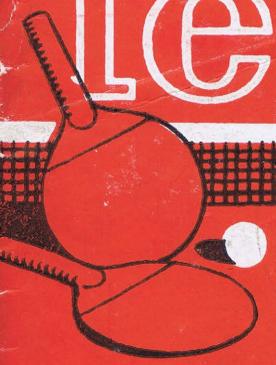


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 3 No. 5
MAY-JUNE 1949



NEWS



VIEWS



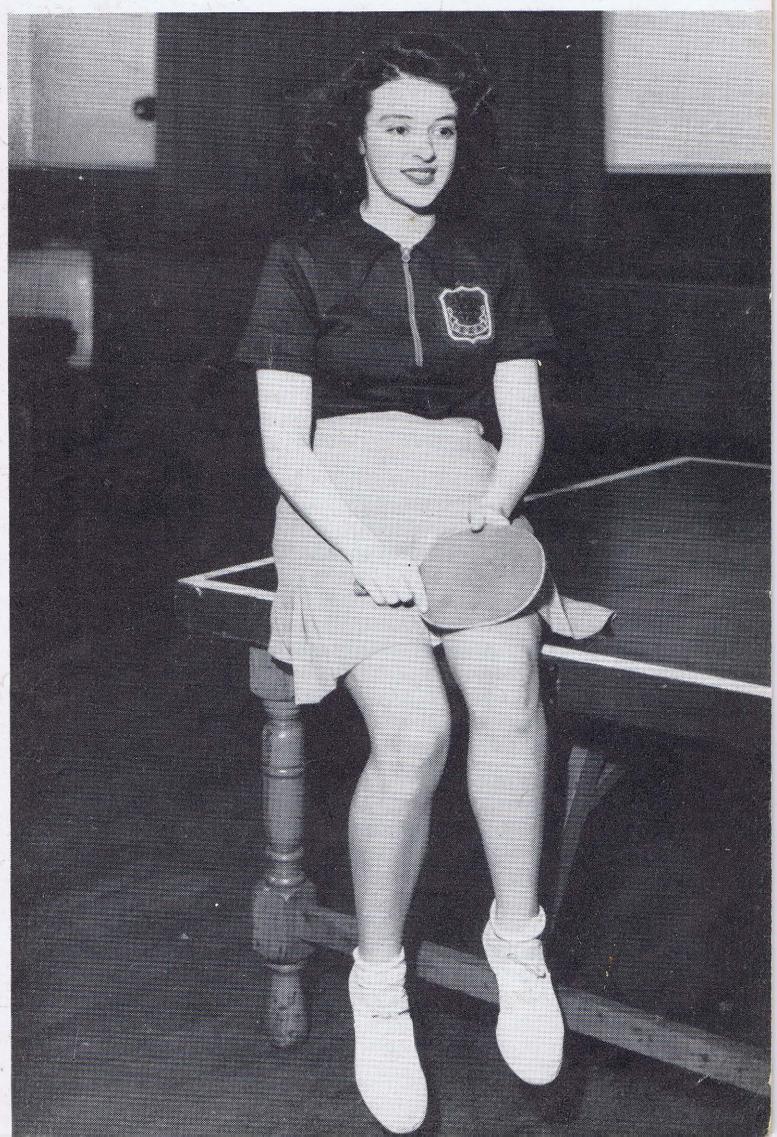
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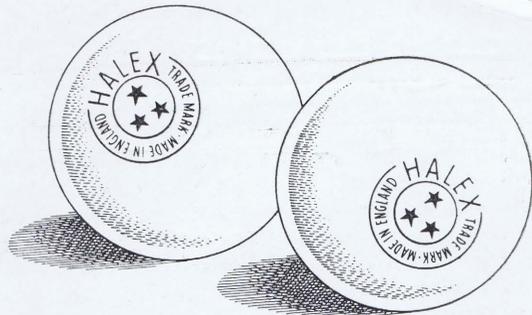
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TABLE TENNIS

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Editorial, Advertisement
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Kenworthy Buildings,
83, Bridge Street,
Manchester, 3.
Phone : BLAckfriars 0494.

Managing Editor :
ARTHUR WAITE
(1931 International).

Advertisement Rates sent on
request.

Vol. 3 No. 5

MAY/JUNE, 1949

One Shilling

Remove or else Enforce

IT seems to be the general opinion that this new service rule which has been inflicted on table tennis has exhausted its trial period and proved a failure. The cause of the failure is not the service itself which definitely has its excellent points, but the inability of tournament organisers and others to strictly enforce the rule. Tied up closely with this most important matter is the recent discussions which have been printed recently in "Table Tennis Review" about faulty umpiring. The day when table tennis has a large panel of efficient and certified umpires seems to be a long way off, and until then it looks as though we shall have to jog along with our present system of voluntary umpiring. Because of this the umpire's task should be made as simple as possible. If a person is invited or "shanghaied" into umpiring a match then it is perhaps a little too much to expect him to sit lynx-eyed and in severe judgment of every single service. The umpire being a player himself, probably thinks the new service a bugbear anyway, and so, unless there is a deliberate attempt to finger-spin he will very likely overlook any transgressions. In such a match you often get the conscientious player who abides strictly to the rule of open-palm, being handicapped by the slick player who acquires more speed and guile to his service because of a lenient umpire . . . a most unfair situation. Time and time again throughout the past season and recently in the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl, the new service has been conveniently forgotten. Until the job of umpiring has been made a special department of the game it would be a relief to many thousands to know that these latest rules about serving have been withdrawn.

* * *

With this issue another volume of "Table Tennis Review" has been completed and another "closed" season is upon us. To every table tennis enthusiast the closed season means a general overhaul of his game, and then four or five months of hard work, the main purpose being improvement and better technique for the coming season. The months ahead can give birth to a new international or even a world champion, and to all those actively engaged in table tennis during the summer, whether it be players or officials, we wish you every success and satisfying rewards in season 1949-50.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

IN an all-out effort to advance the standard of play of junior members the Nottingham Association recently launched a Junior Development Fund, target figure being £100.

The time is fast approaching when the Veterans' events of our Open tournaments may quite likely provide as many thrills as the main Senior event. In only two or three years' time we will have such players as Carrington, Brook, Proffitt, Cohen, Cromwell, and others including Victor Barna, all fighting their battles anew. Writing in the *Nottingham Table Tennis Chronicle*, Mr. A. A. Wall (West Bromwich secretary) gives some amusing views of what it feels like to reach forty and to be eligible for the Veterans. "Ah, yes," he writes, "now I'm a Veteran. No longer shall I be without a good excuse when losing to that promising junior." Then he goes on to wonder whether next season will see him dropping down into the Third Division of the local league, and the following season a further relegation to the fourth, and so on until he is down to rock bottom. He wonders whether he will be unperturbed about his club committee's decision to play him with the lads in the fourth team. He continues, "I know of one or two ancients who would rather retire than step down, but I am also aware of a team of three who have played together for three years, never changed their team and yet drop a division each year. Still, roll on the first round of my first Veterans' Championship—may I survive it!"

A new method of table tennis instruction has been devised by County player Deryck Heaps, and along with Benny Casofsky and Andrew Millar, he plans to give numerous shows throughout North-Western counties next season.

Two thousand people watched England beat Yugoslavia in Belgrade and the next day a friendly match was organised on the spur of the moment. Without any newspaper announcement the hall

was packed to capacity, people queueing from noon until the evening in order to get a seat.

Mr. Munnings, father of Dorothy Munnings, Scunthorpe's fifteen-year old star, played professional football for Hull and Grimsby, also cricket for Lincoln County Cricket Club. For a time he was swimming instructor at Butlin's Holiday Camp. During his stay at Butlin's he often assisted table tennis professional Alfred Leibster with exhibitions and coaching. This past season has been Dorothy's first year in table tennis and, though taking part in four big Opens she counts her best achievement as being able to beat her coach, "the old man." She is still at school and intends to play plenty of cricket and table tennis during the summer months.

The Essex County Association have presented Johnny Leach with a life-long memento for his wonderful performance in becoming champion of the world.

Table tennis in Capetown, South Africa is booming. The Western Province T.T.A. now runs five men's leagues and two women's leagues, a total of 71 teams. At present there are 19 clubs with a total membership of approximately 370. The end of April saw the opening of the season, and playing in the first men's division is Betty Blackburn. In her first match she won two singles, losing only to ex-South African champion, Monty Shotland, 19-21, 21-13, 17-21. Ron Litten, another player from England is in the Transvaal.

Barcelona Championships. Men's won by M. Aguerri and Women's by Miss Moline.

Koczian (Hungary) now holds the titles of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Roumania. In the Roumanian Championship semi-finals Koczian beat Vana, and Marinko beat Sido.

Austrian Closed Championship, Bednar beat Just three games to one in the final.

Spain Enters the Arena . . .

IN this, my first article from Spain, I wish to open with a greeting to all readers of *Table Tennis Review*, players, officials, and everybody connected with our splendid game. And this "¿Que tal?" (How do you do?) I hope will be the first of many contacts which we in Spain are so eager to develop into a growing and friendly relationship. At the moment we are young in the game about which we have still a lot to learn, but one day soon I hope the players of our country will be competing against yours.

At Last!

Spanish people connected with table tennis know full well of the difficulties which have been encountered for the recognition of our country abroad, but at last we are able to say that we belong to the International Table Tennis Federation. The news of our admission was published in almost every Spanish newspaper and it gave us all tremendous pleasure and encouragement to know that we are in a position to enter international competitions.

Naturally we are sorry that some countries voted against this motion, but we like to think that those votes really did not represent the feeling of the people in general.

International Schemes

We have several schemes under consideration, among which is the Second Barcelona Cup Contest, organised by the Tivoli Club, and in which we plan for more foreigners to take part. You will remember that only Richard Bergmann took part in this last event which was reported in the January-February *Table Tennis Review*.

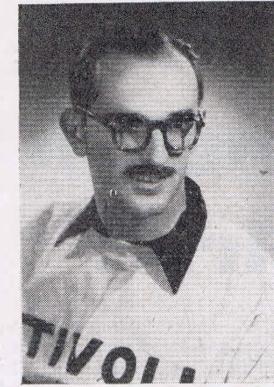
Quite recently our players competed against Toulouse (France) and this match we won easily. I then took the opportunity of speaking to Mr. Trinquet of France and we are now hopeful of securing Amouretti and Haguenaer for the next Barcelona Cup contest.

Three Stepping Stones

The history of Spanish table tennis is based on three outstanding dates, and these are as follows:—

1935—Barna came to Barcelona showing us his style and art. At that time Spanish players used almost exclusively wooden bats.

By CARLOS GIL MINGUELL
Player-Captain of the Spanish
Championship Team



1948—Bergmann showed us how championships are won. He found that opposition was already growing stronger.

1949—Our hopes for international meetings came true.

We now believe that we are in the position to prove that good progress has been made. No doubt you would admit this claim if you could see our present-day best player, nineteen-year old Aguerri. In the Barcelona Championship Dueso, our top ranking player for several years, was beaten easily in the two matches against Aguerri and Perez.

