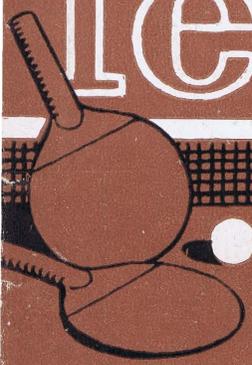


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 4 No. 5
JUNE-JULY 1950



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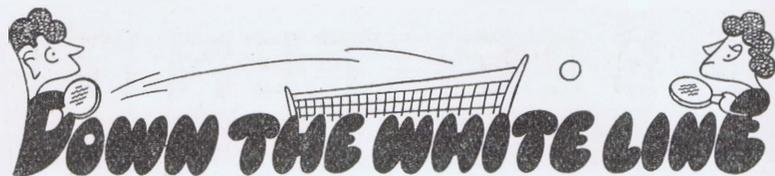
Vol. 4 No. 5

JUNE/JULY, 1950

One Shilling

A British Empire Championship ?

WITH the rapid progress of table tennis in the countries of the British Empire the time is almost ripe for a Team and Individual Empire Championship. We have such organised events in other sports, why not in table tennis. Here in England we have a splendidly developed Association and a wealth of playing talent, so surely there is something we can do to help fellow Britishers to foster the game in their own particular country. The Communist nations are now busy arranging tournaments and championships between themselves and in seasons to come we may not see as much of their stars as we should like. Remember that for a second year the English Open at Wembley had no Hungarian or Czechoslovakian competitors. This loss could be offset by another premier event—a British Empire Championship. If an Empire T.T. Federation was born its immediate total playing strength would be in the region of a quarter of a million playing members. It's worth more than a seconds thought. Each season there is an influx of leading English and foreign players into countries like Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and the West Indies, and the time may soon arrive when these countries will be capable of putting up a stern fight in an international contest. Added to which we should have the high playing standard of the Indians and no doubt an attractive team from Canada. We believe that one day such an organisation will be formed. Is this the moment to do it? There are now numerous readers of this Magazine in Empire countries and we should welcome your views. More especially would we like to hear from the Official bodies overseas. But as you ponder over such a grandiose scheme remember one particular obstacle, namely the unfortunate position of South Africa. At present South Africa cannot be admitted into the International Federation because that country makes a distinction between its white and coloured races. Not a happy situation particularly as South Africa is now certainly ready to try its strength against other countries.



DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

During their U.S.A. tour Leach and Carrington were greeted at Detroit with a huge bat bearing the words, "Welcome to Johnny and Jack." There was a display of the flags of the two countries and among the notables present was the British Vice-Consul, the Hon. Alexander Sinclair. Also present was a coach load of juniors from the teen-age section of Acorn Post 1669, V.F.W. (the V.F.W. stands for "Veterans of Foreign Wars.")

* * *

Victor Barna recently received a telegram which read: "All members of Norwegian Table Tennis Association at annual meeting wish to send you their heartiest greetings when you now give up your active table tennis playing. Thank you for all you have done for our sport."

This is typical of the many telegrams and messages he has received from America, Finland, Hungary, Austria, and countries throughout the world. Officials, players and spectators everywhere have expressed their regret that the Maestro has given up competitive singles play, and in terms of the deepest affection and greatest esteem acclaim him as the greatest genius ever to hold a bat and the man who has done more

for the sport than any other individual.

Victor finds it impossible to thank personally everyone who has written him, and through the columns of *Table Tennis Review* wishes to say how touched he is by every message and how much he appreciates the kindness of his well-wishers.

* * *

On finals night of the *Daily Mirror* nation-wide contest there was also an International Invitation Trophy event. Haguenaer of France was in brilliant form and beat Leach, good and proper, in two straight games. Leach's attack was non-existent and his defence poor. The Englishman commenced by playing to the crowd but found his opponent was "taking liberties." He then tried to play tournament stuff but could not make any progress. In the other semi-final Bergmann easily accounted for Barna but the match was good to watch. In the final, Haguenaer repeated the dose he had given Johnny and trounced Richard Bergmann. Rarely has Michel Hagenauer been seen to hit so hard from all angles and to be so consistent. In the third game Bergmann could acquire only 11 points and it wasn't because he was off form. The world champion returned some shots that left the crowd gasping but Michel just wouldn't be denied.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. W. J. Pope (English T.T.A. Honorary Secretary) who died at his home at Beaconsfield on June 10th, 1950. Mr. Pope, popularly known as Bill, was one of the old pioneers of the E.T.T.A. He assisted in the foundation and building up of the Association away back in 1927. During the war years, he kept a skeleton organisation alive, running this from his home at Beaconsfield after the London Offices were destroyed in an air raid. This sad news comes to us just as we go to Press, but in our next September issue we hope to tell a full story of W. J. Pope and his years of hard and unselfish toil in the interests of the game he loved so dearly.



Michel Haguenaer (France)

Leach Takes U.S.A. Title

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—MARCH 31ST TO APRIL 2ND, 1950

As the two English players Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington left America after a successful tour of exhibitions, they had packed away snugly in their baggage the U.S.A. National titles for Singles and Doubles. After a hard fight with Jimmy McClure in the semi-final Leach then went on to win the final with ease against W. Holzrichter.

In the Doubles semi-final Leach and Carrington accounted for McClure plus Tibor Hazi, the ex-Hungarian who reached the World's Singles semi-final at Wembley, in 1938.

Sally Green, one-time U.S. No. 1 Lady player, no longer takes part in Singles events because of doctor's orders, but partnered by Johnny Leach she won the Mixed Doubles title.

Playing good class table tennis Reba Monness took the women's title for the first time.

MEN'S SINGLES, SEMI-FINALS:—
J. Leach beat J. McClure, —18, —20, 17, 21, 15.
W. Holzrichter beat W. Price, 10, 19, —14, 14.

FINAL:—J. Leach beat W. Holzrichter, 11, 18, 20.

MEN'S DOUBLES, SEMI-FINALS:—
Leach and Carrington beat McClure and Hazi, 18, —18, 17, 10.
Holzrichter and Levy beat Nash and Lasater, 10, 14, 20.

FINAL:—Leach and Carrington beat Holzrichter and Levy, 15, 15, 6.

MIXED DOUBLES, FINAL:—
Leach and Mrs. Sally Green Prouty beat W. Price and Mrs. Reba Monness.

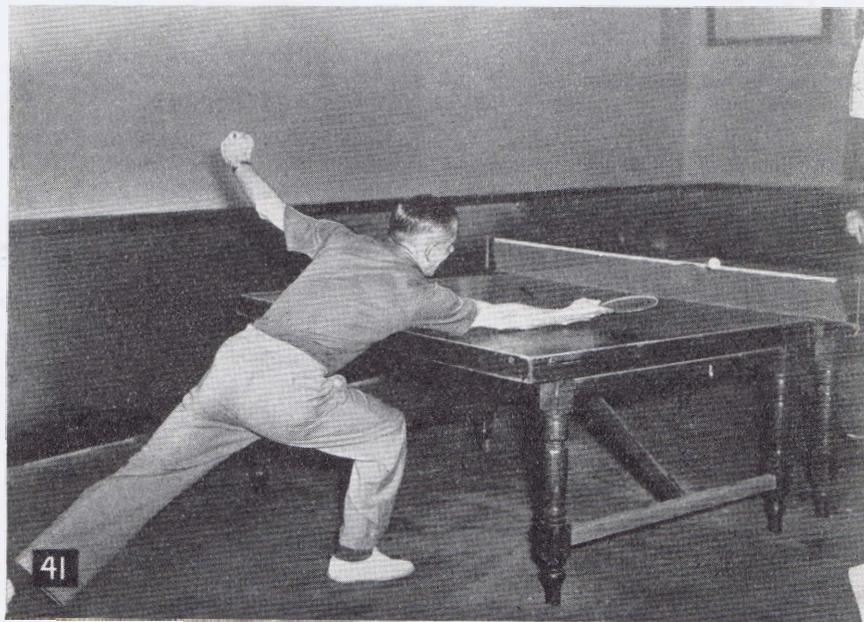
WOMEN'S SINGLES, SEMI-FINALS:—
Mrs. Monness beat Miss M. Shahian, 17, 20, 12.
Leah Thall Neuberger beat Magda Rurac, 10, 20, 20.

FINAL:—Moness beat Neuberger, 14, 12, 22.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES, FINAL:—
Rurac and Shahian beat Peggy Ichkoff and Joan Van de Houten, 11, 18, —13, 14.

SENIOR DOUBLES (OVER 35), FINAL:—
Carrington and Hock beat MacAvoy and Varga, 19, 20, 13.

SENIOR SINGLES, FINAL:—T. Hazi beat Varga, —18, 14, 22, 16.



Jack Carrington reaches for a short one (Daily Mail strip film)

It Began with a Birthday

YOU may think a birthday party is a strange place to begin a career, but in my case it was true, for on my thirteenth birthday I received a "ping-pong" set from my mother. It must have been a very unusual party, because our only thoughts were to devour the feast as quickly as possible, clear the dining-room table, and begin our new game.

Within a few days my mother must have regretted her present, because every possible moment of my leisure hours was spent in playing. Soon, very soon, I should say, the "ping-pong" stage was passed, and the dining-room, with its limited space, was then too small, so I looked for bigger fields.

Table Tennis Saloons were quite numerous in Hungary even at this early date, and I shall never forget my first few visits to these saloons. Playing against new players was at first somewhat disheartening, but I soon passed this stage. At this time I remember we had school holidays, and did I practise then! I almost lived at the Club, but these days were not wasted. Far from it! Progress and development of shots were keeping me greatly interested.

Two other youngsters were attracted to the game about the same time, and the three of us formed a friendship that was to last for ever. Laszlo Bellak and Victor Barna were my friends; also my rivals. But little did Barna and myself realise then, that during the next ten years we would meet in dozens of International title finals, including four world finals.

When playing together in those days we always had small stakes on our games. Winning an ice cream from each other then, was a great thrill, and we always made the loser of a day's series of matches pay for the table hire, so we always had something to fight for. I think a great deal of my improvement was due to the number of competitions, handicap tournaments and championships I played in at this time. Every week I played in at least two tournaments, and the benefit derived was immense.

Laszlo Bellak, who was a year older than both Barna and myself, was better than both of us, and in 1927 he was nearly selected in our Swaythling Cup International team. Alas! Poor Laszlo had no dinner jacket and it was said without one he could not represent our country socially. Our disappointment was nearly as great as his own. From that day my mother was continually worried to buy me a dinner jacket. I already had ideas of representing

By **MICHAEL SZABADOS**

Former World's Champion

Hungary and I did not want such a small item to stop me.

In 1927 I won my first big tournament; the Junior Singles Championships of Hungary. The following year was a great one for me. I was gradually catching up to Bellak and the other leading players, but despite this I still used the major part of this year practising and perfecting my strokes. Handicap Tournaments were still my main avenue for improvement. By this time I had to concede massive starts to most players, but it was how I learnt to fight for every point.

