

Table Tennis *Review*

Vol. 7

No. 1

AUTUMN ISSUE 1952

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

REPORT BY
RICHARD
BERGMANN

of the recent

BERGMANN

and

LEACH
TOUR

WITH PICTURES

★

Up-to-date
NEWS

★

VIEWS

★

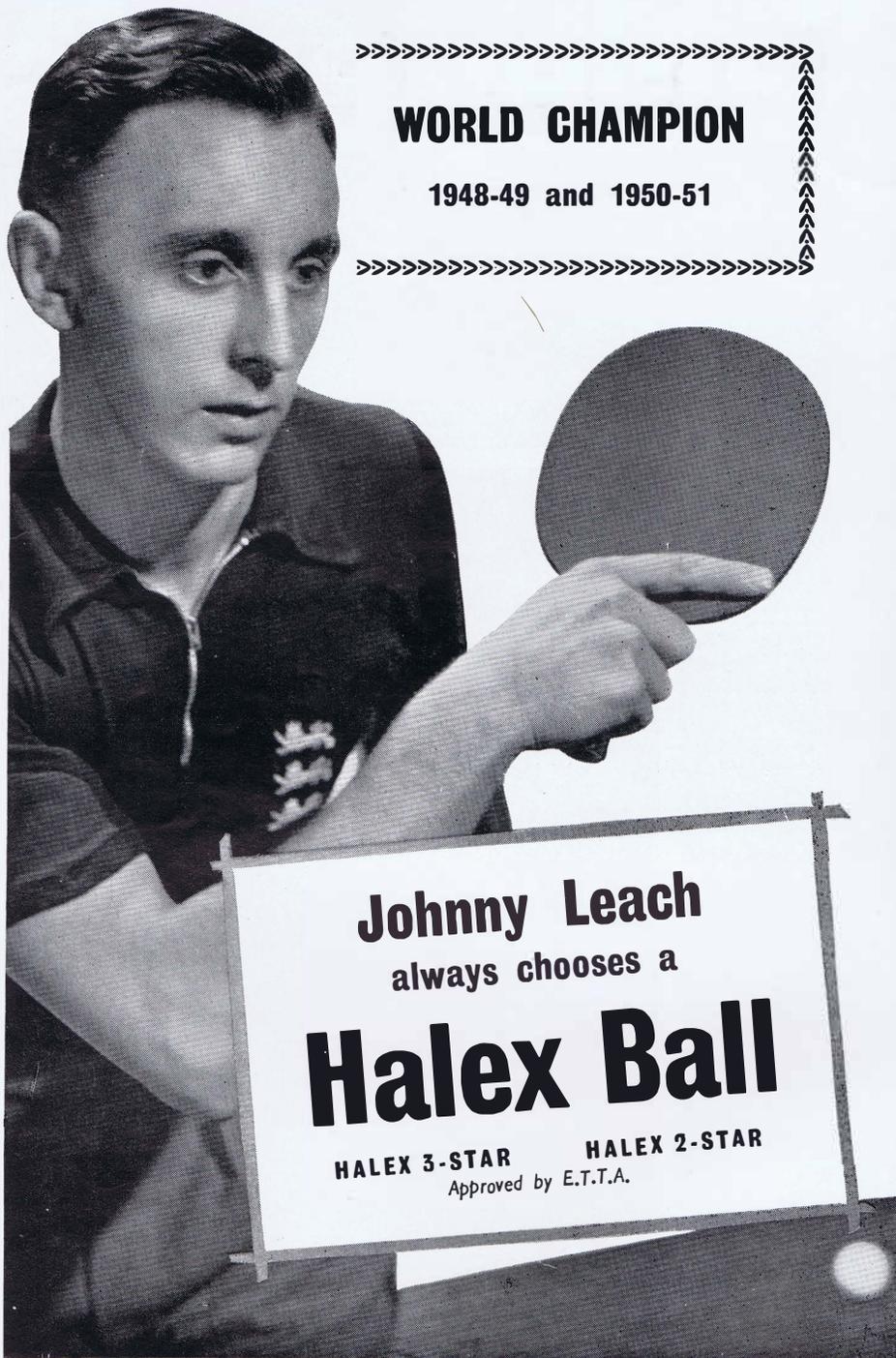
HINTS
ON PLAY

★

Cover Portrait:
JEAN TITTERINGTON
(Lancs. County)

Finalist
English Open, Junior Girls
Wembley, 1951





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TABLE TENNIS

VOLUME 7
No. 1

Review

AUTUMN ISSUE
1952

Founded by our Associate Editor: ARTHUR WAITE (1931 International)

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HAPPY NEW SEASON

WITH this new season comes the hopes and ambitions of a thousand and one players of all grades. Have you any personal ambitions for '52-'53? Whatever they may be we wish you all the luck in the world—minus edge and net balls! The important thing, however, is not your personal ambitions or achievements, but the joy and satisfaction you receive from this greatest of all indoor games. And when the season is over don't measure it by team badges and medals, but count up the number of happy hours you have spent with kindred friends both old and new.

You will make new friends this season. Table tennis is like that. It brings you into contact with people who share a common interest. Soak yourself in the companionship the game has to offer.

When an opposing team visits your club don't treat them like an uninvited batch of unwanted relations. They are your guests. And when you play in the various tournaments that are scheduled for *your* benefit, don't walk about like some unique specimen from another planet. All around you will be people just like yourself; they too are seeking good companionship. You can sit down next to anyone, whether it be a T.T. glamour girl or a fellow in a square-dance shirt. You don't need to think of what you are going to talk about, there is only one thing to talk about and for Pete's sake don't start telling how good you are, or how much better you could run a tournament. Talk about any one of the many angles of the game. This magazine is intended to widen your knowledge of world table tennis, and its contents will make you something of an authority. Get to know the other fellow's points of view, you might pick up some new ideas—and if so, go home and write us a letter about them.

So let this season be a friendly and satisfying one for you. Go out and seek new friends. You will find them. Ever seen Victor Barna, Richard Bergmann, Johnnie Leach and others at a tournament? No silly stuck-up nonsense there. They are ever ready to have a word with anyone—yes, even you. The reason they are good players is because everything about the game is vital and exhilarating to them. . . and you just cannot be happy doing a thing and not acquire some degree of excellence. This could be your best season ever—but it is up to you dear reader.

The Editor.

Readers may obtain their future copies of "TABLE TENNIS REVIEW" direct from the Publishers (address above)

SEND 5/8 FOR NEXT 5 ISSUES OR 1/2 FOR NEXT ISSUE ONLY

PUBLISHING DATES OF OUR FORTHCOMING REGULAR ISSUES

WINTER Issue **SPRING Issue** **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Issue**
Dec. 2nd, 1952 Feb. 24th, 1953 Early April, 1953

SUMMER Issue
May 5th, 1953

The Editor invites readers to send articles for consideration. Payment at usual rates.

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

by "Gossima"

THE South African Table Tennis Board issued an attractive Souvenir booklet for their 1952 season. It has an appealing art-paper cover and 24 pages of information, facts and photographs. South Africa has two National organisations, the Union, which is exclusively for Europeans, and the Board, which shows no racial discrimination. The latter is affiliated to the International Federation, but for obvious reasons the former cannot be admitted. In a foreword in the Board's booklet, the President, Mr. I. Amin, hints at a move which may bring about a settlement of the differences of the two bodies. Headquarters of the Board is 437 Smith Street, Durban.

Following the visit of Ken Stanley, New Zealand Table Tennis fans are now looking forward to a possible visit, next year, of the famous Rowe twins. It is understood that an offer has been made by the New Zealand Association, and everything now depends on how the two English girls feel about the matter. Such a trip would be unique in the history of women's Table Tennis.

It looks as though the American family of Koehnke are making a habit of producing Table Tennis glamour girls who can also really go to town when it comes to playing Table Tennis. Sharon's young sister, "Jackie," is now age 10 and she has just won the All-American Midget Girls' championships, under 11 years division. She took the title with ease and kept every opponent under 10 points in every game except the third game of the final, which went to 21—13. Her style is just the opposite to Sharon, for she is aggressive and forceful. Jackie has modelled her forehand on that of Johnnie Leach, who made a real impression on her during his visit to U.S.

Sharon now has a world-wide fan mail. One of her most recent letters comes from the Philippine Islands, and the writer says that everyone there are waiting eagerly for Bergmann and Leach to call on their way round the world.

A new All-American Table Tennis Queen has now been chosen to succeed Miss

Sharon Koehnke, who is, of course, now over-age. The new monarch of U.S. Table Tennis beauty comes from Kansas City, and she is certainly very lovely. Unfortunately first photographs received at *Table Tennis Review* office were unsuitable for reproduction and we are waiting for new and better ones. We hope to feature these in our Winter issue.

Bergmann and Leach left Tokyo, flying by way of Formosa, arriving in Hong Kong on July 22nd. The matches in Hong Kong, however, did not take place until August. On July 25th they left Hong Kong by air for Manila, Philippine Islands. During the games in the Philippines they expected to meet the American Swaythling Cup players Reisman and Cartland. The two Americans have been out in the Far East for some considerable time, giving shows for the American troops.

For all the Bergmann—Leach Table Tennis events in Japan the cost of admission was kept down to a very low rate (top price 300 yen, which is approximately six shillings). In spite of this a clear profit of £1,500 was made on the tour. This is an amazing figure when one considers the terrific expense to the Japanese Association of getting the two players out there. There were the air-return fares to pay, London—Tokyo, then all the travelling inside Japan, with costs of hotels, interpreters and other players, etc. On those figures we can certainly hand it to the Japs for business-like organisation.

As most people know the late King George VI was Patron of the English Table Tennis Association, followers of the game will now be delighted to hear that Her Majesty The Queen has graciously granted her patronage to the English Table Tennis Association.

The English Open Championships will be staged at Wembley from 7/11th April 1953, with the semi-finals and some of the finals on Friday 10th April, and the remainder of the finals on Saturday 11th April 1953.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSLETTER

BY B. DENIS GEORGE

WHILE Table Tennis fans in United Kingdom were sweltering (?) in the summer sun, in the Cape it was mid-winter, and our Table Tennis season was well under way. This year the Western Province Association has increased its strength to nine Men's Leagues and two Women's Leagues.

The distance between centres in South Africa is such that regular open tournaments throughout the season, on the same basis as in United Kingdom, are out of the question. This deficiency is made up to a certain extent by the leading clubs sponsoring open club championships. This season the long run of successes by Theo Paitaki and Monty Shotland in these competitions seems to be coming to an end and honours have been shared amongst the leading players. Popular 'Boy' Chiat, after many years of top-class play without an open tournament victory to his credit, suddenly struck peak form and won both the Green & Sea Point and Fish Hoek titles within a week, by some devastating hitting which even Monty Shotland, expert defender that he is, could not return. Peter McKie also notched up a good victory in the Cape Town Open by defeating Shotland in a thrilling final, after losing the Plumstead Open final to 'hatchet grip' Louis Strumppman earlier in the season. Derek Wall, a young Englishman from the Transvaal, caused a sensation by defeating most of the leading players in league play and followed that up by winning the Rosecourt Open, with a victory over Dave Goldberg.

The annual CHAMPIONS INVITATION TOURNAMENT was held at Cape Town on 13th June, and once again Rex Edwards came through undefeated against Theo Paitaki, Peter McKie and Derek Wall. This evening's play was voted the best sustained Table Tennis seen in Cape Town for many years; of particular merit was the Edwards v. McKie game, which Peter lost at 19 in the third.

This year's South African Championships and Inter-Provincial Tournament are being held in Cape Town in September, and soon Table Tennis fans from all over the Union will be packing their kit and making the long trek southwards. It will be a real Table Tennis Festival, with continuous play from 1st to 12th. In the Ladies' event the field is wide open, following the departure of Elizabeth Blackburn, and it would be difficult to name the winner out of the top six or seven players.

The next World Championships will be played in Bucharest, Rumania, 20th—29th March 1953. It has now been decided and the International Table Tennis Federation has been informed that The English Table Tennis Association will be pleased to arrange for the 1954 World Championships event to be held in London. This, we understand, has been the result of the support given to the Association "guarantee appeal fund."