In another article I hope to tell you more about table tennis in Spain, especially our National Championships, which will include representatives from Barcelona, Madrid, Castile, Galicia, Balearic Islands, etc. My forecast for the Men's Singles is Aguerri, the outsiders being Dueso and Capdevilla, and at a more outside distance, Soler and Ramon. Favourite for the Women's Singles is Lolita Moline. Club team winners should be the Tivoli.

ENGLAND 4, JUGOSLAVIA 1

(Europe Cup Inter-zone Final)

At BELGRADE, March 17th, 1949

V. Barna beat V. Harangozo, 18-21, 21-16, 24-22, 14-21, 22-20.

J. Leach beat M. Dolinar, 14-21, 21-17, 21-14, 21-15.

Leach/Barna beat T. Harangozo/V. Harangozo, 21-19, 21-16, 21-12.

Leach beat Harangozo, 21-13, 21-11, 21-13.

Barna lost to Dolinar, 19-21, 13-21, 16-21.

This qualified England to meet the holders, Slovakia, in the final of the Europe Cup.

Those English Girls!

By

Miss Mildred Shahian

U.S.A. 1949 Corbillon Cup Player



In our last issue our contributor Peggy Allen, gave her impressions of "Those American Girls" and as a sequel we thought it would be interesting to hear what the Americans thought of our own Corbillon Cup players. We are pleased to give you below a most gracious and charming viewpoint.

Before meeting the English people, I must admit, I had certain preconceived notions about them—cold—reserved—no sense of humour. How wrong could I have been? I'm writing about the English Girls' team in particular, but everyone (especially those grand Scots girls) was so genuinely thoughtful and friendly that I'm afraid that I sound like Little Annie Rooney feeling "glad all over." Also Peggy (Allen), I would have felt this way even if you hadn't been so kind to us in your article and had admitted what a hard time we really gave you.

Adele Wood

The first member of the team that I met was 17-year-old Adele Wood, and at the risk of sounding corny, I have to admit that she is the sweetest girl I know. Adele's appearance seems to go hand in hand with her personality. Her eyes are soft and dark; her skin is light; and her dark brown hair curls in ringlets around her youthful face.

At first a little shy with strangers, it doesn't take long for her natural exuberance to overcome this. Aboard the *Saga* going from Sweden to England a few of us went on deck. Feeling none too gay myself, I couldn't help perking up watching her dancing all over the deck, singing gaily. It wasn't long before we all got in the swing of it and had a fine time.

Adele's voice is very animated, and the words fairly burst out when she gets excited. Her choice of words interested me also. "Smashing" is one of her favourites, and I intended to try this out in America along with Peggy Allen's "f-loke," but so far I haven't dared.

Adele has a cute little ritual; on arriving she will kiss her friends on the cheek (females only).

The feature of Adele's game that impressed me most is her ability to play an all-round game. It happens so often that a young player starts off either hitting or chopping exclusively. Also she keeps a cool head in competition. She is now definitely the class of the Junior Girls, and with experience (which she is certainly getting) and practice she is certainly a star of the near future.

Lest Adele sound like a paragon of virtue, she has one tiny fault. It seems that there are quite a few of Adele's articles of apparel strewn throughout Europe! You guessed it? I think Adele is swell, and I would have liked to smuggle her out here with me, but just a little homesick, Adele was very anxious to get home.

Peggy Franks

Next comes England's No. 1 player, Peggy Franks. I had read reams and reams about Peggy before meeting her. Every article seemed to say the same thing in general—a description of her beauty, her fine game and strokes, but "cursed with a poor temperament." This last statement can't be proved by me. In our match for the Corbillon Cup, I seemed to be chasing her continually. It was close enough to be tense. I waited and waited for the inevitable collapse, and I'm still waiting. In that match I was not only outplayed, but outfought.

Her exhibition matches in England with Peggy McLean were beautiful table tennis. They were really a pleasure to watch, displaying all the strokes, and the outcome was always in doubt.

Peggy is very feminine. She has beautiful blonde hair with a natural wave on top and curling evenly on the ends (more about hair later). She usually wears a blue ribbon when playing. Her eyes are grey, and she has a delicate classic nose. At first glance Peggy seems sort of haughty, but when she smiles or laughs, she seems to change completely. Her laugh is a very musical one, and Tybie Thall spent most of her time trying to convince Peggy that she should be smiling or laughing all the time because that's the way we liked her best. To quote Tybie again, "Peggy Franks is easy to like."

Just about our last night in England, I was a spectator at a session where the two Peggy's and Tybie let down their hair, or rather Peggy Franks was washing and setting Peggy McLean's hair. It was only about one o'clock in the morning. There was quite a discussion about life in general, and it seemed as if we had all known each other for years instead of months. Peggy Franks seemed quite concerned over the fact that none of us were married, and she wondered if the U.S.T.T.A. objected to sending married women abroad. We convinced her it was just a coincidence, and the married women seem to have taken over since then as evidenced by the Finals of the Nationals in which Mrs. Leah Thall Neuberger beat Mrs. Reba Kirson Monness.

On the train next day, the discussions continued, especially about hair-do's, which the girls enjoyed immensely. By this time, the male members of the team, not being able to stand any more talk about hair, went into the corridor. As Peggy said softly and sincerely when we arrived, "I'm sorry that it's over." The feeling was mutual with the Americans.

Pinkie Barnes

I'm sorry that I didn't have the opportunity to see very much of Pinkie Barnes. I did play Pinkie however, and her game is excellent. She plays a smart game defending quite close to the table, then boom out of nowhere flashes her forehand—I believe it is quite a sweeping stroke but I'm not sure because I was too busy trying to lay my racket on the ball.

As I settled down to watch Pinkie and Tybie play their match in the English Championships, I noticed quite a discussion under way. I finally realised that Pinkie was *insisting* that Tybie take the point, and Tybie was *insisting* that Pinkie take the point (in a match that was so close one point could very well mean the match). Pinkie lost by a hair, leading 2-1 in games, she lost the 4th game 22-20. After it was over, both of them were beaming so, it was impossible to tell from their expressions who had won. Pinkie said, "You can't feel badly losing to such a good sport." As far as I was concerned that went both ways.

Pinkie's outstanding features to me are her twinkling brown eyes and merry smile. She also usually wears a ribbon in her brown hair. I was glad to discover that, like most English people, her complexion is lovely. When she was seasick on the *Saga*, I knew that greenish tinge couldn't have been natural. Pinkie was good natured even in the throes of the above-mentioned seasickness, which is really something.

Pinkie is also good at reading palms—even to telling the number of children the girls would have. I missed out on this also.

I have three reasons why I would like to see Pinkie again. First, she promised to read my palm, second to make up for my horrible doubles playing with her, and third, the chance to get to know her better.

We'd certainly like to play England again next year in the Finals of the "Peggy McLean" Corbillon Cup—this time without getting all the breaks.

Middlesex Retain Title

by STANLEY H. KEMPSTER

MIDDLESEX are once again the Champion County despite an initial set-back they had at the beginning of the season when they lost 2-7 to Essex.

Playing without the services of Peggy Franks, and on two occasions without their No. 1, Victor Barna, they had a most amazing programme. Their first match was played in November when they were badly beaten by an Essex team including Leach and Franks. This match put them at the bottom of the division and they stayed there without another match until January 11th when they defeated Surrey 5-4. During the next 18 days they met and defeated Lancashire 6-3, Gloucestershire 7-2 and Yorkshire 9-0 and jumped to the top of the table with 8 points to lead Surrey on sets average. Surrey had by then completed their programme and Middlesex only had to win one set in their outstanding match with Warwickshire to retain the Championship title. They won this match 5-4 and so obtained a clear lead of 2 points over Surrey, who thus became runners-up for the second year in succession.

Surrey started badly when they lost their first match to Essex. They won their next two matches against Lancashire and Warwickshire and at the end of December were third in the table. They lost their next game against Middlesex and dropped to fifth place. They won their last two matches against Yorkshire and Gloucestershire, played during February and this put them into the runners-up position.

Essex commenced the season extremely well and after defeating the two strongest counties, Surrey and Middlesex, led the division, and with England's two No. 1 players in their team, became favourites for the title. Their success was however, short-lived. Leach and Franks, with commitments abroad, were unable to turn out for all the matches, the supporting players were not strong enough and they lost all their remaining fixtures. From leading the division at the end of November they fell to sixth place during January and remained there.

In their first season in the Premier Division, Gloucestershire did extremely well to finish at third place. They scored wins over Lancashire, Yorkshire and Essex, and only lost by the narrow margins of 4-5 against Warwickshire and

Surrey. Their other defeat was against Middlesex.

Lancashire had good spells during the beginning and close of the season, beating Warwickshire, Essex and Yorkshire; but did badly during the middle of the season.

Other Divisions

In the Northern Division things were very much more open and the ultimate result was in doubt up to the last match when Cheshire defeated Cumberland and took the lead from Yorkshire II on sets average. Cheshire then challenged Yorkshire for their place in the Premier Division, but lost easily.

The new Home Counties Division was easily won by Middlesex II who had an unbeaten record, while in the Southern Division Hampshire also had an unbeaten record winning the championship for the second time. In this Southern Division, Kent failed to obtain a win despite many team changes. They did, however, give Hampshire a shock when they held them to a score of four-all with one set to play.

FINAL TABLES

Premier :	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Middlesex	6	5	1	34	20	10
Surrey	6	4	2	29	25	8
Gloucestershire ..	6	3	3	29	25	6
Lancashire .. .	6	3	3	28	26	6
Warwickshire .. .	6	3	3	24	30	6
Essex	6	2	4	25	29	4
Yorkshire .. .	6	1	5	20	34	2
<i>Northern :</i>						
Cheshire	6	5	1	36	18	10
Yorkshire II .. .	6	5	1	32	22	10
Durham	6	4	2	28	26	8
Northumberland ..	6	3	3	37	17	6
Lincolnshire .. .	6	2	4	24	30	4
Lancashire II .. .	6	2	4	23	31	4
Cumberland .. .	6	0	6	9	45	0
<i>Home Counties :</i>						
Middlesex II .. .	5	5	0	35	10	10
Essex II	5	4	1	30	15	8
Bedfordshire .. .	5	3	2	22	23	6
Buckinghamshire ..	5	2	3	26	19	4
Hertfordshire .. .	5	1	4	14	31	2
Cambridgeshire ..	5	0	5	8	37	0
<i>Southern :</i>						
Hampshire .. .	6	6	0	38	16	12
Surrey II	6	4	2	33	21	8
Sussex	6	2	4	22	32	4
Kent	6	0	6	15	39	0
<i>Supplementary :</i>						
Nottinghamshire ..	4	4	0	26	10	8
Leicestershire .. .	4	2	2	16	20	4
Derbyshire .. .	4	0	4	12	24	0

Table Tennis in Germany

FOR ten years German top class table tennis players have been deprived of international competition—a fact, perhaps, forgotten by major table tennis bodies, or, if remembered, shrugged away as of no significance.

The Germans themselves feel this acutely. They know that table tennis in their country has now reached a static level. But in spite of this, they have not allowed the game to die. Clubs are numerous and, as in all their games, the German plays seriously and always strives to do his best.

