

# Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 5 No. 1  
OCTOBER 1950



**NEWS**



**VIEWS**

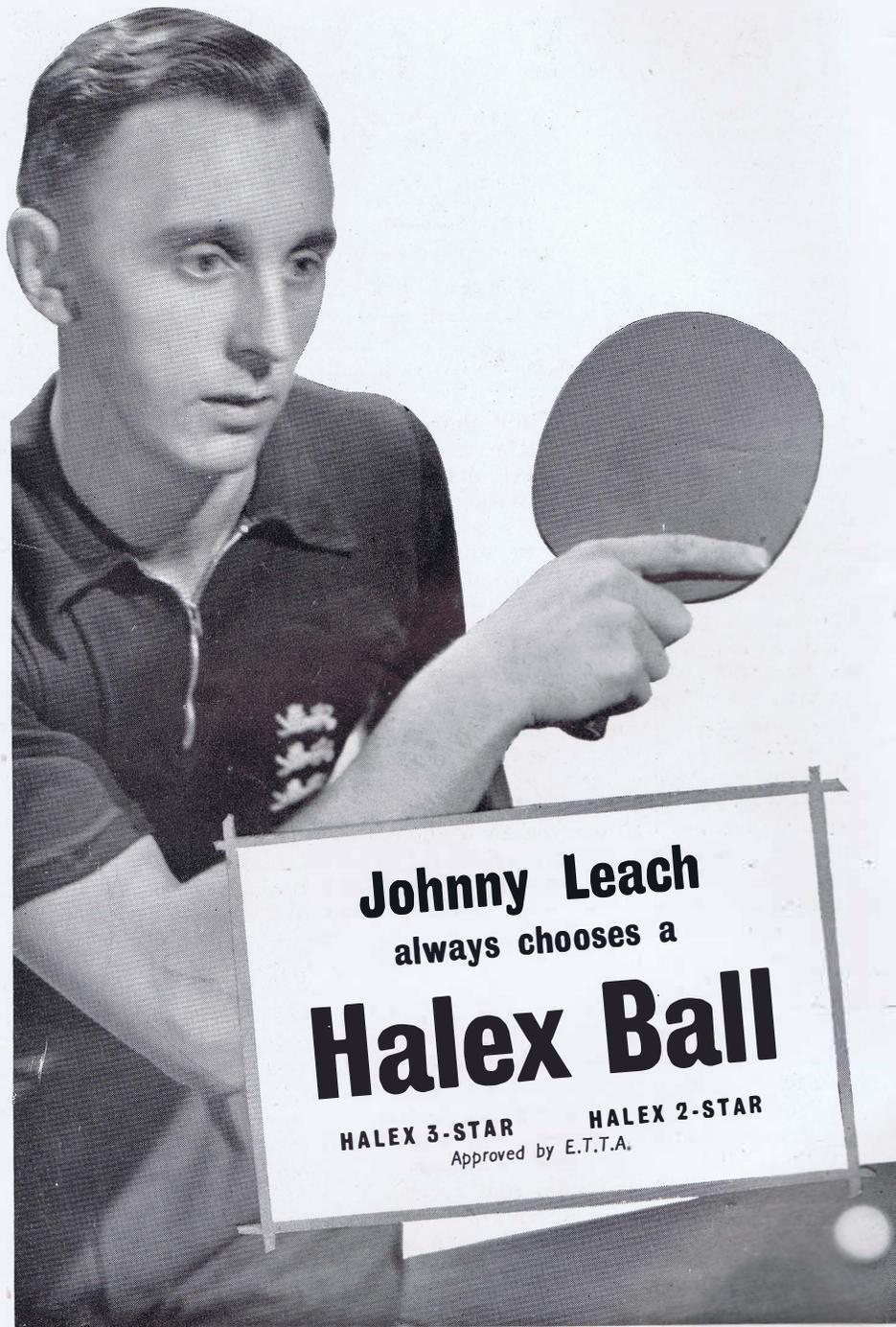


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# TABLE TENNIS

## REVIEW

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and Publishing Office :  
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Vol. 5 No. 1

OCTOBER, 1950

One Shilling

### **The Human Touch**

**D**URING recent seasons the English Selection Committee have certainly had their fair share of criticism. Last year the exclusion of Ken Stanley, even from trials, was a remarkable blunder brought about by lack of teamwork of their own committee. The season before one player was invited to the trials, won practically every game, then told to go home, "not wanted." But then, decisions unpopular in some quarters cannot be avoided, and are perhaps inevitable. Viewed on paper the methods of the English Selectors are as good as any, these being, in their own words, as follows : "Trials are held only when the Selection Committee is in doubt as to the form of the various people who might be considered for selection. Trials for Juniors are held annually. Wider trials, as with other Associations and other sports organisations, are not held when the form of the players is generally known. The Selection Committee maintains a card index system of players, with results of County matches, etc., and also receives correspondence from Leagues and Associations. The Selection Committee is in a position usually to know who are the good players in the country, and it was felt that trials were not needed on the basis of nomination." Well, that's all fair enough, providing the S.C. remains master of the Card Index System and does not become complacent and allow the Card Index System to become master of the S.C. Unfortunately past history does not promote full confidence, and what has often been lacking is the human touch in the shape of members of the S.C. at open tournaments. Some of these illustrious gentlemen are rarely seen at tournaments outside their own locality. If, coupled with the Card Index System and reports from League Secretaries, etc., they were to congregate in force at, say, three open tournaments per year, one North, one Midlands and one South, then their prestige would be enhanced and what is more important, younger players would feel that their performances were being watched with a sincere interest. It has been officially stated that as the World Championships this season come after the English Open it may not be necessary to hold trials at all, but use the English Open Championships as the basis for selection. If so much can be admitted about the value of the National event then why can't we see a full team of Selectors at one or two tournaments outside London ?

# DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

During the summer Victor Barna did not make his proposed visit to South America and neither did Stanley Proffitt go to India. Jack Carrington however did make an extensive tour of the Scandinavian countries, including Finland, in the capacity of table tennis coach. He has been appointed Official Coach for Scandinavia which is surely another feather in Jack's cap, and in my opinion is one more proof of him being the world's best coach. Jack Carrington has made a scientific study of table tennis and the various methods of coaching, and as his book will show he has the knack of putting over his knowledge to the pupil. Like all our best products, however, it seems that even Jack is now for export.

\* \* \*

The lively Yorkshire County Association however, have made sure of retaining a portion of Jack Carrington for the home market. During the coming season he has been engaged to give a series of long week-end coaching sessions in Yorkshire strongholds. About thirty or forty players will be chosen for coaching, and it is proposed to meet the expense on a three-way basis, namely County, Local League, and the player himself. Where the player is unable to meet the expense special arrangements are to be made. Two of Yorkshire's most promising young girls are Joan Bycroft (Bradford) and Audrey Bray (Leeds). Audrey Bray did exceedingly well in the *Daily Mirror* tournament.

\* \* \*

It has been arranged that Jack Carrington's Official status in Yorkshire will be "Consultant Coach." I asked Mr. Leslie Forrest, who is organising the coaching scheme, what was the difference between a "Consultant Coach" and an ordinary Coach. Leslie looked rather serious but there was a twinkle in his eye when he said, "Well, it's something like the difference between a doctor and a specialist."

New Stork Club members are Benny Casofsky (Manchester, International) and

Alan Shepherd (Bolton, International). Of course its Mrs. Casofsky and Mrs. Shepherd who are directly affiliated members, that's understood, so Lancashire's playing strength will not be affected. But Yorkshire gets hit with the affiliation of Mrs. Norma Bishop (Hull) to the Stork Club. All three memberships are not expected to expire before early in 1951.

The English summer is South Africa's table tennis season and once again the Union has made great strides, with the game becoming more and more popular. Alec Brook and Stephen Boros had a wonderful five-month tour, while Richard Bergmann drew packed houses. The "champ" won a hundred guinea trophy put up by the Dunlop Organisation against competition from Rex Edwards (ranked No. 1), Ron Litten, Hymie Sofer, Elizabeth Blackbourne and other leading S.A. players. Richard had to give all opponents a five-point start, yet even so he won easily. Miss Blackbourne, by the way, is so far ahead of the women in S. Africa that she plays in men's tournaments on level terms. Bergmann's tour was sponsored by Hymie Sofer who guaranteed Bergmann a minimum of £50 a week.

Is this a record? Mr. Ray Smith of Grays has been appointed Secretary of the Essex County T.T.A. His age is nineteen. Does that make him the youngest County Secretary ever?

Essex County are placing high hopes on their younger players for this coming season. Peter Smith who made the grade as an English Junior international now becomes a senior along with Essex Junior Champion Les Hall. Still eligible for the junior ranks are Brian Shepherd, who did so well in the *Daily Mirror* tournament, and Colin Anthony, both from Romford. Anthony still has two seasons before he passes the age limit.

Discussion has been going on through the medium of Victor Barna's *Sporting*

Record articles on what is the most suitable age that a player can be regarded as a veteran. Mr. Malcolm Scott, chairman of the Wolverhampton T.T.A. feels that the age should be 45 years. "This as you know," he says, "is the age of which insurance companies are usually wary regarding the issue of life policies." It has been said that at 30 a player becomes a veteran, yet on the other hand we remember a remark made by seventy year old Mr. Tarrant at a recent English Open, when he ruefully shook his head and said he did not think he stood much of a chance for the veteran's event as there were too many youngsters taking part.

The number of Leagues and Associations affiliated with the English Table Tennis Association at the close of last season was 299. This shows an increase of 69 on the 1938/39 figures.

A new note has been struck by the Essex T.T.A. who have formed an Essex T.T. Supporters Club. They mean to extend and do things in a big way. Funds were raised with the running of a Grand National Sweepstake.

Some folk think it wouldn't be a bad idea to organise a Forecast Pool on County T.T. matches. What do readers think? The matter was raised at the last A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. but turned down because many Church Clubs were included in the Association and quite naturally they would oppose it.

