

Table Tennis Review



Vol. 7

No. 3

SPRING ISSUE 1953

1/-

Founded by
ARTHUR WAITE
Ex-International

★

CONTRIBUTORS
IN THIS ISSUE

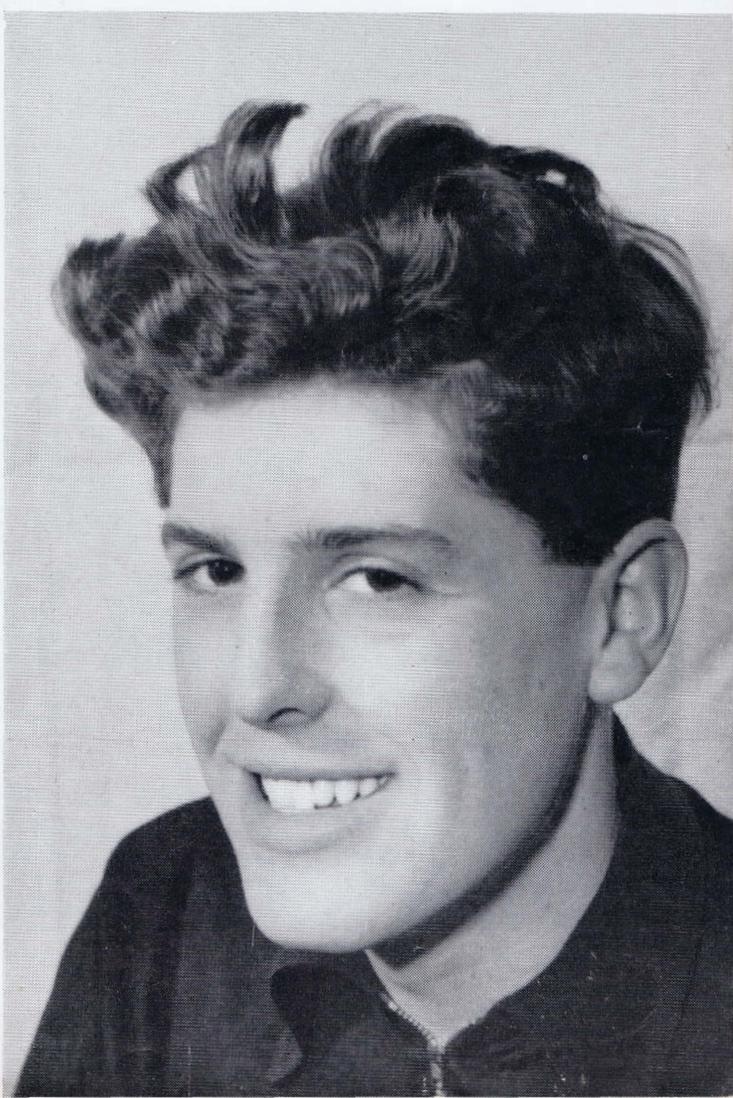
Alec Brook
Ken Stanley
Sam Kirkwood
Tony Miller
G. R. Walker, Jr.
and other personalities

★

HOME
AND
OVERSEAS
MATCH
REPORTS

★

Cover Portrait :
BRIAN KENNEDY
Brilliant Yorkshire and
England player





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TABLE TENNIS

Review

VOLUME 7
No. 3

SPRING ISSUE
1953

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

Publishers: B.F.R. Publications Limited, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, 3. Phone: Central 0260

WE can anticipate some of the thoughts of our readers when they read the article in this issue dealing with the short history of a small Table Tennis League. We can nod our agreement with the argument that the Committee of this particular League have not shown a great deal of enterprise and that other Leagues have had to face the very same problems. But don't forget that all districts—and some districts are not more than two or three miles in diameter—have not much in the line of resources. Also, there are thousands and thousands of people playing Table Tennis who are content with odd club matches during the Winter season. There are many Sunday School, Boy Scout and Youth Clubs who do not aspire, at present, to Inter-League, County and National Championships events. Such Leagues are often run by people who can spare only an odd hour each week for administrative work. Personally, we feel that such Leagues should be encouraged to develop any 'growing-up' signs they have without having to face the stranglehold of heavy affiliation fees. All that Leagues, such as those just mentioned, get from affiliation is the privilege of being able to enrol players who also take part in larger and affiliated Leagues of a nearby town or district. It is also made possible for any of their players who happen to be interested in open Tournaments to take part in these events. For such a privilege it is beyond reason to ask amounts like ten pounds and more. This has been done in the past and is still being done, and often the result is to smother the hopes of some new and promising League, instead of fostering the game in that district.

Of course, there is the argument that had the League shown more initiative it could have found greater benefits from the fees paid, but that is rather like saying to the old lady of seventy-odd, who had paid ten guineas per week at a holiday camp, that the roller-skating rink and the tennis courts were there if she wanted them. The Associations referred to in our article are the English and Lancashire Associations and you may well ask, "What do you expect any Association to do?" But could you think a little deeper for a moment. Do you remember the time twenty-odd years ago, when Associations were all-out to woo the small Leagues? Don't you think that now, with so much magnificent work accomplished, they could afford to be big-hearted and stoop to a little fostering? Fees for a new League could quite easily be waived for its first year. Or for the first couple of years the fees could be greatly reduced. Or perhaps some rule could be devised to enable fraternising between affiliated and non-affiliated players. Sometimes an Association can grow so big that it loses contact with the ideals which inspired its conception. It can consider itself too busy and a little above the old time pioneering spirit.

*Please
Note*

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ISSUE will be published MID-APRIL
and will contain as many photographs of the events as possible
ORDER YOUR COPY NOW — see page 31
SUMMER ISSUE will be on sale MAY 5th
Look out for these next two attractive issues

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

DOWN THE WHITELINE

by "Gossima"

CANDID COMMENTS

THE Leicester League have organised official coaching for eight of their most promising youngsters under the age of 17 years. These eight players have been divided into two groups of four, with Ken Stanley coaching one group and Alec Brook the other.

Ken Stanley broke the ice with the first week-end session on December 6th. After seeing Ken at work, the officials were so keen, that they have now planned a special week-end session for themselves. The idea being, not only to help improve their own play, but also to give them a better grounding to carry on with this coaching.

Good luck to you Leicester and may all your youngsters turn out to be "Champs."

The New Zealand tour for the Rowe twins is all more or less fixed. They are hoping to leave England by sea in early May. They will be playing in New Zealand for five weeks, and two weeks in Australia. It will be most interesting to see how Joyce Williamson, New Zealand's star player fares against them. There is no doubt about Joyce's potentialities, but she is being held back, by lack of top grade competitive play.

They will meet an old friend in Dora Beregi during their two weeks' tour of Australia. Dora is the present Australian Champion, and to win the title this last time, she had a very stiff fight against Joyce Williamson.

Opinion is, that Dora has probably lost some of the edge of her game whilst in Australia—through lack of top grade tournaments and the right type of practice. However, she will have a chance to prove whether or not she is still World-ranking when she plays against Di and Ros.

New Zealanders have been waiting eagerly to see the Rowe twins in action, and I don't think they will be disappointed. They are two of our greatest adverts for the game and I feel sure they will boost the good name of English Table Tennis even more in their Commonwealth tour.

Here's wishing you a happy trip girls and don't forget to return from that land of milk and honey.

With having so many different towns to visit and such a short stay at each town, Ken Stanley, in his recent coaching tour of New Zealand, adopted the following procedure.

It was stressed that for the opening session, all members should be present. Ken then gave a two-hour talk and demonstration, going through the game from A to Z—showing how all the strokes should be played, the common faults likely to be made on these strokes and an easy method of correcting them. At the same time, he explained his method of coaching, so that the pupils would have a good idea to start off with.

The advantage of this opening session also, was, that in addition to every member present being given a clear picture of how to progress with their game, the selected pupils were given the opportunity of learning the different terms that Ken uses in his coaching. This saved considerable time in the following lessons.

This opening lecture proved so popular, that many Associations asked if a recording could be made of this talk, so that they should always have it for reference when they carried on with the coaching after Ken had returned to England.

Timaru Recording Studios were very keen to make the recording, and after a discussion with the directors of that company, Ken decided to take it a stage further and make a complete instructional course on records.

This course was completed over a week-end and there are seven complete records, together with 49 illustrated photographs.

It is certainly an original idea and sales are going well in New Zealand. We understand that this course is now on sale in England.

The big advantage over a book is, that there is no limit to the number of pupils who can be carrying out the instructions at the table while the record is being played. Local coaches, or club coaches, could be present to see that the instructions are

being carried out correctly, and the photographs are easy to follow because of the way they fit in with the records. It's an idea that should appeal to big clubs especially.

How well I remember those thrilling finals and exhibition games played by Barna, Bellak and Szabados. Those boys gave the crowd what they wanted, and in doing so played the greatest part in popularising the game of Table Tennis throughout Britain.

All the good they did is being slowly undone by present World stars. They go all-out for winning, regardless of what the game is like to watch. This is, of course, forgivable in a serious match, but in an exhibition game—never!

A word of praise to all Table Tennis officials. Like most organising jobs, theirs is a thankless task. It wouldn't do any harm for a few players to sit back and reflect on the work that these officials put into the game, then at the end of a next match, or tournament, express their appreciation on the organisation of the event. It would give the officials a great kick and make them feel that at least someone appreciates all they are doing for the game and its players.

All too often, the only time they are approached is if they blunder on the job—then everyone is at them.

Alec Brook is not the only player who is puzzled regarding the grading of coaches.

YORKSHIRE'S LOSS IS GLOUCESTER'S GAIN

Bill Wilson, ex Leeds secretary, is now in Cheltenham. As a partner in a firm of Chartered Accountants, Bill is now a permanent fixture in Cheltenham. It would be hard to find a more energetic and enthusiastic worker for Table Tennis than Bill, and Gloucester will no doubt benefit a great deal once he gets cracking in that area.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation (Scottish Branch) in co-ordination with the Scottish Table Tennis Association are to run their first Summer School of Table Tennis this year.

The course will be held in the Hamilton Hall, St. Andrews, from July 25th to August 1st.

This first course is being run to train selected players for coaches and these players are to be nominated from the various Leagues throughout Scotland.

The coach selected to take this one week's intensive course, is Ken Stanley.

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We invite readers of *Table Tennis Review* to participate in another competition—one which should be appealing to all interested in the sport.

FAMOUS T.T. PLAYERS

write in this issue of our magazine saying that the standard of tournament and top-class play in this country today

"IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE"

No doubt, this statement will rise controversy, but if such well-known personalities like Messrs. Brook, Kirkwood and Stanley are correct, then definite and immediate counter-action must be taken.

IN THE INTEREST

of the sport we shall give prizes (bats or books) to the winners of the two best letters received in connection with this topic, and if you agree that the standard of play can be further improved your letter must include points which can be regarded as a measure to overcome what is being said of the game at present.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Send your letter to the Editor:
"TABLE TENNIS REVIEW" Old Hall St.,
LIVERPOOL, 3.

Closing date for letters, FRIDAY, APRIL 10th

SUFFOLK SHOWS HOW

(See Winter Issue, Page Eighteen)

SUFFOLK County Secretary, Mr. A. E. Durrant, of Lowestoft, is to be congratulated on the production of a really attractive County Handbook. In 64 pages of popular size, all necessary information is given—and much more, plus a generous helping of joke cartoons.

On three pages, Mrs. Jean Bostock, Tennis and Table Tennis star, talks about "TACTICAL TABLE TENNIS." A few of the hints she gives are:

"Tactics depend on observation. It is by watching an opponent in play that a player can formulate his own plan of attack. The first point to note is his style of play. Is he a natural attacker or defender, or does he fall into the third category—that of the stonewall half-volleyer? Next, find on which wing he plays his weakest shot—forehand or backhand."

