She is twenty-two but looks sixteen, has a lovable, elfin face and the most beautiful teeth you ever saw—I can't help feeling that a certain firm of tooth-paste manufacturers, well known for their "pun" adverts, missed a wonderful opportunity there—especially in view of her surname!

Hitherto she wore her hair almost straight and shoulder length, but having seen Suzy Barna's new short haircut and having a great desire to "look her age", we made a special trip to Suzy's own hairdresser at Pinner where her locks were shorn, shampooed and set in the new "gamin" hairstyle. When she emerged from the dryer we were enchanted with the result, it really did suit her beautifully, but as for looking older—well, she had only succeeded in making herself look younger and more cuddlesome than ever!

She is still training for her career. Her studies were interrupted for a while when she appeared with Bellak in a table tennis act in some of New York's smartest night clubs and variety theatres. After qualifying this summer she hopes to start school teaching in the Autumn. It seems that it will be very difficult for her to obtain leave to travel to Europe for the World and English Championships next year, but the children's loss would certainly be our gain and we very much hope to see her on the table at Wembley in 1950.

On the first evening of the tournament, Peggy, Thelma, and I were all free and we decided to go to the Adelphi Theatre to see "Bless the Bride". I wondered how two American girls would react to such an "old world" play with typically English humour and music, but I need not have worried, they were both enchanted and voted it the loveliest show they had seen for a long time.

Peggy was surprised to see so many working and middle class people in the theatre. She said that in New York, prices are so high that only the wealthiest people frequent concert halls and theatres, the rest being content to go to "the movies". That would, in a small way, account for the tremendous popularity of the cinema in America, it is evidently alone in catering for the masses, whereas the other two have never been brought within their reach.

You will be able to read elsewhere in this magazine of what a world class player Peggy proved to be ; how she beat Farkas in the Corbillon Cup at Stockholm and Helen Elliot in the English final at Wembley.

On the table she appears cool, calm and above all intelligent, and after spending almost a week in her company I would say that her calm temperament and intelligence are the strong foundations on which her excellent game has been built. Above all she is steady, has a remarkable defence and although possessing clever backhand and forehand drives, like Bergmann she never hits the wrong ball.

I certainly tip Peggy as a future world champion and no one would be happier than I to see her achieve that ambition one day soon.

Miss Mildred Shahian

The tall, dark, graceful girl is Mildred Shahian. She possesses very dark eyes with wonderful thick, black lashes, a pale skin and the loveliest shade of blue-black hair which falls in thick natural waves on her shoulders. She has a quiet manner, a ready smile and back home she is a secretary for "Carter Hide, Co.," in Boston, Mass. I mentioned to Peggy that her (Milly's) voice and accent were quite different from the other two and Peggy replied that it was a well known

fact over there that Boston people had the quietest and most refined speech of any place in the U.S.A.

"Milly" as she is known to her friends, was frankly overawed by all the new sights and experiences. She was tremendously impressed by our organisation and admitted that in her wildest dreams she had never visualised playing in conditions like those at Wembley. Afterwards she said that she could understand now why Thelma, Leah Thall and Mae Clouther had fought so hard in the U.S.A. trials and she appreciated, for the first time, why they returned home so enthusiastic after their visit to Wembley in 1948. It seems that organisation in the U.S.A. is comparatively poor, tournaments are never held in such palatial buildings and as for autograph hunters—well, the young boys and girls over there just couldn't care less!

Milly plays an excellent all-round game, but would seem to be slightly more nervous than the other two. Whereas Peggy and Thelma produce the short, fast forehand whip shot very much like Reisman and Miles, Milly's forehand is more sweeping, but powerful all the same. She has a useful drop shot (believe me I know from experience having played her in the third round!) and her height and reach are an extra advantage to her. She is equally happy on both forehand and backhand attack; as indeed, are the other two, and her most amusing characteristic on the table is the shrill "Oh, NO!" which has almost a pleading note at 21-20 down!

We've enjoyed your visit immensely, Milly, here's hoping we see you again next year.

Miss Thelma Thall

I don't know how to begin to describe Thelma Thall! Those of you who met her at the World Championships in 1948 will have some idea of my difficulty. It isn't that I can't find anything to say, I could almost write a book about her; no, my difficulty is to describe her adequately within the space of one small article!