In that year Bellak was selected in our International team and he reached the final of the world championships against the No. 1 Hungarian, Mechlovits. Bellak was leading 2-1 and 20-16; four match balls—but he lost. No one, not even Bellak, was worried about his defeat. Everyone said he was young, and being so talented, must win the world crown. But,

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V. Barna, M. Szabados and R. Bergmann.

that was the closest he ever came to being world champion. He is now known as the best player never to win a world title, and this is a very true statement.

Towards the end of 1928 a big invitation tournament was held in Hungary. The entry was tremendous.

Conditions were that the last eight would contest a group system final series, all playing each other. This was my chance, my biggest major tournament to date.

The eight to reach the finals included Dr. Jacobi, 1927 world champion; Mechlovits, reigning champion; Bellak; Dr. Pecz; Barna; Sandor; Glancz and myself. My first match was against Mechlovits. There I was at one end of the table, and at the other a man I had always idolised, and also he was now world champion. I defeated Mechlovits and went through my seven matches with only two defeats, losing to Barna and Glancz. Barna was the only other player to have two defeats, so we clashed in our first big final. I won the final from Barna, and as my ambition had been to be placed in the first four I was then more than pleased.

My win in this tournament altered my mother's views about this sport, and from then on she was my most ardent follower, constantly seen in the front row holding my towel and always ready with the lemon slices.

With two months to go to my seventeenth birthday, 1929 saw me in my first world championship. Barna, Mechlovits

and myself, with Bellak as reserve, formed Hungary's team. We successfully defended the Swaythling Cup (the Davis Cup of Table Tennis), which Hungary had won on the two previous times it had been contested.

In the world singles title, Barna and myself were equal favourites, but Barna lost in his quarter-final, leaving me very confident of success. In the semi-final I had a very tough battle to beat Mechlovits, who was defending his title. In the final I played Fred Perry, of Lawn Tennis fame. I had, three days earlier, defeated Perry in straight sets in a teams' match and I was confident I could do it again. Maybe I was too confident, because Perry was a totally different man in the world final. I won the first set and led 11-2 in the second, but the rest is a haze. I believe I cried when I lost.

Several days elapsed before I fully realized what had happened. I had been very close to winning the world title at seventeen, and losing the final 3-1 was no disgrace. Perry's brilliant victory gave England her first and only world title until 1949, when Johnny Leach won the crown at Stockholm.

With Victor Barna I won the men's doubles title, and went on to win the Hungarian singles championship and at the end of the 1929 season I was ranked No. 1 in the world, and this was some compensation for losing the world crown.

(The First of a Series)

Here and There

Strolling Down Table Tennis Avenue with Sam Kirkwood

How nice it was at Wembley's Empire Pool, during the English Open, to see the Rowe girls, Rosalind and Diane, looking very smart. Both wore identical light blue costumes, spotlessly white socks and shoes, and their hair was nicely turned out. They looked a picture, did these brilliant youngsters who annexed the women's doubles title.

The same cannot be said about some of the other ladies. Too many of them wore grey flannel slacks which clung to their persons closer than a skin does to a sausage, revealing in unsightly detail portions of their anatomy and giving clear outlines of underwear. Big-hipped females should wear divided skirts designed to camouflage feminine largeness.

I award black marks in particular to the American girls, who were positively disreputable in attire. Out of respect to their hosts, if for no other reason, they should have made some attempt at sartorial neatness. Not that all the English girls had anything to shout home about, far from it.

Reverting to the Rowe kids, it can be said with assurance that they are destined for world honours. I fault them only on the score that they are inclined to be too impetuous in their aggressiveness and thus make the mistake of not waiting for the right ball to "kill." This applies in particular to Diane, the left-handed sister. However, they're only just 17 years of age and will learn quickly.

* * *

Which brings me to that other young girl of outstanding promise: Adele Wood, of Manchester. Last year she seemed to be the E.T.T.A.'s pet, was brought to London for the "English" following her appearance in Stockholm as a member of our Corbillon Cup side, and seemed set for a long run of representative appearances.

Adele didn't do so well in the big-time and has since receded into the background. This year she hasn't been seen in major games, was not in the running for Budapest and was not even an entrant in the English Open. How come? I have been told that no travelling expenses were offered to her. If, as appears to be the case, Adele has been "dropped" by the authorities, it will be a tragedy, for the girl has the earmarks of a champion and is most definitely worth encouraging. We haven't so many stars of potential world class that we can afford to let slide into oblivion a player of the Manchester girl's quality.



Sam Kirkwood

A mistake was made last season in sending her to Stockholm. She was too green and raw for world stuff and she should have been allowed to gain a little more experience. I said so at the time, no doubt making myself a little unpopular in certain quarters. But Adele was not to be blamed for this. What girl wouldn't grab a chance to travel abroad and play in a world series? I pin the blame on Stan Proffitt, her tutor. Stan, a member of the Selection Committee, insisted on her being given her chance, and his words were heeded by his co-selectors. Stan, an ex-Swaythling Cup player of great experience, should have known better. It is now up to him to see to it that his protegee isn't permitted to languish in obscurity. He owes that much to Adele, a sweet and unspoiled girl, and to English table tennis. Nor must the Association allow the brilliance of the Rowes to blind them to the possibilities of other youngsters.

I cannot understand why Richard Bergmann is being so bitterly criticised by so many authorities. Richard is "accused" of being a chiseller, a plodder, a menace to the game, etc., and so on, *ad infinitum* to *ad nauseum*. And all because of his dull world championship final match against Soos.

Richard, mark this carefully, has been a defensive player for some 15 years now. Do his critics seriously expect him to develop into an attacker in his playing old age? Has he ever played differently from the way he plays to-day? What did they expect him to do against Soos, who is a defensive exponent devoid of an attack, use aggressive strokes he doesn't possess?

The world champion's style can look good only against an attacker. Against another defender Bergmann is made to look negative. Two defenders against each other are always crabby to watch, anyway. Soos was grimly determined to win, and not only for playing reasons. Bergmann was equally determined to regain his crown—and he is a man who never plays a game other than to win it if humanly possible.

O.K., so the world final was a bad game. But how many superlative matches have we seen Bergmann play in? Have we forgotten his many terrifically exciting battles with Vana? Have we overlooked those many struggles in which he has looked beaten and yet fought back to win, in the doing of it forcing the hearts of hardened spectators into their mouths? Memories must be short, or we shouldn't now have this spate of criticism levelled against the Champ.

I say that the critics are damnably unfair. I say that they have no right to condemn a man who just did his utmost to win. I hold no brief for Bergmann, and I cannot deny the evidence that his game against Soos was a stinker; but I do insist that his record and his countless wonderful games entitle him to a little more generosity than is being shown.

Table tennis in the world class is not riding as high as it was before the war. Some pundits seem to think that this state of affairs will be altered if a scapegoat is found and hacked to pieces. Come off it, you anti-Bergmann-ites. You were proud enough and glad enough to rush Bergmann into our Swaythling Cup team the moment he became eligible to play for us, weren't you? Or have you forgotten?

* * *

A special indoor stadium is being built in Delhi for the 1952 world championships. India has an option on the series and is going to take it up. The new stadium will be completed by November of this year and will be up-to-date and one of the finest of its kind anywhere in the world.

Chandarana, India's national champion who competed in the English Open, tells me that the hall will hold some 6,000 spectators, and that plans are already being drafted for the tournament.

India is a young country in the T.T. sense and is looking forward with great eagerness to seeing the world's finest players. The recent tour of Barna and Bergmann helped to stimulate interest in the game wherever they played and gained many new adherents to the sport. The world series should stimulate interest still further and encourage Indian players no end.

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National Coaching Scheme

1950-51 — Passed for Action

By LESLIE S. WOOLLARD. (Member N.E.C., Associate Editor "Table Tennis")

DOES your league want the benefit of the National Coaching Scheme? If so, let's get on with it. Let's prove the need and value. Any enterprising league can get cracking right now just as though the Scheme was in operation. Here's the why and how:

The Scheme was only going to provide nationally recognised coaches to coach league coaches and *not* individual players. Any league which wanted the free service of the National Coaching Team had to accept responsibility for the organisation and maintenance of its own local coaching scheme. It wasn't a lucky dip free for all; a league had to initiate its own scheme. I suggest it can do this now.

Scientific coaching is not intended to produce Swaythling Cup players overnight and it can never, of itself, produce a T.T. genius. It can, however, develop higher standards of play, promote a keener interest and appreciation of the finer points, stimulate a high code of sports ethics develop character, and inculcate interest in administration and implementation of laws, etc.

Good coaching can provoke such interest in the game that it will boost audience receipts and otherwise materially benefit local organisations. It will be concerned also with encouraging the introduction of healthy new blood and ideas into all phases of the game, e.g., administrators, umpires, organisers, and coaches. £10 invested in good coaching can be increased 100 per cent. in indirect league benefits.

The Local Scheme

League Schemes can vary very considerably, being affected by such different circumstances as talent available, size, geographical position, local outlook, etc., but I think these basic principles are common to all:—

1. The recruiting of volunteers to act as league coaches.
2. The co-operation of clubs for venues, etc.
3. Establishing a Fund, say from £10 upwards.
4. Liaison with co-operative groups, e.g. the C.C.P.R., local Educational Authorities, etc.
5. Draft organisation of the local Scheme for consideration of a national coach.

I think the first the only difficult problem. The best players are not necessarily the best *teachers*.

The next step is to call in your Specialist, who will be one of the fully qualified coaches on the E.T.T.A. Panel. He would come down and give the league coaches their first practical session in the art and science of how to coach, and will follow this with his recommendations on how the scheme should operate, and perhaps, suggest any grading or specialisation of the coaches. From this point a flexible Manual of Coaching can be prepared locally.

Naturally, you will have to pay the Specialist, hence the Fund. But call him in right at the beginning. It will save time, money and headache, and give confidence to everyone concerned. Endeavour to arrange for him to visit the league three to four times in the year.

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(Daily Mail Film Strip)

A Possible National Scheme

An average of £2 a league p.a. would probably maintain one National Coach. If he could visit three leagues a week, it would take him over two years, summer and winter, to visit each league only once!

Now supposing only two-thirds of our leagues organise their own coaching scheme and decide to have a Specialist coach three times a year. We'll say an operative year of 40 weeks. It would take 13 coaches to fulfill the programme.

Now we haven't so many coaches at the highest level, but they increase in numbers as you go down the ranking. Since it is imperative for a high-ranking coach to maintain good playing form, some of his time must be spent in high-level play; this might introduce a scheme of individual coaching at say, the county level. With league and individual coaching I suggest there is no room for "competition" between national coaches. There is more than enough for all.