And just how good is this best?

In the opinion of the writer it is not of high international standard. But then this can only be expected with ten years of non-international competition behind them. However, the quality is still remarkably good. Competitions are frequently organised, and league games fought out with a tenacity that has to be seen to be believed. Youths, young boys and girls, and middle-agers as well, are encouraged into clubs by regular and frequent fixtures and, perhaps, the cheapness of this game for entertainment purposes.

An interesting feature in these German table tennis leagues is that they are run on the promotion and relegation lines similar to those functioning for the football leagues in England. As clubs can have more than one team it is obvious then, that the fighting spirit is not only inter-club, but almost, inter-individual.

The present German champion is a young law student, not yet 24, Dieter Mauritz. He is purely a defensive player who stands, seemingly, uncomfortably close to the table and yet possesses a fierce, lightning backhand smash and drive. It is not a Barna flick, but still devastating.

Of the ladies, the champion is Fraulein Bussmann. She has held the title five times, for two years before the war and three years since. Some of our older internationals may remember her. She was at Cairo in 1939, and with Trudi Pritzi (Austria) won the women's doubles. That year, she was in the winning Corbillion Cup team.

Fraulein Bussman still seems as good as ever. She is extremely fast on her feet and has a hard forehand attack that is certainly effective. Her defence, coupled with her footwork, is really solid. She has,

already, played twice in London and states that she would very much like to play there again.

Another lady deserving of mention is Fraulein Lindeberg. She, too, has represented her country and is still in top class playing condition. Like Vera Thomas she is left handed, but differs in the fact that she relies on a strong, two wing, chopping defence, with an occasional forehand smash that has our champion's name written all over it. Fraulein Lindeberg is much of a philosopher. "Sport," she stated in an interview, "is the best form of politics. And the best and most international of sports is table tennis."

Fraulein Lindeberg then went on to say, "Tell the editor of your paper (*T.T. Review*) that we would welcome matches with English clubs."

A player to watch should Germany be freed for international competition, is 24-year old Wiebusch. He has been playing the game for ten years. His footwork is a delight to watch and he possesses this all too rare an accomplishment—a two-wing attack that is really accurate. When asked if he thought himself a possible for world championship honours, Wiebusch smiled. "Not just yet," he said. "I may have the playing ability, but world championship temperament . . . ?" Here Wiebusch shrugged. He has never played international table tennis.

A. G. HEBDEN.

Best League Handbook Competition

We will again award two prizes of one guinea each to the two leagues who possess the most useful handbooks for the season 1948-49. Closing date is June 30th. Address to *Table Tennis Review*, Kenworthy Buildings, Manchester, 3.

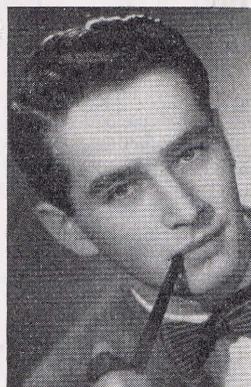
If you are a league official and interested in acting as a neutral judge of this contest we shall value your assistance.

Mr. D. W. Poupard of the firm of John Jaques and also Mr. David Kethero, West of England official, have both kindly offered to act as judges. One or two more would be welcome—please.

On the Stage with BARNA and BROOK

By CHARLES HAYES

(Comperre to the Show)



VICTOR BARNA, and I know he will not mind me saying this, is now 37 years of age, yet at 37 he is not only one of the fittest of men in the game to-day, but also one of its finest exponents.

For those of you who did not see the really classic duel between Victor and Marty Reisman of the United States, I can tell you that Victor was by no means disgraced in defeat. The applause he received when being presented with his runner-up trophy bears me out in this statement. The Wembley Stadium has never heard greater applause—no, not even during the Olympic Games.

I myself thought Victor had the match in the bag, but he just could not make it and he was very narrowly defeated by a man who was not born when Barna won his first championship. My view on the whole proceedings is that if the Men's Doubles Final (featuring Barna and Bergmann *v.* Leach and Carrington) had been played after the Singles, then Barna would have recovered the English title after a lapse of eleven years. As it was he was certainly beginning to tire during that fifth game which Reisman took at 21-16.

The above is a picture of Barna on Championship "duty," and now what about Victor the showman? As those of you know who have seen our act, Barna and Brook give everything they have got during that hectic fifteen-minute game. And through it all Victor is superb in his showmanship and good humour. When he feels that the audience is difficult he makes me laugh and I try to infuse that laughter into the audience. Nine times out of ten it works. Apart from the nonsense there is always a perfect display of graceful table tennis.

Alec Brook

On the matter of showmanship, Alec Brook certainly cannot be overlooked. Now Alec has never won a world title but he was a member of the Swaythling Cup team and played really well. Alec too, is the perfect showman—he has to be, for he is at the receiving end of Barna's flicks and smashes. It takes a good player and a good showman to return some of those shots, believe you me! When we were playing at the London Palladium Alec nearly killed the double-bass player when trying to retrieve a Barna shot. What the bass player said is nobody's business.

Brook has his numerous little jokes on the stage and during one particular matinee a big race was being run on which Alec had had a little flutter. We asked a stage-hand to whisper the result through should we not be finished by then. Half-way through the game a voice whispered the result through to me which I promptly passed on to the audience. When Alec heard the result he hit the ball so hard that it is still travelling. It appeared his horse was still travelling also!

Our Table

In a past article I did promise to write about the table set-up on the stage. Under each of the back legs we have some lead weights of three-inch thickness so that the table slants towards the audience. This is done for the benefit of the people in the stalls so that they may see the top of the table. I leave it to you to imagine the difficulty encountered in playing on such a table. As one gentleman in Glasgow once said on seeing the table, "Aye, but that beer must have been strong . . . look at the table!"



Wembley Stadium Photograph

ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (London, 1949)

Bergmann and Barna receiving their English Doubles prizes from Lady Swaythling. Barna and Bergmann, together with their wives, leave England in June for a tour of Australia and New Zealand, returning about Christmas.

GRIMSBY OPEN

(MARCH 19th, 1949)

Men's Singles: M. Sheader (Scarborough) beat D. Merryweather (Lincoln).

Women's Singles: Miss Steventon (Nottingham) bt. Miss Grimstone (Marple).

M.D.: Mitten and Whiteley beat E. Beadle and M. Sheader.

W.D.: Misses Lightfoot and Wood beat Misses Brimstone and Crust.

Mx.D.: Mitten and Lightfoot beat Allcock and Dixon.

WEST MIDDLESEX OPEN

(At WEST EALING, March 26th, 1949)

M.S.: Crayden beat Sharman —20, —20, 18, 14, 14.

W.S.: Miss R. Rowe beat Miss D. Rowe, 20, —18, 17.

M.D.: Crouch and M. Thornhill beat Craigie and A. R. Miller, —14, 12, 10.

W.D.: Misses D. and R. Rowe beat Miss A. Fowler and Mrs. R. Lentle, 19, 15.

Mx.D.: Craigie and Miss R. Rowe beat A. R. Miller and Miss J. Roberts, 7, 17.

Junior Men's: Thornhill beat K. Beamish, 10, 20.

Junior Women's: Miss P. Cantor beat Miss P. Piper, —17, 18, 14.

TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

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SELECTION COMMITTEE'S SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY

By ALEC D. BROOK (Ex-Swaythling Cup Player)

"INTERNATIONAL trials." Those two words conjure up in my mind the most farcical and absurd events in a table tennis season.

I consider our sport holds its own with the finest of all other games and most players here possess the ambition of this country winning the Swaythling Cup and breaking down what is popularly known as the "Continental domination." Each year selectors choose teams for that purpose and with regular monotony there is an outcry against those chosen.

None will deny the selectors' job is not an envious one, neither can they satisfy all, but we have seen for years a bunch of selectors devoid of any enterprise and content to maintain the same policy over a long period.

Looking Back

Let me qualify those remarks. Year after year, irrespective of form, the same old school are chosen and generally before a man can reach the highest honour of a Swaythling Cup badge he must be practically a genius.

I well remember in one of my first seasons, the most extensive and exhausting trials took place for months and at the end the late Charlie Bull, who undoubtedly was our best the previous season, lost nearly every game. He was picked that year even then and unfortunately failed to find his form abroad, thereby illuminating the fact that the selectors had badly erred. The following season it was decided the same intense business would be repeated and for the first time ever, the players who proved the best would be selected, this even being announced before the trials.

The final trials found nine players, playing all against all, the whole of one Sunday in London and the five who lost the least number of games were chosen. The English team were third that year, as against seventh the previous season and seventh again the following year when the selectors once more reverted to their old policy.



Just before the war Ernie Bublely, playing in the trials, won 12 out of 14 matches, beating five Swaythling Cup players, yet was left out on account of his style. Who was to say that what he could do to English players he could not do to foreigners? It has since been proved the selectors were wrong again.

Finally to this season: Molly Jones winning most of her games in the Corbillon Cup trials and for reasons best known to the selectors she was left out.

Committee Needs New Blood

My own opinion is that the selectors as a whole do not have a completely free hand. The older ones in their enthusiasm can only see the tried and proved player, being blind to the younger and promising ones coming along and who only need experience. Also, and I believe this in all sincerity, the association as a whole is run on a short-sighted policy with little thought for anything other than the present.

We need some new blood and blood that can speak up without being over-powered and outweighed. Fresh people who are not prejudiced by what has gone before and who can live with the times, and get what they want.

It is recognised we have more players in the international standard in this country than anywhere else in the world and it is obvious something must be wrong with our management that we continually fail to annex the "Davis Cup" of table tennis.

If we started now to build our team on really good youngsters, maybe it would take two or three seasons before they made the top grade, yet I feel it certainly would be worth while and they should then be able to hold on for a number of years, just as the Czechs. and Hungarians have held their form for so long.

Why not build a team round Johnny Leach? I do agree one needs something in age and experience in every successful team and here we have the right opportunity. Why not Johnny and, say, Benny Casofsky, who I think definitely merits his place, together with three really good boys and so, by slow stages, bring these youngsters in and mould them with the "old uns."

We have lost two years by playing Barna and Bergmann. Whilst both players are great friends of mine I did not agree with the idea of them being in the team, and even had they won the cup we should have gained nothing in prestige.

Absent Selectors

Finally, a point which has been uppermost in my mind for years. How often do we see our selectors at the big matches and tournaments? In the South very seldom, and no one can convince me on the ability of these men to judge players

by just watching them play on one day in the final trials.

During the years I have watched these selectors deliberating on the last day, there has always been a certain amount of feeling between the northern party and the southerners. Each has been convinced of the merits of his respective players through the knowledge that a certain man has won perhaps three or four tournaments in the north and the southern player has been successful on occasions in the south.

It is not easy for the average player to travel the country competing everywhere and therefore there is not a regular clashing of south and north. One way out is for the selector or selectors to travel round and view the players whenever possible.

The whole affair is an extremely difficult problem which I myself would not like to solve, but I am sure many people would make a better job than our selectors have done during the last few years.

TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

LAST ISSUE of the SEASON

This issue of "Table Tennis Review" completes Volume 3 and the next issue will appear early in September. May we remind you to book a regular order with your newsagent or sports dealer. If copies are obtained from a station book-stall then a regular order must be placed if you wish to make sure of receiving a copy. On this occasion you may have been lucky enough to pick up an odd copy, but newsagents do not order copies from us unless they have a standing order.

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"WHAT'S IT WORTH?"

NEWS from IRELAND

IRISH OPEN

Played on February 26th, 1949, at Dublin

Aless Ehrlich (Poland) won the Men's Singles rather comfortably, beating another Continental entrant, M. Lanskoj, in four games. Miss G. E. Boyle (Belfast) won the ladies' title for the first time, defeating Miss A. Coombs (Dublin).

The outstanding match of the night was the Men's Doubles which was won by Ehrlich and Lanskoj, who overcame V. Mercer and H. O'Prey.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: A. Ehrlich beat M. Lanskoj (France), 17-21, 21-6, 21-12, 21-12.

Ladies' Singles: Miss G. E. Boyle beat Miss A. Coombs, 13-21, 25-23, 22-20.

Men's Doubles: Ehrlich and Lanskoj beat V. Mercer (Belfast) and H. O'Prey (Ards), 21-18, 21-12, 15-21, 19-21, 21-17.

Ladies' Doubles: Misses M. Buchanan and G. Boyle (Belfast) beat Misses M. Minshull (Dundalk) and H. Agnew (Belfast), 21-10, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles: Mercer and Miss Buchanan beat O'Prey and Miss Agnew, 22-20, 6-21, 21-11.

Boys' Singles: E. Allen (Belfast) beat G. Maher (Dublin), 21-15, 18-21, 21-17.

Girls' Singles: Miss J. Lyons beat Miss E. Powell, 19-21, 22-20, 21-14.

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN

(At EXETER, March 19th, 1949)

M.S. Final: Bergmann beat Simons, 12-18, 22-10, 15.

W.S.: Mrs. G. Horn (Salisbury) beat Mrs. J. Crosby (Exeter), 26, 18.

M.D.: Carrington/Simons beat Markwell/Brumwell, 17, 13.

W.D.: Mrs. Horn/Mrs. M. Wilson beat Mrs. Hunter/Mrs. J. Pulford (Exeter), 18, 20.

Mx.D.: Bergmann/Mrs. Crosby beat J. Stalibrass/Mrs. I. Hunter, 18, 15.

Junior Men's: L. Devereaux beat A. Morris.

Junior Women's: Miss M. Leaman beat Miss K. Mann.

Why not Bowler Hats?

By A. R. MILLER

DO not think your contributor who wrote the article in your last issue entitled "Why not wear white in table tennis?" has sufficiently considered the disadvantages of making all table tennis players appear in white. No doubt we should look very attractive in white outfits but, unfortunately, the attendance at most tournaments up to Finals night is comprised mainly of players and their friends. They are interested not in appearance but in ability and tests of strength.

There are practical disadvantages to wearing white. It is a difficult business to keep them clean and few things look worse when grubby. The ordinary tournament is usually a sweaty, dirty, informal business, played sometimes in dusty halls in cramped conditions. Whites look well on a sunny day, on a cricket field or a tennis court. There they are appropriate, but no one pretends that, were we all to don them for table tennis, the "gates" would show any great increase. Indeed, it is surprising with so much necessary regimentation, conformity to rules and regulations, coupled with the lack of variety that exists to-day, that people seek to impose a new and cumbersome restraint on a sport which, happily, has always managed to avoid any slur of "Wimbledon snobbery."

The sports outfitters tell us that they have a wide range of shirts in blue, green, maroon, cerise and many other hues. There is nothing dull about them. I for one, should like to see contrasting colours at a final. The whole question is one of taste. But let us all have our choice of colours. Let us not all look like peas in a pod.

Or perhaps we are also to have our bats stuck with white rubber to make the proposed uniformity complete.

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The World's Championships

An American Viewpoint

By JIMMY McCLURE - - Captain of the 1949 U.S.A. Team

I'LL start by telling what happened to our team before arriving in Stockholm for the big event.

Five members of the team left New York on the Swedish liner, *Stockholm*, on January 7th. On the night of the 15th, we arrived in Gothenberg and were met by two members of their Association. The other two members of our team came later on the *Queen Mary* to England and by air from London.

We played our first international team match against the Swedish team on the 18th, and believe me the match wasn't decided until the very last point. Richard Miles finally won over Bengt Grieve 27-25 in the third game of the ninth and final match. We all realised then that we were going to have our hands full in the World's Team Matches.

On the following day, the team was divided into two groups, team number one, Dick Miles, Peggy McLean, Mildred Shahian and I, started out on a tour of southern Sweden, while team number two consisting of Douglas Cartland, Thelma Thall, and Martin Reisman, took the northern route through the northern part of Sweden and the suburbs of the North Pole.

We got together again on February 2nd in Stockholm, and spent a busy evening discussing the interesting things that we had encountered and enjoyed on our different tours.

Due to the mildest winter in 35 years, no members of the northern group were frost-bitten, so after two days' rest, everyone was all set and anxious for the World's to commence.

The First Big Shock

We had smooth sailing the first day until 7-30 that evening, when the men's team played Hungary. We met an inspired, determined, and experienced team in Sido, Koczian and Soos. I felt that we were in for a very rough evening, and I was sure of it after Sido blasted through Miles in the first match 2-0. Koczian proceeded to defeat Cartland in three good games and Soos came up with a surprising straight game victory over Reisman. Things at this point looked very discouraging, but Miles and Reisman came through with wins over Koczian

and Sido, then the roof fell in. Soos gained his second win by knocking over Cartland, and Koczian settled the issue by beating Reisman in two straight games.

The men's team had lost to an excellent team in the Hungarians, and with it went our chances of capturing the coveted Swaythling Cup. I couldn't see any other team beating Hungary, which is just exactly the way it turned out, although it was in doubt right up to the final game in the final match against Czechoslovakia. This was one of the closest and most exciting final cup matches I have ever seen.

The Girls Win Through

Our women's team kept right on going through one match after another until they reached the finals, only after nosing out Hungary in a close and thrilling match, after having had match point against them three times in the Farkas-McLean match.

I have never experienced quite the same feeling as I did in the final match of the women against England. I think that it was much more nerve racking sitting on the side-lines trying to play each stroke of this match without the use of a paddle than anything I had ever tried before. The girls played extremely hard for every point and the turning point of the match was when McLean and Thall won their doubles match in a deuce third game when the match stood at one all.

I have never seen a happier bunch of girls than Peggy McLean, Mildred Shahian and Thelma Thall after we scored the deciding point against England. They had a perfect right to feel that way, as it had been twelve long years since we had captured the Corbillon Cup in Baden, Austria, way back in 1937.

The English girls had played hard and I knew exactly how they felt after their loss. They had held this coveted prize for two years in a row, and despite the fact that they were short of two regular members of their Championship team, due to "Stork Trouble," they made a grand fight for the Cup clear through including the finals.

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Only one of our girls, Thelma Thall, had ever played in the World's before, but they all came through in grand style and won the important matches when the chips were down.

After the team matches came all of the individual matches, so the Championships were only half way through.

All the members of our team went all out to try and capture one of these titles, but it seemed it just wasn't in the cards for this to happen. Four members of the team lost their matches on deuce fifth games—so close to winning, but yet so far.

Miles lost a heartbreaker to the eventual champion, a grand player, Johnny Leach, 26-24, in the fifth game. Shahian experienced the same thing when she lost to Furstova, 24-22, in the fifth game. Reisman lost to the old master Vana in three close games in the semi-finals—one of the hardest hitting, and fastest matches of the tournament. They played their entire match while Farkas and Pritzi played one point of their long struggle.

The finals night just didn't seem right, somehow, as heretofore United States had had one or more members of her team in the final matches since way back in 1935. The matches were all very good, especially the grand one between Leach

and Vana, but somehow I started remembering some of the former World's that I had played in. Deep down inside, I kind of wished one of my boys and girls were out there under the bright lights of the centre table going all out for the greatest prize in table tennis—a world's championship.

Next year in Budapest, maybe Lady Fortune will shine her smiling face on some members of the United States team and they will gain a place on that select list of World's champions.

All in all, it was a well-run tournament and the Swedish Association is to be congratulated on the splendid job they did.

After an absence of eleven years it was indeed a great pleasure to renew acquaintance with some of the old-timers like Vana, Bergmann, Barna, Erlich, Soos, and many others and find that they still play a marvellous game after so many years of playing; also to know some of the new players.

Naturally, after the World's is all over, there is a slight let-down, but the American Team was fortunate in having been invited to participate in the English Open, about which I will try and give you an American's viewpoint and impressions in some future issue.

NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN

THRILLING LEACH v CASOFSKY FINAL

THE North of England Open, played in Manchester on April 3rd, was probably Manchester's best organised and most successful tournament since the war. In pre-war days, Manchester was renowned for the perfection of its tournaments, but since 1945 there has been a number of flops which present-day organisers have found take a lot of living down.

This last Northern tournament of the season was enjoyed by competitors and public alike, but even so, there is still room for improvement. Manchester must solve the problem of completing all rounds up to the finals before the public begin to drift in on the Saturday evening around seven o'clock. At this hour all unnecessary tables should be cleared away and seating arranged for the evening's show. Stewards should be in attendance to show the public to their seats. To have people walking aimlessly about at 7-30 p.m. creates nothing but a bad impression. Liverpool can do it, so why not Manchester?

Fourteen tables were in use and on the Thursday and Friday evenings local players took part in the preliminary rounds, except, of course, the seeded players. In these preliminary rounds, D. Shaw beat R. Allcock who is now back in civilian life with a determination to make his presence felt in next season's events. Ron Baker, English junior international, was beaten by local boy D. Schofield.

Exit Adele Wood

Surprise defeat in the Women's first round was that of Peggy Allen to Miss K. Peake of Scunthorpe, but sixteen-year old Dorothy Banks of Crewe easily accounted for fifteen-year old Dorothy Munnings of Scunthorpe. Dorothy Banks is now showing splendid form and with the right type of practice during the coming summer she could easily be foremost Northern woman player next season. In the second round she made short work of Manchester Rose Bowl player Mrs. Vera Taylor, beating her 9 and 12. In the third round, Dorothy fell to Blackpool's Kay Benson, but only after a third and deciding game had to be played.

The third round found Corbillon Cup player Adele Wood battling to win her first really important Open, but here she was completely subdued by the attack of

her opponent, Miss W. Jary of Sheffield, and she was unable to take the vital third game. Jary was a worthy winner, attacking confidently and consistently. Adele Wood was once again disappointing and though she is still very young, at present she appears to have fallen into a rut where progress is painfully slow. Adele has had so many internationals coaching her, Fred Cromwell, Leslie Cohen, and Stanley Proffitt, but too many coaches can have a damaging effect on a player. By now her game should be reasonably stabilised and she should be developing her own style of play instead of listening to conflicting viewpoints.

Miss Jary continued to the semi-final where she was beaten in two straight games by Kay Benson.

