

TABLE TENNIS

FEB/MARCH,
FEBRUARY, 1947

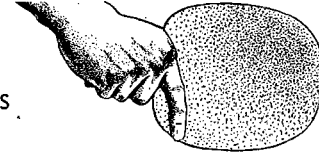
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION



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Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. V. No. 5

EMERGENCY ISSUE FEBRUARY—MARCH, 1947

From the Editor's Chair

Power-less

The February edition of *Table Tennis* was all set up and ready for printing when the great "switch off" was announced

For some weeks we, in common with many more important undertakings, were unable to proceed with original plans or substitute new ones. Eventually we decided to make this a combined February/March issue, 8 pages larger than the normal rationed size.

It comes particularly hard to have to "make do" at a time when so many exciting events are due for reporting.

One consolation is that the daily Press has been helpful lately and table tennis now claims a few inches on most sports pages.

In the emergency conditions it has not been possible to "re-hash" the whole magazine; we therefore crave your indulgence for any omissions or failures to bring items quite up-to-date.

Not so decadent ?

• . . . May we hold our heads just a little higher, for a change? The reports from Paris show that English table tennis has acquitted itself well.

Our Corbillon Cup girls proved invincible. We provided a finalist in the Women's Singles and the runners-up in the Men's Doubles. The Men's team was universally respected as good, hard fighters.

The reputation built up by this year's teams will give a flying start to those younger folk who, we hope, will be wearing the England blue before long.

The Great Unpaid

• . . . While the eyes of the table tennis world have been focused on the great championships in Paris, a band of hard workers in England have been busy preparing for a championship equally as important in many ways. Headed by Secretary Bill Pope and Referee Jack Kurzman, they have been organising that annual feast of fine play, the English Open.

If it is your fortune to receive this journal during your attendance at the "English," just look around you and spare a grateful thought for the officials and helpers. Year after year they have worked to make your playing conditions, organisation, and our *average* standard of play the best in the world.

What should be done for the Young Player ?

Many entries have been received in our competition under this heading. The standard of the entries is high and all are clearly inspired by a deep wish to help the younger generations. The ideas put forward are certainly interesting, although not all are practicable.

Selection of the winning letters will call for careful scrutiny and their publication must be reserved for a later issue.

THE EDITOR.



"I beat His Majesty"

says Iran's Champion,

M. F. MQHTADI,

now studying at Birmingham University and
playing in the City team

Table Tennis is becoming more and more popular in the ancient land of Lion and Sun. In Teheran, the capital, as well as other cities, table tennis clubs are opened one after another, and young people, specially the students, show very much interest nowadays in this game. I can't say definitely when the Iranians started to play table tennis, but as far as I can remember it could not be more than fifteen years ago. The game had no popularity until 1937, when a young Iranian student, called "Salim," came back from Paris, having won many tournaments in the French Capital and elsewhere. He tried to coach the young players and he succeeded in arranging some matches between the Czechs and Iranians. Later on, he was helped and joined by Rokni, who held the Birmingham University title.

The progress of table tennis in Iran is due largely to the special interest of His Majesty the King and the Royal Family. They are all very fond of the game. Just a short time after winning the title of the "National Champion of Iran," I was called and invited by His Majesty's Sport Organiser to the Court and, there in the magnificent and beautiful hall of the "White Marble Palace," I beat His Majesty 3-1 in a "best of five games" match. Afterwards, I was honoured to become a tennis and table tennis partner of the beloved young Shah and Her Majesty the Queen's coach. Undoubtedly, our King and Queen are amongst the first-class table tennis and tennis players of the country.

During the war, we had a good opportunity of visiting famous players of other countries. We arranged many open championships in which Americans, English, Russians, Polish, Czechs, Egyptians, Indians, etc., competed. Most interesting and exciting of all was the Inter-Allied Open Tournament, 1943, the finals of which were played at Teheran's

"Officers' Palace," in the presence of the Royal Family. In 1944, the Middle East Championship was held at Khoramshahr (Southern Iran) and was won by Sergeant Jack Cherry, of U.S.A., who beat me 3-1 in the finals. Cherry ("Yank") and I played many exhibition matches throughout the Persian Gulf Command army camps as well as in the Royal Palace. I also had the chance of inviting Lui Pagliaro and his companions (Micky Walker and some other world champions) who came to Iran on U.S.O. shows, to the Court and played some exhibition games before His Majesty the King.