"He has three courses open to him when dealing with a defender:

- (a) *Attack the defender's weaker wing.*
- (b) *Hit straight at the opponent's body.*
- (c) *Mix the drives with drop shots."*

"Sometimes defenders are equally good on either wing and, in such cases, the attacker would probably do best to aim straight at his opponent. Many defenders find it very difficult to chop a return adequately when the ball is right in front of the body and, consequently, a high return without appreciable chop results. The attacker must remember, however, that if he employs this tactic he has a shorter length of table to use than if he were driving across it diagonally."

"Now let us consider the case of the defender against an attacking player."

- (a) *A low return to the attacker's weaker wing.*
- (b) *A wide return to the attacker's strong wing.*
- (c) *Varying the amount of chop.*
- (d) *Top-spin defence.*

When defending, it must be remembered that it is not for the defender to take up the initiative. The primary consideration is to get the ball back on to the table somehow and wait for the opponent to make the errors.

A low chopped return to the attacker's weak wing is the safest defence."

"Finally, let us consider the tactics to use against the stonewaller. To the all-round player he should present little difficulty. In a way, such a player is similar to the top-spin defensive player. The ball is returned fairly quickly over the net but almost without spin and with very little pace.

Most of these half-volleyers have no forehand at all and prefer to play all their shots

HANDBOOK REVIEW

with a backhand push, even to the extent of moving right over to their forehand side of the table in order to avoid playing a forehand. The tactic in this case is obvious—compel them to play a forehand. To achieve the object, therefore, one serves and plays wide to the backhand and, having lured the stonewaller well over to his backhand side of the table, sends the next shot wide to the forehand."

The SUFFOLK SENIOR COUNTY COACH has a few words to say, among which are: *"We do not expect to turn out champions by the dozen, but if the general standard of the average club player can be improved we shall be well satisfied. The well-being of Table Tennis depends on the average player and not on the fortunate few who manage to reach the top."*

Coaching should not be considered as a magic short-cut to better Table Tennis; it can help and, in my opinion, is essential. It is, however, useless without hard practice. Many players find it difficult to get the necessary amount of practice, but the ones who make that little extra effort will reap golden dividends from the improvement to their game."

Suffolk has its own private coaching scheme, special coaching badges being awarded to those appointed as official coaches. During the season all leagues in the county are visited and local coaches are appointed after being trained by Terry Williams and Company.

Miss Eunice Beech, a member of the Coaching Committee, contributes a short article on "Good Dressing," concluding with the following tips for Girls and Men: **"A FEW TIPS FOR THE GIRLS:**

- (i) *Do not wear jewellery of any kind whilst playing.*
- (ii) *Wear white socks—coloured ones break the line and do not look nearly so smart.*
- (iii) *Do not wear elaborate hair styles which tend to fall all over the place directly you start playing.*
- (iv) *Watch those mud splashes on your legs if it is a rainy evening.*

HINTS TO THE MEN:

- (i) *Do not be a khaki menace.*
- (ii) *Wear white socks and white shoes.*
- (iii) *Sweaters should be the same colour as shorts—it's an E.T.T.A. regulation.*
- (iv) *Do not wear your shirt outside your shorts—it may be cooler, but it is most untidy.*

Let us go all out for SMARTNESS in Suffolk this season."

Among other interesting features, Mr. George Trumppess endeavours to inspire enthusiasts into "having a bash" at the E.T.T.A. Umpire's Examination.

Lt. Carr wants to know — and I'm telling him

In a last season's issue of the U.S.A. T.T. Topics, Lt. Carr asks a number of questions about his country's players. Below, our contributor, Sam Kirkwood, gives him his own personal replies

"TOPSPIN"

LT. CARR asks several questions which I make so bold as to attempt to answer. I hope the effect won't be to strain Anglo-U.S. relations.

(1) **WHY HASN'T THE U.S. PRODUCED A WORLD CHAMPION?**

Answer: Lack of regular international tournament play against top Old World aces. America has produced many brilliant exponents with natural attacking strokes, but deficiency of world-class experience has told and still continues to tell its tale.

(2) **WHY IS THERE SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN STYLES OF PLAY?**

Answer: Americans, from what I've seen of them, prefer the spirited, attacking game to the more subtle game traditional on this side of the Atlantic. Briefly, as I see it, the European favours all-round play in which attack, guile, table strategy and tactics are tellingly interwoven. The Yanks place a high value on pace and not enough on the many other important aspects of the game. A good motto for them might be: Less hustle, more craft.

(3) **WHY ISN'T THE DROP SHOT USED MORE FREQUENTLY?**

Answer: By virtue of the rare occasions on which it can effectively be exploited. Requiring exquisite touch and best used on the forehand, and then in special circumstances and with almost certain pay-

—AND TALKING ABOUT U.S.A.—

DANNY KAYE

JOKED T.T. MATTERS WITH
'OUR SAM'

AS a change from views on the game by Vic Barna, Dick Bergmann and other mighty wielders of the bat, I thought a few words from Danny Kaye would make a change for both yours truly and those of his tough-skinned readers as can take him without wilting.

It so happened that last summer Danny Kaye was in town prior to making a personal appearance tour in the provinces. It also so happened that I found myself in the star's company. Now Danny being a sociable chap, and I, if not so sociable and certainly not as good-looking, always being on the prowl for a spot of article

off prospects, only an incompetent tries it frequently, and loses points. It is a wonderful stroke when executed at the proper time and in the proper way, but by its very nature it can only be used infrequently.

(4) **WHY IS LEAH NEUBERGER SO MUCH BETTER THAN OTHER U.S. WOMEN AND YET BEATEN BY EUROPEANS?**

Answer: Because, obviously, the European women are better players! Which means, in effect, that the general standard of the Stars and Stripes ladies is infinitely lower than that of girls on and around these shores.

(5) **WHAT IS THE MARGIN OF SAFETY IN TABLE TENNIS; DO YOU AIM TO GET THE BALL OVER THE NET OR HIT A CERTAIN SPOT ON THE OTHER SIDE?**

Answer: A rather vague question, this. Surely, one plays the ball according to its merits, aiming the ball over the net or on to a certain spot of the table, as the situation demands? One uses *all* of the playing area, not a specific part of it, in the course of a game. Lieut. Carr will find that the "safety margin" (whatever that may mean) lies in harassing, befuddling and confusing an opponent via the admixture of well-placed shots and thoughtful use of the table.

material, it was easy, so I thought, to snap bang into Table Tennis talk. And that's where I dropped a clanger, bigger than the bang of Dr. Penney's A-bomb.

As I think I said, Vic and Dick know what they're talking about when it comes to the sport at which they have shone so lustroously for so many years. But Danny Kaye? Let me put it gently and say that as a person with views on Table Tennis, he is a mighty fine authority on wacky cracks. Not that I have anything against the carrot-thatched gentleman...but why did I have to pick on him, of all people, for an "exclusive"?

Justice for yourself. Here is a strictly abridged and censored version of the interview, of necessity minus the contortions, grimaces, face-pullings and various out-of-this-world antics of the interviewee.

Continued on page 8

Views on Young Players

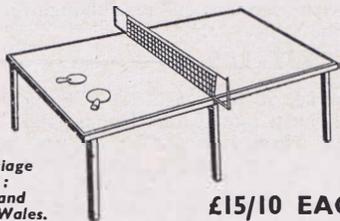
I DISAGREE with Mr. Carrington, when he says that before the middle twenties a player does not have the understanding and knowledge of the game necessary for coaching. A player can qualify as a coach when he has learnt to judge and distinguish the hidden weaknesses and strong points of his opponent's game. A player who has played the game for over 20 years may not have the required knowledge of the game. He may regard Table Tennis as just a mechanical game, in which the more patient and perseverant wins. I feel that an Association should not pay too much attention to the age factor, but should determine the quality of a coach by some tests. But if the age limit has to be fixed, it should not exceed 20 years.

I agree that there is a tendency for young players to declare themselves as coaches. They think that they have the necessary knowledge. They may, but do they realize that their own game suffers in the process of educating others? So, as I have said before, it is essential that an Association should hold tests before declaring a player to be an official coach. During these tests it should pay particular attention to see if the player's own game is sufficiently developed that it will stand training others.

KEMAL SHOAB

(Pakistan youth resident in London)

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DANNY KAYE TALKS

Continued from previous page

S.K.: Do you play Table Tennis?
D.K.: What's that—puss-in-willow or a British blonde?
S.K.: Neither. Perhaps you know it as ping-pong?
D.K.: Any relation to Bleep-Bloop? (Follows a gratuitous rendering of the number).
S.K.: Thanks for the song. Table Tennis, to get back to it, is played on a green wooden table, and players use bats to hit a little white ball. Have you ever seen it played?
D.K.: Little white ball, huh? Golf. That's it—golf. I like the game. 'Smatter of fact I taught Crosby and Hope how to play.
S.K.: Table Tennis. Ping-pong. Can you give me any information at all on the game?
D.K.: You got the know-how on this game?
S.K. (modestly): A little.
D.K.: Then you tell me. Ping-pong, shmung-shmong. What's it all about, and where do I come in?
S.K.: It's like this. I thought it'd be a good idea to do an unusual write-up. So I picked on you.
D.K.: Why pick on me? Did I do anything to you? Look, I'm a peaceable feller, see, and I don't pick rows with anyone. So don't you go picking on me.

S.K.: We're not getting very far, are we? Can't you think of anything I could possible use on you?

D.K.: Yeah—why not a rubber hose? Get a load of the guy (that's S.K.). I'm minding my own business and along he comes with his pang-pung, pong-peng, or something, and makes with the double-talk.

S.K.: Have a drink?

D.K.: Sir, you took the words out of my mouth. Let's shoot.

Thus ended the interview that was to interest Table Tennis fans and give them a world-famed star's slant on the game. How was I to know that the man hadn't even heard of the game?

Danny, by the way, is the star of Samuel Goldwyn's new 4,000,000-dollar Technicolor film, "Hans Christian Andersen," in which he plays the part of the great Danish story-teller. But if you expect to see a zany cove, you can partly forget it. He plays his role convincingly and he has some really wonderful songs.

Danny is a great fellow—but in future I shall confine Table Tennis matters to strictly Table Tennis personalities. And after reading this, you'll probably turn round and say you couldn't wish for anything better....

S. KIRKWOOD

HOW they FARED

FURTHER PROGRESS REPORTS AND RESULTS

PONTEFRAC T OPEN—Nov. 29th, 1952

M.S.—R. HINCHCLIFFE beat B. Kennedy, 15, 13, 11.

W.S.—M. LIGHTFOOT beat P. Heppell, —22, 10, 19.

M.D.—R. HINCHCLIFFE/G. WADSWORTH beat A. Holland/D. Shaw, 18, 15.

W.D.—Mrs. M. CUMBERBATCH/J. TITTERINGTON beat M. Lightfoot/C. Wright, 14, —13, 13.

X.D.—G. WADSWORTH/M. LIGHTFOOT beat A. Holland/M. Cumberbatch, 15, 17.

This was Brian's first Tournament appearance, following his unfortunate illness.

BOURNEMOUTH OPEN

November 29th, 1952

M.S.—A. SHERWOOD beat D. A. Miller, —9, 20, 20.

W.S.—M. JONES beat P. Allen, 20, —20, 16.

M.D.—P. CRUWYS/A. PAYNE beat L. Devereux/N. Wilding, 15, —17, 16.

W.D.—M. JONES/R. MEAD beat J. Mackay/Mrs. G. Smith, 13, —17, 10.

X.D.—G. SMITH/J. MACKAY beat C. Frecker/M. Cherry, —19, 19, 20.

J.S.—G. COOKE beat P. Hunt, —19, 19, 20.

WELSH OPEN—December 7th, 1952

M.S.—R. BERGMANN beat B. Merrett, —11, 18, 21, 15.

W.S.—R. ROWE beat D. Rowe, 14, 19.

M.D.—R. BERGMANN/J. LEACH beat B. Kennedy/A. Simons, 18, 18.

W.D.—D. & R. ROWE beat K. Best/M. Fry, 12, —22, 18.

X.D.—B. KENNEDY/R. ROWE beat J. Leach/D. Rowe, 10, 18, 11.