In conjunction with the Central Council of Physical Recreation, a Training Course has again been arranged for the period 29th December 1952—2nd January 1953, to be held at the National Sports Centre, Lilleshafl, Salop. Total all-in cost will be £3 15s. 0d. per head. Preference will be given to applicants between the ages of 16—25, who should apply as soon as possible to: Central Council of Physical Recreation, 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. The instructor of the Course will be Jack Carrington, the Honorary Director of Coaching.

BOOKS AND BAT PRIZES

What are your views on young players giving coaching? And what age limit do you feel an Association should fix for players being accepted on their official panel of coaches. On another page, in the short dealings with matters of the "Registered Players Committee," Jack Carrington suggests that up to the middle twenties a player lacks the necessary deep understanding about the game, and above all his psychological knowledge of people which is so necessary in a really good coach, is extremely limited. Have you any interesting comments to put forward? What do you think are the necessary qualities of a coach? Will you post the Editor a letter on this subject? If your effort is published it will win either a bat or book prize.

The Scottish Open Championships will be held at the Murrayfield Indoor Sports Club, Edinburgh, on Saturday and Sunday, April 4th and 5th, 1953. The events will include Men's and Ladies' Singles, Men's and Ladies' Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Junior Boys' Singles. In due course, applications for entry forms should be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Table Tennis Association, R. D. Sykes, 99, Henderson Row, Edinburgh, 3.

Arrangements are being made in conjunction with the Central Council of Physical Recreation, for Victor Barna and Johnnie Leach to tour England, giving demonstrations. These demonstrations will include fundamental strokes and elementary tactics, and methods of coaching.

What they did this SUMMER (?)

It is always interesting to hear how Table Tennis players spend a closed season. For some, there is no such thing as a closed season. Top-class players usually arrange something that takes them on a trip abroad, or perhaps a tour of the holiday camps, while the up-and-coming player carries on in spite of sultry weather, with hard, regular practice.

Did you do anything unusual or interesting this summer? If you did, will you write and tell us about it? Others may like to hear of your activities. Maybe you had an adventurous holiday, or perhaps pursued a plan of campaign to improve your play. Prizes of Table Tennis Bats will be sent to the writers of all letters used.

You can see from the picture on the opposite page how twenty-five-year-old Miss Peggy Franks (Mrs. Ronnie Hook in ordinary life) spent part of her Summer. Peggy is a member of the crack Stuart Ladies' Rowing Club, and sculls No. 4 in the Club Eight. She does a great deal of her training on the River Lea at Clapton. Peggy also swims, plays squash, golf, and rides.

During August, two lesser-known players hit the headlines of the *Leicester Evening Mail*. What did they do? They got married. Doreen Primrose Thorpe and Fred Norman Day met at the Annual Dinner of their Table Tennis Club, and eventually arranged for a life-long doubles partnership.

This Summer has not been quite such a happy one for the popular Liverpool Secretary, Billie Stamp. At the end of July Billie had an accident to his one-and-only leg, which necessitated an operation, and afterwards concentrated therapy treatment. As cheerful as ever, Billie made the best of his misfortune and even carried on some of his Table Tennis administrative work from his hospital bed. We now hear that Billie is back at home, attending the hospital three times a week.

On the 'phone the other day, Billie told the *Review* reporter that he had good hopes of an excellent season ahead. Here's to better health, Billie!

Miss Pamela Mortimer, the twenty-year-old, good-looking Birmingham girl, who brightened the cover of our Summer issue, had a London holiday of one week's coaching at Jack Carrington's Table Tennis School. Then followed a regular four-nights-a-week practice, and at times even more than this, when Pam could find the necessary opponent.

Last season, Pam represented Birmingham in all the Rose Bowl matches, and helped her team into the final. She also represented Warwickshire, and won two Mixed Doubles titles. She reached the final of the Bath Open Ladies' Singles and also reached a number of Open finals in the Ladies' Doubles events.

Essex County player Miss Barbara Milbank has had quite a busy Table Tennis Summer. She was one of a party who visited the Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp, Isle of Wight, for one of Jack Carrington's Holiday Camp Courses. During the week there were novelty and straight Table Tennis tournaments, and matches against the best players in the Isle of Wight, and also against Portsmouth's largest Table Tennis club. Barbara reports a 'smashing' time and two prizes, an attractive leather cigarette case and a chromium tea-pot stand.

Cheshire County player Derek Heaps took up a new business appointment in August, which means that the district of Reading acquires a first-class player, coach and committee worker. A new business appointment, however, takes ex-Swaythling Cup player, Stanley Proffitt, completely out of the game. Stanley still resides in Manchester, but flies home only at weekends from Northern Ireland.

Tony Miller and his well-known wife, Miss Joyce Roberts, have had a most hectic summer with little time for Table Tennis. They have spent most of the time getting a house to look ship-shape, which they have bought in Kingston. Tony says, however, that skipping over paint tins and running up and down decorators' ladders has probably been as good an exercise as any, and at the commencement of the season they report "fit and well."

The (?) above refers to "SUMMER."

REGISTERED PLAYERS NEW COMMITTEE SEASON 1952/53

During the Summer the annual ballot was held in order to appoint six members for the Registered Players Committee of the English Association. (Some people find the term "Registered Player" misleading, but a "Registered Player" is one who receives official sanction from his National Association to receive payment for services rendered in Table Tennis. This, of course, includes Exhibition players, Coaches, etc. The "Registered Player" must pay a fee of one pound.)

Out of approximately 100 Registered Players, twenty-seven names were nominated, a total of 180 votes being cast. The top positions resulted as follows:

J. Carrington	..	24	votes.
A. W. C. Simons	22	"	
Mrs. P. Allen	..	20	"
G. V. Barna	..	19	"
A. A. Haydon	..	16	"
K. Stanley	..	11	"

Some of the runners-up were in the following order: L. Thompson, Miss L. R. Barnes, G. R. Harrower, R. Crayden, J. Head, B. Casofsky, L. S. Woollard.

Past Work of the Committee.

Prior to the last postal election that chose Committee members for the coming season, the Secretary, Jack Carrington, sent out a bulletin to report past work of the Committee, composed of G. V. Barna (Chairman), Mrs. Allen, A. A. Haydon, A. W. C. Simons and S. Proffitt.

In the bulletin it was pointed out that no sensational action could be taken by the Committee, for, after all, under present rules of the E.T.T.A., it existed only in the capacity of an advisory body and having no actual control. Still, a number of things had been accomplished by the Committee, who claimed that, at least, one major complaint by a Registered player had brought about the withdrawal of a restrictive rule by a County body. Because of the work of the Committee, clarification of rules affecting Registered players had been obtained.

An effort has been made to secure E.T.T.A. agreement to the raising of the present limit of £5 on prize values to £20, or some other higher figure. In America, bicycles and washing machines have ranged among tournament prizes. So far the suggestions have been turned down by the E.T.T.A.

The Committee has a firm policy on the matter of juniors becoming Registered players, believing that in the interests of the juniors themselves they should, in their early years, devote all available time to raising their own standard of play to its peak. The Committee has also advised

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PEGGY FRANKS keeps fit

AN AMAZING TOUR

Bergmann & Leach in JAPAN

DEPARTURE

AT 23.30 hours, June 15th, 1952, Johnnie Leach and I left London Airport for what looks like being the most amazing world tour of my Table Tennis career. I say "looks like being" because, while I am writing this at the conclusion of our travels throughout Japan, there are still many more countries to be visited, and even while this issue of *Table Tennis Review* is being printed we shall still be in 'far away' places.

However, first let me tell you about our London to Tokyo air trip, in which we made eleven take-offs, and so, according to the proved theory that what goes up must

ation, and also a host of other officials and about thirty students. World champion Satoh was there, together with one of the World's Ladies Doubles champions, Tonie Nishimura. In traditional Japanese manner Miss Nishimura and another young lady placed a string of flowers over us both before a heavy battery of press photographers.

The next evening, Friday, June 20th, we had our first encounter with the Japanese. For three months eliminating contests had been held among the students of Japan in order that the best five could be chosen to oppose us at the Tokyo Ice Palace. What a welcome they gave us! National anthems were played, followed

Reported by **RICHARD BERGMANN**
FOUR TIMES WORLD CHAMPION

come down, we obviously made eleven landings. We started 30 minutes late, through waiting for three Americans to embark, but an hour later we were looking down on the breath-taking panorama of the lights of Paris, then over the Swiss Alps to Rome. Our stay in Rome was brief, eighteen minutes to be exact, and then over Athens and Rhodes Island to Damascus. Prior to landing at Damascus, Johnnie accepted a glass of sherry offered to him by the Air Hostess, but that glass of sherry didn't care for the rather bumpy landing, resulting in one ex-world Table Tennis champion being a trifle sick.

At 11.45 on June 16th we left Damascus, and then followed further landings at Bahrain, Karachi, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Okinawa and finally Tokyo. At Rangoon we stayed a night, which enabled us to get an evening out at the cinema, travelling there on a bicycle rickshaw made for two. We touched down on the Tokyo airfield at 17.25 local time on June 19th, English time being 10.25. It had all been a wonderful trip, made in beautiful flying weather and in a perfect machine, the B.O.A.C. *Arion Argonaut Speedbird*, the crew of which were changed twice en route.

ARRIVAL

At the airport we were met by Mr. Daimon, Secretary of the Japanese Associ-

by speeches on both sides and, of course, the inevitable flowers. We had the honour of being presented to the young son of the Emperor, who had come to watch us along with 6,000 other people. Scores of the match were as follows:

ENGLAND v. ALL-JAPAN STUDENTS

Bergmann beat Naka 12, 14, 13.

Leach beat Shibata 12, 19, 16.

Bergmann and Leach beat Furusawa and Tomita 18, —19, 21, 17.

Bergmann beat Shizuki 10, 19, 12.

Leach beat Furusawa 16, —22, 11, —17, 13.

Although we routed the opposition 5—0 all the games were closely contested. Naka was officially ranked No. 2 in Japan, but was not sent to Bombay because he had had little experience. Against us, however, his performance was disappointing.

The next day we had our official welcome party, and this was held at the Sports Associations' H.Q. On the 22nd a giant Skymaster of the Japanese Airline took us on a four-hour flight to the North Island of Hokkaido, where another floral reception was waiting, but that wasn't all that awaited us in the way of a welcome. An open luxury car, followed by others took us to the city of Sapporo and outside our hotel was a brass band and over 2,000 people.



Scene from one of the many WELCOME CEREMONIES. Bergmann and Leach are holding flowers

WE WERE AMAZED

After two Geisha girls had loaded us with more flowers, we managed to obtain a refreshing wash in our rooms, but our respite was short. If we had imagined that this was the extent of the welcome, then we were soon to discover how wrong we had been. Along with top class Jap players like Satoh, Hayashi and Nishimura, we formed into a procession of open cars, led by the brass band and loud-speaker vans. At a slow pace we crawled through the streets of Sapporo, which were decorated with Anglo-Japanese flags. Ticker tape showered down from the high buildings and miles of gaily coloured streamers became entangled in our procession. At selected spots in our processional route we were handed more and more flowers.

Johnnie leaned over to me and whispered, "This is fantastic, Richard." I nodded and smiled. Yes, we were truly amazed. There were some American G.I.s stationed in Sapporo and I remember seeing one looking at us with mouth open in astonishment. He pushed his hat to the back of his head and scratched I couldn't help smiling to myself and I pictured him muttering, "All this for a couple of Ping Pong guys!" There was a reception at the City Hall, speeches from the Mayor, more and more flowers, and then back to the

hotel in another triumphal procession. Before we were allowed the privacy of our rooms there were radio microphones to be spoken into. . . . it was practically unbelievable, but the photographs that accompany this article proved to me that it wasn't a dream, and will prove to you that my statements have not been exaggerated.

ANOTHER WIN

On the evening of June 23rd, we played against All-Hokkaido, the most suitable place being the cinema. The local players were not so strong and we won 5—0, without any difficulty.

