

Table Tennis *Review*

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No. 2

WINTER ISSUE 1952

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

ENGLAND

versus

FRANCE

REPORT
AND RESULTS

★

TOURNAMENTS

Reports and Results

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RANKING LISTS

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Contributors include

ALEC BROOK

SAM KIRKWOOD

plus our regular
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★

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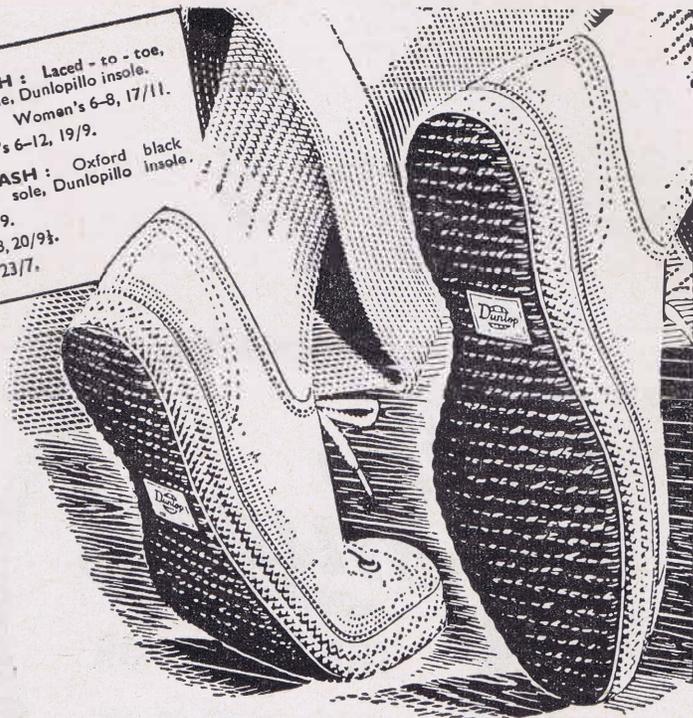
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TABLE TENNIS

Review

VOLUME 7
No. 2

WINTER ISSUE
1952

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

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BEFORE THOSE MEMORIES FADE

IN twenty-five of the most momentous years of history, Table Tennis is the only sport to reach major status and world-wide acclaim. With possible exception of Tibet, it is played in every country in the world, and its continued expansion and development is a phenomenon of sporting history." Thus starts Leslie Woollard in his newly published book, "Table Tennis." Leslie certainly does not exaggerate the amazing success made by the game over the past twenty-five years. It is unfortunate, however, that a sport, so rich in its achievements, can be like a pauper when viewed from the literary angle. Other sports have their books which can be enjoyed by the fireside, and can be read with interest again and again. Table Tennis has no such books. Everyone that has been published sets out to tell you how to play. Richard Bergmann in his book "Twenty-one Up" did try to strike a new note with some of his chapters, but in the main it was instructional. We want a new kind of book—and we want it badly. "Table Tennis Review" endeavours to fill the gap by publishing long accounts of world championships, and the overseas tours of famous players. The history of our game would make first class reading and one man could do that perhaps better than any other—Ivor Montagu, President for twenty-five years of the International Table Tennis Federation and Chairman of the English Association. Who wouldn't like to read the autobiography of Victor Barna? And what of Victor's old-time partner, Michael Szabados? I hear that Michael is working on a new type of instruction book. But why not something different, Michael? Why not give us "The Adventures of the Three T.T. Musketeers," namely those three world-famous players, who took so many laurels to Hungary, Victor Barna, Michael Szabados and that amusing, versatile genius Laslo Bellak? And what a pity that Bill Pope never recorded his work as "Master Architect" of the E.T.T.A. That would have been a classic. One day, no doubt, someone will publish a different kind of book on Table Tennis. In the meantime "Table Tennis Review" will continue to record events that make history.

There must be many people in the country able to write short articles on their reminiscences of the game. Will you contact us and allow us to print your memories before they slip out of reach?

The Editor.

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

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TABLE TENNIS in ENGLAND TO-DAY

by

ALEC BROOK



Mr. ALEC BROOK

TABLE TENNIS LEAPS AHEAD

TABLE TENNIS the last few years has made some phenomenal strides and is still developing at a terrific pace. Thousands more players come into the game each season and will continue to do so, no matter who is controlling, as it is a sport where above all others, youth has the finest chance of reaching the top. It is a young man's sport and because of this it will go from strength to strength, but at the moment it is ruled very much by the old school.

It needs many more of the younger fraternity in the organising side of the game. Too many are content to play and not to administer. It is a selfish outlook, yet it is becoming increasingly difficult to find good, methodical and conscientious people to help in the administration.

I have been in Table Tennis for over twenty years during which I have come into contact with nearly every Table Tennis organisation. Never have I met a sport so full of 'Yes' men. Over this period I have seen some really excellent people become quite a figure-head in their own locality, then be elected to a National committee and after a couple of months they have been the finest 'Yes' men imaginable.

There must be a reason for this and to my mind there is no doubt about the answer. Furthermore, I know my sentiments are shared by many of Table Tennis followers I have met on my tours. Table Tennis is dominated (and I pick this word especially), by a few people and pity those who should try to change their ideas. To me it is pathetic how a few strong-minded men can convince all the rest they are wrong.

SELECTION COMMITTEES !!

A TYPICAL instance of this occurred last season when there was a big outcry about the selection of the English team for the world championships. Bergmann was left out, to the disgust of most people, and almost everyone agreed it was a mistake. At the Annual General Meeting there was the usual question,

calling for any comment on the report. Not one solitary member had a word to say, and a personage, respected by most of the Table Tennis followers, got up and walked out in disgust. This season we have exactly the same selection committee!

The same names figure on most committees; when it comes to voting what does the country, generally, know about the individuals? The majority know a name and when they see that same name again on the nomination paper, the apathy is such that they vote once more for the same name. This, in my opinion, is unity the wrong way. Local bodies should want to know more from their representatives as to what is happening and more interest should be shown by the local committees; then we should have new names on our National Executive and perhaps names of people who would do some shaking up.

The parent body is not the only one that requires shaking. There are many county associations who could well do with a clean-up. I hear much of it on my travels and really feel for some of the younger players in certain districts where, unless their face fits or they are 'nice' to the selection committee, their chances of being recognised are almost nil. I know one or two people who have no more right to be on their selection committee than a young child, but they have inveigled themselves into the clique through various benevolent efforts. How too often do we hear the expression 'He is well in with so and so.' Our sport is no exception. No sir, far from it.

NAMES THAT WILL LIVE FOR EVER IN TABLE TENNIS HISTORY

WHO has made Table Tennis what it is today? I shall probably bring a storm on my head, but I believe three people made the game's popularity. Barna, Bellak and Szabados, with their scintillating and almost un-

believable exhibitions, when they toured the country in the early thirties. Yes, I know it takes more than players and I give credit to the E.T.T.A. for their share, but these players made the game so far as I am concerned.

Where are the personalities of today? One has to look hard to find them. The number of players of a high standard is far greater than ever before, yet how many can entertain the crown with their presence alone? The fact that I have partnered Victor Barna for so many years is no reason why I should extol his praises, but I am sure most people will agree, whenever Victor plays and however many stars are with him, he is the outstanding personality in the show, and it almost centres around him.

HELP TO BUILD THE FUTURE OF YOUR SPORT

IN every sport it is difficult to compare the past with the present, yet again I believe the past masters would have beaten (and I nearly said eaten) the present champions. Barna, Bellak, Szabados, Bergmann and Vana who, after all, were all in their zenith 15—20 years ago, would I think have made rings around

any present-day players. To the older ones who can remember these many years back, I am sure I shall find almost 100 per cent agreement. Even our own Arthur Hayden, of whom many of the present-day players have never heard, would have beaten almost all our present players. He entered the world championships last season, only because he was there as captain of our team, and he narrowly lost to Koczian in the fifth game in, I believe, the quarter-final. Koczian went on to the final, losing to the Jap.

Perhaps I shall be looked upon as a trouble-maker; far be it. My heart and soul is in Table Tennis, and I want to see the game go from strength to strength. There are many future problems, which can only be solved correctly by more and more administrators. *More players must be prepared to work* as well as play and to interest themselves in the future welfare of the game. I want to see committees of men who are sportsmen through and through.

Every town, every club, every association should have men on their committees who are working to get the best out of the game. The best men should be chosen for the matches and all decisions should be made for the game's sake only and not for some personal reason.

EVILS WE CAN DO WITHOUT

IF I were asked which two phases of the game most irritate followers in general, and particularly players, I should have little hesitation in saying: (1) Trials, and (2) The preferential treatment of stars in tournaments.

Let's take No. 1 first. International trials should be scrubbed without ado. The way they are run on the present basis they are, to put it mildly, a dead loss. Yearly the E.T.T.A., before the World Series hap-along, stages knock-ups ostensibly to decide on our alleged best men's and women's teams. And, as everyone knows, the trials mean nothing, because the teams have already been selected. I have known players already selected receive invitations to partake in the "tests," knowing that no matter what happened they were "in." The alleged trials were well and truly shown up last season when Bergmann, after being requested to come along and assist in getting the lowdown on other players, and after being assured that no matter what happened he was booked for a team place, was omitted from the Cup side. There is, obviously, only one way to select our strongest team, and that is by choosing men and girls with the best tournaments records. No

player, I insist, has the right even to be considered if he or she has a poor "open" credit. Trials, even when staged on the up-and-up, mean nothing. At the moment, so it seems to me, they are used as a means to give places to players in favour with the bigwigs, and a lever to keep out those whose faces don't fit. In short, the trials are nonsensical, useless, a waste of time and money, and often a heartbreak to players.

POINT No. 2. Stars and small-fry should be treated alike in tournaments. At the moment, they're not. The big name has no more right to be pampered and allowed to take liberties than others who pay their fees. In many instances stars are permitted to play havoc with the rules. Organisers would do well to remember that tournament regulations are made to apply to both international and third-rater. Too long has there been tolerated the swaggering star who demands this, that and the other, even to the extent of complaining about his seeding and opponents in his half of the draw, and getting his own way. Too long have favoured big names been allowed to arrive late and not be penalised,

Continued at foot of col. 1, page 7

Table Tennis Fans among United States Political Leaders

by FRANK L. de BAUGHN

GENERAL EISENHOWER plays Table Tennis—when he gets the time. So does Governor Adlai Stevenson, his opponent in the U.S. Presidential Election. Table Tennis, in fact, has quite a number of devotees among politicians and public service officials in the United States.

Neither the General nor the Governor nor any of their colleagues, however, would claim to be an expert at the game, much less a champion. But they like it—otherwise they would not play it at their own homes and the homes of their friends—and they describe it as an invigorating game that can be as tensely exciting as other, more publicised, sports.

General Eisenhower saw his first game of Table Tennis, probably, in the youth club premises he used to visit three times a week at Abilene, Kansas, the place where he spent most of his boyhood and early youth. At Abilene, definitely, he played his first game of Table Tennis, for a friend of the youthful Eisenhower has described—to reporters who attended the General's first press conference at Abilene, after his return to the United States to contest the Presidential Election—how Eisenhower was completely taken aback by the speed of his opponent's game and was well and truly beaten.

