

MARCH, 1949

Sixpence

TABLE TENNIS

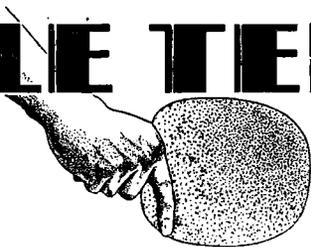


MARTY REISMAN
English Open
Champion
1948/49

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

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of the
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CLOTHES DO NOT MAKE THE MAN . . . BUT

DRESS regulations as they exist at present have two objects. The first is to ensure that no player wears clothes likely to interfere with his opponent's play; the second is to see that the game is put before the public in a dignified way, with the contestants tidily and appropriately clad for an energetic tussle.

* * *

THE first of these reasons brings about a prohibition of light or bright clothing. It has been the general opinion that white clothes would unsight the player at the other end of the table trying to watch a white ball. The United States Association has experimented recently, however, and has reached the conclusion that this is not such a big handicap as to outweigh the advantages which a white uniform, similar to that worn at lawn tennis, gives to the presentation of the game as a spectacle. The I.T.T.F. considered the subject at their 1948 Congress, and decided to ask all National Associations to arrange for at least one tournament to be played this season with the competitors in white.

* * *

IN due course further opinions on these experiments will be available. Of more immediate interest, however, is to see the question of how the players look being given some serious attention. Such attention is becoming very much needed, not only at the international and national level, but in lesser organisations and, most of all, in the personal arrangements of the individual player.

* * *

WHAT may and what may not be worn is clearly laid down in the E.T.T.A. Rules, which are in fact rather

more strict than the international regulations on the subject. You may have noticed foreign teams wearing pull-overs of one colour, which are discarded half-way through the match to reveal a different coloured shirt underneath. There is no I.T.T.F. rule against that—but don't copy them, because the E.T.T.A. rules, which apply to all tournaments and matches sanctioned by the Executive Committee prohibits this practice as liable to unsight opponents. So, when the girl friend next knits a cardigan for table tennis use, don't choose a Fair Isle; have it all one plain colour to match your table tennis shirt.

* * *

WEARING the right kind of clothes, however, is only half of the business. They should be clean and tidy, too. One or two people of international class, who should be above reproach, have recently set bad examples in this respect. We all know the difficulties of coupons and cash, of purse and purchase tax. We know them so well that we are perhaps inclined to make too many allowances for them. For holes can be darned, and the dirtiest and shabbiest flannels can be sponged and pressed.

* * *

TOURNAMENT organisers are naturally reluctant to act against players whose dress is not strictly in accord with the rules; still more so when the letter of the law is observed. But consideration for the good name of the game with the spectator public may demand that such action be taken if the good sense of players does not soon put an end to the post-war tendency to untidy and unorthodox dress.

A SAD LOSS

ON behalf of all our readers and followers, we tender our sincere sympathies to the Scottish Table Tennis Association in the loss they have sustained by the sudden death of Mr. Peter Coia, of Hamilton. He was not merely

their President, but in many ways the inspiration of Scottish table tennis. He represented Scotland at Stockholm, and made news by taking a game from Ivan Andreadis, but the real title he won was "A friend of all players."

ENGLAND 2, U.S.A. 8

The Aylesford Paper Mills maintained their reputation for first-class staging of international events when the match between U.S.A. and England was played there on February 24th. A novelty in the arrangements was an electric scoreboard, seen for the first time in an international match.

Most of the matches were close, but always it was the visitors who dominated the play. Miles, using his backhand drive to make openings for his fierce forehand, was at the top of his form; Reisman a little more careful than usual; the women up to their Corbillon-Cup winning standard. Bergmann tried new tactics of close defence in an endeavour to find a way of beating Miles and Reisman, but was always fighting a losing battle. Leach again played tired table tennis in the singles, but with Peggy Franks combined well to win the mixed doubles match, while Barna was too good for a Jimmy McClure who is but a shadow of the fiery lad we knew in the '30s.

Results—

R. Miles (U.S.) bt. J. Leach 15, 12;
bt. R. Bergmann 16, —15, 17.

M. Reisman (U.S.) bt. J. Leach 19,
—17, 19; bt. R. Bergmann 16, 18.

J. McClure (U.S.) lost to G. V. Barna
18, 11.

Miss P. McLean (U.S.) bt. Miss M.
Franks 20, 12.

Miss M. Shahian (U.S.) bt. Miss L.
R. Barnes —15, 18, 17.

Reisman and Miss McLean lost to
Leach and Miss Franks 8, 24.

Miss T. Thall and Miss McLean bt
Miss Franks and Miss Barnes 13,
18.

Miles and McClure bt. Leach and
Barna 18, —18, 18.

E.T.T.A. GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

The General Council of the Association met in London on February 26th and heard a detailed report on the season's affairs given by the Chairman, and accounts of the administrative and financial positions from the Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Other subjects discussed included the position of the Association in relation to Sunday play.

The Council decided that the nomination and voting for Officers and Executive Committee should follow the same procedure as was adopted last year. Only Council members nominated before 22nd March by Leagues and other entitled Associations whose affiliation fees are fully paid up by that date will be eligible for nomination and voting; nomination papers will be sent out shortly after that date.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION DECISIONS

The I.T.T.F. Congress held in Stockholm during the World Championships decided that next year's event should be held in Budapest, towards the end of January, 1950. Amongst applicants for subsequent years were Uruguay, who wished to have the honour for 1969, to coincide with some Centenary celebrations that will be on then.

The Europe Cup, which has now run experimentally for two seasons, is to come to an end; International fixtures have become too numerous, the Federation decided.

Most interesting decision is to eliminate the words "or dropping away" from the end of the second paragraph of Rule 10 of the laws of the game—the one relating to service.

ODD



SHOTS

T.T. TRUE STORIES

The score was 17-all. Two famous internationals are battling it out before the eyes of a hushed crowd.