First of all her nickname. Maybe that will describe her better than anything else could, for the word "Tybie" is a combination of two Hebrew words meaning "dove" and "devil" and nothing could be more apt.

At home she is a typist and book-keeper for a firm of real estate agents in her home town of Columbus, Ohio. She is the younger sister of Leah—now Mrs. Albert Neuberger, and has also three older brothers.



Thelma Thall, Adele Wood, Peggy McLean, Pinkie Barnes and Mildred Shahian.

On Saturday afternoons she runs a table tennis school where young girls take advantage of her wonderful ability to impart her theories and experience of the game and believe me, both are remarkably extensive!

It may serve to give you some idea of the prowess of these two Thall sisters when I tell you that their home contains close on three hundred table tennis trophies. Cupboards, cabinets, shelves and tables are all used, to hold this collection and it is understandable that Momma Thall groans loudly when still more are carried home! I have seen a press photograph shewing Thelma looking at a case of trophies and believe me I have never seen so many together before. Lots of them are attractive statuettes, some held jointly by the sisters, but how they manage to find a clear space to sit or eat I really don't know.

Momma Thall used to say "Won't I be glad when one of you gets married and takes some of these trophies with you!" There was, therefore, great rejoicing when Leah named the day. However, the only home they could find was a small two-

roomed apartment in New York, so Momma lost Leah but the cups are still with her.

By the way, Thelma collected her first trophy at the age of four when she won a prize on a radio programme called "Uncle Peter and his Clever Kiddies". She had a phenomenal memory and for four years learned and recited two new poems on this radio programme every Sunday morning.

She grew up to take large audiences so much for granted that "nerves" was an unknown thing to her and this has been invaluable to her in her table tennis career.

She has a delightful, vivacious personality, she talks ALL the time, appears to bubble over with vitality and has a very happy knack of making you feel "good". She just can't help talking to everyone she meets and has a disconcerting habit of telling people just how much she likes them!

We had many laughs about the inexplicably difficult English methods of doing things. She couldn't understand



THE CORBILLON CUP GOES WEST
Misses Peggy McLean, Mildred Shahian,
and Thelma Thall.

why, when having a shampoo the assistant made you lean forward thereby wetting your face, when in America they do it the sensible way and lean back. Another thing which surprised her was that generally speaking we have only one fitting to each size of shoe and brassiere. We decided the English view must be that it is not good for one's soul to have things made too comfortable. Central heating, refrigerators, and telephones are all the exception here rather than the rule and this must, in some obscure way, help to build that strong English character. Thelma decided that she was going home a whole lot better than she came, not to mention three inches thinner!

She found most of our meals very unpalatable with the result that very little food, late hours, and much exercise caused her to lose a great deal of weight in a short time. Our soup she found particularly tasteless but Peggy discovered that a dash of a well-known sauce worked wonders with any kind of soup and maintained that the only difference between good English soup and the rest was that the good soup had had the sauce added before it came to the table!

Unlike Peggy and Milly who always played in slacks, Thelma possessed three or four very attractive pairs of shorts. One pair was short, grey corduroy with cute little turn ups; another, grey and pleated all the way round, and she had a navy pair which intrigued me tremendously. They were navy linen with a draw string waist just like a sugar bag neckline on a blouse. Having seen these I can't understand why our English designers have never thought of this idea. They obviously fit well and they must be comfortable—you just pull the draw-string until you are satisfied and then tie a bow.

Thelma Borrows a Ring

Having breakfast at our hotel on the second morning, Thelma admired a diamond and sapphire ring I was wearing. She asked if she might try it on and it fitted her quite well. I told her it was about eighty years old (it is actually my grandmother's engagement ring), and she asked if she might wear it throughout the tournament as she was sure it would bring her luck. Mischievous as always, she insisted on wearing it on her engagement finger, in spite of our repeated warnings that it was unlucky.

As she came off the table after each round she would stroke the ring and say to me—"You see, it worked!" On Thursday afternoon, being free, Peggy and Thelma spent an hour in Hyde Park,

washed their hands before having tea and an hour later set off for the hotel. Half way home Peggy suddenly noticed the ring was missing and Thelma, almost beside herself with worry, dived off the bus and chased back to Hyde Park. By a stroke of good fortune the ring had been handed to the toilet attendant and Thelma, almost sobbing with relief, rewarded her with a £1 note.