"The speed of the game completely surprised him—that and the finesse of the expert Table Tennis exponent," the reporters were told. "But Eisenhower soon improved his game."

Eisenhower progressed and, for a time, played for the Abilene Youth Club's team at various sports and games, Table Tennis among them. Then he left Abilene to join the U.S. Army and was, apparently, lost to the game for the many years of his service, first in the First World War, then in the Philippines and later as commander of U.S. and Allied armies at home and abroad, culminating in his appointment as Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Forces in Europe.

Continued from page 6

where the nonentity has been scratched for the same infringement. In all fairness and justice, players of all grades should be given exactly the same treatment. And, if the stars won't accept it—well, let 'em go jump in a lake! Tournaments are not specifically organised for a privileged few, when all's said and done.

IT was at his Paris headquarters as N.A.T.O. chief that he again became interested in Table Tennis. He played a few games with American friends serving in Paris and at the Embassy, where several members of the staff are keen devotees.

Back in the United States, the General found time to have a game or two between speeches in his recent election campaign. It seems safe to suggest that now the Republicans have won the Presidential Election that General Eisenhower will take his Table Tennis equipment with him to the White House.

Such a suggestion would have been even safer had it been made with the defeated candidate, Governor Stevenson, as the principal, for the Governor is keen on any form of indoor sport which he can pursue late in the evening.

Governor Stevenson, in his capacity as Governor of Illinois, has had the reputation of working for 12 hours a day, five days a week. Once the 12 hours are up he relaxes, at the State Capitol at Springfield, Illinois. And, as likely as not, his chosen form of relaxation is a keen game of Table Tennis with one of his aides.

WHAT of the other Table Tennis devotees among the American political leaders? Mr. Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State, plays sometimes. Mr. Snyder, the Secretary for the Treasury, played up to a few years ago. Mr. Morgenthau, the former Secretary for the Treasury, used to be very keen on the game and there are several other fans amongst the Treasury Department's staffs. Senator Wayne Morse, one of the leading members of Congress, is attracted by Table Tennis and likes the sport. There are also a number of enthusiasts among the members of the House of Representatives.

During President Truman's term at the White House, his daughter, Miss Margaret Truman, became as keen on Table Tennis as on other form of sport. The President likes to watch the game himself and rarely misses an hour at his television set, when the various State champions are relayed over one or other of the television networks.

QUIZ

DO you know that a player was once suspended for winning too many matches? Have you any idea who it was? It happened on the continent in 1940.

Answer—see page 27

DOWN THE WHITE LINE

by "Gossima"

STAR-STUDDED STAFF

IF Alec Brook doesn't watch out, he's going to have his sports equipment shop, just off London's Oxford Street, cluttered with autograph hunters;

On his staff he has Eric Filby, Jackie Head and John Horn. Eric is an international at both Lawn and Table Tennis. Jackie is a Table Tennis international and John is a Lawn Tennis international.

Why such a glittering conglomeration of stars? Alec has it that the best way to sell equipment is to have notabilities peddle it around. And as he wants to expand in both the Table and Lawn Tennis selling spheres thus the trio.

There are other sports stars, male and female, lining up to join the A.B. concern. But they'll have to wait a little. The present trio is getting its teeth into new ground and Alec is waiting to see if those teeth are capable of digesting the tough material.

Anyhow, the least we can do is wish them all luck.



In Paris there are many public places where one can play Table Tennis to their heart's content at any time of the day or night. Most of these Table Tennis saloons are attached to cafes or restaurants, and one of the best is illustrated here. Richard Bergmann has practised here often. England has very few public Table Tennis halls, but if the proprietors of those that do exist care to send photographs, we shall be glad to feature them in "Table Tennis Review." (Opposite page—a view of the inside)

INTERNATIONAL Surrey star, Joyce Roberts, is practising hard at the moment, after an unsettling house-moving and decorating period last season. She reached the semi-final of the Birmingham Open, losing narrowly to an inspired Jean MacKay. She hopes to improve on this in the spate of Southern tournaments which are on the way. She is continuing her successful partnership with Peggy Franks, with whom she has reached the English Open Final. Her mixed doubles partner is now Alan Rhodes. It will be interesting to see how they combine. With another left-hander (Brian Kennedy) she reached the quarter-final of the World's championships, in Vienna, beating Barna and Elliot—no mean feat.

SHARON KOEHNKE will be at work throughout the winter, but next year she goes to college. Brother Don, who gave her most of her practice, is now away at college, but since her return from England, Don had great difficulty in holding his own with her.

ENGLISH player Denis George, who took up a post in South Africa, within a few weeks of his return from Singapore, has now taken on the job of Secretary to the South African Table Tennis Union. The season has now closed in the Union and this will give Denis a little time to get organised, but when next season begins he will probably find himself also the Organising Secretary of the Western Province.

Energetic young Mike Friedlander was previous secretary to the Union, but Mike has now returned to England to study at the Bristol University.

AFTER a successful coaching tour of New Zealand, Ken Stanley arrived home, eager to be back once more with his family. But after only one week back at his old job, his firm had to send him away to Northern Ireland for ten days. While in Ireland the local league of Newry was quick to seize the opportunity of engaging the services of one of the world's best coaches. The night after returning from Ireland, Ken was taking part in an exhibition with Bergmann, Leach and Casofsky at Derby.

THE English Open Championship Finals will be held as usual at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, on Saturday, April 11th, 1953. Because of the substantial increase in the rates of Entertainments Duty, charges for admission have had to be increased. Because of the World Championships being held in London in 1954, the venue of the English Open for that year is likely to be held in the Provinces. Unfortunately the last time this was done, the venue being Manchester, the event was a financial flop.

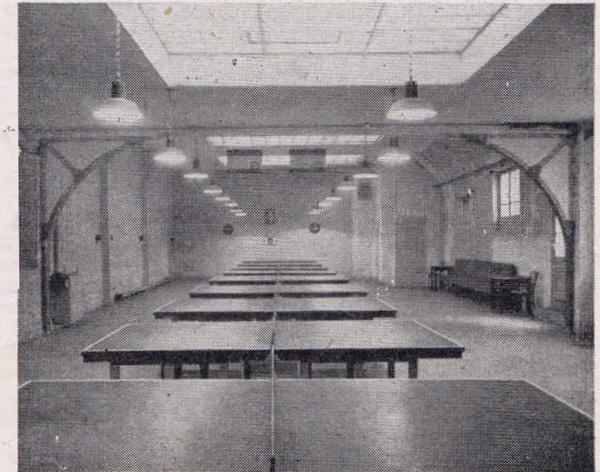
AGOSSIP item that comes from Ireland, by way of Ken Stanley, is that Cyril Kemp, well-known Irish Table Tennis stalwart is now married. So you eventually made it, Cyril. Congratulations and lots of good luck. And best wishes also to the two Leeds players, Alan Thompson (English Selection Committee) and Kathleen Best (English Corbillon Cup player), who have become engaged.

IN the Television Music Hall programme broadcast from Glasgow on November 15th, Scotland brought before the camera people who had helped to make her famous. Among this happy band was Scotland's Queen of Table Tennis, Helen Elliot. Since Helen became Mrs. Dykes, wife of the Scottish T.T. secretary, we don't appear to see so much of her at English Open events. Neither do we receive much news of the game in Scotland.

OUR COVER GIRL

TEN-YEAR-OLD Jackie Koehnke is following closely in the footsteps of her glamorous sister Sharon. Jackie is the U.S.A. Midget Girls' Champion, and in September she flew with sister Sharon to take part in the Canadian Nationals. Jackie is crazy about Table Tennis, but plans to eventually become a cowboy singer. She now plays the piano and the uke and sings Western ballads. At a recent Square Dance Festival, with an audience of 2,500, Jackie entertained them with some of her Cowboy songs.

MANY players take an active part in the game in spite of some physical disability. A number of people play quite excellent games with only one leg, and it will be remembered that an old contributor to *Table Tennis Review* used to enjoy a game while sitting in his wheel-chair. These semi-disabled enthusiasts naturally have to adopt a style suitable to their own particular handicap, and for them there are no text books to give accurate instruction on the best way to play. We invite players who have some handicap to write, giving instructional hints for people similarly placed to themselves. Who knows, you may be able to cheer someone who has just been unfortunate enough to suffer some accident, and to help them to realise that they can still go on participating in the game they love so much.



A view of the interior of 'La Pergola'

SEASON'S PROGRESS REPORTS

RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL & OPEN TOURNAMENTS

England overwhelms France

7 matches to 2

THE International Fixture between England and France was staged at the Jubilee Hall, Aylesford Paper Mills, Maidstone, Kent.

The highlight of the evening was a match between the 17-year-old French boy J. Sala and J. Leach. Sala, by virtue of his confidence and aggressive play, beat Johnnie by 2 games to 1.

Leach was also beaten by R. Roothoof in an earlier match, and he told me that after the Welsh Championship of December 6th, he is taking a month's rest from Table Tennis. This will be his first rest from the game for three years. He said he was feeling completely stale, although he did not wish to make this an excuse for losing two of his three events, adding that he had played better on this occasion than for some time.

RESULTS

LEACH beat Lanscoy, 14, 18. BERGMANN beat Sala, 18, 16. SIMONS beat Roothoof, 14, 8. BERGMANN beat Lanscoy, 16, —16, 12. Roothoof beat Leach, —14, 13, 7. SIMONS beat Sala, 7, 13. BERGMANN beat Roothoof, 19—18, 7—6 (time limit). SIMONS beat Lanscoy, 16, 13. SALA beat Leach, —12, 18, 17.

When talking to Richard Bergmann after the match, he expressed a wish to amend his European ranking opinions, which appear on page 27 of this issue.

He now considers that T. Harangozo rates equal with J. Leach and that Aubrey Simons, who played so well in the match against France, should rank number 6. These opinions, Richard said, are based on last season's form and the few games that have been played so far this season.

In the Austrian Open, Harangozo beat Bergmann 3—1 in the semi-finals, whilst Roothoof beat Leach 3—0.

The final—Roothoof beat Harangozo 18—17 in the 5th game.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

EAST OF ENGLAND OPEN

November 8th, 1952.

M.S.—J. HEAD beat B. Kennedy, 18, 11.
W.S.—Miss B. GRAY beat Miss M. Piper, 11, 16.
M.D.—B. CROUCH/R. J. TURNER beat J. Head/K. Hurllock, 16, 20. (Winners for the fourth time running).
G.S.—Miss S. JONES beat Miss W. Blades, —18, 9, 19.
B.S.—R. DORKING beat F. E. Trew, 8, 7.
W.D.—Miss B. GRAY/Miss S. JONES beat Miss B. Millbank/Miss Y. Baker, 13, 19.
X.D.—J. HEAD/Miss D. SPONER beat D. Burridge/Miss M. Piper, 18, 20.

YORKSHIRE OPEN—Oct. 5th, 1952

Men's Singles: B. KENNEDY beat R. Baker, 19, 14, 12.
Women's Singles: K. BEST beat A. Jones, 20, 11.
Men's Doubles: A. SIMONS/H. VENNER beat R. Baker/R. Alcock, 19, 15.
Women's Doubles: K. BEST/A. WOOD beat E. Grimstone/A. Jones, 12, —23, 17.
Mixed Doubles: B. KENNEDY/A. WOOD beat A. Simons/J. Titterton, —26, 16, 14.