Once again, I should like to say that table tennis is coming more and more into favour in Iran. In houses, in clubs, in schools, boys and girls play this game day and night. Open and closed championships are frequently being held by the Iranian Physical Education Department and clubs in all parts of the country. The number of new players is ever increasing. Iranian junior players specially have exceptionally good style and terrific speed in their play and, I imagine, they are now able to challenge juniors of any other countries. *I should confess this fact also that on the other hand, our girls are rather too slow in the game when compared to first-class players like Betty Blackburn or Vera Dace. They show more interest in fine arts and fashions than table tennis.*

I would like to write more about table tennis in Iran sometime in the future and meanwhile I shall send my best wishes to all the readers.

INTER-TOWN LEAGUE COMPETITIONS are going to assume ever-greater significance in the post-war organisation under county authorities. Among several successful "Inter" leagues are :-

SOUTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION, consisting of the following, reading in the order in which they finished the table last season :- Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, West Bromwich, Walsall/Darlaston (combined), Stafford (new entrant this season).

U.S.A. Team in England

by Ron Crayden—Surrey Champion

For the first time since 1938 a U.S.A. team has visited these islands. En route for the World Championships, they landed at Southampton on 13th February, where they were received by Miss Lena Ferguson, National Executive member, and other officials of the Southampton T.T.A.

Followed a whirlwind tour in which snow and ice lent their hazards to the normal strain of travelling.

Yet the Americans came up smiling for the big International Match versus England at Westminster Central Hall on 21st February.

"Smiling" is the word, because the visitors pleased the crowds everywhere by their cheerful and sporting table demeanour and their dashing type of play.

U.S.A. beat England 7-2 it is true, yet the play was far more even than that. Both George Goodman and Elizabeth Blackburn might well have reversed their Singles, lost at deuce. Nobody yet knows how the Filby/Blackburn Mixed pair turned a 17-9 lead into a lost game.

The full U.S.A. team was: Richard Miles, Lou Pagliaro, Sol Schiff, Bill Holzrichter, Lou Thall, Davida Hawthorne.

Two Old Friends

Two of these were known to us. Solly Schiff, red-headed, left-handed, mighty hitter, we remember for some of the most spectacular table tennis of all time. To-day he is a trifle more subdued, but still capable of tremendous attacking spasms.

Lou Pagliaro, 5 feet 1 inch in his high heeled shoes, is also more cautious than of old, but possesses a sticky chop defence and incredible agility. (He won the Scottish Championship during the tour, in which meeting Schiff was hit off the table by our own Benny Casofsky.)

Two New Stars

Of the newcomers, interest centred on the U.S.A. national champion, Richard Miles.

He turned out to be a slim, slight lad of 22, with dark, wavy hair, exceptionally bright eyes and great natural charm.

Showing a chop defence like Amouretti's and a forehand whip-drive like Vana's, he had us guessing, because no one could say how hard he was trying. Agile, but rather lazy, talented but inexperienced, here is a player and a personality for all to see.

By contrast, Bill Holzrichter is a cart-horse where Miles is a racehorse. Bulky and genial, and employing a repertoire of Bob Hope facial expressions to cover the little eventualities of the game. This courtly squire of the table will amuse and delight many, and surprise a few, but never win a key tournament.

The U.S.A. ladies are not so impressive as their men, but are not to be taken lightly. Leah Thall has a fierce drive on both wings and a good tactical brain. The other girls rely more on defensive placing, with an occasional winning smash. They all have plenty of fighting spirit.

WESTERN COUNTIES T.T.L.

MEN'S SECTION

Results : Gloucester 5, Swindon 6; Newport 3, Birmingham 8; Cardiff 11, Cheltenham 0; Bristol 6, Cardiff 5; Bath 6, Cheltenham 5; Swindon 5, Newport 6; Birmingham 9, Gloucester 2; Cardiff 5, Birmingham 6.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Bristol	9	9	0	18
Birmingham	10	9	1	18
Cardiff	11	7	4	14
Swindon	12	6	6	12
Newport	10	5	5	10
Bath	9	2	7	4
Gloucester	11	3	8	4*
Cheltenham	10	0	10	0

* Two points forfeited for playing ineligible player.