They are not unnaturally just a little conscious of their skill, just a little proud of their ability to grip the emotions of the watchers. But pride comes before a fall . . . in that tense moment before a service a schoolboy's stage whisper rings out through the artificial silence :

"Mum, isn't the dark one like our window-cleaner ?"

Two club secretaries were discussing the purchase of a new table. Said one, "I like that one they've got over at St. —'s Youth Club,

nice finish, good bounce, and folds up easily."

"Yes, but is it strong enough ?" says No. 2.

"Well, it seems to stand up to all that those tough young lads can put over."

"Oh, I know that's all right. But what happens when we stand on it to put the lights up ?"

In the first post-war number of "TABLE TENNIS" we printed a picture entitled "Three to Watch." Two of the young men in the group, Denis Miller and Ronnie Hook, have made their mark with considerable success in tournaments since then, but the third, Howard Birch of Halifax, seemed to disappear from the field.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we learn that Howard Birch "of Toronto" reached the final of the Closed Singles in the Canadian National Championships. Apparently the Yorkshire youngsters are determined to break through wherever they may be—and good luck to them!

FOUR "SALTS" of EPSOM T.T.C.:

This formidable Surrey quartet, seen here with last season's "spoils," continue to make news.



Léft to Right :

JACKIE HEAD, conqueror of Amouretti in the English Open.

HARRY SWETMAN, County captain and coach.

KEITH HURLOCK . . . even Soos and Reisman took five games to beat him.

HARRY VENNER, singles sêmi-finalist and doubles finalist in the Surrey Open.

THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1948/9

LONDON FEBRUARY 16th—19th

THIS was America's year.

Four of our five major titles went to our crisp-hitting transatlantic friends who seemed to run into best form as a result of the lessons learned from their three-weeks' European experience.

Czechs and Hungarians were absent from the programme, but the crowds which swelled two "Wembley Night" receipts had the consolation of seeing a number of new faces in the final stages.

High hopes entertained that Johnny Leach would make the almost impossible "double" of World and English titles in one week were dashed by Alojszy Ehrlich at Paddington Baths in the fourth round. Ehrlich, in great form again despite illness and many misfortunes, defended so well that only a really fresh and keen attacker could have hoped to wear him down. Leach, far from fresh, was not patient enough in the fifth game.

PADDINGTON SESSIONS

A SLIGHTLY slippery floor, daylight infiltration during early sessions, and reaction from the big events of the world championships and travelling fatigue . . . these probably made their contribution to the unusual crop of surprise results.

However, we did not hear any of the "over-turned stars" complaining, and the fact that the "surprisers" were for the most part of the younger English school made the tournament very interesting.

Nineteen-year-old Denis Miller, of Walthamstow, showed signs of fresh improvement when he beat his Wimbledon namesake "Tony," no mean opponent. Denis, however, went on to add to his belt the scalps of two first-rate internationals, Haguenaer of France and Simons of England. He kept a cool head and a good length with his medium top-spinning drives and took his chances well.

Jackie Head, of Wimbledon, found his way to Wembley at the expense of French ace Guy Amouretti, while Howard Walton (Birmingham) with Ronnie Hook (Essex) earned their first appearance in the big arena by putting out Amouretti and Denis Miller. Birmingham pair, Wally Poole and Maurice Kriss, played splendidly to beat the Americans, McClure and Reisman, but were unlucky to meet Leach/Carrington soon after.

One of the best doubles matches was that in which the two last-named met Ehrlich and Geoff Harrower. By strong



ALOJSZY EHRLICH

defence and surprise hits the Anglo-French pair scored one game and then nearly the second, until the two attackers found a rhythm.

" FIVE-GAME HURLOCK "

Keith Hurlock earned for himself the title "Five-Game Hurlock" when he followed up his recent "long-set" battles with Soos and other Continental champions by actually lasting out five with Marty Reisman, the eventual winner!

Bubley also played brilliantly against Reisman; although the score read 3-1 to U.S.A., it was a matter of deuce margins only.

While Reisman was progressing thus moodily, Dick Miles appeared to be playing more seriously than usual.

In the same hour that saw the departure of Leach, Haguenaer and Amouretti, Richard Bergmann, the singles holder, was dismissed in three games by the fierce hitting of Michel Lansky.

Doug Cartland having to return home suddenly to America, allowed Bernard Crouch (Ashford) to reach the Wembley quarterfinals without international opposition, and Victor Barna had the same experience by virtue of Head's defeat of Amouretti—the very man who had knocked Barna out of the World's at Stockholm.

PEGGY DISAPPOINTS

THE women's matches ran more truly to form this time, although we had expected Peggy Franks to beat Mildred Shahian. The Mixed competition was remarkable for the highest general standard we have seen in this event.

The same praise is due to the Junior Boys, and it says much for the steadiness of Derek Ellison (Bolton) that he came through a field including Isaacs, Santer, Devereaux and Pierce, and Morris, of Wales, to win.

AT WEMBLEY

IN addition to the English new-comers already mentioned, the Friday evening session was notable for the appearance of the first Welshman ever to reach Wembley. He was Monty Smith, who combined splendidly with Head, although they could not hope to pass Bergmann-Barna.

Thelma Thall twisted her foot, so we missed an all-out match between her and McLean. Helen Elliot surpassed all previous form to rush Shahian off the table. The only hard match was Reisman v. Ehrlich, in which we saw some classic stuff. This young Marty is a queer cove; he has all the strokes one might pray.

Ehrlich made his young rival go full speed—no question of making allowances for a veteran. The moment young Marty tried to "show off," he was in danger of losing.

BARNA BRILLIANT

FINALS NIGHT proper, Saturday, 19th February, gave us a feast of sparkling table tennis equal to the best of the good old days at Wembley.

Feature of the evening was the renewed brilliance of Victor Barna. Always at his best under the Wembley lights, Barna was able to stave off imminent eclipse by the dashing but inexperienced Lansky, who led 1 game to nil and 20-17, only to throw the second game away by impetuosity. With the youngster shaken, Barna was able to impose his own tactics, and went from strength to strength.