DEVON OPEN—October 11th, 1952

Men's Singles: B. MERRETT beat L. C. Kerslake 18, 18; R. GRIFFIN beat D. Miller, 3, 7; B. MERRETT beat R. Griffin, 14, 17, 9.
Women's Singles: E. POMROY beat Y. Baker, 18, —16, 20.
Men's Doubles: I. JONES/D. A. MILLER beat J. Dale/W. Pryer, 11, 16.
Women's Doubles: J. COLLIER/E. POMROY beat Mrs. J. Crosby/M. Leaman, —12, 8, 13.
Boys' Singles: D. HOUSE beat R. Morley.
Girls' Singles: P. NORTHCOTT beat S. Davis.

NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN

October 18th, 1952

TRAVELLING to the North of England Open Tournament, I was having morning coffee in the Dining Compartment, along with some 20 to 30 competitors from Merseyside. Amongst us was a Table Tennis player, who was making use of the occasion to visit relatives. I heard him say, somewhat dismally, to his companion, "I can't understand these players entering open tournaments. They never get anywhere beyond the third round, and haven't a snowball's chance in Hades of lifting a title."

Regretfully, I have to admit that that is the view of a great majority of ordinary club players. I would have liked to have pointed out to him that these "haven't-got-a-chance players" were not after titles. What they were after was experience and the excellent opportunity of watching and studying the renowned players. Their purpose was to learn as much as possible in theory and practice, trial and error. I would have also pointed out to this cynic that these players, whose journey was deemed unnecessary, were all very good players in their own clubs, and that was their object.

Let us take a look at some of the entrants at the North of England Open. Brian Kennedy (Leeds), Michael Thornhill, Len Adams, Harry Venner, Diane and Rosalind Rowe, and Margaret Fry, all English Internationals. Surely, if one had so little confidence in their ability to carry out, in practice, the execution of correct stroke play and footwork, by the great exponents

of our game, they should seize greedily every chance of seeing table tennis being played as it should be played.

My advice to all ordinary club players is either enter or attend as many open tournaments as possible, with one ambition in your mind, that of being the best player in your club.

I still carry a very vivid memory of the semi-final between Len Adams and Michael Thornhill, which was a wonderful lesson in tactics. Adams lost the first game, in which he mixed attack and defence. In the second game he relied almost solely on defence, and by so doing, levelled. The third and final game soon revealed that Thornhill was not going to repeat his type of game. Consequently there were long rallies of the "pushing" order, both players showing much intelligence, tremendous concentration, and patience. Both watching for the slightest opening to effect a kill or to get his opponent wrong-footed. Never much to get excited about, but a dour duel of absorbing interest was eventually won by Thornhill, and deservedly so.

For those who loved an all-out battle and hang the consequences, Benny

FINALS RESULTS

M.S.—M. THORNHILL beat B. Casofsky, —14, 18, 17.
W.S.—R. ROWE beat D. Rowe, —21, 14, 19.
M.D.—B. KENNEDY/M. THORNHILL beat B. Casofsky/H. Venner, —18, 17, 16.
W.D.—D. and R. ROWE beat C. K. Best/M. Fry, 18, 15.
X.D.—B. KENNEDY/R. ROWE beat B. Casofsky/A. Wood, 7, 19.
E.S.—G. PULLAR beat C. Booth, 18, 16.
G.S.—W. BLADES beat G. Barber, 15, 10.

Casofsky and Brian Kennedy completely obliged in the following semi-final. This was a grand battle, which embraced every stroke in the game. The initiative changed hands frequently by the courageous use of the counter-drive. Thrill followed thrill as each player defended heroically or attacked relentlessly, as occasion demanded. The final scores give a true indication of the drama in which the popular Manchester veteran emerged triumphant, to earn a great ovation. He won 17—21, 24—22, 23—21.

Sadly, I reflected I would have to leave to catch my last train, and so miss the final. When, however, next morning I was informed Casofsky had lost to Thornhill in the final, I was glad I had had to leave, for somehow it would have spoiled my day to see the grand old Manchester warrior beaten.

A final word of praise for all the Internationals, whom as always, I found friendly, talkative and helpful, and a tribute to Manchester, who have produced such colourful talent in Ron Baker,

Benny Casofsky, Ken Stanley, Ron Alcock and Miss Adele Wood.

One striking feature of the tournament was the fact that the title holders of all six events, aggregating ten players, all entered to defend their titles.

J. E. NEILL.

SUSSEX OPEN—October 26th, 1952

Men's Singles: H. VENNER beat J. Leach, 21, 16, —11, 11.
Women's Singles: R. ROWE beat M. Cumberbatch, 9, 13.
Men's Doubles: J. CARRINGTON/J. LEACH beat R. Crayden/H. Venner, —19, 20, 14.
Women's Doubles: D. and R. ROWE beat Y. Seaman/J. Winn, 6, 16.
Mixed Doubles: V. BARNA/R. ROWE beat J. Leach/D. Rowe, 18, —17, 17.
Boys' Singles: R. DORKING beat A. Danton, 20, 16.

BIRMINGHAM OPEN—Nov. 1st, 1952

Simons had no difficulty in winning the Men's Singles, and Miss Gray was too good for Mrs. Fry (then Miss Mackay) in the Women's Singles. One of the best matches was between 14-year-old Miss Haydon and Miss Shirley Jones, in the final of the Junior Girls. Both are future champs.

M.S.—A. SIMONS beat B. Merritt, 19, 11, —12, 10.
W.S.—B. GRAY beat J. Mackay, 18, 14.
M.D.—A. SIMONS/A. HAYDON beat J. Head/K. Hurllock, 14, —15, 13.
W.D.—P. BAIRD/P. MORTIMER (B'ham) beat S. Jones/V. Rowe (Swansea), 19, 18.
X.D.—M. FRY/A. MILLER (London) beat A. Jones (L'pool)/G. Davies (Cardiff), 7, 18.
J.B.—R. DORKING (London) beat D. House, (Bath), 12, 9.
J.G.—A. HAYDON (B'ham) beat S. Jones (Swansea), —6, 17, 17.
J.D.—SPICER (Chelt'm)/MORLEY (Gloucs.) beat Haydon/Whitehall (B'ham), —18, 21, 13.
V.S.—L. THOMPSON (Staines) beat L. Kinsey (B'ham), 16, 12.

EASTERN SUBURBAN OPEN

November 8th, 1952

HONOURS TO KEN CRAIGIE AND JOYCE ROBERTS.

THE finals of this popular tournament were held at the Ilford Baths Hall on the 8th November, 1952. It was a very enjoyable evening's Table Tennis, and some excellent games were witnessed.

Men's Singles.

Special mention must be given to a relatively unknown player, Terry Kirby (a member of the famous Putney Club, London), who beat Bobby Stevens (Essex) and Brian Brumwell, before losing to Eric Filby, 9, —11, —15.

In the first of the semi-finals, SIMONS beat Filby comfortably in two straight games, 15, 10. In the other semi, Harry VENNER (holder of this title for the previous three seasons) lost to Ken CRAIGIE, whose devastating hitting proved too good for Venner's defence (which, incidentally, was as enjoyable to

watch as his usual all-out attack), —16, —14.

In the Final, CRAIGIE'S attack again proved too good for his opponent, and he beat Aubrey SIMONS in a very straight three games. Aubrey isn't playing at the top of his form again yet.

Women's Singles.

It will be a long time before we see so many good games all in one afternoon!

A hearty pat on the back for Elsie CARRINGTON, whose victims included Margaret Fry, Barbara Milbank and Pam Mortimer on her way to the Final.

Joyce ROBERTS was also playing extremely well, beating Peggy FRANKS very convincingly in the semi-final, 18, 8.

When Elsie CARRINGTON was 15—10 up in the second game of the Final, against Joyce ROBERTS, after winning the first, it appeared to be "in the bag." However, it was not to be, and Joyce caught up and went on to be the eventual winner of a very good Women's Singles Final.

Other extremely interesting and exciting games were played, but I am not permitted to use further space; but here's how they finished:—

RESULTS

M.S.—K. CRAIGIE beat A. Simons, 19, 17, 15.
W.S.—J. ROBERTS beat E. Carrington, —20, 17, 12.
M.D.—A. SIMONS / L. ADAMS beat D. Miller/I. W. Jones, —12, 17, 13.
W.D.—M. PIPER/J. WINN beat J. Roberts/M. Franks, 16, —16, 16.
X.D.—K. CRAIGIE/J. ROOK beat A. Payne/B. Milbank, 17, —16, 21.
J.B.—R. DORKING beat R. Gundry, 14, 12.
J.G.—J. ROOK beat J. Bottrill, —19, 11, 13.
BARBARA MILBANK.

HARTLEPOOLS OPEN—Nov. 8th 1952

THERE were approximately 170 entries, slightly less than last year, but as things turned out this in no way lowered the resulting standard. This is one of the smaller Open Tournaments,

although this only seems to mean that the enthusiasm is greater and there is a closer partisanship in tight matches.

The first surprise result came in the second round of the Gent's Singles, when Norman Roberts, the reigning Durham County Singles Champion, was beaten by R. E. Fishburn from Northumberland, who went on to beat Edgar Reay, the old international; eventually falling to G. Halmshaw of Leeds in the quarter-final. Meanwhile A. L. Shepherd was leaving a trail of defeated opponents on his way to the Final, playing brilliantly. In the other half of the draw J. Hillyer from Newcastle, won his way through to the Final, defeating G. Halmshaw in the semi-final. The tussle between these two, Hillyer and Shepherd, was really first class, and at times brilliant Table Tennis.

The first game was won by Shepherd, but the third game saw the turning point of the match, when he made a super-human effort to snatch a few points and make the score 20—all. But Hillyer did not let this disturb him and went on to win that game and the next to win the title.

Perhaps I may add a word of thanks to the firm of Cerebos Ltd., for the loan of their canteen and the help they gave us, which went to the extent of fitting all the lights and shades, and these were considerable—five to each table.

B. INGRAM.

RESULTS

M.S.—J. HILLYER beat A. L. Shepherd, 17—21, 21—18, 23—21, 21—13.
L.S.—Mrs. O. WILKINSON beat Miss P. Heppell, 21—17, 21—19.
M.D.—A. FAWLEY/A. L. SHEPHERD beat D. Hartley/L. F. Blyth, 21—17, 21—7.
L.D.—Mrs. D. WILKINSON/Mrs. J. BRADDOCK beat Miss Svensson/Mrs. Ellis, 16—21, 21—14, 21—13.
X.D.—SHEPHERD/Mrs. WILKINSON beat Hillyer/Mrs. Ormond, 21—11, 21—10.
J.S.—L. F. BLYTH beat R. Jackson, 21—17, 21—14.

TOURNAMENTS—REPORTS CONTINUED

PORTSMOUTH OPEN—Nov. 9th, 1952

MOVING from very limited quarters of previous seasons at the Tudor Drill Hall, to the more comfortable and spacious South Parade Pier at Southsea, with its two adjoining halls, the 3rd Portsmouth Open Championships attracted a strong entry of almost 250 players, and a good crowd of spectators. Good playing conditions on twelve tables gave the competitors little cause for complaint, and L. M. Bromfield, who erected the equipment is to be congratulated.