Winner of the Women's Singles was Miss Doreen Watkins, Manchester Rose Bowl player, who beat Kay Benson in the final, 12 and 17. In the semi-final, she knocked out Miss E. Mansell of Liverpool.

This was the first Open title to come the way of Doreen Watkins, who won the final event thanks to her sound defence and the faulty hitting of Kay Benson.

Juniors

The semi-finals found W. Pierce of Liverpool winner over E. Trantor (Derby) 21-19, 21-17, and F. Daley (Bolton) accounting for D. Ellison (Bolton), 21-17, 9-21, 21-19.

In the final, it took junior international Pierce three games before getting correct swing into his attack. He was a trifle unlucky in the third game but in spite of two edge balls and two net cords he managed to hold the score at 11-11. Daly then pressed home his attack and took the game at 18.

Men's Events

In the Men's Singles there were many enjoyable games, but no surprises. In the second round, C. Bolton of Bolton, took the first game from Johnny Leach, 21-19, but in the next two games Johnny quickly demonstrated that the first game was merely his warming up period, scores being 21-8, 21-10.

In round three, Leach beat E. J. Rumjahn, H. Lurie beat L. Cohen, B. Casofsky beat Bernard Hands (Liverpool).

The seeded players reached the semi-finals as anticipated and here Casofsky

repeated his Lancashire Open semi-final defeat of Ken Stanley, while Lurie was no match for Leach.

Final

Throughout the tournament, Johnny Leach was always the favourite, but most experts were unanimous on one point, namely, if Benny Casofsky could find one of his hitting moods then the title might easily go to the Manchester player. Most people remembered Casofsky's devastating defeat of Leach in the Yorkshire Open two years ago.

However, Benny did find one of his hitting moods—in fact it was perhaps the most dynamic Casofsky that anyone has ever seen. For four long games the ferocity of his smashes left the crowd of nearly one thousand people gasping with amazement.

Right from the first point Casofsky went for his World Champion opponent in an even fiercer manner than he accounted for Lanskoj (France) in the recent Belle Vue tournament. Johnny Leach tried to hold his ground and there were spells of exciting counter-hitting, but eventually Johnny was unable to stand up to the onslaught and had to fall back on defence. Benny soon demonstrated his ability to drop the ball short and low, and this was a constant menace to Leach who dared not go too far away from the table.

The first game went to Casofsky at 15 and the second game commenced with no slackening of pace from the Casofsky tornado. After one beautifully placed angle shot Johnny Leach stood there, caught hopelessly on the wrong foot. He smiled and grimaced to the roaring crowd. Johnny's hands and eyes seemed to say "What can I do with him?"

But he did do something. He dug in with his defence, repeatedly retrieving the impossible, and levelled the scores with a convincing win of 21-12.

The third game found Casofsky still hitting like fury. People said he was bound to tire. Others said the Leach defence would crack. But neither happened. Leach played classic table tennis. His defence was perfection and he was never slow to seize a sudden opening to attack. Leach took the third game at 12. The fourth game was a vital one for Casofsky but still the speed



DOROTHY BANKS

of his smashes showed no signs of slowing down. Casofsky was brilliant, but Leach was unbelievably amazing. The scoring went eighteen all . . . twenty all . . . twenty-one all . . . a point to Leach and then Casofsky hits three, drops a short one, hits another three and a fourth off the table. In the dressing room Casofsky said he could have gone on hitting for another four games, while Johnny said the speed of Casofsky's attack was so fast that when he counter-attacked he merely had to direct the ball, the rebound itself possessing sufficient speed.

RESULTS.

FINALS.—*M.S.*: Leach bt. Casofsky, —15, 12, 12, 21. *W.S.*: Doreen Watkins bt. Kay Benson, 12, 17. *M.D.*: Stanley/Casofsky bt. Lurie/Cohen, 16, —10, 14. *X.D.*: Leach/A. Wood bt. R. Rumjahn/Kay May, 16, —14, 15. *Boys*: F. Daly bt. W. Pierce, 10, —15, 18.

BOOK REVIEW

KNOW THE GAME—LAWN TENNIS. (Price 2s. Published by Educational Productions Ltd.) Many table tennis enthusiasts turn to lawn tennis during the summer months and here is everything one should require in an inexpensive instructional book. Over forty illustrations help to illustrate the various strokes and points, pages being devoted to equipment, dress, the court and net, service and stroke-play. At the back are the complete rules of the game.

U.S.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

MILES BEATS REISMAN

by FREDERICK J. CLOUTHER

Former President U.S.T.T.A., Member of Board of Regents

THE 19th U.S. National Open Table Tennis Championships are now history and Dick Miles of New York helped to make some of it by annexing the Men's Singles Championship for the fifth year in succession, establishing a record that will be hard to beat.

There were many fine matches during the tournament particularly the Men's Doubles final which provided an all-New York cast with Reisman and Sol Schiff defeating the former three times holders of the National title, Cy Sussman and Ed Pinner, in a thriller by scores of 18, 17, —17, —9, 16.

In the Men's Singles final, the anticipated "match of the year" did not materialise as Miles, exhibiting complete control at all times, defeated his Swaythling Cup team-mate, Marty Reisman, three straight by scores of 8, 23, 18; In the first game, Miles toyed with Reisman, but in the second game Reisman caught fire, gave Miles a hard battle only to lose out 23-21 in the best game of the match. The third and final game was also hard fought but it was evident that Miles was in no real trouble as he put on a truly remarkable exhibition of offensive and defensive table tennis.

Promising Joan Gummells

The expedite rule was put into force in the semi-finals of the Women's Singles when Reba Kirson Monness met unseeded Joan Gummells of St. Louis, defeating her by scores of —19, 22, 22, 11. The youthful and promising Joan provided the major upset of the tournament when she topped Corbillon Cup team member Mildred Shahian, seeded number two, by scores of 14, —9, 19, 18. In addition, she took the Junior Girls' Singles title and pairing with colourful Garrett Nash reached the finals in the Mixed Doubles losing to the holders, Mrs. Sally Green-Prouty and Sol Schiff in one of the evening's most interesting matches.

Blind Umpire

A real novelty in the tournament was provided by Charles Medick of Cleveland, Ohio, blind umpire working in his 579th event.

Although blind, Charley has no trouble keeping track of the flight of the ball. If it went off the table edge he called it

instantly. If it struck the top of the net he knew on which side it dropped. He has yet to receive a complaint on his work. The crowd gave him a great ovation after he had completed the job of umpiring the Mixed Doubles final in his usual cheerful, clear-cut manner.

Peggy McLean did not defend her Women's Singles title as previous exhibition dates prevented her from doing so. With the field wide open Leah Thall-Neuberger won her second National Singles Championship. John Varga of South Bend, Indiana, took the Veteran's Singles title.

Players taking part in the Championships number 189.

SUMMARY

Men's Singles.—Quarters: Dick Miles beat Somael (former U.S. champion), Ed Pinner beat Lazlo Bellak (former Hungarian star), Marty Reisman beat Jimmy McClure, Sol Schiff beat Garrett Nash; **Semis:** Miles beat Pinner, 8, 11, 13, Reisman beat Schiff, —8, 14, 16, 17 (a thriller); **Final:** Miles beat Reisman, 8, 22, 18.

Women's Singles.—Quarters: Leah Thall-Neuberger beat Tiny Moss, (Los Angeles), Bernice Chotras (former U.S. champion) beat Mrs. Mae Clouther, Joan Gummells beat Mildred Shahian, Mrs. Reba Monness beat Thelma Thall; **Semis:** Leah Thall-Neuberger beat Chotras, Monness beat Joan Gummells; **Final:** Leah Thall-Neuberger beat Monness, 9, —15, 15, —8, 14.

Men's Doubles Final: Reisman and Schiff beat Pinner and Sussman, 18, 17, —17, —9, 16.

Women's Doubles Final: Thelma Thall and Leah Thall-Neuberger beat Mrs. Mae Clouther and Shahian, 15, 24, 17.

Mixed Doubles Final: Mrs. Sally Green-Prouty and Sol Schiff beat Joan Gummells and Nash, 13, 14, —15, 22.

Junior Singles, Boys.—Final: Wallace Gundlach of St. Louis beat Gordon Barclay of South Bend, Ind., 14, 11, 9.

Junior Singles, Girls.—Final: Joan Gummells of St. Louis beat Lona Flam of N.Y., 17, 16, 15.

Boys' Singles Final: Bernard Silcoff, Montreal, Canada beat Morris Johnson of Indianapolis, —10, 18, 9, 15.



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The Registered Player—

—Is he an asset to the Game?

A CONSIDERABLE amount of publicity has recently been given to the question of the registered player and the rules under which he takes his cut out of personal prowess at the game.

Well, I too, am a member of the elite and am well-known to the Editor of *Table Tennis Review*, who has, at my request, agreed to preserve my anonymity. I wish to remain anonymous because I am herewith protesting against a system which has, in its effect, close comparison to the process of arsenious oxide poisoning—common or garden arsenic, if you like it better that way.

Yes, the system under which the registered player has become far too big for his boots. As the publication of my name would possibly lead to a spot of mud-slinging which would cake and obscure the points which I intend to put forward at this juncture, I desire to remain in the background.

We Shoot Them!

Towards the end of last season I was told by one county official in answer to my query *re* present strength and popularity of registered players, "No, sir! We don't have them up here. We shoot them at birth." This official's view was that the paid exhibition player was the direct cause of the dearth of good junior players. Although a registered man myself, I'm afraid I reluctantly agreed with him.

Another county official, myself and a couple of other R.P.'s were engaged in a long conversation *re* exhibitions and coaching. Finally, this official and I were left on our own and my friend's first words were "... those two seem to be out only for what they can get." He was right—dead right!

I know from personal knowledge that neither of them would condescend to even five minutes' club practice with their strictly amateur friends of lesser ability.

Let us get this clear, then. How many R.P.'s in England to-day take part in ordinary club table tennis life—that is to say, how many of us take on all-comers in normal club practice? In fact, can it be said that every R.P. competes in weekly league games which are a feature of every town's winter sporting programme? In this matter, I am, of course, not referring to the administrative R.P., who is in a very small minority.

Shall we go a stage farther and say this. How many times have you (the reader) seen an R.P.—the supposed expert, in fact, the master—watch a friendly game in his own club (some of them go occasionally, I understand) and afterwards draw one of the players aside and point out just how and where he or she goes wrong in his or her play.

Payment for Service

No, I'm afraid the answer is not very complimentary to the R.P. Pay him £2 for a visit and advice will readily be forthcoming. There are not many R.P.'s eager to indulge in free coaching. The youngster then, who is keen, full of beans, whose whole life is absorbed in thoughts of bat, ball and table, does not derive the benefit of the R.P.'s undoubted experience and knowledge unless he is fortunate enough to be included in an official coaching scheme or has a father willing and able to defray this side-line cost of his son's sporting education.

