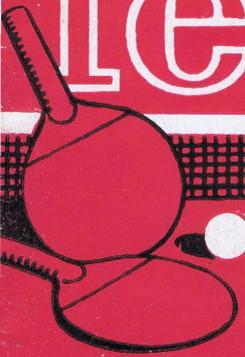


Table Tennis REVIEW

Vol. 5 No. 2
DECEMBER, 1950



NEWS



VIEWS

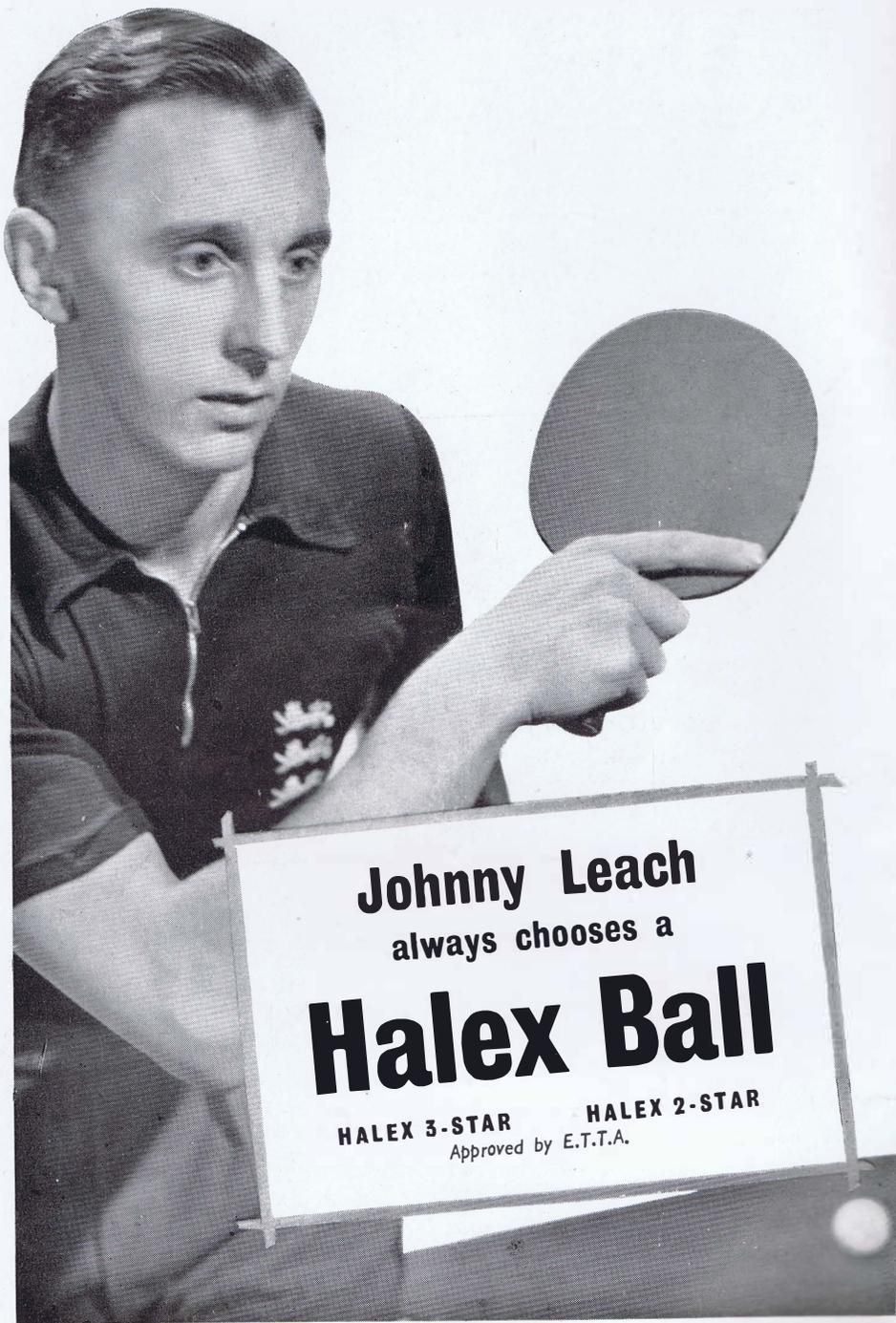


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Vol. 5 No. 2

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1950

One Shilling

Christmas

To
Our

Greetings

All
Readers



ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles : A. Ehrlich (France) beat B. Kennedy (England), 25-23, 21-13, 21-12.
Women's Singles : Miss T. Pritzi (Austria) beat Miss H. Elliot (Scotland), 21-18, 21-16,
21-9. *Men's Doubles* : J. Carrington and J. Leach (England) beat M. Reisman (U.S.A.)
and A. Simons (England), 21-10, 21-11, 12-21, 21-14. *Women's Doubles* : Miss D.
Rowe and Miss R. Rowe (England) beat Miss H. Elliott (Scotland) and Miss V. S. Thomas
(England), 18-21, 21-17, 17-21, 21-17, 21-15. *Mixed Doubles* : V. Barna and Miss
H. Elliott beat B. E. Crouch and Mrs. Thomas, 20-22, 21-18, 24-22, 21-18.

Full report and pictures in our next issue. Ready February 1st.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

By GOSSIMA

Expensive and extensive tours abroad are not restricted to the good fortune of players like Barna, Leach, Bergmann, etc. During October and early November, Mr. T. D. Ranga Ramanujan, Hon. Secretary of the Indian T.T. Federation, took a team of players on tour throughout Malay, Saigon, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Macao and Indonesia. The team, of course, included their national champion U.M. Chandarana.

* * *

Even so, you can't keep a world ranking player for long in one place. We hear that Johnny Leach is now planning a world-wide tour starting with Australia. His companion is likely to be explosive Martin Reisman. The tour may commence early next year and this should practically coincide with the publication of Johnny's book dealing with the instructional side of the game.

* * *

When in London for an E.T.T.A. meeting, Lancashire officials Billie Stamp and Norman Cook stayed at Mrs. Peggy Allen's hotel, and Peggy, playing the part of the perfect hostess, took them an early morning cup of tea upstairs. Her sense of humour was instantly aroused by the sight of these two in bed. "It seemed strange," she writes, "to view these two old friends from such a novel angle." Then she adds, "It seemed to tickle them too!"

* * *

A photograph opposite shows Victor Barna and Alec Brook playing exhibition table tennis at Simpson's in Piccadilly, London. They played two sessions daily for a week on the new Barna-Dunlop table. This table is so constructed, that it can be set up in one minute.

* * *

Up to the present, little has been heard of T.T. activities in Cornwall, but the game was given a bit of a fillip when Ted Dickinson recently flew over from U.S.A. to see his kin folk and stay with his now elderly mother. Ted, as many readers will know, is the Associate Editor of U.S. "T.T. Topics" and he writes to say that he had a happy time in England and also took up a challenge of forty years' standing.

One of his old school chums, Edgar Williams had sent repeated messages saying that the first time he returned to Cornwall he would take him on at T.T. and give him a beating. The match was arranged and good publicity given by the local paper at St. Austell, in fact the event attracted quite a number of Cornish enthusiasts who agreed to get together and strive to put the game on an organised footing. The challenge games, six in all, were umpired by twenty-one year old St. Austell player, Roger Bunt who Ted reports as being a player of fair standing. All six games went to the Stars and Stripes.

* * *

If anyone happens to have any spare bouquets hanging around then send them to Mrs. Kathleen Pegg who has been appointed Administrative Secretary of the E.T.T.A. and has been keeping the flag flying at Trafalgar Square since the death of Bill Pope.

* * *

Table tennis will be demonstrated at the Festival of Britain in the special section entitled "People At Play."

* * *

A Londoner, whose opinions should command respect, writes of Mancunian, Ron Allcock:—"It is most enjoyable to watch the atomic hitting of Ron Allcock. This player takes an exceptionally early ball and his speed is such that when he plays there is a constant succession of gasps from the spectators. With so little margin for error on his shots, however, he will find (as in last season) holding his form a nerve racking and uncertain business. If he could maintain it he would challenge strongly for the Swaythling Cup team."

* * *

People ascribe the overwhelming successes of the Americans in sport to Steaks, Sunshine and Fitness. I think they omit the most important quality. You cannot watch any American tennis or table tennis player without noticing his self-confidence, which invariably takes the form of "cockiness." This generates from his conviction that he belongs to the greatest race and country on earth, and that he can beat anybody else. Many years ago it was the



Victor Barna and Alec Brook playing exhibition table tennis at Simpson's Sports Stores.

English who thought this. Now we are more modest and less successful.

* * *

In a sober review of a book on horses, Lt.-Col. Llewellyn says, "... the collapsible backward seat has gradually been replaced by the convertible Italian sideways horizontal forward seat." Well, well perhaps our game is simple after all.

* * *

Johnny Leach took the Belgium Open Singles and Mixed Doubles titles at Brussels on November 11th. In the final he beat Demeure (Belgium) 8, 5 and 10, and in the Mixed, partnered by Peggy Franks, the English pair beat Miss Van Overloop and Stoop by three clear games.

* * *

First three places in the official Austrian ranking list come out as follows:—Men: 1, Eckl; 2, Just; 3, Bednar. Women: 1, Pritzi; 2, Wertl; 3, Wutzl.

* * *

Extract from U.S.A. "Table Tennis Topics"; "Probably the reason our juniors do so well is that they get to compete so often with the men players. Over in Europe the men don't seem to play often against the juniors, consequently their development is much slower." Waal whady'know!

* * *

The British table tennis team won their event in the Jewish Olympics—the Maccabiah—at Isreal, beating four other competing nations without suffering a

single defeat. British team was Benny Casofsky, George Goodman and Sid. Levy—all Manchester boys. Ernie Bublely who was originally in the team was forced to drop out at the last minute, being unable to leave business. One of the British football team, Sid. Levy, took over and, so I am told, acquitted himself creditably. Our footballers came third in the series (to Israel and South Africa) and received a bronze medal a piece. Sid, who is a Manchester Y.M.C.A. member also received a gold medal for his table tennis together with George and Benny. I hear that Benny made such an impression on the Israelians that he was offered £50 a week and a home to stay and coach home players. The next Maccabiah takes place in Israel in April, 1953.

* * *

Extract from local provincial weekly reporting a table tennis match; "The disappointed player hit his opponent on the head with his bat; fortunately it did not break." A small advertisement appearing in this same paper reads; "Table tennis equipment for sale or would exchange for a pram."

* * *

Finals night of the South American Championships held in Santiago mid-October attracted a crowd of 5,000 people. In the team event Brazil beat Chile 4-1. The Men's singles went to Hugo Severo of Chile. Brazilian players are now showing remarkable improvement this

undoubtedly being the outcome of their travels to Stockholm and Budapest.

We have received a letter from Denmark asking if any English players happen to have one of the old vellum 'ping pong' bats. This is required for a new Danish Athletic Museum. If anyone can oblige please write to T.T. Review office.

In an international match played at Helsingfors the Danish men beat Finland 5-4, while the ladies match resulted in Finland 3 Denmark 2.



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Official National Ranking List

Issued by the English Table Tennis
Association

MEN

1, R. Bergmann; Equal 2, J. Leach, A. W. C. Simons; 4, H. T. Venner; 5, R. Crayden; 6, K. Stanley; 7, B. Crouch; 8, M. Thornhill; 9, K. Craigie; 10, B. Casofsky.

Not ranked, insufficient data, would be ranked in the 1st ten:—G. V. Barna, A. A. Haydon.

(NOTE.—R. Bergmann is at present subject to suspension).

Group "A", Listed Alphabetically, Ranked as Equal:—

L. G. Adams, B. Brumwell, J. H. Carrington, M. Kriss, D. A. Miller, W. Poole.

Not ranked, insufficient data:—E. Buble, G. R. Harrower.

Group "B", Listed Alphabetically, Ranked as Equal:—

R. Allcock, J. Cornwell, C. Dawes, L. Devereux, E. J. Filby, W. Hall, J. Head, K. Hurlock, B. Kennedy, J. Lowe, W. McCave, A. R. Miller, G. Mitton, L. Muller, C. Seaman, R. Sharman, A. Squire.