B.S.—D. PHILLIPS beat D. House, 12, 16.

G.S.—S. JONES beat C. Jenkins, 10, 13.

CENTRAL LONDON OPEN

December 13th, 1952

M.S.—A. SIMONS beat A. R. Miller, 24, 12, —17, 18.

W.S.—D. ROWE beat R. Rowe, 20, —13, 17.

M.D.—L. ADAMS/V. BARNA beat A. Miller/K. Spychalski, 11, 17.

W.D.—D. & R. ROWE beat P. Mortimer/J. Roberts, 12, 7.

X.D.—R. CRAYDEN/J. WINN beat J. Lowe/Mrs. P. Allen, 17, 18.

B.S.—D. HOUSE beat R. Carpenter, 10, 12.

G.S.—J. ROOK beat J. Fielder, —12, 10, 12.

FREE PUBLICITY

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

ENGLAND WON 8-1

ON December 4th, 1952, the England players travelled to Newport, Monmouthshire, to play the 'mixed' England v. Wales fixture, but unfortunately for the Welsh team the results were not so evenly mixed as the representative teams and England won the match 8 games to 1.

But it was not quite the "walk-over" it may sound. Young Shirley Jones, a junior international, played for the first time in a senior international match, partnering Mrs. Vera Rowe in the Ladies' Doubles. Shirley put up a good showing and we are convinced that she will again be selected for such events.

Praise must, of course, go to Walter Sweetland, who won the only Welsh event of the match by beating Ken Craige.

(STAFF REPORTER)

RESULTS—(English players first in capitals): A. SIMONS beat J. Davies, —16, 18, 18. H. VENNOR beat S. Jones, —22, 12, 19. K. CRAIGIE lost W. Sweetland, 13, —16, —11. B. MERRETT beat G. Morgan, 13, 17. Miss R. ROWE beat Miss A. Bates, —12, 10, 13. Miss D. ROWE beat Miss B. Gray, 17, 14. MERRETT/SIMONS beat Davies/Morgan, —13, 18, 10. CRAIGIE/VENNOR beat Jones/Sweetland, —15, 13, 19. Misses D. & R. ROWE beat Miss S. Jones/Mrs. V. Rowe, 15, 18.

DORSET OPEN—January 3rd, 1953

ALTHOUGH defeating E. Gilbert (Hants), —17, 15, 17, Gregory lost easily to Eric Marsh, 6 and 11, in one semi-final. R. Turner had little opposition defeating Pryer, Grevett and Dale in semi-final. All in two games. Marsh's defence was not good enough for Turner's accurate and strong attack in final and Turner took his second Open title this season, 22, —17, 18 and 16.

NOTABLE VICTORIES.—Gregory defeated Kerslake, Devon, 19, —17, 17. A. England (Bournemouth) defeated P. Brook, 16 and 13.

Eve Davis (Bournemouth) achieved notable victory in Ladies' Singles, defeating Mrs. P. Allen, 7 and 15, and Miss J. Collier, 19 and 18 in semi-final. In the other semi-final Miss M. Cherry defeated Mrs. Bromfield, 17 and 8 and went on to beat Miss Davis, 13 and 14.

(P. H. NORTHCOTT)

DORSET OPEN—see page 9

RESULTS

M.S.—R. TURNER beat E. Marsh, 22, —16, 18, 16.
 L.S.—M. CHERRY beat E. Davis, 13 and 14.
 M.D.—A. BRIDIE/L. KERSLAKE beat G. Grevett/J. Rose, 18 and 18.
 L.D.—P. ALLEN/M. CHERRY beat J. Collier/M. Iles, 13 and 14.
 X.D.—P. ALLEN/E. MARSH beat E. Sired/J. Rose, 13, —13, 17.

METROPOLITAN OPEN

M.S.—R. BERGMANN beat J. Leach, 14, 15, 16.
 L.S.—Miss J. WINN beat Mrs. M. Cumberbatch, —19, 13, 17.
 M.D.—R. BERGMANN/J. LEACH beat P. Cruwys/B. Crouch, 8, 14.
 L.D.—Miss J. WINN/Miss Y. Seaman beat Miss J. Roberts/Miss P. Franks, 17, 14.
 X.D.—Miss D. ROWE/J. LEACH beat Miss P. Franks/G. Barna, 16, 22.
 J.E.—T. DENSHAM.
 J.G.—Miss J. BOTTRILL.

FRENCH INTERNATIONAL

PARIS — 4th - 6th Jan., 1953

DESPITE stiff opposition from France, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Holland and the Saar, English players took all the titles at the French "Open" held at the Coubertin Stadium in Paris on the 4th, 5th and 6th of January, with the exception of the Men's Singles and the Junior Boys' Singles.

Our hopes in the Men's Singles faded early on. Aubrey Simons, unable to produce his usual crisp forehand drives against veteran Alex Agopoff's steady play, did not settle down at all and quickly lost in straight games. Brian Kennedy, we thought, had the beating of Vogrinc, the

hopes; seasoned Michel Hagenauer and coloured Jean Claude Sala, and Lansky, conqueror of Roothoft in a magnificent display of sustained hitting to play the popular Czech, Max Marinko, who is another penholder with an outside bat.

Lansky could make no impression against the Czech's half-volley in the first semi-final, losing very quickly. The Yugoslav semi-final was remarkable in that Dolinar was extraordinarily lucky in the first two games, which he won—visions of a pen-holder final!—but Harangozo proved his class and took the next three games easily.

The final was a pushy affair, both players treating each other with great respect—Harangozo emerging the winner by 3 games to 1. It seemed very dull compared with the exciting Ladies' Singles Final which it followed.

What a match! I'm sure it will stay in Diane's memory as one of the highlights of her career. Playing superbly and with great patience, she took every opportunity of killing the slightly higher ball that came up with precision. How the crowd loved it, for this showed Pritzi at her best too. Scintillating Table Tennis and the biggest thrill came, when, at 2 games to 1 down, and 20—17 down Diane pulled back to win at deuce, not by slap-happy hopeful winners, but by waiting until the ball was right and putting it away like lightning.

The Men's Doubles was another British triumph, with Simons and Kennedy scoring a fine win over Lansky Roothoft. Shocks had earlier come from Adrian Haydon and Junior Clifford Booth, who beat Barna Hagenauer in 3—0, and the defeat by Lansky Roothoft of Harangozo Dolinar, the English Open Champions. Dolinar's sponge rubber has affected his doubles efficiency.

The All-English Mixed Final was won by Brian Kennedy (the holder) and Joyce Roberts who beat Victor Barna and Diane Rowe, after a five-game tussle. Diane and Joyce featured again on opposite sides of the Women's Doubles Final. Diane winning with Kathleen Best over Joyce and 14-year-old Ann Haydon, daughter of Adrian Haydon, who is a left-hander with a future. Ann won the girl's singles event beating a German opponent. It was Ann's first foreign trip, and she played extremely well through the Tournament.

Clifford Booth of Yorkshire, our representative in the Junior Boys also gave a very good account of himself. A steady lad is Clifford, he pulled up from way back in the semi-final to win and unsuccessfully oppose the German, Freundorfer. Those who saw the latter win the English Junior Boys' title will know what Cliff was up against.

THE SOUTH LONDON OPEN

January 17th, 1953

MANOR Street Baths at Clapham provided the scene of one of the best-ever finals nights of the South London Open. This year's Tournament received wonderful support from players, there being nearly 600 entries, including young Kemal Shoaib, who hails from Pakistan. Young Kemal is Pakistan's number 3 player and contributes a short feature on page 8 of this issue. Kemal won the Boys' Singles by beating D. Sawyer, 13, 13.

In the Men's Final, Venner's judgment of speed and ball control proved him the worthy winner, but it must be mentioned that Thornhill played an exacting game and kept Venner on his toes.

The evening's event was enjoyed by all and finished up with an entertaining exhibition of Whiff-Whaff, the predecessor to modern Table Tennis. See photographs below and on next page.

(STAFF CORRESPONDENT)

RESULTS

M.S.—H. VENNER beat M. Thornhill, 9, —17, 16, 14.
 W.S.—Semi-final—D. Rowe beat B. Durrant, 8, 19. Y. Baker beat M. Franks, 19, 18. Final—D. ROWE beat Y. Baker, —22, 16, 14.
 M.D.—D. MILLER/M. THORNHILL beat J. Head/K. Hurlock, 12, 13.
 W.D.—Y. BAKER/M. PIPER beat P. Gall/J. Rook, 14, 10.
 X.D.—D. BURRIDGE/M. PIPER beat H. Venner/M. Franks, 15, 17.
 B.S.—K. SHOAI (Pakistan) beat D. Sawyer, 13, 13.
 G.S.—J. ROOK beat J. Hodson, 19, 15.

News from FAR and WIDE

FRANCE v. ENGLAND

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL

7th January, 1953

ALTHOUGH played in the Casino of this French seaside resort, there was nothing of the game of chance about our girls' resounding 8—1 win over France in the International match on 7th January.

Even the unpredictable Beolet (whose long service for her country entitles her to be called the female Hagenauer!) was kept in check, although her game with Diane Rowe was the closest of the evening, Diane emerging the winner from 19—all in the third.

The sporting French audience gained some consolation from Delay's defeat of Kathleen Best in the last match. Doggedly chopping she wore down the tired hitter in the third game.

Joyce Roberts, last minute stand-in for injured Rosalind Rowe, fully justified her inclusion, winning her three matches in straight games.

Scores: K. BEST beat Beolet, 19, 16. Beat Rougnou, 15, 8. Lost to DELAY, —17, 19, —13.

D. ROWE beat Delay, 9, 11. Beat Beolet, —17, 7, 19. Beat Rougnou, 7, 13.

J. ROBERTS beat Rougnou, 16, 14. Beat Delay, 20, 15. Beat Beolet, 15, 11.

(TONY MILLER)

Yugoslav Swaythling Cup No. 3, as Brian won the first two games in fine style, but the steadiness, experience and all-round play of the Yugoslav told in the end. Thus, only Richard Bergmann remained in the field. In the early rounds he had delighted the crowd with his wonderful retrieving powers, but he was not extended until he met the Dutchman, Cor Du Buy. Du Buy, by dint of pushing and sudden accurate hits hung on until 19—all in the last of four tight games. However, Richard's path to the semi-final was blocked by pen-holder Zarko Dolinar, who has re-covered his outside bat with sponge rubber, and who proceeded to demonstrate its effectiveness by hitting through the Bergmann defence, 19, —17, 12, 14. The cold scores make his achievement seem simple, but, knowing Bergmann, the English spectators watched and hoped expectantly until the last point.

The four semi-finalists then, were: Dolinar, to play compatriot Vilmos Harangozo, who had already accounted for the oldest and youngest of the French

To save our Editorial Department having a last-minute chase for copy for inclusion in these pages, we would appreciate Tournament and Match Secretaries forwarding us the results of their prospective events together with a short report (say 200 words)

Table Tennis requires Publicity
and we require the support of its followers



Table Tennis as it was played 50 years ago (then known as Whiff-Whaff) being demonstrated by present-day champion, Diane Rowe, at the South London Open

TOURNAMENT REPORTS CONTINUED

SOUTH YORKS OPEN—Jan. 7th, 1953
 M.S.—R. HINCHLIFF beat G. Brook, 22, 19, 12.
 W.S.—M. I. LIGHTFOOT beat M. Butler, —28, 14, 17.
 M.D.—R. HINCHLIFF/G. WADSWORTH beat M. J. Pitts/R. Sugden, 19, 22.
 W.D.—J. HINCHLIFF/M. JAMIESON beat J. Bycroft/E. Whitlock, 19, —22, 18.
 X.D.—G. BROOK/J. HINCHLIFF beat G. Wadsworth/M. I. Lightfoot, 18, —6, 21.
 Y.S.—C. SKAJ beat B. Pennington, 15, —19, 14.

