

# Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 4 No. 1  
SEPT.-OCT. 1949



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**VIEWS**



**HINTS**



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(England No. 1  
Player)





# Johnny Leach

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# TABLE TENNIS

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## REVIEW

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## *Prologue to Page Twenty-two*

**B**EFORE it's too late let's get down to a very important job. Too many players, including internationals, are getting into the habit of cocking a snook at the Book of Rules, and things come to a grim point when flagrant breaches intrude into open tournaments as they did last season. No player should ever forget that there are ALWAYS THREE persons essential to every singles match, and the third person, the Umpire, may be regarded as the most important. What Neville Cardus wrote about cricket applies with even more topical importance to table tennis ; " Without good umpiring there can be no enjoyable matches. The umpire is really the most important factor in the game. A bad umpire can reduce all to futility and ashes in the mouth." Good umpiring is essential to high standards of play and the progressive development of table tennis. To each person with a genuine interest of the game at heart we make an urgent appeal to raise the standards of umpiring in your area. Face the facts honestly. It is not the Laws which are wrong so much as the way they are implemented or interpreted. Bad umpiring is an accelerator to a disintegration of the game, encourages lowering of standards all round and ultimately destroys that side of the sport's financial backing provided by the Audience. The Laws of the game are quite naturally the whole foundation. Knowledge must be intimate and interpretations of universal acceptance. Players should be encouraged to practise umpiring flawlessly during ordinary club games. The secretary of every club has a copy of the Laws of the game in the official E.T.T.A. Handbook and there is no excuse for not knowing them. In presenting his " blueprint " " The Umpire's Guide " Mr. Leslie Woollard does so mainly with the intention of providing a code of uniformity for the whole country. He cordially invites readers to help him in his task—in fact he earnestly hopes you will do so. He asks you to send in your views or to submit queries relating to the Laws of Table Tennis. Such queries will be clarified in Part Two of the series in our November-December issue.

*The Editor invites readers to submit articles for consideration. Every assistance will be given to would-be contributors and MSS. need not be typed.*

# DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA



Thelma Thall

On September 4th the American Corbillon Cup player Miss Thelma (Tybie) Thall was married to Norman Harvey Sommer of Scranton, Philadelphia. They met when she was conducting a table tennis school on May 1st of this year. They are to spend a honeymoon in the Pennsylvania Mountains and then go to live in Columbus, Ohio. Tybie and Norman certainly have our good wishes but like many other table tennis fans we sincerely hope this does not mean we have seen the last of a very popular star.

The well-known treasurer of the Manchester League, Pop Marsden, tells us that it cost their league £8 1s. 4d. to win the Wilmot Cup and £19 7s. 3d. to win the Rose Bowl. If you are new to table tennis you will not need to be told which is the women's event. Women always were an expensive hobby—bless 'em!

We hear from South Africa that play at Johannesburg is affected by the altitude. At 5,500 feet above sea level the game is much faster and they suggest that in order to get a "sea-level bounce" the ball could be made heavier or that the pressure of air inside the ball be increased.

A table tennis team from the Racing Club of Paris, consisting of Haguenauer, Amouretti and Agapoff will be visiting Barcelona this month.

Many young male enthusiasts all over the country have been playing some hard games during this hot summer and it is more than likely that our next Swaythling Cup team will feature some new names . . . or at least it should do! Junior international Ron Baker of Salford tells me he has

played Derek Ellison of Bolton about 150 games and Ron claims to have won well over 100 of them. Ron Allcock now free of his uniform has been showing form which should bring him his first "open" during the coming season, while three young top rankers, new into their uniforms, were fortunate in finding themselves all together at a Hoylake R.A.F. camp. They are Douglas Shaw (Manchester), Michael Thornhill (Middlesex), and Sonny Forest (Bradford). Unfortunately the camp's only table was a tongue and groove affair with wide cracks.

During the summer we hear that Joyce Roberts of London has been polishing up exceedingly well on her backhand. She whipped Pinkie Barnes in two straight games to take from her for the first time the Central London Closed title. Another young lady, Dorothy Banks of Crewe, has been making good use of the summer season by receiving coaching from Stanley Proffitt. In addition Dorothy has been getting in some good practice with Adele Wood and other leading Manchester players.



Johnny Leach

In a summer tour of Sweden Johnny Leach played in an open-air match against Tage Flisberg. It was an exceptionally windy day but much to Johnny's surprise, apart from a few points which were spoilt by occasional gusts of wind, they were able to play some good table tennis which thrilled a crowd of 4,000 people. There was one particular freak return which raised a laugh. Flisberg made an apparently winning smash which found Johnny well out of position, but a kindly gust of wind came and turned the ball so that the world champion was able to make a rather lucky return and so completely bewildered Sweden's No. 1.

On November 19th and 20th the first Nordiske Table Tennis Championships will be played at Copenhagen. The Nordiske Table Tennis Union consists of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark.

The E.T.T.A. have warned all Open Tournament Organisers that they should see that a high standard is kept so far as conditions of play, etc., are concerned, otherwise the sanctioning of the tournament might be called into question next season.

The Blackpool League had started ambitious plans for an attractive Blackpool Open to be played at Squires Gate Holiday Camp during the illuminations period. Johnny Leach and other well-known internationals had promised to compete but unfortunately the Yorkshire Open was arranged for October 15th, the only date which was convenient to the Blackpool people. Naturally Yorkshire had first choice, their's being an established tournament.

The E.T.T.A. Executive Committee report that the phenomenal progress of the past few years is due in no small measure to the untiring energy of the Honorary General Secretary Mr. W. J. Pope, who, year after year works in a devoted and unselfish manner for the good of the game.



Jack Garrington

The Ministry of Education have stated to the E.T.T.A. that it would be possible for them to consider a grant being made for the purpose of appointing a National Coach. They said that if they were satisfied with the concrete scheme which it was necessary for them to receive, they could make a grant of 80% of the salary with a maximum of £640 per annum paid to a National Coach, and also grant £50 for administration. The work of the coach would be to train local players and it was not the idea that the National Coach should be used to train individual players. Consideration is now being given as to who is the most suitable player for the job and names being mentioned are Victor Barna, Jack Garrington, and Tommy Sears.



On July 21st, English Swaythling Cup player Benny Casofsky was married to a Manchester girl, Miss Rita Spicer. Benny still intends to play just as much table tennis, but business engagements will keep him from taking part in events abroad.

A South African correspondent writes that the official rules of the game define the bounce of the ball but ignore such things as glare and speed of the table. He suggests that it might be possible to set definite limits for (a) coefficient of friction between ball and table and (b) reflection coefficient of light from the playing surface. He goes on to say that if these were incorporated into the official rules there would not be such wide variations among tables as found at present. Any comments?!

During the first two weeks of October, four English players and two women are to tour Czechoslovakia. The team will be accompanied by Mr. A. K. Vint, Hon. Treasurer of the E.T.T.A. Johnny Leach will not be available and Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann will still be out of the country. The team therefore, is likely to consist of Ron Sharman and Aubrey Simons and possibly two of the top ranking younger players. Peggy Franks is almost certain to be captain of the ladies team.



# WIN THAT MATCH

"Table Tennis Review" is proud to announce having secured the right to publish First British Serial Rights of extracts from Sol Schiff's book "Table Tennis Comes of Age" (Rich & Cowan, 7/6d.). This is the first of a series of five articles. Make sure of receiving every copy of "Table Tennis Review" for the coming season.

## PART I ON DEFENCE

DEFENCE is boring at times, but it's essential to sound play. Be patient for a little longer, practise, and you can step in to the attack with the feeling that, "Well, if these drives don't go on the table, I can fall back on my defence and chop."

I'm assuming that you have become fairly steady off both forehand and backhand, that you shift your feet and stroke correctly, that you are rarely caught out of position, that you can switch from backhand to forehand, and that you can cover those fast shots to your body.

Now for the fine points of defence. You have learned to keep the ball in play and make the shots. Possibly you have never realised how much backspin you can get on the ball, and how much you can worry the driver by varying that amount of spin from stroke to stroke. Chop hard at times, lightly at times, and you make him change his driving stroke to meet your varied chops.

### Heavy Chop

Well, how do you go about putting an excessive amount of backspin on the ball? You get the maximum amount of chop when the ball passes over the greatest possible surface of the rubber face of the racket. It's perfectly obvious, isn't it, that you're going to get a great deal of chop if you catch the ball near the bottom edge of the racket and smear it up and across the top edge? The longer the ball remains on the racket face the more spin will be imparted. And how do you keep the ball on the racket face? In this manner: by following along with the wrist after the initial moment of impact and thus prolonging contact and adding that extra "bite."