Miles v. Reisman, the match we have all been waiting to see, was very good, but a trifle disappointing, because that little "nerve-bug" inside Miles prevented him from displaying his wonderful attack. Reisman, with a weaker game, won because he enjoyed that advantage the youngster often has over his mentor—he knows when the latter is worried, and he knows that his senior's tactics cannot surprise him.

YOUTH TRIUMPHS

THIS point was emphasised when Reisman faced Barna in the final. Barna's chop, although strong, was no worse than Miles's, nor were his hits so fierce, but the mixture of his play presented Reisman with new problems which kept him on tenterhooks. Reisman seems to be unable to avoid experimenting, even in a tight tournament match, and this just gave Barna that



THE AMERICAN CORBILLON CUP WINNERS who took all the Women's titles at the English Championships

little breathing-space he occasionally wanted. When the American maintained his continuous hitting, he made most of the points, but when he tried mixing it, well, he was up against the master.

Barna summoned up a speed of foot-work and stroke reminiscent of the days when the English title was almost his own property, and it was a dead serious Reisman who put the pressure on in the last five points to take the honour to U.S.A. for the first time.

Peggy McLean won with unexpected ease against Helen Elliot, who was understandably upset by the tragic news of Peter Coia's death in the Coventry air-crash when returning from the tournament that morning.

The same Peggy, with Thelma Thall, accounted for our own Peggy's hopes in the doubles final. Peggy Franks was partnered by 17-year-old Adele Wood, of Manchester, who thereby added a little more to the valuable experience of the last few weeks in Sweden, Holland, etc.

THE men's doubles final gave the crowd their chances to welcome the new World Champion, Johnny Leach; there were some good rallies in this match, but Leach was clearly still a tired man. Results on Page Seven

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Men's Singles, from 4th Round

Bergmann	Lansky	3-0	Lansky -12, 14, 20, 16	Barna 17, -21 15, 15	} FINAL REISMAN (U.S.A.) beat BARNA (England) 21-18, 17-21, 12-21, 21-19, 21-14
Lansky	Crouch	3-1			
Thompson	Barna	3-0	Barna 16; 8, 8		
Crouch	Head	3-1			
Barna	Reisman	3-2	Reisman -19, 8, 16, -18, 15		
Mackay	Ehrlich	3-2			
Head	Miller	3-1	Miles 14, 13, 18		
Amouretti	Miles	3-0			
Reisman			Reisman 18, -17 -12, 19, 14		
Hurlock					
Ehrlich					
Leach					
Miller					
Simons					
Thompson					
Elliot					

Women's Singles, from 4th Round

McLean	McLean	11, 11, 6	McLean 12, 4, -16, 12	Miss P. McLean (U.S.A.) beat Miss H. Elliot (Scotland) 21-12, 21-16, 21-14
Jones	Thall	-15, 10, -13, 22, 12		
Barnes	Shahian	-11, 20, 13, 19	Elliot 14, 16, 18	
Thall	Elliot	-17, 10, 6, 8		
Franks				
Shahian				
Bullock				
Elliot				

Men's Doubles

Quarter-finals: Leach/Carrington bt. Ehrlich/Harrower, Walton/Hook bt. Amouretti/Miller, Bergmann/Barna bt. Hurlock/Swetman, Smith/Head bt. Thompson/Sharman.

Semi-finals: Leach/Carrington bt. Walton/Hook 10, -20, 8, 18; Bergmann/Barna bt. Smith/Head 11, 14, 14.

Final: Bergmann/Barna bt. Leach/Carrington 21-17, 9-21, 21-14, 21-13.

Women's Doubles

Semi-finals: McLean/Thall bt. Elliot/Pithie 11, 19, 13; Franks/Wood bt. Shahian/Barnes 11, -16, 20, 14.

Final: McLean/Thall bt. Franks/Wood 21-12, 21-17, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles

Semi-finals: Reisman/McLean bt. Barna/Elliot 20, 19, -14, 15; Miles/Thall bt. Leach/Franks 12, 21, -12, 16.

Final: Miles/Thall bt. Reisman/McLean 21-16, 21-17, 18-21, 13-21, 23-21.

Junior Singles (Boys)

Semi-finals: Ellison (Bolton) bt. Bernstein (Hariesden) 11, 18; Devereaux (Paignton) bt. Jones (Wales) 17, 18.

Final: Ellison bt. Devereaux 12-21, 21-19, 21-10.

Junior Girls

Final: Miss A. Wood (Manchester) bt. Miss D. Rowe 21-14, 21-15.

Veterans' Singles

Final: S. Sugarhood (Romford) bt. L. Kerslake (Exeter) 21-14, 21-18.

Men's Consolation Singles

Final: R. Crayden (Sussex) bt. B. Kennedy (Leeds) 21-11, 21-17.

Women's Consolation Singles

Finals: Miss E. Steventon (Notts.) bt. Mrs. K. George (Surrey) 21-16, 21-13.

JUNIORS' TOUR OF SWEDEN

England's junior team came to join the senior team at Stockholm with heads high after a tour of 12 Swedish towns, in the course of which they lost only one match and put up some grand performances in invitation tournaments.

In the junior international at Karlstad, the English team won 5-1. Details: Devereaux beat Palm 12, 19; beat Karlsson 10, 14.

Ellison beat Andersson 9, 17; beat Karlsson -17, 15, 19.

Pierce lost to Andersson -19, 19, -16; beat Palm 18, 8.

DUTCH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(At Utrecht, 29-30th January, 1949)

Men's Singles Final—

Bergmann bt. Lansky 13, 11, 9.

Women's Singles Final—

Miss L. Barnes bt. Miss M. Franks 15, 18, -18, 18.

Men's Doubles Final—

Leach/Barna bt. Haguenaer/Amouretti 17, 15, -14, 5, 20.

Women's Doubles Final—

Barnes/Crosby bt. Franks/A. Wood 15, -19, 17, 19.