WOMEN

1, Miss D. Beregi; 2, Mrs. M. Hook; 3, Mrs. J. Miller; 4, Miss M. Jones; Equal 5, Miss D. Rowe, Miss R. Rowe; 7, Miss E. M. Steventon; 8, Miss L. R. Barnes; 9, Miss A. Wood; 10, Mrs. J. Crosby.

Not ranked, insufficient data, would be ranked in the 1st ten:—Mrs. V. Thomas.

(NOTE.—Miss D. Beregi has gone abroad and is now a member of the Australian Table Tennis Association).

Group "A", Listed Alphabetically, Ranked as Equal.

Mrs. E. Adams, Mrs. M. Allen, Mrs. M. Cumberbatch, Miss M. Fry, Mrs. J. Hewitt, Miss J. Mackay, Miss D. Smith, Mrs. C. Thompson.

Not ranked, insufficient data:—Mrs. D. Evans, Mrs. D. Haydon, Miss G. Mace.

Group "B", Listed Alphabetically, Ranked as Equal:—

Miss E. Benstead, Mrs. C. Brigden, Miss P. Cantor, Mrs. E. Carrington, Miss E. Grimstone, Mrs. C. Horn, Miss M. Lightfoot, Miss E. Mansell, Miss B. Milbank, Miss D. Munnings, Miss K. Peake, Miss P. Piper, Miss N. Senior, Miss J. Smurthwaite, Miss D. Spooner, Miss P. Swales.

Not ranked, insufficient data:—Miss D. Emdin, Mrs. D. Smith, Miss S. M. W. Swatman, Mrs. A. Taylor.

WORLD ANALYSIS

By BILL McCAVE

Quite recently, the I.T.T.F. issued a men's ranking list as follows:—

- 1 R. Bergmann (defender)
- 2 F. Sido (attacker)
- 3 B. Vana (attacker)
- 4 F. Soos (defender)
- 5 V. Tereba (attacker)
- 6 I. Andreadis (attacker)
- 7 J. Leach (defender)
- 8 M. Haganeur (defender)
- 9 A. Ehrlich (defender)
- 10 A. Simons (defender)

The ideal pupil, somebody young, very keen and determined to succeed can build a sound, match-winning game from careful analysis of this list!

Look quickly over the names, noting the description in brackets.

Right at the top comes a defender. Then two attackers. A defender, another two attackers and finally four defenders.

All right, the game we are going to mould is *defensively minded*, with a majority of six defenders to four attackers.

What type of defence though? Take another look. Bergmann, long, high, chopless balls, no worrying about the height of his return. Soos, low, heavily chopped balls. Leach, a similar type of defence to Bergman's. Haganeur and Ehrlich, their defences moulded on the same pattern, with the addition, though, of heavier chop. And last of the defenders, Aubrey Simons, with his close, low heavy chop.

The predominant feature of four of the defenders is their retrieving abilities, their determination to return the ball from any angle and at any height.

All but two of the defenders favour heavy chop to slow down the attacker, but the present world champion has excluded this from his plan of campaign.

So there we have our basis for defence. Consistent long returns to an attacking player, a determination to run one's heart out in an effort to retrieve the ball, rather than relying on heavy chop to slow the attacker down. The height of the return being immaterial so long as the ball goes back.

Now for the attack. Four of the ten listed men really hit that little white pill in order to dominate the game. Three of these have a two wing attack. But the man who broke clear, and won two world singles titles entirely dispensed with his backhand and covered the table with a consistent though murderous forehand.

And there is our basis for attack.

Find your most fluent and hardest attacking stroke, either forehand or back-

hand (remember Barna?) discard the weakest wing completely, and above all get that consistency. In the 1947 English Open Championship finals, Terëba made one hundred and two consecutive attacking strokes to clinch the last point against Andreadis. That is the very high standard to aim for.

Does anyone playing at the moment, play a game similar to the one we have built up?

The present Hungarian No. 2, winner of three big Open Tournaments, including the Hungarian, and although not mentioned in the present world ranking list, twenty-three year old Josef Koczian is my nap selection for the 1951 world singles title at Vienna.

World Ranking List Official

The I.T.T.F. Ranking Committee has issued the following ranking list for season 1949/50:—

Men's Teams:

1, Czechoslovakia; 2, England; 3, Hungary; 4, France; 5, Yugoslavia; 6, U.S.A.; 7, Sweden; 8, Austria; 9, Poland; 10, Switzerland.

Women's Teams:

1, Rumania; 2, Hungary; 3, England; 4, U.S.A.; 5, France; 6, Austria; 7, Belgium; 8, Scotland; 9, Yugoslavia; 10, Sweden.

Men (Singles):

1, R. Bergmann (England); 2, F. Sido (Hungary); 3, B. Vana (Czechoslovakia); 4, F. Soos (Hungary); 5, V. Tereba (Czechoslovakia); 6, I. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia); 7, J. Leach (England); 8, M. Haganeur (France); 9, A. Ehrlich (France); 10, A. W. C. Simons (England).

Women (Singles):

1, A. Roseanu (Rumania); 2, G. Farkas (Hungary); 3, S. Szasz (Rumania); 4, G. Pritzi (Austria); 5, R. Karpati (Hungary); 6, H. Elliot (Scotland); 7, M. Shahian (U.S.A.); 8, Hruskova (Czechoslovakia); 9, R. Monness (U.S.A.); 10, D. Beregi (Australia).

(NOTE.—The following players are omitted from ranking owing to absence from competition—due to illness or other causes—during the whole or part of the season:—R. Miles, M. Reisman, P. McLean (U.S.A.), Koczian (Hungary), Fuerstova (Krejcowá) (Czechoslovakia), V. Thomas (England).

Bergmann and Miles are currently under suspension.

When the Japanese Prayed

The Life Story of Michael Szabados—
continued.

LIVING in Paris, I was pleased when it was decided to hold the 1934 world championships in that city. Both Victor Barna and myself were in top form and another final between us was likely. However, the brilliant Laszlo Bellak upset any such idea when he accounted for me in the semi-finals after a close, even struggle 24-22 in the fifth. I was not disappointed because I was really playing well, but Laszlo was at his top. Of this player's popularity a lot had been said and I think everyone (with the possible exception of Victor Barna) wanted him to win the final. He looked it too, taking a big lead in the fifth but as usual Victor held him and went on to win his fourth world singles title.

I again won two doubles titles, the men's with Victor and the mixed with Maria Mednyanszky. Hungary retained the Swaythling Cup and at the end of that year I was ranked number two in the world.

The following year saw the first "Wembley World." These Wembley events have since been held many times in latter years but the first Wembley was the first time anything on such a scale had been attempted. Records were shattered by this world carnival. The number of competing nations, attendance, as well as many other records were broken during this world championship. The final night was a never to be forgotten affair; all tickets were sold out and the air of excited expectancy filled the Wembley arena.

I shall never forget the scene as I walked into the stadium. Film stars, evening dressed spectators, what a sight! I never would have believed I would see such a gathering for a world final. The vast arena was blacked out and the tiny table became the centre of attraction. Well Barna and myself were in the final and this vast crowd was to see a match that should have pleased them. For my part I can say that never before or since have I played in such a match. I was more than satisfied with my form and I felt I could win. Possibly Barna was equally as confident; certainly his form lacked nothing that night.

At first, the atmosphere was greatly different to anything we had been used to, the space was so tremendous, rather awe inspiring, but our years of experience stood us in good stead and for myself I soon became used to the conditions, and I am sure Victor must have done also.



M. SZABADOS
Playing in 1950 Australian Championships

There seemed so much more air than in the halls we had been used to but everything appeared to suit me very well when I began to play.

With the first set in my pocket and a lead of 12-7 in the second I was very happy, that is if it is possible under such circumstances to have emotions. In a rally soon after I was running from side to side when to the amazement of everybody I caught my hand on one of the fixtures surrounding the playing area, cutting it quite badly. In a twinkling ambulance men appeared and endeavoured to stop the flow of blood. They wanted to bandage the hand, it was my right one incidentally, which, of course, was impossible if I was to continue playing. Using some sort of liquid they stopped the flow of blood; whatever they used certainly made me hop. My hand stung unbelievably. They insisted on bandaging the hand but when I showed them I could not hold the bat properly they removed the bandages. All this happened very quickly, but to me it seemed like years, such was the excitement.

When we resumed I lacked the feeling in my hand for a while, but in the fourth set I was playing almost as well as I had done before the accident. In winning this game

my hopes of winning had been restored and I was all out to win. The crowd received thrill after thrill in the fifth game, Victor led 17-13 but I pulled up to take a 19-17 lead. Leading 19-18 the second accident of the match happened. Victor got a cramp in his right arm and had to have a massage. This break cost me the game. When we returned to the table it was all over in a minute, how, I shall never know. The score was 21-19 in Victor's favour. But it had been a magnificent game. Not only did that break cost me that world title, but it also altered the whole of my life from then on, for I had received a very big offer providing the championship came my way.

Now, at this stage of my life, I can honestly say that I do not regret it. The course of my life since then prompts me to make this statement. I probably would not have visited Australia until years after and therein lays the story.

I won the world doubles title again with Victor, and added a few more international titles to my belt, thereby retaining my number two world ranking.

That season proved to be my last opportunity to win the title, but I feel that the finals at Wembley were a fitting climax to my career despite the fact that I was runner-up again.

The following year I was invited by the Australian Table Tennis Association to make a tour of the capital cities of Australia and with the valuable assistance of an English table tennis promoter and lover of the game, namely Mr. H. N. Smith, I was able to accept the invitation. Being the first to leave Europe for Australia I was greatly envied by my fellow countrymen and there was much excitement before my departure.

Arriving in Australia in August, 1937, together with Steven, or more correctly Istvan Kelen, we proceeded on what turned out to be a highly successful tour of

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Australia, playing to large crowds in a country where little table tennis had been heard of, let alone played. At Wirth's Olympia, Melbourne, we played before a crowd of 5,000.

After playing throughout Australia, we went on to New Zealand, also a new country to table tennis, but as in Australia we played before very large crowds. By this time I had become quite acclimatised and had a fervent desire to return to Australia and settle in one of the capital cities. Whilst in Australia I received a "dream" offer. The Japanese Association wrote to me to see if Steven Kelen and myself were interested in touring Japan. We had heard a lot about the sport in that country, and besides, the opportunity of touring throughout Japan and China appealed greatly to me. So after the tour of New Zealand we sailed for strange lands, where no table tennis tourists had ever been, and there has not been many players to tour these lands since.

Of our visit I have great memories. Our arrival could only be described as hectic. Our boat was running late and as tour dates had been arranged it looked as though we may miss our opening engagement. However, local officials saw that this did not happen. At the first port (some hundred miles from our first playing town) we were rushed from the boat, taken overland by train, arriving a few hours before our first match was due to be played.

Our arrival was featured on the front pages of all Japanese newspapers and at all times during the tour, the publicity was terrific. So well known did we become, that it was impossible for Steven Kelen or myself to go out of our hotel without being recognised by hundreds of people. We were always being mobbed by eager fans, most of whom produced sandpaper bats for us to autograph. The keenness of players, officials and spectators alike had to be seen to be believed.

During our first match against Japan a world record for photographs must have been established and I guarantee it has never been broken since. Photographers flash globes hardly stopped flashing all night. They must have taken hundreds of action photos of Steven and myself. After the first match we were never left alone the officials took us everywhere, we hardly had any sleep so intense was the hospitality offered to us. During that time the local players must have studied the photos of us so hard that they found out all our faults. They certainly reversed the score in the second match in which they beat us.

Once again I will say that this was an occasion that had to be seen to be believed.

The crowd numbered about 6,000 and although I must say that they appreciated our good shots and the points we won, the reception they gave the local players was thundering. After a rally won by a Japanese player, there would be a break of not less than a minute and anything up to two minutes while we waited for the crowd to be silent and also while the Japanese players "prayed." It was a five match affair, two singles each and one doubles, and I felt it would ever end. We started at about 4-30 finishing at about 11, despite the fact that the actual playing time was about one-third of this.

The standard of play in Japan was really high, but few of the players used pen grip style. They were remarkably quick and very hard to beat.