From Gloucester comes the news that the Duke of Beaufort is now President of the Gloucester T.T.A., but a great loss will be felt by Cheltenham and Gloucester if Dennis Thompson eventually takes up the new business appointment in Norwich, O.K. by you Norwich.

We are likely to see some new names from the West of England within the usual time it takes for a star to be born and developed. Swaythling Cup player Aubrey Simons has been giving Summer coaching which is to extend into late September to youngsters of the Bath T.T. League. Officials Len Ollis and Jack Butcher have been running this scheme and have put in some overtime for the sake of the boys and girls.

A ballot was recently held between nearly fifty English Registered (Professional) players so that they might form a committee of six to represent themselves. Voting resulted as follows for the first twelve places, but only the top six are elected to the Committee:

A. A. Haydon	26 votes.
Mrs. P. Allen	24 votes.
A. Simons	23 votes.
G. V. Barna	22 votes.
J. Carrington	22 votes.
S. Proffitt	21 votes.
K. Stanley	17 votes.
Miss M. Franks	14 votes.
T. Sears	12 votes.
L. Thompson	12 votes.
R. Crayden	11 votes.
J. Leach	10 votes.



Sixteen year old Marcel Barowh (France) Finalist in The East of England Junior Event.



**RONNIE BAKER**  
(Manchester)

We received quite a number of letters from readers asking how they might give their tables a new surface. The advertisement printed on page 16 showing the famous Skarsten Scraper is one answer to the problem. The Scraper is easy to handle and will give an old table a clean new surface in readiness for repainting. If readers have any difficulty in obtaining the Scraper they should contact the manufacturers or this magazine.

Victor Barna tells me that in spite of his retirement from competitive singles play he expects the coming season to be a busy one. He has already arranged to play in a number of Doubles Championships and exhibition matches will be as numerous as ever. The month of September will see him in France on business as well as an exhibition in Grenoble, South France. He expects to be home again early in October.

The Champion County versus The Rest match will be played on Monday,

October 30th, in Kentish Town, London. Tickets can be obtained from G. R. Harrower, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts.

Michael Szabados writing in this issue is unable to recall who he beat in the final of the English Open for the year 1931-32. We have considerable pre-war records at the **Table Tennis Review** office, but unfortunately we cannot supply the missing information. We have approached four leading personalities but still the name of the finalist remains elusive. Even the English Association cannot help as all their records were destroyed in a bombing raid. Can any reader help? The sender of the most helpful reply will receive a high grade T.T. bat.

It is becoming quite the craze now for young T.T. fans to spend their holidays hitch-hiking or cycling on the Continent. With them go the inevitable T.T. bats together with high hopes of getting in some practice with foreign players. Upon their return, part of the holiday experience is generally how they nearly took a game from Amouretti or Haguenaer. This summer, however, I met one instance of this process in reverse. Spending a month's holiday in Manchester was Marcel Barowh from Nice, a sixteen year old Junior Champion of Southern France. Marcel is quite a diminutive fellow, five feet high and only six stone two pounds. His defence is stylish and his back-hand flick rather reminiscent of Victor Barna, although he has never seen Victor play.

If this was a racing column, I would finish with my Best Selection for the week. It's not a racing column but that doesn't stop me from giving you my best selection for the coming season. He is young—in his teens—tall, and a hard hitter with a style not unlike the Yanks, Miles and Reisman. He has a pleasing personality that will be a credit to English International table tennis. You can't keep a good lad down and no matter how much the big-whigs may overlook he is going to get there just the same. This will be his season. His name—Ronnie Baker! You don't need to try to remember it. His future performances will serve as constant reminders.

# CHINESE SWING MUSIC & T.T.

"SCHNOZZLE" DURANTE once described events as being "the condishums dat prevail," and he certainly described Singapore Table Tennis in a nutshell. The conditions here are a revelation when compared with those obtaining in the United Kingdom.

The Dockyard, for whose team I play, and who are the only European team competing, is twenty-five miles away from the hall in which all matches are played.

On arrival at the "Great World" Amusement Park, the venue for this year's Singles, Doubles and Team events—the complete programme takes four months to complete, using three tables per night for seven nights each week—we find that the hall has only two walls and a roof, with the ends behind the tables absolutely open to the elements. Average rainfall is 120 inches per year, so there are interruptions from the weather from time to time, though it is cooler than an enclosed building, as an average night temperature is 85 degrees—Singapore being only sixty miles north of the Equator.

There are neither dressing rooms nor showers, so players have to change either in public or in their transport. Returning at night, sweaty and tired, you find twenty miles is a very long way!!!

**CHUA KIM HEARN**  
Singapore Champion  
1948 - 1949



View of three of the tables in "Great World". Behind Lattice screen, Cafe and Swing Band.

**H. M. Dockyard Team 1950.**  
Left to right : P. Goldring (Portsmouth)  
R. Conning (Plymouth) G. Coulthead (Wimbledon)

# Other People's Summers

By BILL PARKER

Funny how opinions differ over a period of years! Time was, when Table Tennis and Lawn Tennis were automatically linked, then came the era when the two games did not "agree with each other." Now, once again we hear of first class T.T. players turning, for summer sport to Lawn Tennis and of an inter-county match being arranged at Lawn Tennis between well known T.T. players. The counties concerned are Essex and Middlesex. Essex have some useful players, but Middlesex can call on Bernard Crouch, Michael Thornhill, Maurice Bergl, Ken Craigie, Victor Barna, Len Adams and Geoff Harrower—all of whom are useful more than somewhat. Still—so long as Essex don't mind!

Victor Barna has a tennis court outside his comfortable flat at Pinner and he plays whenever the opportunity arises. He and his attractive wife, Suzy, had expected to go to South America this summer, but things "fell through" owing to haphazard arrangements the other end. The Barna's are now looking forward to a late September holiday in Paris. Johnny Leach is a member of the Essex T.T. lawn tennis team and he also plays a good game of cricket. Johnny, Daisy and little Johnny spent an August holiday at Weymouth and Torquay, but now Johnny senior will soon be getting in some training at the Fulham F.C. ground. Jack Carrington, accompanied by his wife, Elsie, has been coaching and giving exhibitions in Scandinavia.

Ronnie and Peggy (Franks) Hook are also keen lawn tennis players, as is Keith Collar and the Essex junior, Colin Anthony, who has reached the final of the Schoolboys' Championship at Queens Club. During this summer's Inter-County Lawn Tennis Championships at Folkestone, genial Howard Walton (Davis Cup player from "Brum") was seen ambling along as though he owned most—if not all of the town. Howard enjoys life! Geoff Harrower's spare time (outside T.T. coaching) has been limited, but he found time for a holiday at Brixham with his wife Bobbie (formerly a gymnast of international standard) and their little girl of seven years.

Aubrey Simons has been indulging in quite a bit of cricket, appearing for Gloucestershire II and also for Bristol and

District XI. Aubrey's first game for Gloucester was against Devon and by a coincidence he was top scorer for the team with 60 runs, while Jimmy Stallybrass was top scorer for Devon with 97 runs. Jimmy is well-known as a T.T. player in the West of England and was a great friend of Ronnie Litten (now in South Africa).

Ex-Swaythling Cup star Stanley Proffitt, now T.T. journalist and member of the English Selection Committee, has been playing as cricket professional for Bollington in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. In addition Stanley has been giving a fair amount of T.T. coaching, one of his most promising pupils at the moment being Audrey Jones of Liverpool.

Some T.T. players spend most of their summer doing what? You'd never guess! Playing Table Tennis! Belonging to this keen type are Harry Venner, last season Swaythling Cup player and the young Essex champion, Barbara Milbank, who is looking forward to her Daily Mirror tournament prize of a week's holiday (with bags of T.T.) at a holiday camp near Lowestoft. Jack Carrington and Ken Stanley have been engaged as T.T. coaches for this particular week.

It is always interesting to watch how youngsters progress in various spheres of sport—for versatility is always worth a cheer. One to watch, Louis Devereux (Torquay) already a T.T. international, has played this summer for the Combined Services XI at cricket, midst very good company. Since he is also very nearly ready for first-class professional "soccer," it is quite "on the cards" that Louis may one day be England's leading all-round sportsman. We'll "keep our fingers crossed" for him anyway.

(Continued from page 5)

Adjoining this cafe and about ten yards from our hall is a Chinese theatre which uses gongs and shrill voices (once again a good "mike" to help) continuously during the performance. Fifty yards away, just to add to the noise is a Malay "Rongang"—an out-door Dance Hall.

Nevertheless we enjoy our games and I must confess that I would play under the world's worst conditions rather than not play at all.

# Let's Stop This New Rule Business

By KEN STANLEY

A LONG time ago, in 1938, a few people decided that the 6½ in. net was too high. They thought that play was becoming too boring—to watch. Their line of thinking was purely from spectator's point of view.

In their opinion a lower net would bring forth more enterprising play. Controversy reached its peak after the World Championships in Prague, 1938, when one point lasted two hours. Play through the whole of that tournament was mostly dull and unenterprising, but this wasn't due to the high net; poor tables and bad lighting were the cause. This is a failing with many officials. They expect players to play a wonderful game when sometimes the lighting is so bad that they can hardly see the ball.

I'll stick my neck out by saying, that you will always have "pushing" when a certain two clash; you could take the net away completely and they would still "push"—call it a psychological factor.

There has been a lot of publicity on the old game versus the new game, yet the majority of players to-day never knew the old game—they never even saw it played. So I will try to describe it briefly.

With the high net, attacking strokes were made with a longer approach on to the ball, making the stroke more graceful. A top-spin drive was needed, a flat hit, as we know it to-day, being impossible. The play had to be worked up for the winning shot by playing these more graceful strokes at a steady pace, working your opponent gradually out of position with angle shots, drop shots, and altogether there was a lot more brain work going into the game than there is at present.

Rallies were longer and far more satisfaction was derived from playing, and, in my opinion, it was far more entertaining and thrilling to watch than the hit-and-slam game of to-day.