It had been hoped and planned that the matches would commence at 7-30 p.m., with a schedule of 360 games. All appeared to be straightforward, but was not so, and before an appreciative audience the finals of the mixed doubles were not played until 11-30 p.m. The three main factors causing this error in timing were:—

1. LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN CONTROLLING TWO HALLS.
2. EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN GETTING UMPIRES.
3. THE SLOWNESS OF PLAYERS IN GETTING TO TABLES TO PLAY THEIR MATCHES.

It would have been interesting to see Jackie Head try to repeat his last two years' triple success performances, but unfortunately Jackie was unable to be present. Doreen Spooner, who last season took the Ladies' triple crown, was consoled for the loss of her other two titles by sharing the Ladies' doubles with Peggy Piper.

The "hero" of the tournament was undoubtedly Derek Burridge, who featured in three events, played continuously from 7-30 p.m. till near midnight. It was extremely unfortunate that Derek went home without a winner's trophy, although he figured in the finals of the men's singles and mixed doubles events. Victory in the former event appeared to be in his grasp, when, having won the first set, he led Roy Turner by 19—15 in the second, but Roy fought back magnificently and took that set at 22—20, and followed by winning the third set and the title by 21—16. Further outstanding matches of the men's singles event were Paul Brook's defeat of Alan Rhodes, in the quarter-final, L. Sawyer's defeat of L. Devereux, and S. Minter's defeat of a much-improved J. Pollard, both in the third round.

One regular competitor of the English Open Championships was heard to remark, "This is as good as the English Open." Perhaps that was an exaggeration, but it is a pleasant reflection for the organisers to dwell upon.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: R. TURNER beat D. Burridge, 17—21, 22—20, 21—16.
Men's Doubles: I. ALEXANDER/J. SHEAD

beat G. Taylor/K. Wetzel, 21—23, 21—18, 21—14.
Ladies' Singles: M. PIPER beat P. Mortimer, 21—12, 22—24, 21—17.
Ladies' Doubles: M. PIPER/D. SPOONER beat P. Mortimer/R. Bromfield, 21—19, 21—9.
Mixed Doubles: P. BROOK/P. MORTIMER beat D. Burridge/M. Piper, 11—21, 21—14, 21—13.
Juniors' Singles: D. HOUSE beat R. Hunt, 21—16, 21—16.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND OPEN

November 16th, 1952.

M.S.—R. J. CRAYDEN beat E. Marsh, —20, —17, 10, 18, 10.
M.D.—K. CRAIGIE/H. T. VENNER beat B. Merrett/R. Griffin, 21, 14, 21.
L.S.—Miss M. PIPER beat Miss P. Mortimer, 12, —17, 19.
L.D.—Miss M. PIPER/Miss J. ROBERTS beat Miss J. Winn/Miss Y. Seaman, 17, 18.
X.D.—K. CRAIGIE/Miss J. ROBERTS beat P. Cruwys/Miss Y. Baker, 12, —19, 12.
J.B.—R. DORKING beat B. Barr, 12, —12, 16.
J.G.—Miss J. ROOK beat Miss S. Fielder, 18, 14.

HULL OPEN—November 15th, 1952.

M.S.—SKAJ beat Dyson, 11, 20.
M.D.—WADSWORTH / HINCHCLIFF beat Hartley/Robinson, 11, 13.
L.S.—Miss LIGHTFOOT beat Mrs. Cook, 15, 10.
L.D.—Miss LIGHTFOOT/Miss WRIGHT beat Miss Bycroft/Miss Leaf, 15, 11.
X.D.—SHORT/Miss MUNNINGS beat Wadsworth/Miss Lightfoot, 20, —15, 18.
J.S.—ROBINSON beat Beaumont, 10, 16.

MERSEYSIDE OPEN

November 22nd, 1952.

THIS year's "Merseyside" was a mixture of disappointments, surprises and misfortunes.

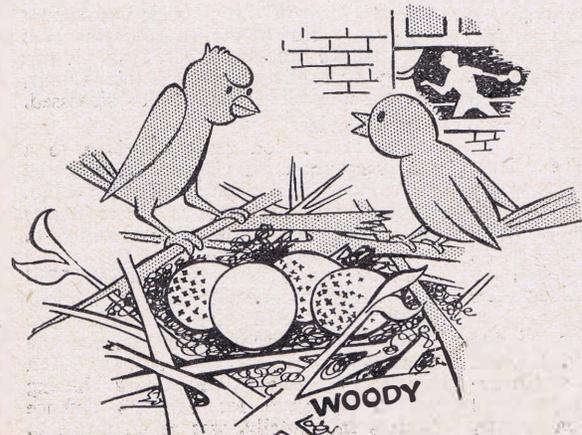
Promises given by starred players to compete were not kept. The Rowe twins were prevented by an inter-county engagement at Lincoln which clashed on the calendar.

At the eleventh hour, to the great joy of Mr. Billie Stamp and his committee, Richard Bergmann telephoned to say he was honouring his promise and would play.

Whereas the North of England Open had a grand entry of internationals and poor arrangements for the finals, Merseyside had a poor entry of top-line players and a glorious and incomparable setting for the final programmes, including a never-failing thought for the humblest of competitors, who received a ticket for a reserved seat, free.

When word was received that Brian Kennedy was down with tonsillitis, and had scratched, the only serious challenger to Bergmann seemed to be Aubrey Simons, but Ronnie Alcock rose magnificently to his task in the quarter-finals and extended our English Opens Champion beyond all expectations, to earn an ovation from the delighted spectators.

The attendance at the majestic Philharmonic Hall for the finals was disappointing and further misfortunes dogged the occasion. The president of the Liverpool League, 82-year-old C. E.



Bartholomew, Esq., was, as always, present, but too unwell to award the prizes.

The Women's Singles final brought Mrs. Comberbach, who had defeated the holder (Miss A. Bates) and Miss B. Grey, together. In a short, sharp duel, mainly of counter-hitting, Betty Grey triumphed to win the title deservedly.

At last came the long awaited final of the Men's Singles, between Richard Bergmann and Aubrey Simons. It rang down the curtain with a crescendo of sustained applause and atoned a hundred-fold for the tame encounters which preceded it.

Aubrey Simons, with his two feet planted to the floor, dominated the match. His hurricane driving and deadly drop shots had Bergmann ever on the move. Time upon time he out-counter-drove Bergmann and seized every opportunity to exercise his deadly backhand flick. There were many fine, intelligent rallies, with Bergmann ever probing to find a weakness,

until he eventually decided to rely solely on his matchless defence, and to leave the initiative with Simons. It was a sound decision, for his amazing defence eventually softened the ferocity of Simon's attacking spells, and his accuracy began to falter.

RESULTS

M.S.—R. BERGMANN beat A. Simons, —10, 17, 20, 16.

W.S.—Miss B. GREY beat Mrs. Comberbach, 12, 17.

M.D.—BERGMANN/SIMONS beat Hinchcliff/Wadsworth, 21, 14.

W.D.—Mrs. PETTIFER/Miss K. BEST beat Miss B. Grey/Miss V. Rowe, 17, —16, 15.

X.D.—A. SIMONS/Miss B. GREY beat B. Conroy/Miss S. Threlfall, 13, 14.

J.S.—G. PULLAR beat C. Booth (holder), —18, 19, 20.

J. E. NEILL.

BATH OPEN—Nov. 22nd, 1952.

M.S.—B. MERRETT beat D. A. Miller, 18, 13, —16, 21.

M.D.—B. MERRETT/D. WOODCOCK beat F. Wetzel/G. Taylor, —18, 17, 12, 16.

L.S.—Miss P. MORTIMER beat Miss T. Pomroy, 9, 15.

X.D.—Miss P. MORTIMER/P. BROOK beat Miss N. Torgoose/W. Cure, 12, 15.

THE ART OF KNOCKING-UP

THE art of knocking-up. No, it has nothing to do with the North Country custom of tapping on windows at 4 a.m. or thereabouts to awaken snoring factory workers, miners, and what have you, from their slumbers. It has to do with Table Tennis.

Knocking-up an art? you ask. Yes—an art about which precious few, judging from what I've seen, know.

Take the average pair who go to the table, presumably to get their eye in. What do they do? Slam and crash the ball off the table and spend most of their time picking up said sphere. As a back-strengthening exercise this may be admirable. But as a knock-up—well, it just isn't.

The purpose of a knock-up, so I have always thought in my not-too-bright way, is to get the eyes focused, to get the feel of the ball, to acquire table touch, to loosen muscles for the job in hand. Correct me if I'm wrong; but how can this be achieved when a pair waste their time beating the brains out of the little pill?

As I see it, the function of a warmer-upper is best achieved by keeping the ball in motion, stroking the ball controlledly on both forehand and backhand, gently increasing the pace as reflexes become more adjusted. It must be obvious that one cannot, coming "cold" to the table, slam shots which even "acclimatised" players find difficult to execute.

Yet so many players, rabbit and tournament class alike, generally behave like sprightly young greyhounds seeing a hare for the first time in months, on going to the table for an alleged loosener. They

give the impression that their one purpose is to show how blessed they are with toughness and how wonderfully they can crack at balls which don't bounce more than an inch. It's all so purposeless and time-wasting.

ANOTHER point. When due to meet players who don't know you or your style, why show 'em that you have a forehand or backhand smash, or any other pet strength, before they meet you? Let them find out the hard way—in a match. A few points gained before the other party wises up to you may be sufficient to win you your game.

Yet another point. Have you ever considered how ill-mannered it is when a bashing player makes a ball-boy of a partner? Personally, nothing infuriates me more than being made a stooge by a blind slogger who's so busy doing the wrong thing as to have less than no thought for the luckless bloke at the other end (me) vainly hoping to have a rally lasting more than three seconds.

If I may presume to give a little advice: go calmly to the table and take it easy; concentrate on long rallies; give a thought to your opponent and give him a chance to dig in, even if you may not want to. Five minutes or so of this and you'll have your touch and your eye will be in. After that let your hair down a little, if you must.

Knocking-up is indeed an art. Cultivate it. It takes an artist (in perception, even if not in actual skill) to appreciate it for its worth. S.K.

★ THE FIRST

by J. E. NEILL

Merseyside Battle

PARENT versus FLEDGELING

FRIDAY, Nov. 7th, will be recorded in local table tennis history as the date on which Liverpool and Wirral met for the first time ever in Lancashire and Cheshire fixtures.

The match took place at the Bootle Y.M.C.A., whose General Secretary, Mr. Brian Watson, is ever kindly disposed to assist the game of Table Tennis. Liverpool "B" were represented by V. Chesham (Livex), P. E. Marley (Balfour) and A. C. Taylor (Litherland). Wirral "B" relied on M. Brown (Kingsway), T. White (R.A.F.) and D. Gallagher (Thorndale).

The fact that Wirral, until this season, was always part of the Liverpool League and the capabilities of its players now forming the opposition were well known, attracted a good number of spectators.

Rivalry was expected to be keen, and it must be recorded that the standard of play by all six players was excellent.