A very delicate touch is necessary to use the wrist properly in making the chop. You must not bring your wrist into play too soon or your sense of direction will suffer. You must bring your wrist into play only at the initial moment of contact



SOL SCHIFF

*Table tennis as a half volley game, played close to the table, is only a hobby—to be played by a few, to be watched by a few. But table tennis, played like lawn tennis, with stroke technique, with drives, smashes, and chopping returns made from twenty feet behind the table, is a sport—to be indulged in by many and be watched by thousands more. And as a sport players must appeal to the spectators with a spectacular type of play.*

with the ball, and you must bring it forward, pressing on after, keeping contact between racket and ball and in the same line of flight. Don't let your wrist trail weakly off to one side. Bring it forward, firmly and straight.

Putting that wrist into the shot requires a very delicate sense of timing and months of practice, but it is well worth the time spent.

Victor Barna fooled the attacker time and time again by using clever wristwork. Particularly on his backhand, Barna varied the spin so well that on one shot he would give a skidding, breaking ball that scarcely rose from the table, and on another shot he would have a normally bouncing ball with very little spin.

Remember to keep your balance. Stay up on your toes, ready to go to one side or the other, ready to dash forward to recover a short shot played just over the net or to dash back to pick a hard smash out of the air. Take small mincing, dancing, steps whenever possible. They move you into better position and keep you from overbalancing. And never set your feet firmly in one spot. Be prepared to move quickly for the stroke that is coming.

### Stiff Chop

I'm going to make a suggestion as to how you can modify your original topspin drive to meet with the emergency of an extra-heavy chop.

First of all, about your wrist. In your normal topspin drive you have held it fairly firm and have been careful to keep it cocked in the strongest natural position, so that the blade of the racket was always above the wrist. Now I want you to change that somewhat. Drop your wrist and point your racket slightly downward. This ball you are getting ready to hit isn't going to bounce up any too high and you must be prepared to get down to it.

Now what change has this made necessary in your stance? By lowering your wrist and racket you have made it quite natural to let your arm fall down closer to your body and straighten out a trifle. This stroke isn't going to be taken as far away from the body as the normal stroke.

As the ball comes over, watch it very carefully. Be prepared for the skid that it will take. Keep your wrist limber and, when the ball gets close to your right leg, hit up on it with a jerky movement and a quick turn of the wrist.

With this stroke you are trying to produce enough extra topspin and lift to throw the ball into the air and over the

net without at the same time throwing it right off the other end of the table. So you see, excessive lift is essential. A quick wrist action combined with the brisk upward movement of your arm—upward almost exclusively rather than forward and then upward, as in the normal shot—should turn the trick.

Watch that ball as it moves upward and then bends and curves downward again. Watch the hop that it takes when it lands. If you have made the stroke correctly and the defender isn't very careful it will take such a hop that it will often hit his hand rather than the paddle. It is a difficult shot to execute, but well done it causes the defender plenty of trouble. And if he isn't careful the excessive topspin may force his next return high in the air. Then you step in and smash.

### Smash Hit

The smash, and it should be made on your forehand side in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, is simply a kill shot used on a ball that bounces unusually high. Every forehand drive you hit would be a kill shot if you took off that topspin and flattened it out. You put on the topspin for safety, in order to play aggressive shots off low-bouncing balls. But now you're going to take it off entirely because now, in dealing with the smash, you're going to get balls that bounce much higher than the net. They're going to bounce so high, in fact, that you can hit them straight down on to the opposite side of the table without bothering about the net at all.

Here comes a high-bouncing ball, tossed near the middle of the table. You want to step in and smash it. Assume the same position as you did for your regular forehand drive. Bring your racket back, forward, and through, hitting the ball as flat as possible.

You're trying to hit really hard now, so remember no upward movement of that racket. Bring it right straight through, shifting your weight from the right foot to the left foot as usual, and curb that natural rise of the arm which puts on the topspin and slows up the shot. Your arm isn't going to finish up over your head here in this stroke. It's going to finish right straight across your body.

### IN THE NEXT ISSUE—

On sale November 5th, Sol Schiff writes on "Use of the Half-Volley—The Right Way to Practice—Advanced Play."

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## TABLE TENNIS REVIEW BACK NUMBERS

The only copies available are those belonging to Volume 3, Numbers One to Five. Price 1/- each, post free. Complete set of Volume 3, 4/- post free. Apply above address.

# Meet Mrs. Johnny Leach

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Interviewed by PEGGY ALLEN ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JOHNNY LEACH has had lots of limelight since his triumph in Stockholm last February but have you ever wondered just how it feels to be a world champion's wife.

Mrs. Leach (Daisy to you) is one of quite a large family and for some years she was employed by a printing firm in Barking, Essex. Also on the staff was a certain lithographer's apprentice, a young man by the name of Johnny Leach. In due course, Johnny joined the R.A.F. and they were married in 1943.

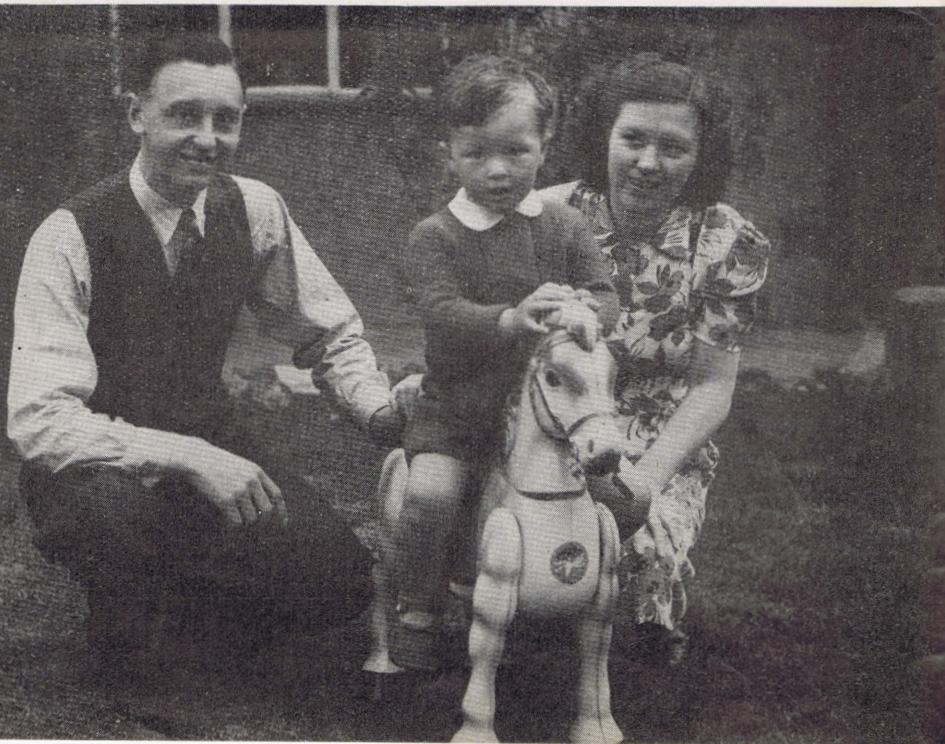
There are some things one can learn about Daisy just by looking at her, and one of these is her complete naturalness. I can't remember when I talked to anyone so modest and so genuinely free from any trace of snobbishness. She is still the shy, unspoiled girl Johnny married and in her attitude towards the game she is the complete and perfect example to all table tennis wives. She will tell you that she married Johnny knowing of his love of table tennis and even though it has meant constant loneliness, especially since young John was born, she has always maintained the atti-

tude that he *must* play, he *must* travel and he *must* reach the top. Well, this year she has reaped her reward, and if you ask Johnny he will tell you with pride that Daisy's help and understanding has been the biggest single factor in helping him to become the 1949 World Champion.

The Leach's semi-detached home in Morden is as bright as the proverbial new pin and this in spite of young John who is a plump, fair, healthy, mischievous boy of three. By the way, I think he resembles his mother very strongly, but I hope Johnny won't be too hurt at my saying this—I understand it is quite a sore point with most fathers!

Daisy went with Johnny to Sweden for the world championships and the final night was as you can imagine, the highlight of her trip and she will tell you that Johnny's triumph that night was the greatest thrill of her life. She sat between Elsie Carrington and Barbara Sharman for the great match and I am told her self-control was amazing. Just imagine how you would have felt in the same position. So much . . . so very, very much depending

THE LEACH FAMILY—JOHNNY, JOHN AND DAISY



on one five-game match! Well, he won, as the world quickly learned, and every player in England must have felt his heart leap at the news. I remember I was ironing when the announcement came over the radio and I felt so jubilant, so thrilled to know that our own friendly, unassuming Johnny was the new world champion. How can we possibly imagine how Daisy felt!

From an unknown suburban housewife, she had become the wife of a celebrity overnight. Reporters clamoured to ask her where they lived, how she felt and what Johnny enjoyed doing at home!

