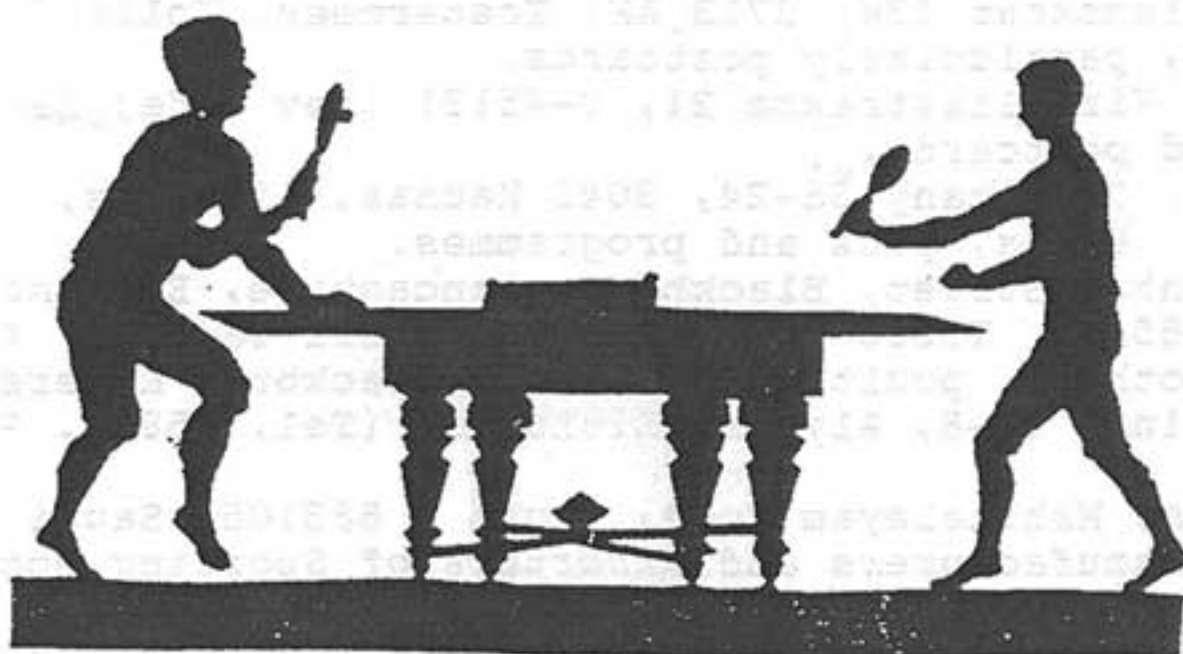


The Table Tennis Collector 9



OCTOBER 1995

Once again, we can be most grateful to several contributors who have sent material or written articles specially for this issue; have you sent anything yet? Your co-operation is essential so that variety is assured.

There is a very special announcement on page 3. Plans are already being made for a Grand Swap-Meet in Holland in the Spring, but, once again, the success of this depends entirely on your support. It is hoped that all collecting interests will be represented. Contact Hans Kreisler now so that he can gauge the initial interest and start to make preparations.

Some readers may not know that John Jaques & Son celebrate their bicentenary this year; we are privileged to have permission to reproduce part of their celebratory brochure (pages 8-9).

Gerald

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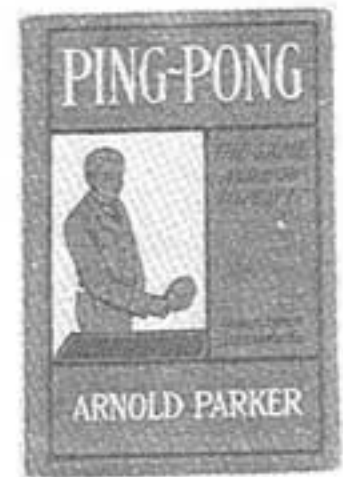


Racket sport fans are very rare, and table tennis ones are even rarer than tennis ones. This American example dates from 1904 and is, of course, shown with only part of its handle.

DO YOU COLLECT BALLS, PINS, MEMORABILIA, BOOKS, STAMPS, CARDS, ART?

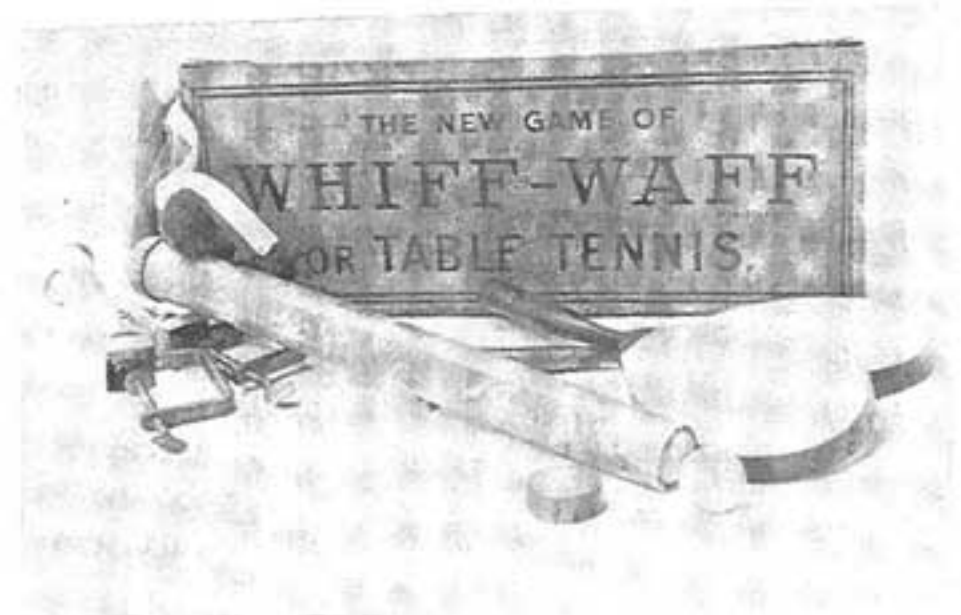
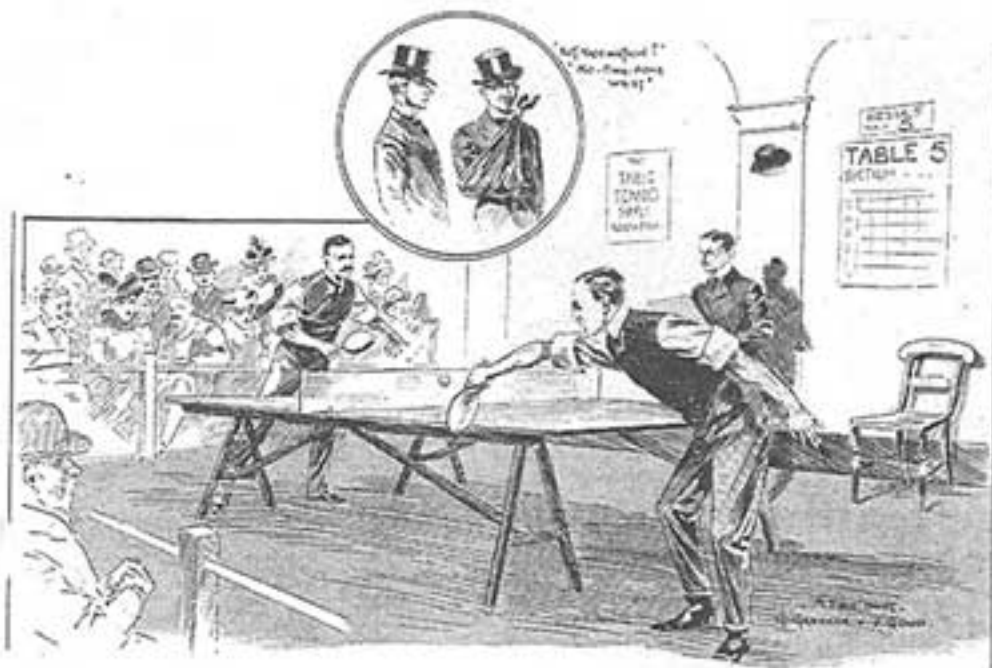
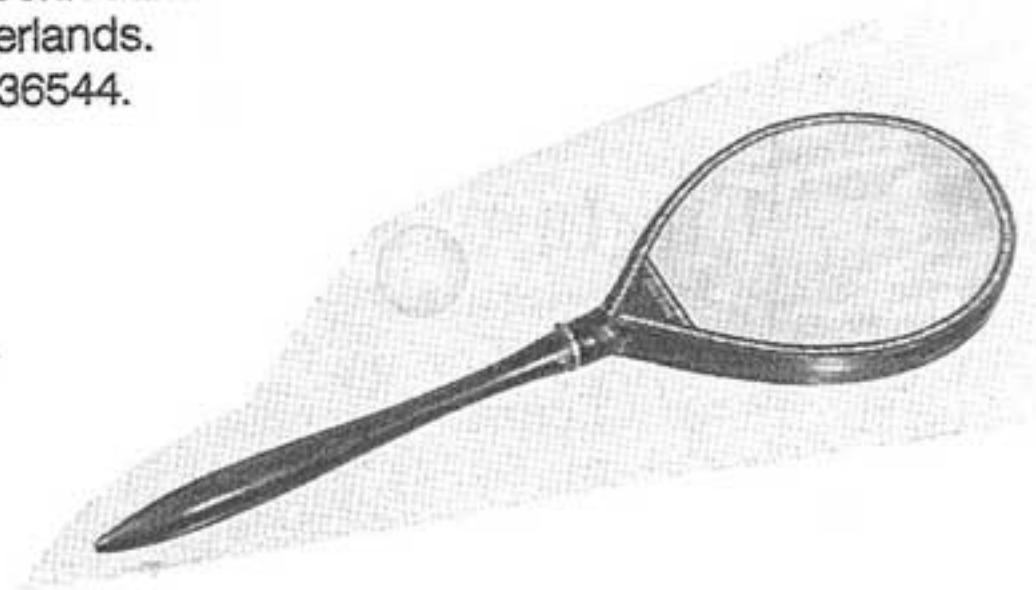
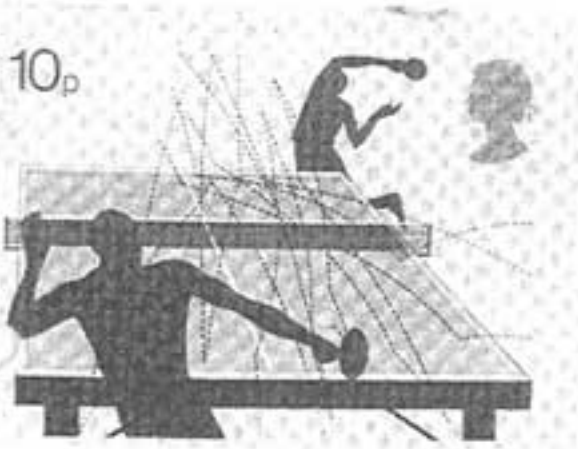