Although we ended the tour well up as far as results were concerned we had many hard, close matches, losing a few and many that we won were extremely close. The only other international matches Japan has taken part in, they have won with ease. They defeated an Australian team easily and also accounted for an American team. Another feature of our visit was the number of presents we received. Everywhere we went, and in every town we played, people showered us with valuable presents.

Taken on the whole the tour of Japan was an experience we shall never forget for many and varied reasons.

Cover Portrait

BARBARA MILBANK

(nineteen years old) Ilford Champion 1948-49, 1949-50 and Essex Champion 1949-50.

Receive Regularly

U.S.A. TABLE TENNIS TOPICS

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.

A QUERY SOLVED

In an article in our last issue Michael Szabados was unable to remember the name of the English player he beat in the final of the English Open for 1931-32. We offered a prize of a high grade T.T. bat for the most helpful reply received and this has been won by Mr. Esmond B. Davies of 29, Sheridan Terrace, Whitton Avenue West, Northolt Park. His letter reads;

"I may be able to help as I was present on finals evening. The championships were held for two days on the fourth floor of Selfridge's Stores, Oxford Street, London. In the final Szabados beat English Swaythling Cup player R. F. Jones by three games to two after 20-20 in the fifth game. It was a wonderful match and by far the best table tennis I have ever seen. The umpire for this match was Mr. Corti Woodcock. Other leading players taking part were Sears, Haydon, Rimmer, Brook, Dass, Kolar and Bellak. A full report and score of finals night was published the following Sunday in the 'Sunday Referee' by their table tennis correspondent the late Eric Findon. Due to Eric leaving mid-way through the fifth game when R. D. Jones was leading comfortably, Jones was quoted incorrectly as having beaten Szabados."

Many thanks Mr. Davies. What a memory you have. Our thanks also go to Alec Brook, W. Reeves and our old table tennis stalwart, 72 years old O. W. Tarrant. Mr. Tarrant adds a footnote saying he is still playing the game every day and enjoying it. "Keeps you young" he says!

Champion County v. Rest

The Rest of England beat the Champion County, Middlesex, by five sets to four at Kentish Town on October 30th, 1950. Scores were as follows, Middlesex names first :-

D. A. Miller beat K. Stanley, 14-21, 21-13, 21-16, lost to A. W. C. Simons, 15-21, 10-21; G. V. Barna lost to Simons, 16-21, 14-21, lost to J. Leach, 15-21, 20-22; B. Crouch lost to Leach, 16-21, 9-21, beat K. Stanley, 11-21, 21-16, 21-19; Miss J. Roberts beat Miss M. Jones, 21-18, 13-21, 21-16; Barna and Miss R. Rowe lost to Leach and Miss M. Franks, 21-12, 12-21, 16-21; Miss D. Rowe and Miss R. Rowe beat Miss M. Franks and Miss I. R. Barnes, 21-18, 20-22, 21-12.

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Two Yorkshire Girls

Yorkshire lass Molly Smith is now engaged to Len Browning, the Leeds United centre forward. Molly is employed at the Leeds Education offices and plays for that team in the Leeds and District League. Len is also a T.T. enthusiast and is a member of the Victoria Club, Leeds, which boasts Brian Kennedy and Alan Thompson. Molly is a pleasant attractive blonde and considered by many to be the neatest attired T.T. player in the county. However, in the near future she is likely to add her support to some other league, for footballer Len has asked to be placed on the transfer list, and where Len goes Molly is sure to follow.

Another Yorkshire girl in the news is twenty-three year old Betty Clough who made such an impression in the recent Yorkshire Open. Among her victims, before falling herself to Adele Wood, was the holder, Peggy Allen. Betty assists St. Marks in the Bradford Men's League and is No. 1 player in the Y.M.C.A. women's first division team. She is included in the Yorkshire County coaching scheme and if Jack Carrington is able to develop her attack she should soon make her presence felt in first class T.T.



JEAN SMURTHWAITE, JEAN DAVIDSON
(Sheffield)

YORKSHIRE OPEN

OCTOBER 13th and 14th, 1950

ALL five titles changed hands and there were surprises galore at the Yorkshire "Open," held at Holdsworth's Welfare Hall, Drighlington, near Bradford.

Unlike the Yorkshire "Closed" Championships established in 1922, the "Open" was first held in 1937, and it is interesting to record that a Lancastrian, Leslie Cohen, was the first men's singles title holder. Interesting too, is that Benny Casofsky won the first youths' singles event in 1937 and in the post-war era has achieved the hat-trick by capturing the title 1946-7-8. Ken Stanley, the new title holder also won the youths' singles in 1938, so it will be seen that these two pre-war internationals are not only capable of resisting the challenge from the post-war school but are still powers to be reckoned with. Happily enough, the women's game is reversed with the younger players well to the fore.

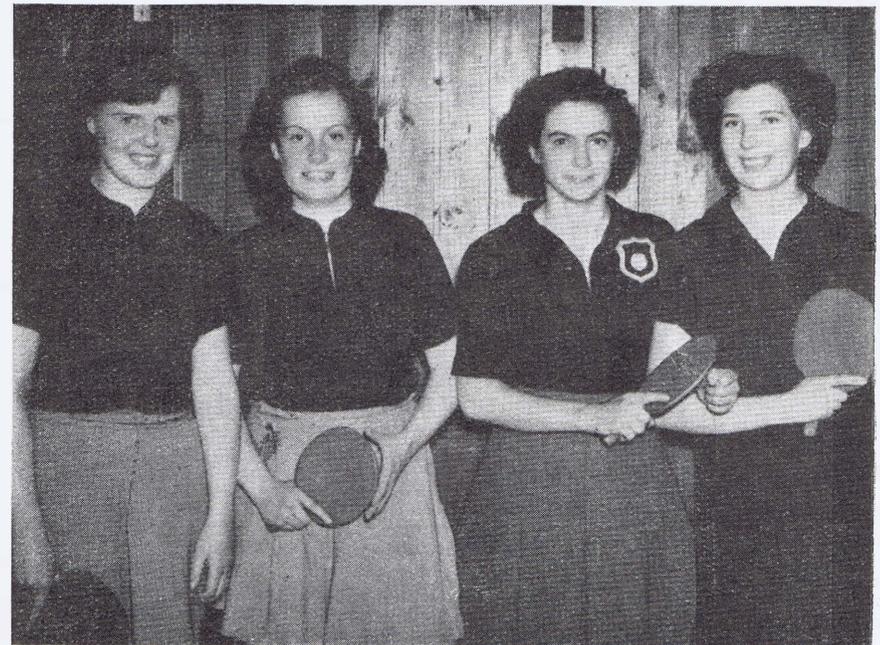
Of many surprises, two call for special reference, and in each case they were brought about by Yorkshire players, Bradford's Betty Clough and Raymond Hinchcliff, of Huddersfield. Each had the

distinction of inflicting defeat upon the holders, Mrs. Peggy Allen and Ronnie Allcock.

One all-Yorkshire surprise in the men's singles was Peter Walton's victory over Brian Kennedy.

Hinchcliff enjoyed a good tournament and his form fully justified the Yorkshire selectors' choice of him in the N.C.C., Premier Division side. After playing consistently well in the early rounds his first real conquest was made in a quarter-final success over Ronnie Allcock in two straight games, 21-12, 21-15. No mean achievement, which he followed up by one none-the-less noteworthy over that keen and improved Lincolnshire "star," Pete Skerratt, after Pete had accounted for Jack Carrington, 18-21, 21-12, 21-13 in round 3. In the final, however, Hinchcliff was unable to combat the strategy of Ken Stanley, who won in two straight games.

Betty Clough, after accounting for Yorkshire county player, 17-year-old Katherine Best, of Leeds, went on to beat Mrs. Peggy Allen, ex-Blackpool, now London, in a



EILEEN GRIMSTONE, JEAN TITTERINGTON, JEAN SMURTHWAITE, JEAN DAVIDSON
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BARBARA MILBANK

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quarter-final duel which resolved itself into a dogged defensive battle, 17-21, 21-17, 21-16.

The much-improved Miss Adele Wood found in Betty Clough her toughest opponent, and it was in the semi-final that Adele was forced to concede a game.

A second round women's singles surprise was the defeat of Mrs. Eileen Adams, the Essex player, to a player of the future, 16-year-old Jean Titterington (Manchester), 21-10, 21-19.

As at the East of England, the Leeds pair, Brian Kennedy and Allan Thompson, narrowly fell to Ronnie Allcock and A. Holland, of Manchester, only this time in the final, after the former pair had triumphed over the holders, Benny Casofsky and Ken Stanley in the semi-final.

The new partnership of Eileen Grimstone and Jean Titterington looks good and we may expect more successes in the future. They beat the two Sheffield Jean's—Smurthwaite and Davidson, after the latter pair had done well to beat Liverpool's Eileen Mansell and Blackpool's Kay Benson.

RESULTS SEMI-FINALS

Men's singles: R. Hinchcliff beat P. Skerratt, 21-17, 13-21, 21-15; K. Stanley beat B. Casofsky, 21-14, 21-9.

Women's singles: K. Benson beat D. Munnings, 21-16, 21-17; A. Wood beat B. Clough, 21-14, 17-21, 21-15.

Men's doubles: B. Kennedy and A. Thompson beat B. Casofsky and K. Stanley, 21-19, 17-21, 21-19; R. Allcock and A. Holland beat G. Mitton and C. Whiteley, 21-17, 16-21, 21-14.

Women's doubles: E. Grimstone and J. Titterington beat M. I. Lightfoot and P. Allen, 21-14, 10-21, 21-19; J. Smurthwaite and J. Davidson beat K. Benson and E. Mansell, 21-19, 17-21, 21-16.

Mixed doubles: B. Casofsky and Mrs. E. Adams beat B. Kennedy and Miss C. K. Best, 21-14, 21-8; G. Mitton and Miss M. I. Lightfoot beat P. Skerratt and Miss D. Munnings, 21-17, 21-18.

FINALS

Men's singles: K. Stanley beat R. Hinchcliff, 21-11, 21-12.

Women's singles: Miss A. Wood beat Miss K. Benson, 21-7, 21-13.

Men's doubles: R. Allcock and A. Holland beat B. Kennedy and A. Thompson, 10-21, 21-15, 22-20.

Women's doubles: Miss E. Grimstone and Miss J. Titterington beat Miss J. Smurthwaite and Miss J. Davidson, 13-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Mixed doubles: B. Casofsky and Mrs. E. Adams beat G. Mitton and Miss M. I. Lightfoot, 21-16, 21-15.

U.S. GOINGS ON . . .

During the summer Martin Reisman toured South America and won every tournament he entered. Ferdy Olazarri, Chilean top ranking player, says, "Reisman is a great guy, a gentleman and a champion. His forehand is not of this world."

Korean champion Keun-Hang Choi is living in Los Angeles, having been stranded since the last American National Championships. He has been unable to return to his native country owing to the war, though his wife is in Seoul. While in California he has delighted audiences with his terrific style.

Ex-Hungarian star Sandor Glancz partnered by Pauline Betz has played exhibition T.T. in a television show. American champion, Mrs. Reba Monness, has also become TV T.T. artist.

Carl Zeisburg, one of the earliest U.S.T.T.A. presidents, has long been a yearly contributor to the Year Book of Encyclopaedia Britannica. He always wrote the article on table tennis and when submitting his last copy he added the names of several possible alternate contributors, "in case anything happens to me." He died of heart attack on June 7th. World T.T. loses one of its pioneers.

Doug. Cartland won the Ohio Summer Open played September 2nd and 3rd. Mrs. Leah Thall-Neuberger took the Women's Singles title.

Among the resolutions presented at the U.S.T.T.A. annual general meeting and approved by the governing body were: (a) The elimination of the registration fee for exhibition players; (b) A poll to be made among members to ascertain whether all white dress should be used for major tournaments.

The U.S.A. National Rankings for 1950, have just been released by John Varga (Ranking Chairman). Many names are included on the lists, but below we mention top places only.

MEN; 1 W. Holzrichter, 2 J. McClure, 3 W. Price, 4 S. Schiff, 5 J. Somaal.

WOMEN; 1 Reba Monness, 2 Leah Neuberger, 3 Mildred Shahian, 4 Magda Rurac, 5 Mae Clouther.