She is wonderfully proud and very happy even though she knows that she will now see even less of him than before. Sometimes he is away seven nights a week, which means that she sits at home alone, quietly knitting, night after night with young John asleep in bed. She has not had time to make many friends in Morden since they only moved there in February and their respective families are too far away to visit them frequently.

I asked her the usual questions about how Johnny first began to play, what he liked to eat, if he had any superstitions regarding his game and what was his ambition now. These are the replies she gave.

Johnny's first games, at the age of 12, were played at the club belonging to his father's firm. He used to worry the members there to play with him and now these same men boast that they once played with the present world champion in his youth!

His favourite food is chips—I repeat—chips! He would eat them for every meal if Daisy would provide them, and incidentally he always eats a large meal before a match, maintaining that there is no stamina without food.

Daisy couldn't think of any superstitions at first, but she remembered that he *did* insist on playing in the same shirt throughout every round of the world championships which meant that it had to be freshly laundered each night.

Lastly, his ambition now is for England to win the Swaythling Cup and it is typical of Johnny that his ambition should be a collective one for the glory of his country rather than a single ambition for himself.

This then completes the picture of a quiet, happy typically English family. Johnny the table tennis player, chubby young John and his attractive mother whose only regret is that he is too young to appreciate the pride and thrill of being son of Johnny Leach, 1949 World Champion.

## The U.S.A. Expedite Rule

*The Server shall be permitted to hit the ball twelve times, including the service stroke and if all such strokes are safely returned by the opponent one point shall be scored by the opponent. The service shall alternate after each point when the rule is in force.*

Whenever a style of play is judged to be uninteresting and threatens to upset the schedule of other matches, the umpire's duty is to call a "let" and to notify players before the next service that the game will then proceed under the above rules.

This is the method by which the Americans have successfully wiped out "ping pong" and the International T.T. Federation now urges all countries to try it out.

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## Know Yourself . . .

Answer these questions truthfully by placing a mark against (a), (b) or (c) and then refer to page 32 and learn what others think of you.

- When arriving at a tournament venue what is the first thing you do :—
  - Find the dressing room and change without delay ?
  - Take a look at the draw to see who you play ?
  - Report your arrival ?
- At a tournament you discover conditions are far below what should be expected, do you :—
  - Let everyone know you are disgusted and vow not to enter that particular tournament again ?
  - Complain strongly to the Tournament Committee ?
  - Shrug your shoulders and feel that it is the same for everyone ?
- You go to a table to play a tournament round and find that no umpire is on duty. Do you :—
  - Go and find an umpire yourself ?
  - Take advantage of his absence by having a really good knock-up ?
  - Have a slight knock then report to the Referee's table ?
- Having been knocked out of an early round, do you :—
  - Seek a change of surroundings and go to some local place of amusement ?
  - Settle down to watch the remaining competitors fight it out ?
  - Volunteer for umpiring ?
- Your umpire in a match is obviously inefficient allowing your opponent to serve faults and also makes scoring blunders. Do you :—
  - Complain to the Tournament Committee and ask for a new umpire ?
  - Ask the umpire to retire then find a new one yourself ?
  - Come to some mutual understanding with your opponent and plod on making the best of it ?
- You are umpiring a match and give a decision which you yourself doubt after hearing the spectators and player contesting your decision. Do you :—
  - Give way to the majority view ?
  - Stand firm and insist on your decision being accepted ?
  - Call a let and ask for the point to be played again ?

## YOUR SEASON'S DIARY

Sept. 24-25 ...	East of England Open (Skegness)
Sept. 30-Oct. 1 ...	North Midland Open
Oct. 15 ...	Yorkshire Open (Bradford)
Oct. 20-22 ...	Birmingham Open
Oct. 29-30 ...	Sussex Open (Hastings)
Nov. 5 ...	Hull Open
Nov. 10 ...	Ireland v England (Belfast)
Nov. 12 ...	East Suburban Open (Ilford)
Nov. 19-20 ...	South of England Open
Nov. 30-Dec. 3 ...	Merseyside Open (Liverpool)
Dec. 2-3 ...	Pontefract Open
Dec. 3 ...	Bournemouth Open
Dec. 5-10 ...	Herts. Open
Dec. 9-10 ...	Welsh Open (Cardiff)
Dec. 16 ...	England v France (Wolverhampton) 1950
Jan. 2-7 ...	Metropolitan Open
Jan. 19-21 ...	Lancs. Open (Manchester)
Jan. 22 ...	Kent Open
Jan. 23-28 ...	South London Open
Jan. 29 ...	Southampton Open
Jan. 29-Feb. 5 ...	World Championships (Budapest)
Feb. 9-11 ...	North of England (Manchester)
Feb. 13-18 ...	Middlesex (Herga) Open
Feb. 23-25 ...	Midland Open
Feb. 27-Mar. 4 ...	Surrey Open
Mar. 4 ...	Yorkshire Junior Open
Mar. 4 ...	Cheshire Open (Chester)
Mar. 11 ...	English Open
Mar. 18 ...	West of England
Mar. 25 ...	Grimsbay Open
April 1-2 ...	Bucks Open
April 8-10 ...	North East England Open
April 12-14 & 17-22 ...	West Middlesex Open
May 1-6 ...	Thameside Open

Tournament Secretaries are asked to send to the Editor a small supply of Entry Forms. Readers will be supplied with these upon application. Please enclose postage.

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"Off-hand Johnson, I'd say it was just a teeny bit too high !"





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*Smash hits*



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# TRINIDAD TABLE TENNIS

By JACK THOMPSON

(Ex-Tournament Secretary, Lancashire T.T. Association.)

IN this island of Trinidad in the British West Indies table tennis is played practically the whole year round, but the game is still in its infancy and is not likely to make much headway until better equipment is brought to the island. First-class matches (inter-colonial) are played on a table made of tongue and groove boards covered with quarter-inch plywood. There are only two of these tables, one for the North and the other for the South. (If only some kind gentleman from the old country would send us one!)

Players and officials are keen and the table tennis clubs are situated in the two main towns, Port of Spain and San Fernando. The smaller villages are difficult of access, many without bus routes and electricity and water supplies. We have no long summer evenings as at home. It goes dark at 6-30 p.m. and by 6-40 p.m. it is black. All this makes it easily understandable why table tennis is restricted to the two towns.

The standard of play of the top eight players would compare with a Lancashire County second team. The players have little opportunity to improve, the only interchange of matches being between British Guiana, Barbados and Jamaica. Our only real hope is of some players coming out here.

### Farcical Match Play

Watching a match in Trinidad is very different than at home. The spectators give the impression that they can all play far better than the couple at the table and they never hesitate to tell them what to do. Encouragement is shouted liberally while a game is in progress. Woe betide if a pair of defensive players get together for they then get "boos" and derisive laughter in no uncertain manner, and, in the midst of all this the umpire must try and concentrate!

I have umpired quite a number of matches but I am much too strict for them. I have been in many a discussion through my interpretations of the rules. After their slipshod ways I am afraid I shook them at first, but since I joined their Association it has been decided that all matches should be organised and run in the correct manner.

Until I came they did not count a volleyed ball. The player concerned would stop it to save bending down for it. Not that I blamed them in some respects—

games are played in a temperature of eighty to ninety degrees. In such a hot climate you can imagine a player's condition after the first ten points. He is simply wet through. Everybody sits around drinking soft drinks and mopping their faces incessantly.

### Good Publicity

Except for the President and myself all members of the Association are coloured, made up of Negroes, Indians and Chinese. Committee meetings are just the same as at home and they usually last from 4-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

Since news is very local (there are two dailies) we get plenty of publicity and at every meeting the reporter is always at hand for "press releases." Radio Trinidad is ever ready to assist, and since we have sponsored programmes we generally beg fifteen minutes from one of the stores in the city. Since I have been here I have done two broadcasts.

Last year we were represented in the Swaythling Cup and there has been some talk of sending a team to Budapest.

ASK TO SEE . . .

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# BARNA and BERGMANN in AUSTRALIA

By ROSS STRANG

("Table Tennis Review" Australian Representative)

VICTOR BARNA and Richard Bergmann, together with their wives, landed in Freemantle, Western Australia, on July 13th, and commenced what has certainly been the most outstanding table tennis tour which Australia has yet seen.

Upon their arrival things looked "black" in more ways than one for the whole tour. Strict lighting restrictions were in force owing to the coal strike, and for their first exhibition match at Freemantle emergency lighting had to be installed. Then to make things more difficult a tremendous storm swept over the blacked city, but even that did not keep three to four hundred people from packing into the hall.

After an exceedingly bad start things improved rapidly and the matches at Perth drew great crowds. Then followed a 1,400 miles journey over the treeless Nullabar Plain to South Australia. Two matches were played in Adelaide where the English players had a wonderful reception.