Vic Chesham and Peter Morley got Liverpool away to a good start, with comfortable wins over T. White and D. Gallagher respectively. Then came a big disappointment when the young local Arthur Taylor lost to M. Brown, in a match in which he played badly. For his second match, however, against White, he played much more confidently and more to his known form to secure victory in the third game. This victory over White was exceedingly satisfactory to Taylor and his many supporters. Chesham proved too good for Gallagher, and Liverpool led 4—1, looking well set for an early seal of victory, when the interval was taken.

Upon resumption, Liverpool received a set-back. A great doubles match ended in a victory for the colourful couple Brown and White, playing in green and blue shirts against Chesham and Morley.

Then followed a glorious match between Morley and Brown, in which both excelled in attack and defence. Their skill, intelligent play and intense concentration had the spectators enthralled. This thrilling duel lasted the full distance, and in a match of varying fortunes Brown was triumphant, to make the score now read 4—3, and the ultimate result speculative.

Taylor and Gallagher provided further excitement when they played over the full three games. The Litherland player won in grand fashion, and in so doing rendered

his side valuable service at a vital period.

The ninth match of the night will long be remembered by all who witnessed it. For White it will for ever be an unpleasant memory. White had the match against Morley absolutely in the bag. It was £5 to half-a-crown that the result of the fixture would be decided by the last pairing of the night. Picture the situation. Morley has lost the first game to White 17—21, and wins the second game 21—15. In the deciding game White leads 15—5. A long rally is in progress, when suddenly White races to the table to effect a spectacular kill to terminate the rally. What really happened was that the ball went hurtling through space to the rear of the spectators and White's arms crashed down on to the table with such violence that it would not have surprised me to see the table disappear through the floor. It was a wild stroke and it reaped disaster. White's game lost its hostile attack. He became subdued and restrained. Slowly, ever so slowly, yet so very ominously Morley regained the initiative and like the work of a master he lessened that margin of 10 to 6, then to 3, and amid great applause he levelled 20 all, and finally crowned a magnificent display by taking the match 22—20, to give Liverpool victory over Wirral.

So ended a fine, thrilling battle between friendly rivals, who gave of their best and sent the spectators home happy in the knowledge that they had had an excellent evening's entertainment of Table Tennis at its best.

Results:—Chesham beat White 21—11, 21—13; beat Gallagher 21—12, 21—5; beat Brown 21—12, 21—15.

Morley beat Gallagher 21—11, 21—10; lost to Brown 16—21, 21—17, 17—21; beat White 17—21, 21—15, 22—20.

Taylor lost to Brown 9—21, 19—21; beat White 21—10, 18—21, 21—18; beat Gallagher 17—21, 21—9, 21—17.

Morley and Chesham lost to Brown and White 15—21, 19—21.

FREE PUBLICITY

If League Secretaries send items of interest to the Editor it is possible that their League might receive mention in the "REVIEW."

TWO NICE GIRLS

DI and ROS

AN INFORMATIVE ARTICLE ON THE LIVES OF THE POPULAR ROWE TWINS AND HOW THEY BECAME BRITAIN'S LEADING LADIES

Written specially for the 'Review'

by PEGGY ALLEN



The brilliant Table Tennis twins, pictured during their happy childhood (Di is pictured on the right)

THE STORY BEGINS

ONCE upon a time, in the year 1932 to be exact, twin girls were born to a certain Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, of Greenford, Middlesex. Already there were three daughters in the family and a son would have been more than welcome in that feminine household. Imagine then their dismay when not just *one* but *two* more girls were added to their number!

That is the beginning of this real life fairy story, and now twenty years later, Diane and Rosalind Rowe have become probably the best known sports-women in England.

It must be one case in a million, where two sisters progress in the same sport to the stage where both can beat every other woman in the country and when those two happen to be identical twins, it really does rate large-type headlines from our sports reporters.

AS small children there was nothing to show what the future had in store for them. Like so many others they were evacuated from London at the age of nine, and for eighteen months they lived with separate families at Morganstown in Wales. This was the only time the twins were parted, but as their own mother has difficulty in telling them apart at that time, a foster-mother would have had an impossible task.

SCHOOL-DAYS

AT school, Ros concentrated mostly on sport, she modestly states that she was "hopeless" at lessons, whilst Di, although not so successful on the games field, studied hard and stayed longer, finishing with a year's commercial course. School over, Ros went to work

as a junior bank clerk and Di became a shorthand typist with a large engineering firm. (Nowadays both work temporarily during the summer months, but finish when September comes, in order to settle down seriously to their Table Tennis).

Their first efforts in the Table Tennis world were made at a Horsenden youth club when they were 14, and without any kind of tuition they gradually played their way into a mixed team. From there they joined the well-known West Ealing Tennis Club, nursery of some of our best known English players and Fred Perry's favourite practice club back in the early 1930's.

Here they came to the notice of Ken Craigie, now a Surrey international, but previously one of the Middlesex county team, and for two months Ken patiently coached and encouraged them into an orthodox style of play. The result was that at 15 Ros won her first title, when she beat Di in the final of the West Middlesex Junior girls' event.

RECOGNITION

ABOUT this time they were seen by Geoff Harrower, the Middlesex county secretary, and soon they were chosen to play for the Middlesex 2nd team along with Joyce Roberts.

The twins have always been lucky in having parents who helped and encouraged

them, and as soon as Papa Rowe began to realise their outstanding promise he was not long in buying them a table, and although there was very little space in the bedroom when it was erected, nevertheless, it afforded them endless practice together.

In 1949 came their first appearance for Middlesex, in the premier division, and the same year Ros was chosen for a tour of Czechoslovakia. She played extremely well, and came back the only English girl ever to remain undefeated on a tour of that particular country.

The following week Di won her first singles title at the South of England Open, when I, by some miracle, having put out Ros in the quarter-finals, proceeded to lose the final to Di in no uncertain manner. I must admit that I'm not likely to forget Di's first open tournament victory!

ROS OR DI?

THIS brings us to the much-discussed question of which twin is the better player, and here, for what they are worth, are my views.

Both players are head and shoulders above any other girls in England at the moment. Di lacks Ros's concentration

and tenacity and, until recently, invariably succumbed as soon as she faced Ros, because, to quote her own words "when I play Ros in a final it doesn't matter who wins." Last season, however, Di was the winner on two or three occasions, but whether it was because Ros looked the more tired twin, or whether Di really fought harder, it is difficult to say.

Ros certainly holds a much longer string of singles titles, but I wouldn't mind betting that if they entered tournaments separately they would have just about the same number of wins to their credit.

BARNA TAKES OVER

DURING the summer of 1950, Victor Barna took over their coaching, improving their defence tremendously and generally tightening up their game.

No need to tell you what happened after that! World women's doubles winners at their very first world championships, Vienna 1950-51, and again, finalists 1951-52 in Bombay, where they lost to the Japanese girls Narahara and Nishimura, after a very gallant fight.

Continued on page 18



Left to right: Diana Rowe, Rosalind Rowe, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon (High Commissioner for India), Victor Barna and Johnnie Leach

South London Open . . .

Entry Forms and Finals Tickets from

G. COULTHREAD,

20a High Street, London, S.W.17

ENTRY FEES HAVE NOT BEEN INCREASED FROM LAST YEAR

PLAY TAKES PLACE AT

Clapham Manor St. Baths
(15 mins. from Charing Cross - Northern Line)

JANUARY 12th - 17th

on 7 tables under ideal conditions

(Decker equipment)

DI AND ROS

Continued from page 17

No need to tell you, either, that they are the best women's doubles combination England has ever produced, for with their right-handed and left-handed game, their natural sympathy and understanding of each other, their mutual support and encouragement already developed in every other aspect of their lives, it is hard to imagine a stronger "team" anywhere.

TO those of us who know them it is apparent that they are growing more and more unlike. Di, the business manager, is becoming dignified, more self-assured and definitely more fashion-conscious, whilst Ros remains completely unsophisticated, the out-and-out sports girl, not terribly interested in clothes and happier with a crowd of boy friends rather than *tete-a-tete* as Di prefers it.

Nevertheless, they share the same ambitions and look for very much the same kind of things from life. First to win the Corbillon cup for England and, just for good measure, a world singles title too. I know that neither would mind if the other could make it, that's the kind of girls they are, and then later, they just want to marry, settle down and live happily ever after as every girl has done in every other fairy story from time immemorial.

Suffolk County

AFTER the Suffolk defeat of 7-3 by Hertfordshire at Watford, Suffolk County Chairman reported the sad news, then added, "It could even have been a draw, but still, the score doesn't matter. The way the boys and girls behaved—their table manners and their sportsmanship in defeat—I was proud of 'em."

One of our girls, Val Martin, who moved from Beccles to Ipswich just before the commencement of the season, achieved a good win against a Herts. player. She defeated one of their most promising new girls, a Miss Rowe, who happens to be a protegee of Geoff Harrower.

Of the men players we owe a great deal to Tony Williams, who has sacrificed much to teach the game to the younger players. Tony took a coaching course with Jack Carrington and was appointed Senior County Coach.

The former Devon lad, A. F. G. Nickels, has brought confidence to the Suffolk team, and he has been promoted to No. 1 rank.

Johnny Pearson and Reg. Purnell are two more of our top-class players, although so far they don't appear to have reached their last season's form. A doubles event can win a match and the brilliant doubles tactics of George Trumppess justifies his place in the team.

A. E. DURRANT

LEAGUE HANDBOOK COMPETITION

We are again running our competition for what is considered in the opinions of the judges the best and most useful League Handbook.

These may be submitted from any part of the world. A prize of one guinea will be awarded to the funds of the league whose Handbook is chosen the winner. We invite secretaries to send in their books NOW. Size will not be taken into consideration. We should also be grateful for two or three volunteers to act as neutral judges. Write to the Editor.