As far as we were concerned, however, the exhibition matches we played with Satoh and Hayashi were serious affairs. Since we had first met them in Bombay we had given much thought and talk to their style of play and the now world-famous Satoh sponge-covered bat. We were out for blood—and got it. Johnnie beat Satoh 3—2, while I beat Hayashi 3—1. Two thousand five hundred people gave us their applause, but none felt so pleased as the two ex-world champions!

Our next call was Aomori, being Satoh's home-town. Our arrival brought the usual reception from hundreds of people; Geisha girls with flowers, press photographers and

Continued on page 9

BERGMANN AND LEACH IN JAPAN*Continued from page 7*

officials. Before a capacity house of 3,000, we played exhibition matches, once more on a theatre stage. I beat Hayashi 3—1, but this time Leach lost to Satoh 3—2. The team match against All-Aomori we won 4—1.

At the town of Sendar on June 26th we had still another repeat performance of a Japanese welcome, and still more talks on the radio. The talks always emphasised the need for Anglo-Japanese friendship, and from the Table Tennis angle the respective merits of the pen-holder grip and the 'shake-hands' grip were usually touched upon.

I DROP A BRICK

Before 4,000 people the next day we beat All-Tohoku 4—1. That lost game was the biggest 'brick' of the whole tour which I dropped. My victor was a pen-holder-grip youngster named Tsunoda, ranked No. 12 in Japan. Against me he seemed to be completely mad and smashed away indiscriminately at everything. And everything went on...much to the dismay of yours truly. He just couldn't miss. Unfortunately it was only the best of three games, the scores being 11—21, 21—19, 21—16 for Tsunoda (age 21 years).

In the exhibition matches Leach thrashed Hayashi 3—0 and I beat "Sponge" Satoh 3—1, therefore making up for the freak defeat earlier on. There were a few excited American officers among the huge crowd, and one of them came to me and said in an amazed voice, "Say, that chap you beat is the World Champion. I have got that right, haven't I?"

And so on to Yokosuka via Tokyo, where we played at the theatre of an American Naval base. This time the reception committee included an American Rear Admiral and the usual Mayor and officials. We again beat the locals 5—0, and repeated our thrashings of Satoh and Hayashi. I beat Satoh 3—1 and Leach accounted for Hayashi 3—0.

FUJII DECLINES

At Nagoya, 6,000 people saw their strongly-fancied team lose to us, 5 events to nil. Japan's No. 1 player Fujii was included in the team and also Y. Ito, who was also supposed to be very good. Prior to the match the local President Mr. Goto insisted on us seeing Nagoya's night life and also Zoo.

Against Fujii, Japan's hardest hitter, it was no easy victory for me, and in the first game I played like a tired old man. If I give you the scores they should tell their own story, and they are as follows, my own scores first: 15—21, 19—21, 23—21, 21—12, 21—15. Johnnie played

**RICHARD BERGMANN**

magnificent stuff to beat Y. Ito three straight, then when Johnnie was due to play Fujii, the Jap player declined, saying he was much too tired after his match against me. The remaining matches we took with a fair amount of ease.

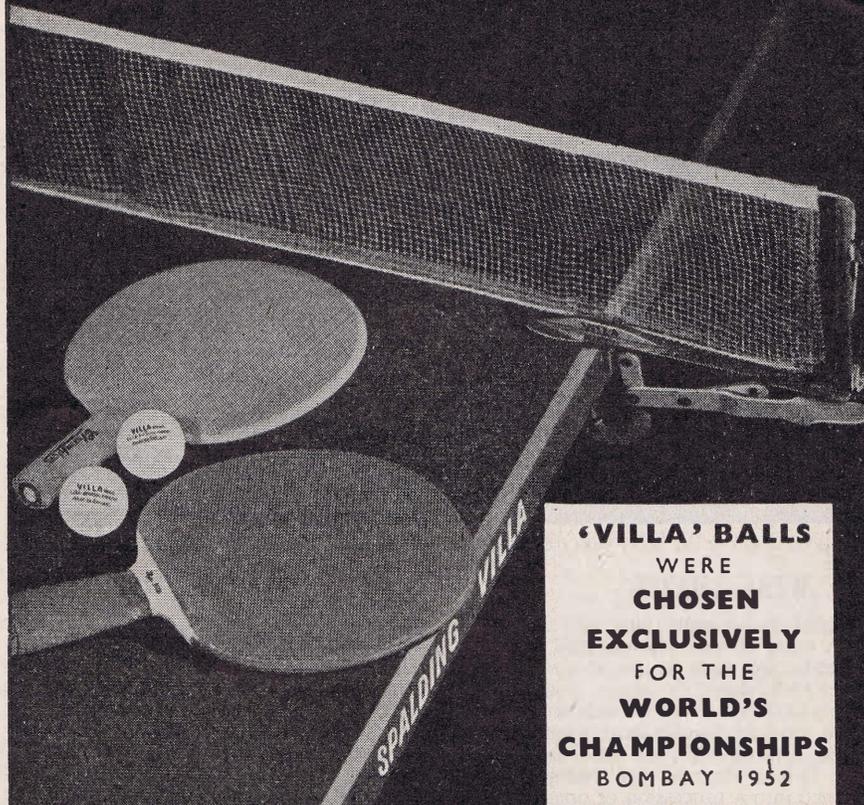
On July 2nd we travelled to Kyoto by train and there the same wonderful reception awaited us. On the night of our arrival we played our games again on a theatre stage. In spite of the fact that I have had so much Table Tennis theatrical experience, and have played on the stages of some of the leading theatres of Europe, I do hate playing competitive matches on a stage. Still, we beat Kyoto 5—0. And in the exhibition Leach beat Satoh 3—0, giving him his biggest beating so far. Johnnie asked specially to play Satoh, as up to that point they were level on matches. I won the other exhibition match three straight against Furusawa. Three thousand people were present and the local beauty queen presented us with a floral tribute.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH

On July 4th, at Osaka, we played our first official international match against Japan, and on this occasion I was captain of the team (both of us). On the face of it Japan's team was disappointing. Because of business commitments Fujii could not play, while Hayashi was ill with stomach trouble.

The Hall was supposed to be limited to a crowd of 2,000 people, but somehow—don't ask me how—4,500 people managed to squeeze in. Again it was a theatre stage and the first match was Leach v. Satoh, this being the first official encounter since Bombay, when Johnnie lost 1—2. What a match this turned out to be. Satoh eventually turned out the victor with scores of 21—15, 16—21, 13—21, 21—18, 21—17.

That made England one down, but I levelled matters by beating Fugii (not the Jap No. 1 Fujii, but definitely a top class

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT...

**'VILLA' BALLS
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player). My opponent used the orthodox grip and possessed a good defence. I won three games to one.

Perhaps the tit-bit of the evening was the doubles match, when we faced two youngsters, Furusawa and Tomito. They played an inspired pen-holder game, attacking accurately in a fast and fiery manner. Their wonderful and sustained attack had the crowd roaring with delight and almost had us on our knees. What a struggle it was, but we pulled through with scores of 10—21, 19—21, 21—16, 21—13, 21—15. After this I was pleased to give Satoh a thorough trouncing, 21—17, 21—9, 21—14, and this gave England victory at 3—1.

SUMMARY — SO FAR —

SPONGE-COVERING CONQUERED

Our successes, so far, had obviously taken the Japanese public by surprise, who quite naturally thought a lot about their players after the splendid display in the World's Championships at Bombay. Even we had no idea that we might do so well, but now, I think, we have reason to feel confident that we have exploded the "sponge-covered-bat myth." We have grown familiar with it and the peculiar style of play it produces, and we now do more than hold our own with it. As far as the pen-holder grip is concerned there is a very strong trend here in Japan

for a sweeping change-over to the orthodox grip, especially after our complete rout of the home players.

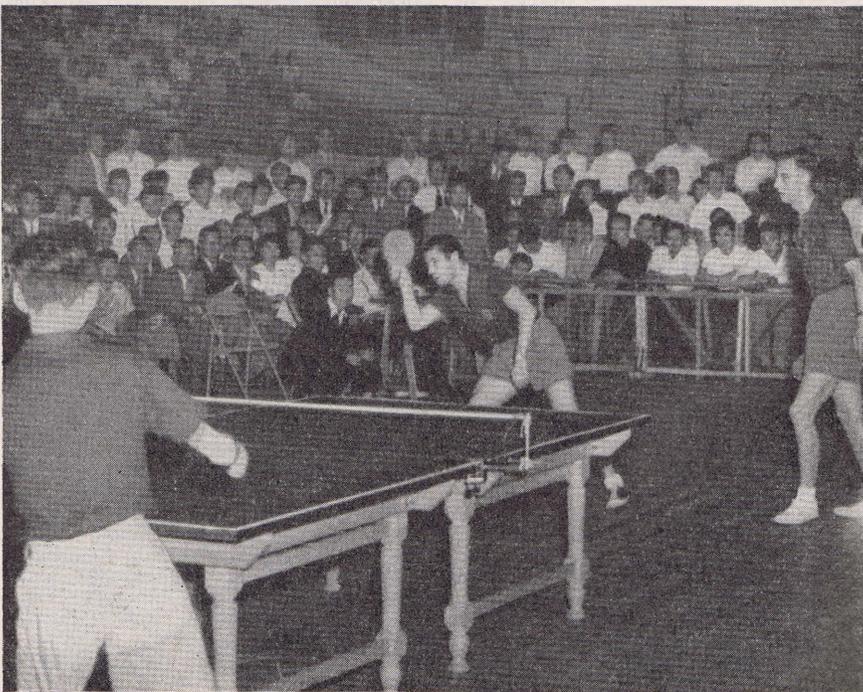
Although Satoh was supposed to be No. 5 in Japan before Bombay, the team of Fujii, Satoh and Hayashi is definitely the best team for the men. These three now ranked Nos. 1, 2 and 3 respectively in Japan.

MATCH CEREMONIES

At every match we play, the following routine is strictly adhered to, and it is performed like some ancient ritual, with no part ever being missed out. 1. English and Japanese anthems. 2. Opening Address. 3. Welcoming address. 4. Introduction of players. 5. Reply from English visitor. 6. Presentation of Bouquets. 7. Souvenirs. 8. Matches. 9. Announcement of results. 10. Presentation of trophies. 11. Closing address.

Before a match commences, the umpire tosses for the right to choose the ball and then for the right to serve. He then limits the knock-up to five rallies, counting them out aloud. The players then bow to each other, then commence.

Each place we are about to visit sends its interpreter to the place which we are about to leave, even though this may involve hundreds of miles of travel. To give an example, when we were at the station saying



England versus All-Japanese Students at Tokyo Ice Palace. First match in Japan

TOURNAMENT TABLES FOR 9/3 A WEEK

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good-bye to the people of Nagoya, the Kyoto interpreter was on the train waiting to say "Hello."

Trains are extremely modern and have adjustable seats, like the seats of air-liners. There are loud-speakers in every carriage, and dining cars where you can get a meal at any time. Attendants serve snacks to your seats, and there are electric fans in plenty. Each train has a travelling guide, who tells of the various spots of interest. This is by far the most modernised country of Asia.

The Japanese really are as polite as we have been led to believe. Even after the most casual introduction between two people it is customary to exchange visiting cards. Johnnie and I already have well over 100 of such cards.

What the sausage is to Central Europe, and fish and chips to England, the hot nudel is to Japan. At any time of the day or night in the cities of Japan, you will find the "Crying Nudel Wagon." Men push these barrows, not unlike the English ice-cream barrow, and attract attention by blowing on a peculiar kind of flute.

LEACH LOSES A TOSS

On July 5th, after a seven-hour boat journey, we reached Tokushima, capital of the island of Shikoku. Satoh and three other officials were with us, and upon our

arrival, hundreds of school-children greeted us waving British and Japanese flags. Then followed the usual encounter with Mayor, Geisha girls, press men, radio men, etc.

Our hotel was truly a super effort in luxury, and one of our rooms was the place where the Emperor had slept on his last visit. I decided to toss a coin with Johnnie for that room and my luck held. After a quick change we hurried off to a welcoming dinner party given by the governor, which included a special dance performed by Geisha girls in our honour—very nice too!