Ranking are included of Juniors, Seniors (over 35 years) and Doubles. Magda Rurac of Los Angeles was unranked and unknown last year, but sprang into prominence over-night by defeating M. Shahian and Mae Clouther in the National Championships.

Strolling Down Table Tennis Avenue

With SAM KIRKWOCD

THE ETTA'S first-ever national ranking list (published on another page) is one with which few, I should imagine, will disagree. The main point of dispute will be Johnny Leach's co-ranking with Aubrey Simons in No. 2 position, below World and English champion Dickie Bergmann. To my way of thinking, Leach is flattered. Simons is the more consistent player and rarely loses to a "mug." The same cannot be said about Johnny, who has slipped more than somewhat since winning the world title so spectacularly at Stockholm last year. In his quiet, unsensational way, Aubrey has proved himself the more effective tournament player. Leach is suffering from a surfeit of exhibition play and has lost his edge. Unless he pulls his socks up and concentrates on tournament stuff, he will slip further down the ladder.

Bergmann's 20-point and very lengthy protest, issued from South Africa, against his indefinite suspension by the ETTA for undertaking his tour, is a kick against what he considers to be an act "against the principles of British justice."

While sympathising with the champion in his trouble, I do think that he would have been wise to have held his peace and waited until he got back to England, when he could have met the Association bosses and straightened out what appears to be an unfortunate series of misunderstandings. As it is, the Hon. Ivor Montagu & Co. are not likely to take kindly to a pugnacious-on-paper player who has, for one reason and another, long been a thorn in their side.

It's a bit early to talk about the world championships scheduled for March in Vienna, but if Peggy Franks, Joyce Roberts and Di. and Ros. Rowe aren't sent over to represent us, I will, like Frankie Howerd, be amazed. These four girls have only to show last season's form and they'll cake-walk into the Corbillon Cup team.

Is there going to be an attempt at dress reform this season? I say once again: table tennis will never be regarded as a major sport by the lay public while scruffs, dressed as untidily and dirtily as they care, are allowed to offend the eye—and, not infrequently, the nose.

New Zealand News

(Continued from page 17)

in 1937 he toured New Zealand with the Hungarian I. Kelen.

T. R. Flint is 25 and plays an agile game. His habits of throwing his bat at the ball and doing an occasional somersault have rarely failed to arouse comment.

The Men's title of the North Island Championships went to R. V. Jackson who defeated W. O. Jaine; Women's title being won by Miss Margaret Hoar. Both Jackson and Miss Hoar (both 19 year olds) then went on to win the N.Z. National Championships. In the final R. V. Jackson (Auckland) beat J. S. Crossley (Wellington) 21-13, 21-11, 21-15, 21-15, 21-18. In the Women's Final Miss Hoar (Wellington) beat Miss J. E. Leathley (Otago) 21-17, 21-14, 21-15, 21-17, 21-17.

Alfredo Campoli, world famous violinist, arrived in Wellington and his first request was to meet some of the leading T.T. players. Campoli told reporters that he was very keen on the game and had played No. 2 for Paddington in the London League, and in 1938 had played for England against Wales. He has played in pre-war days against Jack Carrington and Ken Hyde, having beaten the latter.

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Thru' a Northern Window

By STANLEY PROFFITT
(Ex-Swaythling Cup)

IT is great news to hear that a five nation Junior Team Contest is to be held between Denmark, England, Finland, Norway and Sweden, this to take place in Stockholm on February 16th to 17th. The powers that be of present-day table tennis are obviously not slow to realise that youth is the life blood of all progressive sports. Let us hope that the chosen will make the most of this splendid opportunity to groom themselves and in the years ahead be the means of lifting world class table tennis off its weary knees.

Fans will soon be asking the question, "Who are the three likely candidates to represent England?" Your guess is as good as mine. Moreover it is dependent on whether the player can get the estimated time of one month away from the country. Trials are to be held at the end of the year and only those eligible will be invited.

Providing, therefore, that the players are allowed the time, I see no reason why the North should not again hold the monopoly as they did on the last Scandinavian tour. Names to conjure with will be 15-year-old Clifford Booth (Bolton) and 15-year-old Geoffrey Puller (Oldham). Booth who does not enter many tournaments, surprised even his closest admirers by reaching the junior final of the National *Daily Mirror* tournament. For one so young his tactical knowledge of the game is amazing. Puller (the Lancashire boy



STAN PROFFITT

cricketer) is being well seasoned by playing in the 1st Division of the Manchester League. Last year, as a raw recruit, he gave a sterling display in the junior trials. There are, of course, others who may be eligible for trial, and every effort will be made to unearth them. For instance, the form of the youngsters Benson (Cumberland) and Ingber (Manchester) will be closely watched.

Reviewing the senior group, I cannot say that any of the Northern men have yet hit the jackpot and none of them are in the class of their Southern counterparts, Johnny Leach and Aubrey Simons. This goes for both sides of the Pennines but more especially so for the Yorkshire flank. These are early days to make caustic criticism, but the young White Rose hopefuls, Kennedy, Walton and Cartwright do not inspire confidence. They have no fire in their attack. When opposed to good defensive players they continually try to pelt armour plate with snowballs. They do not hit the ball hard enough, due, as I see it, to making the point of impact too late (after crest of the bounce). Speed is, therefore, retarded and worse, the long back swing of the arm is tantamount to sending a telegram notifying the opponent of the intended direction of the ball. Another Yorkshireman, Raymond Hinchcliffe, can only have a limited amount of success at the moment for the simple reason that though his defence is sound his attack is sadly out of focus.

Switching to Lancashire we find that the sands of Benny Casofsky's reign as "Cock of the North" appear to be running rather low. Still, Benny is unpredictable and can on occasions rise to spectacular heights and make world-ranking stars look second rate. In this category we can also place Manchester's Ronnie Allcock. This in and out form, however, will not do.

At the recent Yorkshire Open only Ken Stanley lived up to his reputation, but not being extended, it is difficult to judge his current form. Nevertheless, we must not forget that Ken was beaten by Aubrey Simons, 21-9 and 21-10 in the East of England tournament, and also by Harry Venner and Ron Craydon, both two straight sets in a National Counties Championship match a few weeks ago.

Northern Women

Better news is that Adele Wood is back on the trail. She looked like a champion and played like one. Those caustic comments about her being sent to Sweden too soon are beginning to look a little silly now. Wouldn't be at all surprised if she makes a bold bid for the Marcel Corbillon Cup team. Others to impress were: Katherine Best (Wakefield), Betty Clough (Bradford) and Jean Titterington (Manchester).

Katherine and Jean have pronounced attacking powers while Betty is developing on the Trudi Pritz lines. As good a prospect as any that has come off the Merseyside production line is Andree Jones, of Wallasey. Very keen, tall and an all-round player who thinks entirely for herself, she will give the best a run for their money once she gets used to the senior grade.

Midland Gossip

YOUNGSTERS WANTED

★

BIRMINGHAM and Warwickshire look like having a lean year. The cry in Birmingham is still—as it has been since 1937—for youngsters to fill the places of the men now in the near-veteran stage.

Help for the county side may come from nearby Coventry, where the standard of play has improved considerably during recent years. Last year, Gladys Hall became the first Coventry player to reach county standard, and now 21-year old Alan Bury has claimed one of the men's singles berths to the exclusion of Maurice Kriss.

Kriss has been unable to get going this season, and after a mediocre performance in the county trials suffered the indignity of being knocked out of the local preliminary rounds of the Birmingham "Open." Maurice is a determined fellow, however, and I do not anticipate that his loss of form will be more than a temporary lapse.

It may be that Birmingham's troubles will be over in the near future, for this year's juniors show greater promise than any since the war. Chief among them is Roy Moseley, a left-handed attacking player with a delightful style.

In the matter of juniors, however, Nottingham still leads the Midlands. With a formidable quartet such as G. Paling, D. Linley, W. England and R. Speirs they seem certain to register yet another success in the Midland Counties League, and all of them will be strong candidates for the English junior side. Wolverhampton's R. D. Poyner is another to have caught the eye early in the season, and he, too, will be challenging for international honours.

More than 4,000 players are registered with the Birmingham Association—easily the largest group in the country. Consequently, it is not surprising that with such large numbers available, the Warwickshire county side has been virtually a Birmingham team. Happily, however, other parts of the county are beginning to step forward. The improvement at Coventry has already been mentioned, and now it appears that Rugby is becoming table tennis conscious. The Warwickshire "Closed" Championships will probably be held at the B.T.H. Works, Rugby, and the town may also stage the return match between Warwickshire II and Glamorgan in the South-Western Division of the County Championship.



KATHLEEN BEST
(Wakefield)

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Australian 1950 T.T. Carnival

SZABADOS TWO TITLES

BEREGI THREE

The Australian 1950 Championships were held September 11th to 15th, in Brisbane and conducted this time by the Queensland Federation under the auspices of the A.T.T.A. Playing conditions were generally good and the hospitality was of a high standard. The evening before play commenced Mr. J. Ferguson, President of the Q.T.T.F. entertained nearly 150 players at his home, and the following day a civic reception was held. Finals night finished in good time and it was found possible to include an exhibition by the stage players M. Szabados and P. Anderson. After this a social supper was served to players. The following evening the Carnival was concluded with a dance and presentation of prizes.

Outstanding match of the tournament was the semi-final between M. Szabados and Phil Anderson, scores in favour of Szabados were 21-16, 21-18, 21-23, and 21-19. Both players were fully extended and critics agree that this match was the equal to *anything ever seen in Australia*. The physical effort demanded from Szabados was so great that it may be wiser for him to follow the steps taken by his friend Victor Barna and retire from competitive singles play. In the final Szabados went on to beat W. Lowen, 21-13, 21-16 and 21-21. Lowen had previously beat K. Evans, 21-15, 21-13, 21-15, 21-14 and 21-14. The "new" Australian, ex-English Corbillon Cup star D. Beregi had an easy run to the final where she beat D. Shipp 21-11 and 21-14.

OTHER RESULTS

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Beregi and Cathcart beat Shipp and Ward 21-15, 21-19.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Szabados and Dankin beat Anderson and Dunn 21-15, 21-21, 21-11.

MIXED DOUBLES

Anderson and Beregi beat Szabados and Cathcart 21-11, 21-17.

JUNIOR BOY CHAMPION

J. Klesman.

JUNIOR GIRL CHAMPION

A. Snarskyte.

First three places in Australian Official Ranking List as follows:—*Men*: 1, M. Szabados ; 2, P. Anderson ; 3, W. Lowen. *Women*: 1, D. Beregi ; 2, D. Shipp ; 3, N. Buckland.



PAT CATHCART

Doubles partner to M. Szabados and Dora Beregi.

New Zealand News

ALGIE TO RETIRE

During the month of September table tennis was given full pages and very many columns of space in New Zealand newspapers. A long article and photograph was devoted to the table tennis career of Russell Algie who worked his passage to England in 1948 for the World Championships. Algie, though still young, says he feels he has been in top-line table tennis long enough and as he could go no further he wished to leave the game and make way for others.

Two New Zealanders, J. J. Borough and T. R. Flint have followed examples of previous countrymen and worked their passage to Europe for the World's and also English Opens. Borough is 23 and has won many titles. This year he opened a coaching school in Christchurch which keeps him busy six nights per week. He himself has been coached by Szabados and

(Continued on page 13)

Victor Barna Presentation

BETWEEN 70 and 80 guests gathered at an informal party at the Royal Empire Society, London, on Wednesday, November 8, to witness the presentation to Victor Barna to commemorate his 25 years in top-class table tennis.

The national fund launched last season by the executive committee of the E.T.T.A. to raise funds for the presentation reached over £500—a magnificent response indeed from players throughout England.

The Hon. Ivor Montagu, on behalf of subscribers, handed a television set to Victor, who was also given a voucher to buy such household items as he may choose.

The Hon. Montagu, enumerating the ex-world champion's many virtues, commented on the great work Victor has done

for the sport over the course of a quarter of a century, and of his unparalleled sportsmanship both on and off the table.