The rest of that day and Friday were uneventful and as seven o'clock drew near, the great Wembley Pool began to stir and hum as the 10,000 spectators swarmed in for the evening's table tennis.

Maybe it was Unlucky!

The second women's semi-final was between Peggy and Thelma (Helen Elliot having defeated Milly in the other semi-final), and we settled down to see some really excellent table tennis.

Thelma had not been playing very long before we could see that something was wrong. Her left foot was obviously weak and painful and it was apparent that she was no match for Peggy in such circumstances.

We took her to the first-aid room, phoned the local doctor and were told that it was a strained foot muscle and needed complete rest if she was to play in the women's and mixed doubles finals on Saturday night.

It was a very depressed Thelma we took home that night, she was so determined to play on Saturday and yet—it was so obviously torture to stand on both feet.

I put cold compresses on her foot as the doctor told me, helped her to undress and as I put her to bed, she sadly took off my ring, handed it back to me and said: "Maybe you were right it was unlucky to wear it on my engagement finger after all."

The story ended happily however. We had many dubious moments on Saturday, we knew she would play if she could stand at all, but we were so frightened that she might collapse altogether, when determination and will power would be of no avail.

She played, and played wonderfully, standing on the toes of her left foot and moving as little as possible, and everyone in that building must have admired the pluck and ability of one who could win in such a fashion.

These then are the American girls, great sports, charming personalities, and generous, affectionate friends. We lost the Corbillon Cup and English title to three of the grandest girls I know, and with me, I'm sure you would want to wish them "au revoir" until next season.

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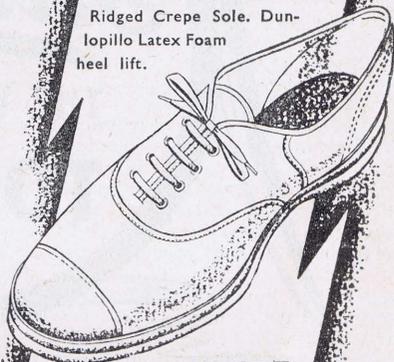
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With Deep Regret . . .

We announce the unhappy and untimely death of Mr. Peter Coia, President of the Scottish T.T.A. and also member of Scotland's Swaythling Cup team. Peter had won many friends in table tennis circles and two who held his friendship especially dear were Ken Stanley and Helen Elliot. Helen was always grateful for his interest and assistance in her table tennis career and it pleased her to know that he was so proud of the progress she had made. Ken Stanley was resident in Scotland some time ago and it was then that they cemented their friendship. For week after week, Ken gave Peter the training which helped him into his country's Swaythling Cup team.

Peter Coia had been present at the Stockholm championships and then stayed in London for the English Open. On Friday night he saw Helen win her semi-final's match against Mildred Shahian, and though both Helen and her husband, Mr. Dykes, begged him to have one more day at Wembley so that he might see the finals, Peter explained that his business demanded that he should be back in Scotland on the Saturday, and so early the next day he left London by air in the ill-fated plane which crashed at Coventry on February 19th 1949. Peter was one of the victims to lose his life. By an extraordinary coincidence Coventry is the place where Helen Elliot's mother now lives.

In the first round of the world's championships played recently at Stockholm, Peter Coia was beaten by I. Andreadis of Czechoslovakia.

Many know Mrs. Coia as a charming woman with whom it was easy to be friendly and we are sure that the sympathies of the whole table tennis world are with her in her sad loss.

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By **BILL PARKER**

THE main topics recently, among table tennis fans for miles around the Metropolis, have undoubtedly been the World's and English Open Championships. In suburban trains and buses, even the most serious looking business men and elderly spinsters are aware of the fact that the World Championship table tennis title has come to England—to London. The housewife has found a new topic creeping into "queue conversation"; the schoolboy who has the Champion's autograph stands above his class-mates; many others with no table tennis connections are professing to know intimately that certain young man named Johnny Leach.

While the World's Championships have unfortunately been for most players, something they could only read about, London has been kindly treated in the staging of the English Open at Paddington and Wembley. As if to show appreciation, metropolitan and suburban players put up a splendid show, so let us examine the performances of some who normally receive little limelight.