The next day was Sunday and Johnnie spent the morning watching a Lawn Tennis Championship, while I went for a stroll. The match against All-Shikoku took place later, which we won with ease. In the exhibition matches, Leach really went all out against Satoh and beat him with the incredible scores of 21—8, 21—5 and 21—7. This certainly avenged his defeat in the international match at Osaka.

After the match came another dinner party, this time at a leading restaurant and in Japanese style, which meant we had to crouch on the floor, with meals served on a low board which lay on the floor. The Geisha girls performed their dance for us again—and again it was very nice! These dinner parties usually end with a visit to the flicks, where American films are shown. This time we saw "Man From Nevada" and "Tarzan and the Mermaids."

HIROSHIMA

On the Monday, July 7th, we embarked on the journey back to the mainland. An English Missionary gentleman came on the boat to see us off, and at the time Johnnie and I were in the middle of a card game. The dignified gentlemen spoke of our "wonderful Table Tennis victories" and then asked about the score, meaning of course the Table Tennis games. Johnnie mistook the question and replied, "We are only playing a friendly game for points."

Next came a seven-hour train journey to the now world-famous city of Hiroshima. This time there was no dining car and we fortified ourselves with sandwiches. Our companions were Satoh, Naka, and Nishimura, as well as the interpreter. Mid-journey we were joined by Narahari.

We won our match against All-Chugoku 5-0, and in the crowd were some English officers who had come from a nearby Commonwealth troop base. In the exhibition games, I beat Hayashi 19-21, 21-17, 21-16, but Johnnie went under to Satoh 21-8, 20-22, 14-21. Leach played so brilliantly he won the first game at 8 and then led Satoh 16-9, 19-11 and 20-17 in the second, only to lose this and the next. I consider Johnnie played a little recklessly. He was completely outclassing Satoh, and then carelessly allowed him to have a run of point winning in that second game. This gave his opponent a new confidence, and he began to play better and better. Johnnie really chucked the game away, which goes to show that one must NEVER let up for one instance.

One thousand six hundred people packed themselves into the theatre at Hiroshima. It was the largest hall available and officially its capacity was 900 people. The only place where one might move a limb in comfort was in our playing area.

All the usual ceremonial events had to be gone through, but the anthems were played by the most incredible brass band we had ever heard. They murdered the British anthem, and then went on to do the double by slaughtering their own. Believe me we had been welcomed by some fairly bad bands, but this one was sheer torture.

HAYASHI RECOVERED

Our next place of call was at the famous Spa of Beppu, where there are warm water springs, and the very modern hotel where we were accommodated was supplied with natural hot water from these springs. The toilet facilities of this hotel were truly remarkable and the last word in class. We were each given a massage by an expert and then came an enjoyable game of billiards in which five shillings of the Leach money passed over to keep company with the Bergmann shillings.

Our game here was against All-Doita and this time, for a welcome change, it was held in a gymnasium, which held 2,000 people. The lighting was far from being perfect and as the match took place in the afternoon the atmosphere was humid and after only a few minutes of play we were dripping with perspiration. As usual we beat the locals 5-0, and in the exhibitions I beat Satoh 2-0, while Johnnie disposed of Hayashi 2-1. With his stomach trouble gone, Hayashi played top-class stuff.

Back at the hotel I found a Japanese letter waiting for me and inside was an English letter, and inside this was a letter from India. Lucky that letter caught me up so soon, otherwise at a later date I might have been mistaken for a UNO official!

CHILDREN WITH FLAGS

Satoh and Hayashi and also Mr. Daimon, Secretary of the Japanese Table Tennis Association, were our companions for the trip to Kumanuoto. The train passed within close viewing range of one of Japan's active volcanos, Mount Aso. The top was obscured by condensation. The weather was warm and close and this being the rainy season the wet weather persisted day after day. Even so, the weather did not damp Kumanuoto's welcome. The owner-manager of the hotel where we were to stay joined the train a couple of stops away so that he might greet us, and at the end of our journey many children with flags cheered lustily, while a local jazz band played us out of the station.

Our hotel room overlooked a canal, which meant that mosquito nets would have to be used at night. During our stay Johnnie was delighted to find that he could get in another round of golf. At 13.00 hours on the day of July 12th we had to oppose All-Kyushu. An early lunch and warm, sticky weather did not make the event a too welcome affair, especially as the hall was again over-crowded, this time with 3,000 people. Believe me, hand-fans are a necessity in this climate, and we, Johnnie and I, can now manipulate one as good as we can manipulate Table Tennis bats.

Lighting and playing conditions were bad, but in spite of it all we disappointed the local inhabitants by having no defeats registered against us. In the exhibitions, Leach beat Satoh with great ease 2-0, but I had a struggle against Hayashi, just winning 2-1. After the game, both Hayashi and I were completely..... (I leave the choice of word to you, dear reader.) The cold shower at the hotel was almost a life-saver. In the evening we all relaxed at the cinema, where an American Western film was the highlight of the programme.

Continued on page 15



Bergmann and Leach in Japan. Triumphal procession through the streets of Sapporo

BERGMANN AND LEACH IN JAPAN

Continued from page 12

FUJII SENSATION

On July 13th we began our journey to Osaka, part of the journey having to be made in a rail-sleeper. The train was packed with American soldiers on leave or demob., bound for Tokyo and the States.

Upon arrival at Osaka we found the newspapers full of the story that N. Fujii, Japan's No. 1, would not be able to play against us, either at Osaka or in Tokyo. Fujii is a P.T. instructor at a school and it was stated that he could not be spared away from his work. The Japanese Table Tennis Association made full inquiries and did their best to obtain permission for Fujii. At the time I thought it all didn't make sense, and personally, I had my doubts whether it wasn't that Fujii, himself, did not want to play. He was dead-beat when he lost to me at Nagoya, and remember that on that occasion he refused to play Leach, saying he was too tired. The Japanese officials showed their disappointment and also annoyance, and I was sure that the matter was not ended and that pressure would be brought on Fujii so that he would play against us on July 19th, in Tokyo.

Our series of battles against these Japanese, who shook the world by their performances at the World's event, were now nearing their end. We were at the climax of our stay—the final international match between England and Japan, which was to take place in the capital. It was certainly a fitting climax to the tour.

SUSPENSION

Our Tokyo hotel was the tops. All rooms being air-conditioned. Upon arrival we learnt that Fujii had been suspended by the Tokyo Association for not playing for Japan on July 4th. Poor old Fujii. We could not help but feel sorry for him. Way back at Kanazawa, Fujii had repeatedly asked us to put in a good word for him. He had an idea then what was on the carpet for him. He was now really keen to

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Six thousand people packed the place, and once again the seventeen-year-old son of the Emperor was present. There were, of course, the usual speeches, etc., and this time we received an exquisite Japanese dressing gown and a pair of pyjamas each.

Right from the start it was obvious that the Japs were out to give us all they had got from the Table Tennis angle. Smarting from their fourteen previous defeats, it was a case of now or never with them.

NIGHT OF THRILLS

The first game was a thriller in every sense of the word. It was between Leach and Fujii. The games had everything. Wonderful tactical attack and defence by Johnnie, and terrific forehand attack, interspersed with many cannon-ball blasts by Fujii. The pace did not abate, and went on to a nerve-racking fifth and deciding game. Fujii led 17-13, 18-14, but Johnnie fought, as we all know he can when things are against him, and he levelled the scores at 18-18 and carried on to lead 20-18. Fujii then made it deuce and also led at 21-20. Eventually Johnnie ran out the winner 24-22. What a blood-curdler it was. It lasted for one hour and the scores were (Leach first), 21-9, 11-21, 24-22, 8-21, 24-22.

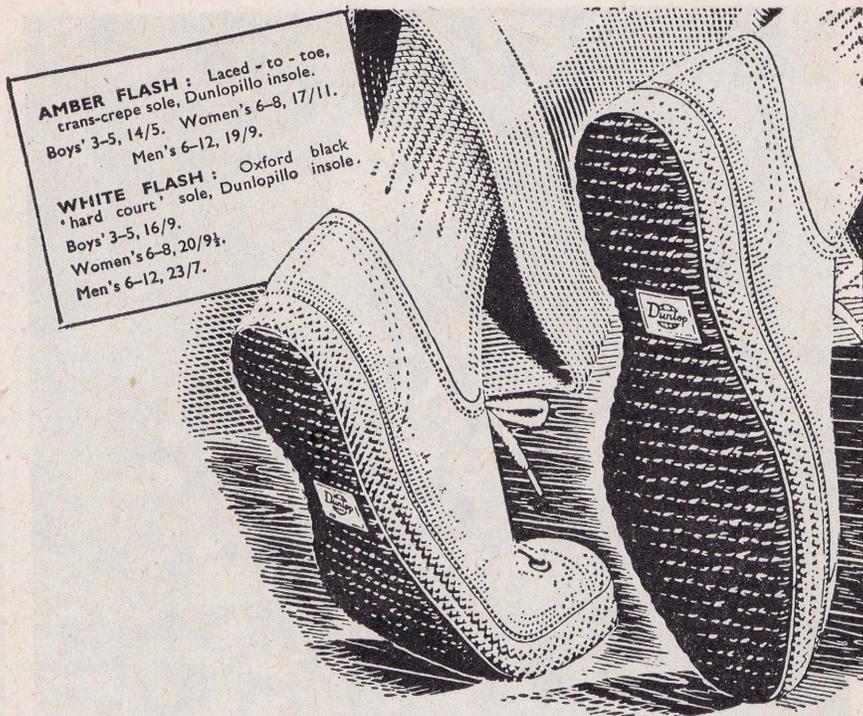
My match against Satoh was in direct contrast. There was quite a bit of slow, careful manoeuvring for openings and then lightning smashes from both sides. I ran out the winner after less than one hour's play, scores 21-7, 18-21, 21-14, 21-16. This made England two up.

The Men's Doubles match was the most spectacular of the evening. Once again we had to face the reigning World's Doubles Champions, Norikazu Fujii and Tadaaki Hayashi, and this time we had a clear defeat of 3-0, scores being 20-22, 15-21, 18-21. The crowd went delirious.

It was now Johnnie's turn to face Satoh, but he rose magnificently to the occasion, and with superb tactical stuff finished him off 3-0, scores 21-14, 21-11, 21-13. This, of course, gave England victory at ~~three consecutive events, Japan and China~~ would take a game into extra points, but always the wonderful concentration and experience of a Bergmann or a Leach, clinches the issue, and the Indian champion is left to ponder over what might have been had he not faltered.

Frequent match-practice with the world's best is the obvious cure. Given that, there will be a bright future for Indian table tennis, for the keenness and natural assets are there.

DAVID R. KEBELA (India).



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GREETING MESSAGE

From : T. SUGIYAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE CHUBU NIPPON PRESS

It is the greatest joy for us table tennis fans to welcome Messrs. Bergmann and Leach of England in the City of Nagoya where Mr. Fujii resides and to be able to have an opportunity to witness those treasured moments of the table tennis which were exhibited in February this year in India.

I am very happy to say that The Chubu Nippon Press is claimed as one of the "Big Three Local Newspapers of the World" with The Manchester Guardian and The Chicago Tribune. I believe it is a proud privilege for our paper, with 1 million readers, to extend sincere co-operation for the development of a sport event which has high popularity as table tennis.

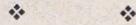
It is my earnest hope that this festival will go a long way to promote goodwill between England and Japan as well as satisfy all "Ping Pong" fans of this region.

Toranosuke Sugiyama
President

The Chubu Nippon Press

bleeding, but I took that fifth game, which was all that mattered. Scores, 16—21, 19—21, 22—20, 23—21, 21—15.

And so our final match was one of great triumph. We left Japan the next day with English prestige flying high. There was the official good-bye party, with everyone all smiles. We thanked them for their wonderful welcome and hospitality and hoped that the spirit of sport would help to tie nations together in a bond of friendship and peace. Our next stopping places were Hong Kcng and then the Philippines, and although it has not so far been arranged I think an Indian tour is sure to follow.