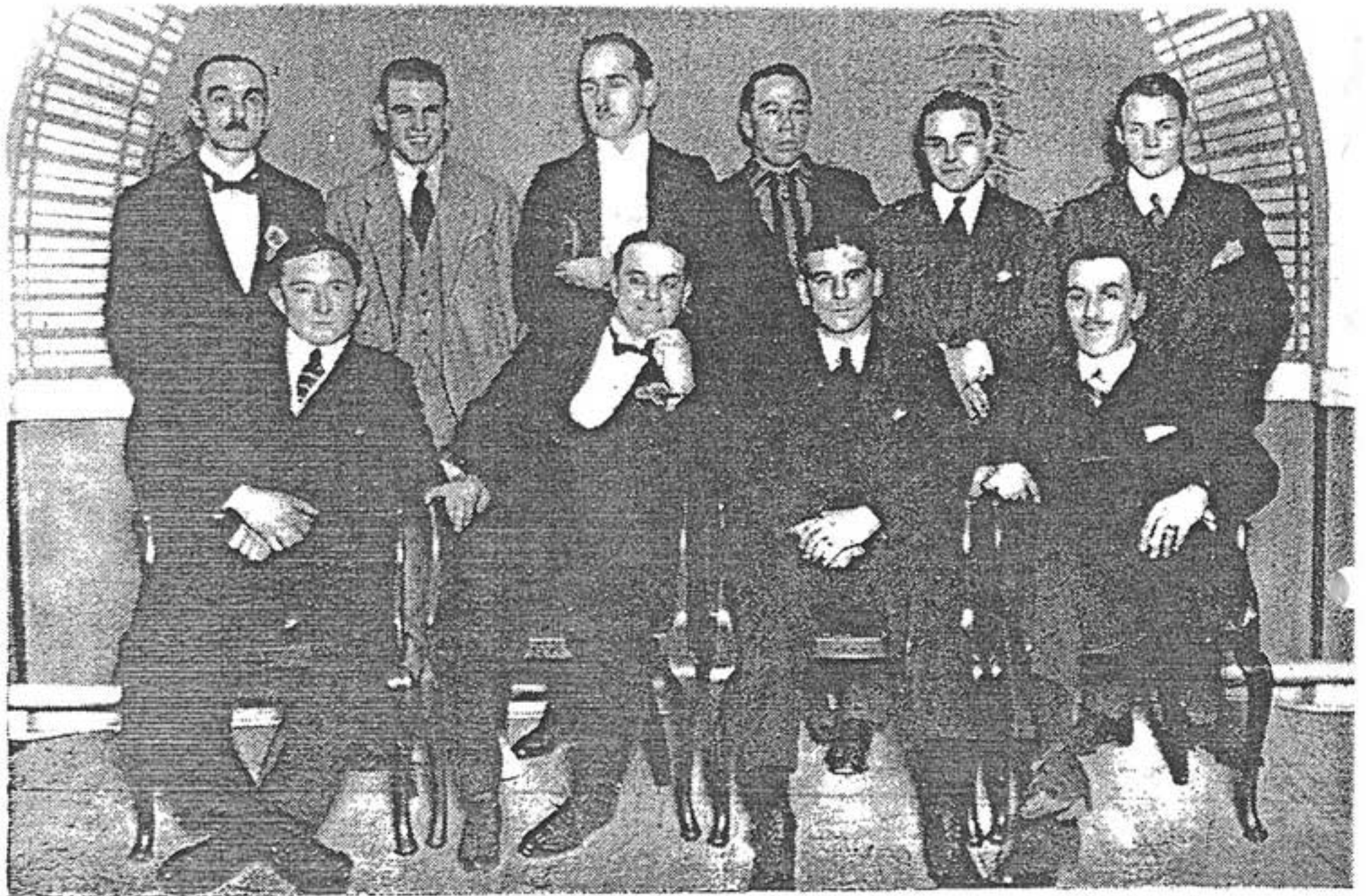
A NUMBER OF TABLE TENNIS COLLECTORS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN A GRAND SWAP-MEET/SALE/SHOW TO BE HELD AT SCHIEDAM, NETHERLANDS IN THE SPRING OF 1996. ALL THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT:



Hans Kreischer
 Nieuwe Buurt 23
 3111 KJ Schiedam.
 The Netherlands.
 tel: 10 4736544.

10p





England's First International Team

This historic picture is of the English team which beat Wales 52 games to 12 in the very first International Match, played in London on the 9th March, 1923. Teams were of eight men, each playing each one game or 31 up, a total of 64 games. (From 1923 to 1927, subsequent international matches with Wales were one game of 50 up, each playing each, with a match decision on points, and until 1927 Welsh players were restricted to wooden racquets by their national rule.

The players and their results (by games) were: L. to R. back row: G. J. ROSS, London (reserve); T. HOLLINGSWORTH, Wednesbury, 4-4; G. W. DECKER, London, 8-0; P. BROMFIELD, 8-0; E. TAPPER, London, 5-3; R. H. BERRY, Asst. Sec. T.T.A. (reserve). Front row: G. BELSTON, Bristol, 6-2; A. F. CARRIS, London, 8-0; J. W. SWANN, Manchester, 7-1; E. WOODS, Manchester, 6-2.