SOUTHAMPTON OPEN
 January 18th, 1953

MISS D. SPOONER, of Ashford, gained two titles, the Women's Singles and the Mixed Doubles, otherwise the honours were well shared. Alan Sherwood, of Bournemouth, who has been in the Hampshire county team this season, won the Men's Singles, but the runner-up, S. Minter, of Portsmouth, provided most of the fireworks in his two victories over Ivor Jones, of Walthamstow, and P. Shead, of London. In the final, Sherwood gave Minter few chances to hit and won comfortably.

(K. MILES)

RESULTS

M.S.—SHERWOOD beat Minter, 12, 18.
 W.S.—Miss SPOONER beat Miss Williams, 14, —18, 11.
 M.D.—WISE/BARLEY beat Brook/Alderson, 12, 12.
 W.D.—Mrs. WHITREN/Miss HEWLETT beat Miss Wightman/Mrs. Lyne, 17, 20.
 X.D.—BROOK/Miss SPOONER beat Sherwood/Miss Collier, 17, 9.
 J.S.—M. McLAREN beat R. Morley, 21, 14.



Mr. Ernest Cast, Chairman of South London Table Tennis League, demonstrates Whiff-Whaff

NORTH-WEST KENT OPEN
 January 18th—24th, 1953

NORTH-West Kent is still talking about the wonder game between Ken Craigie and Tony Miller at the North-West Kent finals. Ken did enough to have beaten anybody—anybody that is, except Tony playing as he was (and before the selectors, mark you!). Losing semi-finalists were Derek Burridge, who was by no means disgraced, by Craigie and Len Adams, who lost a clever tactical duel with Miller. The Craigie Adams combination had too much power for Jackie Head and Keith Hurlock, in Men's Doubles. In the Mixed, Craigie and Jill Rook got home well against Head and Joy Seaman. In Junior Girls', Jill Rook looked every bit a National champion, as well that Joy Fielder played. The Junior Boys' went to M. G. MacLaren, for a steady victory over that 13-year-old whirlwind L. F. Landry. The Women's Singles was retained by Jean Winn, as forceful as ever, this time against Pam Mortimer, already a favourite in North-West Kent. Women's Doubles holders Joyce Roberts and Doreen Spooner went down to the attack of Jean Winn and Joy Seaman.

(F. T. BURVILL)

RESULTS

M.S.—A. R. MILLER beat K. R. Craigie, —20, 10, 14, 12.
 W.S.—Miss J. WINN beat Miss P. Mortimer, 9, 14.
 M.D.—K. R. CRAIGIE/L. G. ADAMS beat J. E. Head/K. I. Hurlock, 10, 10.
 W.D.—Miss Y. J. SEAMAN/Miss J. WINN beat Miss J. Roberts/Miss D. E. Spooner, 14, 6.
 X.D.—K. R. CRAIGIE/Miss J. ROOK beat J. E. Head/Miss Y. J. Seaman, —18, 16, 15.
 J.B.—M. G. MACLAREN beat L. F. Landry, 14, 14.
 J.G.—Miss J. ROOK beat Miss J. Fielder, 16, 9.

LOOK OUT

FOR OUR SPECIAL ISSUE OF
 "TABLE TENNIS REVIEW"

Covering the
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
 REPORT, RESULTS AND PHOTOS

The Issue will be on sale
MID-APRIL
 (FIXED DATE CANNOT BE GIVEN)

This Issue will be strictly limited and you are advised to
RESERVE your copy NOW

England again beat Ireland

Score : Nine—Nil

by Our Special Correspondent

THIS International Match took place in the magnificent Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, on January 23rd, when England were represented by Johnnie Leach, Aubrey Simons, Brian Kennedy, Allan Rhodes, Miss Diane Rowe and Miss Kathleen Best. Ireland's team comprised Victor Mercer, Harry O'Prey, K. H. Campbell, Ivan Martin, Miss D. Fearon and Miss J. E. Owens.

The meeting of the two countries has been taking place for over twenty years, home and away, with Liverpool as the home venue. Ireland are still looking forward to their first victory, having once more suffered heavy defeat.

Admittedly, England's team was a very strong one, but Ireland put up a very poor fight. On their previous visit, in February 1951, although beaten 9—0, they did take four individual matches to the full three games. Three of the four concerned men's singles events. On that occasion Johnnie Leach was extended by Vic Mercer 22—20, 17—21, 21—16. Ireland "1953," with the exception of one men's doubles, were beaten in two straight, and not one game exceeded 21 points.

Brian Kennedy was much too strong in the attack for K. H. Campbell, who tried desperately hard to give of this best. The harder he tried the less he succeeded. Johnnie Leach and Vic Mercer provided a stylish match, without raising any excitement. The completely unorthodox Allan Rhodes bewildered Ivan Martin by his style and relentless sizzling forehand drives.

SOUND TEAM

Diane Rowe and Kathleen Best soon settled down as a team, and although extended in the first game by Miss Fearon and Miss Owens, who were making their first appearance, they won the second game comfortably.

The men's doubles between Simons and Kennedy and Mercer and Martin provided the first thrills and excitement of the evening. The Irishmen, after a tame opening, gained more and more confidence as the match progressed. Losing the first game 12—21, they levelled at 15 all in the second, and fighting grandly they took this game 21—18, to win the applause of the audience. With even confidence and encouragement, they had Simons and Kennedy fully extended, and when they finally lost 23—25, in a really fine effort,

the spectators were as disappointed themselves.

Diane Rowe was too good for Miss Fearon, who was obviously conscious of her big occasion and the name of her opponent.

Leach and Rhodes had no difficulty in overcoming Campbell and O'Prey.

Kathleen Best won comfortably against Miss Owens, who, though always trying to make a good show, found her first ordeal weighing heavily upon her.

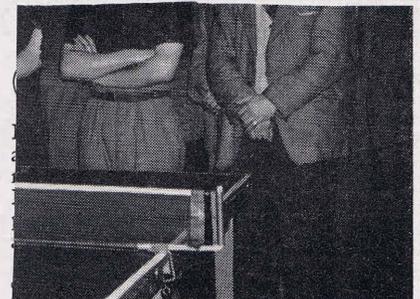
NO HIGHLIGHT

The last match of the evening was the one that most of us thought would be the highlight of the whole match. Alas! Harry O'Prey failed to produce his tremendous defensive game and Aubrey Simons demonstrated in his brief engagement an overwhelming superiority. His driving, terminating with a beautifully executed drop-shot, left O'Prey helpless, as did that breathtaking counter-drive.

The attendance was heartening, but the repercussions on a future England—Ireland match will not find the public supporting a feature which has for years been all too one-sided.

SCORE CARD

M.S.—B. KENNEDY beat K. H. Campbell, 12, 14. J. LEACH beat V. Mercer, 11, 18. A. RHODES beat I. E. Martin, 11, 16.
 L.D.—Miss D. ROWE/Miss BEST beat Miss Fearon/Miss Owens, 18, 12.
 M.D.—A. SIMONS/B. KENNEDY beat V. Mercer/I. Martin, 12, —18, 23.
 L.S.—Miss D. ROWE beat Miss D. Fearon, 15, 11.
 M.D.—J. LEACH/A. RHODES beat K. H. Campbell/H. O'Prey, 11, 13.
 L.S.—Miss K. BEST beat Miss J. Owens, 13, 11.
 M.S.—A. SIMONS beat H. O'Prey, 9, 7.



played recently at the factory of Hoover here there is considerable interest in the game. N. Parker, Dewi Lewis, W. Hullett, S. Jones, A. Wilson, J. Phillips, H. Davies.

EASTER AT SCARBOROUGH!

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Easter Sat. & Mon. (April 4th & 6th, 1953)

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EASTER MONDAY, 7-30 p.m.
 SEATS BOOKABLE — 5s. and 4s.

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26 SHERWOOD STREET, SCARBOROUGH
 Telephone: 3266

KENT OPEN—Report continued.

forehand attack. Time limit was reached at 19 all in the fourth game, Miller attacking to win the game and match on the next point.

Kent No. 1, Joan Beadle, stole the lime-light in the Ladies' Singles, chopping her way past Carrington, Spooner, Roberts and Piper. She fell in the final, however, to some excellent hitting by Joy Seaman, who had defeated Jean Winn in the semi.

The Men's and Ladies' Doubles went much as expected, and the very open Mixed Doubles was won by Denis Miller and Peggy Piper, the former having taken over from flu-victim Burridge at a late hour.

Ray Dorking (wins over Densham and MacLaren) reversed last year's junior final result, defeating Alan Danton (once again David House's 'bogeyman') in a tense struggle.

(G. H. HARDING)

RESULTS

- M.S.—A. MILLER beat Thornhill, 16, 21, —13, 20/19 (time limit).
- L.S.—Miss Y. SEAMAN beat Mrs. J. Beadle, —15, 14, 16.
- M.D.—CRAIGIE/VENNER beat D. Miller/Thornhill, 20, —14, 12.
- L.D.—SEAMAN/WINN beat Carrington/Spooner, 16, 18.
- M.D.—D. MILLER/PIPER beat Craigie/Carrington, —17, 16, 16.
- J.S.—R. DORKING beat A. Danton, —18, 10, 14.



Mr. Ernest Cast, Chairman of South London Table Tennis League, demonstrates Whiff-Whaff 14

J. M. Rose Bowl COMPETITION

Central 3, Albion 5.

THIS match, in the third round of the Competition, was exciting from beginning to end, and deserves special mention.

Players participating were:—

- Central Margaret Fry
- Joyce Roberts
- Joy Seaman
- Albion T.T. School . . Yvonne Baker
- Barbara Milbank
- Elsie Carrington.

And it must have been a shock for the Central team when they found they were 0—4 down, Margaret Fry/Joy Seaman losing to Barbara Milbank/Elsie Carrington in the opening game, followed by further losses by Joyce Roberts to both Y. Baker and Elsie Carrington, and Joy Seaman to Barbara Milbank.

In the second half of the match the Central team made a brave come-back, catching up to 3—4, before the deciding game was lost by Margaret Fry to Barbara Milbank.

The final game, a Doubles between Joyce Roberts/Joy Seaman and Yvonne Baker/Elsie Carrington, was not played, at the Central's request, owing to the time.

A big word of praise for the enjoyable playing conditions and faultless umpiring throughout the match—what a difference this makes!

RESULTS

- MARGARET FRY beat Yvonne Baker, —20, 18, 15 and lost to BARBARA MILBANK, 14, —18, —14.
- Joyce Roberts lost to YVONNE BAKER, —18, 17, —18 and lost to ELSIE CARRINGTON, —20, 12, —10.
- Joy Seaman lost to BARBARA MILBANK, —19, 15, —10 and beat Elsie Carrington, 13, 17.
- MARGARET FRY/JOYCE ROBERTS beat Yvonne Baker/Barbara Milbank, 10, —19, 15.
- Margaret Fry/Joy Seaman lost to BARBARA MILBANK/ELSIE CARRINGTON, —20, —24.

LEAGUE HANDBOOK COMPETITION

Our competition for what is considered in the opinions of the judges the best and most useful League Handbook closes on May 5th. 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. Write to the Editor.

T.T. in the West of Scotland OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 30th/31st, 1953.

IN the Winter issue, an invitation was made for news of public halls, where Table Tennis can be played.

In Glasgow, the management of the Palace Billiard Hall in Hope Street and of the Imperial Billiard Hall in Mitchell Street have laid out seven private rooms for Table Tennis. All tables are "Barnas" and a room can be hired for 3/- per hour when, more or less, any type of Table Tennis bat can be requested and two crown Barna balls are supplied.

The proprietors are to be congratulated on their enterprise and they themselves are delighted with the amount of business they are doing and would like to make available further rooms. Just at present this is not possible, but it is hoped to extend this side of the business in the not too distant future.

It will be seen from the photograph that conditions are ideal, the lighting and the equipment are perfect and the space behind the table is quite adequate for all but Championship play. Many of our players hire these rooms for their practice nights and some clubs have permanent bookings for their matches.