WOMEN'S SECTION

Results : Bristol 1, Cardiff 8; Bath 1, Swindon 10; Cardiff 5, Birmingham 6.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Birmingham	4	4	0	8
Cardiff	6	4	2	8
Bristol	6	4	2	6*
Swindon	5	2	3	4
Bath	7	0	7	0

* Two points forfeited for playing ineligible player.

Swindon League Comes of Age

This season the Swindon and District Table Tennis League celebrates its 21st Anniversary.

It was founded on the 16th December, 1925, by representatives of six clubs, of which only one, St. Saviour's, has maintained unbroken membership until the present day.

Progress was rapid, the number of clubs and teams quickly increased until, before the war, 28 clubs, 48 teams and over 600 members owed allegiance to the league.

Two players have been honoured by international recognition, Joe Silto, 1930-31, 1935-36, and Miss Gladys Beazley, 1936-37. Two international matches have been staged and many world famous players have visited Swindon.

The standard of play rose still higher and when, in 1937, Swindon entered the Western Counties League, they carried off the trophy without defeat.

Then came the war and the league carried on with decreasing numbers and increasing difficulties, but in 1941 the shutters were reluctantly drawn, the record books and score cards put away and competitive play temporarily abandoned.

Full Steam Ahead

Now the league is in full cry again!

Apart from three senior division, an innovation is a junior division for players under sixteen years of age. This should prove a useful nursery for "Town" players later on.

Their Chairman, Mr. W. G. Edgington, has presented a magnificent silver cup for this competition.

In addition to the league matches and the "Walker Cup" and "J. N. Read Rose Bowl" competitions, a full programme of individual and doubles championships have been arranged.

Both the men's and ladies' sections of the Western Counties League have been entered. Although only one player, Arthur Richens, remains of their champion team of 1938, several players are showing great promise and Swindon should have no team worries in the future.

Their secretary is Mr. D. A. Kethero, assisted by V. C. Dowse and E. Stillman, with G. J. Pickett as treasurer. Members of the committee are Miss G. Beazley and Arthur Richens.

EUROPE CUP

Our Men's Strong Bid.

England beat Switzerland 4-1 in the semi-final at Rotax Club on 24th January. Our team was Bubley, Harrower and Pilby—Merrett. The only game dropped was Harrower's against Urchetti (2-3).

The final of the West Zone was played in Paris on 14th February, and resulted in a 3-2 win for France.

Bubley beat Bordrez and lost to Amouretti. Leach—Carrington beat Haguenauer—Amouretti in the doubles.

Leach, suffering a rare lapse of form, lost to Amouretti and Haguenauer, the last-named veteran making a dramatic come-back.

France must play Czechoslovakia to decide the all-Europe contest.

Our Girls' Triumph.

England girls beat Scotland 3-1 in Newcastle on 10th February. Miss Elliott scored a win over Peggy Franks.

In the final against Czechoslovakia at Memorial Hall, London, on March 10th, our girls emphasised their world supremacy by a smashing 6-1 win over Czechoslovakia, whose team included two world champions.

Results.—V. Dace beat V. Depetrisova, 21-18, 21-12; E. Blackburn bt. Fuerstova, 21-17, 21-11; M. Franks bt. V. Votrubcova, 14-21, 21-14, 21-13; Dace bt. Fuerstova, 13-21, 21-15, 21-15; Franks bt. Depetrisova, 15-21, 21-11, 21-14; Blackburn bt. Votrubcova, 21-13, 21-17; Franks lost to Fuerstova, 21-13, 19-21, 19-21.

Last two matches were not played.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Detailed Scores of Final Session.

Men's Singles, Semi-finals: F. Sido (Hungary) bt. L. Pagliaro (U.S.A.), 21-13, 17-21, 21-7, 22-20. B. Vana (Czechoslovakia), bt. J. Leach (England), 21-10, 19-21, 22-20, 21-16.