Mixed Doubles Final—

Sharman/Crosby bt. Leach/Franks -9, 10, -28, 11, 10.

Men's Singles Semi-finals—

Bergmann bt. Leach -20, 10, 17, 9; Lansky bt. Simons 16, 17, 16.

MIDLAND COUNTIES OPEN TOURNAMENT (At Birmingham)

Finals—

J. Leach bt. V. Barna 21-12, 21-12, 21-15; Miss M. Franks bt. Miss E. Steventon 21-13, 22-20; Barna and A. Haydon bt. Leach and R. Hook 21-13,

21-18; Miss Franks and Mrs. D. Haydon bt. Miss Steventon and Mrs. M. Cumberbatch 21-8, 21-7; Leach and Miss Franks bt. R. McKay and Miss J. McKay 21-10, 21-15.

NORTHERNER'S NOTE-BOOK

by STANLEY PROFFITT

I DON'T think I'm sticking my neck out by saying that the general playing standard in England now is higher than at any period in the life of the national Table Tennis Association.

The foreign hoodoo which has troubled our men for years appears to have been killed—we hope for good. Much of this is due to the brilliance of Johnny Leach and the fact that he won the World singles title has given other players the impetus to strive for future honours. When he lost in the English, Dennis Miller, Jackie Head, and Bernard Crouch stepped in and did not disgrace themselves on making their bow at Wembley. It is grand to write in this vein with the results to back one up; so often in the past we have had to make excuses.

Over Epsom way, 22-year-old Keith Hurlock has set the trail ablaze. He commenced by showing his paces in the Netherlands tournament and gave the crafty Soos a scare in Stockholm in a match that went to five games. Again in London after being two games up, Reisman like Soos had to go the full distance to beat him.

Brian Kennedy of Leeds is the only enigma. Having had every opportunity, a youngster of such wide experience should not fluctuate as he does. However, Brian is a stickler for practice and I for one have not lost faith in him.

Merseyside may well be proud of Bill Pierce. He is forging ahead and is likely

soon to fill the place which Ken Hyde used to hold in the Liverpool district and which has now so long been vacant.

Douglas Ellison obtained his objective in winning the English junior title and has put Bolton on the table tennis map. A grand performance when, after losing the first game to Louis Devereaux in the final the odds were against him. It was an eye-opener to watch the skill and enthusiasm in the junior events of the English Championships. The fifteen-year-old Rowe twins, Diane and Rosalind; Dorothy Minnings; and Shelagh Wood strove their utmost to dislodge Adele Wood, who nevertheless took the title for the second successive season. Lancashire junior champion, Ronnie Baker, fought might and main against Ellison; his turn will come, for his height, reach, and natural ability must eventually bring him success.

Another Bolton youth distinguished himself on February 21st. He is Alan Costello, who won the *Evening Chronicle* Novice competition. A great crowd saw a close fight in the final, as well as a fine exhibition by Ehrlich, Leach, Lanskoj, Casofsky and Carrington.

Latest news is that Manchester have beaten Northumberland (holders) in the Rose Bowl competition. The men are still in the Wilmott Cup as I write. What price Manchester for the double? There I go, sticking my neck out again.

WILMOTT CUP AND J. M. ROSE BOWL

The draw for the semi-finals of these National Team Competitions was made at the E.T.T.A. General Council Meeting in London on February 26th, and resulted as follows:—

Wilmott Cup:
South London v. Bristol.
Manchester v. Southampton Civil Service Club.

J. M. Rose Bowl:
Wembley v. Manchester.
Central v. Croydon.

The results in the quarter-finals were:—

Wilmott Cup:			
Southampton C.S.	6	Lincoln	3
Northumberland	3	South London	6
Staines	1	Manchester	8
Central	2	Bristol	7
J. M. Rose Bowl:			
Ipswich	4	Central	5
Manchester	7	Northumberland	2
Bristol	2	Wembley	7
Bournemouth	4	Croydon	5

There were a number of keen and interesting battles in these matches, and it will be seen that Manchester, the holders, are again in the semi-final of the Wilmott Cup, nearly 500 people paying £60 to see Manchester easily defeat Staines. Bernard Crouch was disappointing, losing all three, but Michael Thornhill put up the best performance of the day in beating Benny Casofsky.

The holders of the Rose Bowl, Northumberland, went down to Manchester by the convincing score of 7—2. Adele Wood demonstrating her superiority over other northern girls by beating both the Misses Purves and Wood. Central reached the semi-final for the first time, the key match being that in which Pinkie Barnes beat Jean Bostock (Nicoll) 21—17, 21—6.

OMNIBUS ODYSSEY

A Roundabout Trip To Stockholm

THOSE of us who went to this year's World Championships had the feeling of participating in some well-planned amphibious expedition.

The English and allied contingents descended upon Stockholm in a series of "task forces," appropriately made up of combat troops and auxiliaries, some going by air, some by sea, others by rail, and still others by road.

The last-named party was truly a heroic one; it included Johnny Leach and Ron Sharman of our team, three young bloods, two veterans, three cheerful ladies, two highly skilled reporters of the magazine "TABLE TENNIS" (yes, Stan Proffitt came with me) . . . a solitary representative of Ould Ireland, and for light relief, the one and only Steve Boros.

THAT BUS-RIDE

THIS mixed bag travelled in the 37-seater coach of what we should call "utility" design, together with our kindly hosts, the Dutchmen, and our friendly rivals the French.

With five nationalities of table tennis fans travelling 1,000 miles each way through four different countries, you might expect a little fun. Muscles stiffened, but tongues loosened, and before the end of the trip even the French girls could understand Boros' jokes.

HOLLAND

IT started in Utrecht, where our party had been invited to play in the Dutch Open Championships. Unlike our own "open" events, this is really in the nature of an invitation tournament of a high standard. Most of our folk acquitted themselves well, and some were still involved in the late rounds until 3 a.m. in the morning of Monday, 31st January.