Official English National Ranking List Season 1952-53

MEN

1. R. Bergmann (Middlesex)
2. J. Leach (Essex)
3. A. W. C. Simons (Gloucestershire)
4. H. Venner (Surrey)
5. B. Kennedy (Yorkshire)
6. K. Craigie (Surrey)
7. M. Thornhill (Middlesex)
8. B. Merrett (Gloucestershire)
9. K. Stanley (Lancashire)
10. A. Rhodes (Middlesex)

GROUP "A"

- L. G. Adams (Middlesex)
R. Allcock (Lancashire)
B. Brumwell (Essex)
B. Casofsky (Lancashire)
R. Crayden (Surrey)
J. Head (Surrey)
A. R. Miller (Surrey)

GROUP "B"

- R. Baker (Lancashire)
C. Booth (Lancashire)
D. C. Burridge (Middlesex)
B. Crouch (Middlesex)
R. Griffin (Gloucestershire)
R. Hinchliff (Yorkshire)
J. W. Lowe (Middlesex)
R. J. Mackay (Warwickshire)
P. Skerratt (Lincolnshire)

WOMEN

1. Miss R. Rowe (Middlesex)
2. Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex)
3. Miss M. Franks (Essex)
4. Miss C. K. Best (Yorkshire)
5. Mrs. M. Cumberbatch (Warwickshire)
6. Miss J. Winn (Surrey)
7. Miss M. Fry (Gloucestershire)
8. Miss J. Roberts (Surrey)

GROUP "A"

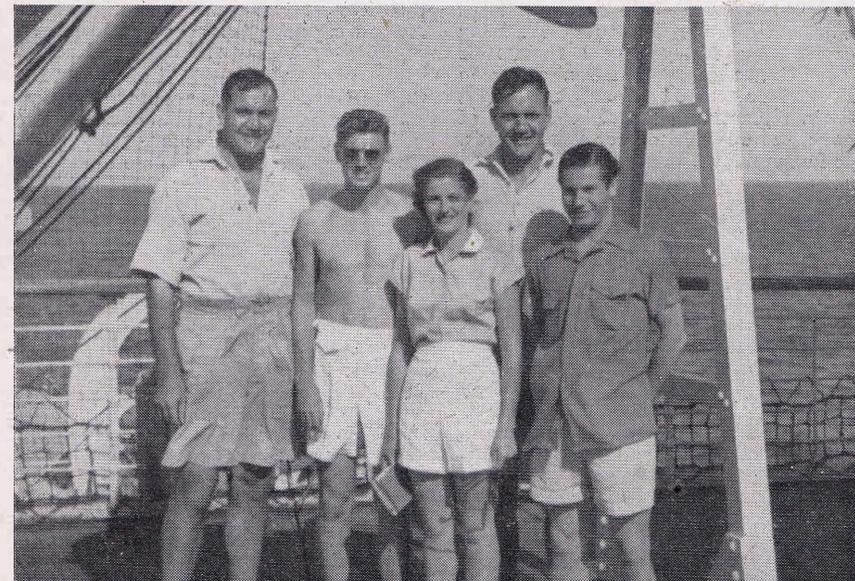
- Miss A. Jones (Cheshire)
Miss B. Millbank (Essex)
Miss P. Mortimer (Warwickshire)
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Famous Sportsmen meet — On a steamer coming over the Indian Ocean.
Left to right: Eric Bedser, Frank Sedgman, Mrs. Jean Sedgman, Alec Bedser and Richard Bergmann

HERE and THERE

Strolling Down Table Tennis Avenue

by SAM KIRKWOOD

FOR once, it seems a view of mine has been under, rather than over-stated. Following my comment that someone on the Association's Selection Committee should have been booted right out of it for omitting Richard Bergmann from last season's original Swaythling Cup side, club members, wherever I go, have hemmed me in and told me in forcible—almost violent—terms, that the whole committee should have been turned out of office. General opinion is that they either can't sum up a player's merit, or else are prejudiced against Bergmann. On the face of it, how else is to be explained the truly extraordinary omission?

SPARTAN Club, playing in Division 4c, of the Central London League, last season, romped home to head the table by a margin longer than King Kong's arm. They played 162 games in the course of 18 matches, and won 160 of those games! Four players took turn in representing the club. Three of them ended up with 100 per cent. records. The fourth returned just over 95 per cent., being the man who dropped the two games. Rumour has it that the player feels deep disgust at his poor record and is hoping against hope that it won't be held against him!

Mr. J. M. Blackman, of Bromley, Kent, protests that my views on the *Daily Mirror* tournament are out of order. My correspondent asks why youngsters shouldn't face up to veterans in the so-called "discovery" competition. "If you had your way," writes Mr. Blackman, "older players would be denied the chance of making good." The letter does nothing to alter my view that a tournament, which sets out to unearth new talent should be confined to young players, with their best years ahead of them, and who are pliable to instruction. The veterans have surely had their chance

to make good and obviously failed. There seems to me to be little point in handing out instruction to a man or woman past his or her prime, whereas there is every reason in the world why organisers should concentrate on youth. Not that I begrudge the old 'uns their fun. There could easily be a special veteran's section for them in a national newspaper tournament.

JACQUELINE, 26-year-old wife of ex-Swaythling Cup star Ernie Bublely, is expecting her first baby in a month or so. Ernie first saw "Jackie" in a West End of London club, in 1945. Struck by her good looks more than by her keenness for Table Tennis, he good-naturedly offered to coach her. Ernest must have dazzled her with science, or something, for a romance developed, culminating in the hitching of the couple two years later. Mrs. Ernie is 14 years younger than her hubby. Both are hoping that the forthcoming youngster, be he male or female, will inherit dad's playing talents and mum's pretty looks. Ernie and "Jackie" will forgive me if I say that it'll be just too bad if the nipper looks like poppa and plays like mamma!

THE Japs really are serious in their avowed intention of switching from the pen-holder to the Western style. The chairman of their Association has asked Victor Barna for permission to translate his famous "how to play" booklet into Nip language, for all players to read and, it is hoped, act upon. Victor has given his permission, so expect Japan to become "The Land of the Backhand Flick."

PLAYERS throughout the country are entitled to pat themselves on the back for their guarantee to the E.T.T.A. to donate, at the rate of £1 per club, the £4,000 needed to organise the 1954 World Series in England. But I think we ought to remember that those who live outside London are the real heroes of the story. Londoners, and those within easy reach of the Metropolis, have ensured that they'll have a look-see at the tournament. Not that I'm suggesting that they thought only of this angle

when they promised to subscribe to the appeal. But they will, for their few pence each, be in a position to pop along to Wembley when and if they feel like it. Your Northerner, Midlander, and so on, on the other hand, has promised to assist in the staging of an affair far removed from his doorstep. Londoners, raise your tiffers to those selfless comrades, who are making it possible for you to have your Table Tennis treat.

TONY MILLER must be wondering what he has to do to get into Surrey's premier side. In the Surrey trials he beat leading contenders, losing only to Harry Venner. Yet, at the time of writing, he has still to be included in the county team. Tony may not be the world's most attractive player to watch, but he is second to none when it comes to sheer doggedness, grit, determination and the will to win. It's time official recognition of his rugged playing merits was forthcoming. Last season, incidentally, he played in a National County tie against Middlesex, and won both his singles. Since then he's been put into a deep freeze.

Which reminds me that Mrs. Tony Miller, possibly better known as Joyce Roberts, is in the field to regain her Corbillon Cup place. Since 1950, when she travelled to Vienna as one of our team, she has been overloaded with domestic worries, which took the edge off her play. Now, comfortably settled in her Kingston-on-Thames home, and no longer a girl who goes out to work, she is free to concentrate on the game. Only 26, Joyce has every chance to regain top standing and earn a tour to Bucharest in March.

Many thanks to the lady fan who wrote an admiring note telling me that I'm a belly-aching, grouching, grumbling, pettifogging, graceless and cynical sourpuss. Gawd bless yer, lidy.... just call me the poor man's Gilbert Harding.

GOOD to see youngsters Bryan Merrett and Allan Rhodes ranked in England's select upper ten. Both performed creditably last season, and we'll all be hoping that they'll overshadow past achievements with some really cracking feats. The time is fast approaching when England will be needing new Swaythling Cup blood, and it is to youth we must look. The future beckons, Bryan and Allan—it's up to you to make good.

* ALEC BROOK IS PUZZLED

by TOPSPIN

ALEC BROOK is a puzzled man. Last season he applied for recognition as an official top-grade coach. He was told his application had been received too late to be considered. Forewarned, he sent in his request for 1952-53 well before the start of the season—yet finds himself relegated to second-grade standing.

"What qualifications do they require, anyway?" asks Alec. "They've got me beat in more ways than one."

And well might he scratch his head. His record speaks for itself. He has won Swaythling Cup and international badges. Almost a hundred singles and doubles open tournament wins have come his way. He is recognised as one of the world's leading exhibition players, and has toured foreign climes far and wide.

Good players don't always make good coaches? Right. Brook has been coaching for years throughout the length and breadth of Britain, and has been invited by other countries to tutor players. Only recently he spent a week coaching Wales' leading stars, receiving not only a fat fee and a Parker pen and pencil set in appreciation of his services, but an invitation to go to Wales for a further period, giving that country's champions more instruction.

VERY few players indeed have such a list of achievements or can boast such qualifications. The E.T.T.A. must be rich indeed in talent to be able to turn down Alec's request. Alternatively, it could be that the player is up against a tight little circle, determined not to let anyone else break in on the juicy coaching and exhibition "plums" going. The latter is my personal bet.

Why don't the Registered Players' Committee do something about it? Unfortunately, they cannot. A panel of five which decides these matters comprises three Association officials and two Registered Players delegates. So the Association wallahs cannot be beaten to the vote.

Brook is not the only person with grade-one coaching aspirations to be dumped in a lower class. Steve Boros is another whose request has been turned down. And Steve, like Alec, has a very fine playing and coaching record, both here and abroad, to back up his claim.

It would be interesting to know exactly what the Association demands of potential grade-one coaches—and also if it already has the maximum needed adequately to serve Britain's thousands of clubs.

Around the World

NEWS OF EVENTS OVERSEAS

THE GLOBE-TROTTERS

FEW tours undertaken by Table Tennis players in modern times can have been quite so severe and exacting as the world tour recently made by Leach and Bergmann.

Apart from monetary considerations it is certain that their prime interest was in conquering the victorious Japanese players. Their determination to do this is borne out by their complete reversal of World Championship form.

Their results after their splendid play in Japan indicated that, with the fine edge gone from their game, they found the mixture of heat, travelling and world-class opposition almost too much for them. It is a tribute to their undisputed eminence



Johnnie Leach sets off again—this time to compete in the Australian championships

in the game that they held their own against all but the interesting and dangerous Hong-Kong players in the succeeding matches.

Since returning to this country, Leach lost quite easily to Harry Venner—who himself has been in and out of form—and later lost in three straight games in the Austrian championships to the impeccable Rene Roothoft. Richard Bergmann, who finished the tour with better results than Leach, lost to Vilmos Harangozo 13, 15, 17—20, 11—6, in the same Tournament.

Although, as Harangozo showed in his match with Bergmann, in the English Open this year, and as Roothoft showed in his past defeats of Leach, they are quite capable of beating Leach and Bergmann, those comparatively easy wins are clear evidence that the tour has left Leach and Bergmann stale and badly in need of a long rest.

Whether the exhausting tour will continue to affect their play after Christmas depends, firstly on their age, physique and powers of recovery, and secondly on how much they play in the meantime. If they continue with a normal programme I feel that it is long odds against either winning the Bucharest World's.

Should events prove me right, then Bergmann, at least, can console himself with the thought that the next World's at Wembley puts him on his happy hunting ground, where he plays his best, and where, even at 36, I back him to win the title for the fifth time.

A TIBETAN MENACE

ENGLISH Table Tennis was recently startled by the vivacious personalities of Miss Sharon Koehnke and Senor Vicente Gutierrez. World Table Tennis was given a blood injection by the Japanese, but all these will be as nothing compared with a Mr. Nockham Farre, who is shortly to enter the world's lists, according to an alarming report from a correspondent in Tibet. The despatch reads: "A humble Tibetan peasant has recently shown astonishing skill with a bat made from yak's hide. The bat is concave, with a number of ridges and hollows, from which, driven by the ingenious Farre, the ball shoots at tempestuous speeds and angles."

"Farre has recently won the severely contested Monasteries Open Championships, conceding only one point in 15

rounds—this, as a sign of respect to his first-round opponent, the Kubatma Khama—the former champion. Interviewed after the final, Farre said: 'Perhaps competition here isn't all it might be.'"