Responding with a speech the sincerity of which none could doubt, Victor said that he had no idea why he had been singled out for the presentation, as there were many who had for years worked hard and done much for table tennis. He stressed, however, that of all the trophies and prizes he had won, none had given him more pleasure, or made him feel so honoured, as being the recipient of a gift from thousands of players throughout the country.

He expressed his deep gratitude and thanks to every single person who had donated to the Barna Fund and said he hoped he would be worthy of it.

Half the money went on Barna's gift. From the balance a trophy is being bought. This cup will be named after Victor and will be presented each year to the person deemed by a special committee to have done the most for table tennis.

In this respect Victor has his wish, for he has frequently stated that players had enough trophies for which to compete, and he preferred "his" cup to be competed for by "backroom" boys and girls—that is, those behind the scenes who organise sport for others without themselves receiving kudos or enjoyment.

There is also a possibility of some of the money being earmarked for a Barna Scholarship for junior players, details of which have yet to be worked out.



**DOUBLE
PRESENTATION
FOR VICTOR BARNA**



A. SIMONS.

V. BARNA.

J. LEACH.

LANCASHIRE v. SURREY

Surrey beat Lancashire by seven sets to three at Rochdale on October 21st. From start to finish it was a battle of giants.

Although the Lancashire men fought hard and often brilliantly they did not succeed in taking one singles set. The only home player to register a singles was Adele Wood who was in her brightest and best form. She nonplussed Miss Pinkie Barnes (whom I suspect as being slightly out of touch).

Scores were Lancs. names first. R. Allcock lost to K. Craigie 11-21, 16-21; lost to R. Craydon 14-21, 21-14, 13-21; K. Stanley lost to R. Craydon 18-21, 20-22; lost to H. Venner 11-21, 15-21. B. Casofsky lost to H. Venner 18-21, 21-14, 15-21; lost to K. Craigie 21-17, 21-17. Miss A. Wood and Mrs. V. Taylor beat Miss P. Barnes and Mrs. V. George 21-17, 19-21, 21-18. K. Stanley and B. Casofsky beat K. Craigie and H. Venner 21-19, 15-21, 21-16. Miss A. Wood beat Miss P. Barnes 21-13, 21-14. R. Allcock and Miss A. Wood beat H. Venner and Mrs. V. George 12-21, 15-21.

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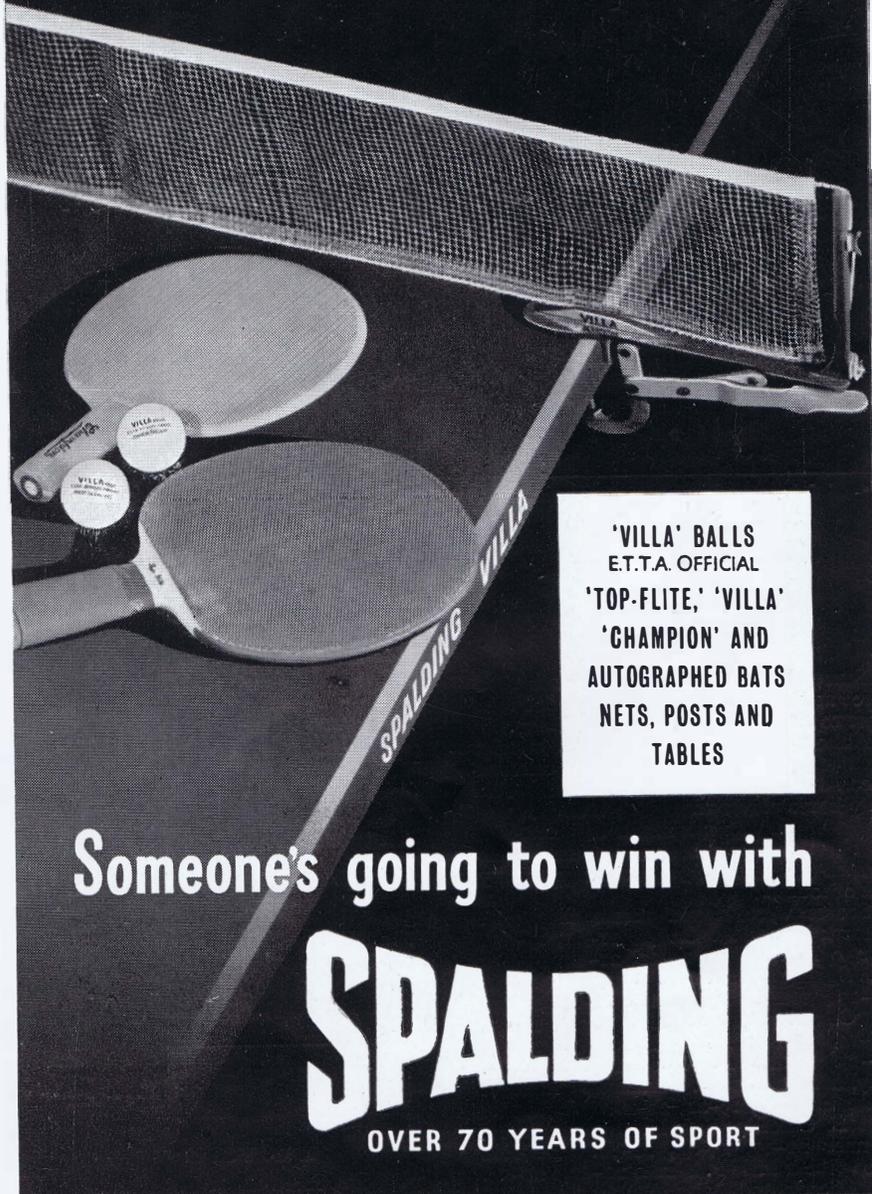
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Irish T.T. Event...

The first Open Championship—Lisburn Open—was concluded on 28th October. Major surprises were created in the 3rd Round of the Men's singles when I. E. Martin was defeated by C. D. Senior, a player who has vastly improved during the past 12 months, and V. Mercer lost to Jimmy O'Hara, a former Irish International player who did not strike his best form last season.

H. O'Prey won the Men's Singles title, defeating J. Fox in the Final, while Miss Agnew defeated Mrs. Mercer rather easily in the Women's Singles Final.

Eastern Suburban Open

Ilford, November 11th, 1950
By PEGGY ALLEN

TWO of the New Zealand boys, Jack Borough and Trevor Flint were interested spectators of the finals held at Ilford Baths and both appeared impressed by the excellent playing conditions.

Once again the Rowe twins proved their superiority over most English women, Ros. winning all three events.

Sister Di was the other finalist in the singles and until then had played brilliantly. There must be a psychological reason for Ros's repeated wins over her twin, for Di is a most determined fighter against all other players.

The Venner-Brumwell singles final was an exciting event with Venner hitting more consistently than in his semi-final games with Adams. Brumwell achieved some brilliant shots but his impetuosity and Venner's relentless forehand combined to effect his defeat.

MEN'S SINGLES—SEMI-FINAL
Venner beat Adams 21-17, 21-13.
Brumwell beat Crayden 21-18, 16-21, 21-13.

MEN'S SINGLES—FINAL
Venner beat Brumwell 19-21, 21-15, 21-12, 21-13.

WOMEN'S SINGLES—FINAL
Ros. Rowe beat Di. Rowe 21-13, 21-12.

MEN'S DOUBLES—FINAL
Venner and Adams beat Craigie and Crayden 21-15, 19-21, 21-12.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES—FINAL
Rowes beat Steventon and Mackay 21-8, 21-14.

MIXED DOUBLES—FINAL
Barna and Ros. Rowe beat Venner and Elsie Carrington 21-16, 21-19.

Competition for Best Feature—

WE are eager to keep abreast with the requirements of our readers and to give you those features which you will enjoy and find most helpful. To do this we must of course know what you like and what you don't like, and so we invite you to place the following features in the order they please you most.

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C	Tournament Reports
D	International Match Reports
E	County Match Reports
F	News from Scotland, Wales and Ireland
G	News From Overseas
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I	Humour Page
J	Competitions
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BIRMINGHAM OPEN

SHOCKS OFF RATION!

By Maurice Woodbine

THERE were enough shock results in the Birmingham "Open," held at the Indoor Sports Stadium on November 4, to last out the rest of the season.

They began a week earlier, in the local qualifying rounds, when Birmingham's Maurice Kriss, a semi-finalist in last season's English "Open" went out to another Birmingham player, John Mobberley.

Only Johnny Leach of the four men's "seeds" succeeded in getting beyond the quarter-final stages. Michael Thornhill went out in the third round, Wally Poole in the fourth, and Jack Carrington in the fifth (quarter-final).

Thornhill went down very easily to Wally Hall, Birmingham's "London exile," the score being 21-19, 21-17. Wally was unlucky not to make further progress, a desperately close fourth-round tussle with Keith Hurlock ending with the score 26-24, 22-20, in the latter's favour.

Poole provided the next upset, being well beaten by a fellow Birmingham player, Gil Smith. The score of 21-17, 21-14, shows that Gil, despite the fact that he is rapidly thinning on top, is still capable of hitting the best of them off the table when he is in the mood. Unfortunately, the mood did not last, for Gil, as unpredictable as ever, looked completely lost in his quarter-final match with Ron Hook, and Ron went into the semi-finals with a score of 21-11, 21-17.

Geoff Harrower joined him at that stage by beating Hurlock 21-15, 13-21, 21-15, and in the meantime Ron Allcock and Jack Carrington were having a titanic duel. It finally ended with a third "seed" dropping by the wayside as Ron progressed by the narrowest possible margin—22-20, 20-22, 23-21.

Throughout all these anarchic thrusts at the E.T.T.A's ranking-list Johnny Leach had continued serene and undisturbed, and he went on quietly but effectively to dispose of Allcock and Harrower in turn and thus take the title for the second time in three years. Aubrey Simons, who had beaten Leach in the previous year's final, was unable to compete this year because of county championship calls.

The women's event was free of major surprises until the last stages of the tournament, but it was noticeable that

Betty Steventon was in better form than for many months. Betty gave Adele Wood no opportunity to shine in the semi-final and the young Manchester starlet was never in the picture.

Then came the biggest shock of them all, Betty's accuracy giving her a great win over Peggy Franks. Peggy ballooned too many of her defensive shots, thus playing right into Betty's hands.

In as good a gathering of juniors as has been seen in Birmingham for many years, young Pullar stood head and shoulders above the rest. He is obviously a future "prospect" and did remarkably well to stand out so clearly in such promising company.

Not that there is anything really remarkable in the production of much likely young talent. The opportunities for these youngsters to reach top-class are far greater than at any time in the past. The system of coaching in force throughout the country should produce potential champions, and there was every indication at Birmingham that the policy is beginning to succeed.

RESULTS Semi-finals

Men's Singles—
G. R. Harrower (London) beat R. Hook (London), 21-14, 21-17.

J. A. Leach (London) beat J. R. Allcock (Manchester), 21-16, 21-12.

Women's Singles—
M. Franks (London) beat M. Cumberbatch (West Bromwich), 21-15, 21-16.

E. M. Steventon (Notts.) beat A. Wood (Manchester), 21-7, 21-13.

Men's Doubles—
A. A. Haydon/R. J. MacKay (B'ham) beat Allcock (M/c.)/M. Kriss (B'ham), 21-11, 21-15.

Leach/J. H. Carrington (London) beat D. A. Miller/K. Hurlock (London), 18-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Finals

Men's Singles—
Leach beat Harrower, 21-8, 21-16, 21-15.

Women's Singles—
Steventon beat Franks, 21-13, 18-21, 21-17.

Men's Doubles—
Leach/Carrington beat Haydon/MacKay, 21-14, 14-21, 21-10.

Women's Doubles—
Steventon/Jones beat Taylor/Wood, 18-21, 21-17, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles—
Leach/Franks beat Allcock/Wood, 21-19, 21-3.

Junior Boys' Singles—
Pullar beat Brocklebank, 21-12, 21-14.

Junior Girls' Singles—
Titterington beat Walker, 21-15, 21-4.

Junior Doubles—
Speirs/Lindley beat Ashton/Brocklebank, 13-21, 22-20, 21-12.

Veterans' Singles—
Kinsey beat Jones, 21-11, 21-9.