This little-known photograph is most interesting and important, though it is not clear on what occasion it was taken; it may be that they have just put on their jackets after finishing play.

PUNCH POSTCARDS

The Wrench Series, No. 2645.

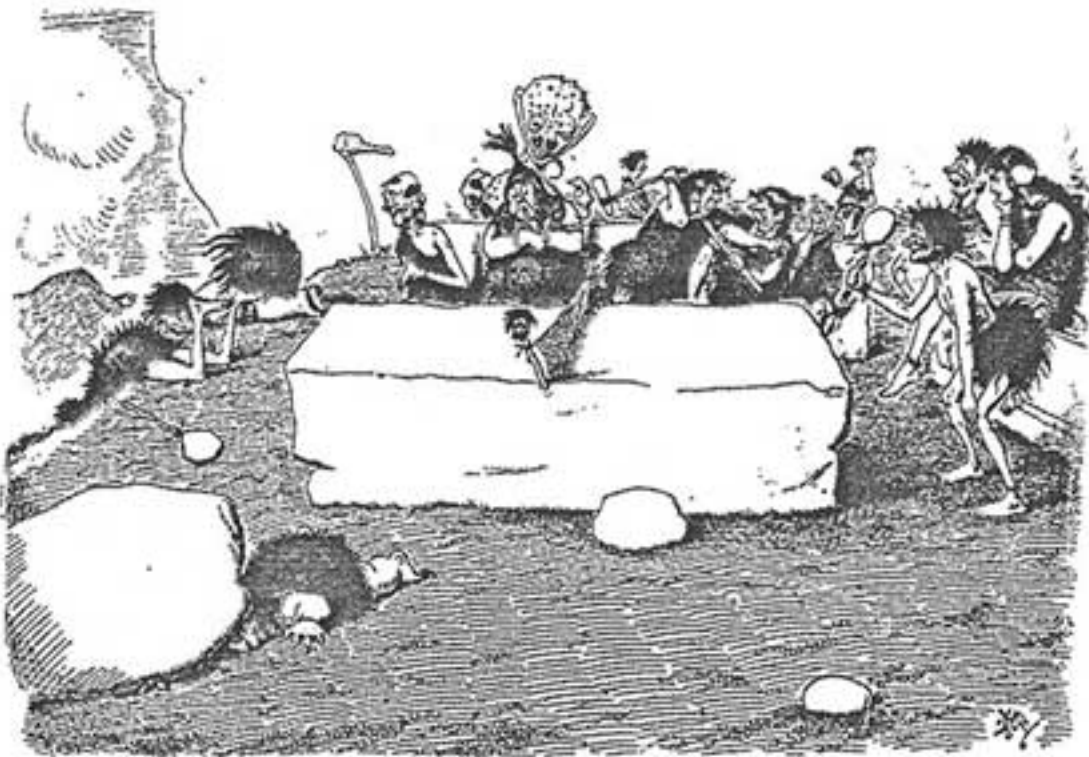
Copyright—By permission of the Proprietors of "Punch."



PING-PONG IN THE KITCHEN.

The Wrench Series, No. 2640.

Copyright—By permission of the Proprietors of "Punch."



PING-PONG IN THE STONE AGE.

These postcards, published by E. Wrench, appeared originally in the magazine Punch. They are black and white line drawings with undivided backs, and date from about 1902. F.G. Lewin was the artist for the top one, and the lower one was drawn by a so far unidentified artist E.T.R.Y. Can anyone name him?

THE TABLE TENNIS

20,000 READERS!

AND PASTIMES PIONEER.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL FOR TABLE TENNIS AND PING PONG PLAYERS.

No. 6. Vol. I.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1902.

ONE PENNY.



MISS DAISY RATHGEB.



MR. T. JEFFRIES.

Mr. T. Jeffries took the third prize in the gentlemen's section of the ping pong open tournament at the Alexandra Palace, on 15th inst.

Personal.

Miss Daisy Rathgeb was the winner of the second ladies' prize at last week's Alexandra Palace ping pong tournament. This lady and Miss Bantock played an extremely close game.

The North London Ping Pong Championships.

There was a good attendance and some excellent play at the Alexandra Palace Tournament last week, although it was a matter of general regret that several able players indulged in the too common practice of stonewall tactics, and thus lowered the standard of play. The final contests in the gentlemen's section aroused considerable interest, as being a friendly struggle for supremacy between the first gentleman champion of table tennis and the gentleman champion of the first ping pong tournament played at Queen's Hall. The importance of the issue, in which Mr. Ayling was successful, furnished perhaps some excuse for the over-cautiousness which characterized their play, but there is no doubt that the best all-round exposition of the game was that furnished by Messrs. T. Jeffries and Gordon Campbell (who secured third and fourth place respectively), which for brilliancy of service and returns would be difficult to excel—or even to equal—anywhere.

Scarcely less interesting was the play of Miss Bantock and Miss D. Rathgeb, between whom the final competition for first and second place took place in the ladies' section. Miss D. Rathgeb, whose style is perhaps not quite so well known as that of Miss Bantock, plays an excellent game, of which a very fast service is the distinguishing feature. On the other hand Miss Bantock, who, in securing the Challenge Bowl, fully justified the opinions already formed of her abilities, was noticeable for the "stay" of her play and the clever manner in which even the most difficult serves of her opponent were returned and placed. Miss D. Rathgeb, the runner-up, was followed by Miss E. Smith (third) and Miss B. Smith (fourth); the two last-named ladies playing a fairly spirited, but not a brilliant game.

At the close of the tournament, which was marked at times by considerable enthusiasm on the part of the spectators, the pleasant duty of presenting the prizes was undertaken by Mr. J. J. Langdon, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. G. Marlow Reed, who is president of the Alexandra Palace Ping Pong Club



MR. M. J. G. RITCHIE.

Mr. M. J. G. Ritchie is the honorary secretary of the All England Table Tennis and International Games Club, which has its head-quarters at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster.



MISS GLADYS WYRIL, SWANSEA.

Gold medallist and lady champion at the recent ping pong tournament organized by Mr. David Davies, of the *South Wales Daily Post*, in aid of the local Veteran Soldiers' and Poor Children's Outing Funds.

This seems to be a special tournament issue.

THE TABLE TENNIS AND PASTIMES PIONEER.

Tournament Items.

In the preliminary rounds for the ping pong championship of the South London Harriers, which were decided on February 1st at the "Swan and Sugar Loaf" Hotel, South Croydon, no remarkably good play was seen. Messrs. Constantine, Hall, Kuttner and Wright were left in the semi-final, the play of the former couple being of the stone-wall order, while that of the latter pair, if less safe, perhaps showed greater variety of stroke. After a long contest Hall defeated Constantine, and Wright defeating Kuttner, he and Hall were left to fight out the final, which was postponed to Feb. 8th. As soon as the game was started it was seen that both players were very much "off their game." Hall, however, made fewer mistakes than his opponent, and won easily, scoring the first two games with something like seven points to spare each time. The donor of the cup, Mr. J. Brown, presented it to the winner, who was immediately challenged by Messrs. Wright, J. B. Densham, and Kuttner. The next contest will be decided on March 1st.

Bayly's Hotel, Boulogne, S/M, was, on the 4th inst., the scene of the first ping pong handicap tournament held in the town. There were sixteen entries—both ladies and gentlemen—some of the ladies receiving as many as 26 points.

Miss N. Carr, Master A. Philip, Mr. H. O. Mack and Mrs. Bayly got safely through the first two heats. In the semi-final the ladies were each victorious, Miss N. Carr subsequently defeating Mrs. Bayly notwithstanding a slightly heavier handicap. The contest was, on the whole, extremely close, and reflects great credit on the discernment of Mr. E. W. Bayly, the handicapper.

A three days tournament has just been concluded at Ryde, Isle of Wight. Entries were numerous, ping pong appearing to be in very high favour at this charming watering place.

At a sale of work held on 10th inst at Pontypridd, in aid of the Church funds, the chief feature was a ping pong tournament, in which over 40 ladies and gentlemen took part. In the fourth round Mr. W. H. Jones was beaten by Mr. H. Crockett, who met Mr. W. P. Lewis in the final round. The game was keenly contested, Mr. Crockett winning by 50 points to 39. A number of ladies also competed, Nurse Williams defeating Mrs. Odo Chapman in the final round.