## Finger Spin Service

This was barred for the same reason that the net was lowered, i.e., purely from the spectator's viewpoint. All I say is this, that if a player wishes to spend hours practising a serve, he is entitled to win points from it. I also maintain that any good player should be able to return finger spin serves.

However, after the finger spin serve was banned, players became very proficient without using finger spin. So again there was introduced yet another way of serving—flat hand, ball thrown up—you know it.

To name only one player, Sol Schiff, his new serves are just as difficult to return as ever, so what will happen when players perfect this new rule serve. The way things are though, it will take a long time before players even serve according to the new rule. The number who really serve correctly is very few. Nobody particularly likes the new service, so why have it?

Let's go back to the serve as it was. Or perhaps it would be a good idea to throw it over the net to start—who knows, they may be having us do this before long.

Can you imagine them banning ace services at Wimbledon and making them serve underhand? Can you?

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**AUSTRALIA'S  
NEW  
STAR . . .**

ON her way to Sydney, Dora Beregi, ex-English Corbillon Cup star, stopped for several days in Melbourne. The Melbourne table tennis officials tried unsuccessfully to persuade her to return for the Victorian Championships. By coincidence Michael Szabados was on his way to Western Australia by boat and arrived in Melbourne at the same time. No time was lost and a ship-board match was arranged between these two one-time Hungarians. An audience of one thousand received an unexpected treat when they witnessed some world-class stuff.

Dora (married name Mrs. Devenny) together with her husband and baby Johnny have now started a new life in Australia. In table tennis circles she is officially termed a "new" Australian, which means that she is an immigrant who learnt her game overseas. On the boat going over Dora had several hours table tennis practice every day and upon her arrival she received considerable Press publicity.

Interviewed by Julie Norman, for the



**DORA BEREGI and Baby John**

Australian Magazine "Woman," she was described as, "Tiny, with a comfortably rounded figure and such an air of beaming motherly pride when she looks at baby son Johnny. It is difficult to imagine her as the 'hardest-hitting woman player in the world.'

Dora showed Julie Norman her blue English blouse embroidered with the three gold lions. "I can see you are very proud to wear that blouse," smiled Julie. "Almost as proud," came the reply, "as I am of my darling son. Happily I was still in form after Johnny was born, but another clever English girl player who had a baby about the same time found her game had gone to pieces afterwards."

One disappointment to Dora upon her arrival in Australia was to find so few table tennis clubs. Realising what a tremendous draw-back this is to the game, she now has dreams of forming a club where promising young players can meet and receive proper coaching. Hitherto Australia has had few, if any women players of real promise, but if Dora's plans succeed it is likely that this situation will not continue much longer. Meanwhile she is completely happy in her new country. Her parting words to the Press interviewer were, "Australia, my husband, my son Johnny and table tennis. What more could I want?"



**Keeping in form on board ship**

# The COUNTY UMPIRE SCHEME

By GEOFFREY JAMES

(Hon. Secretary National Umpires Committee).

THE vast growth of our game since the war has necessarily brought with it many alterations of organising methods in nearly every direction. Included in this has been the long overdue recognition of the importance of umpires. There has, of course, been a great and automatic improvement in their standards during the last few years but this has been gradual and it has been obvious for some while that the time had come when, in fairness to the hard working individuals themselves as well as to the game generally, definite standards of practical ability in this direction should be set.

Gone, for ever we hope, will soon be the days when casual spectators and tired players have a card and ball thrust into their hands with the desperate plea of "Take this one, old man, please." With it must also go the willing but ignorant volunteer whose ignorance results entirely from a lack of officially inspired incentive to fully appreciate the absolute importance of his task to the game. It may be an exaggeration to say that a good umpire can make a match but it is a tragic truth that a bad one can ruin it.

Therefore, over a year ago a Subcommittee was appointed by the National Executive of the E.T.T.A. to devise a scheme for the qualification and registration of Umpires. Their task was, of necessity, a lengthy one. As far as could be ascertained no wholesale national scheme as was envisaged had ever been attempted anywhere before and details obtained from other sports produced nothing capable of being satisfactorily adapted to our requirements. Such a scheme had to be easily workable throughout the country without requiring more operators than it would qualify and yet ensure that an efficient body of officials was built up.

## A Grading System.

Thus it was decided to adopt a grading system and as the lowest grade would presumably contain the bulk of the candidates the obvious solution was to commence with this. Once it had been formed into a smooth-running organisation extensions would be made and officials would graduate through it to any higher class or classes. So was

born the "County Umpire."

Now, what do we expect of the County Umpire? Firstly, he must have a full knowledge and thorough understanding of the laws of the game. Secondly, he must be able to assume tactful control of a match, make prompt decisions and call the score clearly in such a way that it is readily audible to both players and spectators. These are absolute essentials and an umpire without them unsettles the competitors, annoys spectators and does only harm to our game.

Having laid down these conditions it remained to find the best way of applying them. The only method of dealing with the first part was by insisting that candidates answer a test and while realising that the ideal to this end would be an oral test before an examining board or at least a written paper taken under examination room conditions this was felt to be impracticable in view of the amount of work which would be created in setting up local boards with the resultant possibility of their variations in standard as well as the travelling difficulties candidates would experience, particularly outside the main population centres.

At the same time it was emphasised that we were endeavouring to qualify the bulk of umpires into the lowest grade of the scheme in an effort to have a large number of qualified officials throughout the country, on whom organisers could depend. It was not the intention at this stage to find a small band of superior individuals capable of handling World Championship finals.

## The Test Paper.

We have, therefore, produced a test paper which candidates may answer in their own time with access to books of reference and the opinions of others. After all, as already stated, we want to ensure that the rules have been read and understood and feel that unless this is the case, no umpire will succeed in obtaining sufficient marks to pass the written test paper which has been designed primarily to test his or her understanding of the rules.

Having coped successfully with the written side he is now appointed a pro-

bationary county umpire but must prove in the same season that he satisfies the second point of qualifications—namely, the test of practical ability for, we appreciate that an official may well be able to pass the written test but still be a very bad umpire. Here he must show in matches before a public audience that he is capable of applying his already proved knowledge, effectively and to the general satisfaction of all concerned.

This practical test may appear of greater importance than the written because many already known efficient umpires may well be ignorant in several vital points of law simply because they have never arisen in the matches at which they have officiated and fate always seems to decree that when such points occur they are at very vital stages of matches when a wrong decision often leads to endless trouble. Therefore we feel that the combination of written and practical tests will not only provide the numbers of officials urgently needed everywhere but will, we hope, do much to raise the general standard throughout the country as well as to awaken interest in this very essential side of the game.

To simplify administration this has been decentralised and will be entirely in the hands of the Counties who have all appointed their own umpiring committees. These will issue and mark test papers in accordance with model answers laid down by the national Subcommittee as well as carry out the practical tests with which they will deal again on Nationally approved standards.

## How to Become an Umpire.

If you want to become a County Umpire you must first apply for a test paper and explanatory leaflet to your County Association or, if no such body exists, in your area to the E.T.T.A. Offices in London. After satisfactorily completing the paper you will be appointed a Probationary County Umpire and given the opportunity of handling matches which will enable you to satisfy your local body that you can be accepted as a full County Umpire when you will be entitled to obtain your County Umpire badge.

This badge is now being prepared and, although you will be asked to pay 2/6d. for it, I think you will find it well worth the expenditure. At any rate if you at any time cease to be a County Umpire then 2/- is refunded on the return of the badge.

# To Make You Think

A FEW OF THE FORTY QUESTIONS  
FROM THE TEST PAPER FOR  
COUNTY UMPIRES



AT 12-9 in the final game it is realised that the players are at the same ends as they were when that game commenced.

- What action must the umpire take?
- What score does he call before the next point is played?

A player makes no effort to return a difficult service, saying he was not ready. Is the umpire obliged to call a let?

During a game the ball in striking the table, is diverted by a piece of grit. What action, if any, should the umpire take?

Would you allow a let:—

- if a player trips over a spectator's legs in attempting a return?
- if a large moth flits over the table during play?
- if a player slips on a polished floor and fails in a return which you believe would otherwise have been successful?

A returns the ball, which passes above the lights before bouncing on B's side of the table. B misses the return. Who wins the point?

A is ambidextrous and in the course of a rest, he transfers the racket from his right hand to his left, and continues to make successful returns. Is this permitted?

A makes an unreturnable hit, but it is obvious from the sound of the ball on the bat and of the ball on the table that the ball is cracked. Does the umpire allow the point? The ball, after crossing the net in service, is volleyed by the striker-out. What decision does the umpire give:—

- if the ball has touched the net?
- if it has not done so?

How does the service rule affect a one-armed player?

In doubles, would you allow a service which bounces on the centre line?

Before a match, one player draws your attention to reflection of the lights from the surface of the table, which is shiny and refuses to play on that table. Is the player justified in this?

The server throws the ball up but, realising he has not thrown it vertically, catches it without trying to strike it. What action must the umpire take?

# EAST OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

September 23 and 24, 1950

The Empress Ballroom at Butlin's, Skegness, made a grand setting for the first "Open" of 1950/51 season.

What a gathering of the "stars," including Leach, Simons, Stanley, Venner, Carrington, Allcock, Peggy Franks, M. Cumberbatch, Adele Wood and Margaret Fry; England, Scotland and Wales were all represented.

Ron Allcock was in great form, hitting his way steadily through to the Men's Singles Semi-final, and disposing of Venner, Wally Poole, A. R. Miller, and R. J. Turner, en route. Peter Skerratt forced Simons to a 20 all game; this lad will go places.

Brian Kennedy and Alan Thompson accounted for Leach and Carrington in three games in the Men's Doubles; while Skerratt and Simpson (Scunthorpe) put out Stanley and Simons.

Eileen Grimstone fought with usual determination past Cumberbatch and Piper to the Women's Singles Semi-final. Margaret Fry went out to Mrs. Rowe

(Newport). Meanwhile Adele Wood was reaching the Semi-final, but lost in the third game to Audrey Bates, who went on to force Peggy Franks to 3 games in the Final.