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MEN'S 6-12 · WOMEN'S 6-8

BOYS' 3-5

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MAINLY ABOUT WOMEN

My New T.T. Neighbours

By PEGGY ALLEN

RUNNING a busy London hotel in July, August and September is hardly conducive to the atmosphere necessary for concentration and I much regret not having been able to contribute to the last edition of the REVIEW. However, having overcome the initial difficulties of my new life, I now find time to move around, meet and learn to know some of the table tennis folk who live and play in the big city.

Pinkie Barnes

My nearest neighbour is Pinkie Barnes and having joined her club, I see more of Pinkie than anyone else. She has been most kind to me and when in difficulty, whether it be a question of practice or the address of a good dentist—Pinkie comes to the rescue.

At the moment she is busy flat hunting and—forgive the pun—feeling pretty flat when reviewing the prospect. Reasonable flats are extremely elusive, one might almost say non-existent in London, but Pinkie's well-known determination on the table should prove useful now. Her own tiny, modern flat, is shared with sister Shirley, who is, by the way, a continuity girl in British films.

Fiancé Sam is in pictures too and at the time of going to press is busy growing a beard for another character part. I can't help feeling that the beard in its present stubbly state must be rather trying. Ah well—you would fall for an actor Pinkie!

Joyce Roberts

Another well-known member of my team is Joyce Roberts, who has risen from complete obscurity to near top national ranking in the space of two seasons.

Joyce was married last year to Tony Miller, a well-known London player and she tells me that she has lost a considerable amount of weight since she combined the two careers. She is, perhaps, our most consistent woman player at the moment and achieved her first continental trip when she visited Belgium in November with Peggy Franks, Johnny Leach and Aubrey Simons. I feel very strongly that Joyce is improving every week but it is in singles

rather than doubles where her controlled hitting and improved defence bring her the greatest success.

Rowe Twins

Writing of Joyce reminds me of the Rowe twins, since they are all members of the Middlesex county team and believe me, these girls have already reached the top.

Their rise has been positively meteoric and after summer coaching by our well loved Victor Barna, their game is even more improved.

Their great feat of the month was when having been 18-12 down in the second game of the doubles event against Pinkie Barnes and Peggy Franks in the "Middlesex versus the Rest" match, they pulled up to 20 all amidst tremendous cheers from their supporters! This was achieved not by steady defence but by fierce hitting down both sides of the table and it proved, if nothing else, their tremendous fighting spirit—quite amazing in two so young.

Their similarity in appearance still baffles all but their closest friends and it was most amusing at the Sussex Open to see Aubrey Simons begin to discuss tactics with, as he thought, his partner Ros., only to find that he was revealing his plan to Di., Victor Barna's partner and their next round opponent!

I told him to look for the one with the fringe, for, on Sunday, that was Ros. However, come Monday and neither was wearing a fringe, much to Aubrey's complete bewilderment!

You might like to hear about the small, felt bats they wear on the left side of their cardigans. These display their names embroidered in red on the blade of the bat and I learned from Elsie Carrington that a number of them were brought back by Jack and Johnnie when they toured America last season. It appears that an enterprising firm sets up a machine at each tournament hall and offers to stitch these bats for a small charge. This would seem to be an idea worthy of consideration.

Barbara Milbank

Other young players rapidly improving are Barbara Milbank, young 19 year old

Essex girl, who, when she learns to restrain her game, should prove an asset to her country. At the moment she appears over eager and needs to steady herself, achieving correct balance before striking hard at the ball. Accuracy, rather than speed and force is needed here, but, with patience and restraint Barbara should become a sound exponent.

Good To Look At

Sheila Smith and Doreen Spooner are two more youngsters to watch.

These two fought out the Junior Girls' final in most Southern tournaments last year and their good looks, youthful appearance and fluent, open style make them particularly attractive to the spectators.

I hesitate to say this, especially being a Northerner myself, but I saw the prettiest table tennis players anywhere at Hastings when the Sussex Open was held there last month.

Blondes, brunettes and redheads, they were all there in a dazzling, glamorous array and, I repeat—nowhere have I seen so many attractive players together. It must be something in the Southern air, or do they perhaps take a little more care of their appearance?

I now bow my head and wait for the deluge of indignant letters to the Editor's post bag!

Peggy Franks tells me that is she thinking of having table tennis frocks made on the same lines as her tennis dresses and I am eager to see the result. Who knows, this might be the beginning of a "new look" for women players. There is certainly

something to be said for a one-piece garment rather than the "great divide" so often seen at even the best tournaments.

A New Viewpoint

I can't say goodbye to you without a brief comment upon the most attractive outfit seen so far this season.

The shirt was maroon, E.T.T.A. regulation type and very neat—the shorts, saxe blue, beautifully tailored and unbelievably brief and the socks and pumps were white as driven snow. No costume has caused so much comment since Gorgeous Gussie shook the sporting world with her lace edged nether garments. Did I forget to mention the name? None other than our ex-world champion Johnny Leach.

For years now Johnny has been holding out on us but he'll need a bodyguard when the girls catch a glimpse of those manly stalks. Maybe he's aiming for yet another world title—the shapeliest legs in table tennis!

furthest end of the Hall—from which the ball was barely noticeable.

I noticed Miss Henley was also impressed by the way Bergmann, Boros and Brook, played against leading players from the S.A.T.T.U.—I am sure that she would have been much more impressed had Bergmann played against players from the S.A.N.T.T. Board.

*G. Krishnan,
Stockport, Cheshire.*

"Subsequent to my departure Mr.

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THE BERGMANN CASE

In our last issue we reprinted the E.T.T.A. circular giving their comments on the Indefinite Suspension of Richard Bergmann for playing table tennis in South Africa before full permission had been granted. Richard Bergmann then issued a two-thousand word memorandum protesting against an action "which was contrary to the elementary principles of British justice." In fairness to Richard Bergmann we are printing as much as possible of this memorandum copies of which were sent to all members of the E.T.T.A. Executive and also to table tennis journalists.

THE EDITOR.

I STRONGLY PROTEST !

BERGMANN commences by claiming that no warning was given of any impending action and no opportunity was afforded him to (a) defend himself, (b) state the bare facts, (c) take action to avoid consequences detrimental to his entire future career. He goes on to say that the Executive Committee was not in possession of the full facts and acted on the verbal evidence of the Hon. Ivor Montagu, most kind to me and when in difficulty, whether it be a question of practice or the address of a good dentist—Pinkie comes to the rescue.

At the moment she is busy flat hunting and—forgive the pun—feeling pretty flat when reviewing the prospect. Reasonable flats are extremely elusive, one might almost say non-existent in London, but Pinkie's well-known determination on the table should prove useful now. Her own tiny, modern flat, is shared with sister Shirley, who is, by the way, a continuity girl in British films.

Riancé Sam is in pictures
secret.

"By the time the Hon. I. Montagu returned to this country, negotiations had been satisfactorily concluded and contracts were ready for signature. Immediately on his arrival Mr. Montagu was contacted on the telephone, but again appeared too busy to see me and several more days elapsed until we finally managed to meet—early one morning at a London Station! By then the time factor had become one of the most pressing urgency.

"When I saw the chairman in the presence of a friend of mine, I requested his permission (verbally as has been customary in the past) for the South African tour for which, I pointed out, negotiations were by now complete, and I explained also why it had not been possible to discuss the matter earlier. Mr. Montagu appeared far from overjoyed, but conceded that E.T.T.A. permission would not and could not be withheld provided always permission from the

Board had been requested and obtained! We parted on the understanding that if the Board intimated to the E.T.T.A. that they had no objection to my visit I would go. Naturally I indicated my willingness to comply with his condition.

"Nevertheless this was an entirely new angle on me, since I had had assurances on the part of the organiser, Mr. Sofer, that everything on his side was 'in the clear'; that he (the organiser) had officially informed both the Board and the Union of the fact that this tour was outside their orbit and jurisdiction and financed entirely out of private funds; that, further, it was a business proposition pure and proper. Finally, Mr. Sofer, volunteered this information twice over the radio telephone, and stressed—upon being questioned—that he was the sole organiser and that the Board had been informed to that effect."

Bergmann then goes on to explain that he took the additional precaution of complying with Mr. Montagu's condition and cabled to the Chairman of the Board asking for his O.K. As he wished to catch the scheduled plane (having already cancelled a booked boat passage due to Mr. Montagu's absence) he intimated to Mr. Samuels, President of the Board, to send his reply, care of the E.T.T.A. offices, thus saving precious time.

"I was ready," states Bergmann, "to either catch the next plane or to cancel the tour altogether, according to the nature of the reply." In the meantime Bergmann then went on business up country leaving a forwarding address with his London contact. Bergmann then continues as follows:

"On the Thursday, a telephone call from Mr. Montagu to a mutual friend gave the reply to my cable which stated unmistakably, that the Board had granted permission for me to travel! The cable added a rider that their O.K. was given 'under duress'—the meaning of which cryptic expression eluded my comprehension. To my simple mind a permission

READERS' LETTERS

FOR

Whilst agreeing with the suspension of Richard Bergmann, due to repeating an offence against the E.T.T.A. after previous warning, I do feel that it is a great pity that one so talented in his own sport should be withheld from the public eye.

I also feel quite strongly that permission should have been granted even if Bergmann's way of making the arrangements were not quite "up to standard."

It is every man's right to use any talents he possesses for the betterment of himself and to raise his weekly income. The more so in Bergmann's case in view of all the good he has done for table-tennis especially in South Africa. This must surely outweigh any discrepancy on his part—even after previous warning and not making a request to the E.T.T.A. ? Although after his former experiences with the association, it is unlikely permission would have been granted.

My opinion is that he ought to be released from his suspension, and the regulation concerning professionalism in table tennis be radically altered.

Malcolm Coomb,
Wallington, Surrey

AGAINST

After reading Miss Patricia J. Henley's letter, (published in T.T. Review October, 1950) protesting against the decision of the E.T.T.A. and I.F.T.F. for the suspension of the World Champion, Richard Bergmann. It is in my opinion the finest decision that could have been made by any Board or Association. It would also serve as a lesson to other internationality fame players who visit South Africa.

I would also like to remind Miss Henley that it was not just the native (I think she means the Africans) that was barred from seeing these famous players like Boros and Brook and R. Bergmann play—but also all those who were not white skinned.

In some centres non-whites were allowed to see Bergmann play—they were given only a few seats in the furthest end of the Hall—from which the ball was barely noticeable.

I noticed Miss Henley was also impressed by the way Bergmann, Boros and Brook, played against leading players from the S.A.T.T.U.—I am sure that she would have been much more impressed had Bergmann played against players from the S.A.N.T.T. Board.

G. Krishnan,
Stockport, Cheshire.

granted, is a permission granted—or is it not?

"The substance of the cable was communicated to me by the said London contact adding also that I should contact Mr. Montagu prior to leaving the country (I understood this to be due to the attached rider.) Unfortunately despite strenuous efforts to get in touch with Mr. Montagu, I failed to do so. Again in perfectly good faith having—according to our previous and witnessed conversation—complied with his conditions, I wired the air line company and travelled straight to the air-port whence my luggage had meantime been transported (i.e. 48 hours after receipt of S.A. telegram on Saturday). At the air-port I once again attempted to reach Mr. Montagu, but failed.

"I set off nevertheless with a good heart and clear conscience in the conviction that I had done everything asked of me and need have no worry. Nothing was further removed from my mind than the thought that trouble of a serious nature could be brewing.

"Subsequent to my departure Mr. Montagu rather forcibly pointed out to the above mentioned contact that he considered the matter unsatisfactory and that if I played in South Africa he would summons a General Meeting of the Executive, which 'would in all probability suspend Bergmann.' This anticipation of events plus Mr. Montagu's extremely complicated reasons for his dissatisfaction were duly reported to me—not, of course, that the short intervening period gave me any time whatsoever to act.

"Even so, why did he not contact me personally? My address was known to all and sundry. And why did he insist that the ONLY satisfactory solution of the matter would be for the Union to approach the Board and receive their written consent—knowing full well that quite apart from Table Tennis (or even the disputed willingness on the part of the Union) to do so was a technical and physical impossibility!

"Once a man signs a contract, he is in honour bond to adhere to it. In the

present case contractual obligations would have involved me in a lawsuit for damages totalling several thousand pounds—a sum I do not possess and therefore could not in any circumstances risk.