To all registered players concerned, and there aren't so many, I would suggest that they go into a huddle at the earliest possible time, and consider how they can best co-operate in providing the most economical service and work out some

regional schemes of allocation, equitable "spreading," etc. Obviously, the very few outstanding coaches would merit a more national freedom.

Co-ordinated and Progressive Coaching

A good league coaching scheme headed by a Specialist coach, is like a blood transfusion, and in the future will, I think, become a normal accession to league organisation. Here, I would most earnestly and emphatically make a point of vital importance.

Local schemes will provide incentive targets and show the steps of approach. As you raise and broaden the bottom, elevate the top. Remember, any league's players cannot be better than their top men. The logical follow-through of any coaching scheme is to advance worthy top players by providing opportunities and experience at higher levels. Do not block the road of promotion for your members.

For a league to take pride in its "splendid isolation" is indicative of a gerontocracy. With the modern development of the game has come a sensible broadening of views and recognition that *any* and every

unit of the game is inextricably interwoven into the national pattern. In the diagram I have tried to illustrate some part of the complicated jigsaw in relation to coaching and development.

Aids for the Local Coaches

Those who have successfully coached over a period will know how their pre-conceived ideas have been drastically changed with experience. There are many "tricks and wrinkles" in coaching T.T. You learn that a "visual aid" is worth a thousand words.

With the twin experience of coaching and teaching I cannot rate the importance of visual aids too highly. They have become one of the most important and powerful allies of modern education, not only in schools and technical colleges, but in commerce, industry and all major sports and athletics. Table tennis has not been fully developed to its fullest possible scope largely because leagues and clubs have not been alert enough to take full advantage of what has already been done.

The instance I have in mind is the *Daily Mail's* film strip on table tennis made with the co-operation of Jack Carrington and Johnny Leach, and which is available to anyone at a ridiculously low price.

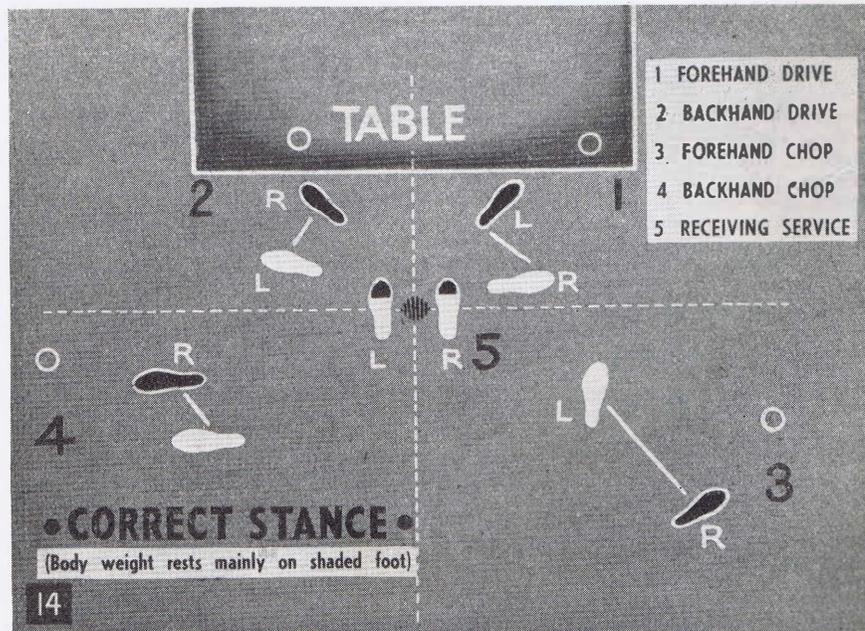
The film strip comprises 43 instructional "frames," or pictures, on a single length of film which are projected on to a screen. They are not moving pictures, need not be shown in sequence, and can be used intermittently throughout the period for reference or revision.

A complete book of teacher's notes is supplied with the strip, with sometimes more than 200 words commentary on each frame, and with "special points to note." The individual coach can, of course, use any words he wishes, but the book itself provides a useful guide on the thought and approach of the author, Jack Carrington.

Since Jack was one of the "favourites" for the proposed Chief National Coach that is an added recommendation for this indispensable first-aid to your coaching scheme, which is a complete first course from grip, service, various spins, the gamut of attacking and defensive shots, footwork, doubles, etc.

The complete film strip, including full notes and commentary, costs 12s. 6d.

Local Education Authorities can be very helpful as regards the loaning of equipment but by far the better plan, of course, is the outright purchase of a projector. I believe that some manufacturers are now producing them at a low cost well within the reach of the average league funds.



(Daily Mail Film Strip)

English Open for the Deaf

ON Saturday, April 22nd, I attended a table tennis championship meeting unlike any other I had been to. As the finalists battled away with grim determination, children ran around the hall yelling and laughing as children do. Yet no-one was upset. The players didn't even glance round, the spectators couldn't have cared less, and no official gave the youngsters a single stern glare.

I'm romancing? Not a bit of it, I assure you. The tournament was (to give its official designation) the second All-England table tennis championships for the deaf. That end word explains it. Players, officials and the vast majority of the spectators were impervious to noise.

The venue was the Bishopsgate Institute, City of London, where for 12 hours the 90-odd competitors fought for title honours, starting at 10 in the morning and ending, for the survivors, at 10-15 p.m. Contestants came from all over England and Wales: Salisbury, Newport, Cardiff, Wolverhampton, Whitehaven, Portsmouth and London, and their ages ranged from 17 to 53.

The general level of play, let me say right away, was average by normal standards. But considering their handicap, many of the men and women can be said to be extraordinarily efficient. Several of them, in fact, could hold a place in many good club sides and acquit themselves creditably.

Holder of the men's singles title, "Abby" Weinstein, retained his championship. In the final he met a Croydon lad, David Berry, an attacker of power but who lacks consistency. Weinstein, who bears a strong facial and physical resemblance to Richard Bergmann and like the world champion is a dour defender, had little trouble in forcing his rival into mistakes and the issue was never in doubt after the second set. Weinstein is a member of the famous East London Manhattan Club. Berry progressed to a late round in his area of the *Daily Mirror* national tournament.

The ladies' final was a youth versus age affair. Miss M. Little, of Salisbury, conceded nearly 30 years to her opponent, 24-year-old Miss Betty Llewellyn, of Cardiff, and made her go five sets before being forced down to an extremely gallant defeat. Slight, grey-haired and very pleasant of face, Miss Little used a forehand drive against which the Welsh girl could find no reply. Then Betty concentrated the ball on the Salisbury veteran's backhand

wing, to turn the tide. In the latter stages Miss Little tired, but she never gave up trying. She had the consolation of winning the ladies' doubles, partnered by Miss M. Bellhouse (London), beating the all-London combination of Miss V. Collier and Miss M. Hamblin.

The men's doubles, an aggressive match in which there was an abundance of furious backhand and forehand hitting from both ends, was won by D. Berry and P. Bradley against L. Samuelson and J. Steadman. All four boys are Londoners.

SCORES

WOMEN'S SINGLES.—Miss E. Llewellyn beat Miss M. Little, 21-18, 16-21, 7-21, 21-16, 21-14.

MEN'S SINGLES.—"Abby" Weinstein beat David Berry, 21-18, 14-21, 22-20, 21-16.

MEN'S DOUBLES.—D. Berry and P. Bradley beat L. Samuelson and J. Steadman, 14-21, 21-11, 21-12.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES.—Miss M. Little and Miss M. Bellhouse beat Miss V. Collier and Miss M. Hamblin, 21-19, 21-13.

The umpires scored via finger signs. There was also a "pull-up" scoreboard similar to the type used for the world and English championships.

The tournament was organised by the Federation of London Deaf Clubs, who were requested to do so by the British Deaf Athletic Sports Association. The B.D.A.S.A., so I was told, hope to organise a world championship meeting for the deaf, the tournament to take place in London during next year's Festival of Britain.



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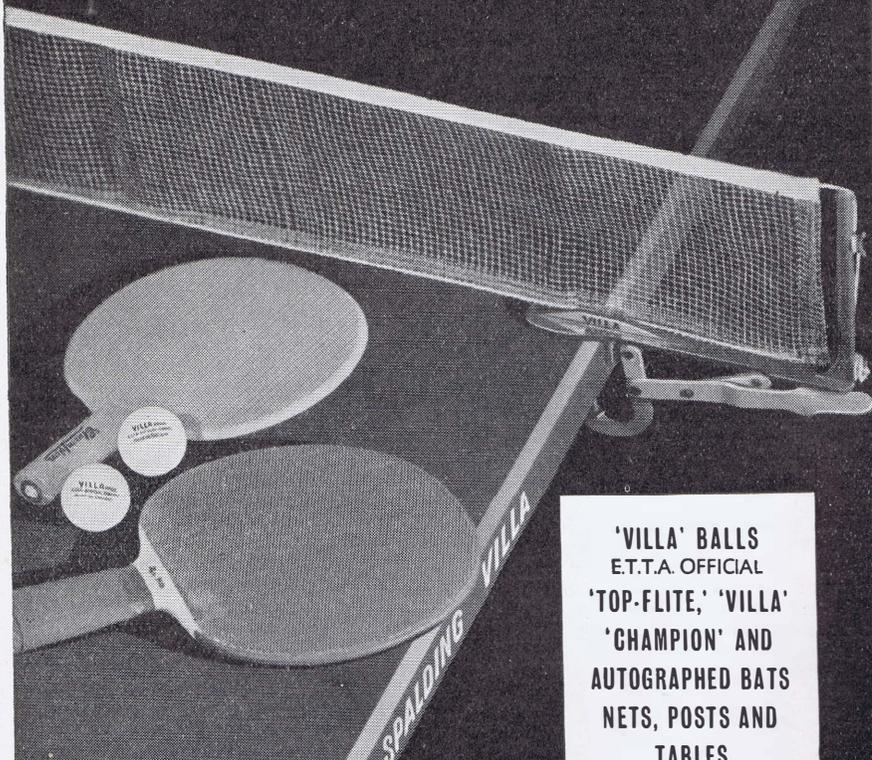
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Taking Stock

By STANLEY PROFFITT

(Ex-English Swaythling Cup)

I DON'T think I shall be sticking my neck out unduly if I state quite firmly that England is on the road to the top of the international table tennis ladder. We have, of course, always taken the lead on the administrative side, and have been the envy of most other nations when it comes to the important matter of staging big events. It is possible that in the not too distant future we shall be able to rule the roost also from the playing angle.

Reviewing the season just over it was a revelation to the majority of fans. Pioneers of ping-pong must have rubbed their eyes to see so many Englishmen battling away on a Wembley final night. Granted, the overseas entry disappointed, but one must admit it is a rarity to see such stars as Amouretti and Harangozo qualify for the Consolation singles. And beaten by two comparatively new comers! Young Yorkshireman, Brian Kennedy, who completely demoralised the Frenchman in three straight games gave an all round performance which brought a smile to the faces of his supporters. Not to be outdone, Surrey's aspirant, Harry Venner, in a great-hearted display did an out-size job in compelling the Yugoslavian to surrender. These two instances may only appear as an eyebrow raiser to a number of readers but when both Englishmen were ultimately defeated by Midlander Maurice Kriss it goes to prove that countrywide we have players of quality.