"Apart from his bat, Farre is unusual in that he is ambidextrous and also often does a double-handed drive. His forehand attack is harder than the 1937 Vana's, and is supported by a backhand flick not seen since Barna's in 1933. Like all players, however, Farre is dissatisfied. He says he can never quite decide which way to choose to win the point."

ANTHONY (TONY) MILLER.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS SEPTEMBER, 1952

MICHAEL SZABADOS, former Hungarian and holder of 11 world titles, once again proved himself supreme among Australian players. In the final he beat last year's winner Phil Anderson, with convincing scores of 18, 9, 14. Although Anderson did not vary his game to any useful extent, it is debatable if a variation of tactics would have paid off against Szabados, who was in excellent form throughout the tournament. The general opinion is that on his present form, although passed forty, he could go on winning every Singles tournament for some years to come.

In the Doubles event, Szabados was not too fortunate with his choice of partners. In the Men's, partnered by Reg. Summers (Victoria), he went out in the quarter-finals, while in the Mixed, partnered with Pat Cathcart (N.S.W.), he did not stand a chance.

Miss Dora Beregi, former Hungarian and world doubles champion, was fully extended in the final by the young New Zealand girl Miss Joyce Williamson. (In our last issue Ken Stanley wrote high words of praise about Miss Williamson. He fore-



One of the competitors in action—Miss Betty Brown of Melbourne



MICHAEL SZABADOS

cast she would do well in the Australian Open). With the score at one game each, Dora Beregi managed to scrape home the winner in the deciding game, score being 21—18. Joyce Williamson had the honour of being the first one to take a game from Beregi since she arrived in Australia.

TEAM EVENTS

A triple dead-heat occurred in the Australian Teams Championship and Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland had to play-off for the Spalding Shield. The eventual winner proved to be New South Wales. The Women's



Another good action shot, picturing another Melbourne competitor—Miss Sheila Kempton (formerly England)

team from N.S.W. was also able to capture the Women's Team Championship.

RANKING CRITICISM

At the conclusion of the tournament an official Australian Ranking List was issued, and this was as follows:—

MEN.

1. M. SZABADOS
2. V. MATISON
3. P. ANDERSON
4. L. LAZA (N.S.W.)
5. K. EVANS (VICTORIA)
6. M. CALONIUS (S.A.)
7. W. LOWEN (VICTORIA)
8. J. KLESMAN (N.S.W.)
9. G. JENNINGS (N.S.W.)
10. H. PORTER (QUEENSLAND)

WOMEN.

1. D. BEREGI
2. A. SNARSKYTE (S.A.)
3. D. SHIPP (N.S.W.)
4. M. BOWLER (N.S.W.)
5. N. BUCKLAND (VICTORIA)
6. P. BULL (VICTORIA)
7. S. IRVIN (QUEENSLAND)
8. M. MACKAY (QUEENSLAND)
9. M. ZNAMINKO (VICTORIA)
10. L. PEARCE (QUEENSLAND)

These rankings met with very mixed reception in the case of the Men's list. It was considered in some quarters that an injustice had been done to the Queensland players. Although the Victorian Vic Matison was unbeaten in the team's matches, Anderson, as runner-up and also winner of the Mixed Doubles for the third successive year, should have been ranked in the second position. Ron Picking, who reached the semi-final of the open singles, was obviously overlooked—a glaring omission.

Next year the event will be held in Sydney.

FINALS RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

FINAL
M. SZABADOS defeated P. Anderson, 21—18, 21—9, 21—14.

Women's Singles: D. BEREGI defeated J. Williamson (N.Z.) 21—9, 17—21, 21—18. (This was the first game Beregi had dropped since coming to Australia.)

Men's Doubles: KLESMAN/LAZA (N.S.W.) beat Matison/Sibbison (Vic.) 8, 13, 9.

Women's Doubles: BEREGI/BOWLER (N.S.W.) beat Snarskyte/White (S.A.) 2—0.

Junior Boys' Singles: J. KLESMAN beat G. Jennings, 10, 16.

Junior Girls' Singles: J. WILLIAMSON beat G. Blackie (W.A.), 6, 12.

Mixed Doubles: ANDERSON/BEREGI beat Lowen/Znaminko, 11, 10.

NEWS from NEW ZEALAND

AS generally expected, the New Zealand men's singles Table Tennis title for 1952, played recently, was won by the English coach Ken Stanley. The visitor, who was the first overseas player to ever contest the national championships also won the men's doubles, partnered by the brilliant 17-year-old

Wellington champion, Murray Dunn. In six singles, Stanley dropped only one set, and that was to the dour Auckland, Owen Jaine, in the final.

Russel Algie, five times New Zealand champion and present holder of the title, was beaten in the quarter-finals of the men's singles of the New Zealand table tennis championships. Algie went down to the unseeded Wellington player J. S. Crossley, and lost his chance of retaining the title. Crossley gained most of his points with a slashing backhand which left Algie standing.

The women's singles title went to Miss Margaret Hoar, who, at 21, has now won the title four times in five years. Her first win was in 1948 in the same hall.

Miss Hoar also took a second title when she won the women's doubles with Mrs. Thyra McGregor, of Wellington.

Russ Algie and Miss B. Williams—they are engaged—won the mixed doubles from the Otago combination of Neville Brightwell and Mrs. June Magorian (nee Leathley).

The Table Tennis was of a higher standard than that in previous years, largely because of the presence of Ken Stanley, who is England's No. 12 ranked player.

GAVE LITTLE TROUBLE

In the men's semi-finals, Stanley had no trouble in beating Bob Jackson, the runner-up for the title last year and winner in 1950. Jackson looked little better than average against the versatile Englishman, who had the young Auckland's measure on both attack and defence. Jaine went into the final at the expense of Wellington's tall John Crossley.

In the final, Jaine made probably the greatest effort of his career, but it was to no avail against the steadiness of Stanley, whose footwork, ball control, and ability to put away winners whenever there was a slight easing of pressure by Jaine distinguished him as a player just so much better equipped than any New Zealander.

Jaine fought back magnificently and beads of perspiration flew off him as he raced from one side of the floor to the other in desperate efforts to retrieve Stanley's cross-court driving. Jaine made many remarkable recoveries, and in the third set won 21—19, but he was then a spent force and Stanley went on to win the fourth set and title quite easily.

RESULTS

M.S.—STANLEY beat Jaine, 15, 14, —19, 11.
W.S.—M. M. HOAR (Auck.) beat J. Magorian (Otago), 12, 12, —19, 11.

M.D.—K. STANLEY (Eng.)/M. L. DUNN (Wellington) beat R. A. Algie/K. Dwyer (Auck.), 10, 16, 14.

W.D.—M. M. HOAR (Auck.)/T. MCGREGOR (Wellington) beat E. A. Collins/B. I. Powell (South Canterbury) 14, 13, 13.

X.D.—R. A. ALGIE/B. WILLIAMS (Auck.) beat N. G. Brightwell/J. Magorian (Otago), 12, 16, 9.

South African T.T. Festival • SEPT. 1952

By Our Correspondent B. DENIS GEORGE

EARLY September saw, probably, the most ambitious Table Tennis event ever staged in Southern Africa, when at the Old Drill Hall, Cape Town, the Provincial Championships were held from the 1st to the 5th, and the South African Championships and Inter-Provincial Tournament from the 8th to the 12th. Over 100 leading players from all over South Africa participated, playing on up to six tables.

W. PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THESE were thrown open this year to visiting players and attracted contingents from the Border (East London) and Natal. In the Men's Singles semi-final Theo Paitaki defeated Natal's Norman Davis 21—19, in the fifth, after being well down; and Monty Shotland beat Peter McKie, who was well fancied to win the title, in three straight. So came the inevitable final between Shotland, who first won the title in 1941, and Paitaki, who first won in 1938. These two have been battling for supremacy ever since, each succeeding in turn. Last year Pat literally hit Monty off the table, but this time the latter's long range defence saw him through to win in four sets.

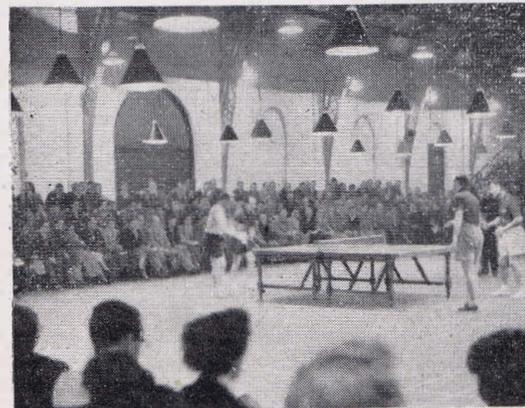
The Ladies' events were dominated by Mrs. Evelyn Chiat, who won all three titles. In the Singles final she defeated Pam Roberts, a Norman Davis protegee from Natal, who only took up the game this year.

RESULTS

M.S.—M. SHOTLAND beat T. Paitaki, 23, —14, 20, 10.

L.S.—E. CHIAT beat P. Roberts, 17, —13, 12.

M.D.—P. MCKIE/T. PAITAKI beat N. Davis/E. Ruggier, 17, 16, 14.



South African Championships—Picture shows crowd watching the final of the men's doubles

X.D.—E. VAN HEERDEN/E. CHIAT beat P. McKie/E. Whittle, 19, —16, 18, —12, 17.
L.D.—E. CHIAT/F. KANE beat M. Richter/E. Whittle, 6, —19, 13.

SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S SINGLES

FIRST surprise in the Men's Singles was Shotland's second-round defeat by clubmate Harold Shapiro. Young Brian Edwards, recently out from Bristol, took Eric Ruggier, of Natal, to five sets in the Third Round before acknowledging defeat. In the quarter-finals Rex Edwards defeated Shapiro, Litten avenged his 1951 quarter-final defeat by McKie, Davis defeated Paitaki in a great five set struggle, after being 1—2 down and only winning the fourth at 24—22, and Eric Ruggier also won a five set battle against Boy Chiat. Ron Litten's semi-final defeat by Edwards was one of the highlights of the Tournament, a real classic in orthodox play, which was warmly appreciated by over 1,000 people. In the other semi-final Eric Ruggier was given a walkover by team-mate Norman Davis, after the latter retired owing to a recurrence of his wartime shoulder injury. In the final Ruggier seemed overawed by the occasion and did not play at his best and Edwards easily won the title for the fourth successive year.

LADIES' SINGLES

IN this event, contrary to all expectations, all the players graded in 1951 went out in the first two rounds. Mrs. A. Wilmot, of Eastern Province, did well to defeat Bubbles Whittle, and Fay Kane to beat Myra Kaplan, runner-up in the three previous years. In the semi-finals Evelyn Chiat defeated Pam Roberts, and

Fay Kane halted Amy Wilmot's run of success. The final between Mrs. Chiat and Miss Kane saw the former add the National to her three Western Province titles won the previous week.

RESULTS

M.S.—R. EDWARDS beat E. Ruggier, 9, 16, 12.

L.S.—E. CHIAT beat F. Kane, 11, 13.

M.D.—R. EDWARDS/R. LITTEN beat P. McKie/T. Paitaki, 6, 15, 11.

X.D.—R. EDWARDS/B. CLACK beat E. Van Heerden/E. Chiat, 18, 12, —19, 13.