FINAL SUMMING-UP

At the final International match, Satoh was introduced as the World's No. 1 player, but Fujii was announced as Japan's No. 1. That sounds rather paradoxical, but it is the way the Japanese regard it. In spite of Satoh winning the World's Singles, I consider Fujii to be the better player. Satoh and his sponge bat are now no longer a menace to us.

Out of all the games we played, I suffered just one Singles defeat which was against

that player in Sendar, who beat me 2—1. I doubt if he will ever play like that in his life again. He is not considered good enough to be ranked in the first twelve in Japan. Even his win over me did not get him into the ranking, which was as follows when we left:—

1. N. Fujii.
2. H. Satoh.
3. T. Hayashi.
4. M. Fugii.
5. Furuzawa.
6. Naka.

Women's Ranking:—

1. Nishimura.
2. Narahari.

Our own individual results were:—

J. LEACH.

Beat Satoh 5 times out of 9 matches.
Beat Fujii once (only met once).
Beat Hayashi 4 times out of 4.

R. BERGMANN.

Beat Satoh 6 times out of 6 matches.
Beat Fujii twice out of 2 matches.
Beat Hayashi 5 times out of 5 matches.

DOUBLES.

Bergmann and Leach defeated Fujii and Hayashi once out of three meetings.



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FLASH-BACK

TO THE WORLD'S THREATENED BOYCOTT!

ALTHOUGH the staging of the world championships resulted in a financial loss for the Indian Table Tennis Federation, it did bring India into the limelight of the table tennis world. For a few weeks Bombay became the Mecca of the devout pilgrims of table tennis. The visiting teams were housed in the best hotels and were royally entertained. Indian hospitality is proverbial. Hotel boys and waiters were always ready to obtain the autographs of their illustrious guests on the behalf of collectors, this being done willingly—at a price.

The chief reason for the tournament's financial failure was due to the exceedingly high prices that fans had to pay for their tickets. As a matter of fact, when the admission rates were announced prior to the beginning of the championships there was a hue and cry from a large section of the local table tennis enthusiasts. Some wrote indignant letters to the newspapers, while others threatened to boycott the championships if prices were not reduced.

Thousands of schoolboys and college students who could not afford to pay the prices had to turn away disappointed. Those who were lucky enough to possess radio sets listened anxiously to the results and let their imaginations do the rest.

As a result of all this there were always a number of empty seats on each day of the fourteen days' play. I would say that it was not a case of the Indian T.T. Board overestimating local interest in the game, but rather an overestimation of the financial resources of the man-in-the-street.

Indian followers of the game were exceptionally disappointed not to see the Czechoslovakian players, Andreadis and Vana, both of whom toured India a few years ago and who created such a big impression.

During the championships the home players failed to register any appreciable success, but some consolation was found in the unexpected success of another Asian country, Japan. The names of the Japanese players were on everyone's lips. A few days after the conclusion of the championships I came home from college one evening and was greeted by my youngest brother (holding his racket like a fountain pen) who promptly informed me he was "Hiroji Satoh." Indeed, the success of the Japanese players has done much to popularise the pen-holder grip, especially among the younger generation.

Unhappily, I must conclude by stating that Indian players have yet to attain world standard. In recent years we have had Vana and Andreadis, Barna and Bergmann, and Leach and Haguenaour touring this country, and although they stated that the standard of Indian table tennis was improving, I am inclined to put that down as merely the expression of a polite guest. Although most of the Indian players have the skill and nervous energy required for the game, they are woefully lacking in temperament and general tactics. After all, it is temperament which lifts a champion above other champions, and in this respect they fell short. Occasionally, players like Thiruvengadam, Jayant and Chandrana would take a game into extra points, but always the wonderful concentration and experience of a Bergmann or a Leach, clinches the issue, and the Indian champion is left to ponder over what might have been had he not faltered.

Frequent match-practice with the world's best is the obvious cure. Given that, there will be a bright future for Indian table tennis, for the keenness and natural assets are there.

DAVID R. KEBELA (India).

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KEN STANLEY in NEW ZEALAND

GOOD reports continue to flow into *Table Tennis Review* office regarding the coaching tour of New Zealand by ex-English Swaythling Cup player Ken Stanley. It was reasonable, however, to expect a fair measure of success, for on the one hand you have a young country, intensely enthusiastic about the game, and on the other hand you have one of England's foremost coaches.

It is unfortunate, however, that the best system of coaching could not be adopted. We know that Ken would have preferred to have spent two months in Auckland, two months in Wellington and two months in Christchurch. Ken's system would have been to take the six best players in each of these towns and to have given them intensive training, and in addition, to take six or eight people genuinely interested in giving coaching themselves, and give them training, both in how to play and *how to coach*. After leaving New Zealand, Ken Stanley would then have left behind him a good number of trained coaches who could have split up and visited all the remoter parts of North and South Islands.

Owing to the controversy that took place prior to Stanley's arrival (as ex-

plained in our Summer issue) it was perhaps only fair that he should visit all the various Associations who had contributed to the immense fund needed to bring him over. So Ken has travelled thousands of miles, and visited scores of places, even playing and teaching for just one afternoon, at tiny places like Eketahuna, where the population is only 682.

Enthusiasm Everywhere.

Even in the small country towns the interest shown was amazing. For instance, when Ken was up in Whangarei, there was an old Maori fellow of nearly seventy who walked fifteen miles in a day for a coaching session. He didn't do this just once, but made the trip three times. Ken writes, "He was as keen as mustard, and eager to gain as much knowledge as possible, so that he could coach his grandchildren, way out in the backwoods."

But trips of 60/80 miles were frequently made by the younger folk in order to attend a coaching session. The Table Tennis community at Hawera were so keen that they followed Ken the next night to the next town 60 miles away so that they might hear it all again. Unfortunately playing conditions are generally poor. A big snag is the shortage of halls and playing space. Most clubs and leagues manage to hire a hall once or twice a week. The standard of the tables is poor and nearly all are on trestles. Some even have tongue-and-groove tops, which means that the cracks vary, according to the weather. Lighting leaves much to be desired. Some have just one unshaded bulb slung over the table and farmers who have tables in their barns, play by the light of kerosene lamps. Among the farming community, Table Tennis is a leading past-time, although they treat it more from the social angle.

Considering that many of the players in the outlying districts have learnt the game from books, it is surprising to see what a satisfying standard has been reached. Ken Stanley reports that out in Whangarei there is a young lad of sixteen, named Gary Frew, who has developed his game by reading instructional books, and by practising his strokes before a mirror. He is now one of New Zealand's most promising players, and Ken has recommended that the National Association should try to make it possible for him to get frequent practice at the larger centres.

Stanley's Partner.

Another youngster with more than the ordinary degree of promise is a young

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This Japanese town welcome for Bergmann and Leach was repeated many times during their tour

Maori girl of 17 years named Ann Malcolm. Ann has that natural aptitude for ball games and shines well at tennis; in fact she is to receive tennis coaching from George Worthing, Australian Davis Cup player. Ann partners Ken Stanley in the Mixed Doubles event of the New Zealand National Championships (reports in the next issue).

The standard of play in Christchurch is quite good, and it is here that both Trevor Flint and Jack Borough live. (Readers may remember that both players visited England for our National Open and then made a tour of a few of the Provincial Opens). Trevor and Jack were regular attenders at Ken's coaching sessions and they have promised to carry on giving instruction to others upon Ken's departure for England.

Also in Christchurch may be found the New Zealand ladies' champion, Joyce Williamson. Ken Stanley's report of Joyce is good and he says, "There is little difference between her and English top-class lady players. If only she could get first-rate practice and tournament experience, she would probably be world class." Joyce intends to take part in the Australian championships so that she might see how she compares with an ex-Corbillion Cup player of the calibre of Dora Beregi.

New Zealand's No. 1 player is still Russell Algie, with Bob Jackson No. 2.

Jackson plans to visit England for a long stay in order to acquire Table Tennis practice and experience. A Wellington girl named Pam Smith has also made an impression on Ken Stanley, but then Pam worked for a couple of years in the Table Tennis Academy of Szabados, in Sydney, Australia.

Six Hours a Day.

It appears that Ken Stanley has worked hard while in New Zealand. His coaching sessions have occupied six hours a day, sometimes in three sessions of two hours each and at other times in two sessions of three hours each. Little time has been spent in relaxation, for so much travelling has had to be done. During August, however, he did get in a week-end's holiday, which included some ski-ing on Mount Cook. The short break came unexpectedly. Stanley should have been in Christchurch, but because of a serious lack of rain the hydro-electric system came to a standstill, which resulted in no electric lighting for Christchurch.

Ken Stanley will not return to England until November 5th. On his way back he will call at Sydney, where he hopes to meet once again his old friends Dora Beregi and Michael Szabados. Upon his return he will find himself elected on to the Committee of English Registered Players.

VICTORIAN (Australian) CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY, 1952

Wirth's Olympia, Melbourne

Results of the above championships are as follows :

MEN'S SINGLES.

Semi-Finals : K. Evans beat V. Sirjaticus, 21—19, 18—21, 17—21, 21—10, 21—11. M. Szabados beat E. Sibbison, 21—11, 21—15, 21—19.

Final : M. Szabados beat K. Evans, 21—14, 21—16, 21—15.

WOMEN'S SINGLES.

Final : Miss D. Shipp beat Miss E. Nichols, 21—16, 21—12.

MEN'S DOUBLES.

Final : M. Szabados/R. Summers beat V. Matison/E. Sibbison, 21—9, 21—16, 21—19.

JUNIOR SINGLES.

Final : E. Sokolowski beat J. Little, 13—21, 21—16, 22—20.

COMMENTS.

In the Men's quarter-finals, there was a surprise result when the former Australian Champion, Dr. W. Lowen, was beaten in five terrific games by V. Sirjaticus. Only a very narrow margin decided the result, for it was 23—21 in the vital deciding game.

The old master and ex-World Champion, Michael Szabados, who runs a Table Tennis academy in Sydney, went through the championships without dropping a game. Now well passed his prime, Szabados makes up for lack of speed these days by using his head and skilfully placing his shots. He is exceptionally popular in Melbourne and is always a big draw.

The night after the finals Szabados held a mass coaching class, complete with lecture and exhibition. He still makes effective use of his favourite shot, hitting the ball with the back of the bat on the forehand side. His half-volleying and angling are superb.

All finalists were Victorians, except Michael Szabados and Dolly Shipp who hail from New South Wales.

There was a bright interlude when a small van entered the stadium and pulled up right in front of the official dais. Painted on the side in large letters was the name "MICHAEL NEVALOST, 11 times champion of Gunns' Gully and holder of 77 country titles." It was none other than Reg. Summers, Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Table Tennis Association, all dressed up and ready to go places. With his arms full of bats, balls, towel, skipping rope, instruction books, etc. Then an hilarious comedy act.

ROTTERDAM CLAIMS THEIR NEW H.Q. TO BE THE WORLD'S BEST

IT is the dream of nearly all Table Tennis Leagues and Associations that one day they will possess their own headquarters. A number of governing bodies, not only in England, have achieved this aim, and the latest news comes from Holland where the Rotterdam Table Tennis Association, of 1,700 members, have just opened a Centre, which they claim is as good, if not better, than any similar establishment abroad.

This new Table Tennis Centre, of which the Dutch feel so proud, is a two-storey building situated in the heart of the city. There at any time and on any day enthusiasts can play Table Tennis until they drop.

On the two floors there will be a dozen first-class tables, but a number of these tables will be held at the disposal of clubs whose facilities are insufficient for their needs. Clubs that require that extra table to allow them a second team in the League, but unfortunately haven't the cash to buy one, such clubs have their problem solved at the new Centre.

From time to time tournaments will be held in the building, and if the project is a success then other Centres will be arranged in other parts of Holland. Total number of registered players in the Dutch Table Tennis Association is 13,000.



REGISTERED PLAYERS COMMITTEE

Continued from page 5
against young players announcing themselves as coaches, being of the view that even up to the age of, say, the middle twenties it is rare that a player has acquired sufficient deep knowledge of Table Tennis and sympathetic understanding of people generally to justify asking payment for his instructional services.