Winners are shown elsewhere, but there were other interesting happenings. Keith Hurlock became favourite with the Dutch crowd by reason of two colossal five-game struggles with home internationals; Keith and Brian Kennedy went to five games with Amouretti-Haguenaer in doubles. **Haguenaer accomplished the difficult feat of leading Richard Bergmann in 18-11 in the fifth game, and then with only three minutes left to the time limit, found a way to give Richard 10 successive points to lose 18-21!**

—described by the Editor

Aubrey Simons beat the defensive French star Amouretti, but bowed to the beautiful aggressive style of young Michel Lanskoy, Russo-French lad who went on to beat Barna and lose to Bergmann in the final.

Pinkie Barnes played splendidly, and was good value for her win over Peggy Franks who has pipped her in so many English finals.

GERMANY

THE British Zone had to be crossed without stops for food or sight-seeing, and this involved about 11 hours in the little coach.

Anticipatory descriptions of the massive meals we were going to have in Denmark proved false owing to problems of currency and time.

DENMARK

THIS smiling land really did live up to its reputation in due course. After the 1½-hour rough ferry crossing to the main island, Copenhagen welcomed us with its wonderful lights and diversions.

We had a day's rest there, in which the Dutch team played an international with Denmark, winning 5-1. Johnny Leach, invited to give an exhibition afterwards, found that the match had finished unexpectedly quickly and the crowd had been sent home. **However, some of the crowd sighted him as they fought for their trams, and practically the whole mob came back through the turnstiles and took their seats once more.**

Leaving Copenhagen at 5 p.m. on 3rd February, we entered Sweden by way of the 25-minute ferry from the famous castle of Elsinore (Helsingors).

SWEDEN

A FEW delays—as when Mr. and Mrs. Sharman were detained in the Customs while 650 Swedish schoolgirls passed through in the other direction—and a few wrong turnings, somewhat stretched our so-called "12-hour ride" to Stockholm, and we finally reached journey's end at 2 o'clock in the morning of Thursday, the first day of the team matches.

However, nobody grudged the long trip through the charming countryside and the gay, clean little towns of Sweden.

TABLE TALK FROM . . .

SWEDISH EFFICIENCY

THE efficiency of the Swedish Table Tennis Association, which had started work at Wembley last year, was soon in evidence, and it was obvious that these championships were going to be a success.

The Eriksdalshalle proved to be a miniature Empire Pool, comfortable for players and onlookers alike. The arenas, normally used for indoor lawn tennis, had green wooden floors which, I think, made the ball more visible than on the usual unstained wooden floor.

This improvement was necessary, too, because, in my opinion, the lighting was not really good enough for world play. Tables, of Swedish solid wood, were slower than they appeared, certainly at least 10 per cent. slower than Jaques.

The scoring machines were a great boon, the recorder only having to push down one figure to bring the next up automatically.

Players of 25 nations were welcomed officially at the Stockholm City Hall on arrival day, and Crown Prince Bertil himself made a charming speech in English to the grand parade of teams before the finals of Swaythling and Corbillon Cup events. The Prince himself is a keen player; an action picture of him appeared on the current issue of the Swedish official magazine.

A GREAT MATCH

THE "league tables" for Swaythling and Corbillon Cups appeared in our February issue, as also a description of Johnny Leach's great win over Vana to take the singles title.

Leach himself would say that his toughest fight was against Dick Miles of U.S.A., an affair of fine all-round table tennis in which one man had to lose, that's all.

Johnny pulled through by his superior nerve at the final crisis, when Miles held match-point three times before our lad got home 24-22.

THE AMERICANS

WHY did the American team fail? Well, let's face it, Doug Cartland, left-handed third string, is too slow for the class, although a fighter and one of the greatest of all doubles players. Garrett Nash would have been better, but could not travel this time.

Apart from that, their team is just a little too easily shaken by an early reverse. If they could have more

SWAYTHLING CUP WINNERS



THE HUNGARIAN TEAM

frequent "needle" match experience, as Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc., do against each other, the technical skill of the Americans would pay better dividends.

As it was, they met a fighting-mad Hungarian team early in the week, lost, and thus were deprived of much of the incentive in their remaining matches.

The American girls have the spirit for a fight, but lack experience. As a team, however, they are well balanced, and our own girls did very well to make such a hard fight of it in the Corbillon Cup final.

NARROW CZECH DEFEAT

NO need to think the Czechs are finished, either. They only lost 4-5 to Hungary, with Andreadis scoring just one of his three matches. The gallant Stipek lost 3, yet it would not have been much against the book if he had won 3! He actually led Sido 18-12 in third game before losing.

RECORD LOW SCORE

OF the girls' individual matches, I should say the standard was a little disappointing, possibly because the slower tables favoured the stonewallers. Talking of stonewallers, the arch-

STOCKHOLM

Collected by
Jack Carrington

priestess of that tribe, Trudi Pritzi, of Austria, managed to hypnotise her old rival, Gizi Farkas, once again. As in her Wembley match versus Roseanu last year, Gizi faced a two-game deficit through trying to hit through the uncanny Pritzi chop defence. Thereupon she decided to snatch a quick lead and "sit on the splice."

How well she did this may be imagined by the record low scores of the last three games, shown below. In each of these 20-minute sessions, one point only was scored in respective periods of 17 minutes, 15 minutes and 19 minutes.

WELSH SURPRISE

PEGGY FRANKS came close to Farkas this time, one game slipping

at deuce which might have made the score 1-all instead of 0-2.

Caps off to the plucky Welsh ladies, Nancy Roy Evans and Audrey Bates, who ousted the athletic American youngsters Thelma Thall and Peggy McLean 3-2 in the first round.

Those who saw the latter win the English doubles at Wembley will appreciate how good a feat this was.

* * *

THE name of England is beginning to mean something in international table tennis. Not only did we produce the World Champion, the Corbillon runners-up, the women's doubles finalists, but also our younger school made themselves felt in no uncertain fashion.