Final: Vana bt. Sido 21-20, 21-14, 21-9.

Women's Doubles Final: Farkas and Pritizi bt. Clouther and R. Monness (U.S.A.), 22-20, 21-14, 21-9.

Men's Doubles Final: Vana and Slar bt. Leach and Carrington (England) 21-8, 21-14, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles final: Miss Farkas and F. Soos (Hungary) beat Miss Depetrisova and A. Slar (Czechoslovakia), 18-21, 21-13, 21-18, 21-15.

(For further reports see special supplement).

TABLE TENNIS

(The Official Magazine)

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IMPORTANT RULINGS

which may affect your play

The International Congress held in Paris on 6th March, 1947, made these two decisions of special importance:—

1. **To restrict Spin Service.**—To adopt, for all international contests, the American regulation, viz., that the player shall, in all cases, serve with serving hand open and flat, fingers straight and together, thumb free.

2. **To restrict "chiselling," or un-enterprising play.**—To recommend to all affiliated bodies the adoption of the American "Expedite Rule." This rule can be applied at the

discretion of the referee or umpire. After the umpire has given notice to the players, they must complete the game, serving alternately, with the stipulation that the server, must either score within 12 strokes or forfeit the point.

* * *

These matters will be explained in more detail in our next issue. Contrary to Press reports, they do not take effect until next season.

* * *

The Hon. Ivor Montagu was re-elected President of the International Table Tennis Federation, whose organisation he has guided so skilfully in the past.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST

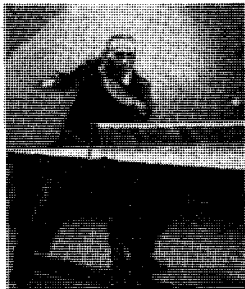
Bubley's Pictures
Tell a Story

OF CAUTION



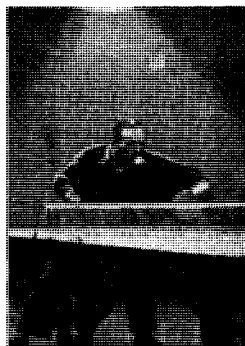
The Service,
innocent-
looking,
but always
carefully
placed.

CRAFT



He
Knows
all the
Angles.

AND CONCENTRATION



And,
my dear
SUCH
a
Touch

● Ernest Bubley, star of East London's Manhattan Club, has regained his position in the England team.

With the Cold Journeys but

During January the official E.T.T.A. Exhibition Team successfully carried out their 1,500 miles tour, completing all engagements notwithstanding fog, frost, snow and strikes.

Exhibitions were played in the following centres:—

NORTHAMPTON
CHELTENHAM
BUXTON
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
LEEK
MATLOCK
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
SHREWSBURY
ILFRACOMBE
PLYMOUTH
MAIDSTONE

and in all these districts the players were most impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the audiences and the energy (not to mention ingenuity) shown by the local organisers.

Players taking part included Victor Barna, Johnny Leach, Jack Carrington, Ron Litten, Peggy Franks, Elizabeth Blackburn, Vera Dace and Miss Molly Jones (Cheltenham).

The Press

Typical of the local enthusiasts' impression are these quotations from Mr. J. C. Baker's description in the "North Staffs. Post and Times":—

"Of the master's game itself this needs to be said: it has a polish which none can equal. Everything he attempts is stamped by his remarkable flair and while the backhand flick he made famous is still his most devastating shot, he can accomplish strokes in any position with superb skill.

"Leach was every bit as good as his reputation indicated—his defeat by Barna was a very near thing indeed. Luck favoured the erstwhile world singles champion towards the finish, otherwise Leach would have won the reward of his terrific endeavours.

"Peculiar to the game is the terrific enthusiasm which impels even the most finished players to express spontaneous admiration for a rival's competence—this was an amusing feature of the event.

"Why table tennis is barred from the Olympics is beyond comprehension! To ignore so athletic and superlative a sport is ludicrous."

Table Tennis "Showmen" Warm Reception for E.T.T.A. Tourists

Scottish Guest Star

Plymouth and Newcastle vied for the honour of producing the largest crowd. The former had to contend with a sudden spell of bitter cold, but still over 1,000 folk including the Lord Mayor, came to fill the Royal Naval Barracks at Keyham.