A large and enthusiastic audience witnessed the close of the Cardiff tournament in aid of the funds of the N.S.P.C.C. There were 250 entries. The lady prize winners were:—1, Miss E. Boucher, Clifton; 2, Miss Chivers; 3, equally divided between Miss M. Morgan and Miss K. Morrell. There were four other prizes awarded—to Miss Trench, Miss G. Elias, Miss R. Holman, and Miss Fraser. In the gentlemen's finals the players were Mr. T. R. Gregson and Mr. L. A. Phillips, and the contest was for the better of 40 points. Play was very fast and there were no rallies of any considerable length, Mr. Gregson eventually running out winner by 40 points to 39, thus securing first prize, the second falling to Mr. Phillips, the third to Messrs. Hodge and Boucher, while other prizes fell to Messrs. A. R. England, A. E. Wilson, F. C. Shackell, and Dr. Joscelyne.

In the open tournament, held in aid of the Kingstown Stall at the Gigas Bazaar, the following were the results:—Final round of the mixed doubles: Mr. Graham and Miss Roche beat Mr. J. Black and Miss French. Ladies' singles: Miss Keegan beat Miss Watts. Mixed singles: Mr. Roche beat Mr. Keegan.

The championship of Gloucestershire will be contested on the 6th and 7th of March, in the large hall of the Y.M.C.A., Bristol. The events will include ladies' and gentlemen's singles for the championship of the county; mixed doubles, ladies' doubles, gentlemen's doubles, and, if time permits, a consolation event for ladies and gentlemen who are knocked out in the preliminary rounds of the championship. A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Boucher, Vezey, Hart, and W. R. Powell, were elected with Messrs. C. Wilby and Usher, hon. secretaries. Entries are anticipated from the leading players in west and south Wales, as well as from London, and there is every prospect of a successful tournament.

An interesting event comes off at the Leytonstone Assembly Rooms, on Friday next. The Connaught Table Tennis Tournament, under the management of Mr. Ringrose, has been fixed for that date, and as it is the first it should be very well supported. Intending players should apply for their entry forms at once, so as to avoid the crush and rush of the last few days.

A numerous and fashionable audience witnessed the tournament in aid of the Zenana funds of the first Ballymena Presbyterian Church. During the proceedings tea was gracefully dispensed by Mesdames Haslett, Currie, Lancashire, Porter, Russell, Barclay, Caruth, Kenny, and Stewart. Miss Nellie Crawford beat Master Ernest Getty by 6-2 games in the children's competition (under 12). Miss Dick (Cliftonville, Belfast) beat Mrs. Dr. Currie, by 6-2 games in the ladies' finals. In the final of the gentlemen's singles Mr. Alfred Wolesey met a plucky and tricky little player in Mr. Edward Stewart, whom he defeated by 6-1. In the mixed doubles Miss Dick and Master Eddie Stewart beat Mrs. Boal and Mr. Alfie Wolesey 6 games to 3, and in the gentlemen's doubles Mr. S. Boal and Mr. Sam Eagleson, jun., beat Mr. Beaumont and Mr. L. Middleton.

The open ping pong tournament of the Central Pres. Assoc. Ping Pong Club, which was held in Belfast, resulted in Miss K. Waters carrying off the ladies' prize; Miss Dick and Mr. R. H. Smith winning the mixed doubles; Messrs. H. A. Newell and T. McDowell the gentlemen's doubles; and Mr. R. H. Smith the gentlemen's singles.

At Hull there was a remarkable outburst of enthusiasm in connection with the tournament organized at the Central Hall, on behalf of the funds of St. Matthew's. There were 370 entries and over, many being refused owing to want of space. In the ladies singles Miss V. Holder won the first prize, Miss A. Laverack second, and Miss E. Dibb and Mrs. Barnard the third. Mr. H. A. Dennis secured first place in the gentlemen's singles, Mr. G. A. Rippon second, and Messrs. A. E. Hume and A. H. Gillett third. In the mixed doubles the honours were carried off by Mr. and Miss Dennis, the second prize going to Mr. A. Marr and Miss V. Holder.

The arrangements for the forthcoming Gloucestershire Ping Pong Championship Tournament are well in hand. It has been decided that the tournament shall be played at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol, on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11th and 12th; and that all profits shall be devoted to the medical charities of Bristol. The following are the events: Ladies' Championship (open), Gentlemen's Championship (open), Junior Mixed Championship (age limit 16), Mixed Doubles and Gentlemen's Doubles. We believe this will be the first public tournament in Bristol at which the two last-named events will be played. Play will take place both afternoon and evening, and it is hoped that it will prove a great success, and ensure a good balance going to a well-deserved cause.

Coming Events.

Every endeavour is made to ensure correctness of detail. Should, however, any inaccuracy be noted in the names and addresses of clubs, dates of fixtures, &c., the Editor would be greatly obliged by his attention being drawn to same.

- Feb. 19 to 22.—Tournament for West of Scotland Championship, the St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow.
- " 20.—Ping Pong Tournament, Cliftonville, Belfast.
- " 20.—Tournament at the Handsworth Council House, Birmingham.
- " 21.—Match: Primrose Table Tennis Club v. Hilldrop Table Tennis Club, at St. John's Institute, Holloway-road, London, N.
- " 22.—Ping Pong Competitions, School of Physical Culture, Albert Square, Manchester.
- " 22.—Handicap (under rules of Badminton Association) of the Bray Badminton and Ping Pong Club.
- " 24.—Prince's Ping Pong Club Second Tournament commences at Prince's-square Hotel, Bayswater.
- " 24.—Ping Pong Tournament at McTaggart's, 102, Grafton-street, Dublin—postponed from 17th inst.
- " 24-25.—Blackrock Badminton Club Tournament, Town Hall, Kingstown.
- " 24 to 28.—Tournament in aid of Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, at Battersea Town Hall.
- " 25.—Ping Pong Tournament at Boulogne, S.M.; Salle des Pompiers.
- " 26.—Match: Primrose Table Tennis Club v. New Century Ping Pong Club.
- " 26-27.—Coventry Ping Pong Tournament. Mr. H. Smith, hon. sec.
- " 26 to 28.—Table Tennis Tournament, Social Club, Manchester: North of England Table Tennis Championship.
- " 26.—Match: Bristol Y.M.C.A. v. Bath Y.M.C.A. (return), at Bristol.
- " 27.—The First Connaught Table Tennis Tournament, Assembly Rooms, Leytonstone. G. Ringrose, sec.
- " 28.—Meeting of representatives of affiliated Table Tennis Clubs, under the auspices of the Table Tennis Association, London.
- Mar. 1.—Open Ping Pong Tournament (by rounds) at the Council Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon.
- " 1.—Ping Pong Contest, South London Harriers.
- " —Table Tennis Tournament, Championship of Borough of Ealing.
- " 5 to 8.—Tournament at Royal Aquarium, Westminster. Ladies' and Gentlemen's Open Competitions, and Handicap Events.
- " 6.—Tournament at the Exchange Rooms, New-street, Birmingham.
- " 6-7.—Championship of Gloucestershire, Y.M.C.A. Hall, St. James'-square, Bristol. A. E. Wilby, hon. sec.
- " 7-8.—Cycle Show and Ping Pong Tournament, Town Hall, Chiswick.
- " 8.—Table Tennis Tournament, Wilfred Lawson * Hotel, Woodford.
- " 10.—Third Ping Pong Tournament at Queen's Hall, Langham-place, W.
- " 12.—Match: Chiswick v. Ealing (return).
- " 20.—Match: High Wycombe v. Marlow (return).
- Apr. 11.—Ping Pong Tournament at the Park Hall, Cardiff. Proceeds to Church House, Canton.
- July 7.—Tournament at Hurlingham.

Prepaid terms of subscription (post free):—One year, 6s. 6d.; six months 3s. 3d.; three months, 1s. 8d.

*I have the trophy for this event - won by H.A. Hawkey.