The highlight of the Tournament was the Final between Leach and Simons. Johnny with his magnificent defence, and Aubrey, close up to the table, patiently sparring for an opening, with both crashing into the attack at every opportunity. A perfect exhibition of careful aggression, with Simons more savage in attack.

The first was Simon's game with an early lead maintained throughout. The second game saw Johnny in front all the way.

The third deciding game started with both opponents carefully waiting for an opening until 5 all. Then Aubrey tested out Johnny's defence to the limit, and with terrific drives forced the score to 10-5. One wonderful rally fairly brought the crowd to their feet. Then Leach doggedly fought back to 16 all, but it was Aubrey's day with a final lead of 4 points.

## RESULTS Semi-finals

### Men's Singles—

Simons beat Stanley, 21-9, 21-10.  
Leach beat Allcock, 21-9, 25-21.

### Women's Singles—

Bates beat Wood, 17-21, 21-12, 21-16.  
Franks beat Grimstone, 21-12, 21-13.

### Youth Singles—

G. Puller (Oldham) beat Miss J. Titterington (M/c.), 8 and 13.

M. Barowh (France) beat J. Burke (Halifax), 13 and 10.

### Men's Doubles—

Adams and Venner beat Craigie and Sharman 15 and 12.  
Crouch and Turner beat Allcock and Holland, 18-21, 21-12, 21-16.

### Women's Doubles—

Franks and Wood beat Mrs. Atherton and Miss Piper, 21-18, 25-27, 21-14.

Mrs. V. Rowe and Miss Bates beat Miss M. Fry and Miss Cumberbatch, 21-12, 20-22, 23-21.

## Finals

### Men's Singles—

Simons beat Leach, 21-16, 15-21, 21-17.

### Women's Singles—

Franks beat Bates, 21-13, 15-21, 21-11.

### Youth Singles—

Puller beat Barowh, 21-7, 14-21, 21-15.

### Men's Doubles—

Crouch and Turner beat Adams and Venner, 21-16, 21-18.

### Women's Doubles—

Franks and Wood beat Rowe and Bates, 21-16, 19-21, 21-14.

### Mixed Doubles—

Venner and Miss Fry beat Allcock and Miss Wood, 21-18, 19-21, 21-15.

## Can you Write a Letter?

T.T. BATS AS PRIZES

WE invite readers to write giving us their views on any aspect of table tennis. You may have some grumble to get off your chest or perhaps an idea or two for the improvement of play or administration. Maybe some particular Open Tournament leaves much to be desired. Whatever your views our columns are open to you.

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Contributions received which are three hundred words or under will be treated as a "Letter To The Editor" and for the three best printed in each issue we will award good class table tennis bats complete in covers with zip fasteners.

### Articles

Contributions of three hundred words or over will be treated as an article and will be paid for at our usual rates. Ideas for articles come easily if you keep your eyes and ears open at table tennis tournaments and other events. Listen to what fans talk and argue about; criticise writers' views in this journal, interview personalities if the opportunities come your way. A good style of writing is not essential and your material will be sub-edited if necessary.

### Photographs and Cartoons

These also are always welcomed.

Address all communications to:—*The Editor, Table Tennis Review, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester 3.*

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We have now made arrangements whereby readers can receive regular copies of the American magazine "Table Tennis Topics." The yearly subscription rate for eight copies is 6/6d. which includes postage. Remittances for this amount should be posted to "Table Tennis Review," Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester 3. As supplies of each issue of "Topics" are received at this office copies will be posted immediately to English subscribers.

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By BILL PARKER

**N**OW that the result of the ballot for the Registered Players' Committee is known, it is interesting to see that three players from the London area have been elected. *Peggy Allen* (late of Lancashire) is now running a London hotel and so will soon find herself becoming more and more interested in what goes on in these parts. She is a player and writer, who has gained popularity in recent years. The election of *Victor Barna* will be generally acclaimed, for *Victor*, maestro that he has been for so long, can still find time for the little man's problems and his own opinion is always to be respected. *Jack Carrington*, the third Londoner, with his all-round experience, was something of a "natural" for a place on this Committee. Whilst mentioning *Peggy Allen's* move from Blackpool to London, we are reminded that *Stanley Proffitt*, another of this new committee, is a Manchester man who spent several years in London before returning North. *Stanley*, always popular down south, is a very good cricketer and a season or so before the war, took 10 wickets for 37 runs whilst playing for Clayhall C.C. The same season he enjoyed the distinction of opening the innings for Essex in the County Championship.

Most of the County associations are now organising trials for the coming season—special attention being paid to the juniors. Kent appear to have a strong batch of youngsters, Essex have four of last season's available and Hertfordshire are also quite happily placed in this respect. However, we must never overlook Middlesex in such matters. With all of last season's regulars above the age limit, the Champion County has set to and arranged throughout the summer and early autumn, coaching for fifteen boys and seven girls who it was hoped would make the grade. Apparently results have been heartening, though not amazing. Greatest promise, allowing for age and his ordinary standard three months ago, is shown by a fifteen-year-old lad named *Wickenholz*, who has got his head and feet working in harmony. Generally speaking these youngsters are pleasing

their coaches, *Victor Barna*, *Tommy Sears*, *Leo Thompson* and *Geoff Harrower*—none of whom claim any payment or expenses for their work in helping the juniors. Whilst on the subject of youth it will not be long now before two of last year's leading juniors, *Peter Smith* (Essex and England) and *Douglas Matthews* (Surrey) leave for their period of Military Service. *Matthews* will miss his regular games at the Albion Sports shop where he is employed by *Jack Carrington* and *Johnny Leach*. The lease of the "Albion" is shortly expiring and arrangements are in hand for the business to be transferred from Mitcham, to Addiscombe, near Croydon.

London players will shortly be seeing a pre-war international returning to the game. I am referring to *Hetty Collier*, who has "taken a few years off," to raise a family and is now playing very well again. Since she lives at Golders Green, she will undoubtedly be a candidate for Middlesex County honours.

The E.T.T.A. Office in Trafalgar Square is indeed a busy place. Assistant Secretary, *Mrs. Kathleen Pegg*, recently back from holiday in Dorset, tells me that the number of enquiries for all kinds of organisations and individuals is increasing all the time and the Association is due for more expansion. It is hoped to publish the Official Handbook much earlier this season. League and County officials can "do their bit" by sending in the details required as soon as possible.

Already, several Londoners are planning to visit Hastings for the *Sussex Open Championships* to be held October 28/29th. The first open tournament in the London Area is the *Eastern Suburban*, which will be at Ilford from November 6—11th.

Due to unavoidable circumstances there has been a delay in the production of this issue of "Table Tennis Review." The next issue will be on sale early in November.

# Your Season's Diary . . .

**September**  
Week Ending  
2. —  
9. —  
16. 23-24—East of England  
30. 29-30—North Midlands

**October**  
Week Ending  
7. 7 —Hartlepoons  
14. 14 —Yorkshire  
21. —  
28. 28-29—Sussex

**November**  
Week Ending  
4. 2-4 —Birmingham  
11. 6-11—Eastern Suburban  
9-11—North of England  
11 —Hull & E. Riding  
18. 17-18—Pontefract  
18-19—South of England  
25. 22-25—Merseyside

**December**  
Week Ending  
2. —  
9. 9 —Bournemouth  
16. 11-16—Central London  
23. —  
30. —

**January**  
Week Ending  
6. 1-6 —Metropolitan

## IMPORTANT NATIONAL EVENTS

11-12 November—  
Belgian Championships

Nov. 28-Dec. 2—  
English Open  
Championships

8-9 December—  
Welsh Open

Indian Championships

6-10 January—  
French Championships

**January**  
Week Ending  
13. 13 —South Yorkshire  
18 —Bath  
20. 18-20—Lancashire  
21 —Southampton  
27. 22-27—South London  
28 —Kent

**February**  
Week Ending  
3. 4 —Portsmouth  
7-8 & 12-17—Middlesex  
(Herga)  
10. 8-10—Midland  
17. 18 —Hampshire  
24. 19-23—Surrey

**March**  
Week Ending  
3. 3 —Yorkshire Juniors  
10. —  
17. 17 —Grimsby  
24. 24 —Bedfordshire.  
31. 31 —West of England

**IMPORTANT NATIONAL EVENTS**  
13 January—  
England v Wales  
Senior match at  
Newport  
25-27 January—  
Irish Open

9 February—  
England v Ireland,  
at Liverpool

March 2-11—  
World Championships,  
Vienna

Tournament Organisers are asked to send to the Editor of *Table Tennis Review* a supply of Entry Forms as early as possible. Readers will be supplied with these forms upon application and receipt of postage. Please do not ask for forms for tournaments more than three months ahead.

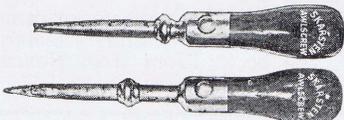


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## In Memoriam

### W. J. (BILL) POPE By Leslie E. Forrest

*Table Tennis was worthier because of him; stronger for the strength he brought; richer for the service he gave.*

*As the final issue of "Table Tennis Review" for last season went to press we received the sad news of the death of Mr. W. J. Pope, Honorary Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association. The day of his death was June 10th, 1950, nearly twenty-five years after he had helped to lay the foundation stone of the E.T.T.A. Right in those early days Mr. Leslie Forrest was one of his closest associates and we are indebted to him for this illuminating article on Bill Pope.—The Editor.*

IN the far off days of 1926, Leagues were few and far between and their organisation was carried on by local enthusiasts without any concerted policy.

It was Bill Pope who moulded the Leagues together, blazed the trail, kindled the fire and laid upon a rock the foundation stone of English table tennis.

After being a keen player and club secretary in the Cardiff and Barry Leagues from 1922, I moved to Liverpool three years later to find no organised table tennis, nor were there any Leagues throughout Lancashire and Cheshire. It is interesting at this stage to record that Wales had a flourishing Association and had been able to foster a "national" spirit amongst its followers.