The mainspring behind our post-war advance is undoubtedly Johnny Leach. His singles win at Stockholm gave us the incentive. Unfortunately at the English Open, held in March last, Johnny was only a pale-grey replica of the man who brought so much glory to England. His effort against jet-propelled American, Jimmy McClure, was sluggish. The wiseheads said this was the price to be paid for playing in too many exhibitions before such an important occasion. Recent results, however, show that there is nothing wrong with our hero for his U.S.A. triumphs have pushed him twelve o'clock high. Good luck old-timer—you deserve it for such sheer grit and determination.

If you are looking for another English world-ranking star then take a look at the Western Counties' Champion, Aubrey Simons. He has made enormous strides since first being selected to represent his country. In the Swaythling Cup match



STANLEY PROFFITT

in Budapest, his defeat of Bohumil Vana during the England-Czech match set the match alight and turned a seemingly hollow defeat into a photo-finish. Again in the semi-final at Wembley his game with world champion, Richard Bergmann was the showpiece on this auspicious night. We all know he lost, but what a classic the match turned out to be. Employing the "middle game" to the full, plus a knife-sharp crack down the centre and a fierce counter hit when necessary, Aubrey had Richard reeling time and again. The score in Bergmann's favour 22-20, 18-21, 21-14, 21-16, reveals little of this brilliant display. I went round to Richard's dressing room afterwards and betwixt and between gasps he managed to say that Simons played marvellously. Imagine my surprise when stepping out of the dressing room en-route for the press box a couple of friends stopped me and said they are tired of seeing Bergmann deliberately throw the second game away. Utter nonsense.

Bergmann with his stolid style, forever shaping his game to the disadvantage of opponents has also been instrumental in restoring lost confidence so lacking in the international clashes of pre-war days. To master tactician, a fighter, there is a lot to be admired in Richard's fleetness of foot and split-second appreciation of an opportunity to streak into attack. Keen students have taken note and sorted the wheat from the chaff. Evidence of this is easily seen in the junior events.

And it is the juniors along with teenagers who hold the key to further advancements. They are the life-blood of any progressive sport and fortunately table tennis has a wealth of talent in this direction. That is one of the main reasons in my forecasting great times ahead for England in the international field.

An Answer to Corti Woodcock

From JACK GLICKMAN

In our last issue Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, donor of the World's Singles Championship Trophy severely criticised Richard Bergmann for his display in the final of the World's Championship at Budapest in February of this year. In one of his remarks he said that in his view the finalists had written the blackest page yet in the annals of table tennis.

THE World Championships are now over and an Englishman has once again won the world's singles title, the greatest table tennis honour a person can gain. What more natural then, that the great event be discussed in various clubs, at the office, in newspapers and on the radio. Imagine my disgust, therefore, when I tuned into the B.B.C. on Friday evening, February 10th, to hear Mr. Howard Marshall, the celebrated sports commentator and critic, interview Mr. Corti Woodcock, who proceeded to belittle the truly wonderful performance of Bergmann in winning the singles title for the fourth time. After the newspapers had written of Richard's colossal guts, grit and temperament and, to use Jack Carrington's own words, "being two down and all seemed lost" in the final, I was stunned to hear Corti's views on the recent Budapest battle. Briefly, he made mention of three points which he noted. They were given in the following order according to merit: (1) the magnificent win of the girls in the ladies' doubles; (2) the glorious defeat of Johnny Leach who went down with guns firing; (3) the dismay he felt at having to witness such a dull final and his failure to understand how two players of such class could descend to such a low level. A reply is called for in answer to such poor sportsmanship on the part of Corti Woodcock.

First: I cannot understand how Richard's amazing feat only merited third place in Corti's opinion. Surely and obviously it automatically rates No. 1, not only because of importance (to England especially), but because of the amazing fight put up by Bergmann all the way through.

Second: The gist of the interview seemed to be all Leach. I will not deny the fact that Johnny, even in defeat upheld the prestige of English table tennis, but does Johnny's performance in losing rate higher than Bergmann's in winning the title?

Third: The ladies' achievement was certainly one to be justly proud of, but again, surely doubles achievements come after singles.

At a time when British sport is at its lowest ebb, surely here is an opportunity

to make capital of the fact that Britain has more than one string to its table tennis bow.

I will make one last observation. Howard Marshall seemed puzzled by Mr. Woodcock's deprecatory remarks about Bergmann's defensive tactics and asked if it wasn't an accepted thing to have a good defence in sport. Corti proceeded to cap the whole ignominious interview by saying "no, not in table tennis."

Would Corti have been satisfied if Richard had fallen for Soos' trap, attacked and lost and would he then proceed to say how gallantly England went down fighting? Would he have been satisfied then? If the fighting qualities displayed by Bergmann in the World Championships, 1947-48, are any indication of the spirit in which he fought at Budapest, then indeed, I wish I had been fortunate enough to witness that so-called "dull" final which Mr. Woodcock mentions.

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Wembley and Elsewhere—1938

By
**BILL
PARKER**

WINNING the World's and English titles in the same season is certainly one of the greatest feats that a table tennis player can perform. My congratulations go to Richard Bergmann, who now equals Victor Barna's record of having gained this important "double" three times. In addition to these two players only one other male has achieved the "double," namely, M. Szabados, in the season 1930-31.

With Richard so much in the news my thoughts go back to the time when I first saw him at the Royal Albert Hall, in 1938. Even then Bergmann was a world champion and playing in the Austrian Swaythling Cup team. He was only a little chap but he had a wonderful defence, a grand forehand, nimble footwork, and the same tactical sense and fighting spirit that he has to-day. I remember watching him intently and deciding that the man—if there was one—who could beat Bergmann would surely win the World title. But there was somebody to beat him—a seventeen year old Czech with a one-wing attack, Bohumil Vana.

At that particular World event, which was for the 1937-38 season, Vana was terrific! He had to be to beat Barna in the semi-final and Bergmann in the final, on that memorable Saturday night at Wembley.

At that time Vana's defence was practically all half-volley and not nearly as good as it is to-day, but with a fast "breaking" service, his truly superb forehand and amazing speed, he needed to do little defending.

Among the possessors of formidable services at that time (finger spin was finished, remember) were Sol Schiff (U.S.A.) and Laszlo Bellak (Hungary), who both won titles that year. Schiff, I think, was the hardest hitter in the tournament. Bellak was the biggest laugh—and cry—such were the amazing things he attempted. How he embraced his English partner, Wendy Woodhead, when they won the Mixed Doubles final. And how he gazed in disappointment at the ceiling after he made the last fatal shot that cost Victor Barna and himself the Men's Doubles title against Sol Schiff and Jimmy McClure (U.S.A.). What an enigma was Bellak—but what a showman!

Twelve years ago England had nobody capable of winning the Men's Singles

event, but two Englishmen did reach the last sixteen. One was Charlie Seaman, that great-hearted left-hander from Brighton, who was defeated because he could not penetrate the stonewall defence of Marinko (then Yugoslavia but now of Slovakia). Marinko, most readers will be aware, is the wooden-racket expert. The other leading Englishman was Douglas Cairns, a Londoner whose defensive style had earned him the reputation of being "sticky." Cairns was beaten by Adolf Slar (Czechoslovakia), who had previously, if memory serves me correct, accounted for the pride of Manchester, Hymie Lurie, then freely described as the "pocket Barna." (Laurie, who is still in his early twenties, is likely to make a serious "comeback" next season).

In the Women's Singles of that year of 1938, Trudi Pritzi (Austria) chiselled her way to victory, and nearly broke Vlasta Depetrisova's heart, I should imagine. The best English women's performance was given by Margaret Osborne (now Mrs. Knott) and the late Dora Emdin, both of whom reached the last eight.

A successful Men's Double's combination was that of Hymie Lurie and Eric Filby, who reached the semi-final only to lose to Barna and Bellak.

But as these pictures run through my mind there is one exciting and thrilling scene which dominates everything else—the Vana-Bergmann final. What an epic of table tennis! If I had to miss a World Championship final I am glad it was the one played this year and not that terrific battle of twelve years ago. That was something to remember—for ever.

Some seasons to come, although we have a few very promising youngsters who could develop into really good players. For the time being Dora's main opponent will be Australian singles champion, Miss Dolly Shipp.

(Continued from previous col.)

Paitaki beat Shotland, 23-25, 21-13, 21-12; Litten beat Shotland, 21-16, 21-9; Sofer beat Paitaki, 21-9, 21-19; Edwards beat Litten, 21-15, 21-15; Sofer beat Shotland, 16-21, 21-10, 21-14; Litten beat Blackburn, 21-7, 21-17; Edwards beat Paitaki, 21-17, 21-17; Edwards beat Blackburn, 21-14, 21-15; Sofer beat Litten, 21-18, 21-18; Edwards beat Shotland, 21-13, 21-18; Sofer beat Blackburn, 21-13, 16-21, 21-16; Paitaki beat Litten, 21-17, 21-16; Edwards beat Sofer, 21-8, 13-21, 21-18.

British Commonwealth Table Tennis News . . .

New Zealand

Last year the New Zealand T.T.A. had 1,697 teams affiliated through 23 Associations, but following the immense success of the Barna-Bergmann tour, they now find the popularity of the game making such rapid strides that all previous records are being broken. Their 1950 National Championships, both for Association teams and Individuals will be conducted by the Canterbury Association in Christchurch, Monday to Friday, August 27th to September 1st. North Island Championships are to be held at Rotorua, July 26th to 28th, and the South Island Championships at Invercargill, August 23rd to 25th. The usual total entry for these events is around the four hundred mark.

From the financial angle the National Association faces the present season with confidence, completing their past year with the highest cash balance yet, namely, £594. Their last balance sheet shows a record profit of £116, but this was augmented by the Barna Bergmann tour profit of £148.

The visit of Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann was a financial risk which was tackled with vigour by the National and Affiliated Associations, and all credit is due to them for their truly magnificent efforts.

The financial arrangements made between New Zealand and Australia was that out of a total travelling cost from England to Australia and return of £1,065, New Zealand was to pay £339 plus return fares Australia/New Zealand, making a total commitment of £474.

To finance the tour within New Zealand, provincial Associations were asked to guarantee sums in proportion to the size of their organisation. Sixteen Associations agreed to do this and raised a especially), but because of the amazing fight put up by Bergmann all the way through.

Second: The gist of the interview seemed to be all Leach. I will not deny the fact that Johnny, even in defeat upheld the prestige of English table tennis, but does Johnny's performance in losing rate higher than Bergmann's in winning the title?

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At a time when British sport is at its lowest ebb, surely here is an opportunity

Jamaica

By S. E. VAZ, Hon. Treasurer, T.T.A.J.