With the strike over and lighting and transport back to normal, they began to play to packed houses of three and four thousand people. From Adelaide, car and coach loads of enthusiasts followed them to the next two towns. Ron Jones, the hard-working Secretary of the Australian T.T.A., who was mainly responsible for the perfect organisation of the tour, said that Barna and Bergmann had to be seen to be believed. I spoke to Mr. Jones who quoted Barna as saying that the standard of play in Australia had improved since

his last visit in 1938, and that he considered Australia could easily field a Swaythling Cup team capable of defeating at least half a dozen of the countries now playing.

After a week's tour of Tasmania, which included an international match resulting in five events to nil for England against Australia, came the high spots of the itinerary, to be played at Melbourne, Victoria. Melbourne is the home of Australia's largest association, and three consecutive nights were booked at the famous Wirth's Olympia. On August 10th, England played Victoria. The Victorian team included Dr. Walter Lowen (ranked Australia's No. 1), Reg Summers (Australia's No. 3) and to partner Summers in the doubles match, H. Bashford. The result was an easy win for England of five matches to nil. During the evening a mixed doubles match was played between Victor and Susie Barna and Richard Bergmann and Australia's Evelyn Nichols. Evelyn acquitted herself well but the Barnas won 2-1.

This was Mrs. Barna's only exhibition in Australia but the newspapers gave her prominent space describing in detail her playing attire and quoting a full length interview.

## Test Match

On the following night at Wirth's Olympia came the much awaited event—the one and only Test match in which Barna was to meet once again his old friend and Hungarian team-mate Michall Szabados. In the past, 1931, 32 and 33, the two players had met in world singles finals, Barna winning two of the events and Szabados one. The last time they played together was in 1936. In 1938 Szabados went to Australia where he married a Melbourne girl and settled down in table tennis business in Sydney.

The Australian team for the Test match was M. Szabados, W. Lowen and R. Summers and the play opened with Szabados playing Bergmann. Bergmann won in straight games but the standard of play left nothing to be desired.

Wirth's Olympia was packed to overflowing and hundreds were turned away.

Dr. Lowen played exceedingly well against Bergmann reaching 20 all in the third game. In the final game Barna beat

Photographs  
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Advertiser"

VICTOR  
BARNA



Szabados in three straight games but it was generally agreed that Szabados had acquitted himself well.

Scores.—R. Bergmann defeated M. Szabados, 21-16, 21-14, 21-15; V Barna d. W. Lowen, 21-14, 21-6, 21-15; Bergmann and Barna d. Szabados and R. Summers, 21-6, 21-15, 21-16; Bergmann d. Lowen, 21-16, 21-10, 22-20; Barna d. Szabados, 21-12, 21-17, 21-19.

## Melbourne Open Championships

On the third night at Wirth's Olympia, Quarter-, Semi-, and Finals of the City of Melbourne Championships were played to another full house. The seeded players, Bergmann, Barna, Szabados and Lowen, won through to the semi-finals. Lowen again played at his top form but could not take a game from Bergmann, but in the other semi-final Szabados proved to be in terrific form. It was a ding-dong struggle with Barna leading up to 15-14 and then Szabados fighting grimly to level at 15 and 16 all. Barna smiled as he took off his pullover, but Szabados was also smiling confidently, and well he might for he ran out at 22-20.

The second game was just as brilliant as the first but the character of the game changed. It was noticeable that Barna did not use his backhand flick nearly as much. During the first game it had failed to penetrate Szabados' brilliant defence. Szabados took the lead at 8-7 which he increased to 16-12 but Barna came up to 16-17. Barna had difficulty in holding the terrific drives of his opponent and Szabados took the score up to 20-17. As the events were only the best of three games it seemed that the game was almost won, but with marvellous concentration Barna won three points to level at 20-20. The crowd held

their breath. First point to Szabados. Szabados began driving and Barna retreated away from the table. As Barna chopped back a return it appeared to be clearing the table and the umpire excitedly called "Game to Szabados!" The ball dropped down to touch the end line and though Szabados made a good return the umpire called a "let." The third service saw Szabados open with a series of terrific forehand smashes. Barna managed three absolutely marvellous returns but the fourth went into the net ending a match that will go into Melbourne T.T. history. The applause shook the roof. If only it had been the best of five games, what would have happened?

In the final between Szabados and Bergmann more brilliant table tennis followed and though Bergmann won, 21-18, 21-18, the scoring kept level on many occasions. A number of times Szabados caught the nimble footed Bergmann with clever drop shots, but one time Bergmann raced in to smash home a winning point from a drop shot. Bergmann's win can be attributed to his forehand attack which passed the Szabados defence in a manner not achieved by the Barna backhand.

Other exhibition matches were played at the Sydney Stadium before the English players left for their month's tour of New Zealand.

The tour has given table tennis a new level of publicity in Australia. The newspapers gave the various matches generous space and the tourists gave two broadcasts. In addition several mentions were given by other radio sports commentators.

(Continued on page 19)

RICHARD BERGMANN



# TABLE TENNIS

## *Comes of Age*

by

SOL SCHIFF

With an Introduction by

The Hon. Ivor Montagu

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## BOOK REVIEW

TABLE TENNIS COMES OF AGE. By Sol Schiff (Published by Rich & Cowan, 7s. 6d.). Here is a book from which every table tennis player can benefit to some extent, be he or she beginner or advanced. There are 140 pages plus forty action photographs and the volume is bound between attractive and strong board covers. The hard hitting American Swaythling Cup player, Sol Schiff needs no introduction to table tennis fans. The year 1939 found Sol right among the world's top rankers, then came the gap of the war years. What that gap cost Schiff from the angle of table tennis titles nobody will ever know, but in his book he gives invaluable advice which will certainly help others on their road to the top. We asked a Junior International what parts of the book he had found most helpful and he replied that he had read it all twice but there were two particular chapters that he considered "smashing," one being entitled "Tactics" and the other "Win That Match." Schiff writes in a clear and intimate style and his dominating purpose is to teach a spectacular type of game which will thrill both player and spectator alike. We quote from the book: "*Table tennis as a half volley game, played close to the table, is only a hobby—to be played by a few, to be watched by a few. But table tennis, played like lawn tennis, with stroke technique, with drives, smashes, and chopping returns made from twenty feet behind the table is a sport—to be indulged in by many and be watched by thousands more.*" For the good of table tennis we feel that those lines should be displayed in huge letters in the halls of all tournament venues.

### AUSTRALIAN TOUR

(Continued from page 17)

Dances were held in honour of the visitors and receptions were given by the Mayors of various towns. What particularly impressed us was the neat appearance of the visitors, their wonderful showmanship combined with ability, the ever-present smile of Victor Barna and the droll humour of Richard Bergmann. The magnificent footwork of both players won the admiration of all and wherever they went their clever clowning in exhibition games was thoroughly enjoyed.

## TRY EXPEDITE RULE

INTERNATIONAL T.T.  
FEDERATION REPORT

I.T.T.F. Financial position satisfactory. New affiliations accepted: Chile, Spain, Israel (in place of Palestine). Austria to be permitted to play with neighbouring German Clubs. Anyone who wishes to be permitted to play with Japanese players; application from Japan to be reviewed after one year. All I.T.T.F. Officers to have a card of identity designed to admit them to table tennis events everywhere. Handbook next year to be in German; supplements only to be published in English and French. I.T.T.F. journal with international results to be investigated as a possibility. Europe Cup competitions to be abandoned after this season. Lighting—recommendation for 40 foot-candles over table, 20 up to edges of an area 8 metres long by 4 metres wide, 5 outside that up to full World Championship size of court, and 2 by reflection from nearest surface of ball at table end (all foot-candle power measurements at table height). Research to be undertaken on variations of bounce with various table surfaces, materials, floors, etc. Roll call showed great increases in membership of many countries, the largest recorded now, being England, 110,000; France, Sweden, 20,000; Hungary, 15,000; New Zealand, 11,500; Ireland, Czechoslovakia, 10,000; Wales, 9,000. World Championships next year, Budapest, January 29th to February 5th, 1950-51 option to Austria. 1951-52 to Netherlands. Thereafter requests (in this order) from Czechoslovakia, England, Ireland, France. Resolutions passed deploring failure of countries generally to try out U.S. "expedite" instead of time-limit rule to stop slow play, and U.S. proposal for white clothes. Strong request repeated to all countries to try these out. All countries now permitted to allow white in everything except World Championships, and international matches where both sides are not agreed. Modification of wording simplifying service rule (see elsewhere on Agenda) and Knotty Point to match (deleting "or dropped away" and "up or down") page 14 of the I.T.T.F. Handbook. Mr. Montagu re-elected President and Chairman of Advisory Committee, Chairman of Rules and Equipment Committees, and member of Ranking Committee, Mr. Pope, Secretary, Mr. Vint, Treasurer (without vote) and Mr. Wilmott, Secretary of the Equipment Committee.