The opening of the rooms has been a great asset to many of our clubs and players and has contributed undoubtedly to the fast expanding popularity of the sport in this area. Every year sees our League growing and to-day we have

Form upsets seemed to be the order of the day here, with seeded players McMILLAN, STILL and McCANDLISH all making early exits.

The remaining five seeded players, CAMPBELL, FORMAN, KERR, GARLAND and BRAITHWAITE all passed through to the quarter final stage relatively easily. Great things were expected of RON FORMAN of Dundee, after his excellent performance in defeating CAMPBELL, Scottish champion, at Murrayfield, earlier in the week. FORMAN was indeed going strongly, and repeated his defeat of CAMPBELL in the quarter-finals, only to make his exit in the semi-final, to the new Scottish cap, KERR (Edinburgh), playing an inspired game. In the other half of the draw, JOHN WESTON SCOTLAND TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE, John Campbell the Scottish (Closed) Champion, Monty McMillan, who only started playing again six weeks ago, after a serious operation in September, and who is one of the finest stylists I, personally, have ever seen, and Eddie Still is the other. This boy hails from Aberdeen, and came to Glasgow a year ago to finish his studies. He was narrowly beaten in the finals of the Scottish (Closed) and the East of Scotland Open this season. Young Bertie Kerr,

Continued overleaf



A photograph taken at an exhibition match played recently at the factory of Hoover (Washing Machines) Limited, Merthyr Tydfil, where there is considerable interest in the game. Left to right in the picture are:—Roy Evans, N. Parker, Dewi Lewis, W. Hullett, F. E. Crago, S. Howarth, J. Davies, S. Jones, A. Wilson, J. Phillips, K. Pike, V. Adams, H. Davies.

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KENT OPEN—Report continued.

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T.T. IN WEST OF SCOTLAND—Contd.

East of Scotland Open Champion, completed the team.

Many readers will remember the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow in 1938. One beautiful building remains—The Palace of Art. After de-requisitioning the building was taken over by the Education Authorities in Glasgow. This has been a great boon to us for it is here that we play our own Open Championships. 18 Tables are used and accommodated in four halls. There are spacious dressing rooms and a fine tea-room all in the same building.

ON the 13th March we play the Liverpool League in Glasgow. The teams will be composed of men players only, and we feel sure that our visitors will get a very hard game indeed. The Liverpool team will stay over as our guests to take part in the Lanarkshire Championships next day.

In Glasgow, we get magnificent publicity from the newspapers. Regular articles appear in various papers two or three times a week. In one sporting paper, all the League results, for the previous week, are published every Tuesday, together with League Tables and in this way all clubs are kept informed of their progress. When our Open Championships are drawn this newspaper prints the draw in full and prints every individual result on completion of the Tournament.

Due to all these things and to the untiring efforts of our hard-working and efficient secretary, Willie Bennett, our League is flourishing and the future seems full of promise.

(JACK HILLAN, President, West of Scotland T. T. League)

SCOTTISH NEWS

by G. R. WALKER, Jnr.

WEST of Scotland Committee have proved an enterprising body this season. The "Open" was an unqualified success due largely to first-class organisation. While the last pre-finals stages were being played in the Concert Hall, feverish activity in the Games Hall cleared it of all but one table, laid out seats for spectators, cups for presentation, had the mike working smoothly, and posted a man at the door to sell admission programme-cum-score-sheets. Then with a justifiable "hey-presto!" tone, the voice on the mike summoned the drifting spectators to this perfect arena, which had materialised out of the apparently chaotic come-and-go of the big-time tournament. Congrats, West!

To the music of Harry Margolis and His Orchestra, the West go gay with their First Annual Carnival Dance, to be held in the Jewish Institute Ballroom on Saturday, 28th February, 1953. Congrats again, West!

HERE'S hoping that Scottish Selectors have taken note of the brilliant performance of JOHNNY BRAITHWAITE, Hamilton, in winning the "West Open." In particular, his victory over BERTIE KERR, in the final, was a tactical masterpiece. Men who are willing to use their brains as well as their bats are all too rare in Scottish Table Tennis. This lad has a machine-like defence and a sound attack, added to a cool-as-ice temperament. Keep it up, Johnny! International recognition is just around the corner.

WITH the return of JIMMY ARTHUR from the Forces, Glasgow University is figuring more prominently in West of Scotland Table Tennis this season. The first team are lying two points behind League leaders Central Y.M. "D" in the 2nd Division, and should be promoted to the First Division next season and ARTHUR himself, playing with CANDLIN of the Post Office, reached the semi-final of the West Open Men's Doubles.

THE supremacy of Glasgow's Central Y.M.C.A. in the West of Scotland Leagues remains unshaken again this season. This Club has no less than three teams in the top Division, in which their first team are League leaders, and

their second team are third top. It now seems unlikely that these teams will be dislodged from their pedestals this season; Wester Rossland, last season's First Division "dark horse," have fallen away badly this year.

The case history of "MONTY" McMILLAN, picked as Scotland's No. 1 to face the redoubtable SIMONS at Barnsley, makes strange reading. In his last year, as a junior, MONTY won all the honours available, and was ear-marked for the high spots. Since then he has won the Murrayfield Doubles and the East of Scotland Doubles titles twice, and gained four International "caps."

Yet in the Internationals he has failed lamentably to fulfil the promise shown in "home" events. Only exceptions to this were a doubles victory against Wales last season, and his singles match against English star BRIAN KENNEDY two seasons ago, when he was much more like the McMILLAN we know, though defeated 16 and 16.

This season we had really decided MONTY had finally come into his own. Going strongly in League matches and winning the East of Scotland and Murrayfield Doubles titles with JOHN BRAITHWAITE, he looked a likely man to take several honours in the West of Scotland Championships, and was picked No. 1 for the Scotland v. England International at Barnsley. Yet in the "West Open" his game seemed to collapse completely, and he made an inglorious exit to Junior Finalist PARK (Aberdeen), in the Gents' Singles, and made early exits in both Gents' Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

So the dreaded crack came—just before the "big time" match with England. At the table, MONTY does not have the appearance which one would expect of a man with such a mercurial record. His style is classical, compact and workmanlike and there are no flashes of temperament. MONTY is a great sportsman and always comes out smiling. Such is the man who faced SIMONS in the International.

BRIAN KENNEDY

is now in his 21st year and is considered one of England's hopes for future years. At 16, Brian was picked for the Junior team which beat Sweden. In 1952, Brian reached the last 16 in the World's. Holding the English Mixed Doubles title and having played so well in France this year, we wish Brian — 'OUR COVER PICTURE'—Best of Luck in the forthcoming major events.

West of Scotland OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 30th/31st, 1953.

Form upsets seemed to be the order of the day here, with seeded players McMILLAN, STILL and McCANDLISH all making early exits.

The remaining five seeded players, CAMPBELL, FORMAN, KERR, GARLAND and BRAITHWAITE all passed through to the quarter final stage relatively easily. Great things were expected of RON FORMAN of Dundee, after his excellent performance in defeating CAMPBELL, Scottish champion, at Murrayfield, earlier in the week. FORMAN was indeed going strongly, and repeated his defeat of CAMPBELL in the quarter-finals, only to make his exit in the semi-final, to the new Scottish cap, KERR (Edinburgh), playing an inspired game. In the other half of the draw, JOHN BRAITHWAITE of Hamilton, was too good for his unseeded opponent, BRUCE, and the stage was set for what promised to be a really sparkling final.

KERR, though very young for an internationalist, had undoubtedly merited his place in the final, and set about the more experienced BRAITHWAITE in no uncertain manner. Right from the start, KERR's devastating forehand was prominent, but BRAITHWAITE, a cool youngster under pressure, appeared unruffled. BRAITHWAITE uses his head a great deal, and frequently, by placing his chops, found the aggressive KERR "running round" the ball in his anxiety to employ his "big gun" forehand. Several mis-hits, due to being caught on the wrong foot, let BRAITHWAITE away for a flattering 21—12 first set victory. KERR, undoubtedly, has a great shot here, but would be well-advised to concentrate a little less on using it exclusively. The second set was a different story, BRAITHWAITE seeming content to rely on his very sound defence, allowed KERR's forehand to settle down and he blasted his way through the next two sets, winning both to 16. In the fourth set, BRAITHWAITE suddenly seemed to see that a little aggression on his part might have the desired effect of upsetting KERR's forehand. He then employed a mixed game and drew level at 13 all. Hereabouts there were several significant mis-hits from KERR's hitherto faultless forehand. These gained BRAITHWAITE several valuable points, and he won the fourth set to level the sets at two all. In the fifth set it became obvious that BRAITHWAITE's "mixed" game and occasional counter-hits had, undoubtedly, "cracked" the reliability of KERR's attack. KERR, himself, began to show signs of strain and nervous-

WEST OF SCOTLAND—Continued.

ness, while BRAITHWAITE remained calm and confident. BRAITHWAITE, though pushed closely by a more cautious KERR towards the end, won the final set to gain victory; a victory which was a brilliant piece of tactical play.

This match by far outclassed the other finals for spectacle and really good play, and both youngsters, particularly the more resourceful BRAITHWAITE, show great promise for the future of Scotland's Table Tennis.

(G. R. WALKER, Jnr.)

(Space, unfortunately, does not permit us to reproduce Mr. Walker's account of all the events.)

RESULTS

M.S.—J. BRAITHWAITE (Hamilton) beat R. Kerr (Edinburgh), 12, —16, —16, 14, 17.
W.S.—Mrs. MATTINSON (Renfrew) beat Mrs. Josephson (Glasgow), —18, 17, 17.
E.S.—T. McMICHAEL (Edinburgh) beat R. Park (Aberdeen), —18, 18, 18.
X.D.—J. HILLAN/Mrs. HAWKINS (Glasgow) beat H. Baxter/Mrs. Josephson (Glasgow, Holders), 13, —17, 19.
M.D.—R. FORMAN (Dundee)/V. GARLAND (Aberdeen) beat J. Hillan/H. Baxter (Glasgow), 12, —16, 14.
W.D.—Mrs. JOSEPHSON/Miss O'DONNELL (Glasgow) beat Mrs. Cocker/Mrs. Cababi (Edinburgh), 18, 27.

Lancashire and Cheshire Associations

Inter-Y.M.C.A. Tournament

THIS year's Tournament was held at Manchester Y.M.C.A. on Saturday, January 31st, when Merseyside Y.M.C.A.'s sending representatives were, Liverpool, Wallasey, Bootle and Everton.

Wallasey, last year's winners of the Junior event, were knocked out 5—0 by Liverpool in the first round.

In the semi-finals, Liverpool went on to beat Rochdale 5—2; and Chester, after a tremendous struggle, overcame Bootle by 5—4.

In the final the first set went to Chester, and then followed a dour battle for supremacy. Liverpool eventually emerged triumphant at 5—3, much to the relief of Don Rodrigues, who was praying he would not have to play in the deciding game, as he had had the misfortune to injure his right arm just before the final began.

Liverpool's success is encouraging, inasmuch as it serves to point that there is good junior talent on Merseyside, and this is further strengthened by the good performances of the Bootle Juniors.

Teams consist of three players who play each member of the opposing team. Playing on this basis the stronger all-round team must triumph over the team which relies on one star player.

(J. E. NEILL)

NEWS from BRAZIL

RIO JANEIRO 5—SAO PAULO 4

AFTER almost five years these two "so-rival-cities" played and Rio got a 5—4 "edged-victory"!!! Rio's team was formed by Waldemar Duarte (Brazilian runner-up), B. Boderone and W. Severo. The "Paulistas" played with G. Pisani, R. D'Angelo and F. Olazarri. Results: Waldemar beat D'Angelo, 2—0. W. Severo beat G. Pisani, 2—1. Boderone beat Olazarri, 2—0. Waldemar beat Pisani, 2—0. D'Angelo beat Boderone, 2—0. Olazarri beat W. Severo, 2—0. Pisani beat Boderone, 2—0. Olazarri beat Waldemar, 2—0 and W. Severo beat D'Angelo, 2—1.