Jamaica, the largest of the British West Indies Islands, is the most progressive British colony in the Caribbean area, and in the field of sports, table tennis is one of its major sporting activities.

During the Second World War, the game in the Island went to its lowest ebb, owing to the scarcity of balls and other playing equipment from overseas, but at present enthusiasm of this wonderful indoor game is at its highest peak ever. The official season commences in May and ends in September, but individual clubs make the game a round-the-year activity.

The controlling body, the Table Tennis Association of Jamaica, is still in its infancy, being only 3 years old, but much ground has been covered and the game is now on a sound footing.

In May of last year, the unofficial championship of the British West Indies between Trinidad, British Guiana and Jamaica marked the beginning of a new era for table tennis in these parts. The championship was played in Jamaica, and was witnessed by thousands who came from all parts of the Island. It was a tremendous success from every angle, and the experience gained has to a great extent raised the standard of play here.

During April last, the T.T.A.J. was host to top players from Miami, U.S., who took part in a 10-day tour. Tentative arrangements are also being made to bring over the "Master" Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann, at a later date.

There are over 500 competitive players in Kingston besides individuals who prefer to play in private homes. Four major tournaments are conducted each year. The Civil Service and the Business Houses also conduct their own tournaments.

Our Island champion, Danny O'Connor, is a 19-year-old, and is still in college. He has an orthodox grip and possesses a devastating back-hand flick, backed by accurate forearm smashes. We have players of the highest calibre (Robert Chin, Willie Estick, Johnny Lee, Leo Khan, Tubby Hinds, Noel Murray, Jerome Aitchison and Guy Miller), who, if given proper coaching would make Jamaica's Swatting Team something to be reckoned with.

We are on the up-grade and our goal is to reach the world series.

South Africa

Rex Edwards

"Champion of Champions"

Before a full house at the City Hall, Capetown, Rex Edwards (South Africa's National Singles Champion) won the Championship of Champions which is held annually by the Western Province T.T.A. In a thrilling final night on April 25th, before a crowd of 1,000 people he beat Hymie Sofer, 21-8, 13-21, 21-18.

Invitations were sent out to the following title holders: Rex Edwards, R. Litton and H. Sofer (all N. Transvaal), and T. Paitaki, M. Shotland and E. Blackburn (all Western Province). Former English Corbillon Cup player, Miss Elizabeth Blackburn was the only lady to compete against the men, but she was unable to record a win to her credit.

The players from N. Transvaal flew 1,000 miles from Pretoria to Capetown, in order to participate. One of them, Ron Litten, is the ex-English international from Exeter. He finished fourth, losing to Edwards, Sofer and Paitaki, but thrilled the crowd with his attractive style of play.

Of the local players, Paitaki showed good form and finished third.

Edwards' Steadiness Gains Final Set

The tournament was run on a league system, with every player meeting each other in the best of three games. Both Edwards and Sofer were unbeaten when they met in the final. They were one game each, and in the third and deciding game Sofer ran up to a lead of 17-11, but Edwards steadied himself, and it was then that Sofer appeared over-anxious to finish the game. He lapsed into a series of mistakes allowing Edwards to level at 17-17 and then to forge ahead and win 21-18.

A great deal of publicity was given to the event by the Cape press, and in the following morning's *Cape Times* large front page photographs of Elizabeth Blackburn and Rex Edwards were given prominent positions.

South Africa is now eagerly awaiting the arrival of world champion Richard Bergmann, who is due on June 15th, with another visit of one week to take place later in August.

FOLLOWING WERE THE RESULTS:
Paitaki beat Blackburn, 21-15, 16-21, 21-13;
Shotland beat Blackburn, 17-21, 21-10, 21-8;
(Continued at foot of next col.)

Australia

Young Emigrants Best Prospect

With a large flow of new Australians arriving from many European countries and England, local table tennis officials are eagerly watching these newcomers who hail from the lands of the "great" of table tennis. These new additions to our sport come from Hungary, Poland, the Baltic Countries, Czechoslovakia, England and many other countries, and all new arrivals are watched with eager eyes. Although our ranks of players have increased and a large variety of styles have been added, making the sport very colourful, no ready-made champions have yet arrived. Luckily the better class of players are the youngest ones and a few good prospects are reported to be playing in various states.

Particularly outstanding is 15 year old John Klesman. John is a Lithuanian who came to Australia from the American zone of Germany where he first took up the sport. Although he had won a few tournaments in Germany he was just an average player. His improvement in the short time he has been here is amazing and he would now rank with the best players in this country. I think that Australia has a real international hope in this young player.

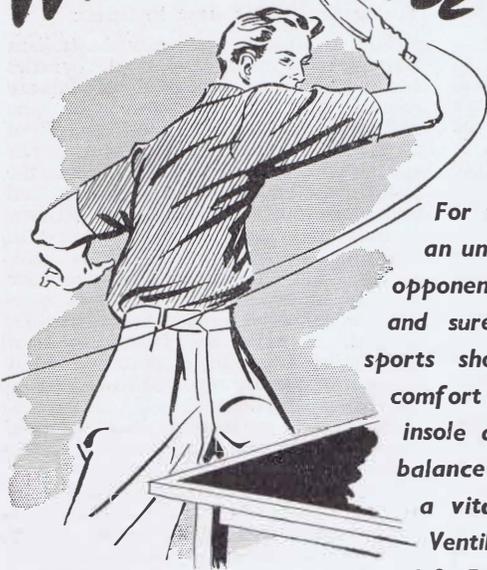
The first Australian Table Tennis Carnival for two years will be held this season. At the time of writing it is too early to forecast results but outstanding contenders will be, Phil Anderson, Mark Dankin and John Mehaffey.

The presence of Dora Beregi should certainly be a means of raising the standard of the women players in this country. Dora will, of course, dominate all the women's events for some seasons to come, although we have a few very promising youngsters who could develop into really good players. For the time being Dora's main opponent will be Australian singles champion, Miss Dolly Shipp.

(Continued from previous col.)

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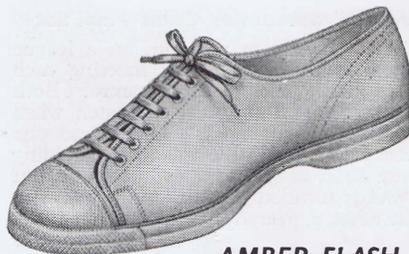
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International Continental Tournament

Held Liege, Belgium — April 29-30, 1950

By KEN STANLEY (Member of English Team)



AT 11 a.m. on the morning of Friday, April 28th, the boat train pulled away from Victoria Station, heading for Dover. The four of us, that is, Mrs. Vint (non-playing captain), Diane Rowe, Aubrey Simons and myself relaxed in our seats. We were on our way to represent England in an invitation International tournament to be held at Liege, Belgium. There was to be a team event on the Saturday, and on the following day a singles tournament.

It was rather unfortunate that Aubrey had a ticket for the football Cup Final and occasionally he could be heard murmuring the names of the two teams, then he would shake his head, saying, "Pity."

When we reached Dover, Aubrey, who was man enough to admit that he was a terrible sailor, took no chances, and swallowed a couple of pills—just in case. However, the sea was as calm as a duck pond and Aubrey convinced himself that he wasn't such a bad sailor after all.

On the train from Ostend to Liege we

were joined by a young couple who were travelling to Vienna. Nothing appeared to convince them that they were on the right train, and after the fellow had asked at least ten different people we volunteered to go forward and ask the driver—just to make sure.

Warm Welcome

We were met at Liege by the president and his wife, M. Raymond Schaal, who escorted us to the hotel "Wiser," which was directly opposite the station. Their welcome was both warm and sincere and we were made to feel at home immediately.

We set off early the following morning full of enthusiasm for a knock-up, imagine our surprise when we walked in the hall only to find that the tables had not yet arrived. There were four sets of trestles laid out ready for the table tops, this of course gave us some indication of the type of table that was going to be used.

It then struck us forcibly that there were no lights over the table. We enquired about this and were told that the lights were in the ceiling; this was some 30 ft. up.

We decided to laugh and be merry as there was nothing could be done at this stage. Everything else, the hospitality, food, etc., had been so marvellous that we hadn't the heart to even look surprised at such poor conditions.

Play was due to commence at 2 p.m., Saturday, prior to this all the teams were to have lunch together. We had a brief moment to spare before lunch, and took the opportunity to look at a few shops. There was plenty of everything—but at a price.

Team Contest

The draw was as follows: France v Belgium (3); Luxembourg v Belgium (1); Belgium (2) v Holland; Liege v England.

We managed to win our first match against Liege fairly comfortably, with members of our team trying their best to get used to playing conditions. The tables had just been painted, and after half a game the ball was green all over. I, personally, changed the ball after each game.



Mrs. De Clerco Yeanne, Corbillon Cup player of Belgium.

We were due to play the winners between Holland and Belgium (2 match), this proved to be quite a struggle, with Belgium's second team finally running out as winners.

France had a comfortable win over Belgium's third team and played the winners of Luxembourg v Belgium (1). Belgium came out on top here and so the semi-finals were: France v Belgium (1) and England v Belgium (2).

We won this game 4-1; not without a few close games, Diane Rowe dropped her first set here, but by no means disgraced herself. The game was well in hand when she went on to play and she used this game to practise attacking shots; this was to pay dividends for her later on.

France beat Belgium (1), but not without some thrilling games from Haguenauer and Roland. The attendance for the afternoon session was none too good, but then it was such a lovely day outside that one couldn't expect otherwise.

It was to be then a final between England and France—always a “do or die” effort.

We had time for a little rest before this match, which was just as well because we were all feeling slightly worse for wear. With conditions being so bad, playing really was hard work.

Team Final

There was to be a march-past before the final commenced, and I'll tell you now—it was Aubrey who carried the banner and not sister Anna. It was very impressive, the national anthem being played after each country had made their entry. Also it put the crowd of approximately 1,000 in the mood for our game.

Haguenauer played Simons the first event and was just that little bit too good as things went. That made us one down when I went on, determined to try and level it out to one-all against Roothoof. He didn't look anything special when I had watched him play. However, his play was rather deceptive and he is, or was that night anyway, as steady as a rock. He ran out winner after some very close scores.

With the score 2-0 for France, Diane was on next. She played a splendid game against Mlle. Beolet, who is a very experienced International, and she won our first game of the evening. Then it was my turn to play Haguenauer. No excuses—he was too good for me that night. The game was hard fought with each point a long rally, but he was on top most of the way.

This made the score 3-1 for France, and meant that they only needed another



Belgium's No. 1 (Women)
Mme. Ghislaine Roland.

game to win the match. The game between Simons and Roothoof was a thrilling affair—as most of these key games are. Aubrey, until then had never lost to Roothoof, but Roothoof ran out winner that night by the skin of his teeth.

We were all disappointed at not being able to pull this game off, but we had all tried our best; and giving credit where it is due—France was the better team that night.