Creditable Performances

Among the big and welcome surprises were the 3-1 victories of Jackie Head (Surrey) and Dennis Miller (Middlesex) over the Frenchmen, Amouretti and Haguenaer, respectively. Bernard Crouch (Middlesex) too, put up a splendid fight in the quarter-final where he took the first game from Lansky (France). Earlier, Ronnie Hook (Essex) had given a nasty shock to Cartland (U.S.A.) who only managed to win after five hard games, and N. Nicholson (Acton) took the third game from Dick Miles after losing the first 21-23. Keith Hurlock (Surrey), out to further enhance his reputation as a giant-killer, then caused a surprise by taking Marty Reisman to five games.

Meanwhile, our ladies had not been wasting their time and three French nominated "seeds" soon found themselves eligible for the Consolation event. Heroines of these battles were Vi. Dale (North Middlesex), who beat Mesiki 3-0,

Margaret Bennett (Middlesex) who allowed Betling to win only one game, and young Rosalind Rowe (Middlesex), who disposed of Derbecourt in straight games. In the junior events, the boys were not able to withstand the provincial challenge, but in the girls' event, Diane Rowe (Middlesex) reached the final where she gave Adele Wood quite a good game. Honours came to the eastern suburbs through Harry Sugarhood (Romford) who accounted for Leo Thompson and Ralph Dean in early rounds and went on to win the veterans' event.

Let us now switch to the juniors who were mentioned in the last "London Diary" The Metropolitan Open Tournament saw the 2-1 defeat of David Marco by Colin Russell (West Acton). Russell repeated the dose, this time 2-0, in the English Open Junior event. Morris Isaacs, hitherto the leading junior in these parts, came unstuck against a tall Ilford lad, Peter Lawrence, whose quick hitting won him the match in straight games. Eric Santer confirmed my summing up of him in the last issue by reaching the Final as a result of some brilliant play, and then fading out against Peter Smith. Smith, who has been playing with success for East London in Wilmott Cup and Essex League matches may now well claim to be the season's leading junior in the London area.

A familiar figure to some in two recent open tournaments was that of Harry Rosen, star of pre-war days, who had the then unusual distinction of being capped for England before he had won an open tournament. Harry, a stylish left-hander, had a bad war, and leg wounds prevented his early return to the game. However, he is now quietly enjoying himself, playing for Maccabi in the Willesden league, and maybe in the not too distant future, we shall see once again, the Rosen that so many tournament players of from ten to twelve years ago knew and feared.

Other Events

From letters and verbal complaints I have received, it appears that somebody

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or other, "slipped up" at the Kent Open Championships held at Chatham on Sunday, January 30th. Organisers must realise that players who are told to report at 10-0 a.m. do not see the funny side of hanging around until 3-30 p.m. before playing their first match. It was unfortunate that soon after 7-0 p.m., some players were asked to provide their own balls. Also, when players reach the final of a competition, they deserve the chance to play that final before an audience, on a table in the centre of the hall, not on a table that happens to be vacant, while the rest of the tournament continues merrily—or maybe not so merrily! However, to give credit where due, the organisers made a really good job of providing for the players' "inside linings" and many competitors voted the catering arrangements the best they had encountered at any T.T. function.

The West Ealing Club is the venue of the West Middlesex Open Championships, to be held March 21st-26th—tournament secretary is old international, Johnny Joyce. A number of bold little pamphlets were distributed at the English Open, informing readers that the Bucks Open Championships would be revived this year in May, and that the tournament secretary would be Leo Thompson, who is now living at Wraybury.

Girls Are Important

By A. G. HEBDEN

THE psychological advantages of having female members in table tennis clubs are not generally realised or appreciated. But if any mixed club be closely analysed it will be found that the very spirit, tone and, even, the playing standard can be attributed directly, or indirectly, to the girls.

Leave the club completely in the hands of the men and it will drift into a place without colour; a place where games are played with mathematical preciseness and, more than likely, in an atmosphere of icy quietness. If the club is lucky, the reigning standard of play may even remain steady.

Then bring in the girls. At once atmosphere, life and colour enters the club. Under their large, adoring eyes—from the male point of view—the lads suddenly wish to bring out all that is best within themselves. Immediately, they take a keener interest in their game, and spare no effort in trying to bring about some spectacular return or attack.