SOME INTERESTING RESULTS

SWAYTHLING CUP.

Final Play-off: Hungary 5, Czechoslovakia 4.

Koczian/Stipek 13, —15, 16; /Andreadis 18, 16; /Vana 19, —9, —19; Soos/Andreadis —15, —7; /Vana —12, —11; /Stipek —16, 12, 17; Sido/Vana —19, 16, —20; /Stipek —20, 18, 18; /Andreadis 16, —18, 11.

KEY MATCH OF GROUP "A."

Hungary 5, U.S.A. 2.

Sido/Miles 15, 13; /Reisman 17, —7, —21; Koczian/Cartland 11, —20, 16; /Miles —16, —10; /Reisman 18, 18; Soos/Reisman 18, 14; /Cartland 20, 11.

KEY MATCH OF GROUP "B."

Czechoslovakia 5, England 1

Stipek/Bergmann 12, —12, —13; /Leach 10, 20; Andreadis/Barna 16, —11, 7; /Bergmann 14, 12; Vana/Leach 12, 16; /Barna 15, 13.

MARCEL CORBILLON CUP.

Final Play-off: U.S.A. 3, England 1.

Shahian/Franks —19, —19; McLean/Barnes 11, 14; /Franks 16, 20; McLean, Thall/Franks, Barnes 10, —12, 20.

OTHER KEY MATCHES.

England 3, France 2.

Franks/Boolet 15, 14; /Delay 15, —15, 18; Barnes/Delay 17 —7, —15; /Boolet —11, —16; Franks, Barnes/Vannont, Boelet 14, 9.

England 3, Austria 2.

Franks/Graszl 8, 7; /Pritzi 19, —4, —9; Barnes/Pritzi —19, —15; /Graszl 15, 12; Franks, Barnes/Pritzi, Graszl 11, —16, 11.

Men's Singles

Quarter-finals: Soos (Hungary) bt. T. Harangozo (Jugo-slav.) 12, 15, —16, 14; Leach bt. Miles 20, —13, 18, —12, 22; Vana (Cz.) bt. Amouretti (Fr.) 19, —14, —12, 15, 8; Reisman (U.S.A.) bt. Andreadis (Cz.) 16, 13, 17.

Semi-finals: Leach bt. Soos 12, 20, —18, —11, 20/18 (Time); Vana bt. Reisman 21, 18, 10. FINAL: J. Leach bt. B. Vana 19, —11, 17, —14, 16.

Women's Singles

Quarter-finals: T. Thall (U.S.A.) bt. Delay (Fr.) 13, —11, 16, —19, 12; Hruskova (Cz.) bt. Elliot (Scot.) 10, 8, 15; Pritzi (Au.) bt. Fuerstova (Cz.) 8, 16, 14; Farkas (Hu.) bt. Franks (Eng.) 11, 23, —18, 15.

Semi-finals: Hruskova bt. Thall 10, 15, —15, —18, 18; Farkas bt. Pritzi —12, —13, 8/1, 4/3, 3/0 (last three games time-limit).

FINAL: G. Farkas bt. K. Hruskova —19, —18, 8, 9, 9.

Men's Doubles

Semi-finals: Tokar/Andreadis (Cz.) bt. Miles/Cartland (U.S.A.) 13, 22, —14, 8; Vana/Stipek (Cz.) bt. Bergmann (Eng.)/Flisberg (Sw.) 11, —20, 14, 15.

FINAL: Tokar/Andreadis bt. Vana/Stipek 18, 8, 21.

Women's Doubles

Semi-finals: Elliot/Farkas bt. Fuerstova/Kotatkova 8, 5, 5; Barnes/Crosbie (Eng.) bt. Karpati/Mezei (Hu.) 19, 16, 11.

FINAL: Elliot/Farkas bt. Barnes/Crosbie 10, 11, 13.

Mixed Doubles

Semi-finals: Sido/Farkas bt. Leach/Franks 15, 12, 16; Vana/Hruskova bt. Reisman/McLean 11, 11, 15.

FINAL: Sido/Farkas bt. Vana/Hruskova 13, 15, 17.

Men's Consolation Singles

Winner was L. Stipek (Cz.).

Women's Consolation Singles

Winner was Miss P. McLean (U.S.A.).

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

HAMPSHIRE AGAIN WIN SOUTHERN DIVISION

Last month it was reported that Surrey 2nds would need to beat Hampshire by 7—2 in order to win the Southern Division Championships. Well, they went down by 4—5, but not before Hampshire had had several shocks. Surrey at one stage were leading 3—2, and only lost the mixed doubles at deuce in the third.

Muller and Minter won both their singles for Hampshire, whilst Hurlock who has recently played brilliantly against Vana, Soos and Reisman, lost both his for Surrey! So once again Muller retains his 100% record, and Hampshire are worthy champions, although it is understood that the Hampshire Association do not wish to challenge for a place in the Premier Division.

PREMIER DIVISION

The results last month have resulted in making it virtually impossible for Middlesex to lose the championship, as a glance at the table will show that they can afford to lose 1—8 to Warwickshire on March 11th and still win on average. The chief Middlesex rivals could have been Gloucestershire, on goal average, but they went down 4—5 to Surrey at Croydon, being unfortunate to play without Simons.

However, Shipton revealed brilliant form, beating both Sharman and Merrett, and the marked improvement in this player's form this season must be most welcome to Gloucestershire. Molly Jones maintained her 100% record, but Pinkie Barnes did not appear against her, being "on duty" for Central against Ipswich in the J. M. Rose Bowl. Molly certainly played well in Gloucestershire's next match, when she beat England's No. 1, Peggy Franks, in three games, and helped her team to a good 6—3 win over Essex, for whom Johnny Leach was unable to play.

Yorkshire also had their tale of woe, having to play a man short against Lancashire at the last moment, owing to Rosenberg's wife needing his comfort at a happy family occasion! They can consider themselves unlucky to lose 4—5, and, although holding the wooden spoon once again, their showing this season is a big improvement.