They asked us to play the match to the end and we carried on, winning the mixed, in which Diane partnered Aubrey, and also the mens' doubles. This made the final score 4-3 for France—a little better than 4-1, anyway.

Singles Contest

The following day, Sunday, we were all down at the hall at 9 a.m., ready for the individual event. They had set up eight tables for the day's play and on the first two tables you just couldn't see the ball.

Diane lost just before lunch to the Belgium No. 1 player, who has a style all of her own. It was a terrific game, with all the crowd gathered around this one table. Diane made a brilliant pull up only to go down fighting in the fifth.

Aubrey and I managed to stay in, and believe me or believe me not, decided to have a knock during the lunch break. Both our arms felt as if we had been hit with a sledgehammer, and we thought we would try and work some of the stiffness off. We agreed that to go outside into the sunshine and then come back into that

(Continued on page 32)

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO UMPIRES

Concluding Chapter—Part IV

Three Frequently Missed Faults

Umpires frequently overlook three faults which are comparatively common in the lower forms of match play. A player loses a point if:—(a) ANY part of him, his dress or equipment, touch the net (or its supports) during a Rest; (b) He moves the playing surface during a Rest; (c) His free hand touches the playing surface during a Rest. Note, however, that it is NOT a fault if the player's bat or bat-hand (that is, below the wrist) touches the playing surface during a Rest.

Doubles

On the umpire's side we are not interested in playing tactics although the efficient umpire will make himself as familiar as possible with this side. We are concerned solely with a simple and clear understanding of the laws. By far the largest number of queries concerned doubles.

The laws which do not appear to be thoroughly understood are 20 and 21, and this is because the importance of law 20 is not appreciated. This law is actually the key to the whole problem. Note:—

“The pair who have the right to serve the first five services IN ANY GAME shall decide which partner shall do so, and the opposing pair shall then decide similarly which shall be striker-out.”

The operative clause is, “IN ANY GAME.” Put inversely, the pair which receive first service in *any* game DECIDES who shall receive that service. Once that first order is decided, it continues for the rest of that game (unless it is a deciding game).

It will probably simplify matters if we look at a doubles match from the umpires' position. Mr. and Mrs. Black are to play Mr. and Mrs. White. The Blacks win the toss, and can make any of the choices of service or ends, just as in singles. *In any case, their decision decides which pair is to serve first* (which is the important thing for the umpire).

First Game.—The Blacks win the toss, decide to take service, and declare that Mr. Black will serve the first five services.

The umpire looks to the Whites, who, now knowing that Mr. Black is first server, decide which of them shall receive his service. The Whites declare that Mrs. White will receive service from Mr. Black, and the game is ready to start. The umpire will know that for the *whole of this*

game, Mrs. White should be receiving from Mr. Black and NEVER from Mrs. Black. Likewise, Mr. White will always receive from Mrs. Black for that entire game.

The umpire should remember that one PLAYER makes his five good services and then changes places with his partner. The other team retain the same position, and it is their turn to serve. It will be found easy to mentally check these points with practice as you score: “10-15—Change—15-10” (checking up that the correct change has been made as you say “change” and ensuring that the right server is going to serve to the right striker-out as you announce the reversed score.)

Second Game.—Before the beginning of the second game, the WHITES have to decide which of them shall make the first five services, and announce that Mrs. White will do so.

The Blacks then decide which of them will receive Mrs. White's service. Once decided, that playing order is maintained throughout this game.

Third (or any deciding) Game.—This game opens with the same order of play. That is, the Blacks are to serve the first five services and decide which of them shall make them; then the Whites decide which of them shall receive. As soon as a score of 10 is reached, the umpire must watch very carefully. First, ends are changed. Then the Whites have the opportunity of changing their order of receiving.

Note particularly that it is the order of RECEIVING which is always changed. NEVER the order of serving. If the pair are serving who have the right to make any change, then they will require the *receiving pair to change* their position. Under such conditions it is, therefore, possible for a player to serve to two different opponents in the course of a game. A deciding game can be considered something like two separate consecutive games, EXCEPT that the score is continuous.

Also note that in the case of a deuce match no further change in the order is permissible, even if the score reaches 40—all.

Miscellaneous

One interesting enquiry concerns whether advice can be given to player(s) during the play. This is dealt with under Regulations for International Competitions and, therefore, establishes an authori-

(Continued on page 32)

SUZY BARNA

Interviewed by

PEGGY ALLEN

★

ANY women are elegant, well groomed and smart, but Suzy Barna possesses in addition to all these, that rare, elusive quality we like to call "charm."

J. M. Barrie described it as "a kind of bloom on a woman," but define it how you will, Victor's wife certainly possesses it in full measure.

For those of you who have never met her I would say she is of average height, slim, brunette and very beautiful.

She has dark, very expressive eyes, an enchanting smile and her slightly foreign accent is quite fascinating.

Her clothes are always immaculate, her grooming faultless and it is obvious that she pays great attention to details and accessories.

Suzy was born in Budapest and she lived there with her parents and brother until 1939.

It is interesting to learn that she and Victor were introduced to each other at a lawn tennis club near Budapest where Boros, Bellak and Barna were frequent visitors. "In those days," Suzy recalls, "Vicky used to come to watch me play," and since he had recently broken his arm, and was temporarily unable to play table tennis, he was often to be seen at the tennis club. Suzy also recalls the first time she saw him "on the table." It was his first attempt for six months and she admits that she was singularly unimpressed! This is hardly surprising since it was thought at that time that his career as a world star was finished.

Perhaps his broken arm proved something of a mixed blessing since it did give him sufficient leisure to meet and fall in love with the attractive Suzy. He proposed in 1938, and then left for a long tour of Australia. Early in 1939 he was back again for the World Championships in Cairo, and then Suzy left her home and her countryfolk to marry Victor in London during April, 1939.

Their honeymoon was spent in Cornwall, and an American tour was already planned to begin the following September. They sailed in August, four days before the declaration of war, and for the next seven months the exhibition tour with Emily



Mrs. SUZY BARNA

Fuller and Bellak, ran to schedule. At the close of the tour, their mission ended, Victor and Suzy applied for visas to return to Europe. The authorities were amazed. "Return to Europe when they could remain in America? Not one of the travellers who came over in August has asked to return—you must be mad!" they were told.

The boat docked in Italy where they parted—Suzy to Budapest to see her family, and Victor to London to start on a tour of exhibitions in aid of the Red Cross. Suzy returned to London just before the fall of France and they started house-keeping in a delightful, furnished flat in Kensington.

Talking of homes and flats, I asked her what kind of furnishings she preferred, and her answer was "old English with cream or 'off-white' walls, chintz curtains and covers and really dark, old, oak furniture."

She likes to cook French dishes, with an occasional Hungarian recipe for a special treat, and she admits to a passion for really exciting cake recipes—when the ingredients are obtainable!

Naturally, I asked her if she enjoyed last year's tour of Australia, New Zealand and India, which lasted for almost seven months, and she described to me the scenes of enthusiasm experienced wherever

they went. Evidently appearances of stars of the Barna and Bergmann calibre are so rare "down under" that traffic jams and tremendous crowds became a daily occurrence. Smart clothes and the cost of living generally are very cheap in Australia, but very much higher in New Zealand. It is hard to find the reason for this, but it was very apparent to one visiting both countries within so short a space of time.

Suzy tells an amusing story about a reception in one New Zealand town. The local mayor was to collect them from their hotel and escort them to the hall. They came downstairs and decided to play Belotte (a card game) until the arrival of the mayor. After playing for almost two hours they decided to hail a taxi, and made their own way to the hall.

They were received with most abject apologies and the mayor, greeting them, admitted that he had been sitting next to them in the hotel lounge most of the evening enthralled by their game of Belotte. He had no idea who they were and less idea still what kind of game they were playing!

Returning home via India, they visited Madras, Hyderabad, Delhi, Bombay and Bangalore. The highlight of the whole trip was the Taj Mahal at Aggra, which, Suzy says, has to be seen to be believed.

Finally I asked Victor's enchanting wife what she really felt about table tennis. So many wives regard the game as something which must be endured, that I found her reply very refreshing.

"At first," she said, "I used to watch because it was Vicky's life, and when I met him I knew nothing about it, but now I have the "bug" even worse than Vicky and I just can't stay away from any big match or tournament."

So, who knows, if you should visit the English Open next year and notice an outstandingly smart, vivacious, friendly, altogether charming person, you can be sure that it is the wife of our well beloved friend, Victor Barna.

"Daily Mirror" Contest

Final results of the *Daily Mirror* national Contest, held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on April 25th, were as follows:—

MEN'S SINGLES.—L. Adams (W. Ealing) beat P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe), 16, 11, 9.

WOMEN'S SINGLES.—D. Row (W. Ealing) beat P. Lammin (Grimsby), 16, —22, 7, 13.

BOYS' SINGLES.—J. Lowe (Ashford) beat C. Booth (Bolton), —15, 19, 16, 12.

GIRLS' SINGLES.—D. Rowe (W. Ealing) beat A. Jones (Wallasey), 14, 19, 9.

PEGGY ALLEN

(Blackpool and Lancs. Table Tennis Player)

wishes to announce that on July 1st, 1950, she is taking over the

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WIN THAT MATCH

Extracts from Sol. Schiff's book, "Table Tennis Comes of Age." (Rich & Cowan, 7/6).

PART V

Graduate Play

YOU are now through with elementary school, ready for the graduate field of match play. All right, enter all the tournaments you can. Play in all the matches you can. It's good practice.

You'll soon find that it isn't easy to make your shots "under fire." You may bring off amazing drives during practice, but all too frequently, at least in your first tournaments, you'll miss those same drives in a pinch. Why? Because of that peculiar bundle of nerves—yourself. And no matter how little actual chance you know you have to win a tournament or a match, no matter how hard you may play to win in practice, how little you may mind being beaten in matches, there's always that subtle difference between match play and practice. However, before we proceed I must put in a few helpful words about match play.

It's needless for me to say that you won't play expert table tennis unless you are in good physical health, unless you are sleeping well and eating well beforehand. I pass over the physical now. I'm interested only in mental reactions. What is the correct mental attitude to bring into competition?

Psychology and Match Play: Determination

When you are playing against an opponent in your own class you must have that "will to win." It's not just a pious wish. It's not the "I want to win," but the "I mean to win" that counts.

This determination may mean, among the experts, tedious practice for months, training, diet. It probably means for you simply the ability to "fight," to play on against a run of net balls or edge shots or umpiring errors, to be uninfluenced by enormous leads, insurmountable obstacles, noisy galleries.

Witness the determination of the Rumanians at Prague in the Swaythling Cup Matches of 1935-36. Here, with soft tables and defence the order, the Rumanians had the burning desire for victory that the champions of the previous years, the Hungarians, seemed to have lost. It wasn't that the Hungarians weren't the better players. There was quite a difference between the playing ability of the two teams. But the Hungarians had won



SOL SCHIFF

and won until the desire for victory had grown weaker. And the Rumanians went "all out," with nothing to lose and a chance at the championship to gain. The astounding results show just how much will power and determination can mean.