An interesting personality among table tennis helpers in this city was Raymond Bowden, well known as the Arsenal inside-right, who now runs a sports shop in Plymouth.

Newcastle, backed by the whole Northumberland T.T.A. equalled the Plymouth attendance in the face of competition from Rawicz and Landauer in the adjoining hall. In fact Barna and Miss Franks had to receive police help before they could get in "to see themselves play." Newcastle also had the enterprising idea of bringing Helen Elliot down from Edinburgh, thus the crowd was treated to a splendid ladies' singles match, won in confident fashion by Peggy Franks in the 3rd game.

LEEK, BUXTON and MATLOCK naturally could not compete in numbers but were in no way behind in enthusiasm. It was in this area that Barna first appeared in exhibition games with Szabados and Bellak and many fans not only remembered these games of 1930-odd but even produced souvenir programmes and expected Victor to remember names and conversations from those days, too!

BARROW and ILFRACOMBE stand out as areas isolated by geography but deserving a better fate. Both gave the visitors a great welcome and their local stars put up a good show. The game is followed very seriously in both districts and only easier travel facilities are needed to ensure a rapid advance in playing standard by the town players.

SHREWSBURY may congratulate itself on having the most impressive array of young talent met by the tourists. The three lads who stood up to the Internationals should bring much credit to Shrewsbury within a few seasons. Remember the names of B. Beale, C. Evans and J. Rogers.

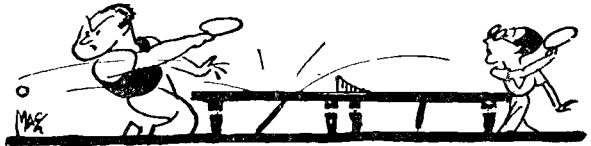
NORTHAMPTON and MAIDSTONE, first and last fixtures respectively, may fairly claim to share the prize for the best playing conditions. Of course, George Richardson, the broad-shouldered secretary of Northampton Y.M.C.A., has been sponsoring "tour" exhibitions almost since they started and knows well the relationship between good conditions and good play. The Maidstone show was staged by an individual club, Aylesford Paper Mills, who excelled themselves by constructing the neatest of cardboard surrounds for the playing area. Ten 200-watt lamps over the arena and a not-too-new, not-too-polished tournament table, overlooked by tiered seating in a pleasant warm hall, made a memorable setting

(Continued on page 9)



Photograph shows the E.T.T.A. exhibitionists at Leek. Names (from the left): J. Leach, H. Ratcliffe (Chairman of Leek League), Miss Franks, J. Carrington, G. V. Barna, E. Hood (Secretary, Leek League).

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

Bat's A Good One !

In our issue of February, 1939, it was considered "news" that world champion Vana was playing with the same bat he started with some six years before.

In the present state of affairs, any bat which is *less than* six years' old is more likely to rate a headline.

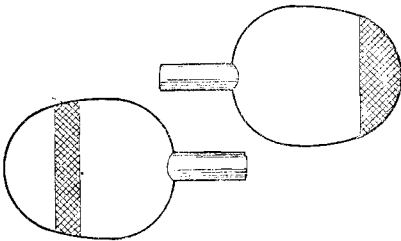
Incidentally, during Vana's last visit to this country, this same old weapon was trotted out.

In reply to our cunning enquiry, he gave its age as 13-14 years. Vana is certainly a sticker—sticks to his bat, and sticks to his story.

* * *

How's Yours ?

Is the rubber facing on your bat looking sorry for itself? Console yourself with these sketches of "rubber-faced" bats on sale on the Continent . . .



Just a trifle skimpy? Never mind, next season they hope to have a piece on *both* sides!

* * *

Worcester's New Weapon

Ron Weston of Worcester is another of those youngsters who have come back with their physique improved by six years in the forces

and he is reported to be in better form than ever. Allison, his team mate in the Worcester City side, is claimed to have an attack which is "*the nearest thing to a jet-propelled bulldozer*"!

* * *

By any other Name . . .