L.D.—B. CLACK/M. KAPLAN beat E. Chiat/F. Kane, 15, 18, —14, —18, 13.



Pictured here are all the winners, (left to right) Ron Litten (MD), Rex Edwards (3 titles), Evelyn Chiat (LS), Myra Kaplan (LD) and Betty Clack (MD with Edwards, and LD).

T.T. in PAKISTAN

TABLE Tennis has enthusiastic followers throughout Pakistan, but Karachi, the Federal capital, has definitely the most and best players in the area. The Pakistan Federation was formed in August 1951. Within six months of its formation and recognition, a Table Tennis team went to the World Championship event. The team was not very successful, and the only person to perform creditably was

Khan Majboor. He defeated Rosa Duque (quarter-finalist in the individuals) in the Swaythling Cup and narrowly lost to him in the individuals, after a 5-set struggle.

But Khan has lately given up Table Tennis, and the unofficial ruling is as follows:—

MEN—1. Gulzar Zaidi. 2. Shameem Haroon (Junior 16). 3. Kemal Shoaib (yours truly) (Junior 16). 4. Aziz Hasan, then two other juniors, Khalid Saeed and Nazar Mahmood, are in the next four.

LADIES—1. Miss Munira Fikree. 2. Miss A. D'Sa. 3. Miss R. Fikree. 4. Miss R. Atiqullah.

The standard of play has improved beyond recognition in the last 12 months.

TWO months ago, an Indian Table Tennis team visited Karachi and participated in an open championship (I was the General Secretary for the tournament). They were:—1. Miss S. Sultana (India's wonder champion). 2. T. Thiruvargadam (India's No. 1, who defeated Johnnie Leach in the 1952 World Championship). 3. U. M. Chandrana (Bombay No. 1 and ex All-India champion). The Indians won the gent's singles, ladies' singles and mixed doubles. Thiruvargadam was twice extended, first by Shameem Haroon (4 sets) and then by Gulzar Zaidi (5 sets). Zaidi was actually leading 2—1 and 13—8 in the fourth. In the gent's doubles and ladies' doubles the Indians were defeated after close 5-set encounters.

Keen interest is being taken in Table Tennis by many higher authorities, and it is only the devoted enthusiasts who have helped the game to rise to this extent.

KEMAL SHOAIB

Richard Bergmann Ranks the Players of Four World Zones

(Being the personal views of the ex-World Champion).

EAST AND AUSTRALASIA

(Including India, Vietnam, Macao, Formosa, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, etc.)

1. H. Satoh (Japan)
 2. N. Fuji (Japan)
 3. Sih Su Chu (Hong Kong)
 4. Fu Chi Fang (Hong Kong)
 5. T. Hayashi (Japan)
 6. Kwung Wing Ning (Hong Kong)
- (I consider the above six players of the East as good as any other six from the other three ranking lists. All of them are pen-holders.)

EUROPE

1. R. Bergmann (England)
2. R. Roothoft (France)
3. J. Leach (England)
4. T. Harangozo (Yugoslavia)
5. M. Hagueuaner (France)
6. T. Flisberg (Sweden)

IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES

1. F. Koczian (Hungary)
2. B. Vana (Czechoslovakia)
3. F. Sido (Hungary)
4. I. Audreadis (Czechoslovakia)
5. Tokar (Czechoslovakia)
6. Tereba (Czechoslovakia)

CANADA, NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, AFRICA

1. L. Pagliaro (U.S.A.)
2. R. Miles (U.S.A.)
3. M. Reisman (U.S.A.)
4. B. Holzrichter (U.S.A.)
5. D. Cartland (U.S.A.)
6. S. Schiff (U.S.A.)

QUIZ SOLUTION

ANGELICA Adelstein of Rumania. It happened in 1940 when Hitler was at his zenith. Adelstein (a Jewess) won all her matches against a German team, her victories included one against an S.S. woman. Because of this it is said that Angelica Adelstein was forbidden by the government to play any more.

A Yorkshire photographic society complains that its meetings are being ruined by the noise of policemen playing Table Tennis in a room above.

The average photographic chappy is inoffensive, kind, and happy. But though he's ever so well bred, This constant hopping overhead Of large constabulary feet So well developed on the beat, Must in the end annoy the lad, And get him really "hopping mad!"

Weekly News.

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by **LESLIE WOOLLARD** Editor of "TABLE TENNIS" (The official E.T.T.A. Journal)

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THE new book just published by Foyles at 2/6d., entitled "TABLE TENNIS," by Leslie Woollard, can quite accurately be classed as the complete book on the game. There have been very similar books published in the last year or two, but the thing that is different about this book is the price. For half-a-crown you purchase as much reliable information and instruction as you get in two other particular Table Tennis books that are priced at four times the price.

Leslie Woollard never attained status as a player, but as a high-level official and journalist he has been up to the eye-brows in the game for years and years—and more years. As editor of the official journal of the E.T.T.A., he has had many opportunities of studying the playing technique of the game, and coupled with his skill as a writer he has succeeded in putting over instructional chapters with exceptional clarity. His own black and white line drawings are used in an expert manner to illustrate some of the deeper and more scientific points of the game.

AN interesting introduction to the game is given in the first three chapters, then follow some pages on "The Way To Win," in which the beginner is told: "The maxim of every champion is learn defence first. Many good class players of today would have been so much better if they had followed this advice, and there are far too many slap-happy youngsters who have never got as far as they should because they ignored it.

The generally accepted order for training is The Half Volley; The Push Shot; Chop (Forehand and Backhand); Topspin (Forehand and Backhand); the Drop Shot, etc., but it is first necessary to have a thorough understanding of spin and its effects."

Personally I am not altogether keen on the advice to learn backhand and forehand chop first. If the beginner has the services of a coach or some kind friend who has already acquired a fairly consistent attack, then by all means take the training in the order given. But most beginners are usually carefully avoided by their more accomplished club acquaintances, and so they usually have to put in most of the training with players not a great deal better than themselves. To these I would say learn the Push and Half-Volley shots first and then most definitely start to master the forehand drive.

The chapter on "Equipment and Conditions" will be found invaluable to players and club secretary alike. The various

systems of lighting are described and well illustrated.

THE advent of the low net, before the war, has unfortunately allowed a "slap-happy" style of hitting to become dominant in so many young beginners. You find these players in nearly every club and they will smash away at any old shot, yet are absolutely incapable of maintaining a steady slow-top-spin attack.

Leslie Woollard directs many of his remarks at these players, among which is: "The golden key of attack is still accuracy. When you make an attacking shot, it should not be a hit-or-miss affair. You hit only when you are sure of it going on. Thousands of league games are lost because a player is content to 'have a go' in the hope that one of his blind swipes will land; these players (and there are hundreds of them) lose not because their opponents are better players, but because they themselves are winning for their opponents."

He also goes on to say about the forehand attack: "Forehand attack is, or can be, quite versatile. For its natural function (i.e. when the perfect player has all the strokes), it only operates down a narrow lane from the forehand corner, and the backhand controls the centre and left hand courts. There are, however, extremely few top-class players who possess and habitually practise the theoretically correct stroke for each position. Only very few have the natural ability. Ivan Andreadis is one. Most champions, while they have a first-rate foundation and a serviceable all-round support, have one favourite attacking stroke, which through specialisation has produced individual expression. Victor Barna and his world-famous Backhand Flick is an outstanding example of unequalled perfection in his own specialised stroke.

Vera (Dace) Thomas and Dora Beregi were all-out forehand attackers with no other effective point-winning strokes. Bohumil Vana was dominantly forehand. A player with too many varieties of strokes can be like a woman with too many dresses deciding what to wear, but there's no time for such indecision in Table Tennis. Action from anticipation becomes spontaneous and you make the stroke without any thought effort, just as naturally as you drive a car without consciously thinking.

When I say forehand attack can be versatile, I mean that it can become a dominant stroke in a player's game. It can be made against a ball which comes to any part of your court. In your practice, then, you must learn to make forehand returns from any position."

NEWS from LONDON

Vicente Gutierrez, the Chilean star exhibitionist, recently had some very bad luck. He lost his B.O.A.C. holdall, which contained most of his Table Tennis kit, together with some other articles, which are irreplaceable (including a large photograph of himself playing), outside the Dominion Theatre, London. This was on Sunday, 2nd November. We print this in the hope that someone may come across it and be kind enough to return it to Vicente, who will be deeply grateful. (Vicente's address: 35 Blandford Street, London, W. 1.)

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Corti Woodcock, on the birth of a son on the 6th November. Name at present unknown.

Mrs. Doris Atherton, popular Surrey player, who runs the Putney Table Tennis Club, with her husband, Bob, is having to take it easy at present owing to ill-health. Please accept our warmest wishes for your speedy recovery, Doris.

Jimmy Lowe is back in London, and we look forward to seeing him around the London tournaments in the future.

The recent strong winds caused a catastrophe at Upminster, Essex. Part of the roof of Jack Carrington's play-room was whipped away, but fortunately it was discovered three gardens away and has now been more firmly replaced.

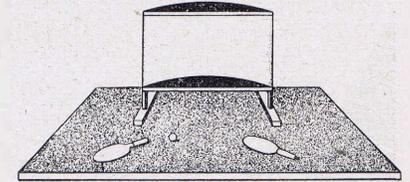
Ray Dorking has his chance to prove his worthiness of a Junior International "Cap" shortly, as Essex County have submitted his name for the Junior Trials. Best of luck, Ray, you deserve it!

One of the toughest matches in the ROSE BOWL COMPETITION is forecast between the Albion and the Central League, and the winning team is more than likely to be the ultimate winners of the Competition. First, however, the Albion meet East London, but it would be a great surprise if East London won, as on paper, the Albion side is far stronger. (Someone's forecasting again!)

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SEASON'S DIARY

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
FIXTURE LIST 1952/53

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)
January 23rd	ENGLAND <i>versus</i> IRELAND (Mixed) (Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool)
Jan. 31st and Feb. 1st	Kent Open (Folkestone)
February 1st, 6th/7th	Midland Open (Birmingham)
Feb. 4th/5th—9th/14th	Middlesex (Herga) Open
February 6th	ENGLAND <i>versus</i> SCOTLAND (Mixed) (Baths Hall, Barnsley)
February 6th	ENGLAND <i>versus</i> WALES (Juniors' Mixed) (Victoria Hall, Hanley)
February 19th/21st	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 (Plaistow)

NOTE :—December 30th—January 26th is the period fixed for our Juniors' tour of Sweden

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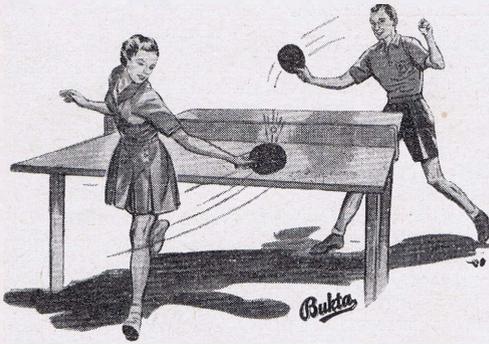
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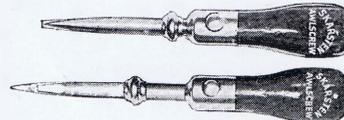


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