J We Put the "Ping" into Gossima and It Turned the Tables

It comes as no surprise to learn that the one indoor game which the athletic JJ III spearheaded was an active one: ping-pong, or as it is now called, table tennis.

John Jaques had originally marketed this game as Gossima, presumably because of the featherlight ball. It had attracted little attention, but JJ III saw its vast and delightful possibilities. He rechristened it *Ping-Pong*.

JJ III's instinct was correct: its success was spectacular and *Ping-Pong* became another of his brilliant, innovative offerings.

In 1902-3 the ping-pong boom swept the country, and when its more passionate players



John Jaques the Third.

developed it into a championship game, they

apparently chafed against its somewhat frivolous trademark. "Ping-Pong" is still used colloquially here and throughout the world, including China where it is their national sport. But JJ III's catchy onomatopoeic name eventually gave way to the more dignified *Jaques Table Tennis*.

Of course, this more serious name linked it to lawn tennis which continued to gain players and spectators in leaps and bounds. Whether the name change was

instrumental in upgrading the game and widening its appeal can never be known. No doubt it helped

legitimise its status in the par something worthy of competing merely a pastime akin to the games.

Jaques continues to lead the excellent equipment has activity in schools throughout as an internationally competitive sport. Their tables have been European and World Champions other. *Jaques* is the only manufacturer offer quality tables in quantities complete, well-crafted, sturdy years of play at any level.

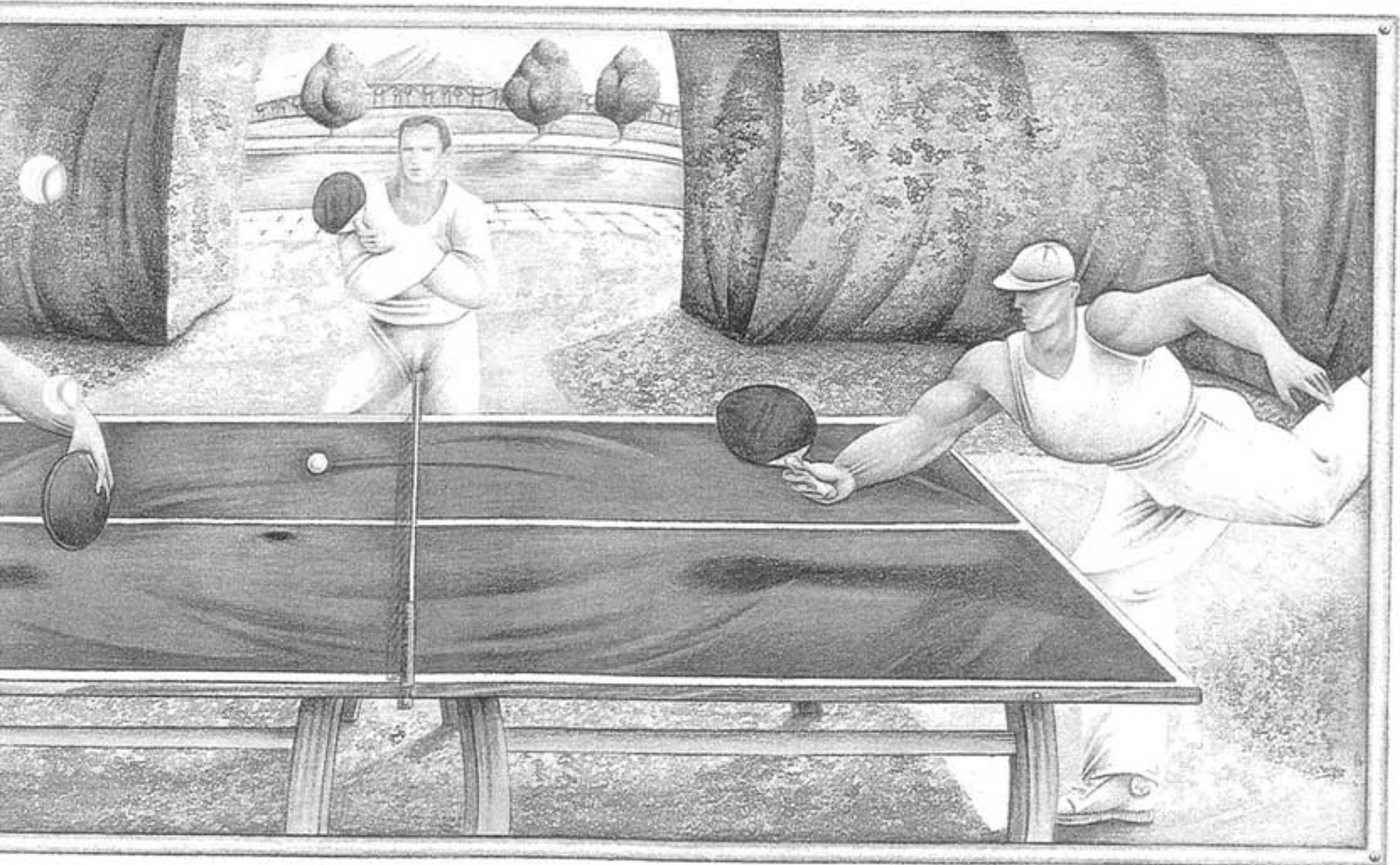
The *John Jaques Limited* *Playbak Roller Table* (1/200) is sprayed by hand with *Jaques* cellulose finish, has a life span that of ordinary standard play



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ore passive parlour

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of four or five times
ack t s. ♦



*“Our minds need relaxation, and give way
Unless we mix with work a little play.”*

Molière, *The School for Husbands*, 1661.

Ping Pong, the animal way.

(by Anton Zwiebel)

A controlled routine in daily life being established at Animal Farm, now the time for "Bread and Circusses" had arrived.

Of course "Circusses" would be out of the question. Humanoids had proven to be unreliable during performances for public. Notwithstanding thorough training and apt skills of their animal trainer.

Instead, sport-meets were to be held. Among these various contests, there would also be one in table tennis. I was invited to lead the table tennis tournament.

Why me would you ask. And if you didnot ask, I am going to tell you anyway.

First of all, my birthday happens to be the 4th of October (In Holland National Animal's Day). Second, Mr. Orwell had made a note that he was convinced had Charles Darwin seen me, he would have never felt the need to introduce his missing link.

But above all, my wife and I are living in a house that is owned by 2 cats. We serve them as house-keeper and butler. I am therefore used to serve my superior animals.

Invitations were sent out and entry-forms distributed.

As it is to be expected, also sport will be governed and dictated from Brussels, so these invitations were already made out in french.

As a means to further interest in entering the contest, pictures of celebrities caught in the act (of playing table tennis !) were printed in the entry forms.