Wales and the Welsh people have



BILL POPE

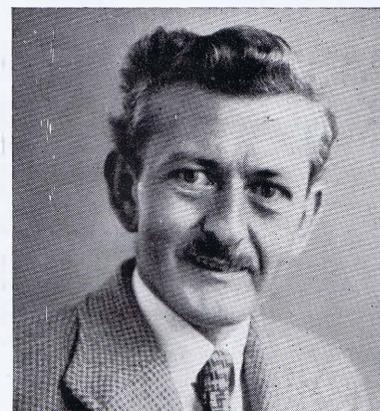
played a major part in my interest in the game. Little did I realise that within a year of leaving Barry and residing in Liverpool that I should be called upon to play a part in the formation of the E.T.T.A., and by one—Bill Pope—who had himself migrated from Newport, Mon., to London.

### Things Take Shape.

Bill contacted me through the medium of Mr. James, of Grimsby, who at that time was Secretary of an organisation which governed clubs in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. This body threw in its lot with the formation of the National Association.

How well do I recall the correspondence received from Bill Pope and of our first meeting at an international match between England and Wales, won by the latter, at the Memorial Hall, London, 1926.

Enthusiasts and League officials today have no conception of the difficulties



LESLIE FORREST

which beset Bill Pope in the early days. There was the question of discipline, standardisation of rules, decentralisation of control, finance, and last but by no means least the build up of a National Association.

My work in Liverpool necessitated visits to London when I never failed to call and see him. It was during a visit in 1927 that Bill 'phoned telling me of an exhibition at Luton which he believed I would enjoy. Completely innocent of where Luton was situated even now I remember my surprise at the distance from London. However, I was well rewarded for the journey, and that night saw exhibitions of the game the like of which I had never seen before. Those taking part were Fred Perry, Frank Wilde, the late Charlie Bull and Charlie Allwright. As for Bill Pope he was here, there and everywhere chatting with all and sundry, which reminds me of how he would attend Open tournaments and of his delight at meeting League secretaries. First one, then another he would chat with and always the friendly smile, the twinkle in his

eye—and the personal interest taken in the Secretary and his League. As to whether he was Secretary of a small or large League was of no account to Bill, what did matter was that the League was part of the National Association. Bill always made anyone feel completely at ease in his presence, he enjoyed a joke and whether it be over a cup of tea, better known in the North as a "brew," or partaking of liquid refreshment, he was always the same—keen to help the Leagues and enlist their support in National affairs.

To a great extent the growth of the E.T.T.A. may be attributed to the personal contact he had with League officials.

I learned to respect him not only as the Secretary of the E.T.T.A., but as a leader among men and one who, despite the pace at which he lived and worked for the game, was sympathetic to any problem, however small.

During the early "pioneering" days if I were discouraged, he would renew me with greater enthusiasm to carry on the struggle.



An Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association. From left to right, standing : M. Goldstein, W. Luff, A. A. Wall, C. Richards, D. H. Thomson, G. R. Harrower, L. A. Preston, E. Reay, F. G. Mannoch. Seated : W. Stamp, Mrs. K. Pegg (Secretary), W. J. Pope, Hon. Ivor Montagu, A. K. Vint, C. C. Woodcock, E. Worley (Miss L. Ferguson and L. E. Forrest were unable to be present).



W. J. Pope presenting his own trophy to the winners of the World's Ladies' Doubles Championship Mrs. Vera Dace-Thomas and Mrs. Franks-Hook.

#### First Association Offices.

The years roll on and in 1935 one of Bill's greatest ambitions is achieved with the opening of the Association offices at 64, High Holborn. Swiftly follows the first publication of "Table Tennis" in November of the same year. Nothing elaborate, the mag. boasted but six pages and was priced at one penny, yet to Bill it was a start, a step forward, and well do I remember his delight upon its publication.

As full-time Assistant Secretary at the E.T.T.A. offices I realised more than ever before of the time and energy Bill rendered in the interests of the game. He would sacrifice his meals to be at the office and following the end of his day's work he would call again. During the season he stayed for hours at nights dealing with the many and varied problems which continually arose. In those days, 1936-1938, voluntary workers helped in the office at night and never was there a happier band of workers. Despite the friendly chats and the never-failing "leg-pulling," a tremendous amount of work was carried out.

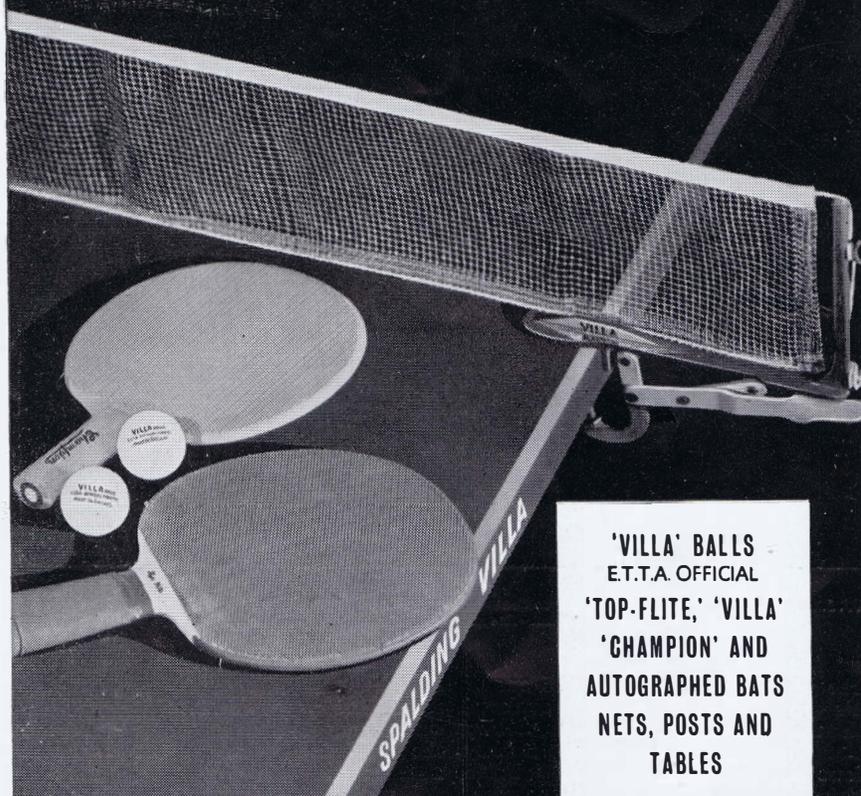
Bill revelled in work, when not at the E.T.T.A. office he would be rendering some form of service to the game elsewhere and of course there was always the week-end work at his home in Beaconsfield.

I well recall during the ten years when in Liverpool of the many times Bill would 'phone around midnight, that being the time he usually arrived home. On one occasion he 'phoned at 2 a.m.!!! Instinctively we realised at home it could be none other than Bill, and sure it was. That particular call was to ask me to pass on an urgent message to Ken Hyde in the morning!!! Bill may have followed normal hours in his own employment but not so in T.T.

#### Telephone Breakdown.

While at the E.T.T.A. office one of many incidents which stand out in my mind concerned our telephone, which due to the mains being out of order, put ours out of action and at a time just prior to the English Open in 1938. Let me say that our 'phone was in constant use and during the season it appeared

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to never stop ringing. Realising how vital it was that we be put on, Bill went into the roadway and despite heavy rains appealed to the engineers, under cover of their tent, to do everything possible to get our line connected first. Needless to say Bill's appeal worked the oracle and the phone buzzed again within a short space of time.

One could go on and on of his work during the War years in helping to organise exhibitions in aid of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Fund.

That he should ever have found time to play the game himself and play a good game, above the average club player, may come as a surprise. Yet in the early days Bill, using a pen-holder grip, played in the London League.

For but a few years did Bill enjoy retirement from his business occupation. Perhaps, who knows, had it not been for the tremendous amount of work he put into the organisation of the game, coupled with his devotion to our interests he may have lived a longer life.

To those of us who knew him and to the thousands of present-day enthusiasts who had not the pleasure to know him as I have written of him, let his life's work of unselfish service be an inspiration to us all.

### A. K. VINT

*E.T.T.A. Hon. Treasurer, says :*

During the period I have been privileged to hold office as Honorary Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, I have served with four different Secretaries—John Poupard, Godfrey Decker, John Siddron and Bill Pope, and for 14 successive years Bill Pope and I worked in double harness. To me it seemed a lifetime—but what a life! It is impossible to describe all that has gone on, but there are a few quick thoughts which come to mind.

One of my earliest recollections was in 1935, when the World Championships were held in London. We lost £500, and it was Bill's proud boast that we were so short of cash that he had to pay all the postage items out of his own pocket to launch the Championships. The tussle to recover our loss is a story in itself, but in the short space of two or three years we were well set, not only doubling our membership but repaying all that we owed, with five per cent interest!

In the dark days of 1939 Bill turned to the task of keeping the E.T.T.A. flag flying, and had the great idea to organise exhibitions for H.M. Forces,

the Civil Defence, etc., and to promote schemes for raising £10,000 for the Red Cross and other war charities. The loss of our office in Holborn was a blow, but I always remember his little chuckle when he came to tell me at the Strand Palace Hotel in September, 1940, (believe it or not, honeymooning!) that the office was bombed to the ground. In spite of this catastrophe, the merry twinkle in his eye was brightest when he discovered, on top of the rubble, a table tennis table—safe and sound.

I suppose Wembley was his greatest thrill, and the dogged way in which he tackled all the problems connected with the staging of World and English Open Championships there earned for him the respect of all connected with the Empire Pool and Sports Arena. To me, the Wembley event will never be the same without Bill Pope, in fact our whole organisation will be missing him. His whole life, physically and mentally, was table tennis. What more can a man give?