The Torbay Table Tennis League wish to inform their friends that they have changed their name to South Devon and Torbay T.T. League.

* * *

Ball Told when Bell Told

A deaf and dumb witness recently told the Acton bench through an interpreter that he answered a ring at his doorbell.

The chairman asked how he knew the bell rang.

It was explained that a device caused a hammer to strike a table tennis ball and sling it across the room.

* * *

"Ever since she was born, Margaret's name was Osborne. But now it is Knott."

England's women's non-playing captain took on another responsible job on January 25th when Miss Margaret Osborne was married at Edgbaston to Mr. Basil Knott.

On behalf of players everywhere, we wish Mr. and Mrs. Knott a long happy married life.

* * *

And Love comes to Liverpool

On the very same day, another well known T.T. sportsman "took the plunge." We refer to Mr. R. E. Roberts, well known Liverpool player and coach, on whose marriage to Miss J. Adelsberg, also of Liverpool League, we tender our hearty congratulations. The couples



Mr. and Mrs. "Bobby" Roberts

are spending their honeymoon in Ireland, where "Bobby" spent some years of his Service career and made many friends in table tennis circles.

* * *

Higher Education

We were pleased to receive a letter from Cambridge University Table Tennis Club recently. It seems to us that the game should definitely form part of a university syllabus, but in view of the clamour for teaching it in the infants' schools too, we must give Graduates some assurance that they will not fall immediately into the Veterans' class upon "coming down"!

More seriously, we welcome the interest shown by Mr. M. J. Pryor, of Trinity College, and his officers; they are interested in making fixtures with representative teams and we have already placed them in touch with Mr. John Waterman, of London University.

London have had a keen club for years; their recent notables have been Cooper, the young Indian, who serves up a sensation once or twice a season, and Richard Ringwald the Czech student who has been collecting a few "scalps" lately.

The Third Derbyshire County Closed Championships will be held at Matlock during the week ending 19th April, 1947. For entry forms and further details apply to Mr. E. A. Dakin, Morledge House, Smedley Street West, Matlock.

An interesting feature of the well-organised **NORTH MIDLAND OPEN** Tournament at Mansfield, was the provision of a raised platform for each umpire's seat. The "platform" consisted of a beer crate (empty). Simple, but effective.

LOWESTOFT & DISTRICT T.T.L.

Although not so fortunate as their neighbours at Norwich in keeping the league alive during the war, Lowestoft are now back into action again.

The Joint Hon. Secretary, Mr. Durrant, writes:—

"It is doubtful if a dozen of our pre-war members remained during hostilities. Most of our boys and girls (of all ages) were doing their job for their country in uniform in the 'four corners of the earth' and those who were not were busy in civil defence. The town itself suffered shockingly and most of the town centre was destroyed. Many clubs were demolished.

"Most of our pre-war members only returned during 1946. Table Tennis was completely at a standstill. Revival efforts commenced during August and by late September the League had been revived with a record membership of 45 teams, 3 divisions (men) and 1 women's. Lowestoft has an approximate population of 45,000 people.

"It is, we feel, Leagues with difficulties through the war and which are fighting hard to regain their lost status which need—and deserve—publicity."

Lowestoft are indeed to be congratulated on their efforts to stage a quick recovery and on the progress they have made to date. It is hoped that players in the Suffolk area will rally round and those who are interested should address their enquiries to Mr. A. E. Durrant, Y.M.C.A., 120, London Road, N. Lowestoft.

With the T.T. Tourists

(Continued from page 7)

for the last match of the tour.

When they have completed their precautions to overcome the slippery floor, Aylesford, who have already staged the Kent Closed Championships, will be well qualified as a venue for International events.

* * *

This tour was planned mainly to provide a good demonstration show for the more remote leagues; several times the players travelled all day, arriving just in time to start play.

IN GERMANY, TOO

At the request of the B.A.O.R. Sports Authorities, Miss Vera Dace, Ken Merrett and Bobbie Mackay (Birmingham) made a lightning tour in the Bad Oeynhausen area. In spite of the severe weather, the troops flocked to see them play.

Table tennis is now regarded by the Services as one of the most useful games for static troops.