In an almost surprising way, Roothoof and Haguenauer were engaged for playing in Brazil. Unfortunately a misunderstanding between the organisers and the Sao Paulo Table Tennis Federation avoided their coming to Sao Paulo, so I couldn't see the Frenchmen in action or playing with them.

Roothoof beat: Waldemar Duarte (correct grip) (Brazilian No. 2), 21—6, 21—16, 21—19. Batista Boderone (penholder), 21—18, 19—21, 21—16, 22—20. This was the toughest game in all his Brazilian tour, for Boderone played an excellent match. Antonio Correa (penholder), 21—9, 21—14, 21—18. Wilson Severo, 21—17, 21—12, 21—16.

Haguenauer beat: Jose Neves (penholder), 21—16, 21—10, 21—15. Ivan Severo (penholder), 16—21, 21—19, 27—25, 21—12. Ivan Severo—in Sweden 1949 World's, beat Tokar—played a very courageous attacking game and was very near victory. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful "bout" and Haguenauer had to retrieve some astonishing ball positions for conquering a "deuce" win. Dagaberto Midosi (penholder), 21—18, 21—15, 21—10.

Finally Haguenauer was beaten by Hugo Severo, the South American champion, and Brazilian No. 1, almost easily, 16—21, 21—11, 21—12, 21—12. Hugo Severo in his very particular style (penholder defensive game), softened the forehand attack of Haguenauer and the Frenchman made many errors. Besides, Hugo Severo mixed in a very clever mood, hard and sudden hits with drop-shots and 3—1 for him!

Hugo beat Richard Miles in 1951, and he seems to have improved his game with a Satoh bat.

(FERNANDO OLAZARRI)

Don't Waste THE SUMMER MONTHS

IN Pakistan, even in summer, we continue having small unofficial tournaments, and most players, in spite of the intense heat, play just one or two of these tournaments, to keep in tournament shape. So I couldn't afford to give up Table Tennis completely for that period.

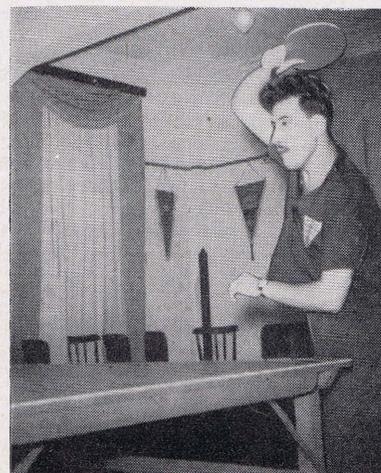
This summer I concentrated on developing and improving any faulty stroke play or weakness. My backhand attack had given me quite a lot of trouble last season. I had a tendency of putting too much flick on the ball. So I started from the very beginning—right shoulder facing table, right leg slightly forward, bring the arm in a complete swing. Gradually I began to impart a slight flick on the ball. The result was, that by the beginning of this season, though my style was almost unchanged, the backhand was working as smoothly as ever before.

I also concentrated a great deal on my footwork. I skipped regularly, beside running and other exercises.

But this seemingly hectic programme, does not mean that I over-practised. In fact, whenever I practised I developed only my weak points, and I never played a game too many. This was, of course, to prevent staleness in my game when the season started.

These precautions bore good fruit, and at the start of the season I found myself ready to face any challenge from the Table Tennis world.

(KEMAL SHOAIB)



FERNANDO OLAZARRI, our Brazilian contributor, pictured in action

NEWS from LONDON

Notes and Personality Chatter

ROSALIND ROWE, who has only recently resumed play, after resting several weeks, because of a "crooked" ankle, has been unlucky enough to again hurt it, while playing at Guernsey. Although Ros had to withdraw from the Midland Open Tournament, she pluckily played for England against Scotland on the 6th February, beating Helen Elliott in two straight games. Get the ankle better for the World's, Ros!

Good to hear that Surrey County player, Peggy Piper's knee injury is not so serious as at first feared, and will not involve an operation. Here's hoping your knee gets better quickly, too, Peggy.

The Essex 2nd team, who started the season so well by beating the formidable Surrey side, are now out of the running to win the 2nd Division South after first surprisingly crashing 3—7 to Sussex, and then losing 2—8 to Middlesex 2nd team. Although there are still some matches outstanding, it seems certain that Middlesex will retain their title as holders of this Division.

Middlesex County players and officials look very smart in their new blazers. It is a pity, though, that one or two of their County players play in clothes unbecoming to the good name of Middlesex (especially in County matches)—and to the good name of Table Tennis.

London teams are still going strong in the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches, which, at the time of writing, have reached the Quarter-Finals stage. Details in next issue.

Congratulations to Terry Densham, Surrey County, on winning the Metropolitan Junior Singles title. His play certainly made the Finals more lively. The best of luck, Terry, and here's hoping this will be the first of many Junior titles before you attain the decrepit age of 17!

Incidentally, Terry plays regularly for the Albion team in the London League, and has an excellent record. Being one of Jack Carrington's proteges, his future looks very rosy.

PLEASE NOTE

The results of our COMPETITION advertised on page 5 will be published in the SUMMER issue of "TABLE TENNIS REVIEW" on sale MAY 5th

TO AFFILIATE — OR NOT TO AFFILIATE??

A true story of a young Lancs. League

HERE is a true story which tells of the struggles of a small and insignificant Table Tennis League which at the moment is in danger of disintegration. Last season the League was formed, with less than a score of clubs, and these clubs were mostly clubs where Table Tennis was played only one night in the week. The playing members were mainly beginners, with no aspirations to raise to any great heights. They played the game as an odd pastime and were quite satisfied with their own League matches. Only about half-a-dozen of the players showed any interest in the activities of a much larger League in an adjoining city.

Yes, their own little area was the extent of their Table Tennis world. Some had not even heard of Bergmann or Leach, let alone Ivor Montagu. The secretary, however, had a wider outlook and felt that benefits would accrue from being affiliated to the English Association. A dance was run and the financial situation was satisfactory. Towards the end of the season the League officials felt that not a great deal of benefit had come their way through affiliation, so they decided to stage an exhibition by internationals. Four internationals cost them ten pounds, plus travelling expenses. The enterprise lost money, and the poor showmanship of the players did nothing to foster the game in the district.

Then came the Summer, and the secretary retired from the game completely, owing to illness. In the Autumn, one fellow with no experience of Table Tennis, called a meeting to see whether it would be possible to resume the League's activities. Many of the clubs had no wish to rejoin, but a start was made with a mere ten clubs. A small enrolment fee was arranged and matches began. The funds were sufficient to clear an outstanding account from the previous season and also to pay a printing bill of six pounds for fixture cards.

THEN came a shock. The English Association wrote asking for their affiliation fees. This was a new one on the young secretary. He had not realised that such a body existed for the benefit of his League, and that they needed payment for looking after his welfare. He had decided to ignore the request, until someone pointed out to him that if he did not affiliate, about half-a-dozen of the best players would have to drop out because they played in a nearby League

which was affiliated. (The E.T.T.A. will not allow its affiliated members to play in non-affiliated Leagues.) So the young secretary saw that perhaps his best policy was to pay up. That cost a fiver and fairly upset the financial position.

A dance was organised and a small profit made, but only sufficient to put the accounts in the clear—there was still the necessity for medals at the end of the season. Still, perhaps another dance could be held. No use having a Table Tennis exhibition. That was only for the prosperous!

Then came blow number two. The County body wrote to say that as the League was affiliated to the English Association it was compulsory for them to affiliate to the County Association. Our young and inexperienced secretary was now fairly in the soup. He was in a quandary and did not reply to the letter for a couple of weeks. Along came another demand note from the County official, this time in the tone of "Unless we..." He eventually wrote asking for a little time while a special meeting was called. He also asked what might he expect in return for the amount of the fees to be paid. That query was by-passed, but time was generously allowed.

We now arrive at the present-day position. The County body are beginning to press again for payment and no funds are in the kitty. All clubs have been asked to pay the fee themselves, plus another few shillings, making a round ten shillings per club. If this is paid, the League can breathe again, but the response so far is that two clubs have dropped out of the League. To the few that remain it is a question of whether it is worth while carrying on.

The origin of the trouble is, of course, that the young secretary, in the first place, should have arranged an enrolment fee to his League, which would have covered both the National and County affiliation fees. Or, he should have stated clearly, at the General Meeting, that the League did not intend to affiliate to any outside Associations. From the general opinion now, the latter decision would have been the more popular, as most people continually ask him what benefits have been received for the respectable sum paid over to people who show not the slightest degree of interest, beyond asking for money. However, this must be the curtain to the story. Maybe it will have a happy ending. If so we will tell you about it in the next issue of *Table Tennis Review*.

JOTTINGS

'HE PAID AND PLAYED'

WE agree that there are a number of international players who will not do 'owt for nowt,' but after an incident that occurred at the Preston Table Tennis League Headquarters, on a Saturday in January, we can certainly place Ken Stanley well out of that category. As a matter of fact the following little incident should be something of a record.

Ken had just finished giving a two hours' afternoon coaching session, at the Preston Headquarters, after which he helped to lay out the hall in readiness for a Lancashire v. Durham match, to start in the evening. When all was ready he went out for some tea and returned in order to watch the game, paying admission money to go in. He had no sooner entered than he was asked to score the first game, which he did. By nine o'clock the two Lancashire internationals, Ron Allcock and Ron Baker, had failed to arrive and the anxious Lancashire officials asked Ken if he would play. So Ken stepped into the breach and won his three sets, though this was his first game since he returned from New Zealand.

Another player, Tom Alston, Chairman of the Burnley League, was also asked to step into the breach. Tom had no playing kit, so he and Ken had to do a number of quick changes, as Tom slipped into Ken's shirt and pumps and also used Ken's bat. But when the doubles event came, in which Ken and Tom partnered one another, another kit had to be borrowed. Lancashire won the event 8-2, and so are now practically certain to return to the Premier County Division, from which they were relegated last season.

RE BAKER AND ALLCOCK

RON Allcock and Ron Baker arrived too late at the Preston Headquarters to represent Lancashire against Durham. It was not until 9-30 that the two Rons managed to find the hall of play. It seems that they had arranged to meet someone on the station who knew where the place was, but unfortunately the two Lancashire internationals arrived too late and missed both the train and their guide.

Ron Allcock had been to the Preston Headquarters once before, by car, and felt sure he could find it. After much roaming around Preston and much querying of the local inhabitants, the two boys could not make a better arrival than 9-30,

by which time Ken Stanley and Tom Alston had taken their places. The panicky and wrathful Lancashire officials felt suspension was justified and so out went the two Rons, until they felt penitent enough to go cap-in-hand and ask for the suspension to be lifted.

MARGARET DIDN'T CHANGE

OUR very best wishes to Margaret Booth (Blackpool & Lancashire), for a speedy recovery from her recent operation. Margaret is now having to take it easy in the War Memorial Hospital, St. Annes, but is eagerly looking forward to her next game of Table Tennis.

Our funny story of the month comes from Margaret.

After travelling to Burnley to play her first round in the *Manchester Evening Chronicle* Tournament, she was met by her opponent at the bus station. While they were walking to the clubroom, this girl started to tell Margaret about a girl friend of hers, who actually got tugged up in shorts and a special shirt to play.

Following this, Margaret hadn't the heart to change and just slipped her pumps on and played in a tight skirt and nylons. Just goes to show you that we still have a few people to convince yet.

THE "TWINS" TO SAIL

THE "Rowe Twins" will make a very welcome return to the North just before leaving for New Zealand. On April 27th, they will be playing in an exhibition at Burnley, along with Ken Stanley, Benny Casofsky, Clifford Booth and probably the trick specialist from Chile, Vincente Guitierrez.

ALEC BROOK'S
QUIZ BOOK

OBTAINABLE FROM THE "REVIEW" OFFICES, OR FROM CLUB SECRETARIES AND SPORTS DEALERS.