### W. STAMP

*Liverpool Secretary and National Executive, says :*

The first time I met Bill Pope was at a conference held in the Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, Manchester, in the days when Jack Swann was going strong. I arrived whilst the members of the N.E.C. were taking tea in the Y.M. Cafe and recognising Bill from his photographs, I went up to him and said, "I don't think you know me, Mr. Pope." Before I could say any more he got up from his chair and held his hand out, and looking at the badge in the lapel of my coat said, "I'm afraid I don't know you, but apart from the fact that you are from the Liverpool League, I have nothing against you." The next time I met him was in his office at Euston Road when I had become Treasurer of the Liverpool League and we had a terrific argument over financial matters connected with a Foreign Tour then in progress and which had visited Liverpool.

Looking over some of our early correspondence I feel we should have written on asbestos instead of notepaper, but one always felt that his one object was, "Will it benefit Table Tennis." His loss is going to be severely felt because he possessed something that is not so apparent these days in either sport or business—the Human Touch. I shall always look back with pleasure on my association with Bill Pope.



# Here and There

Strolling Down Table Tennis Avenue with Sam Kirkwood

COME, come, Bill Parker, surely you must have mis-read my snippet on young professionals? I don't want to see young stars deprived of the chance of earning a few shekels. I just want to protect youngsters against themselves and prevent them getting swelled heads. There is nothing to be said against a boy or girl earning fees via exhibitions and such-like. There is everything to be said against juveniles getting puffed-up notions about their own ability and thinking that because they're paid to play they know all the answers. Table tennis already has too many swank-pots strutting around. Once we let teenagers be treated like idols, we allow them to lose their sense of proportion and become intolerable egoists.

From Eddie Bublely, brother of glove-wearing Ernie, comes a whisper that his professional scheme, first publicised two years ago, is to be resuscitated. Says Eddie, as perky and confident as ever, "I'm still looking for a permanent 'table tennis palace' in the West End of London, or Central London, and I have made bookings at halls throughout the country for professional tournaments. My scheme's not dead—merely biding its time. You'd be surprised at the number of famous players interested in it." O.K., Eddie: we're still waiting to see what breaks.

Victor Barna has designed a new pair of shoes which he hopes to market. The rubber sole is designed like a car tyre and is non-skid.

Two lads I expect to see attain international status next season are Len Adams and A. R. (Tony) Miller, both of London. Adams gained fame by winning the **Daily Mirror** national tournament and throughout the season scored some notable victories against first-class opponents. He has a match-winning temperament, a sound defence and a fine forehand drive. Miller, a Surrey representative, is not pretty to watch, but he is the most dogged, dour and determined player in the game, relying on a stiff chopped defence, plus an extraordinary reach, to see him through. He too has beaten up some men with good reputations and is ready for an England badge. Neither Adams



Sam Kirkwood

nor Miller is brilliant, but they're damned hard men to beat, as many an opponent will tell you with a wry smile.

That grand old-timer, Percy Bromfield, 1923-24 English Champion, is still doing his stuff. At a South Coast holiday camp a few weeks back, he entered the table tennis tournament and against competition from many promising youngsters walked away with the championship. Percy is still very fit and spry and looks good enough to carry on for many, many more years to come. It's good to know that old T.T. players, like ancient military men, never die.

Good move on the part of the E.T.T.A. to invite Martin Reisman over to participate in November-December's English Open Meeting. The almost certain non-appearance of the Hungarians and Czechs will make the need for a colourful star imperative—and Marty is nothing if not colourful, as well as being a truly great player.

The gesture also means that the Association has shown itself willing to forget the past. It was the E.T.T.A., so you will remember, who complained to the U.S.T.T.A. about the behaviour of Marty and Dick Miles when they were over here in 1949, following which protest the boys were suspended. The invitation will help to reconcile the parties. Speaking for myself, I'm looking forward to seeing Reisman in action once again and anticipate that he will regain the title he won in 1949 and which was won in his absence by Richard Bergmann.

Out at last

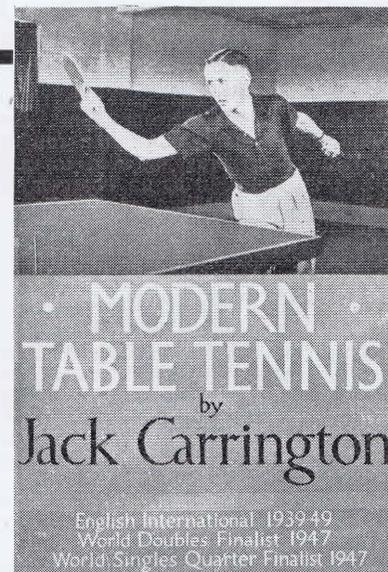
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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE 28th Annual State Championship finals were played on August 3rd, 1950, in Adelaide, before a crowd of several hundred enthusiasts. In the Men's Singles final R. Mehaffey took the first two games but could not resist his opponent, J. Mehaffey, in the last three. The crowd were kept on their toes with some brilliant hard hitting, and with a virtual monopoly of net and edge balls Mehaffey took the title with scores of -17, -13, 9, 15, 16.

In the semi-finals Mehaffey comfortably defeated Kriesmanis, while Clements was successful against Australian Junior Champion Caloni, who took the first game easily and amused the crowd with his antics.

The Women's Singles title went to Mrs. Margaret Edwards, a senior pen-grip player, Miss Jessie Murdoch, a first year "A" grade player. Scores 17 and 17. Miss Felice White (formerly Victorian leading woman player), who took the major title in the City of Adelaide Championships held in June,

was put out in the quarter final by Mrs. Edwards.

In the Boys' Junior event P. Longhurst was defeated by M. Caloni, 21-13, 21-16. The latter played his usual "exhibitionist" game but was cautioned by the referee and faulted by the umpire for his service. In the Girls' Junior Championship, Miss A. Snarskyte, a Baltic player who hit accurately from both wings and showed great promise for the future, defeated Miss J. Millwood, 17, -18, and 6.

### Men's Doubles.

R. Clements—D. Furze defeated J. Mehaffey—R. Richards, 21-15, 19-21, 21-18, 16-21, 21-14.

### Women's Doubles.

Mrs. J. Graebner—Miss J. Field defeated Misses A. Snarskyte—R. Walshe, 19-21, 21-12, 21-18.

### Mixed Doubles.

J. Mehaffey—Mrs. Edwards defeated W. Hodge—Miss F. White, 19-21, 21-18, 21-16.

# DARK GLASSES AND GOOD SHOTS

By EDWARD J. DICKINSON.  
(Associate Editor U.S.A. "Table Tennis Topics").

TO begin with, let it be clearly understood that I am just a run of might think I am bragging even to rate myself that high. But as an observer in my six years as president of the Royal Oak, Michigan, T.T.A., I do feel qualified, if only in a lesser degree, to give some simple advice. Too many of our young players today start out on the wrong foot. Many of them would develop into top class tournament material if only they first learned the fundamentals and were blessed with the services of a good coach, but alas! that's a big problem. The best coach we have here in America, I think, is John Varga of South Bend, Indiana. John's acid tongue combined with strict disciplinary measures and his knowledge of the game have produced some of the best young players we have in America today.

Young Gordon Barclay who was on the American team last season is one of John's proteges. In Britain, no doubt you have many teachers. It was my privilege and pleasure to see one of them, perhaps your best, and his protégé, Johnny Leach, when they visited Detroit, last April.

There is no substitute for a competent instructor and no book can replace properly supervised instruction, so by all means try and secure these services for youngsters if at all possible.

The next best thing of course, is to procure a good book and study it step by step. Don't just read it like you would a novel and then relegate it to the bookcase or magazine rack to gather dust. But read it carefully and put the theory into practice. Analyse your own game, fault by fault, and forget your good shots. I once heard John Varga tell a young player this:—"I am not interested in your good shots, I have dark glasses on when you make them; I want you to count your bad shots and I'll tell you why they are bad." Now I'm going to tell you that the best two books ever published on table tennis by two of the finest gentlemen in the game, whose long experience has given them unlimited knowledge, can be purchased immediately at a very reasonable sum. I refer to "Table Tennis Comes of Age," by our own Sol Schiff, and "Modern Table Tennis," by your Jack Carrington.

I do not propose to discuss the merits of these books for the purpose of saying which is best. Rather, I suggest that if

you can afford it, buy both of them, then you will have a blend of table tennis know how that is hard to beat. Having seen these authors play, I know whereof I speak. Too bad that the old guy with the long beard and the scythe is closing in on their table tennis careers. Carrington's footwork and Schiff's tactics are a sight to behold. In any event, every young player and the older ones too, for that matter, will do well to obtain one of these books at his earliest convenience. Get both if you can. If every club on both sides of the Atlantic would be generous enough to place a copy of each of these books in the public library of its locality it would do much to promote our grand old game.

Compared to the elegance of some of your writers, I know this article might sound trite, but if other and better articles from this side of the "pond" stem from it, I shall feel compensated in that I at least had a part in starting an exchange of ideas and opinions between two great nations with a lot of things in common through the mediums of "Table Tennis Review," and our own "Table Tennis Topics."

## HOW TO PLAY A PENHOLDER

The first thing to do is to try and convert these pesky guys into using the tennis grip, then you won't have to put up with their screwy style. We have a "penholder" in our club and he does give the boys a lot of trouble, but I've discovered something he doesn't like. I use a deep serve with all the chop I can get on it and serve this to his backhand corner. To return this serve he has to bring his arm clear across his body and hit with a horizontal stroke instead of a vertical one, which is his forte when a ball is served straight at him. Try and keep the "penholder" off balance by serving to the other corner occasionally with all the top spin at your command. By way of further change, serve a slow one just over the net now and again, and drive only when he sets it up high enough; and hit quicker than you would against an orthodox volley or chop.

(Ed. Dickinson,  
"Table Tennis Topics").



A Yankee welcome for Leach and Carrington during their American tour. They are to be invited again next year.

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# Suspension of R. Bergmann

## READER'S LETTER RECEIVED.

I am writing to ask if it would be possible for you to forward me reasons why Richard Bergmann was suspended indefinitely from all active play by the I.T.T.F. I can assure you that when I heard this bad news I was shocked to think that a player of his calibre should be treated thus, although I must admit I am not in possession of all the facts regarding this drastic action. I have spoken to quite a number of table tennis players on this subject and the general opinion is that the I.T.T.F. has lost a great deal of prestige. I maintain Bergmann to be the absolute master of table tennis and to suspend him is to severely wound the game which is just beginning to catch the public eye.  
B. Stuart Morgan, Crick House, Nr. Chepstow, Mon.