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

As expected, Middlesex 2nds became the first champions of this division, with

an easy 7—2 win over Hertfordshire. The Herts. men were unable to cope with Craigie, Miller and Thornhill, but Connie Bridgen, who played many times as Connie Wheaton for England before the war, helped in her side's two victories.

Essex 2nds became runners-up, with a good win over Bedfordshire, although this match started late due to the Beds. players having watched the extra-time cup-tie between Luton and Leicester!

NORTHERN DIVISION

Postponed matches have left this division extremely open, and, at the time of writing, the three remaining matches can result in any of Yorkshire 2nds, Durham or Cheshire winning the title. Lancashire 2nds, last season's winners, are right out of the hunt, going down 4—5 to Durham in a thrilling match.

SUPPLEMENTARY DIVISION

Nottinghamshire increased their chances of winning this section, with a 6—3 win over Derbyshire. This was an improved showing for Derby, for whom D. Walker,

(continued on page 13)

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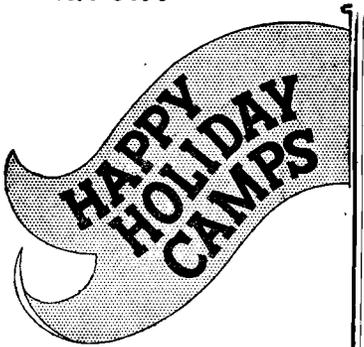
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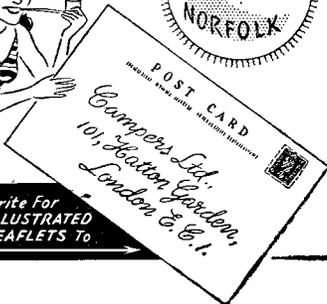
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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from Page 12)

their No. 1, put up a great show, beating both Anderson and Allcock. Nottingham played young Colin Crane, and he contributed to his side's success by just getting the better of F. Moody 25—23 in the third game.

Derby had another close struggle with Leicestershire, losing this time by 4—5. Again Walker won both his sets, and more should be heard of this player.

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

Premier Division :			
Yorkshire	4	Lancashire	5
Surrey	5	Gloucestershire	4
Gloucestershire	6	Essex	3
Home Counties Division :			
Hertfordshire	2	Middlesex 2nds	7
Essex 2nds	7	Bedfordshire	2
Cambridgeshire	1	Buckinghamshire	8
Northern Division :			
Durham	5	Lancashire 2nds	4
Northumberland	4	Yorkshire 2nds	5
Cumberland	0	Lincolnshire	9
Southern Division :			
Sussex	6	Kent	3
Surrey 2nds	4	Hampshire	5
Supplementary Division :			
Derbyshire	4	Leicestershire	5
Nottinghamshire	6	Derbyshire	3

DIVISIONAL TABLES

Premier Division

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex	5	4	1 29 16 8
Surrey	6	4	2 29 25 8
Gloucestershire	6	3	3 29 25 6
Lancashire	6	3	3 28 26 6
Warwickshire	5	3	2 20 25 *6
Essex	6	2	4 25 29 4
Yorkshire	6	1	5 20 34 2

Home Counties Division

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex 2nds	5	5	0 35 10 10
Essex 2nds	5	4	1 30 15 8
Bedfordshire	5	3	2 22 23 6
Buckinghamshire	5	2	3 26 19 4
Hertfordshire	5	1	4 14 31 2
Cambridgeshire	5	0	5 8 37 0

Northern Division

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Yorkshire 2nds	5	4	1 26 19 8
Durham	5	4	1 25 20 8
Northumberland	6	3	3 37 17 6
Cheshire	4	3	1 21 15 6.
Lancashire 2nds	5	2	3 21 24 4
Lincolnshire	6	2	4 24 30 4
Cumberland	5	0	5 8 37 0

Southern Division

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Hampshire	6	6	0 38 16 12
Surrey 2nds	6	4	2 33 21 8
Sussex	6	2	4 22 32 4
Kent	6	0	5 11 43 0

Supplementary Division

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Nottinghamshire	3	3	0 21 6 6
Leicestershire	3	2	1 12 15 4
Derbyshire	4	0	4 12 24 0

Looking Around

with George White

IT does not seem to be sufficiently well known that the affairs of the Association are, under the constitution, controlled by the General Council, on which every League and local Association—as well as the County Associations—is entitled to representation. Those whom one occasionally hears talking as though an evil autocracy were responsible for anything they don't agree with in the management of Table Tennis affairs would do well to consider whether they take full advantage of the opportunities which the E.T.T.A. Constitution affords for the expression of local views.

An interesting feature of the recent Council Meeting (reported elsewhere in this issue), was that, apart from hard-working Mrs. Pegg from the E.T.T.A. office and National Executive member, Lena Ferguson, there was only one lady present. A glance at the Handbook shows only four Leagues having lady representatives. Bearing in mind that it is from these representatives that the National Executive must be drawn, is this a good thing for our administration?

NOW that the World and English Championships are over, we have reached the stage of the season when thoughts turn to local closed tournaments. Sussex have already concluded theirs, Charlie Seaman, energetic and forceful as ever, being the men's singles winner. The Rind mother-and-daughter partnership which was mentioned in a recent issue of *Table Tennis* was again in evidence, and captured the women's doubles trophy. No problem here about which partner's mantelpiece shall have the honour of displaying the cup.

Amongst other closed events due soon, space permits mention of only two—one perhaps typical of what happens in nearly every League; the other probably unique.

Beckenham are staging their finals at the local Baths Hall on March 25th. Although the event has been running only four seasons, the entry still mounts annually and the finals have become almost a civic affair.

Unusual tournament is the Civil Service Championships, since the C.S.T.T.A. covers not only England, but Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well. With the progress of nationalisation, it might seem that everyone will soon qualify to play in this event; but the

Civil Service people rule out those like the Coal Board and British Railways staffs who are not employed directly by one of the Ministries. All the same, this leaves a pretty wide field for entries.