Confidence

Now confidence must go hand in hand with determination. Even if your opponent is rated better than you, say to yourself that you can win and that you will win.

But don't develop over-confidence. It may make you under-estimate your opponent, try complicated and risky shots, make careless errors. And if you drop behind it may make you panicky.

On the other hand, lack of confidence is just as bad. It causes you to give up easily, keeps you from taking chances, makes you underplay the ball when you have an opening. Many matches have I seen lost by players who hesitated to "hit" for the opening, who refused to take chances simply because they were afraid of losing. And they lost anyway, and ingloriously.

Concentration

To "concentrate" means to shut out of your mind everything except the ball, your opponent, and the playing surface. The spectators do not exist. The referee cannot make a mistake in the score. Nothing can occupy your mind but the task of winning.

Try to cultivate these powers of concentration in every possible way. Get some system of recalling your wandering attention and focusing it. A good way is to repeat under your breath, "Eye on the ball; eye on the ball . . . on your toes, on your toes." And because you have a nice lead is no reason to lose your concentration. Relax between points if you feel you must

relax. Throw a point here and there if you feel you must to keep off that over-tense feeling. But when you let your mind wander from the game your long lead can disappear almost instantly. And it's so hard to recall yourself before it's too late.

DOUBLES

There comes a time in the life of every table tennis player when he gets tired of winning or losing by himself. And when that time comes he takes up playing in doubles.

First of all, if you're going to play with a partner you want to get the sort of partner with whom you can play well.

I suggest that you choose a partner who plays somewhat the same type of game as you do. What I mean is this: If you are a driver, get someone who plays a driving game also. If you prefer the defence, get someone with a half-way decent chop. Otherwise you'll find that you start to build up an attack with a forehand topspin only to have your partner step in next and nullify the build-up by chopping your opponent's return.

Get a partner whom you like personally and whom you aren't likely to blame for making all the mistakes. You'll never get far if you feel that he is losing the game, or if you have no confidence in his playing ability. Teamwork and mutual confidence are necessary for a good doubles team.

And if your partner is having an off day, you try to play all the harder. Don't keep yelping at him. He's trying his hardest.

Tactics

But aside from the right partner, there are a few general rules of tactics that I'm going to mention, only because they don't necessarily hold good in singles play.

Since you have to serve into half the entire court in doubles play, it's obvious that service isn't such a potent weapon as it is in singles. You have to be careful not to give a weak service, because you are directing it right on to your opponent's racket, and he'll either kill it or place it in such a position that he forces a set-up from your partner. I think that the best serves to use in doubles are sidespin serves. You can conceal the type of spin until the last moment, and your opponent runs a much greater risk of giving a set-up or knocking his return off the table. Against a team of hitters, you may have to resort to dropping your service very short over the net, to keep them from hitting every ball, and then cross them up once in a while with a fast topspin serve.

When you are returning service, be on the lookout for a chance to drive. You shouldn't have much trouble anticipating

the direction and spin on the service, and you should be able to hit it many times.

Attack if Possible

Remember, during a doubles match, that attack almost always is successful. Two players who have to steer clear of each other can hardly hope to put up a stout defence against two good drivers. Try to wrest the attack from your opponents and try to keep on the attack as long as possible. And when you get your chance to hit hard, never hesitate. It is much easier to make a successful kill shot against a team than against one individual.

There are two good ways of opening up the opposing court in doubles. One is by the use of short-angle shots. If you can angle from side to side and work in a couple of good drop shots, you will surely get a chance to make a winning point. Another way of opening up the court is by hitting your shot directly back at the player who just hit to you. This forces him way off to one side, and at the same time makes his partner dive madly towards the same side for the ball. Both players are thus caught on the same side of the table, and often, before they can unscramble themselves, you will be able to get in a quick smash.

Doubles Formation

The formation that you and your partner adopt in playing doubles is often a decisive factor in your success or failure. If you know your opponent's type of game thoroughly it should be easy to decide how to play them. Suppose one has a deadly chop that your partner usually misses but that you can hit. Then you should be the one who takes that chop. Suppose you can't handle sidespin services. Then steer clear of them if possible.

Choice of Order

Now, according to the rules, if your opponents serve first you can choose who is to receive. This order alternates at the end of each game, and during the deciding

SPECIALISTS



game it may be changed at the score of ten. Suppose you know your opponents very well. Then you'll know which order to assume from the beginning.

But in most tournaments you will not be familiar with the opposing team. So take a little hint from us. To assure getting into the right formation, do this: if you win the toss, choose service. Let your opponents decide which order to assume. If you like it during the first game, keep it during the second. If you don't, it is your turn at receiving and you can change the order.

Usually you will want to have the better man on your team receive from the better man on the opposition, thus allowing your stronger player to hit to their weaker one. But there are many exceptions. Why take a chance on getting the wrong order? Let your opponents make the first choice, and if you don't like it you can easily switch it around.

Everything that I have mentioned previously in this chapter also applies to mixed doubles play. However, there is one thing that I can't emphasize too much—always have the stronger player on your team receive from the stronger player of the opposing team. In men's doubles it is always possible to win no matter how the order of play is arranged. However, in mixed doubles there is practically no chance of your winning if the stronger player of your opponents hits to the weaker member of your team.

N.E. ENGLISH OPEN

Scarborough—April 8th-10th, 1950.

FINAL RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES.—R. Bergmann beat P. Skerritt, 21-8, 21-14, 21-10.

WOMEN'S SINGLES.—Miss R. Rowe (Middlesex) beat Miss M. I. Lightfoot (Leeds), 21-19, 21-6.

MEN'S DOUBLES.—K. Hurlock (Surrey) and D. A. Miles (Surrey) beat J. G. G. against a run of net balls or edge shots or umpiring errors, to be uninfluenced by enormous leads, insurmountable obstacles, noisy galleries.

Witness the determination of the Rumanians at Prague in the Swaythling Cup Matches of 1935-36. Here, with soft tables and defence the order, the Rumanians had the burning desire for victory that the champions of the previous years, the Hungarians, seemed to have lost. It wasn't that the Hungarians weren't the better players. There was quite a difference between the playing ability of the two teams. But the Hungarians had won

Our Coaching Scheme

By LES JONES

(Secretary, Manchester League)

DURING recent times the question of coaching has been one of the main topics of conversation whenever T.T. folk gather together. This is as it should be, for it is of vital importance that our promising players should receive expert tuition.

Some players are in the fortunate position of being able to pay for lessons, but not so the majority. Realising this, the Manchester League set out on the task of formulating a coaching scheme that would benefit the ordinary keen club player, and I am giving you this "adventure in coaching" in the hope that it may prove interesting and helpful to other leagues.

When I approached our leading players, which includes such internationals as Benny Casofsky, Ronnie Alcock, Leslie Cohen and Fred Cromwell, they willingly gave me their wholehearted support. The next problem was, who should be coached? It was obvious that the demand would be greater than we could successfully cope with, and that at first there must be some limit, so it was decided to ask all clubs to supply a list of the names of their players under the age of 19 who wished to take advantage of the scheme, at the same time appealing for clubs to offer their premises.

The response both for premises and players, to say the least, was most encouraging, showing how keen everybody was for the scheme.

Then followed the sorting out, and I carefully went through the individual record of each player who had applied, grading them according to ability, with players of a like standard in each group. As a result, 42 youths and 12 girls were divided into groups and allocated to their coaches for a course consisting of eight lessons.

So the scheme was launched, and very soon the young players were full of praise for their coaches, and the coaches full of praise for the enthusiasm of their pupils. From the 52 players we do not expect 52 future internationals, but we are aiming at correcting faults and putting these players on the right path, with the possibility of advanced coaching later.

Finally, just three important points to remember:—

- (1) Your best players are not necessarily your best coaches.
- (2) Do not have more than six players in each group.
- (3) Have, as near as possible, the same standard of player in each group.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHISELLING AND NET CORDS

New rules and changes are more likely to destroy the popularity of table tennis. The recent campaign against "chiselling" has brought no solution at all. It is my opinion that when the rule is brought in which reduces the following games to ten minutes each, the situation is not changed. If two chisellers do not risk a drive in a 20-minute game the chances are even less in a ten-minute game.

In your last issue Albert Montgomery made the suggestion that a rule should be introduced whereby a "lucky" ball that touches the net and drops into the opponents half shall be void and the point played again. It is quite possible in a ten-minute chisellers game for there to be a number of net-balls, and it is equally possible for such games to end with the score still standing at love-all!

Mario Joffe (Brazil Swaythling Cup)
Rio de Janeiro.

TIME LIMIT RULE

As a player and supporter of table tennis since 1925 and regular reader of your outspoken *Review*, I would like to suggest the following ideas on the time limit rule.

Reduce the time limit to 15 minutes or less and at the expiry of the time ignore the score. Contestants then to play for a lead of two points, or the best of three or five points.

I have suggested the "washing" out of the score in order to eliminate any chiselling advantage. The "ping-ponger" gets in front by chiselling then sinks to any depths to stay there until time is called.

Congratulations on your editorial and the publishing of Corti Woodcock's article.

I agree with Fred Mather that Ken Stanley should have been given a break for the English Swaythling Cup team. I haven't seen him play since 1948, but Stanley possesses a fine two wing attack

and is one of the best players I have watched—and I have watched most from Barna downwards.

H. I. Williams,
(County of Wiltshire Assistant
Organiser of Physical Education.)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

I can't see why Sam Kirkwood should be so upset about first class youngsters earning a few bob. If they're good enough to use their skill to help to pay their way, then good luck to them! After all, at 17 a footballer can earn a good living and have a fat transfer fee put on his head.

Bill Parker,
Ilford, Essex.

HANDICAPPING

As I understand it, handicaps are based on the relative ability of the players and should not favor (pardon me, favour) either player, regardless of his plus or minus status. Handicaps are good because they make the better player stay on his toes while the players with lesser ability feel encouraged and are not afraid to take a chance now and again to sneak over a point in order to win. If your reader Mr. Masters would like a handicap chart based on the system you gave him, I shall be glad to send him one. Here's how we arrive at the relative ability of our Royal Oak players. In our league, we keep track of the individual scores as well as the matches. Our best player to date, Johnny Corl, has a percentage of .870 in matches won and lost. I have a percentage of .630 so we use this formula:—

$$\frac{21}{870} \times \frac{630}{1} = 15\frac{6}{19}$$

which means that I can only get about 15 points while Johnny is getting 21, therefore, 15 deducted from 21 is 6, at least it was when I went to school in England. So, Johnny would have to spot me 6 points in a handicap match. This formula might not hold true in all cases because, as you know, some styles of playing are difficult or some players to cope with, but it's as good as we can expect and works out nearly true to form for us.