More About Umpiring

By
George White

Umpires don't always realise that their duties begin *before the match commences*. Going through some of the points that need watching in a big match, let us consider first what you, as the umpire, should do before the game starts.

First of all, you must have a score-card, and you should be sure that the right players are taking part. I remember a dreadful mix-up on one occasion when two players in opposite halves of the draw played by mistake in what they thought was a semi-final.

If you are satisfied that the net is the right height and in the middle of the table, that the ball is a good one, and that the players' dress is in order, you can get the match started. If the players are inclined to spend too long knocking-up, you can often cut it short by asking them if they are ready.

The usual way of tossing up is by holding both hands under the table and asking one player to choose which one is holding the ball. This is simple and avoids difficulties with foreigners.

The winner of the toss has four choices. He may decide to serve, to make his opponent serve first, to start at one end or the other, or to make his opponent exercise one of these choices first. If he chooses either to serve first or to make his opponent serve first, then the opponent has choice of ends.

Make a Note of it

You should make a note of the first server, so that you can always decide who should be serving at any point. In doubles, make a note of the first server and the first striker-out in each game, for guidance should the order of play get mixed up.

Take up your position about five feet from the table. A high chair may be provided, but personally I prefer to stand. In this way, I can place myself in line with the net—the best position when the ball is in play—and by leaning slightly away from the server, I can see the ball just after it crosses the net; this helps in judging net-cord services. In doubles, it is impossible to be sure that the service is

in the correct court both sides of the net unless the eyes are well above the table, so for doubles at least insist on standing, for the players' sake, even if it means obstructing the view of a few of the spectators.

Announce the match, saying which round and event it is, who is playing, and how many games there are to be. Then, with the calling of the score "love-all," the game is started. After this, say nothing that is not absolutely essential while the match is in progress. Decisions should not be explained unless the players question them.

In calling the score, avoid the word *each* when the scores are equal. It may be more correct grammatically in singles, but it is liable to be mistaken for *six*. *All* is less liable to be mistaken, and is more easily understood by most foreign players. Always call the server's score first. For example, if the server loses four of the first five points, after calling "1-3" your next call will be "4-1." The practice of saying first "1-4" and then "service, 4-1," which is unnecessary and confusing to the players, is still far too common.

Be strict about the Service

Don't be afraid to penalise a player for a foul service; too often one sees services struck from over the table allowed to pass. In doubles, too, it is common for right-handed players to serve from well outside the side-line. This gives the server an unfair advantage, because not only can his service be more acutely angled, but also his partner is left more room to stand in position to deal with the return.

If you are a good umpire, you will use your ears as well as your eyes. The disturbance of the normal sound rhythm of the rally will tell you of a double bounce which you might not be certain about from what you can see alone. An umpire with alert ears can also often detect the first sign of cracking of the ball before the players, who are concentrating on their shots.

When the score reaches twenty-all, do not call *deuce* and afterwards "one-love" or "love-one." Carry on the score even, if need be, to forty-all and beyond, and enter the actual number of points scored by each player on the score

More About Umpiring—continued

sheet at the end of the game. At the end of each game, tell the audience who won it and repeat the score and the state of the match.

In the deciding game, do not forget to tell the players to change ends when one reaches the score ten—"Change ends please" is all you need say. In a doubles match, remember that the side which served the first five services has the right to alter their order of striking-out, or that of their opponents, at this point.

And at the end of the match, repeat the result in games and points for the benefit of the spectators.

News from Wales

The annual International match between England and Wales drew a large crowd at the historic Adelina Patti Pavilion, at Swansea.

From a playing point of view, the match, although promising well for Wales at one time, swung rapidly around in England's favour, and the final result of nine events to two was a fair measure of their superiority.

Walter Sweetland opposed Goodman, with whom he had a great game in the European Cup earlier in the season. The Welshman played better than ever before, and although he lost the first set when in a leading position, he crowded on the pressure, and playing every shot in the game confidently, left Goodman on eleven in the next two sets.

With the score now one all, Stan Jones and Hann opposed Sharman and Rumjahn, and though they, too, lost the first set, they won the next two convincingly enough. The English pair were a bit indecisive, and with Hann defending well, and Jones bringing in an occasional telling hit, the Welsh pair gained a good victory.