LEO Thompson, Bill Parker, and all the many others who have criticised the present service rule will no doubt consider the change adopted by the I.T.T.F. for next season (see page 2), as at least a step in the right direction. Will the umpire even now be able to check illegal services and also call net-cord services efficiently? We shall have to wait and see.

THERE was quite a bit of comment at Paddington Baths during the early rounds of the English about dress: people coming in to watch the game for the first time seemed to think it a pity that there should be such diversity of colour and style in the clothes worn. Maybe the American idea of all-white tournaments will provide the solution from the spectators' point of view, if the players take to it. Miles and Reisman wore white shirts for their Quarter-final at Wembley, and the comments of the audience will be interesting. The I.T.T.F., by the way, decided that there should be wider experiments with all-white dress next season.

Whatever the outcome on this point, however, there is no doubt a lot of scope for tidying-up dress, and this month's editorial article on the subject is very timely. I certainly hope never again to see anyone playing in the English Championships wearing collar and tie.

SURREY OPEN

At Epsom, 1st-4th March, 1949

- M.S.— FINALS
R. Sharman beat R. Crayden —15, 11,
—22, 18, 19.
- W.S.—
Miss R. Rowe beat Mrs. P. George 18, 20,
—15, —14, 14.
- M.D.—
Sharman/Craigie beat Venner/Hurlock 13,
18, —14, 10.
- W.D.—
Misses R. and D. Rowe beat Miss J.
Malget/Miss E. Weaver —18, 12, 19.
- X.D.—
Sharman/Miss Piper beat L. Thompson/
Miss Carruthers 12, 16.
- Boys—
M. Isaacs beat R. F. Smith 14, 8.
- Girls—
Miss R. Rowe beat Miss P. Piper 13, 17.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tournaments marked thus * include events specially for Juniors.

Date	Tournament or Event	Venue	Tickets or Information for :
*Mar. 19 ...	West of England Open	Exeter	H. J. Amery, 12, Kennerley Avenue, Whipton, Exeter.
*Mar. 19 ...	Grimsby Open	Cleethorpes	J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby.
*Mar. 21-26...	West Middlesex Open	West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, W.13	J. Joyce, 7, Croft Gardens, W.7.
*Mar. 31- Apl. 2	North of England Open	Manchester	E. Worsley, 13, Nursery Road, Prestwich, Manchester.
*Apl. 4-9 ...	Middlesex Open	Herga Lawn Tennis Club	Miss A. Fowler, 196, East Lane, N. Wembley, Middx.
*Apl. 6 ...	Civil Service Championships	King Edward Street, London, E.C.1	G. Glover, 20, Ansell Road, S.W.17.
*Apl. 16-18 ...	N.E. England Open ...	Scarborough Boys' High School	R. Dargue, 3, Broadway, Scarborough.
*May 2-5 ...	Thameside Open	Hydro Hall, Plaistow	L. R. Norminton, 31, Acacia Avenue, Romford.
*May 21 ...	Bucks Open	Slough Community Centre	L. W. A. Cresswell, 294, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough.

OUR COVER PICTURE!

MARTY REISMAN, age 19, of New York, is the new English Open Champion. Many thought he would be the new world champion, but he has shown that he still needs experience before he can use his great talents properly against the masters such as Vana, who beat him this year.

But what talent he has! Never has a man hit a forehand drive so fast with such little effort, and in defence, seldom has a player shown such ingenuity in getting out of hopeless positions (created in the first place by his own laziness, as often as not).

At present he seems to ignore his opponent, playing a private little game of his own with the ball. 20—15 to Marty is a chance to hit 5 off the table... unless it is the 5th game, when he seems to concentrate for the first time in the match.

His outward appearance of judicial calm is belied by frequent ear-shattering yells, discussions with the spectators, and self-exhortations. Whether these are spontaneous, to release tension, or just "part of the act," we cannot say.

Until we know this impish young man with the interesting new technique, better, we shall have to ask, in his own language... "Who are you kidding, Marty?"

WESTERN COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Men's Section, Division 1

Cardiff 6, Swindon 3; Cardiff 6, Bristol 3; Newport 2, Birmingham 7; Birmingham 9, Swindon 0; Worcester 5, Swindon 4; Bristol 6, Newport 3.

	P.	W.	L.	P.
Birmingham	8	8	0	16
Cardiff	7	6	1	12
Newport	8	4	4	8
Worcester	8	3	5	6
Bristol	8	3	5	6
Swindon	9	0	9	0

Division 2 (North)

Bath 6, Cheltenham 3; Weston 5, Gloucester 4; Cheltenham 6, Swindon 3; Bristol 5, Oxford 4; Weston 6, Bristol 3; Bath 4, Oxford 5; Swindon 6, Gloucester 3.

	P.	W.	L.	P.
Bristol	10	9	1	18
Bath	9	6	3	12
Oxford	8	5	3	10
Cheltenham	10	5	5	10
Weston	10	4	6	6
Gloucester	9	2	7	4
Swindon	10	2	8	4

Division 2 (South)

Exeter A 9, Taunton 0; Taunton 3, S. Devon B 6.

	P.	W.	L.	P.
Exeter A	5	5	0	10
Exeter B	5	4	1	8
S. Devon A	4	2	2	4
S. Devon B	5	2	3	4
Taunton	7	0	7	0

Women's Section (North)

Cardiff 5, Bristol 4.

	P.	W.	L.	P.
Birmingham ...	3	2	1	4
Bristol	4	2	2	4
Cardiff	3	1	2	2

Women's Section (South)

S. Devon A 4, S. Devon B 5; S. Devon B 6, Exeter A 3; Exeter B 1, S. Devon A 8; Exeter A 7, Exeter B 2.

	P.	W.	L.	P.
S. Devon B	5	4	1	8
S. Devon A	6	4	2	8
Exeter A	6	3	3	6
Exeter B	5	0	5	0

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