**VOULEZ-VOUS JOUER
... AVEC MOI ?**

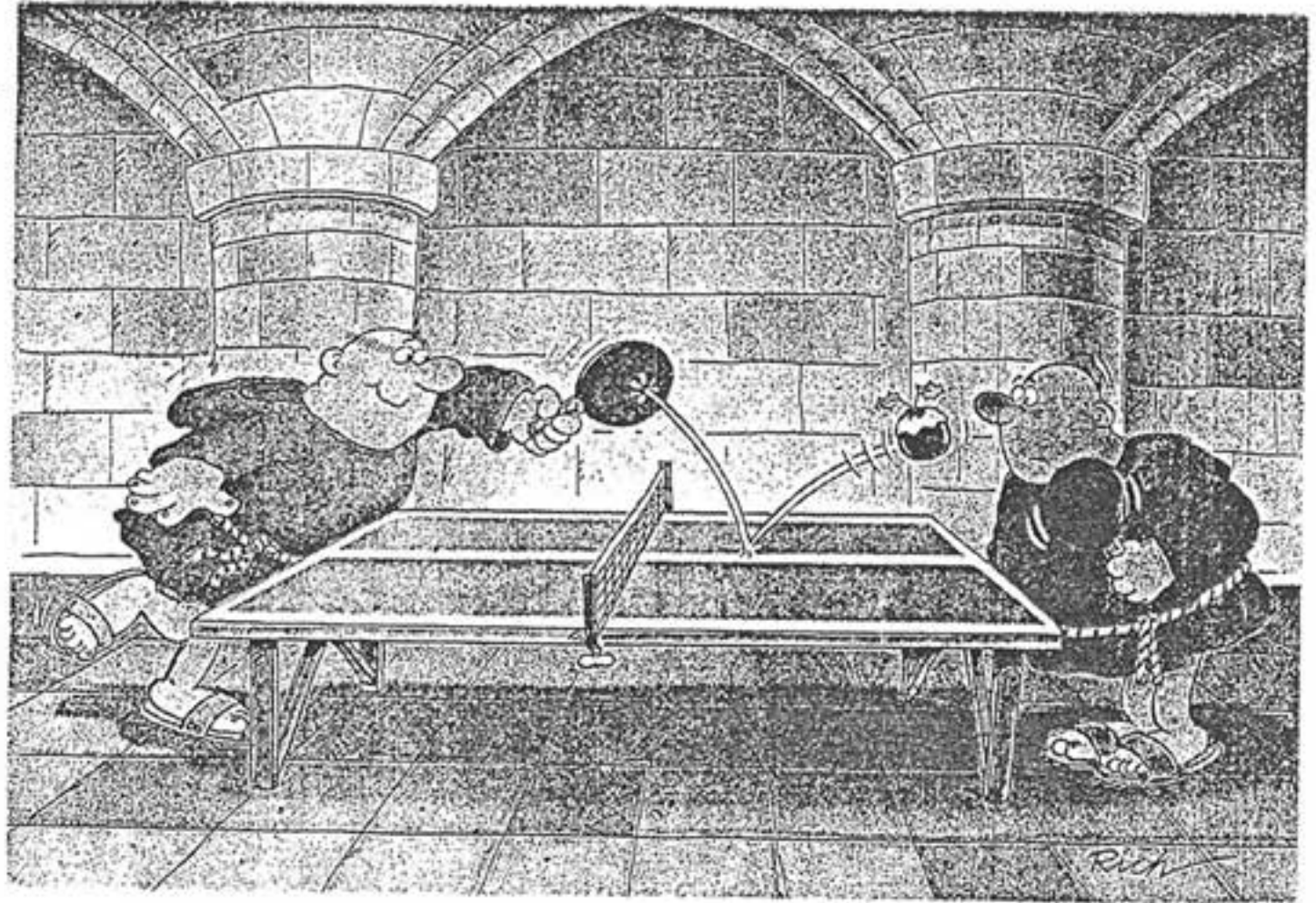


Two monks were assigned to me to assist in administration of the various matches.

They would also act as confessors, in the most unlikely case that a player might want to free his soul from the burden of having stolen points from his opponent.

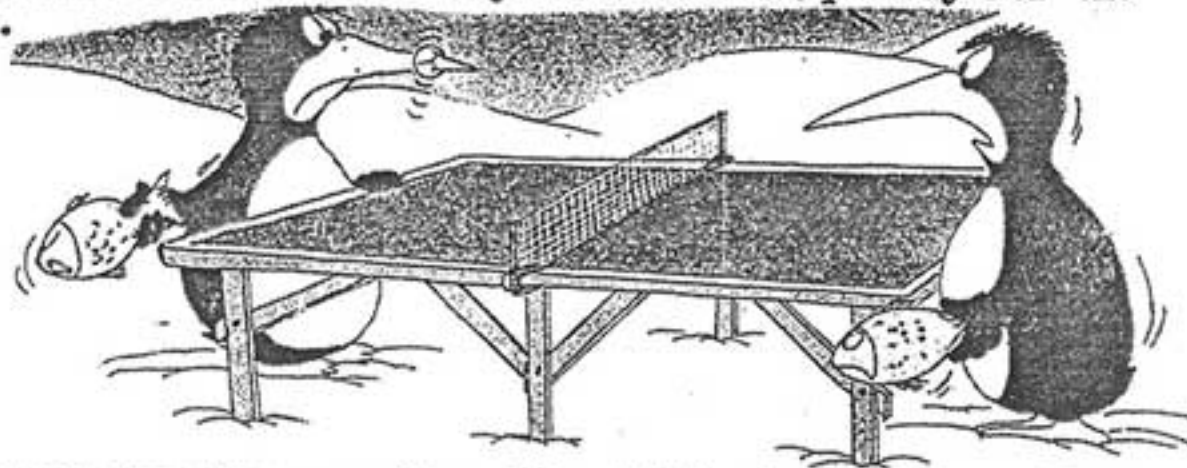
These monks claimed to be pro's at the game also. Though they practice less, earn less than the real ones.

If that's why they were called upon less and showed a minor degree of mastering the game, I don't know.



Because of their skills, I simply referred to them as friar minor.

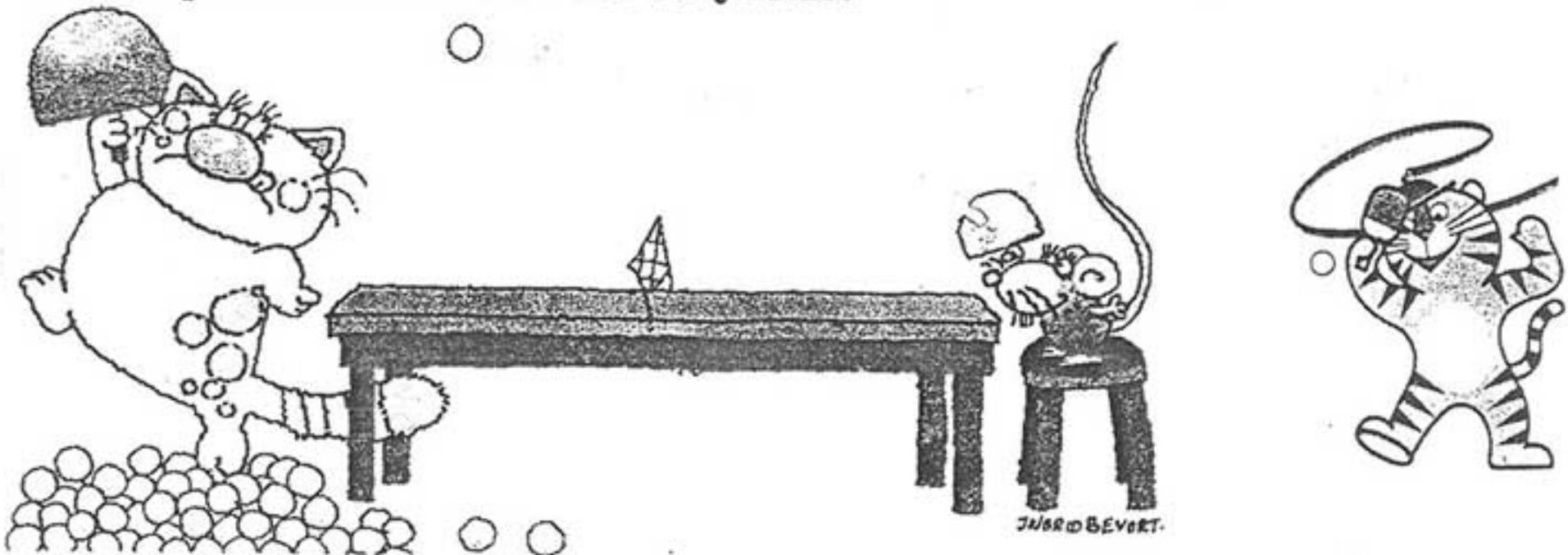
The tournament itself went enjoyable. I took the penguins out of competition and advised them to subscribe in Monaco. They would better qualify for the annual circus-awards .



Some contestants did abide by strange rules, like Felix for instance. He insisted to be allowed to eat his opponent . Every stroke he figured he could not return well, meant that that ball stayed at his side of the table. Point to be awarded to him, of course.