For the benefit of Mr. Morgan and other readers we are reprinting here the circular as issued by the English T.T.A. during June on the subject of Richard Bergmann's suspension.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association, held on 10th June, 1950, Richard Bergmann, for breach of regulation in respect to a playing trip abroad, in despite of previous warning, was indefinitely suspended from all participation in table tennis, as from 30th June, 1950. Operation of this suspension is requested from all Associations in membership of the International Table Tennis Federation.  
**NOTE FOR INFORMATION.**

1.—The regulations of the E.T.T.A. provided that players receiving payment for play abroad must receive prior permission to do so from the E.T.T.A. This rule is necessary for the protection of players themselves, because the regulations obtaining abroad in various territories vary, because the rules of the I.T.T.F. make visiting players generally liable to the regulations obtaining in the territory visited, and because the proper observation of this principle is made a responsibility of the Association to which the visiting players belong. The E.T.T.A. has operated its authority under these regulations solely to ensure that any visit by one of its players is undertaken with the approval of the governing body of the country visited, and in no case where this approval has been properly forthcoming has E.T.T.A. permission ever been refused.

2.—In the case of the playing tour currently undertaken by Bergmann in South Africa, permission has neither been requested nor granted. Bergmann knows the rule well. He, and he alone among English players, has previously infringed it, and on this previous occasion (in respect to play in Switzerland) two years ago he was strongly warned. It was made clear to him also at this time that no

contractual obligation could be held to excuse an offence, if the obligation were assumed without prior consultation with and approval from E.T.T.A.

3.—There are two Table Tennis Associations in South Africa:— the S.A. National T.T. Board, and the S.A.T.T. Union, the latter being the body to which most former English players emigrating to that country adhere. At the last Congress of the I.T.T.F. applications for affiliation from both bodies were considered. The S.A.T.T.U. was held ineligible for affiliation under the rule that makes ineligible bodies operating a colour bar. The S.A.N.T.T.B., as a body complying with the Constitution but not effectively controlling all the players in its territory, was admitted not to full membership but as a member "in good standing" (i.e., without vote). At the same time, in order not to exclude members of the S.A.T.T.U. from play and development through circumstances in their country that might be held outside their power to change, it was agreed that play might be sanctioned between members of the S.A.T.T.U. and members of Associations affiliated to the I.T.T.F. provided (a) that such play had the agreement of the S.A.N.T.T.B. or (b) that, if such agreement were unreasonably withheld, such play had the consent of the Advisory Committee of the I.T.T.F. At the same time it was recommended that the two bodies (S.A.N.T.T.B. and S.A.T.T.U.) should set up a joint machinery for consultation on matters of common interest (both had intimated in writing their willingness to do so). These decisions of the I.T.T.F. were unanimous. The rules of the I.T.T.F. preclude the recognition of two separate member

authorities in one territory, for the obvious reason that, without any apparatus for co-ordination, the plans of the one might constantly conflict with the arrangements of the other.

4.—The present Bergmann tour is organised by a member of the S.A.T.T.U. and members of the S.A.T.T.U. are participating. In spite of the I.T.T.F. decisions (duly communicated to the S.A.T.T.U.) no attempt appears to have been made by the organiser or anyone on behalf of the S.A.T.T.U. to approach the S.A.N.T.T.B. in respect to any aspect of the arrangements or to ascertain whether these conflict in any way with any intentions or interests of the S.A.N.T.T.B. Nor has any approach been made by either the organiser or the S.A.T.T.U. to the E.T.T.A. in an endeavour to regularise Bergmann's position. Immediately the projected visit was brought to E.T.T.A.'s attention, Bergmann was made fully aware that his visit would be sanctioned only if the arrangements had the agreement of the S.A.N.T.T.B. A few days only before leaving England, some time after all arrangements had been completed and announced in the South African press, Bergmann, using the address of the offices of the E.T.T.A., cabled to the S.A.N.T.T.B. for permission, which replied expressing reproach that it should be treated in this way, stating that it gave agreement "under duress," and explaining that it did not wish to be thought obstructive or ready to abuse its privilege of membership of the I.T.T.F. (it should be made clear on behalf of the S.A.N.T.T.B. that at no time has that body objected to the Bergmann tour or requested any disciplinary action against him). Bergmann was at once informed that an "agreement" of this kind and obtained in this way was far from satisfactory and would be unlikely to suffice to secure permission for his proposed visit, with which he nevertheless proceeded.

It should be repeated, in conclusion, Bergmann has neither formally requested, nor received, permission from the E.T.T.A. for the paid tour on which he is now engaged in South Africa, in breach of E.T.T.A. regulation and in despite of warning. Disregard of the suspension by any players who may henceforward participate with Bergmann is liable to place in jeopardy their position in relation to the E.T.T.A. and I.T.T.F. The date for initial operation of the suspension is therefore chosen in order that these may have adequate notice.

(E.T.T.A. Press Circular).

## PROTEST

By PATRICIA J. HENLEY

(South African T.T.)

During the past six months two tours were made in South Africa by English players, the first by Alec Brook and Stephen Boros and the second by Richard Bergmann accompanied by top South African players. Because the organisation that obtained Bergmann's services operates a colour bar, whereby no natives are allowed to participate, this world famous player was suspended and deprived of the means of his livelihood.

Perhaps the authorities would not have been so hasty if they had realised that Bergmann is perhaps the best ambassador that could have been sent to South Africa to further the cause of table tennis. In any case the colour bar has to be complied with owing to the laws of the country.

Nearly all the matches and exhibitions that were played by Brook and Boros, and Bergmann, were put on in the local cinema or town hall and the audiences were exceptionally impressed to see the speed at which the game can be played.

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# Hungarian Table Tennis

By NEIL STEWART

(A Recent Visitor to Hungary)

TABLE-TENNIS bids to compete with football as Hungary's most popular sport. The Hungarian Table-Tennis Association recently announced that its lists contained 34,000 registered players in the twenty branch associations. Of these 800 are ranking players. Five thousand eight hundred and fifty teams, of which 600 were women, competed for the 1950 championship.

Hungary has a population of eight million. Multiply the above figures by six and you have a rough figure for comparison with table-tennis in Britain. It is not surprising that Hungary occupies such an important place in the table-tennis world.

Table-tennis has become a really mass sport in the last five years. Between 1947 and 1950 the National Sports Office distributed a thousand table-tennis tables free of charge to local associations, and the Trade Union Council gave nearly three thousand tables and over a hundred thousand balls to the various youth organisations.

Today there are over three thousand places where table-tennis can be played in factories, offices, State farms and tractor stations, and in clubs. During the next five years this number will be doubled.

During 1950 it is planned to make five thousand tables and a million balls. In July sports gear factories announced that

2,400 tables and 600,000 balls had been produced in the first six months of the year.

In Hungary, individual and team championships are played in three different categories. These are classes 1A, 1B, II and III. Each class lists its best players separately. If a player wins his class championship twice in succession, he advances to the next class.

The order of precedence among top-ranking players was recently published by the Hungarian Table-Tennis Association, and goes as follows:—

Men: Ferenc Sidó, János Kócián, Ferenc Soós, Kálmán Szepesi, Elemér Gyetvai and László Várkonyi.

Women: Gizi Farkas, Rózi Kárpáti, Baba Király, Edith Sági, Erzsébet Mezei, Gizella Simon.

Hungarians expect more and more people to take up table-tennis during the next few years. The addition of electric light and other facilities to village life is expected to attract many more to the game.

Great emphasis is laid on correct training both for experienced and new players. It is aimed to bring the standard of play of the country associations closer to the level of Budapest players, and coaches will be sent to village and provincial towns.

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## LOST BALL

By EDWIN G. VOLLER.

ONE of the troubles of our club-room is that it is so overcrowded. A large piano is situated in one corner of the room, in another is a large cupboard, and in yet another weird piece of furniture, which looks extremely like a table. (Last month I discovered it was a table).

With so many things around it is not surprising that our table-tennis balls are continually getting mislaid. For a time we even employed a cat to search for the balls at a wage of two whittings per week. He always had a desire to better himself, however, and eventually left for a nearby canteen, where whale-meat was continually on the menu.

The fact that the cat had left us placed us in something of a quandary, and during the past few weeks we have been looking for the balls ourselves. Matters came to a head in the knock-out tournament last week.

John Jones, our No. 3, placed a ball well out of the reach of his opponent, and the ball banged against the side of the wall and rolled underneath the piano.

As the piano is extremely heavy, it needed about four chaps to move it. Perhaps I should state here that the fact that I dropped my side of the piano on the fingers of our best opponent was entirely an accident. I mention this because I am surprised at the number of suspicious-minded people about.

Having lifted the piano, we discovered a narrow hole in the floorboards. With the help of a match we could see a ball lying at the bottom.

I placed my arm through the hole, and just managed to grip the ball. Then began the tricky job of getting my arm out again.

"I can't move it," I said, tugging for all I was worth. "The blessed thing's got stuck."

A quarter of an hour's pulling had no result, so there was nothing for it but to take up the floorboards. This took about an hour. I was then able to produce the precious ball.

When we looked at it we had a shock. It was a cracked old thing which had obviously been down the hole for months.

The proper ball was found behind a radiator five minutes later.

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# The Threat of Suspension

Being a further instalment in the table tennis career of

WHEN the 1930 season opened I was looking forward to another good year following my success in 1929.

However such was not the case to be. In fact it was one of my worst seasons. In the world's singles title I lost in an early round to the fifth Hungarian player. Perhaps my anxiety to taste night life affected my performances but the possibility of being a little too confident cannot be overlooked as a contributory factor.