WE consider this item to be of major interest to all players and reproduce below an extract from the Foreword to the book, which is written by VICTOR BARNA.

Table Tennis Quiz is quite different from any other table tennis book. In my opinion it is most interesting and extremely instructive. The rules of table tennis may not be so complicated as with some other sports—nevertheless they are not so simple as all that.

Many years ago when the game was in its infancy anybody who could count up to 30 could act as umpire. It is different now. The International Table Tennis Federation is making new rules year after year and some of them are really complicated. I must confess that one of them, concerning a drawn game in a time limit match, even puzzles me.

Reading this book you can gain a wealth of information and, if you are a lover of the game, then you will really enjoy it.

PRICE: ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE

HERE and THERE

Strolling Down Table Tennis Avenue

by SAM KIRKWOOD

JOHNNIE LEACH, so the official magazine reports, finds that squash rackets (among other games) disturbs his Table Tennis. I can go one better and say squash has disturbed my looks. In a recent game, a racket (wielded, needless to state, by a female) came into violent contact with my mouth, loosening a front tooth. The molar and I have now parted company, causing me to speak lisply and making me feel obscenely 'gummy.' As if this weren't enough, friends are calling me "Gappy." As an old squash player who has both suffered and inflicted many an injury, I unsmilingly (for obvious reasons) advise Johnnie to stick to Table Tennis, which damages only pride.

I HAVE just finished reading Les Woollard's new book, "Table Tennis," and found it enjoyable. Not that it is a masterpiece or the best work of its kind on offer—it isn't. But I found it eminently digestible, because it is a solid competent effort, written with obvious care by a man who, without a shadow of doubt, loves the game as much as he understands its mechanics. For only 2/6d. it's darned good value to anyone who has something to learn about the game.... and who hasn't?

WHEN you read "G. V. Barna" in a programme, do you wonder what name the "G" initials? You don't? Then I'll tell you. It's Gyozo. And what does *that* Hungarian handle mean in English? Why, none other than "Victor." So the full name, as given to us, reads Victor Victor Barna. Blimey can you wonder that the bloke wins, owning, as he does, such a significant double-barrelled monicker!

In view of Bergmann's initial omission from last season's Swaythling Cup side, it'll be interesting to see if the Selectors are drastic with Johnnie Leach when choosing time for Bucharest comes around (as it may be by the time this is printed). Johnny has, up to the time of writing, been in shocking form and been beaten right, left and centre by players not in World class. On his showings he most certainly has no right to be considered for Rumania—but will that deter our bright

boys at the top? Incidentally, I think Leach's poor form is due more to lack of self-confidence than staleness—although he must, undoubtedly, be suffering the effects of his trips abroad. When Johnnie was making his way to the top it was his fighting spirit, his supreme faith in himself, which earned him wins over better-equipped players. He never gave in. Of late, however, he seems to be scared of being beaten... with the almost inevitable consequence that he *has* been beaten. When he recovers his confidence, as I hope and am confident he will, he'll be back at the top. He has several more years of top-class Table Tennis in him yet.

PLENTY of sleep is 80 per cent. of the secret behind success in Table Tennis.—Eric Filby. If this is so, then I should be World champion, inveterate bed-basher that I am, instead of a sort of grannies' Table Tennis pin-up boy.

TWO months before the E.T.T.A. issued the World players' ranking list, the news was published abroad. The list was 'phoned to me by a friend who had seen it in a magazine when abroad. Why the time-lag before it was officially announced in England?

THERE is to be no American team competing at the World Series. This is officially announced by the U.S. Association, who explain that their country's State Department refuse to guarantee the safety of players in "Iron Curtain" Rumania. I hear Japan is unlikely to send a side for similar reasons. This will knock the championships for a loop, for the Japs hold four of the titles and a meeting without them cannot be called representative. The Rumanians, however, are hardly in a position to complain, as Red countries have, in recent years, persistently refused to allow their players freedom to compete abroad.

Some compensation for the absence of the Japs and Americans, however, will be forthcoming in the shape of entry for the first time of Hong Kong men and girls. The Hong Kong-ites will be a tough proposition, make no mistake about it.

They recently won the Asiatic championships, in which Japan competed. Satoh, world champion, was thrashed in three straight by Tih Sui-Cho, a Hong Kong player ranked World No. 10. The Japanese women's World champions—convincing conquerors of the Rowe girls—were also beaten in the "Asiatic." See what I mean?

AT Harringay Stadium, London, just before Christmas, during a boxing show organised for the Playing Fields' Association, distinguished past and present exponents of eight different sports were introduced in the ring to the Duke of Edinburgh. Eleven thousand spectators cheered the sportsmen as they bowed and said a few words to His Royal Highness. I was present and felt keenly that a Table Tennis representative should have been at the arena to receive homage on behalf of Britain's countless Table Tennis thousands. It would have been a wonderful boost for the sport. Further than that, it would have been an honour the game has earned. When are we to enjoy the prestige of football, boxing, cricket, and the like?

Still, counter-balancing this "set-back," if in only a small way, it is good to report that at the Sports Writers Association's annual dinner, Victor Barna was given a rousing reception by a distinguished assembly of guests, which included the Duke of Beaufort, internationally famous sportsmen, and Britain's most famous sporting scribes (include me out!). At the dinner, by the way, I noticed Les Woollard quietly knocking back a tidysized glass of undiluted orange juice, laced with real ice.

SPEAKING of Barna (and when ain't I?), I learned from him that he is going into special training for a come-back in the singles sphere. But don't be alarmed, you budding bat wielders with aspirations: Victor's return to the fold is for one night only. He is to play in a Masters' Tournament at the Albert Hall on April 30th, the evening the *Daily Mirror* finals take place. It will be recalled that Victor played in a similar tournament in 1949, when the previous *Mirror* finals were decided at the same venue, before a crowd of 6,000. On that occasion Haguenuer blasted Leach in two straight, Bergmann tanned Victor ditto, and in the final the Frenchman caned Richard and earned for himself a very handsome and very massive trophy. Victor is determined that this time he won't be such easy meat.

Sam wonders.. Shocks at Bucharest?

NEXT month, at Bucharest, another World series takes place. Are we to expect the shocks and sensations of last year, when the Japs "vaporised" opposition, with their pen-grip styles to snatch four of the seven available titles? Will the Europeans, with the Nips not competing, resume their former status, with events shaping to end at an almost pre-charted course?

The Japs may be out, but with Hong Kong aces making their bow in Rumania, we may well have a repeat of last season's blasting of recognised "white" stars. We all know how world-class players have time and again come a cropper in Hong Kong when on tour, and although the excuse at first was that they were "tired," even the most wishful-thinking amongst us must now acknowledge the skill of the Asiatics, who recently reduced Japan to humiliating submission in the Asiatic Championships.

Sih Sui-Cho, leading Hong Kong man player, has not been seen in competition with Europeans outside his own country, yet his feats have earned him No. 10 ranking in the official world list. It should be enough for us to know that he has beaten Satoh ten times in eleven meetings to appreciate that he constitutes a very real menace to anyone. He must certainly not be overlooked when seeking the winner.

NUMBER FIVE ?

That irrepressible figure, Richard Bergmann, will be hot on the trail of his fifth title, to equal Barna's record tally. Can he do it? Knowing how Richard has a genius for rising to the occasion, and knowing how his defeat last year still rankles and will give him a mite more determination, I should say he has a great chance. His summer tour of the Far East gave him valuable experience against pen-holders, and he is not likely to be bothered by style alone this time. If Sui-Cho is to beat him, it'll have to be by virtue of superior skill, endurance and courage. If the two meet it's going to be darned interesting, to say the least.

Another likely contender is Josef Koczian, last year's losing finalist. This young Hungarian is a great player, and he has been biding his time these past couple of years. Could be, you know.....

France's Rene Roothoof, judging by this season's results, seems to have lost much of his form. On current showings

Continued on page 32

'Choosing and Nurturing YOUR BAT'

THE choice of your bat (or racket) is no small problem. If you are a genius, you will pick up any old bat that is lying around and simply smash your way to victory without a care. But most of us are ordinary, sentimental types, with a high degree of sensitivity. We eventually find the bat of our dreams and we grow to love every grain in the wood, every pimple of its spotted face. Coaches say: "Regard your bat as an extension of the hand." We go further and regard it as an extension of our souls. We're funny that way—if we happen to forget our bat at a special match, we are prostrated with grief. We can't do a thing—not a stroke goes right. The bat we had to borrow is too light or too heavy, the handle is too long or too short, the blade too supple or

A touch of "AS WE ARE"

by STANLEY PRESCOT

too rigid. (Incidentally, this makes an excellent excuse for our poor play—remember to forget your dream-bat and you can always say to your conscience, after a crushing defeat: "Well, if I'd had my bat with me.....").

But, how to choose your bat (or racket)? You know, of course, that according to the rules, the bat may be of any material, size, shape or weight. Given an inventive turn of mind, you have plenty of scope here. Have you noticed how springy a two days' old bath-bun can be? Has it ever occurred to you to mould some of that mixture and stick it on a blade? It hasn't? I thought not. I claim no patent on the idea, so you can go right ahead. It may do for you what sponge-rubber did for the Japanese in Season '51-'52. But a word of caution: use *brown* flour because the material must be non-reflecting.

CLOSING DATE

For Our Present

"HANDBOOK COMPETITION"

IS APRIL 4th, 1953

Turn to page 5 and read our review of the Suffolk County Handbook.

Of course, most of you may not wish to experiment, and for such people, there are bats on sale at all prices. But here's the snag: how to recognise THE BAT FOR YOU when you see it.

Drop into your local sports shop during any season and you will witness a number of otherwise healthy young men, going through a phase I can only describe as Bat Neurosis. (Official term: Racketitis). In the darkest corner, you will see these unfortunates. Arrayed on the counter near by will be a selection of from twelve to twenty different bats. The Bat-Neurotics will be swinging a bat in all directions; they will chop an imaginary ball, they will smash, block and push with all the intensity of a champion—and then, half-an-hour later, after sampling every bat in the shop, will crawl out without having reached a decision. Please, don't let yourself get like this. Its effects may be disastrous to your health. Say to yourself: "I am here to buy a bat. There isn't one made to suit my *exact* requirements, but—(and this is the important part)—my superior play will bridge the gap."

Does this sound boastful? Or even downright conceited? Don't be perturbed—a certain amount of self-deception is necessary if you are to avoid Bat-Neurosis.

Once you get your bat, you *must* buy or make a cover for it. The supposed use of a cover is to protect the bat during transit. This is fallacious—the real purpose of the cover is psychological. It is to Mystify and Arouse the Awe of the Uninitiated. In plain words, during your travels to and from the matches, you will carry the bat in its cover and display it prominently to the General Public. They in turn will be curious about it, and will show their curiosity, as the General Public so plainly does. The feeling you will get will be pleasant; you are an enigma; you are obviously unusual and therefore remarkable, and your self-esteem will soar. You may even win the match on the strength of your bat-cover alone. (If, however, you are returning from a 10-0 defeat, the General Public's interest may hearten you. After all, they will never know you lost—and by the time you've been glanced at, stared at, whispered about and generally commented on, your spirits will have risen again).

So remember these tips about bats (or rackets). And, after a couple of seasons with your local league, you'll know all the rest there is to know about rackets.

Perry-Bull Era v. Present Day

by FRANK WHITE

I REALLY must challenge the views of columnist Tony Miller, as featured in the Autumn issue of *Table Tennis Review*. Miller quotes veteran ex-international, Johnny Joyce, as saying that since the Perry-Bull era (approximately 1927-30), playing techniques and conditions have improved to an astonishing degree. Joyce is also quoted as saying that the players of earlier days would go no further than the quarter-finals of most present-day contests.

We all agree that Bergmann, Leach and Simons are outstanding by English standards, but after them come a batch of comparative mediocrities, all of whom meet and beat each other. And what dull and unexciting performances some of them do put up. I have been to major events where during an evening's play you could count quite easily on one hand (and you needn't have five fingers) the number of times the spectators were raised to any state of real, noisy enthusiasm. That didn't happen in the Perry-Bull era when a group of second class internationals took part in a match or tournament. The

spectators were continually on the edge of their seats and frequently broke into cheers.