Edward Dickinson,
Royal Oak, U.S.A.

COVER PORTRAIT

Sixteen year old Diana Rowe, the other half of the famous Rowe twins who won the English Open Doubles Championship. Diana also won both the Women's and Girl's Singles of the nation-wide "Daily Mirror" Contest. Already an English international and destined for even greater titles.

This Pushing Controversy

I am one of the condemned, unenterprising scoundrels, but I play within the rules, and so long as the rules and equipment specifications allow me to win, the spectators will have to go on being bored. In my opinion an effective though easy method of neutralising the apparent advantages of defensive play would be the introduction of a much heavier ball, either in the same material as at present, or perhaps in some revolutionary form.

Norman Sumner, Little Sutton, Cheshire.

Surely the object of the final between Bergmann and Soos was not to provide an exciting spectacle for those fortunate enough to be present—who were, one must admit, but a very small minority of the game's supporters all over the world—but to prove to all table tennis fans just who was fittest to be called World Champion. For a World Champion is not necessarily a person who plays the most attractive, exciting, crowd-appealing table tennis, but is someone who can defeat more players of his or her sex than can anyone else of that sex in the world.

In this particular case, Bergmann, who has undoubtedly the best defence in the world, was no doubt pretty confident that he could beat Soos provided that he didn't try to hit, and this he proved to himself in the first two games when, on practically every occasion that he did try to hit, he lost the point. Any rational

individual with a world title at stake would have stopped hitting under those circumstances. Bergmann, being a rational individual, did just that. Surely nobody can blame him for not wishing to hit away his chances of a fourth world title.

The whole argument arises from the popular, but mistaken English viewpoint that the game's the thing.

Finally, I should like to write in condemnation of Mr. Woodcock's refusal to present the cup to Richard Bergmann for the sole reason that the game was not to his personal liking.

J. B. Lawton, Shirley, Southampton.

In your March-April issue you refer to the menace of "chiselling." May I make two suggestions? 1. Scrap the sloppy, flat-handed service which tends to emasculate the game. When we want to infuse virility and variety into the game why invent some artificial device such as this, which tends to level everything down to dull monotony? 2. Let us have volleying. Think of lawn tennis without volleying—it would be rather like the weak, wishy-washy stuff which at times now passes for table tennis. And think what a marvellous new range of shots would be available for us in table tennis—both singles and doubles. Sparkle, skill and spectacle would replace the "weary, stale, flat and unprofitable" endurance test affair into which modern table tennis is indanger of degenerating.

A. V. Dewyer, Sutton Coldfield.

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Hands Off That Net !!

Says A. GREENSMITH

Stanley Proffitt, who was a player of distinction for many years, says he would like to see the net raised as he believes it benefits the defensive player. He goes on to say in one of his press articles, "The defensive player sends back a very low skimming return with plenty of chop and the attacker has not a vestige of a chance to perform in a colourful manner." Surely with Mr. Proffitt's experience he should know that if the net was raised the attacker would have less chance still. Then we have the views of another journalist, Sam Kirkwood, who says, "With the net at its present height the attacker is getting away with 'murder'."

Some years ago the net was 6½ in. and to stop chiselling and dull play it was lowered to its present height of 6 in. What kind of a table tennis age are we in, and what kind of a game do we support, when we have to resort to lowering or raising the net and to be continually making alterations to service rules?

Why can't the powers that be leave these things alone and get down to the root of the trouble which after all is the Standard of Play. The solution to the problem is more efficient coaches of the calibre of Jack Carrington. He gave us a world champion—surely we have others who could do the same.

What would happen in other sports, football for instance, if they made the goals smaller because too many goals were being scored, or maybe larger because too few goals were being scored!

Higher the Net

Says V. H. GRIFFITHS

It is my view that the net should revert to its former height of 6¾ in., or at least 6½ in., for I believe that the lowering of the net has robbed the game of its artistry and skill. At the time the change was made there may have been a lot to be said for it, but I do feel that the difference of ¾ in. was a little too drastic. The only players to benefit from this sudden change were the "out and out sloggers" who put their heads further down and belted away at everything. They knew full well that with the lowering of the net the art of building up a scientific attack no longer existed.

Another type of net change required is the standardisation of the tension of the net as outlined by Albert Montgomery in the last issue of *Table Tennis Review*. Net balls on nine tables out of ten should react in exactly the same manner. At present on a strange table you don't know just what is going to happen.

But the height of the net I am keen to see go up and so make the game harder, not easier. I enjoy watching a bout of hitting and counter-hitting as much as anyone, but I must admit I still like to see a match where the contestants have to work and skilfully to gain the initiative.

Looked at from my own standard of play let me make it quite clear that the net is far too high for me, yet not quite high enough to stop my opponent hitting me off the table.

T.T. Stars Among Tourists and Emigrants

It is more than likely that Mr. and Mrs. Victor Barna will make a short trip to South America during the summer. They hope to fly over at the beginning of July. The Brazilian T.T. Association has invited Victor over to take part in their championships which are to be held in Rio de Janeiro and this, Victor says, coincides nicely with a business trip he intended making to Brazil and neighbouring countries. It also coincides nicely with the World's Football Championships which are to be held in Rio de Janeiro—you lucky people!

Alec Brook and Stephen Boros are now back from an extremely successful tour of South Africa where they were introduced to General Smutts. South Africa now hopes to follow this up with two trips by Richard Bergmann.

Ex-Corbillon Cup star Dora Beregi (Mrs. Devenny) together with husband and

young son, John, have left England to settle in America. Another well-known table tennis personality, who was one of the efficient Wembley Stadium umpires, Miss Audrey Fowler, will emigrate to Australia shortly.

The Indian T.T.A. asked the English T.T.A. for the services of a coach. At the time of going to press there is a possibility that the position may be filled by Stanley Proffitt.

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BOOK REVIEW

MODERN TABLE TENNIS

(By Jack Carrington, Published by G. Bell & Sons, Price 6s.)

Instruction books on table tennis have always had something new and entirely different to give to their readers and Jack Carrington's book is certainly no exception. We all know Jack as a top class player, but nowadays we think of him better as a table tennis coach and it would be no wild statement to award him the rank of the World's No. 1 Coach. If at the same moment you remember his journalistic ability, then it is quite natural for you to expect from him everything that is required in the line of a table tennis instruction book. You won't be disappointed. Photographs and diagrams to illustrate various strokes and positions are scattered generously throughout the 136 pages. The whole repertoire of strokes is dealt with in a technical but clear manner. To the advanced player, however, the real wealth of the book is found in such sections as: Footwork and Mobility Exercises, Tactics Against the Defender, Tactics Against the Attacker, Tactics Against the Half-Volley Player, etc., etc. This Carrington book was originally written in 1938 but the 1950 version has been enlarged and brought completely up-to-date.

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International Continental Tournament

(Continued from page 20)

hall would be fatal on the eyes. We then had a smashing idea, the hall was in complete darkness apart from a few rays of light which were penetrating through the curtains. Aubrey said that if we played in the dark, when the lights came on they would appear to be a lot better.

The quarter-finals were to be played after lunch break and I had to play Georges Roland of Belgium—no mean nut to crack. He was in the lead 2-1 and I managed to pull up to two all, I felt very confident that I could do it at this stage, I went on to a 20-15 lead in the final game this was slowly reduced to 20-19, and I can tell you at this stage I didn't feel so confident. He hit one off at 20-19, and since that moment has been my friend for life.

Aubrey made short work with his opponent in the quarter-final. In the semi-final Aubrey met a player who had just beaten Roothoof in the quarters, but he made quick work of his opponent for he left the table while Haguenauer and I were still battling out the second game.

It was a "ding-dong" struggle even though the score in the third looks easy, a real good game of table tennis, one which was a pleasure to play. Haguenauer, again I must admit, was just too good, but I look forward to meeting him again. prior to this tournament I had only played him once before, in a Swaythling Cup game in Cairo, 1939. I managed to beat him that time in straight games.

The final between Haguenauer and Simons was played at 4 p.m.; again it was a real tough fight. Simons did most of the attacking, but with the table being so slow he was failing to make those lightning shots of his we all know so well. Haguenauer was just that little bit the steadier of the two, and he ran out the winner after three good games of table tennis—Haguenauer so adding a little more glory to what is no doubt a brilliant come-back.

Prize giving and a dinner was the evening's programme, and after (no doubt) many brilliant speeches—I say say no doubt, because none of us understood a word that was said.

TEAM EVENT FINAL

The England v. France scores are as follows:—

Haguenauer beat Simons, 21-19, 21-17, 21-17.

Roothoof beat Stanley, 21-14, 21-14, 21-23, 21-18.

Rowe beat Beolet, 21-10, 21-19, 19-21, 21-18.

Haguenauer beat Stanley, 23-21, 21-12, 21-15.

Roothoof beat Simons, 23-21, 21-12, 15-21, 21-17.

Rowe/Simons beat Beolet/Haguenauer, 21-15, 21-16.

Stanley/Simons beat Roothoof/Haguenauer, 21-16, 15-21, 21-15.

Result.—France won, 4-3.

INDIVIDUAL SEMI-FINALS (Men's)
Simons beat Delabarre, 11, 11, 14.

Haguenauer beat Stanley, 14, 18, 22.

Final.—Haguenauer beat Simons 14, 18, 22.

Women's Event Final.—Mme. G. Roland (Belgium) beat Mlle. H. Beolet (France).

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO UMPIRES

(Continued from page 21)

tative precedent of particular interest to umpires. During a team match, a captain may give advice (on playing method ONLY) either as they change ends or during any authorised suspension of play. In individual events, players may receive advice from anyone during the statutory rest period (that is after the third game). In NO case MUST THE CONTINUITY OF THE GAME be unduly interrupted. "Attempts to advise or influence the play by those not actually playing in a match, after the match has started, are IMPROPER and MUST BE DISCOURAGED."

Repose Period

Any player or pair is entitled to claim a Repose Period not exceeding five minutes BETWEEN the THIRD and the FOURTH game. This is the *only* statutory repose period; the referee, however (note, NOT the umpire) can allow an emergency repose period to cover say a sudden, and temporary illness.

Apart from authorised or statutory repose periods, play must be continuous, and the referee (again NOT the umpire) has a discretionary authority to scratch any player (or pair) who are not prepared to play continuously.

The "Anti-Chisel" Regulations

No queries have been submitted and it is not proposed to deal in detail with Regulations designed to offset "Chiselling." There are two ALTERNATIVE methods: the Time Limit rule and the Expedite rule, and some regulations also provide for the disqualification of guilty players (by the referee). Neither of the two authoritative alternatives have been considered entirely satisfactory by the I.T.T.F. and other suggestions will be welcomed by them.

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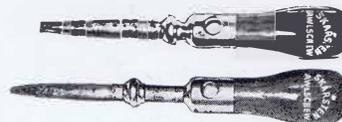


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