In 1930 I did manage to win two world's titles, both doubles, the men's with Victor Barna, and the mixed with Maria Medyanski. Barna won the singles title that year. It was a bitter pill for me when I was ranked Number 3 in the world after such a season the year before, but it proved a good lesson, one that I would never forget. From then on I took my practice a lot more seriously and in doing so my determination was greater than ever before.

The 1931 season proved a very successful one, the World Championships being held again in Budapest and playing in my native city gave me added confidence. I took the world singles title from Victor Barna in straight games, only having dropped one game on my way to the final. I made it a triple win for the year as I retained my men's and mixed doubles crowns, my partners again being Barna and Medyanski. A few weeks after the world's titles Victor Barna and myself visited England for the English titles. In those days the English titles were just beginning to gain the importance they have these days. Overseas players were adding glamour to the events which were one of the most sought after of all titles. My further victories in the English Men's singles and doubles played at Liverpool added to my already growing list of international crowns. Barna and myself again fought the final of the singles and for the second time in the season I won in straight games. This had been a wonderful visit, the English people, players and officials all giving us a wonderful time. On our return to Hungary we played in the national championships and I was a triple crown winner, winning the singles from Victor. To complete the season I also visited Austria and Czechoslovakia adding their singles titles to my list. It had proved a splendid season for me and the serious attitude with which I had prepared for the various matches had certainly proved that I had to earn the laurels I was after. It was not sufficient to be a

MICHAEL SZABADOS  
(ex World Champion).



top class player, even these players can be easily eliminated if they take it too easy, as I had sorrowfully learned the season earlier.

My success at table tennis also was to help me in another sphere. I had for several years harboured an ardent desire to continue my studying outside my own country. My mother, as a reward for my efforts in table tennis, allowed me to proceed to the Berlin University. From then on I had to stand on my own two feet and I felt very proud of my new found independence. To supplement my allowance I was permitted to accept a position which had been open to me for sometime, in a large table tennis saloon in Berlin, and so the evenings saw me there and my pockets saw the silver lining.

The following year the Championships were held in Prague. Since the commencement of the World Title series Hungary had dominated all events, the Swaythling Cup as well as the individual events. Czechoslovakia had become our closest rivals, although it was not until 1932 that we had any trouble retaining the cup. The tremendous national enthusiasm that the Czech team had in Prague must have been a great help to them in winning the Swaythling Cup as the final of the world's singles was again fought for by Barna and myself. So after hold the Swaythling Cup for five times Hungary finally lost it to Czechoslovakia. In the final of the men's singles Barna and myself had another terrific struggle. I had a great chance to take the crown again as I led 2-1 in games and 19-16 in the fourth. However I lost the fourth in an advantage

gam: but in the fifth built up another winning lead of 7-0. This was the end of my lead and as the match progressed I was slowly losing my early big lead and the match went to Victor. Victor and myself won the world doubles again for the fourth time in as many years. Another visit to England was a highlight of this season for me, the records show I won the English singles but I can't remember too much about the championships. I think I beat one of the top English stars in the final after scoring over one of the Czech touring players in the semi. I also won the Mixed with my old partner Maria Medyanski. I can remember that I had another good trip and that as always in England I was looked after in royal style.

On my return home I formed a touring team with Laszlo Bellak and we proceeded to do an extensive tour of Germany, little realising at the time the trouble it would cause us. Our itinerary included several towns that, at that time were not affiliated with the German Table Tennis Association. As a result Sandor Glanz and Stephen Boros came into the Hungarian team for the next world championships. Both Laszlo and myself were under threat of suspension and the Hungarian Association feared we might be disqualified left us out of the team which was to attempt to regain the Swaythling Cup. So I was a spectator at the 1933 world carnival. Hungary retained the Swaythling Cup and Victor Barna the Men's Singles. It was Victor's third successive win in the World Singles, truly a great performance. Hungary had again placed herself at the top of the world of table tennis, a position meaning so much to quite a lot of people, but especially a lot for a small group of us who fought for it.

During that year I received much advice to leave Germany, many of my friends at the University advising me to take my leave when Hitler came into power. So in 1933 I left Germany and went to Paris where I was to live for the next two years. I had to learn the French language before I could move freely and for a while I had to mark time. It was at the basement saloon of Marcel Corbillion, the donor of the now famous Corbillion Cup, where I was employed. This was truly a wonderful place for table tennis. Over 60 tables in a setting table tennis players dream about. I cannot say too much about the help and assistance clubs such as this have done for table tennis. The many saloons throughout Europe attracted countless players and gave them the opportunity to play and practice against all types of players, at any time. The advantage countries who have public clubs open to anyone is tremendous.

## NEVER GIVE UP!

A match is never won until the final score is reached. If you ever have misgivings on this point then keep Bergmann's record firmly fixed in your mind. Here it is:

1938—Wembley: Vana led 2 games to nil and 15-12, Bergmann won.

1946—Paddington: Andreadis led 2 games to 1 and 20-17, Bergmann won.

1946—Paddington: Slar led 2 games to 1 and 20-18, Bergmann won.

1948—Wembley: Andreadis led 2 games to 0 and 19-16, Bergmann won.

1949—Utrecht: Haguenaer led 2 games each and 18-11, Bergmann won.

1950—Budapest: Turnovsky led 2 games each and 11-4, Bergmann won.

1950—Budapest: Vana led 2 games each and 18-14, Bergmann won.

1950—Budapest: Soos led 2 games to nil, Bergmann won.

### CALLING ALL UMPIRES!

YOU are in charge of the game, not the players. Insist on all rules being observed. Players have no right to alter or ignore rules even by mutual consent.

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# NEWS from SCOTLAND



in the trials and if so it's all to the good. Negotiations are proceeding at the moment with regard to International fixtures and open Tournaments, and provisional dates are, Scotland v. Ireland at Dunoon in December, Scotland v. Wales at Edinburgh in February, while we are hoping to hold our Scottish "Open" at Butlin's Camp, Ayr, early in May, but, of course, all these dates are still subjects for discussion and definite information will be given when agreement is reached by all parties.

On the administrative side of the S.T.T.A. there have been a couple of changes. "Bob" Stewart, for many years our very efficient and popular Hon. Secretary, is succeeded in office by Jack Muir, last year's West of Scotland League President, but Bob is not lost to table tennis as he is now President of the parent body and will assuredly fill that position with distinction. We are looking forward to the opening of the new season, knowing that we will meet old and new friends among the grandest people on earth—table tennis players.

J.M.M.

WE in Scotland feel that we can face the new term with confidence. Our numerical strength continues on the upgrade and our playing standard shows definite signs of improvement as was revealed by our showing in the International field last season when we faced a strong English side at St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow. We lost this match 2-7, but those present agreed that the final score might just as easily have been 4-5. Inspired by this partial success we sent a young team to face Ireland where we experienced the thrill of our first ever International win by 6-3.

Unfortunately two of that successful team will not be available for the coming season, as Alan Glass, of Hamilton, and Alex Metcalfe, of Glasgow, will be otherwise occupied, the former with final year studies at the University and the latter having been called for Military Service. However, we have a number of promising youngsters who, with a little experience, should prove worthy of 'national honours in the near future.

In order to gain that experience we are sending a few lads to London in November for the English Open Championships and of course our own Helen Elliott, holder of the Women's World Doubles Title, will be there on the invitation of the E.T.T.A.

The boys to make the trip have not yet been chosen, but we propose to hold a series of trials during September when the lucky youngsters should emerge from the following list: Billy McCandlish, Jacky Halpert and Monty McMillan, of Glasgow, Alex Morton and Johnny Braithwaite, of Hamilton, and A. Laidlaw, Edinburgh. There may be others capable of springing a surprise

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# County Championships Line-up

By STANLEY H. KEMPSTER

WITH the entry of Glamorgan in the National County Championships, this competition has now spread beyond the borders of England and an International flavour is added to the competition. The application of Glamorgan necessitated an alteration to the Rules which originally permitted only counties in membership with the E.T.T.A. to participate.

Another alteration to the Rules, which should add to the interest of the competition, now automatically relegates the bottom team in the Premier Division. In previous years, the highest teams in the Regional Divisions have had the right to play off and challenge the lowest county in the Premier Division and to date, Yorkshire have successfully withstood this challenge during the past three Seasons, last year defeating the East Anglian County, Cambridgeshire.

The constitution of the Premier and Northern Divisions again remain as last year, but the return of Lancashire and Cheshire to the Regional Competition, has increased the strength of the North Midland Division from 4 to 7 by the addition of these two Counties and Nottinghamshire. Essex leave the Home Counties Division and now play in the East Anglian, and the formation of the new South-Western Division necessitates the withdrawal of Middlesex from the East Anglian, and Devon from the Southern to join the new teams from Glamorgan and Warwickshire.

The appearance of Middlesex in a South-Western Division would appear to be geographically wrong, but the financial obligations involved in travelling long distances, prevent counties, situated in more favourable positions, from competing in this Division. This new Division, with Devon, last year's challengers for the Premier Division, and Glamorgan, fielding probably a team of Welsh Internationals, will have a high standard of play, and Middlesex, with some 9 or 10 Internationals to call upon, are in the fortunate position of being able to field even a Regional team of high standard with a definite "box office" appeal.

Bedfordshire have found it necessary to withdraw from the Junior Division, but the re-entry of Cambridgeshire,

who last year were unable to raise a team, keeps the strength of this Division to 6. An encouraging aspect is the formation of a supplementary Western section of this Division composed of teams from Gloucestershire, Glamorgan and Nottinghamshire.

Prospects! Well, your guess is as good as mine. Middlesex, who last year carried off the honours in the Premier, Junior and East Anglian Divisions, is now no longer interested in the latter and may have difficulty in retaining the other two titles. Essex, winners last year of the Home Counties Division, should this year take the East Anglian Title and may carry off the Premier Division honour. Northumberland should again lead the Northern Division and Surrey may this year take the Southern Title, unless Hampshire can regain her previous form. The new South-Western, the North-Midland and the Home Counties are all Divisions in which, at this stage, the true strength is not known and the result is extremely open.

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