Tony Miller claims that the majority of veterans are possessed with one firm opinion that there were no days like the old days. Well, he is certainly right there, but don't take the veterans' word for it, just ask yourself how many people you know who don't play the game, yet are keen supporters of club, league, county and international matches. In the "good old days," match organisers had a good following from the non-playing public. At present-day finals' night of Open events how many seats are occupied by people who don't play? At some Open tournament finals, if you took away all the competitors who had been in the event, you would hardly have enough left to make up a Square Dance Team. In a back issue of *Table Tennis Review*, Stanley Proffitt wrote of how at one time special halls had to be engaged whenever rival teams met in ordinary weekly league matches.

I suggest that if a team of today's leading players were to meet ten players of "earlier" days they'd receive a thrashing. Has Joyce forgotten pre-war players like Lurie, Rosen, Proffitt, Haydon, Buble, Casofsky, Filby, and many others like them?

Is play more attractive today than it was? I certainly think not. Some veterans put that down to the six-inch net, but at the moment I am not concerned with causes. I wish to tell Tony Miller and his supporters that if they never saw the game in the late twenties and early thirties, then they never saw how thrilling table tennis can be. How many long rallies are the public treated to these days? And I mean long-range, quick-moving rallies.

The game has progressed, there is no denying that fact. Thousands and thousands more people are now playing the game and I maintain that the support that match contests get comes from this ever-growing army of players. But the non-playing public has fallen away, simply because the game does not provide the same degree of excitement.

I am convinced that playing technique is not what it was and I am sure that mine is no voice in the wilderness. If given the choice of seeing our pre-war stars or those of today, I know that most of us "veterans" wouldn't think twice about voting for the "primitive" old-timers.

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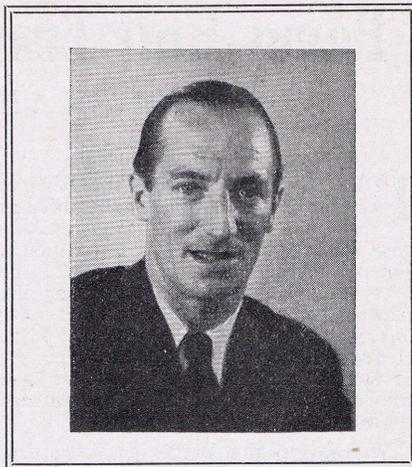
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THE STANDARD OF TABLE TENNIS TO-DAY IS NOT COMPARABLE WITH THAT WE SAW TWENTY YEARS AGO AND BUNKUM TO THOSE WHO THINK IT IS.

Let's have the truth; we would like to think things have improved, that in twenty years we have developed a higher proficiency. The present generation likes to think it is the best, as much as the old timers look back and say 'Nothing like it was in my days.' We let them prattle on convinced the present age is superior, but this time their prattling is right and I say emphatically, T.T. is worse for the years.

In my opinion the standard is much lower and no present-day players, including Leach, Bergmann and others would have lived with the players at the top between 1930—37. Bergmann is only a shadow of his former self, yet is still at the top and that strengthens even more my belief.

Barna, Bellak, Szabados, Vana & Bergmann, who were the highlights just before the last war were nothing short of miraculous. Looking back, the game in those days was a first-rate spectacle; the pace, the crescendo, and the shots all represented a thrill never to be forgotten. We had personalities standing out, who left impressions on those watching, and those impressions were lasting ones. Speak to anyone who remembers those games and he will be full of incidents; Bellak's clowning, Barna's flick, the Vana—Bergmann battles and so on. Yes, the game meant something in those days.

TO-DAY, we have thousands more players, more Leagues, more Tournaments and more competitors, who have reached a high standard, but that standard is well below the old. I shall possibly shake many people, particularly the up-and-coming youngsters, when I say that I think any of the players previously mentioned could give any present day player, including the world champion, five start and beat him. I am, of course, talking of when they were at their best.

On the same assumption I rate Bergmann's game that much below his game before the war.

These old players were consistent; there was little or no question of their being beaten by an outsider and it was almost a certainty who would be fighting out the final of a Tournament. Not so to-day, when almost every Tournament this season has been won by a different name.

I FIND it difficult to give the answer and would very much welcome the views of other players. Has it anything to do with the service? I think not, but the lowering of the net may be the real answer. With the lower net, the hit or miss player has a better chance, the rallies are shorter as the shots can be angled and killed quicker. A different technique has arrived and the long defence game has gone out. Certainly the chiselling era had to go or the game would have been ruined, but I am not sure that in stamping that out, we also lost much of the colour in the sport.

Surely with the thousands of new players in the world to-day we shall find a new champion, a consistent one with an attractive all-round game, who not only has personality, but is also a sportsman. What a lot to ask and it seems almost an impossibility at the moment. Even the latter trait seems to have been forgotten in the last few years. There is not the same sporting spirit existing now. At one time a player could be a killer, yet still retain the sporting side, whereas to-day, many who are pugnacious in their game are also that in their manner.

Could coaching be the answer? Are we spoiling too many of the would-be natural players. Most players these days have some sort of coaching and it might well be that coaching is developing them on the wrong lines.

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"NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE"

NOT what it used to be! That is ever the cry and very often completely unjustified. Yet in respect of the standard of Table Tennis to-day, I am very convinced that standards are not what they used to be.

Many might disagree with this point of view, but let us examine facts. In 1939 Barna was considered finished—a has-been, yet to-day he is still a leading player. Bergmann, a shadow of his pre-war self, can to-day at the age of about 34 years still lead the way. Adrian (Bunny) Haydon who had, more or less, retired in 1939 has still, if he cares to get down to it, the beating of many of our present leading lights over a couple of games.

Looking back on those pre-war tournaments with players like Barna, Bellak, Szabados, Bergmann, Vana, Kelen, Boros, Liebster, Lurie, Hyde, Bublely, Haydon and Filby competing in, say, a North of England event or some other local

"major," the majority of present-day tournaments seem like Sunday School efforts in standard of play.

If a young player of about the age of eighteen is to-day selected for the senior international side, it's a sensation. Yet Barna, Bergmann and Vana had all won world titles at that age. How vividly I remember pre-war Lurie returning from Birmingham with the men's singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles and junior singles awards. That wasn't a bad day's work for a junior, particularly in view of the fact that opposition was more severe than it is to-day.

That the standard of play has deteriorated is, of course, understandable. What happened at the Manchester Y.M.C.A. is typical of what has happened throughout the country. Before the war, Manchester Y.M.C.A. could sport a first and second team entirely composed of internationals. Interest in Table Tennis was tremendous. Young and keen players joining that club just couldn't fail to reach top grade. On the outbreak of war, however, all the club's internationals joined the Services and what was perhaps the finest Table Tennis hall in the World became an empty shell. Equipment was difficult to obtain and there was little competitive play. That steady influx of promising young players dried up in a very short time.

Some time has been necessary since the war to allow of that same steady influx of new recruits to club membership. The standard of play is gradually improving and within a few years we may once more attain that pre-war standard among the leading representatives of the game. But will we ever again see the like of that pre-war Victor Barna. I sympathise with those who express regret in not having seen him at his best. What would I give to re-witness one of those pre-war Barna—Szabados, Barna—Bellak classics!

COMMONWEALTH TEST MATCH

HITHERTO, overseas tours by English Table Tennis teams have been confined to the continent. In this respect the British Commonwealth has been sadly neglected. Yet there exists

in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and South Africa a surprising interest in the game. Tours by an English team, or, better still, by a U.K. team, would do much to still further foster that interest, would assist in improving the standard of play and, above all, would largely contribute to the strengthening of that bond of friendship and brotherhood that already exists. Cricket Test Matches are an accepted fact; in view of the tremendous and by no means limited interest in the game that exists in all these countries, Table Tennis Test Matches could be similarly successful.

Ours being the leading Association, the initiative in the first place in organising test tours should be taken by us. A United Kingdom team of three and a manager, playing or non-playing, might visit Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and India, Pakistan and South Africa on the return voyage, the tour taking place in our off-season.

The major consideration will, of course, be financial. Finances will have to be specially raised to meet the expenses of the tour. With sea voyaging, travelling expenses for the team could be estimated at about £750, with a further similar amount required (rough estimate) for expenses. There is no doubt that hospitality would be freely offered to the team by the members of countries met in the tour. Should any player who is in

normal employment be selected for the team, he should be fully compensated for loss of salary during the period of his absence.

The total cost implied would probably amount to about £2,000. In some acceptable way this sum would have to be accumulated.

A sixpenny contribution once in every three years or so by every affiliated player in the United Kingdom, would amount to a sum over £3,600. Sixpence subscribed by every affiliated player once in three years, equivalent to 2d. each per year, would adequately finance a United Kingdom team's triennial Commonwealth test tour and defray hospitality expenses of similar visiting teams during that period.

Surely no affiliated player would begrudge a twopenny annual contribution towards this estimable and highly desirable project. To all who have the interest of the game at heart, the benefits derived by all friends of our Commonwealth of Nations would be ample reward. These benefits will not be limited within the confines of Table Tennis, but will be extended to the fostering and cementing of the ties of friendship that are more than ever desirable in these difficult times.

The project outlined above already has, to my knowledge, the sympathetic support of a few of the leading officials. Let that support be engendered throughout the Table Tennis fraternity.

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has been said in this issue of the "REVIEW" concerning the "NOT-WHAT-IT-USED-TO-BE STANDARD OF TOP CLASS PLAY" in Table Tennis to-day, that in the world-wide interests of the sport such emphatic statements (and Messrs. Brook, Kirkwood and Stanley aren't just hinting) must be severely and immediately countered.

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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)

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SHOCKS AT BUCHAREST?

Continued from page 23

he cannot be fancied, except at very long odds. The same applies, I am afraid, to Johnnie Leach.

Only others worth an outside bet are Sido (Hungary), Andreadis (Czechoslovakia), and Harangozo (Yugoslavia).

Myself, I don't look beyond Bergmann, Sui-Cho and Koczian, with Richard top favourite.

As for the women—well, I'll stick to champion Angelica Rozeanu, who will be playing on her own ground and before her own crowd. Apart from which, of course, she remains a very brilliant player.

Her nearest challenger, to my way of thinking, is young Linde Wertl, Austrian holder of the English title. If the Rumanian tables are fast, Linde can make a battle of it. If the tables are slow (as I suspect they might be), she'll plug her heart out to no effect.

Rosalind Rowe and ex-champ Gizi Farkes? I don't think so—but I'd be very happy, indeed, if Ros proved me a cock-eyed seer.

It would be a great achievement if we pulled off the Swaythling Cup for the first time, as we could if Bergmann, Leach

and Simons were all on top form. We were very unlucky, indeed, last season, when we reached the final, only to have Simons pull a leg muscle. But for that injury we must surely have done the trick. As it is, we can only hope...and wish our boys the very best of good luck and bags of top form.

The Rumanian girls, led by Rozeanu, and in the absence of holders, Japan, must be favourites to regain the Corbillon Cup they held in 1949-50 and 1950-51. Which doesn't mean to say that our lasses are staging a hopeless fight. By no means. It's not too much to assume the Twins will take the doubles. If the girls can win a singles each, and that not against Rozeanu, they'll be there. How simple it is—on paper!

Finally, for the statistically minded, in eighteen Swaythling Cup contests since 1926-27, Hungary has won ten times, Czechoslovakia six times, and Austria and U.S.A. once each. And the Corbillon Cup has been contested twelve times since 1933-34, Czechoslovakia winning three times, England, Germany, U.S.A. and Rumania twice, and Japan once.

Now let's wait and see what this year brings forth, shall we? (S.K.)

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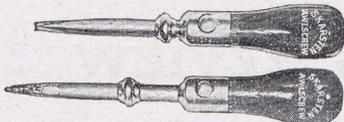
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