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Strolling Down Table Tennis Avenue . . .

HERE'S fun—or is it? Frank Loesser, the composer of that zany song, "Bleep, Bloop," which Danny Kaye fans well remember, has promised (or threatened) to write a number incorporating the sound of a ping-pong rally. If ever the composer finds out, or already knows, of the Ehrlich—Paneth rally, which lasted 125 minutes, way back in 1936, we've had it! Working on the calculation that it takes one second to say "ping-pong," that rally will need to be sung/droned/in-toned/muttered/drooled 7,500 times to complete the course. Even Danny Kaye, I suggest, would find it monstrously difficult to stay the pace or keep even his most fanatical admirers interested to the bitter end.

Another national tournament is being

EDWARD SHAI

of Maids

THE TOFFE

youngsters. One of the purposes behind the tournament is to discover young talent. It is obvious that with tough old players present, many a promising kid is going to bite the dust. In the last *Daily Mirror* fling, a young woman, well over thirty, and with 15 years' play behind her, reached the final. How many young girls of promise did she eliminate in her progress to the meeting with "Di" Rowe? In the

men's section, too, I knew of many players in their thirties who created havoc in the ranks of youth. In short, I suggest that a national tournament, one of whose functions it is to bring to light new international material, can be truly successful only if there is an age limit—say 21 or

with SAM KIRKWOOD

22—for the seniors. I know the newspaper has its circulation to boost, but I speak purely from the Table Tennis angle. It'll be just too silly for words if veterans who never achieved first-class status happened to win, receiving as part of their reward a week's coaching. What will be the point of the coaching?

By beating the hide off the Japs in their recent tour of the Land of the Rising Sun, Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach have restored faith in the orthodox grip and rackets we Occidentals use. The success of our pair of ex-world champions—Richard thrashed champion Satoh on every occasion they met, while Johnny beat him five times in nine meetings—has given the Nips such misgiving, as to cause Daisuke Daimos, general secretary of the Japanese Table Tennis Association, to write to Victor Barna, expressing the hope that his players will change to the Western-style grip (Mr. Daimos colourfully and truthfully calls it "the handshake grip"). Yet not so very long ago the Japs were jubilant over their winning of four of the seven world titles! Interesting sidelight on this change of events will no doubt be reflected in the sale of sponge-and-crepe-covered bats, in which our sports goods manufacturers did a roaring trade after the world series at Bombay. Alec Brook told me several months ago that he sold over a thousand of the rackets in a couple of weeks. He offered no comment on their virtues or drawbacks, merely saying that if players wanted them he was prepared to make and sell them. I noticed, however, that he himself used an "old-fashioned" bat.

The Bergmann—Leach tour has not been all sweet success, despite the annihilation of Satoh. In Hong Kong they lost a match 3—2. It is not the first time that Hong Kong has been a grave for world-class tourists. Barna has for months been insisting that the Hong Kong players are better than the Japs and that if ever they play in the world competition they'll do a tidy bit of shocking. It seems Victor knows what he's talking about: as usual.

Forgive me for returning once again to the edge ball subject. So many people have told me I'm nutty for suggesting the elimination of the "edger" that I must have another say on the matter. One thing about all the "anti" arguments stands out like Cyrano de Bergerac's schnozzle. It is the general attitude that luck is inevitable and must be tolerated as an essential part of sport. Nonsense. Flukes are tolerated because legislators don't know how to, or can't, eliminate them. As for them (flukes, not legislators) being essential—well, I'm a queer bird in that I place a 100 per cent. value on skill and none at all on luck. When I play I want to win on merit, not by net or edge stinkaroos; similarly, when I lose I want to be beaten by a superior player, not a lucky one. Where flukes cannot be slung overboard we have to suffer them. But the edge ball can be expelled from the game, and I most certainly and emphatically want to see it booted right out of Table Tennis.

Here's a question or two I put to Mr. Ivor Montagu. Is it true that no world-ranking list is being issued for 1952/53? And if this is so, is there any truth in the assertion made in certain and far from irresponsible quarters, that this withholding of a ranking list has been advocated because

last year's English world champion would have to be placed well down the table? It certainly seems strange that an annual custom which interested followers throughout the world should suddenly and without official explanation (so far as yours truly is aware) be broken. Can you satisfy me and countless other fans on this point, Mr. Montagu?

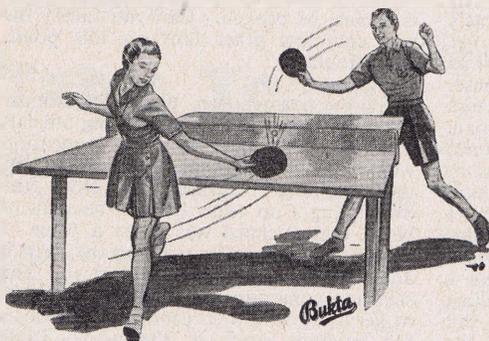
At the Association Council's Annual Meeting, attended by high-ranking officials from all over the country, not a mention was made, let alone a criticism voiced, of the dropping of Bergmann from the Swaythling Cup team (it will be remembered that Richard was given a place at a late date, only after winning the French and Metropolitan tournament. The selection committee has thus been allowed to get away with a decision which made us the laughing stock of the whole Table Tennis world. The original omission of Bergmann was a triple-starred, sky-high clanger, and someone should have been axed for it. But no, not a word of censure is breathed. Maybe the selectors were complimented on their shrewd powers of judgment! Yes, the set-up seems to be that cosy for a fortunate few.

The United States has comparatively few
Continued on page 24



Mayor of Tokushima says "Good-bye" to the four world title holders in railway carriage, left to right:—Leach, Nishimura, Satoh and Bergmann

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Continued from page 23

players, but, by Jiminy! she certainly seems to have lashings of prizes. At the national championships, held at Cleveland, Ohio, even the winners of the first round in the men's singles received presents! Although the report doesn't say so, I assume that first round losers merely received cheques as consolation for being beaten just when they looked like reaching the final!

Reading my column of the last issue, I noted a paragraph which is open to misunderstanding. It refers to Peggy Allen. I said I preferred the tag "cynic" to being called a yes-man given to writing pappy stuff of no consequence or interest to anyone. As we all know, the lady in question writes a column. But my remark, of course, was never intended to infer that she wrote rubbish, specifically concocted to please the ETTA bigwigs. In confidence, Peggy, I honestly assure you I rather enjoy your items with the feminine flavour to 'em. Anyway, if ever I wanted to take a crack at you, I'd do so in the open and not stealthily by way of insinuation.

Is Eddie Buble's professional scheme really coming to life after all these years? It seems it is, Eddie tells me that plans are complete for his opening tournament, which is scheduled to start this year. Over 400 entries from all over the country have

been received, says Buble, who emphasises, not without justice, that it takes time to organise an affair of this nature. The tournament, by the way, is only a "feeler," with a prize of £20 in cash and a trophy for the winner. After that, he asserts, the really big professional matches will be shaped.

The next Maccabiah Games—the Jewish Olympics—are to take place in Israel next September. Trials for places in the British Table Tennis team are being held during the coming season. Almost certain of a place is Manchester's Ronnie Baker, who was unlucky not to have gone to the last Games, in 1950, 8 of which the British team won. Ronnie played in the final trials and lost to Ernie Buble 22—20 in the third, after leading 20—14. Buble was selected and then, at the last moment, dropped out owing to pressure of business. Since then Ronnie has gained an international badge. Another leading candidate must be Birmingham's Maurice Kriss, who also narrowly failed in his attempt to make the 1950 trip, when not only Buble but Benny Casofsky and Eli Goodman were available and in good form. After Baker and Kriss the situation seems to be very open. There are many Jewish players who wield a handy bat without being outstanding in upper circles. A boy who I'd like to see go is Joe Brandez, 26-year-old

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A NEW SEASON ALL SET TO GO?

THE enthusiastic player has been getting ready for the season. He is physically fit—that means more than just having his teeth filled. He has been practising for some time, trying to iron out those roughnesses in his game, before the season gets under way. He has been doing exercises or playing some other sport that has toned up his muscles. He has checked his equipment. That soft, sticky rubber on his bat has been renewed, and he has bought a spare "paddle" in case someone sits on his bat during a tournament and breaks off the handle. He has bought himself a new pair of shoes that will stop him from slipping during a hectic rally. He has looked at his equipment generally to make sure that he is well turned out and efficient.

What is your particular attitude to the game this year? Have you been looking forward to the start of the season, or have you decided to play only because it fills in one night during the week? If you're in the second category, how about standing down and giving a keener player a game, even though he may not be as good as you? We want keen players who are likely to improve and do something for the game.

HOW TO PRACTISE

There is plenty of room for the keen player who wants to improve. Practice on at least one other night during the week is essential (every night would be better). And the practice should be organised to a plan that will help to improve weak shots. The aim of these practices should not be for the participants to win games, but to develop strokes. The score is unimportant.

Practice—that all important part of one's game. We all spend time practising; most of us who are at all keen to improve our games devoting as much time as possible to it. But is our idea of practice correct? Do we have the right approach? Can we get more out of practice than we do now? These are questions we can all try to answer with profit to ourselves, but what will be our replies? Let's see what Victor Barna, the greatest player the world has ever seen, has to say about practice, and see if we cannot apply some of his theory to ourselves. Victor says:

"Not even a genius will get anywhere without practice. The only possible way to improve is to practise, practise, and keep on practising."

The main thing in practice is to stick to a method. Just "knocking up" is ruinous, especially to a match player, because it tends

to get him out of the habit of concentration and makes him slack.

My own favourite system is to play one stroke, for example, backhand, cross-court to backhand, throughout a whole game: then in the next game, backhand straight down the line to the forehand, and so on—all this without letting my opponents suspect what I am up to, and still trying to win. It needs a lot of concentration and is a great help in acquiring ball-control, and the capacity to hit at any angle I want. I do the same with defence, too, playing to my opponent's backhand only, or forehand, or alternately. In this way one quickly learns how different players hit better from one side or the other, and it helps to know how to deal with any emergency.

By "method" I don't mean that you should decide what stroke to make, even before you see what sort of a ball is coming. Whether in practice or in match play, it is definitely wrong to decide in advance on your next stroke—unless, of course, you happen to be trying out my own pet plan, in which case you will find you have to move hither and thither like lightning. The fault I have mentioned, however, is all too common and is a very bad one indeed. To me, practice means perfecting ball control, as I know, only too well, that I am certain to meet far too many good players for my liking. I try to make the ball do my work for me, and if it is obedient, then I know I can tackle anybody."

TAKE THINGS SERIOUSLY

Many players—leading ones included—still do not take the game seriously. Their mentality is still of the nursery pat-ball type. Although they may be willing to defend the game against its critics, they are not whole-hearted enough in their efforts to improve. For instance, they are too lazy or can't find the time to practise.

That Table Tennis—played hard—is as tough as any other sport has long been acknowledged by people who have taken a second look at it. In 1936, Jim Thoms, who was a champion Australian Rules footballer, won the Australian singles title (Table Tennis), and said after the match: "That final left me more exhausted than the hardest game of football that I can remember."

So if you want to reach the top, be prepared mentally and physically, and you may make the grade.

For reproduction of the above article we are indebted to "Twenty-one Up," a bright and lively journal, published by the Western Australian T.T.A.

Editor.

WORLD PERSONALITIES . . .

A self-made Table Tennis Star

AN expression often used in the Dutch table tennis world is " . . . as sportsmanlike as Cor Pelsler." This tall man from Amsterdam, son of a famous international footballer, is indeed a true sportsman from top to toe.

Football was a family sport at Pelsers and Cor, too, was a member of their club. It was at this club in 1936 that he first saw table tennis being played. At first he played the typical "pushing" game of the beginner but gradually he improved until in 1950 he became the national champion with a well-earned victory over the well-known Cor du Buy.

Until 1939, football was his chief sport, but then the green table began to have a stronger call for him than the green turf. Cor trained himself at table tennis. He placed a table against the wall and in this way learned his famous hard and flashing attack. It was to this attack that Jack Carrington had to yield in 1948. If any player can be classed as a self-made player it is Cor Pelsler.