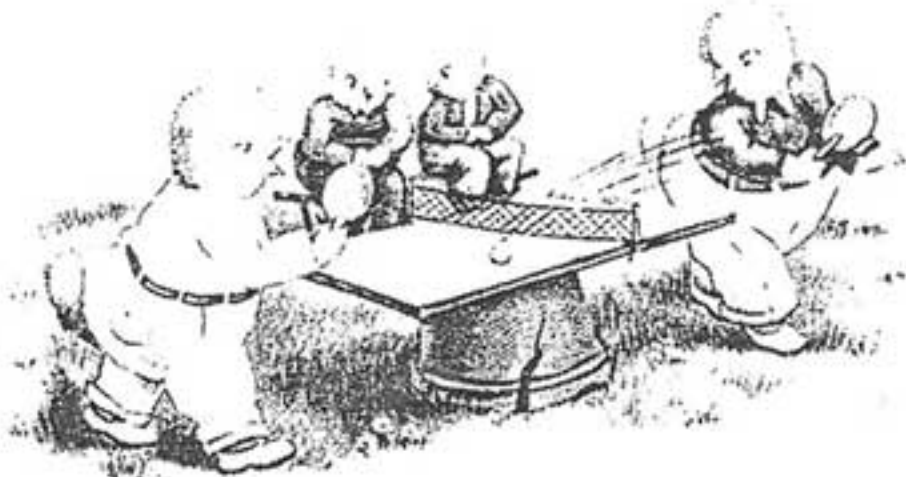
He won his leg of the tournament.

His striped cousin from Seoul won the juniors.

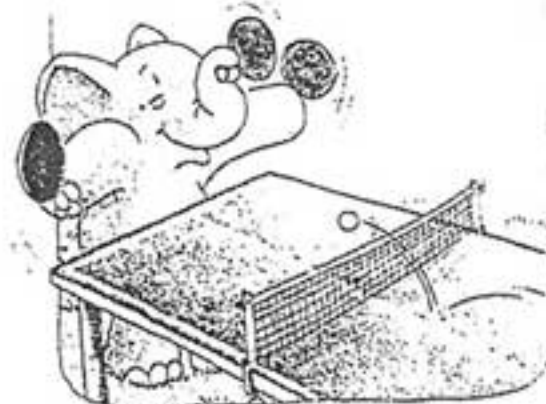


Underneath you see a picture from the finals of the combined fly-/feather-weight juniors.

As you see, both finalists are chicks. Of course there were other entries as well. For example, all owlets lost in their first rounds. Lack of insight in tactics, you know. Playing like chickens without heads as it were.



Finally a picture of the heavy-weight champion of the world. Jumbo had to play a panda-bear in the quarter-finals. Just when he was busy with glue, the chinese coach came in. He shouted that he could and would have Jumbo thrown out of the tournament. Our hero hit so many arguments home against this coach, using all three of his rackets, that this chinese coach was never to be seen or heard of again. Jumbo went on crushing his opponents and of course, won the tournament.



For my work I received a tile-tableau with a text reading:

" Beware of Pigs with Modern Wishes,
Wanting human sausages for dishes. "

Note: All pictures shown are copies from originals in my collection "Table Tennis with a Wink". All copy-rights reserved to those who own them.

THE FOUNDATION FRIENDS OF TABLE TENNIS

The Dutch Table Tennis Museum is now open, and an exhibition will continue until 29 October.

I was disappointed with the response to a letter which I sent to seven collectors; only two replied. The Foundation will be most grateful to anyone who wishes to make a small contribution to the Museum.

Hans Kreisler

THIS IS SLOUGH - CHANGE HERE FOR WINDSOR

Slough today is a busy industrial town some twenty miles west of London and whose 100,000 inhabitants still bristle at the unwelcome invitation to "friendly bombs" made by the late poet laureate, Sir John Betjemen. The town of Slough will never win any beauty titles and its fame now originates from the creation of the Slough Trading Estate, an innovative network of roads, railway tracks, manufacturing premises and offices, all served by its own power station. It was the first such estate in the world and is still the largest of its kind in Europe. While Britain suffered the depression of the thirties, Slough was the place where people from the more impoverished parts of England, and later the rest of the world, came to find work which was plenty. Slough is now a cosmopolitan town boasting many internationally famous companies which includes in its number the maker of the ubiquitous chocolate *Mars* bar.

Of course it was not always that way. Around the turn of the century Slough was a smaller community of about 11,500 people and the town had grown up from humble beginnings with the advent of Brunel's iron highway, the Great Western Railway. Such was the concern of the Provost of Eton College that the boys would play truant, that the GWR was initially forbidden to build a station in Slough, but the trains stopped just the same. After a few years a magnificent Royal Hotel was built adjacent to the new station where Queen Victoria would await her train back to Paddington, prior to the building of a branch line extension which would take her the three additional miles into Windsor and her beloved Castle.

So when the table tennis boom was at its height around 1901 to 1903, Slough was a much different place to the one visitors see today. It had been famous as the home of the great astronomer Sir William Herschel, who in 1781 had discovered the planet Uranus, and for the factory that manufactured Elliman's embrocation, a rub for sprained muscles. Life was centred around the High Street and it was at the Leopold Institute, which had been built in 1887, that the first club was formed and the first tournament organised.

On the 15th January 1902 the Leopold Institute formed a sub-committee for the purpose of founding a club and arranging a tournament. Activities commenced the following week on a full size regulation table erected in the library and available at all hours except Wednesday and Saturday evenings. The subscription to the table tennis club was two shillings quarterly or five shillings annually. Almost immediately a second table was provided and the first table tennis club in Slough was born. In its annual accounts for 1902 the Slough Leopold Institute and Public Halls makes the following entries:

Income:	Table Tennis subscriptions	£7 5s 0d
	Table Tennis tournament	£4 13s 4d
Expenditure:	Table Tennis fittings and requisites	£4 8s 1d.

The first tournament was held in the Public Hall on Monday evening, 10th February, and was open to all players in the district, with the proceeds devoted towards providing new books for the Institute's library. Each match was one game up to 20 points with service changes every five points and a change of ends after ten points. Any kind of racket was allowed as long as the playing surface did not exceed 7 inches by 6 inches. Two members of the Institute loaned tables to increase the total in use to four, and one of these was used exclusively for the ladies' competition which attracted ten entries. 41 gentlemen contested their event which was evidently too many for the four tables to cope with as the report on the Friday in the *Slough, Windsor and Eton Observer* remarked that the only fault was the length of time taken to arrive at the ten section winners, and suggested that six tables be used for future events, with the ladies playing in the afternoon.

The gentlemen's competition was won by Mr. Bert Blanchett, a resident of Slough, who won 220 points against 122 in his eleven matches. His prize was a silver cigarette case. The ladies' event was won by Miss A.L. Butt who was presented with a silver backed brush. Both the winners and also both third placed competitors used rackets manufactured by Mr. J. Andrews, who must have been "Mr. Table Tennis" in Slough at the time, as he was the prime mover behind the new club and the tournament and was also one of the gentlemen who lent a table.

The neighbouring town of Windsor had beaten Slough by a small margin on both counts. The *Windsor & Eton Express*, in its edition dated 11th January 1902, claimed that one of the major attractions at the Royal Albert Institute was a ping-pong table, and a second table had been placed in the Ladies' Reading Room. On the 1st February the *Express* further reported that a tournament between members had already taken place but the major event at the Institute was an open tournament on 12th March. This event was advertised on the front cover of the local newspaper on two successive weeks, during which time, through public demand, the entrance fee was reduced from 2s. to 1s. The tournament attracted competitors from Slough and Maidenhead as well as Windsor and Eton and was decided on what was described as the "coursing system" which we would know today as "knock-out". Ties in the early rounds were decided by one game of thirty points, but from the semi-final stage this was altered to a best of three games up to 20. Mr. Webb of Eton was successful on this occasion, with the winner of the previous tournament at Slough Public Hall finishing only third.

In the ensuing weeks more smaller tournaments were held, one at a school in Windsor where the number of lady entrants exceeded men, a ladies only tournament at the Royal Albert, a members' handicap tournament at the Slough Leopold Institute, while at the Public Rooms, Colnbrook, a small town about four miles east of Slough, four events were played including mens', ladies' and mixed handicap, plus a four-handed game (doubles to children of the twentieth century!).