(From E.T.T.A. Circular),

19

## OFFICIAL WORLD RANKING LIST

Table Tennis Provisional Ranking lists issued by the Ranking Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation. These lists are compiled on the basis of play in the 1948-49 season for guidance in seeding in the World Championships of the following season.

### Men's Singles :

1, J. Leach (England); 2, B. Vana (Czechoslovakia); 3, F. Sido (Hungary); 4, J. Koczian (Hungary); 5, R. Miles (U.S.A.); 6, M. Reisman (U.S.A.); 7, F. Soos (Hungary); 8, I. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia); 9, R. Bergmann (England); 10, G. Amouretti (France).

### Women's Singles :

1, Miss G. Farkas (Hungary); 2, Miss P. McLean (U.S.A.); 3, Mrs. A. Rozeanu (Rumania); 4, Miss K. Hruskova (Czechoslovakia); 5, Miss G. Pritzi (Austria); 6, Miss H. Elliot (Scotland); 7, Miss M. Franks (England); 8, Mrs. L. (Thall) Neuberger (U.S.A.); 9, Miss E. Fuerstova (Czechoslovakia); 10, Miss M. Shahian (U.S.A.).

### Men's Teams :

1, Hungary; 2, Czechoslovakia; 3, U.S.A.; 4, England; 5, France; 6, Sweden; 7, Austria; 8, Yugoslavia.

### Women's Teams :

1, U.S.A.; 2, Hungary; 3, England; 4, Czechoslovakia; 5, Rumania; 6, Belgium; 7, France; 8, Austria; 9, Scotland.

*Adele Wood has been keeping fit during the summer with swimming and outdoor sports. During August, she again began concentrated table tennis practice.*



## WHEEL-CHAIR TABLE TENNIS

By EDWIN G. VOLLER

IT may be of interest to some people to know that table tennis can be played from a wheel-chair. I have been paralysed from the waist down for five years now, and for the last three I have enjoyed several games of table tennis a week.

When I mention this fact I am often regarded as trying a leg-pull. Some people seem to think it incredible that anyone in a chair can play such an active game—indeed, I used to think so myself until I tried.

I must admit I was a keen player before I became disabled. After my injury, however, I regarded my return to the game as pretty hopeless, but, being keen, my fingers still itched to get hold of a bat.

One day I decided to have a go. I persuaded a friend to come to the club early so that we could get in some practice before the members arrived. If I was going to make a mess of things I wanted to do so in secret!

My friend wheeled me up to the table, and I started to serve. Fortunately I have a long reach, but this didn't stop the first ten or so services going into the net. Then

I got more used to the angle of play, and the game progressed. In this manner I practised for several weeks, improving slightly each week.

Soon I had enough confidence to appear in public. Playing against different opponents added considerably to my game, and gradually I got back some of my old form. Being unable to move back from the table—except for a few inches—was naturally a disadvantage, but I got used to it. I learnt just when to chop, and how to adapt my shots to my position. I think my backhand even improved. Besides all this, the exercise was good for my back muscles, weak after a long spell on my back in bed.

So it goes. I am bound to admit that even after three years of practice I am still below the average player in technique and everything else. But that doesn't matter much. The fact is that I can get in a game—something I once thought impossible—and so can other "corks" if they like to put themselves out!

*It doesn't matter how you look at it,  
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# A PRACTICAL GUIDE for UMPIRES

By LESLIE S. WOOLLARD  
(Sec. Bedfordshire T.T.A.)

## PART I—What is a Referee or an Umpire ?

AN "Umpire" is, literally, a third person chosen to decide, to enforce rules and settle disputes. The word comes from an old French word meaning "peerless"! An Umpire is therefore the person who ensures that a match set is played in accordance with the Laws of the game. Once appointed, the Umpire becomes vested with plenipotentiary status for that match. For that period he should be regarded as an officer representing, in effect, not only the E.T.T.A. but also the great International Federation, and his status and dignity is at this point greater than any other person in the vicinity, and no one therefore has power to remove him from control of that match unless at the express wish of the Umpire himself.

Any decision given by the Umpire on any question of *fact* is ABSOLUTELY FINAL. There is no appeal against it. Note that this is the *only* instance in the game where there is no appeal (as far as I know, other than one referred to later), and this heavily emphasises the outstanding importance and responsibility of the Umpire, AND, indirectly, the total responsibility of the officials appointing the Umpire in the first case. It must be made quite clear, that when officials appoint an Umpire they never question his decision on points of fact, and whatever their private opinion they must always back the officer.

A Referee is an arbitrator. That is, a person to whom any dispute is to be, or is, "referred" for decision. As far as the actual match play is concerned, the decision of the Referee on any *question of interpretation of rule* arising shall be final. The sphere of the Referee is, however, much wider, since he is responsible for conduct, conditions, mode of play, etc., (as in accordance with tournament or match rules). Essentially, therefore, the Referee must be a firm, tactful and authoritative person who has graduated through every grade of umpiring. He is something of a super Umpire, competent to answer any "Twenty Questions" on Law, Rule, Condition, and especially qualified on interpretation and precedent.

No appeal can be made against a Referee's ruling on a question of interpretation of the Laws of Table Tennis, but an appeal *can* be made, to the authoritative committee, against any ruling on any

question outside the Laws (e.g., match conditions, local rules, etc.). In any team event, the appeal should always be lodged by the team captain. In an individual event, by the individual. An appeal should preferably be in writing, with the names of any witnesses, etc.

Note especially that the authority of an Umpire lasts *only* for the period of the tie for which he is appointed under the Referee; the authority of a Referee, however, can extend over a period such as one evening for a whole match or a fortnight to cover an entire tournament.

### Equipment

Although strictly not within his province, I strongly recommend any Referee or Umpire appointed for an important match, etc., to always take his own "Toolbag"! Under present conditions this is an imperative necessity. Suggested contents are: Net check, 6 in. (broad protractors are excellent). 10 ft. length of good quality string (for doubles). Chalk. Two or three sharpened pencils. Tape measure. Copy of the Laws of Table Tennis. Copy of Rules and Regulations applying to the match. Copy of programme or schedule. Three or four tested match balls. Score cards (or substitute). Some of these items, such as the last two, may appear superfluous, but experience suggests that these are the minimum requirements for the Umpire's "brief."

### Preliminaries (Before the Match)

Referee responsible for checking table measurements, run-back, conditions, and equipment, etc. Umpire will check net, ensure ball is good and satisfies players; will have a score card and two pencils (at least); ensure that the right opponents are to play and that their dress and equipment is in order; will ensure that line judges and checker in position; where time limit rule in operation that a clock is on table with face to players.

### The Match

(Some of the points mentioned in preceding paragraph and the following are more fully dealt with subsequently).

1. Within your discretion permit a *short* knock-up. This is mainly to let players satisfy themselves that ball, table, and conditions are satisfactory, and to make any complaint or appeal AT THIS STAGE.

2. The Toss. I personally favour ball-under-the-table method, but this has been abused, and the Laws quite clearly state a *toss*. Visitor should be allowed to call.

3. Announce the match clearly and, where necessary, identify each player for benefit of audience. State briefly who is playing who, best of so many games, e.g., "A. Smith of Grubbs versus B. Bloggs of Worms. Best of three games."

4. If time limit rule, note time on score card.

5. In position and players ready, announce the "off" by calling loudly, "LOVE ALL."

6. Call *server's* score first, e.g., "6-3."

7. At change of service, call thus: "3-2 (Change) service, 2-3."

8. In match point games, NEVER call "Deuce" or "Love All." There is no "deuce" in table tennis and "love all" means what it says, only possible at the beginning of a game. There is only ONE correct way, covered in this manner: "20-19," "20 All," "21-20," "21 All." etc., reversing each score (except the "Alls") as in paragraph seven for each alternate service.

9. At end of game as players change ends, announce the state of the match, e.g., "Smith wins first game 23-21. Second game, Smith serving, LOVE ALL."

10. In a deciding game (other than a straight win) when score reaches 10, call thus: "10-7, Change Ends, Smith serving, 10-7."

11. At end of deciding game, announce result fully and clearly, winner first: "A. Smith of Grubbs beat B. Bloggs of Worms, 21-14, 17-21, 21-18" etc.

12. Sign score card and return, with ball, to Referee.

### General Notes

Know the Laws inside out. Get all the experience and practice you can. Never permit argument. Be confident, firm and absolutely impartial. Make your decision as promptly as possible, and once made stick to it. Line judges, when appointed, have final power of decision on points of *fact* within their province, and in applicable cases the Umpire should refer to them before making a decision. In *all* doubtful cases, declare a "Let." The Umpire *must* be completely satisfied, and even the best can be unsuspected occasionally.