“To my horror and utter bewilderment I learned soon after the tour started that I had been grossly deceived inasmuch as the Union had a hand in the organising. Also the Board stoutly denied all knowledge of any approach on the part of the organiser, who had—I repeat—assured me on several occasions that the Board had been kept fully informed with regard to this tour.

“None of these facts, I repeat again, were known to me until after my arrival when it was too late to do anything.”

After this follows the World Champion's description of his efforts to find some satisfactory solution to his difficulties. He felt that he was a genuine, innocent scapegoat and realised the only way open was a direct approach to the Board, and this he did many times by telephone and letter, with the full backing of Mr. Sofer and the Union. He offered to do anything in his power to prove that he had no intention of trespassing on their rights either on purpose or by mistake, offering to play an exhibition for the Board. But all to no avail. The Board remained stubborn and said “no” to everything.

Finally Bergmann concludes by saying, “If I have been guilty of any technical offence I beg you to accept my word that I was unaware of any transgression, and would ask you therefore to accept my sincere and humble apologies.”

E.T.T.A. OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The charge against Richard Bergmann, which occasioned his suspension, was, as is known, the playing of table tennis abroad for remuneration, without first seeking and obtaining sanction of the English Table Tennis Association in accordance with the Rules. Subsequently, a second charge has arisen—that of playing table tennis since his suspension.

The Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association met on the 4th November, 1950, in Birmingham. The Committee had before it written material from Richard Bergmann, constituting an appeal and request for re-instatement. The fact of the offence is in essence not denied, the appeal taking the form of a claim of extenuating circumstances. The Executive Committee was unanimously of opinion that, on the basis of the material before it, the claim was not sufficiently clearly established to warrant the lifting of the suspension.

E.T.T.A. Official Press Circular.

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By Hon. Sec. I.T.T.A. NORMAN WILSON

ALTHOUGH Ireland is divided politically the Irish Table Tennis Association is the governing body for the whole country, and since its formation over 12 years ago it has been the means of improving the standard of play and of conditions, and in spreading the game to all areas.

For administrative purposes the country is divided into the provincial branches of Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster, each with its own organisation and duly co-ordinated to the parent body.

It is now only two years since the Irish Table Tennis Association was provincially completed by the formation of the Connacht Branch—that portion of the country which is known as the “wild west.”

Inter-provincial matches on the “home” and “away” system were the main team events in the past, but this season a major change in policy took place when it was decided to play all matches at one venue during a two-day session. The venue chosen was Castlebar, centrally situated in the province of Connacht, where, it was felt, such a contest would do excellent missionary work and give encouragement to the newly formed Branch.

This contest took place on Friday and Saturday, 20th and 21st October, in the dining hall of the Military Barracks, where splendid conditions were arranged by the local organisers, headed by the Rev. R. S. Judge, Rector of Castlebar.

Teams consisted of 4 men and 2 women, but the programme of matches was a much tougher proposition than the normal singles battles between respective numbers on opposing sides. The singles were played on American tournament basis, each man playing four, each woman two, while in addition, two men's doubles one women's doubles, and two mixed were played—making a total of 25 matches per fixture. This system of play, while providing a severe test for all players, gave maximum practice, and proved an excellent guide to current form.

The teams were:—
CONNACHT:—S. Egan, J. R. Wilkinson, J. Thornton, G. W. Millar, Misses C. Griffin, M. Flattery.

LEINSTER:—H. C. Wine, S. Clerkin, W. Pappin, G. Maher, Misses C. A. Egan, D. Fearon.

MUNSTER:—J. Christie, S. Cummins, J. Giltinan, D. Marcus, Misses F. Dawkins, A. Morris.

ULSTER:—I. E. Martin, V. Mercer, H. O'Pry, J. Fox, Miss H. Agnew, Mrs. V. Mercer.

On Friday Leinster registered a 25-0 win over Connacht, while Ulster defeated Munster 21-4. On Saturday afternoon Ulster defeated Connacht 25-0, and Leinster defeated Munster 14-11. On Saturday night Munster defeated Connacht 25-0, and Ulster defeated Leinster 18-6 with 1 match unplayed.

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

	Played	Won	Lost	Pts.
Ulster	74	64	10	64
Leinster	74	45	29	45
Munster	75	40	35	40
Connacht	75	0	75	0

Of the individual players, H. O'Pry and Miss H. Agnew, both of Ulster, were undefeated, while I. E. Martin, V. Mercer (Ulster), S. Clerkin (Leinster) and Miss F. Dawkins (Munster) only lost one match each. J. Fox (Ulster) was next in line with two defeats, and of the other players, J. Christie (Munster) and W. Pappin (Leinster) followed, each with 5 defeats. The following table gives the individual positions of the leaders:

	MATCHES	
	Played	Won
H. O'Pry	12	12
Miss H. Agnew	6	6
S. Clerkin	12	11
I. E. Martin	12	11
V. Mercer	12	11
Miss F. Dawkins	6	5
J. Fox	12	10
J. Christie	12	7
W. Pappin	12	7
Miss C. A. Egan	6	4
Miss D. Fearon	6	4

The outstanding player was S. Clerkin of Leinster, who defeated the seasoned veterans I. E. Martin and V. Mercer of Ulster and only lost narrowly to H. O'Pry.

Although Connacht did not register a win, the attending officials were impressed by the showing of J. R. Wilkinson, their 14 year old player from Galway Grammar School, where the game is fostered by the Headmaster, Mr. George A. Coghlan, M.A., and plans are on foot to assist these young school players by coaching.

Following the contest, the Irish team to meet Scotland at Dunoon on 1st December was selected as follows:—I. E. Martin, H. O'Pry, V. Mercer, S. Clerkin, Misses H. Agnew, F. Dawkins.

Readers' Letters . . .

CAN YOU WRITE A LETTER? We invite readers to give their views on any topic connected with table tennis. You may air your views on articles featured in this magazine or relate discussions of yourself and friends. If you wish to make constructive criticism of anything or anybody we should be glad to receive your letters. Contributions of over 300 words will be treated as articles and paid for at our usual rates which are the highest in table tennis journalism. Letters chosen for reproduction on this page will earn a first class T.T. bat for their authors. Address to "Reader's Letters" Table Tennis Review, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3.

CLOSED SHOP ?

The following experience may serve as a reminder that playing table tennis can be as awkward as playing soccer on a Sunday. My Borough held its Jubilee celebrations last year, and a table tennis tournament was included as one of the functions.

This I understood was open to any person living or playing in the borough. Upon application, however, I found that I had to be affiliated to the E.T.T.A. in order to be eligible. This came as quite a shock to me as I presumed that it was a local tournament (not the England Open!) and that the organisers would endeavour to attract the largest possible entry.

I was myself unfortunate in the fact that at that time the local youth league in which I played was not affiliated (it not being a large league possessing considerable finances) so the fact that I had fulfilled both the residential and playing qualifications was really immaterial.

I am strongly in favour of diminishing any "closed shop" tendencies in sport.

D. Littleworth, 158, Grove Lane,
Camberwell, London, S.E. 5.

* * *

OUT THE HOWLERS

It is high time that notice was taken of the deterioration in general deportment that is creeping into Table Tennis.

Audiences are generally appreciative and well-behaved, but the manners of some officials and players leaves much to be desired.

Officials have allowed personal considerations to affect their conduct, annoyances to influence their introductions of players, and have even attempted to interfere with the duties of umpires.

The most obvious offenders, however, are the players. The antics and capers of some players at the table become nauseous. These practices unfortunately, are becoming more prevalent, and whether they give the offender undue advantage or not, should be stopped by the umpire.

The audience is just as much entitled to quietness from the players, and to expect

players to exercise some control over their emotions.

Games are commonly becoming punctuated with masculine grunts and howls, or feminine squeaks and squeals. Players even indulge in these tactics when the ball is in play, and have definitely "won" points by distraction of opponents' attention.

The Appendix to Laws: Knotty Points: No. 8, "Fixtures," lays down that "a sudden noise—interference from which implies a let," and wherever they consider that the opponent *might* have lost a point through the vocal efforts of howler or squealer, the umpire should declare a let and reprimand the offender. The loss of a point "gained" by a howl would soon put this objectionable matter right.

Finally the players who dispute or anticipate the umpires decision. There is all the difference between dispute and query; a decision on score or point of fact can be politely queried but never disputed.

"Corrigenda"

(Sender's name and address submitted).

* * *

During my summer vacation I visited several table tennis clubs in England, and enjoyed the privilege of spending many a pleasant evening in the company of your players. But what impressed me mostly about the English clubs was not the standard of play which indeed was very high, nor the fine club rooms and facilities offered to the players, not even the harmony and sociability which had a tang of hospitality all of its own, but the multifarious photographs which decorated the walls of the clubs; and the inexhaustible supply of table tennis literature which included magazines from America and Australia.

To me all this seemed to give the club an atmosphere and individuality, far removed from any other kind of club. To have great names in table tennis looking down from all angles, and witnessing as it were the commendable efforts of some future stars, seemed to add something

extra to the environment of the players.

Regarding the literature, there seemed to be no better way of relaxing after a strenuous game, than to have a rest in the canteen or quiet room, and scan a few magazines over a cup of coffee. This diversion I found to be enjoyed by all players, as it seemed to give them more encouragement and inspiration to try to emulate some characteristic of stroke production or footwork which suddenly appealed to them.

To all active and progressive clubs, both literature and photographs are of vital importance. They are in themselves a source of inspiration and enjoyment to the players and to the club, an everlasting pride of a job well done.

John Jordan, 13, Grange Loan,
Edinburgh, 9.

* * *

JAZZ RACQUETS

"The racket may be any material, size, shape or weight provided it be not white, light-coloured or reflecting" this rule, I think, is not extensive. The Jewish Institute was playing recently at our Y.M.C.A., one of their players played with a racket which was covered by red rubber on one side, while the other side was covered with blue rubber. This I found slightly distracting, but this could be developed further to the stage when rackets could be designed with perhaps one side with red and blue quarters (a) while on the other side circles of red and blue were used (b). This according to the rules would be quite legal as it is not "white, light-coloured or reflecting" but surely this would not be allowed.

Hugh W. Hutcheson, 2, Norval Street,
Partick, Glasgow, W. 1.

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Kriss Wins North of England

MANCHESTER, NOVEMBER 11th, 1950

Manchester seems to be particularly unfortunate regarding its choice of halls for major tournaments and for the North of England, played in November, competitors once again had to find their way to a different venue, this time the Drill Hall, All Saints.

Johnny Leach was unable to be present on this occasion, and Ken Stanley was also absent owing to an injured ankle. Both singles titles changed hands and in the Men's, Maurice Kriss of Birmingham, after accounting for Casofsky went on to beat near-veteran Leslie Cohen (Manchester) in the final. In the Women's, Adele Wood (Manchester) beat the holder Eileen Grimstone.

The two younger players, Ron Allcock and Ronnie Baker, both of whom were expected to go places this season were disappointing, Ron Allcock being completely 'out-generalled' by Cohen in the semi-final.

The Junior Singles final between 15 year olds G. Pullar (Oldham) and C. Booth (Bolton) was quite a classic and most people were impressed by the standard displayed. Pullar won in two straight, 21-9, 21-18. Geoffrey Pullar gave Ronnie Baker a shake-up in the senior event, and though he lost there was a period when only four points separated him from complete victory. Just as Helen Elliot put Scotland on the T.T. map it looks as though Pullar is going to do the same for the Lancashire mill town of Oldham.

FINAL SCORES

MEN'S SINGLES

M. Kriss (Birmingham) beat L. Cohen (Manchester) 21-18, 21-17.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

A. Wood (Manchester) beat E. Grimstone (Marple) 22-20, 21-8.

MEN'S DOUBLES

G. Goodman and R. Baker (Manchester) beat M. Kriss (Birmingham) and P. J. Walton (Huddersfield), 21-16, 21-12.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Miss E. Grimstone and Miss J. Titterington (Manchester) beat Miss K. Benson (Blackpool) and Miss E. Mansell (Liverpool) 21-18, 21-9.