Is it because the R.P. considers himself superior to club practice with all and sundry that there is a dearth of junior talent in this country—not juniors at 17 and 18 years of age, but kids of 13 and 14. It's not quite so condemning as all that and I know quite well the solution—proper paid coaching by the R.P.'s; but funds and other facilities are not always available for this specialised instruction on a grandiose scale. So the solution, although correct, is not quite a happy one. We return to the starting point. Cash to the R.P. and he's at your service (rightly so)—no pay, then nose up, not interested! May I refer again to the conversation of the county official "... those two seem to be out only for what they can get."

Is he right? Can his remarks apply with equal veracity and forcefulness to other R.P.'s? not all of them, you say. Well, how many?

Girls are Neglected

I do earnestly believe that the standard of junior play in this country—particularly in regard to young girls (table tennis' neglected sex)—would have been higher in some areas had 100 per cent. amateurism been the E.T.T.A. rule. Not a great deal higher, of course, because registered players form an infinitesimal percentage of the nation's active supporters of the

Continued on page 21

In Search of a Laugh !!!

with INKSPOT

"OFF MY OWN BAT"

I WAS sitting in the Youth Club when the man with the wart on his nose approached me with a confident air. I eyed him suspiciously. Since I read about Oliver Cromwell, it has always been my policy to treat warts with suspicion.

"Regular member?" asked the man, smiling benevolently.

I admitted the crime.

"Then perhaps you can tell me what you think of the service," he continued, absent-mindedly drinking my cup of tea.

I tried to look intelligent. It is no use saying I am any good at the new service. Ever since it was introduced I have been trying unsuccessfully to master its technique. Not that the service hasn't got its points. It has, particularly for any person who plays against me, but it doesn't seem to suit me.

"Well," I said casually, "I can't say I think much of it. Too difficult for me to follow somehow."

I grabbed my piece of cake just as he was about to lay his hands on it.

"Too difficult?" he queried, pretending he had only been going to smooth the table cloth. "Is that what everyone thinks?"

I tried to be fair. "It's all right for people like Barna or Joe Bates over there," I said, "but it doesn't suit everybody. Matter of getting used to it I suppose."

The man looked surprised. "But I thought you'd had it some time," he said.

I seized my chance to explain away my ignorance. "No," I replied, "only adopted it a season ago—under the new rule, you know. The trouble is that when the ball rolls off your hand, you always seem to miss it with your bat. At least, I do. And, as often as not, the bat goes over the net instead."

The man rose to his feet, and froze me with a look. "You seem to misunderstand me," he said. "I was asking your opinion on the service we hold at the end of the evening. You see, I'm the new vicar."

E. G. V.



"OUCH! For the last time mate—keep your head in the direction of the ball."

The Registered Player—

Continued from previous page

game, but who knows what effect some R.P.'s disinclination to offer free advice to a junior clubmate has had on the youngster's playing career?

Feeling sure I know all the R.P.'s answers as to why he receives money for coaching and exhibitions (after all, why not? I'm one myself), I still say that although I'm entitled to exploit my skill for cash under E.T.T.A. regulations, I should not be too superior to playing in weekly league matches against the so-called "mugs" and offering advice while on the spot or in club practice to those who I think would be willing to benefit by it. The cost of balls, clothing, travelling to "opens," etc., should not prohibit me or anyone else on the E.T.T.A. registered list from doing something gratis—without strings—for the good of a game which for almost a quarter of my allotted span has given me continuous enjoyment and which now brings me a modicum of pin-money on occasion.

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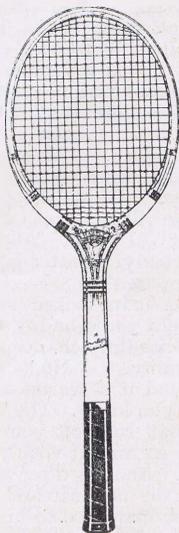
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This Poor Press Publicity

by FRED MATHER

AS an ordinary club player, who has taken more than the average amount of interest in table tennis for nearly twenty years, I am at loss to understand the lack of publicity given to its activities by the daily press. I can well remember those pre-war years when table tennis was a regular weekly feature in all the leading papers.

A comparison with to-day's microscopic reports would be odious, in fact I venture to say that if it wasn't for a few internationals who, in the twilight of their careers have entered the journalistic field, I fear we could write the obituary of table tennis as far as press publicity is concerned.

Granted most papers do make an effort to cover fully the World's Championships and our own National Open, and I do acknowledge that papers are not the size they were in 1939, even so I feel that a much better effort could be made by all editors.

A "Daily Mail" Flash

In my own city, Manchester, we are naturally proud of Adele Wood who, at seventeen, was chosen to represent England in the Corbillon Cup contest at Stockholm. So, apparently, was the *Daily Mail*, a paper which has previously hardly bothered to show recognition of table tennis as a leading indoor sport. In honour of Adele Wood, the *Daily Mail* suddenly leapt to life with four photographs depicting two hours in the life of a table tennis star. I can assure the editor that his enterprise was well rewarded by the extra papers sold that day.

Three other newspapers, *The News Chronicle*, the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Herald* ran regular features in pre-war days, but now table tennis is given scant attention. In all fairness, however, I must thank the *News Chronicle* for their excellent reports from Sweden—but why not follow up the good work with regular features as they did for a short time in 1946? A sport that has a quarter of a million enthusiasts in this island, and that can also pack Wembley Stadium for its National Championships is surely worth more than a few odd results tucked away in a corner.

Manchester Evening Papers

The *Manchester Evening News* with a very large Northern public does feature a

weekly article, but unfortunately this lacks both size and imagination.

The *Manchester Evening Chronicle* must be congratulated for its Cup Tournament, many winners of which have since made their presence felt in higher circles. The *Evening Chronicle* also stages a yearly International Invitation Tournament to which players like Vana, Lanskoj, Leach, Bergmann, Amouretti, etc., have been invited. In view of all this, it is a little disappointing to see this paper presenting its readers with only odd inches of table tennis matter.

An Appeal

It has always been the policy of our newspapers to give every encouragement to youth in the field of sport, but to-day they are doing a grand sport an injustice.

Table tennis will not flourish and prosper in this country without adequate press support. We have achieved much with so little press publicity, but what a lot could be done if we had those regular efficiently written articles!

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About Ladies Only !!

by PEGGY ALLEN

It is only natural at this time of the year that we should tend to look back and assess the progress of our game. From a woman's point of view, one of the most heartening things I have noticed this season is the pronounced improvement in the standard of our young girls, which augurs well for our future Corbillon Cup chances.

Our Cover Girl

The girl of the year is, of course, 17-year old "Dale" Wood of Manchester, who leapt from Junior English Championship status to full senior Corbillon Cup rank in one season.

In the World Championship Corbillon Cup games she was successful in all her matches, and with Peggy Franks she won the Welsh Open women's doubles and reached the final of the English Open. She also appeared in four finals at the Pontefract Open, winning both Ladies and Junior singles.

She holds the Lancs. and North of England ladies doubles with Helen Elliot and Doreen Watkins respectively, and at Scarborough last month, she performed the hat trick in the N.E. England tournament. Adele is the mainstay of the Manchester team who are the 1948-49 Rose Bowl winners and her series of remarkable victories in this competition are mainly responsible for bringing the trophy to Manchester.

Other Teen-agers

I have been very impressed by the improvement in young Shelagh Wood of Leeds and Dorothy Banks of Crewe. Both these players have style and versatility and at 16 display remarkable coolness under trying tournament conditions. Dorothy is getting plenty of experience in Cheshire County matches and must be about the youngest county player in England. Shelagh Wood has won numerous doubles titles this season and if she continues to improve will probably play for Yorkshire in 1949-50.

In the South, the Rowe twins and Peggy Piper are making great strides. The twins, unheard of until this season, played well against Adele Wood in the English Junior Championships and would seem to have the temperament which



PEGGY ALLEN

carries young table tennis players to victory.

All these girls by constant, untiring practice and intelligent observation of the stars, should go a long, long way, but I plead with them not to lose their modesty and youthful charm on the road to success. Conceit sometimes comes with perfection, but I beg of these youngsters to "stay as sweet as they are" for prowess is nothing without a graceful, charming personality.

Seniors

Reviewing the senior players, our thoughts immediately turn to Helen Elliot who was, without doubt the best British player of the year. She still maintains her wonderful tournament record and it was a great pity that the sad death of Peter Coia should have coincided with her big chance for the English Open Title. Her performance against Mildred Shahian in the semi-final was a masterpiece and she can still beat all our English girls without undue effort.

I asked her recently what advice she would give anyone with a weak backhand attack. In other words, which particular point should one remember more than any other when using backhand attack, and she said: "Remember to keep your elbow close to your side and this pressure of the elbow will help you to turn your wrist as you follow through." I pass on the tip and may you all produce a Helen Elliot backhand before long!

The accepted stars, Peggy Franks, Pinkie Barnes, Molly Jones and Betty

Steventon, continue to win their way to open tournament finals, but this year Joan Crosby has been added to their number after a few years semi-retirement due to the serious business of attending to the needs of two healthy youngsters. Joan is not, as some people seem to think, a newcomer to the game, she was well known pre-war and has beaten Vera Dace on at least one occasion. She is also an excellent tennis player.

Joyce Roberts of Middlesex, Mrs. George of Surrey, Miss Peake of Grimsby, and Eileen Grimstone of Cheshire, are all improving rapidly and with six months of the closed season ahead when weak strokes can be improved, we should see some new faces in the final stages of the open tournaments of 1949-50.

We table tennis players do need plenty of fresh air during the summer because we spend so much time indoors during our playing season, but I do feel that one night a week should be sacrificed to perfect our strokes. We have so many matches, tournaments, etc., in the winter when we seem to be striving all the time to win, that our weaker strokes are neglected in favour of those which we know we can do well. Now is the time to practise the others and you will be able to commence the new season with strength and confidence.

Junior International England v. Wales

(New Brighton, April 18th, 1949)

Everyone of the handful of spectators who saw the Junior International match between England and Wales agreed that the standard of play was very high and deserving of better support from the public.

High praise is due to the Welsh lads for the skill they displayed against potentially stronger opposition. Michael Jones (Penart) and Alan Morris (Swansea), their Nos. 1 and 2 respectively, both defeated the English Junior Champion, Derek Ellison and were each a trifle unfortunate to be on the losing side to Louis Devereaux (Torquay). David Edmunds (Aberdare) and Dennis Evans (Newport) gave grand performances as debutants to international table tennis, a fact which will gladden the heart of non-playing Welsh captain, Roy Evans.

Louis Devereaux won both his singles and shared in a doubles win in England's 6-4 victory, but star of the home side was Bill Pierce (Liverpool). On this particular night he was streets ahead of his colleagues and demonstrated it by being the only one to gain decisive victories in his Singles.

Ronnie Baker appeared nervous, but will come again. Ellison may be faulted in that he was prone to get behind the ball to defend wide on his backhand, thus, not only was he caught on the drop-shot through being too far away from the table, but on a number of occasions he could not position himself correctly to take up the attack when the opportunity presented itself.