The Umpire has a double duty: (1), to players, and (2), to spectators.

He should call promptly, clearly and correctly, without any special inflexions, and with NO variation from the standardised terms and words. Those who have heard Wimbledon Umpires (even on the

radio) will have an excellent guide. Everyone in the hall should hear the score, but while the umpire controls the game, he must do so without obtrusion. A kind of impartial remoteness. No unruly disturbances must be permitted from audience.

The calling of the score is in effect your signal that you are ready, and also a warning to both players to be ready. Caution players who "try to beat" the count. It is important that *both* players should hear score before serving, therefore, do NOT call score while ball is being retrieved; pause until the retrieving player approaches the table and *time your call so that it never holds up the game for a moment*.

At times of audience inattention, such as opening of match or after a burst of applause, always call somewhat louder than normal. Experience will give you the right pitch for various halls. Keep the chin up and use the lips well for clarity.

It is unwise to umpire either just before or just after playing, but this occasion should not arrive in any important event.

It has been found an excellent innovation to have a small seat-ladder for the Umpire, and a checker seated at a table at his side. The elevation, though slight, carries the voice above the surrounding heads and promotes self-confidence in the Umpire.

An Umpire must go on determined to concentrate *solely* on the match, using ears as well as eyes. Concentration and the confidence of experience will reduce "flusters." If you do get flustered don't let the players stampede you. Hold up the game a moment, check with your checker, get agreement from both players, and reorientate yourself from there. Forget all about the mistake. Everybody has made them.

It helps to keep the score card in the hand of the side serving, and changing accordingly. If the game is held up for any reason, note down the position of the game at the time of suspension. The back of the score card is very handy for notes, which is a practical safeguard for doubles matches.

An Umpire is an Officer of paramount importance to the game, and although every enthusiast should be able to umpire efficiently, table tennis has reached the state when Certificated Umpires are urgently desired.

SEE NEXT ISSUE OF  
TABLE TENNIS

On sale early November  
Part 2: Knowledge and Interpretation of the Laws.

# ELIMINATE TRAMPS FROM TABLE TENNIS

SAYS SAM KIRKWOOD

As the author of the plea, "Why not wear white in table tennis," alluded to by Mr. A. R. Miller in his article which appeared in the May-June issue of *Table Tennis Review*, I must take up the cudgels once again on behalf of dress reform.

Mr. Miller starts off by asking if I have considered the disadvantages of compelling all table tennis players to appear in white. I have, and I am honestly of the opinion that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. The writer of the article conflicting with my views continues: "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."

I suggest that one of the reasons why preliminary rounds are not supported by the public lies in the shoddy appearance of the majority of competitors. I do not pretend that this is the main cause for the lack of support, but I do think it is a point well worth chewing on.

Mr. Miller contends that it is difficult to keep whites clean in a tournament, which is (to use his words) "usually a dirty, sweaty business, played sometimes in dusty halls." Surely a white shirt can be changed during a tournament, just as coloured shirts are changed now by the more fastidious? As for white trousers, shorts and skirts, here I say that table tennis is not quite the dirty business it is alleged to be. On the contrary, being an indoor game it is comparatively clean. Players sweat at times, but rarely are their lower regions affected. The obstacles Mr. Miller raises here exist only in his own mind, I'm afraid.

## Pride in Sport

Footballers, rugby players and other outdoor sportsmen turn out in clean and uniform outfits on even the wettest of days and muddiest of fields. Not for them the attitude, "Oh, we'll only get dirty anyway so why bother with clean stuff." Why? Because they and those in charge of them take a pride in their personal appearance and know that paying spectators would

not tolerate soiled and mixed raiment. Do T.T. men and girls lack pride in their looks—or don't they care? I refuse to believe that Mr. Miller speaks for the majority.

However, his article continues: "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.' I refer the writer to his own words, "necessary regimentation." I like regimentation no more than the next person, but I realise that sometimes it is essential to the well-being of myself and the community.

I resent the insinuation that my advocacy for a general smartening up is a wish for dictatorship in table tennis. Every major sport has its set clothing regulations, yet no-one to my knowledge has called the authorities responsible for this "fascists" or "communists."

Mr. Miller seems to be perfectly content for our game to be run on "democratic" lines, meaning that players should continue to be given a free hand to wear what they like, when they like, and wherever they like, no matter what the general effect may be.

"Wimbledon snobbery"? There is nothing snobbish in having beautifully clad men and girls please the eyes of those who watch them—and incidentally, them-



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selves. If there is, then I say quite openly that it's time T.T. developed a snob complex.

## Too Many Lack Taste

I couldn't agree more with Mr. Miller when he says that "the whole question is one of taste." The trouble is that too many players lack taste—which is the very reason why I am such a strong pleader for compulsory white wear.

The article in question concludes with this sentence: "Perhaps we are also to have our bats stuck with white rubber to make the proposed uniformity complete." To this flippant throw-off I say in all seriousness: "Why not if it will help to make us look less like a collection of tramps and more like athletes?"

The headline to the article reads, "Why not bowler hats?" I'll tell you why. Because bowlers would look silly, and in any case toppers would be more appropriate. Let us keep our sense of good taste. Yet, come to think of it, some players would never get a hat of any sort to fit them . . .

## American Report

However. For the benefit of those who agree with Mr. Miller in what he says, I take this opportunity of repeating that in America white is now compulsory. More, it is popular with players, as well as with spectators. May I quote what my friend

the editor of *Table Tennis Topics*, official U.S.T.T.A. magazine, wrote me not so long ago:—

"There has been a very marked increase in smartness . . . Players are reacting to their New Look rigouts and show it in their play and behaviour . . . It is a pleasure to go into a hall and see neat men and girls, all dressed cleanly and uniformly . . . This reform, so it has been proved, was long overdue."

I have spoken to several leading players and most of them agree that the game needs a dressing up. The most famous of those players, Victor Barna, told me that he had been advocating white for years. He does not want compulsory white kit, but maintains that those who want to wear it should be allowed to do so. He agrees with me that clothing at tournaments leaves a lot to be desired. Another potential dictator!

From many intelligent quarters I have gathered that our shirts and shorts and socks and shoes, of varying colours and degrees of cleanliness, are not considered good enough for the country's greatest indoor sport. Our Mr. Miller's may be content with things as they are, but the more aesthetically minded are of the view that it is more than time our table tennis authorities made a move to catch up with 1949, and that they took steps to prevent sloppy Joe's and Joan's disgracing our halls.



The New Toms' Tournament Table pictured above is now available from J. G. Toms, 18 Norbett Road, Arnold, Notts. Price £30 carriage paid. (Advt.)

# South American Championships

## Miniature of Stockholm

By F. OLAZARRI (Chilean International)

The South American Championships played during June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was certainly the best tournament ever to be held in this continent. The organisation was perfect and the Brazilian players who played at Stockholm last season confirmed it to be a World Championship Tournament all over again, only of course in miniature. Conditions were ideal, both English tables and balls being used.

At this event wooden bat and pen-holder players began to feel the turn of the tide and all these types of players suffered defeats at the hands of open-grip players. G. Pisani a top-class player who has used a wooden bat for 40 years was favourite for the Singles event until eliminated by the promising Rozmanich, who has found a sound defence and a hard forehand attack.

### Dull Final

In the Men's Singles Argentine had the good luck to have two players in the final where Cosentino beat Lancelota in three straight games. Both players are defenders and in the team events they were beaten by two Chilean players and one Brazilian. Really I did not think they deserved their titles. Lancelota doesn't enter among the first ten players in South America and except for the first round he met no good players until the final. In the first round he beat Pazdirek, but only because that player had serious trouble with his spectacles. The final was exceptionally bad and the "twenty minute" rule was a great relief. In one point the ball passed over the net 857 times.

In the Men's Doubles the best Chilean pair Pazdirek and Olazarri were beaten in the second round by Rozmanich and Lancelota (Argentine). With his spectacles broken Pazdirek could not see so well and played much below his normal level. The Brazilian pair, Pisani and Ventriglia carried off the Men's Doubles title beating two fellow countrymen Midosi and Boderone in the final by three straight games.

In the Mixed Doubles Pazdirek, with a new pair of spectacles, played brilliantly winning the title along with Miss Iris Verdugo, also of Chile.

The girls from Chile met no serious rivals and took all the titles. Marta Zamora (Champion of Chile) did not lose a single game throughout the whole tournament and in the Women's Singles she beat Iris Verdugo (Chile) in two straight games. The two girls then went on to take the Doubles event.

In the team events Brazil won the Cup beating Chile in the final, while the Chilean girls won the women's team cup with great ease.