Reports from the time indicate that table tennis, even then, had a winter season, but that did not stop the organisation of an open air ping pong tournament on a Tuesday and Wednesday in the middle of July. The event was played at the Rectory Garden, Slough, in connection with the town's bazaar, with tables placed on the carriage drive, and the fortunate beautifully sunny weather prevented the need for the contingency arrangements of a transfer into the Town Hall buildings becoming necessary. Three of the gentlemen responsible for events at the Leopold were charged with its organisation which featured groups for both sexes commencing at 3 p.m. each day, with the winners progressing to a finals tournament at 5.45 each evening.

The first inter-club match for which records exist was between two teams from Windsor, the Royal Albert Institute and Windsor Constitution Club, played six a side on 26th February 1902. The original intention was for each player to play each of his opponents two games up to 20, but not surprisingly this had to be curtailed when it became evident that there was not enough time to complete this in one evening. The following week the Christopher Hotel in Eton played host to a five a side match between teams representing Slough and Eton which the home team won by 39 points. The 1902-03 season saw the commencement of a series of matches between teams from Slough and the Uxbridge Constitutional Club with six players on each side. The first contest at Uxbridge on 12th March 1903 saw a victory for the home side by 10 games to 8, but at the return match at Slough's premier hotel, the Crown, revenge was exacted by 12 games to 6.

Interestingly, none of the local clubs is listed in the *Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer* of early 1902, but by the following season yet another had come into being. This was the Langley Ping Pong Club which held its meetings at the Village Hall in an area which has since become part of municipal Slough. At its end of season club tournament in April 1903, there were five events; open and handicap events for both sexes, plus a Mixed Doubles. As was common at the time, the prizes were more like presents, unlike the trophies presented at today's tournaments, and were often gifted by prominent members of the host club. Mr. R. Turner, the winner of the Gentlemen's Open event won a gold mounted cigarette lighter, while the ladies' winner, Miss D. Turner, was awarded a Slazenger E.G.M. lawn tennis racket.

After more matches between Slough and Uxbridge, with Slough being represented by the Leopold Institute, between November 1903 and March 1904 table tennis seems to have died quietly, as was the case in most other areas of England. Table tennis had had a very short lived existence commencing, according to an article in the *Windsor & Eton Express* of 19th October 1901, and reprinted from *The Windsor Magazine*, in about July or August 1900. By Christmas 1900 the game was such a sensation that "no upper or middle class social function was complete without its Ping-Pong table". The first reference to Table Tennis that I have found in the newspapers from the Slough and Windsor area is an advert from Herbert's Supply Stores Ltd., Eton who on 18th May 1901 had Ping-Pong sets for sale at 4s. and 6s. 6d. The following summer the same establishment was advertising an extended range of equipment: special sets made up from 4/3; table tennis tops 13/6, 19/6, 32/6 each; table tennis trestles 4/-, 4/6 each; bats from 4d.; Halex balls 10½d. per dozen; special balls for out door use 1/8 per dozen.

The sport re-emerged in the late 1920's and in 1931 the Slough and District Table Tennis League commenced operations, with one division of eight teams. Until the advent of World War II, by which time the league had grown to four divisions, matches were contested between five players each playing all five members of the opposition one game up to 21 points. Post war teams have been three-a-side playing nine singles and one doubles set of three games. The early front runners in the League were the Slough Y.M.C.A. who dominated events until the war, when the newly built Slough Community Centre took over.

In the 1960's Slough had a very fine junior team which produced amongst others, the famous Jill Hammersley, winner of European gold in 1976. The foremost club in the area is now Cippenham Table Tennis Club, founded by the author in 1973, and which expects to complete its own purpose built facility within the next year.

Graham Trimming

TABLE TENNIS BOOK CATALOGUE

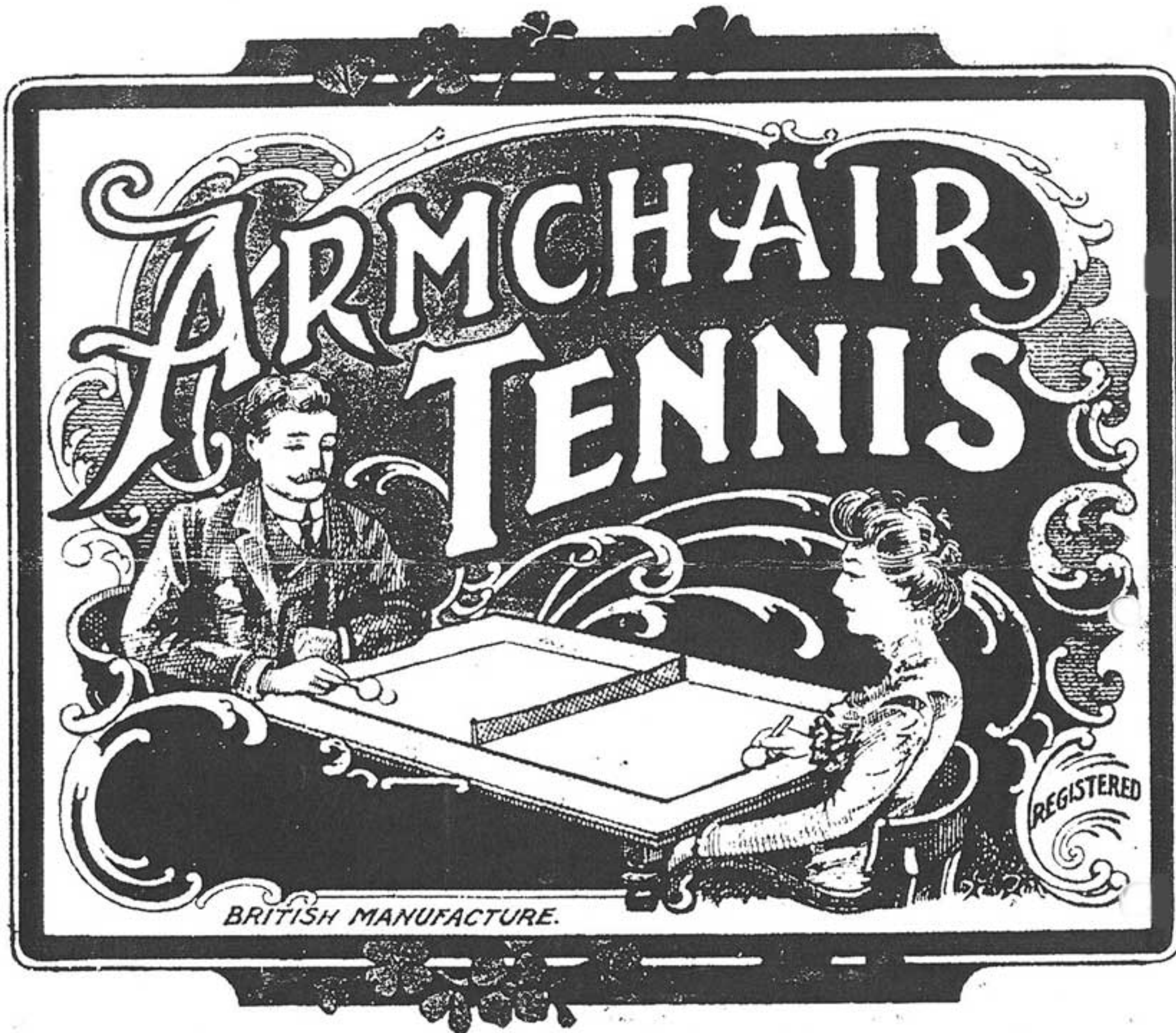
When I saw the table tennis book catalogue that Barry Hayward produced - and later saw a copy of Ron Crayden's catalogue - I realised that these, though very useful, covered only books in the English language or books in their own collections.

Last January, I started to make a comprehensive catalogue of all books that I know of in every language. This now comprises more than 500 different books, but I am sure that there are many more that I have never heard of.

May I ask for the co-operation of all readers? Please send a list of all the books in your possession (with title, author, date, country of origin and publisher). Your contribution will be acknowledged by a letter placed against the title in the catalogue.

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Hans Kreisler



One of several examples of tennis played with tiddlywinks.

The Table Tennis Collector is published in February, June and October each year. The February issue includes a list of all subscribers and their special interests.

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