To the Erika Punishment Camp

DURING the war, Cor did not play much. He tried to withdraw from 'obliged' employment in Germany and eventually succeeded, only to fall into the hands of the Kontrol Kommando in 1943. He was sent to a punishment camp called Erika situated at Ommen and later transferred to a shipyard at Hamburg. It was at Hamburg that Cor felt the strength of the R.A.F. bombardments.

When he took up his bat again on his return to Holland it was not expected that Cor Pelsler would become a prominent personality in Dutch table tennis. He played for the club Nedlloyd—and still does—but some humiliating defeats came his way when playing against third-rate teams. But Cor again began to train himself in the same way that he taught himself in those happy pre-war days. Soon he began to win back his old skill and by the end of 1945 he was touring Denmark and Sweden with the Dutch team. During this tour he lost only three games out of twenty-one.

Cor Pelsler has been runner-up in the Dutch National Singles Championships, first in 1946 when he lost in the final to Bep van Ham, then in 1947 he had to give way to Cor du Buy; in 1949 Cor du Buy was again his conqueror and in the last, 1952, event it was Cor du Buy once again.

COR PELSER*(HOLLAND)*

In 1950 he managed to take the title himself beating his old rival Cor du Buy 13-21, 23-21, 21-16, 17-21, 26-24; he also walked away with the Men's Doubles title in the years 1950 and 1952, partnered by Peter Kreuger.

Twice Pelsler has represented the Netherlands at World Championships, first at Stockholm in 1949 and then in Vienna in 1951. He could not take part in the championships in Paris in 1947, for working as a clerk in an Amsterdam radiator factory his holidays were limited. For the 1948 Netherlands Swaythling Cup team Pelsler was not considered by the Selection Committee because in the opinion of the Committee he had not been present at a sufficient number of training evenings.

However, up to the present, this very likeable Dutchman has represented his country on thirty occasions.

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**BERGMANN and LEACH BEATEN
in PHILIPPINES and HONG KONG**

WHEN we arrived in Manila, Philippines, on July 25th, we found that both Martin Reisman and Douglas Cartland, U.S. Swaythling Cup stars, were scheduled to play against us. We had heard many unofficial rumours that these two players were under suspension, so immediately we cabled our Association in England for permission to play. Back came the reply the next day to the effect that no permission could be given unless Reisman and Cartland had the permission of their own Association.

Reisman and Cartland then cabled the States and eventually obtained permission, so we cabled England once more and at last everything was in order. While all this to and fro cabling was going on we were having a lazy time playing golf and bowls and going to the cinema, and of course our hotel bill was soaring up—and how it can soar when you are paying £50 per week for full board! If we were enjoying the life of a millionaire, the organisers of the various matches were certainly not. The whole thing was a nightmare to them. Halls had been booked and much money spent on advertising, to say nothing of our expenses! Our matches were to be the first big-time Table Tennis in the Philippines and a cancellation of the events would have meant a big financial loss and a great set-back to local T.T. U.S. Players Defeated

The sensation of our first match was the defeat of Reisman and Cartland by two players who used to be China's best. Here are the scores of the entire matches.

J. Leach beat T. Ibanez 12, 20, 9.
R. Bergmann beat D. Aguasin —18, 19, 17.
Wong Syu Chong beat D. Cartland 20, 19, 17.
Wang Yu Sen beat M. Reisman —16, —21, 14, 19, 19.
Bergmann/Leach beat Aguasin/Calinga 14, 15, —13, 19.
Reisman/Cartland beat Chong/Sen —15, 19, 21, 15.

The American found the all-out attacking pen-holder player of the Chinese troublesome. Wang Yu Sen has only one eye but hits amazingly well. Aguasin, my opponent, collapsed after taking the first game from me and he wanted to scratch from all the following games because he said he was on the verge of fainting. It was only on my insistence that he finished the games. His non-stop forehand attack reduced him to a sorry state.

The next evening at the American-built Y.M.C.A., Johnnie and I played a match

against the two Chinese players Wong Syu Chong and Wang Yu Sen, and to the delight of the English Colony who were among the crowd of 2,000 people, we defeated the Chinese three events to nil. **We Both Lose**

On the Tuesday night, also at the Chinese Y.M.C.A., Johnnie and I met defeat at the hands of the Americans. Against Cartland, Leach held a 15—9 lead in the fourth game but lost, while I took the first two games from Reisman and lost 3—2. Here are the scores.

T. Ibanez beat Wong Syu Chong 10, 17, 21.
D. Cartland beat J. Leach 12, 15, —9, 18.
Wang Yu Sen beat D. Aguasin —19, 12, 19, 19.

M. Reisman beat R. Bergmann —12, —16, 15, 19, 16.

Invitation Championship

On August 6th, we all competed in an Invitation Championship before a good crowd of 3,000 people. Results were as follows:

M. Reisman beat Wong Syu Chong 19, 10, 28.

J. Leach beat Aguasin 15, —14, 16, 18.

D. Cartland beat Wang Yu Sen 13, 6, 12.

R. Bergmann beat T. Ibanez 15, —15, 15, 17.

M. Reisman beat J. Leach 18, —14, —14, 13, 13.

R. Bergmann beat D. Cartland 11, —16, 18, 21.

Final
R. Bergmann beat M. Reisman 19, —19, 17, —14, 18.

As the winner I received a very valuable cup but it took me three hours to recuperate from the games. The hour was late and I had to play Reisman immediately after disposing of Cartland. I think we can claim to have given the Filipinos some really first class and thrilling stuff. Reisman played brilliantly and will be a power to be reckoned with in future World Championships. Cartland surprised me with the steadiness of his play.

Johnnie played well and had a great deal of bad luck, but a certain staleness seemed to have crept into Johnnie's game. Such a thing happens to everyone, however, after playing constantly week after week. So far I had my fingers crossed. I seemed to be holding out.

Off to Hong Kong

We had a pleasant air trip to Hong Kong but on arrival there was some slight state of tension on the airfield. No civilians were allowed to greet us because there was

Continued overleaf

South American Champions

★

DURING August last, the South American Table Tennis championships, including teams from Chile, Brazil and Argentine, were played in Paraguay. (The Table Tennis players of Paraguay are rated only second class, but it excels at football and has victories over the powerful teams of Brazil, Chile and Uruguay).

The Men's Singles event was taken by pen-holder player Hugo Severo of Brazil, who, it will be remembered, beat Richard Miles of America during the Miles tour. Severo has an amazing defence (*a la Satoh*) and played a superb game, returning many almost impossible shots, much to the delight and amazement of the crowd.

In the team event Chile won for the first time. Since 1943 they have been constantly runners-up, but this time in a thrilling match they carried off victory. In the final, Brazil led all the time until Chile caught up at four events all, and then carried on to take the decisive match. In spite of Hugo Severo's supreme effort his team could not pull through.

EVENTS

Men's Singles.

H. Severo (Brazil) beat H. Gonzalez (Chile), 14, 16, 12.

Women's Singles.

M. Zamora (Chile) beat S. Toledo (Chile), 19, 11.

Men's Teams.

Chile beat Brazil, 5-4.

Women's Teams.

Chile beat Argentine, 3-0.

Out of eight events, Chile carried off six titles. This is some reward to a generous government who affords financial support to organised Table Tennis in Chile.

Four players who did not take part in the events were Fernando Olazarri and V. Gutierrez (Chile), I. Severo (Brazil) and E. Cosentino (Argentine).

The Editor invites articles from any part of the world telling about National table tennis personalities. They need not necessarily be players but they should of course have contributed a great deal to their country's table tennis development. Photographs are specially welcomed and may be sent unaccompanied by an article, but please send just a few details about the personality concerned.

BERGMANN & LEACH IN HONG KONG

Continued from previous page

a delicate matter going on about handing over some grounded Chinese planes to the Americans instead of to Red China.

The Hong Kong players turned out to be our toughest opponents of the whole tour, although, in all fairness to ourselves, I think the strain of the tour was beginning to tell on us both and that the standard of our play had passed its peak.

England Beaten

In an international match between England and Hong Kong we were beaten by three events to one. Johnnie and I both played shocking stuff. We soon tired in the sweltering heat, and during the game I developed a very bad blister on my right foot. Scores were :

Sit Sui-Chor beat R. Bergmann —19, 19, 14, 15.

J. Leach beat Kiang Wing-Lin —21, 16, 13, 15.

Sui-Chor/King Fong beat Bergmann/Leach 16, 19, —18, 10.

Wing-Lin beat Bergmann —7, 19, 16, —13, 18.

Personally I think that the first four players of Hong Kong are right up in world class and I rate Sit Sui-Chor as No. 1 or 2 of the Far East. At Bombay in the world's championship he beat Hayashi (Japan) easily, only to lose to Koczian of Hungary 3-2 after leading 2-1. All these players are pen-holders and it is uncanny how they defend so far from the table with this particular grip. They emigrated from Shanghai three years ago. Wing-Lin I rank No. 3 Far East and it was he that put Ehrlich out of the last World's Singles.

It is imperative that we find our form again quickly because we have an intensive itinerary before us. These Hong Kong players will travel with us and play against us in Hanoi, Haiphon, Saigon, Cambodia, Bangkok and Singapore. All these places have large Chinese communities and the prestige of English Table Tennis will certainly be at stake.

September 11th/13th we play in Singapore and on the 13th we leave by air for Calcutta, where we commence a 2/3 weeks Indian tour.

KEEPING FIT

Continued from page 29

physical fitness. Actually they would feel sluggish, irritable and tired—besides suffering from insomnia! The old saying "Early to bed and early to rise etc." has much to recommend it and one generally feels better during the day if one has arisen earlier.

Well, there are a few facts on which to think—there's no excuse for being fat, thin or tired now! And your table tennis will greatly improve if you improve your physical qualities.

YOUR HEALTH and YOUR GAME . . .

KEEPING FIT

FOR TABLE TENNIS

by Donald F. Featherstone

M.C.S.P.

❖ ❖

THERE are certain factors influencing one's game of table tennis which can be amply covered without the player concerned having to live like a monk or observe strict rules. For an example, what should one eat and when should one eat? Well, one man's meat is another man's poison and it is very true that a little of what you fancy does you good; providing that you do not take it to a point of being a crank. For example, the majority of the competitors at the last Olympic Games favoured generous amounts of meat, eggs and milk, whilst others took glucose and salt or vitamin extracts.

The knowledge of what to eat comes from commonsense, and the personal experience of the person concerned, who should know without any scientific knowledge that it is hopeless to rise from a Christmas Dinner and attempt to break the 100 yards sprint record or play a hard game of tennis! In the ordinary mixed diet, such as porridge, bacon, eggs, fish, bread and butter, meat, cheese, potatoes, vegetables, tea, milk or beer, are sufficient essentials for the average athlete. It is the faddists, who eat nothing but one type of food, whose game will suffer. The important thing is what to eat before a hard game and how long before that game the meal should be taken. A light snack such as poached egg on toast is excellent, avoid fats and vegetables; the former takes a long time to digest whilst the latter affects the wind. Allow a minimum of two hours, and do not be tempted by an ice-cream just before a game, because that little item takes over three hours to digest! As a matter of interest, in the Olympics of 1936, the Japanese entered three men for each swimming event, and everyone of them qualified for the finals, a fabulous performance carried out on a diet of fish, beans, lean meat, bamboo shoots, kali (a sort of seaweed) and rice, but no butter, milk or eggs!

A source of worry in many young people is the tummy or paunch acquired in the early thirties, and it is important, because in young men strength tends to decrease as fat increases and each person has a best performance weight. It is vital to keep surplus fat away, as every pound of fat requires 4,500 feet of minute blood vessels to support it! It is not easy to lose weight, theoretically it is necessary to walk 144 miles, trot 43 miles or do 5,714 press-ups in order to lose one pound of fat.