Generally speaking, the Argentine players are defensive, while the men from Brazil only try to attack. For that reason I feel that Chile, who produce a much more "all round" style of play give greater promise for future events of this kind. Severo and Midosi and all the best players of Brazil have decided to forsake their old-fashioned pen-holder style, but how many years must elapse before they will reach the same level of play as the new generation of Argentine and Chile. There they have a headache.

### A TRAINING CAMP FOR HUNGARIAN PLAYERS

THIS year the Hungarian T.T. Association celebrates its Silver Jubilee. In a report on 25 years progress the Secretary, Dr. Gyorgy Lakatos, stated that many thousands of young people had taken up the game since the liberation. Before the war there were 1,000 clubs affiliated to the Association—now there were 2,800 with 30,000 members. There were also 28 County Associations. Result of this increased interest in table tennis was shown in the Hungarian successes at the World Championships held at Stockholm.

This month the Budapest Championships will be held in which Czech and Rumanian players will compete. The Balaton County Championship will also take place. Preparations for next year's World Championships to be held in Budapest are already under way.

During July a training camp for 40 young Hungarian players was opened at Csepel. Thirty thousand players took part in a contest to pick the best players for this camp, these being chosen by a committee of seven headed by the Hungarian T.T.A. Secretary Dr. Lakatos.

# Readers' Views . . .

## DIPLOMAS FOR UMPIRES

By E. F. CHRISTOPHER  
(President Bristol, Gloucester T.T.  
Association)

I WAS interested in the article by Fred Mather in one of your last season's issues and I do feel that this matter of efficient umpires requires urgent and careful attention. I have advocated on several occasions the desirability of the E.T.T.A. granting diplomas or certificates to umpires who pass a written and oral test. The standard of umpiring could be improved in many cases, especially in respect of Doubles where the service is often outside the imaginary line and yet how often does one hear a "fault" given? I consider that the E.T.T.A. should add a law that a "Service Umpire" must operate in Doubles in addition to the normal umpire.

No doubt the audience would appreciate a certain amount of showmanship, so why shouldn't the umpire be dressed in a sports shirt with say the E.T.T.A. "Umpires" badge attached. It would also be desirable if he could be sat on a seat 2 ft. higher than the table.

Reverting to my diploma or certificate suggestion, I consider that examinations could be held by each County body, the examiner being appointed by the E.T.T.A. Perhaps three grades could be instituted. Grade three to act in secondary matches, grade two for inter-town fixtures, and grade one for any match or tournament, which would include World Championships.

If such a plan was brought into being, I feel the players would have greater confidence, and he would be a very brave man to question the decision of a grade one E.T.T.A. diploma holder.

Getting away from the question of umpiring, I often think what little reward the average official—Secretary, Chairman, Treasurer, etc., receive other than the satisfaction of doing something for the game. The player who excels can earn his colours, town, county or international, and he receives the plaudits of the crowd. I don't wish to appear snobbish where badges are concerned, but personally I should be proud to wear one. Look at most League Secretaries. They put up with all the kicks but rarely receive any tangible recognition for their services. I do feel that there is a need for a service medal or badge to be given to those who give unselfish administrative service to the game of table tennis.

## EXEMPTIONS IN TOURNAMENTS

THE practice of granting exemptions to certain players in table tennis tournaments seems to me to be an unfair business altogether. I am writing to you because it would be interesting to know the opinions of some of your readers on this subject.

To quote one example, take the last Central London Open Championships. In that particular tournament no less than 16 players received exemptions from rounds 1, 2, 3, and 4, out of a total of 222 entries in the Men's Singles, they did not start playing until round 5. This is a ridiculous state of affairs especially when round 5 represented the last 32 of the event.

Also in the same tournament, 3 players were granted exemptions from rounds, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Men's Junior Singles event. They started playing in round 6, which represented the last 16 of the event.

Two reasons were given for granting the exemptions quoted above:—

(a) The players had to travel long distances from the North of England.

(b) Various other reasons (no details available) which the tournament committee considered warranted such action.

Strangely enough a number of the players exempted were London players also quite a large proportion were well-known star players.

I do not think for one moment that the Central London tournament was run in an unfair manner, at the same time these exemptions in table tennis tournaments should be brought to the notice of the public and the rules should be thoroughly investigated by the E.T.T.A.

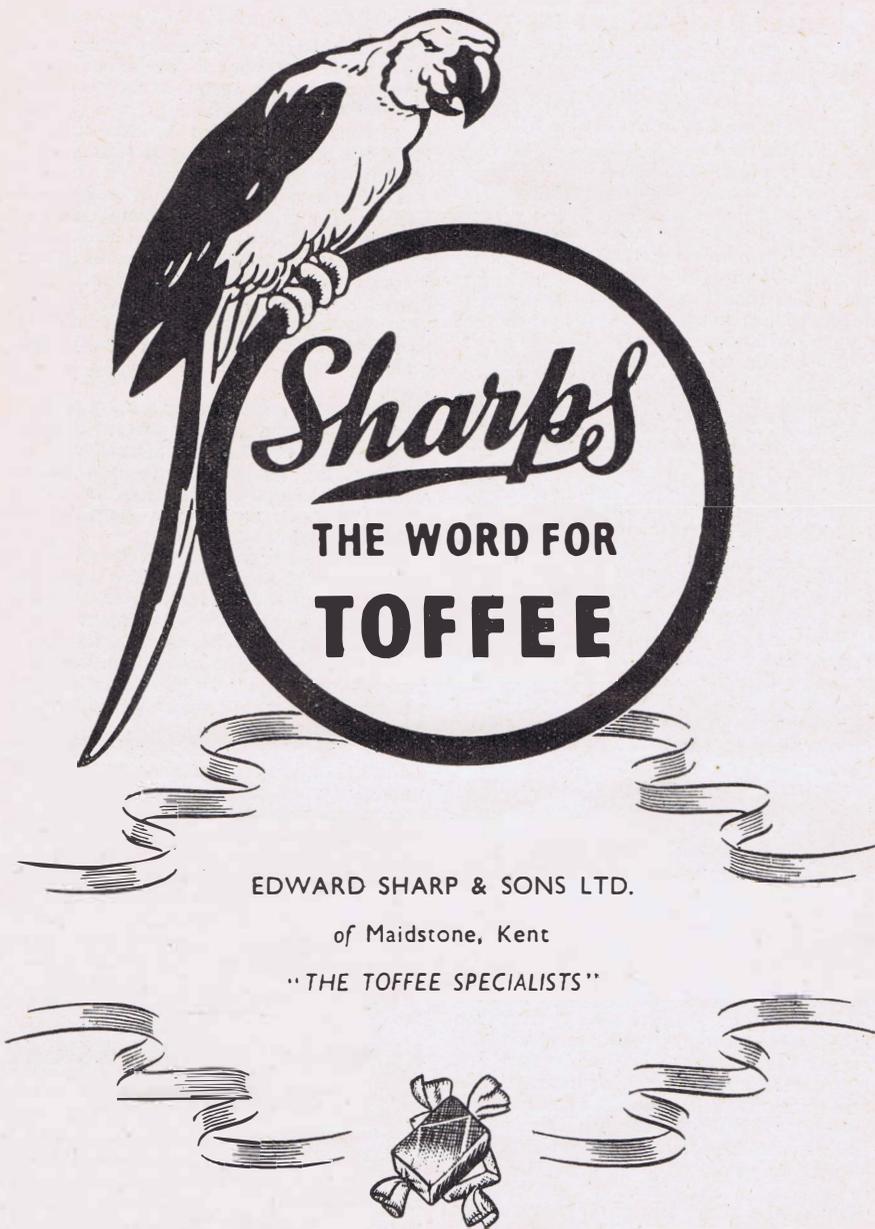
Surely exemptions should never be allowed in any tournament.

Star players should always start from the beginning the same as everybody else.

D. OAKENFULL.

## LEAGUE HANDBOOK COMPETITION

Judges are still considering entries and we hope to announce the winners in the next issue. Final selection to be made from the handbooks of Liverpool, Bradford, Wembley, Bridgnorth, Acton, Worcester, West of Scotland, Bedford, Hartlepoons, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Manchester, Cheltenham, Nottingham, Retford, Mansfield and Crewe.



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## CHAMPIONS v. THE REST

THE commencement of the 1949-1950 table tennis season finds the National County Championships now spread over an additional five counties with a total of some 37 teams participating.

The success of these championships after only two years of county competition is remarkable and the enthusiasm displayed has necessitated the formation this year of two further divisions in addition to a junior division.

The constitution of the Premier division remains as last year. Yorkshire were in danger of losing their position in this division when they were challenged by Cheshire, leaders of the Northern division, but they successfully withstood this attack and by defeating Cheshire 7-2 in the special challenge match avoided relegation to a regional division.