But the raising of the standard of play is not all that the girls bring with them. For on them depends, almost entirely, the tone of the club. With the right sort of girl the club really will be a club—abounding with entertainment, friendliness and club spirit.

No go-ahead club can afford to lose the advantages that the girls naturally, sometimes unconsciously, bring with them. Girls really are important; and because this is so, their membership into clubs should be encouraged. The standard of their play may even be considered secondary to their propitious presence. It is a point well worth thinking over.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

By DONALD HILL

ULSTER OPEN

Played on January 22nd, 1949

There were a number of surprises in the Ulster Open Championships held at Belfast. Most notable was the performance of J. Fox (Portrush) who straight-setted Ulster county champion, H. O'Prey in the semi-final of the men's singles, and then went on to gain another sensational victory over I. Martin in the final by three sets to two.

V. Mercer lost in the fifth round to J. O'Hara, who in turn, was defeated in the other semi-final by I. Martin. Another surprise occurred in the semi-final of the ladies' singles when Miss H. Agnew beat Miss A. Coombs (Dublin) in straight sets.

RESULTS

Men's Singles.—J. Fox beat I. Martin, 13-21, 17-21, 21-17, 29-27, 21-17.

Ladies' Singles.—Miss M. Minshull (Dundalk) (Holder), beat Miss H. Agnew, 20-22, 23-21, 21-14.

Men's Doubles.—Martin and J. O'Hara beat H. O'Prey and V. Mercer (Holders), 21-13, 13-21, 16-21, 21-12, 21-19.

Ladies' Doubles.—Misses G. Boyle and M. Buchanan (Holders) beat Misses Agnew and M. Brown, 23-25, 21-16, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles.—Martin and Miss Minshull beat O'Prey and Miss Agnew, 17-21, 21-13, 21-12.

LEINSTER SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Played 8th February, 1949

Leinster-Stratford (B. Huet, K. Hill and W. Pappin) gained a surprise 4-2 victory over the fancied Carlisle team in the semi-final of the Leinster Senior Cup at the Abbey Lecture Hall, Dublin; but in the final they were defeated by Mount Pleasant (C. A. Kemp, M. W. Heron, E. I. Sterne) by four matches to one.

ULSTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINALS

Men's Singles.—H. O'Prey (Ards.).
Ladies' Singles.—Miss M. Buchanan (Belfast).

WEST WICKLOW OPEN

FINALS

Men's Singles.—H. Morris (Dublin).
Ladies' Singles.—Miss A. Coombs (Dublin).

INTER-PROVINCIAL AT DUNDALK

Leinster 2 .. Ulster 9.

SOME JANUARY RESULTS

EUROPE CUP WEST ZONE FINAL.

ENGLAND 5; BELGIUM 0

Played in England 5th January, 1949
England now qualify to meet Hungary, the winners of the East Zone final. The result of this event will then decide who is to challenge the present holders, Czechoslovakia.

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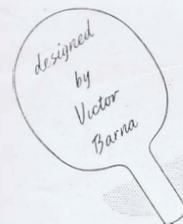
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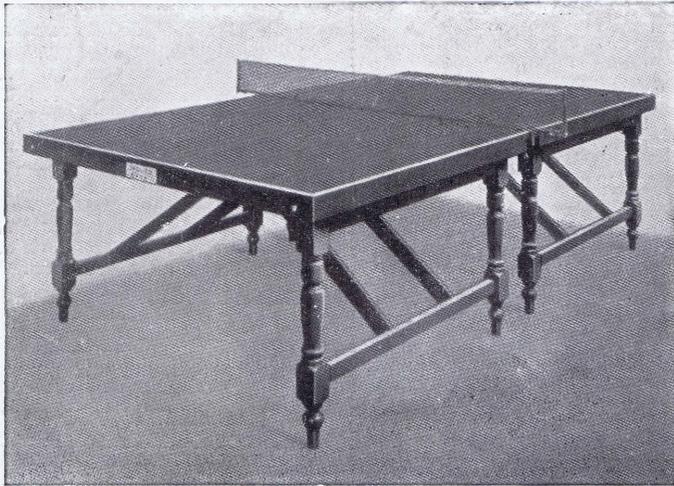
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