RESULTS

R. Baker (Salford) lost to D. Edmunds (Aberdare), 21-13, 19-21, 16-21; W. Pierce (Liverpool) beat D. Evans, 21-14, 21-11; D. Ellison (Bolton) lost to A. Morris, 21-14, 15-21, 14-21; L. Devereaux (Torquay) beat M. Jones, 21-18, 19-21, 21-18; D. G. Ellison and R. Baker beat D. Edmunds and D. Evans, 13-21, 21-15, 21-11; L. Devereaux beat A. Morris, 14-21, 22-20, 21-16; D. Ellison lost to M. Jones, 21-17, 14-21, 18-21; W. Pierce beat D. Edmunds, 21-11, 21-10; R. Baker lost to D. Evans, 21-12, 21-13; W. Pierce and L. Devereaux beat M. Jones and A. Morris, 21-15, 21-18.

ENGLAND 6, WALES 4

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Readers' Letters...

Since I was called up I have been lucky enough to get a game of table tennis in almost every one of my many camps, but I have never found such a keen interest in the game as at Salonika. Here we have an excellent table, thanks to the craftsmanship of the German P.O.W.s, on which, in addition to playing frequent tournaments, we are able to keep up continued practice for our matches in the Salonika League. This is an annual competition run by that great welfare organisation, the Y.M.C.A., and is keenly contested by all units in North Greece.

In closing I would like to express my appreciation of the grand job done by all those who make the publication of *Table Tennis Review* possible.

Cpl. HAILES.

North Greece, B.F.G.



I have read with great interest "This Umpiring Business" by Deryck Heaps in your last issue. I am an ordinary club member and also club secretary and an official on the local league committee. I have taken a great interest in umpiring and have had experience ranging from local league matches to National County Championship matches. From comments, I have gathered that my umpiring is satisfactory. I have a good knowledge of the rules of table tennis and use commonsense and discretion when officiating. I fully agree that some board of umpires should be set up controlled by County Associations of local Leagues and some definite procedure should be laid down and strictly adhered to. A brief test should be passed by potential umpires and some certificate of competence given to them by the County Association. The certified umpire would then have complete control of the game (as with a football referee) and his decisions would be final.

At a recent County Closed Championships tournament, I noticed that several players who were asked to umpire said themselves that they were not very good at the job and were not very confident of taking it on. This should never be and would not occur if more attention was given to this business of umpiring.

I agree with Deryck Heaps that no reward or compensation is necessary. The knowledge of a job well done and a word of appreciation at the end is reward enough.

Your writer asks about the new service rule. From my experience as a player and an umpire I should say that only a very small percentage of players send down what could be described as "a good service." Notices and words of warning are not heeded and as things are at present one umpire may pull a player up about his service, whilst another may let him continue. It is extremely difficult to try and enforce the new rule when conditions like this prevail and one can only use discretion and commonsense in this matter when umpiring.

Any scheme for organised umpiring would receive my fullest support and I hope the E.T.T.A. will take some definite action in the near future.

A. J. B. OLDRINI,
Hon. Treasurer.

Matlock and District T.T. League.



I feel I must protest, using the medium of your excellent magazine, at the composition of our Corbillon Cup team. The selection of Miss Franks and Miss Barnes could not have been bettered, but grave doubts exist that Miss Wood and Mrs. Crosbie have ever justified their selection.

Miss Wood is not, as yet, a player of international class and her miserable display against Betty Steventon in one of the earlier rounds of the Lancashire Open, when the Nottingham international hit her all over the table and her recent failure in the finals of the Cheshire Open and North of England Open confirm my view. Her play, generally, lacks that sting so necessary in the top ranks.

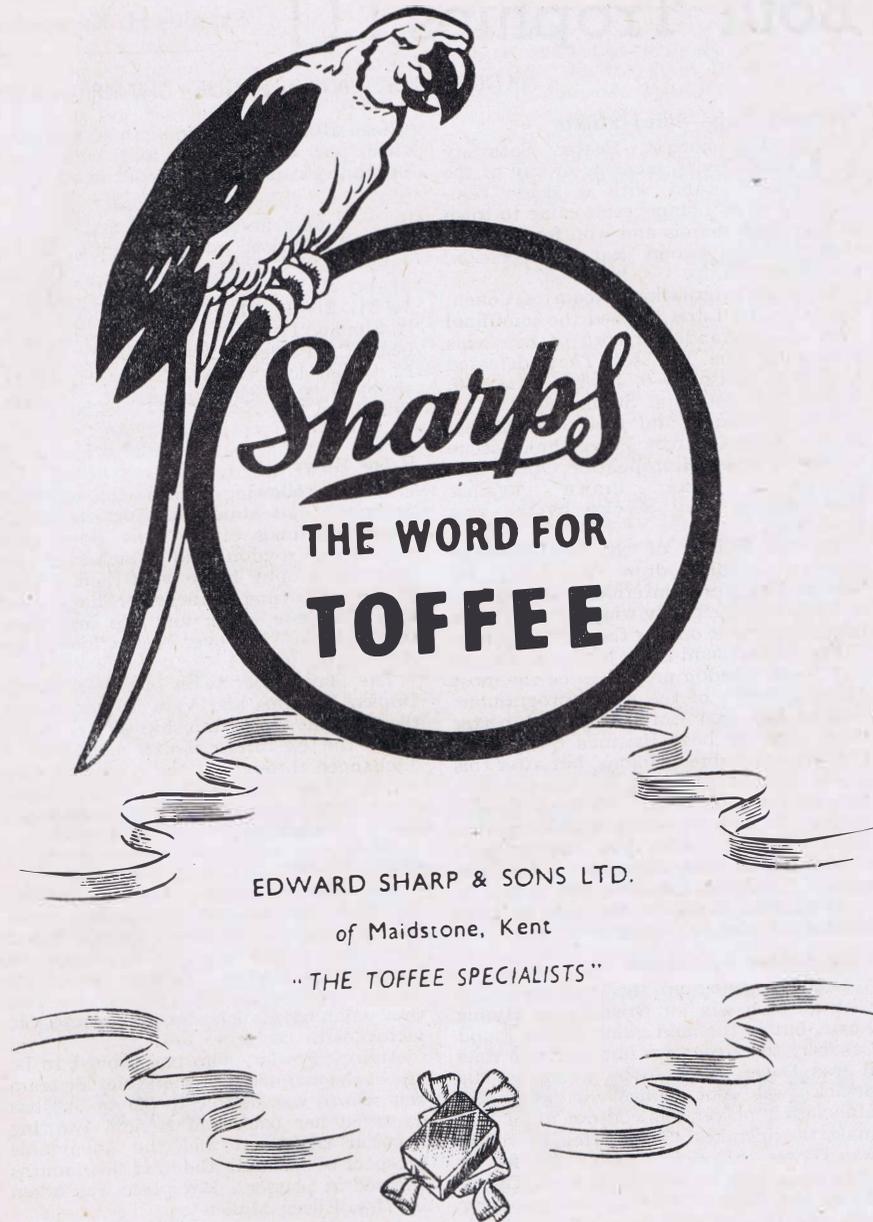
Now Joan Crosbie was defeated in the recent West of England Open by Mrs. Gladys Horn, Salisbury's leading lady player, who possesses a forehand drive of the punch and fire of Vera Thomas. Mrs. Horn has not only been knocking at the door of England for some time, she has in addition, used her left hand to turn the key, so let the selectors withdraw the bolt and let her in.

My team would have been the Misses Franks, Barnes, Steventon and Mrs. Horn.

In conclusion, let me congratulate you on producing a first class magazine. Having read each issue since No. 1, I eagerly await each next issue.

FRANK GEE.

6, Wallingford Road,
Davyhulme, Manchester.



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by _____
Stanley H. Kempster

NATION-WIDE INTER-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wilmott Cup—Semi-Finals

ON the hottest Easter Saturday within living memory of any of the players, and with a shade temperature of 83°, Manchester came to town to play table tennis and won for the fifth time, and the second year in succession, the Wilmott Cup.

Their all-International team of Cohen, Casofsky and Lurie reached the semi-final with an outstanding record of five wins with only one lost set. They defeated Leek 9-0, Nelson 9-0, Birmingham 9-0, Bolton S.S. 9-0, and Staines 8-1.

The semi-finals and final were staged at the Regent Street Polytechnic, scene of the famous Metropolitan Open, and Manchester were drawn against Southampton Civil Service in the first semi-final.

To the delight of the Southampton supporters Muller drew first blood by beating Manchester international L. Cohen but this was their only win, the final score being five sets to one for the Northern side.

The other semi-final between Bristol and South London proved to be the most exciting match of the whole programme. Seldom has Ron Crayden played better than when he beat Bristol's Swaythling Cup player, Aubrey Simons, but after this defeat Simons made up by beating Ron Sharman and J. Head. Veteran Charlie Dawes, old international pen-holder player using a sponge rubber bat, was the hero of the Bristol side, winning his matches against Sharman, Crayden, and Head.

Thus, with a win of five sets to four, Bristol entered the final.

Manchester v. Bristol

Simons opened up the evening's play with an easy win for Bristol over Hymie Lurie, but in the next game Dawes found Casofsky too strong for him and this time it was Dawes' turn to be worried. His attack was not consistent and the Manchester player was content to let him make the mistakes. This match, however, was Dawes only defeat of the day for he continued later to beat L. Cohen. Cohen found the Bristol veteran too good for him and he was unable to cope with his spin and counter-attack.

There was some excitement in the Casofsky v. Simons match. Both players were one game up and the score stood at

fifteen all in the deciding game. Casofsky then put on pressure and with some brilliant passing shots ran out at 21-17.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES (Manchester players first)

H. Lurie lost to A. Simons, 18-21, 14-21; B. Casofsky beat W. C. Dawes, 21-14, 21-17; L. Cohen beat C. Pickett, 14-21, 21-18, 21-7; B. Casofsky beat A. Simons, 11-21, 21-16, 21-17; H. Lurie beat C. Pickett, 21-8, 19-21, 21-12; L. Cohen lost to W. C. Dawes, 18-21, 10-21; B. Casofsky beat C. Pickett, 21-13, 21-12.

Rose Bowl

On the following Saturday, a day just as bright and almost as hot, the semi-finals and finals of the Rose Bowl were played at Croydon, and Manchester also took this trophy home with them. This is the first time Manchester have ever won the Rose Bowl, and the first time the "double" has ever been achieved by one league.

The Manchester team of Adele Wood, Doreen Watkins and Vera Taylor, under the non-playing captainship of Mrs. Scott Hall, the ex-International, had played unchanged throughout the competition in which they had beaten Birmingham, Sheffield, Blackpool and Northumberland, last year's winners.

Semi-Finals

Manchester were drawn against Wembley and Harrow in the first semi-final and it was confidently expected that Wembley would win. The unknown qualities of Doreen Watkins and Vera Taylor however, provided the surprise and they enabled Manchester to emerge the victors with the score 5-1.

Audrey Fowler, who has proved to be one of the mainstays of the Wembley team this season was unable to play. She has damaged her back and is now awaiting hospital treatment and the unenviable prospect of spending the next few months encased in plaster. Her place was taken by Mrs. Eileen Mullender.

As in the case of the Wilmott Cup, the second semi-final proved to be the most exciting of the programme and here again a surprise was caused by a comparatively unknown Croydon team beating Central,

which included England's No. 2 women player, Pinkie Barnes, by a score of five matches to three.