Despite Yorkshire's lowly position in the Premier division the enthusiasm in the county is such that three teams from the White Rose county are being entered this year. One team, drawn from the whole county, will be playing in the premier division, a team from the North and East Ridings will play in the Northern division and a team from the West Riding will be included in the new North Midland division.

The Northern division is now composed of Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland and Yorkshire (N. and E.) and the transfer of Cheshire, Lancashire and Lincolnshire to the new North Midland division will ease the travelling difficulties which have sometimes been experienced by these teams.

Of the three teams who last year formed the special supplementary division, Derbyshire and Leicestershire are now joined by Cheshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire (W.) to form a North Midland division.

In the East a new East Anglian division has been formed incorporating two new counties in Norfolk and Suffolk together with Cambridgeshire and Middlesex who last year played in the Home Counties. This has reduced the Home Counties division to Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex and Hertfordshire, but the programme has been strengthened by the inclusion of Berkshire, another new county.

The Southern division again comprises Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

It had been hoped to form a Western or South-Western division this year and

enthusiastic support was forthcoming from Devonshire. However, the geographical position of this county, coupled with the lack of interest shown by the surrounding counties has rendered this impossible at present. An attempt is being made to include Devonshire in the Southern division but this will depend upon the willingness of the other counties in this division to undertake the long journey to Devon, unless other arrangements can be made.

The Junior division is drawn from the more southern counties and will comprise teams from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey. They will play under the same regulations that govern the senior matches. This Junior division is an entirely new innovation and is the direct result of a resolution passed at the recent A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. The enthusiasm with which this Junior division has been received augurs well for the future of table tennis and will provide a high standard of competitive play under championship conditions for the leading juniors in each county.

### First Major Event

The first major event of the new season's programme will be the long-awaited challenge match between the Champion County and the Rest of England. It was originally intended to play this match at the conclusion of last year's programme but unforeseen circumstances caused a postponement and it was decided to leave the playing of this match until the new season commenced rather than attempt to stage it out of season. This special challenge match, which attracted so much attention last year, will again be televised and will now be played on Friday, October 21st, at the Paddington Baths. Added interest will be caused by the decision of the County Championship Committee to stage, as an experiment, part of this match in white clothes.

The Rest of England will be represented by World Champion Johnny Leach (Essex), Benny Casofsky (Lancs.), Aubrey Simons (Glouces.) and Peggy Franks (Essex) playing the singles matches while Peggy Franks and "Pinkie" Barnes (Surrey) will play in the Women's Doubles and Bobby and Jean MacKay (Warwick) will play in the Mixed Doubles.

(Continued on page 32)

# THIS POOR PRESS PUBLICITY

An Open Letter to Mr. F. Mather.  
From N.U.J. Member

TABLE tennis wants more publicity! Its popularity demands it. Apart from the thousands of players actively engaged, the sport has a vast reading public almost the equal of cricket. Yet comparison between the amount of newspaper space given to cricket, whether county, league or club, outweighs the publicity meted out to table tennis in the columns of the national newspapers.

Yes, Mr. Mather, I agree, but before your points are permitted to sink too deeply let us look for a reason. There must be one. Newspapers to-day want news. Table tennis is full of news, but unlike most other sports the best stories in the game are strangled at birth. All too many officials and players have their own journalistic fields to serve with "exclusives."

While securing publicity in one direction this practice tends to impose an unofficial, though no doubt unintentional, form of censorship on news for the national Press. National newspapers want stories when they break—not secondhand news.

No Mr. Mather, much of the root cause for the scant amount of publicity the game receives in the north requires the application of a remedy table tennis has in its own hands. Let the E.T.T.A. take a hand. Tell them that the Manchester offices of the national dailies have separate printing and editorial staffs working independently of London. Have your news issued simultaneously to both London and Manchester, not to specific southern publications and cold shoulder the rest. Make it a general release.

Criticise your arrangements for accommodating the Press at your tournaments. Study the conditions a reporter has to work under. Single handed he may have as many as 14 tables providing him with results, all of which have to be filled as the tournament is in progress and the telephone maybe a half-mile distance down the road.

Wembley World Championships and the English Open were handled under ideal conditions. Every facility was there and the coverage of both events was world-wide and most satisfying. But what of local tournaments? Not even a chair, let alone a table is made available. This has been my experience and I have been frowned on by non-journalist players and officials for doing my job.

In our May issue we printed an article by Fred Mather criticising the Press for its poor publicity of table tennis. Here we have the reply of a professional pressman.

Ginger your officials up, Mr. Mather. Encourage the Press. Give the newspapers advance notice of your events and an invitation to attend—you'll get the publicity. Have a press steward to assist the reporters in collating the facts and make all results readily available in a prominent position where they cannot be monopolised by a select few. I have had to take a back seat in this respect on more than one occasion. It impedes progress and is not conducive to the best of tempers with the time factor playing such an important part in the circumstances.

Don't think I tar you all with the same brush, however, for I have many friends only too willing to give me more than the assistance I require.

Incidentally Mr. Mather, remind me to send you a copy of the *Sporting Chronicle*. They gave table tennis more space last season than the whole of the other Manchester nationals and provided the build-up of Adele Wood that led to both the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Mirror* featuring her.

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## In Search of a Laugh . . .

### PROGRESS REPORT

THERE is no doubt that our club's overwhelming success in the recent league game against the Bright Boys of Burleigh was due to the way I treated the match from the beginning.

Not that I wish to take all the credit for introducing a diet of beans and nettles to the team, although this of course was a vital part of our training. The idea of beans first came to me when I read Food Ministry pamphlets telling me all about the vitamins they contained (the beans not the pamphlets). My immediate thought as team manager was "Give 'em beans!" and as I wanted the chaps to speed up their play, I made it runner beans.

The idea of nettles came to me from a Nature Lover who confidentially told me she had lived on herbs for 50 years. I didn't know Herb, but I knew Tom Jones, and he had some in his back-garden, so I was alright. I was sure, after this testimonial, the more nettles the team had the more points they were likely to get. And I was not disappointed. Shortly after having their first nettles they were stung into action.

Twice a week I also took them down to the seaside to take the ozone, and in my generous manner paid all travelling expenses, actually a penny bus fare each way.

Once on the promenade it was a simple matter to erect a table-tennis table on the top of somebody's low saloon car, and get down to practising in the open air. The game would wax fast and furious until the owner of the car returned, and then he would wax furious. This enabled us to get in any amount of extra running practice, and it was nothing to see Jim Pullinger, our No. 1, tearing down the prom. with half a table tennis table balanced on his head. No easy feat, as the lady with the corns said.

The ordinary running practice consisted of a 5-mile trot every other day. I am proud to admit I covered exactly the same distance as the members of the team, the only small difference being that I did it on my bike.

There is no doubt that all these things contributed to our overwhelming success. The one small point I have not mentioned—in fact, it is hardly worth mentioning—is that the Bright Boys' first team went down with flu, and they were consequently forced to field a reserve side.

E. G. V.

## KNOW YOURSELF TEST

The questions were designed to discover whether Tournament Secretaries welcome you to their competitions. Award yourself marks as follows:—

Question 1.

(a) 1 mark (b) 0 marks (c) 3 marks

Question 2.

(a) 0 marks (b) 1 mark (c) 3 marks

Question 3.

(a) 3 marks (b) 0 marks (c) 1 mark

Question 4.

(a) 0 marks (b) 1 mark (c) 3 marks

Question 5.

(a) 3 marks (b) 0 marks (c) 1 mark

Question 6.

(a) 0 marks (b) 3 marks (c) 1 mark

If you have 16 to 18 marks then to an organiser of a tournament you are the ideal competitor. You have a well balanced head on your shoulders, but most Tournament Secretaries don't believe you exist. Polish up your halo a little.

If you have 11 to 15 marks then you are a fairly average type of competitor. Now and then you are inclined to be a little troublesome and rebellious, but on the whole you contribute to the success of such events.

With marks between 7 and 10 it is likely that you are young or inexperienced. Buck up your ideas and remember that tournaments are not run for your special benefit.

Are you below 6 marks? Well, at least you have been truthful, but brother or sister, you ought to be shot. Wherever you go you are quite definitely a pain in the neck to all officials. Are you quite sure that T.T. is your game? There are lots of other splendid and thrilling indoor games each one of which wouldn't be a bit pleased to see you.

(Continued from page 29)

The Middlesex team has not yet been announced but it would appear that, on last season's form, the team will probably be selected from Bernard Crouch, Ken Craigie, Dennis Miller, Geof. Harrower, Joyce Roberts and the Rowe twins. The absence of Victor Barna, at present touring Australia and New Zealand with Richard Bergmann, will make a big difference to the Middlesex team and I cannot see them beating this strong "English" side. However, table tennis is a most unpredictable sport and the results of games depend so much upon the temperaments of the individual players that the Champion County may well achieve the "impossible."



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