Weight reduction can be carried out by exercising in heavy sweat clothes, drink less water (or beer), add more salt to food, have massage (the lazy man's method). Dieting is only recommended in combination with exercise because dieting leaves the muscles in a flabby state whilst exercise remedies that. Cut out fried foods, sugars, pastries, starches—add vegetables, fruits, hard breads, and chew all foods well. An excellent guide to fitness is to test surplus body fat, a really fit person has no more than two thicknesses of skin (about 1") that can be picked up between the fingers on any part of the body.

Of course, it is equally important not to be underweight; people who are too light for their size are subject to chest conditions such as bronchial catarrh, influenza and colds. This type of physique is very easily chilled and does not have the resistance of the fatter person, whose layers of fat enables them to resist sudden changes in outside temperature. Body-building can be done by a combination of the following—weightlifting, strength exercises with apparatus or in rhythm, regular eating, medicine ball work, drinking milk between meals, eating a body-building diet, 9-10 hours sleep each night, avoid worry and relax and avoid excessive smoking. When considering loss of body weight, do not become confused by the fact that some individuals lose as much as 8lbs. in weight after a hard series of table tennis games. This loss is largely water and is regained in 48 hours on a good diet with plenty of fluids and salt. This does not mean a prolonged elbow-raising session at the nearest bar!

Just as important as diet or exercise is sleep, of which the average adult requires eight hours in every twenty-four. This means up to nine hours in bed because few people go to sleep directly their heads touch the pillow or get up as soon as they awake. It is possible to have too much sleep; many people imagine that if they could only have 12 hours sleep a night for about a fortnight they would be models of

See foot of col. 2, page 28

PROGRESS and the VETERAN

THE majority of Table Tennis veterans are possessed, in my experience, of one firm opinion among a mountain of reminiscence, and that is, that there were no days like the old days and no players like the old players. Moreover, if they themselves were younger they would show us all a thing or two.

These views are, of course, far from surprising. Each generation gives rise to sagas of former invincibility, and the impossibility of comparing players of different periods at their respective peaks adds to the flood of verbiage and puts the advocate in a safe position.

The prime of each player invests the game at that time with a sparkle lacking in later years. The players who beat him then were, naturally, hot stuff, and, as for the leading players,—none of the present can compare with them. As one veteran said: "There are more players today, but the play at the top level isn't as good."

Now I hasten to say that I merely record these opinions. The players of the 20's and 30's are outside my orbit. I can neither agree nor disagree with certainty. I feel, however, that for Table Tennis, unlike Miss Marlene Dietrich, time has not stood still. Perhaps the best players are yet to come. That expectancy gives life and purpose to our game.

I have found a gladiator among the ranks of the veterans who vigorously wields the cudgels on behalf of the "modern game" and its exponents. This is the evergreen ex-International pen-holder "Johnny" Joyce who, while devoting most of his abilities to organising the famous West Ealing Table Tennis Club, and its popular West Middlesex Open, yet contrives to play a good game of Table Tennis and tennis; often confounding the younger generation.

STROLLING DOWN T.T. AVENUE

Continued from page 24

Londoner, who holds the Association of Jewish Youth clubs' title and is a North Middlesex representative. Joe suffers bad feet, but has so developed his stroke play and half-volley game, as to overcome his handicap. A left-hander, he has a fine eye, quick reflex and a thunderingly good counter-hit on the forehand. Some measure of his quality may be gauged from the fact that when playing for North Middlesex versus Wembley, in a Wilmott Cup game last season, he gave Allan Rhodes, conqueror of Rene Roothoof in the English Open, the run-round, to score a brilliant win. Joe may have imperfect trotters, but he certainly sees that opponents have to go all out on their good feet to hold him!

by A. R. MILLER
(KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES)

Johnny's heyday was in the Perry-Bull era. He has watched and played since then, and he declares that not only have playing conditions altered beyond recognition, but playing techniques and competition have intensified and improved to an astonishing degree.

In former days it was easy to predict the quarter- and semi-finalists in tournaments, since there was a considerable difference between the leaders and the rest of the pack. The stars in that early sky shone so brightly because they were so few. Nowadays, apart from Bergmann, Leach and Simons, the tournaments are wide-open contests—with Leach and Simons not *certain* of winning when they enter.

Johnny Joyce states that the players of earlier days would not go further than the quarter-finals (if that) of most present-day contests.

Their tactics, concluded Johnny, were very clearly defined. One player would hit and the other defend every ball. There were no tactical changes, little variations. Everything was ordered and pre-ordained. So-and-so was recognised as a hitter and So-and-so a defender, and they never attempted to change their roles. There was no "middle-game," and co-ordination between attack and defence was conspicuously absent. The result being, except in closely-matched pairs, a dull, clear-cut affair. Hence another veteran *cri de cœur*—"the games were more attractive then."

This cry has also been heard at Wimbledon, where Sedgman's "American" type game has pulverised the opposition. But, as Johnny Joyce says, "Change is not always good, but no change at all is bad."

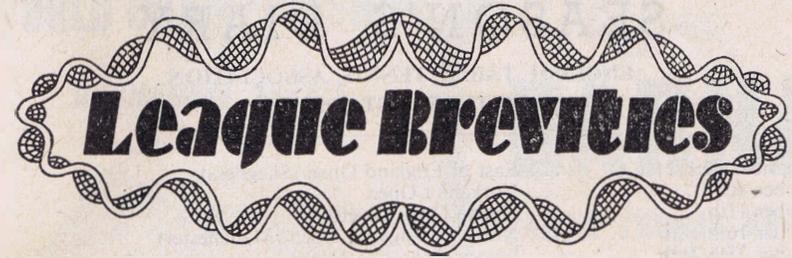
N.B.—The writer is aware that at a later period the above notes may prove embarrassing, but he will then forget all that Johnny ever told him and swear that the players of the present were unbeatable.

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NEW LEAGUE for WIRRAL (Cheshire)

GREAT changes have taken place on Merseyside during the closed season. With the help and blessing of the Liverpool League, the clubs on Wirral have joined together to form the Wirral League.

The Liverpool League has provided Table Tennis for Wirral now for over twenty-five years, and thus laid the foundation for a very strong league. The Wirral clubs played mainly in the Liverpool West Region, but several clubs had won their way into the top divisions of the Liverpool League. The Liverpool inter-league teams have also been well served with Wirral players.

Table Tennis on Wirral has grown so rapidly in recent years that it is definitely a step in the right direction to segregate the two sections, with the River Mersey forming a natural boundary. Indeed, the Liverpool League is to be congratulated on the action taken and will be rewarded by having a friendly neighbour on the other side of the water.

The new league came into being in June and the first action was to elect Sam Leather to the position of chairman. Subsequent events have shown that no better choice could have been made, and Sam has really "leathered" the new committee into shape during the Summer months.

The league has called on one or two experienced people to sit on the committee and, in Harry Holland, has a secretary of great ability and one of the most experienced tournament organisers on Merseyside. There is also Frank Christopher, a newcomer to Wirral, who is a past secretary of the Exeter League, and a joint founder and past secretary of the Devon County Association. He will represent Wirral on the Cheshire Table Tennis Association.

With Don McNaught as fixture secretary, Wilf. Lonsdale as match secretary, and Bill Gaune as treasurer, the Wirral League can settle down to the prospects of a highly successful season.

The league's interests on the General Council of the E.T.T.A. will be watched

by Tom Blunn, another newcomer to Wirral, who is also the Chairman of the Lancashire Table Tennis Association and of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, in which Wirral hope to be competing this season.

The County has already expressed its confidence in the new League, by entrusting the Cheshire Open to the Wirral League, to take place on 21st February, 1953.

With the prospects of over sixty teams in the first season, the Wirral League is already the largest league in Cheshire.

SUTTON TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

IN spite of 'teething' troubles the young league of Sutton, formed only in 1949, is now forging ahead and making good progress. New events and tournaments have been arranged for the coming season. Miss Joan Edwards, one of Sutton's promising players, has been carrying off Lawn Tennis prizes during the summer. For the past two years she has played for the Sutton Table Tennis League team. Sutton will also, again, be able to include, in its ladies' team, Mrs. Pallas, who won last season's Singles Cup, and the Doubles event, partnered by Miss Owen.

LEAGUE SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

In our new feature "LEAGUE BREVITIES" we will publish short items relating to your League, no matter in what part of the world it may be. Please let us have those items about personalities, both players and officials, which you feel will interest most people, whether they are members of your League or not. In other words, tell us about the unusual performances and incidents of your members. Tell us also about the coming and past events of your League and submit photographs if you can. We shall, of course, do our best to publish all the news you send, but if we are restricted by space we shall naturally have to cut. Please don't allow your notes or letters to exceed 250 words.

SEASON'S DIARY

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
FIXTURE LIST 1952/53

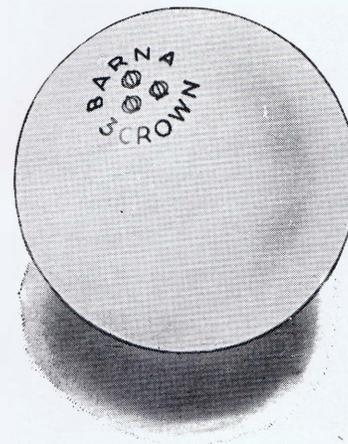
September 20th/21st ..	East of England Open (Skegness)
October 4th ..	Yorkshire Open
October 11th ..	Devon Open (Exeter)
October 16th/18th ..	North of England Open (Manchester)
October 25th/26th ..	Sussex Open (Hastings)
Oct. 30th/Nov. 4th ..	AUSTRIAN OPEN
Week-ending November 1st ..	Birmingham Open (Birmingham)
November 3rd/8th ..	Eastern Suburban Open (Ilford)
November 8th ..	Hartlepoons Open
November 8th/9th ..	BELGIAN OPEN
November 9th ..	Portsmouth Open (Southsea)
November 14th/16th ..	South of England Open
November 15th ..	Hull Open (Hull)
November 19th/22nd ..	Merseyside Open (Liverpool)
November 22nd ..	Bath Open (Bath)
November 25th ..	ENGLAND <i>versus</i> FRANCE (Men) (Aylesford Paper Mills, Maidstone, Kent)
November 28th/29th ..	Pontefract Open
November 29th ..	Bournemouth Open (Bournemouth)
November 30th ..	Kent Junior Open (Gillingham)
December 2nd ..	CHAMPION COUNTY <i>versus</i> THE REST (CHELTENHAM)
December 4th ..	WALES <i>versus</i> ENGLAND (Mixed) (Wales)
December 4th/6th ..	WELSH OPEN
December 7th/13th ..	Central Open
January 3rd ..	Dorset Open
January 4th/6th ..	FRENCH OPEN (Paris)
January 5th/10th ..	Metropolitan Open (London)
January 7th ..	FRANCE <i>versus</i> ENGLAND (Women) (France)
January 12th/17th ..	South London Open (London)
January 16th/17th ..	South Yorkshire Open (Sheffield)
January 18th ..	Southampton Open (Southampton)
January 18th/24th ..	North West Kent Open (Barnehurst)
Jan. 31st and 1st Feb. ..	Kent Open (Folkestone)
Jan. 31st—6th/7th Feb. ..	Midland Open (Birmingham)
Feb. 4th/5th—9th/14th ..	Middlesex (Herga) Open
February 20th/22nd ..	Cheshire Open
February 23rd/27th ..	Surrey Open (Epsom)
February 28th ..	WILMOTT CUP & J. M. ROSE BOWL SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS
March 4th/6th—9th/14th ..	West Middlesex Open (West Ealing)
March 6th ..	FRANCE <i>versus</i> ENGLAND (Men) (France)
March 7th ..	West of England Open (Torquay)
March 14th ..	Yorkshire Junior Open
March 20th/29th ..	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (BUCHAREST)
March 21st ..	Grimsby Open (Cleethorpes)
April 4th/5th ..	SCOTTISH OPEN (Edinburgh)
April 4th and 6th ..	North East England Open (Scarborough)
April 7th/11th ..	ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (WEMBLEY)
April 17th/18th ..	Lancashire Open (Blackpool)
May 2nd/3rd ..	Bucks Open (Slough)
May 4th/9th ..	Thames-side Open (Plaiستow)

NOTE :—December 29th—January 21st provisional dates for our Juniors to tour Sweden

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