Final

In the final event, the Croydon girls lost some of the initiative they had shown in the semi-final and offered little opposition to the Manchester trio. They did not succeed in winning a single match, although in the match between Miss C. Weightman (Croydon) and Miss Doreen Watkins (Manchester) it was a touch and go affair. With extremely good positional play Claire Weightman took the second game from Miss Watkins and carried the deciding game to twenty-all. Mrs. Taylor (Manchester) in her match with "Nick" Gearing displayed good forehand hit and chop defence, but appeared to lack a backhand chop, a weakness which Miss Gearing failed to use to her advantage.

Daphne Plater played a good game against Adele Wood and held the lead constantly throughout the first game up to 20-18 but was unable to obtain the final point. In the second game Adele Wood played most attractive table tennis.

DETAILS

(Manchester players first)

Miss Wood and Mrs. Taylor beat Miss Gearing and Miss Weightman, 21-18, 21-13; Miss D. Watkins beat Miss D. Plater, 21-10, 23-21; Mrs. V. Taylor beat Miss D. Gearing, 21-15, 21-14; Miss D. Watkins beat Miss C. Weightman, 21-11, 17-21, 22-20; Miss A. Wood beat Miss D. Plater, 23-21, 21-17.

A point that struck me about both these events is the way in which the new service rule is still being ignored. I observed players in both the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl repeatedly serving apparent faults without receiving any warning. In the Rose Bowl one of the players gained a considerable number of points from ace services which in my opinion were very doubtful in that the ball was being hit off the hand. This rule should either be enforced or dropped completely.

England 9, Ireland 0

(At LIVERPOOL, March 11th, 1949)

SCORES

(England names first)

B. Casofsky beat J. Burns, 21-14, 24-22.
Miss M. Franks and Mrs. J. Crosby beat Misses M. Minshull and H. Agnew, 21-15, 21-15.
R. Crayden beat J. O'Hara, 21-10, 23-21.
J. Leach and R. Bergmann beat J. Fox and I. Martin, 21-13, 17-21, 21-11.
Miss M. Franks beat Miss M. Minshull, 21-10, 21-13.
J. Leach beat I. Martin, 21-14, 22-20.
Mrs. J. Crosby beat Miss H. Agnew, 21-14, 21-18.
R. Bergmann beat J. Fox, 18-21, 21-13, 21-8.
B. Casofsky and R. Crayden beat J. O'Hara and J. Burns, 21-11, 15-21, 21-10.

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TABLE TENNIS— What it Costs

by TOM BLUNN
(Chairman, Lancs. T.T.A.)

ONCE again the Editor has asked me to pass comments on the recently published E.T.T.A. accounts for the year ended June 30th, 1948, and I am only too willing to oblige.

Although there is a working loss this year, I find that on the whole I am able to pass more favourable comments than I did last year.

To start with, there is a considerable improvement in the date of publication. The handbooks containing the accounts were generally released about Christmas and the accounts themselves are dated September 27th, 1948, giving a time lag of only three months and publication within six months of the end of the season. Last year it was almost eight months and it would appear that any further improvement lies with the publishers and not with the Treasurer, who has again performed a difficult job successfully.

It is very gratifying to see that the net income from affiliations (£2,122) has, this year, exceeded the total cost of administration, but a margin of £70 is not very much to play with. This margin is most important and only a continued increase in affiliations will maintain it at a substantial level.

The growth of the County Associations is reflected in the increase in County rebates which has taken back 10 per cent. of the gross affiliation fees for the season.

Wages and Travelling Expenses (£1,114) remain at 60 per cent. of the total cost of administration, but it is possible that wages have been kept down owing to the resignation of the full-time paid assistant secretary in January, 1948. In the absence of any details it is not possible to make any further comments.

The total cost of administration (£2,053) this season only works out at sixpence per player per season, which is about three-pence less than the cost last season.

Although the cost of Stationery, Telephones and Postage has risen by nearly £60, the cost of two shillings per club is still quite reasonable and compares with two shillings and sixpence last year, because of the increase in the number of affiliated clubs.

Sundry income has again provided a substantial amount with rebates on the sales of equipment amounting to over £167; although I cannot understand why there has been a reduction of £14 in ball rebates when the number of affiliated

players has risen from 45,000 to 75,000.

The loss on sundry publications is made up of £180 loss on the Handbooks, less a profit of £108 on other publications. As the handbooks are issued free, the cost should really be set off against the affiliation fees and if this was to be done the margin of £70 would soon disappear.

Losses on Big Events

The running of the World's Championships appears to have been a justifiable risk and the loss of £255 is nothing to what it might have been had conditions been unfavourable. As it is, the loss only equals the amount spent the previous season on sending our players to the same event in Paris.

The loss on the English Open Championships is another matter and compared with the profit the previous season there is a difference of £1,000. This is most unfortunate and the northern spectators cannot dodge the blame. Another 4,000 people in the King's Hall, Belle Vue, on the Thursday and Friday nights would have turned that loss into a reasonable profit.

What about these International matches? How is it that they are continually run at an overall loss? Even allowing for the cost of travelling to Dublin, there is still a loss. Surely there is a potential source of income being thrown away each season.

Similar remarks apply to the Europe Cup matches and in particular to the Women's matches where £67 was lost in one match. And this was against Czechoslovakia in London.

The Wilmot Cup and Rose Bowl Competitions continue to make losses and I again stress the necessity for increasing the entrance fees for both these events.

An Investment in Juniors

Having dealt with the actual expenditure, I would like to mention an item that does not appear at all. That is the cost of coaching and junior matches. I know that there is an odd £15 for a junior international against Wales and £24 for the Swedish Juniors' visit, but there is nothing to indicate a national policy for the advancement of junior players. Whilst I admit that there is very little money to play with I think that if the E.T.T.A. were willing to risk losing up to £500 on the World's Championships, a small portion of this amount spent on the juniors would not even be a risk, it would be an investment.

As regards the Balance Sheet, it is again pointed out that nothing is shown in respect of the stocks of stationery, balls, office equipment, badges and trophies and, assuming that there is nothing of this nature included in sundry debtors, this is a prudent measure as a substantial amount will be held in reserve on this account.

Does anyone remember for what purpose the Comity Cup Fund (£30) was created?

The balance of £320 carried forward is not very much to show after twenty-one years of hard work, but it is a reminder that the Association's position is by no means secure and that the hardest work may yet have to come. It may be that the first twenty years have been the worst.

I understand that the plan to form a limited company is going ahead, but these things cannot be rushed and must take its time. But when everything is through the advantages of a limited company will be obvious and enjoyed by all.

SCHOOLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Borden Grammar School of Sittingbourne won the Schools Table Tennis Championship organised by the *Sporting Record* under the direction of Victor Barna. In a closely contested final played on April 16th, 1949, they beat Bournemouth School by three matches to one.

In the semi-finals Borden Grammar beat Rhondda Technical School 3-2, and Bournemouth School beat Oldham High School 4-1.

In his report of the match, featured in the *Sporting Record*, Victor Barna writes as follows:—

"The four schools which reached the semi-finals gave an excellent show and I am sure players like Norman West and Stanley Davies (Bournemouth) Puller and Carter (Oldham), J. Davies (Rhondda), and the Eagles brothers are likely to go a long way. Most of them are still very young—between 13 and 15—and they show every promise, with sound coaching, of training on to reach the highest standards.

"David Eagles is only 13 (and small for his years) but he plays like a demon on the forehand. There is plenty of time for him to strengthen up his backhand.

"One of the Schools' Games Masters told me that the local league had financed all their away matches. A very nice gesture from the league."

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Will Donald Hill, of Dublin, please send his address to the Editor.

In this issue there are a number of articles upon which readers will surely want to have their say. We invite you to send in your views. No payment is made for letters printed under the heading "Readers' Letters" but, if we feel your comments are interesting enough to feature as an article, then payment will be at our usual rate. We specially welcome letters or articles from our growing number of overseas readers.



London Diary

by **BILL PARKER**

A NUMBER of people have remarked to me lately what a splendid venue for the English Open the Baths Hall at Epsom would make. Certainly, this well appointed building has much in its favour which might outweigh any difficulties in travelling from Central London, and the organisers of next season's Surrey Open will not be looking further if they can book the Baths once again.

The West Middlesex (West Faling) and the Middlesex (Herga) Open Championships both created a deal of interest in the Metropolitan area, especially suburban Middlesex. Interesting point at the Herga was the admirable way in which Audrey Fowler coped with the playing schedule and although conditions were hardly conducive to serious tournament play, a happy atmosphere prevailed throughout. The Middlesex (Herga) must be one of the oldest tournaments and it is many years since Maurice Bergl commenced his long run of men's singles successes. These days Maurice takes his Table Tennis a little less seriously.

Most leagues have now completed their programmes and new heads have been crowned, following the various individual championships. Suburban Middlesex was delighted to see the Civil Service men's singles title go to Len Adams, who has had only one full season since his "demob" and at the age of 23 should still improve.

The Lensbury and Britannic (Shell Oil Group) Associated Clubs Tournament, held recently, attracted 187 entries—a splendid result. A pleasing arrangement was the commencement of the Consolation events on the same evening as qualifying competitors made their exit from the main singles events. [This plan was also carried out at the Surrey, Middlesex (Herga), and earlier in the season at the Eastern Suburban Open Championships]. The Lensbury presentations were made by Mrs. Lauder of Hornchurch, better known as that very fine all-round sports woman and T.T. international, Phyllis Hodgkinson, the only woman who could

regularly command a place in a side in the London Business House League senior division. This Lensbury organisation just won't stay out of the limelight—their latest idea is to arrange a "Mixed Doubles Drive" tournament which commences immediately after their A.G.M. and is open only to those entering that evening at 6-30 p.m. A novel way of getting a good attendance at the A.G.M. and then getting through the business quickly!

At the time of writing, the London Business House League Championships, extending over eight days, are in full swing. Competition Secretary, Paul Sommers (Oxo), is certainly making a fine job of running the playing schedule for this tournament, whose conditions are superior to those at most open championships. (The hand of Decker at work here of course!). Paul tells me that he has picked up some very useful hints from former L. B. H. chairman, Bill Lewis (Hay's Wharf), who has now fully recovered from a serious operation which he underwent last year.

By contrast with most bodies, the Central League has just commenced its closed championships on the postal system. Few players like the idea of contacting their opponents each round to arrange a date and venue for one match, which might with travelling, waste most of an evening, and the sooner the organisers can fix suitable premises for later rounds, the better for all—except the organisers.

Juniors in the Metropolitan area have been playing "cut-throat" lately. Morris Isaacs (N. Acton and Willesden) was beaten 2-1 by Colin Russell (Acton), in the Herga tournament men's singles and 2-0 by David Marco (Manhattan), in the junior singles. However, Isaacs had gained victories over Peter Smith (E. London) in the Surrey and West Middlesex tournaments and just deserves to head the list of successful boys. Of the girls, Rosalind Rowe has done enough to be placed before sister Diane, Peggy Piper, and Marion Marston.

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