MIXED DOUBLES

B. Casofsky (Manchester) and Mrs. E. Adams (London) beat B. Hand and Miss A. Jones (Liverpool) 21-13, 21-18.

JUNIOR YOUTHS' SINGLES

G. Pullar (Oldham) beat C. Booth (Bolton) 21-9, 21-18.

SCOTTISH NOTES

★

INTERNATIONAL trials were held at Glasgow in October and those taking part were as follows:—

Senior Section: Garland (Aberdeen), Young and Teasdale (Edinburgh), Forman (Dundee), Hillan, Mattison and Bermingham (Glasgow) and Hutchinson (Kirkcaldy).

Junior Section: Still (Aberdeen), Kerr and Laidlow (Edinburgh), Morton and Braithwaite (Ham lton), and McMillan, McCandlish, Gribbon and Halpert (Glasgow).

Some of the players were not quite tuned up owing to lack of practice during the closed season but the standard of play was very satisfactory. In the Senior Section Jack Hillon came out on top followed closely by Victor Garland. The third place was shared by Roy Forman and Jim Birmingham, the latter being a new trialist with a sound defence. Another newcomer to the trials was Drew Young (Edinburgh), a left-hander who shows great promise.

In the Junior Section Johnny Braithwaite took first place and Bertie Kerr the second. Third place was shared between Alex Morton and Harry Gribbon.

One outcome of the trials was the selection of four boys to travel to Wembley for the English Open, the lucky four being, J. Braithwaite (Hamilton), R. Kerr (Edinburgh), and H. Gribbon and M. McMillan (Glasgow).

A new venture was the Highland Tournament held at Elgin and this attracted entrants from various Scottish districts. Glasgow and Edinburgh were well represented by well-known players and the Lowlanders enjoyed their "Highland Fling." In the Men's Singles, Victor Garland beat Ron Forman in the final while the Doubles was won by Jimmy Weatherstone of Glasgow and Hutchinson of Kirkcaldy.

The West of Scotland League is running smoothly under the capable direction of Willie Bennett, there being eight men's and two women's divisions. Good progress has been made with the Maxwell-Wilson Men's Cup and the Peter Coia Women's Cup.

Secretary Hendrey reports increased interest and his committee have engaged the services of a coach for a period of six weeks.

For Scottish Tournaments, etc., see "SEASON'S DIARY."

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about the English clubs was not the standard of play which indeed was very high, nor the fine club rooms and facilities offered to the players, not even the harmony and sociability which had a tang of hospitality all of its own, but the multifarious photographs which decorated the walls of the clubs and the inexhaustible supply of table tennis literature which included magazines from America and Australia.

To me all this seemed to give the club an atmosphere and individuality, far removed from any other kind of club. To have great names in table tennis looking down from all angles, and witnessing as it were the commendable efforts of some future stars, seemed to add something

The "VICE" in the SER-VICE

By BILL PARKER

A LITTLE over three years ago I wrote in this magazine in favour of the introduction of the "new service." I thought it would make things easier for umpires and that players would observe the rule. How wrong I was! Not three players in ten are serving correctly—five out of ten don't even try! Umpires would need, of course, to penalise players at practically every point, but generally they introduce the "Nelson touch" and turn a blind eye to any service infringement that is not too blatant.

In the article mentioned, I expressed the opinion that the "new service" would not serve England badly. Since then, England has, each season supplied the World Men's singles champion, our girls have won the Corbillon Cup, and we have gained more international successes than ever before in such a short period. But does this prove the point of that article? Of course not! I now feel certain that those honours would have come to England anyway—"new service" or "pre-1947 vintage." Both Bergmann and Leach take the service early—Bergmann with either half-volley or push, Leach with either half-volley or top-spin. They don't allow the ball to misbehave any more than they would have done against the trick services of four seasons ago. Neither would the old spin services have held much terror for our leading women players during this period—they would have made world grade anyway—they all take the service ball early. Of the players whose services were most difficult to take, several are still among the world's best, Soos, Vana and Amouretti being leading examples. The service restrictions have not affected them much, in fact, Soos is probably more difficult to beat than ever.

Now that we are to enjoy the services of an umpires' organisation, it seems likely that in the more important matches the "big stick" may be applied to the service "twisters," but in minor matches, up and down the country, the ball will still be served off the palm, dropped towards the bat, or thrown at varying angles from a comfortably cupped hand. The umpire won't "crib"—he probably does it himself!

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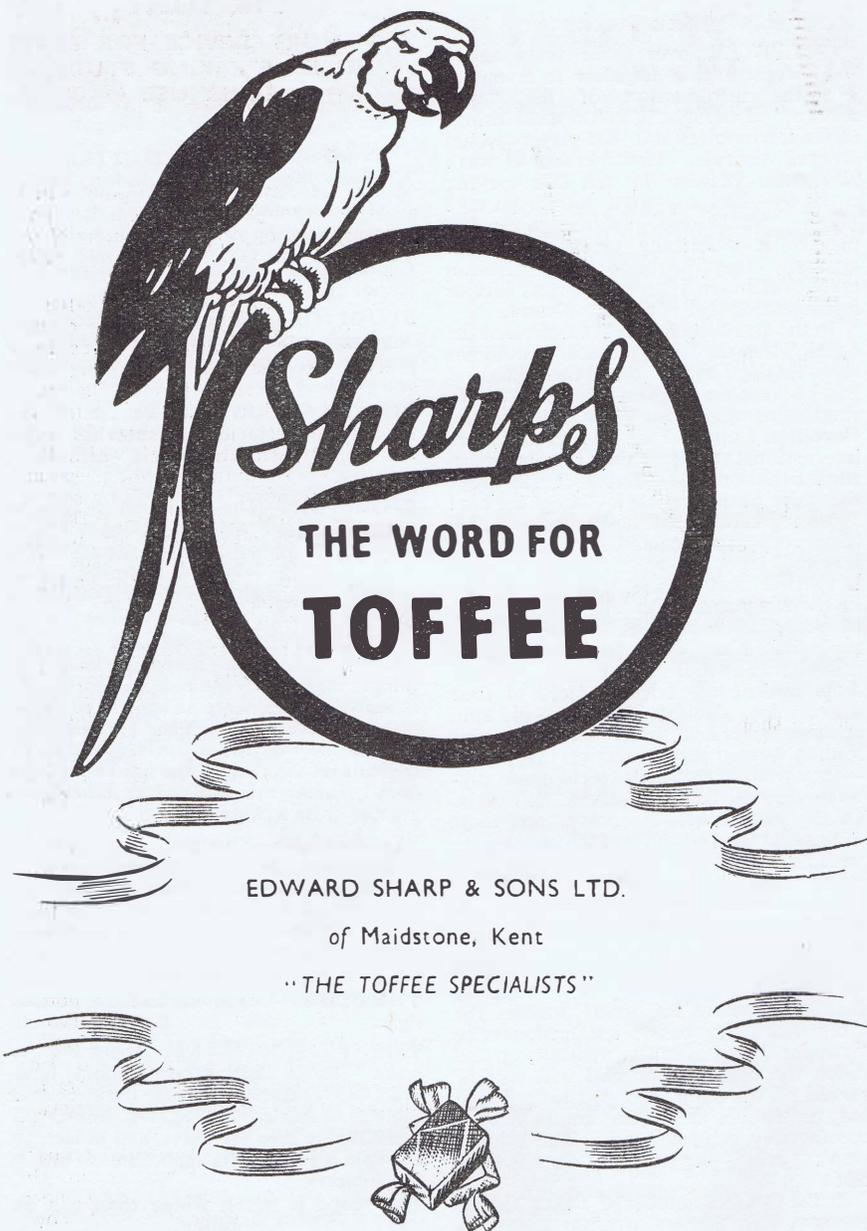
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London Diary

By BILL PARKER

LONDONERS are looking for really good results from their stars this season, in the international field. Attention is already being drawn to the robust health which Johnny Leach is undoubtedly enjoying. Following the Essex v. Lancashire match at Plaistow, Johnny was as fresh as before it started and immediately drove down to Hastings for the Sussex "Open." Even Johnny is surprised at this greatly increased stamina reserve and naturally he is very happy about it. After all, it may well be this that will help put him among the leading contenders for world honours this season. The Johnny Leach sports shop now having removed to Croydon, the Leach family have taken the flat above the shop and Johnny junior, now four and a half years old, is attending a nearby nursery-school. Jack Carrington is still Johnny's partner, but is concentrating on the coaching side of the game, and since Johnny is spending a great deal of time in training and competitive play, someone was needed to look after the shop. Successful candidate for this pleasant job is 19-year-old Peter Madge, who is fast making a name for himself as a table tennis photographer and will no doubt be receiving commissions from some of the personalities who look in at the shop in Lower Addiscombe Road.

A youngster just coming into the limelight is 19-year-old Essex junior champion, Yvonne Baker, who this summer took herself off to Sweden for a month, during which she "browsed around" free lance seeing sights and meeting people and also won a big table tennis tournament. Her latest "feather-in-the-cap" was when she was featured on October 16th in the "Younger Generation" broadcast on the Light Programme.

I understand the Rowe twins are practising extra hard at the West Ealing club these days. They certainly intend "going places" in the very near future. Right-handed Rosalind is playing with a red surface bat, while left-handed Diane favours blue, but we don't really need further identification *on the table*—the difficulty is when they're dressed for walk-

ing out. However, one little point which the writer thought he noticed, has now been confirmed by Mr. Rowe, father of the girls. "Di" is now about an inch taller than "Ros."

These days when many a hotelier is grumbling of lack of business, a certain private hotel in Cartwright Gardens, near King's Cross and Euston, is doing non-stop trade. Already, former Blackpool girl, Peggy Allen and her husband, Clifford, are receiving bookings for 1951 at the Central House Hotel, which they took over a few months ago, and guests are coming back often. So far this season, Peggy has acted as hostess to the Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and (no prize for guessing correctly) Lancashire teams, and the "Central House" is rapidly becoming a comfortable rendezvous for table tennis players away from home.

Geoffrey James, hard working secretary to the National Umpires Committee has taken on a big job, but here and there among the test-papers the odd "howler" pops up and question-master Geoff has to smile. One aspirant to umpiring fame, on being asked what points he would refer to the tournament referee—replied, "Questions of misconduct between players."

A year of married life has put a few points on the games of both Tony Miller and wife Joyce (*nee* Roberts). Funny thing is, both try to avoid watching the other play in an important match. The explanation is "tummy-trouble."

With transfer of footballers becoming everyday talk, it is interesting to note a double table tennis international switch having taken place. Ken Craigie (formerly of Middlesex) joins Surrey, and Ron Sharman (formerly of Surrey) enters the Middlesex ranks. But after all—variety is the spice of life!

The months of December and January provide two big tournaments in the London postal area—the Central London (December 11th to 16th) at Kentish Town and the Metropolitan (January 1st to 6th) at the Polytechnic Extension, W.1. Record entries are expected in both cases.

Your Season's Diary . . .

December
Week Ending
16. 11-16—Central London
23. —

30 —
January
Week Ending
6. 1-6 —Metropolitan

13. 13 —South Yorkshire
20. 14 —East of Scotland
Open, Edinburgh
18 —Bath
20. 18-20—Lancashire
21 —Southampton
27. 22 —West of Scotland
Open, Glasgow
27. 22-27—South London
28 —Kent

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

IMPORTANT NATIONAL EVENTS
14-16 December—
County Antrim
Open
Championships
Ballymena
Indian Champion-
ships

6-10 January—
French Champion-
ships
13 January—
England v. Wales
Senior match at
Newport

25-27 January—
Irish Open
Championships
Belfast

2 February —
Scotland v. Wales
at Edinburgh
9 February—
England v. Ireland
at Liverpool
13 February—
England v. Scotland
at Cheltenham

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

April
Week Ending
7. 1-2 —Bucks
4-6 & 9-14—West
Middlesex
14. —
21. 21-22—North West Kent
28. 30-5 May—Thameside

May
12. —
19. —
26. —
8 May—
France v. England
(Men)
Paris

IMPORTANT NATIONAL EVENTS
March 2-11—
World Champion-
ships, Vienna
21 March—
England v. Wales
(Juniors)
at Aylesford, Kent

6-8 April—
American Nationals

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