I was fortunate enough to have the Sweetland/Goodman singles and our Stan Jones and Hann doubles victory to broadcast, and these two matches made good material for the commentary.

I thought Ken Milsom should have beaten Sharman, who did not seem in very good form. Milsom played well with his backhand attack and forced many good openings for himself, but woeful inaccuracy with his forehand hitting cost him the game.

H. ROY EVANS,

Hon. Playing Captain

TABLE TENNIS IN RUSSIA

Table Tennis has at last been revived in the U.S.S.R., after being dormant for fifteen years.

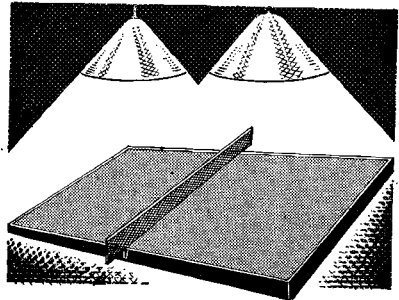
Twenty years ago it quite suddenly became the rage in every city in the country. Then, just as suddenly, it died down.

Now all sports clubs are taking it up again. The first Moscow Championships since 1932 have been held. Men's singles were won by Yefuin Dushkesas, who played for Lithuania's Swaythling Cup team in London in 1936. First an international at the age of 14, Dushkesas is now a 26 year old student of the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages.

One of the leading players in the women's singles is the Soviet Lawn Tennis star, Miss Kondratyeva. One hundred competitors entered for the chief events.

TABLE TENNIS SHADES

As supplied to leading T.T. Associations



To Play a Good Game
YOU MUST HAVE GOOD
LIGHT

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22 inches diam.

With Supporting Frame

For Ordinary Lampholders

Each 9/- Complete

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The High Cost of a Good Ball

Makers Answer Your Complaints

Many clubs and leagues have expressed concern at what are considered to be the very high prices now charged for Table Tennis Balls, especially those of tournament quality. In fact, these prices, exclusive of Purchase Tax, are more than double prices ruling in 1939. We took this matter up with the chief British manufacturers, who have replied as follows:—

Costs of manufacture in the early part of 1946 were nearly *treble* cost of manufacture in 1939, due, in the main, to

- (a) increased price of celluloid (double pre-war),
- (b) increased cost of labour. Highly skilled workers were transferred to war work during the war, and during 1946 a new force had to be recruited and trained. Production was consequently lower and more expensive. Wage rates were increased at least eight times during the past seven years (women's rates are now practically double pre-war). An additional cost is incurred because, owing to the scarcity of suitable female labour, men are now doing certain operations previously done by women.

NIGHT WORK NECESSARY

In an effort to overcome acute shortage by increasing output, night work has been introduced, again causing higher labour charge.

- (c) increased overheads. There is no need to elaborate on the increased cost of coal, transport, packing material, etc.

It should be borne in mind that the tournament quality ball must comply with the very exacting standards of the English and other national Table Tennis Associations. Scrupulous weighing, bias and other tests are necessary to ensure that every single ball sold as "approved" meets these standards.

Apart from the fact that this elaborate testing must be done largely by hand (and is consequently expensive) the percentage of rejects is naturally very high in relation to the percentage of "good" and "best" balls, and these relatively small quantities of "good" and "best" must bear the major cost of the testing processes.

The fact that tournament quality balls were not made during the war brings the price increase over 1939, including, as it does, a substantial Purchase Tax, as something of a shock

The foregoing considerations should convince players that current prices are not unjustified.

It is difficult to forecast future prices: a tendency towards rising costs will, it is hoped, be countered—at least to some extent—by increased output.

The "Wisden" of Table Tennis

You want the "gen" . . .

George has it!

The Official Handbook of the English Table Tennis Association is again in print.

Thanks to prodigious efforts by Geo. White and his sister Kathleen, the popular London officials, the 1946/7 edition of 90 pages triumphs over austerity conditions and presents itself as a really useful and interesting little volume.

It contains the Rules in full, all necessary Regulations for players and secretaries, the more important statistics, and most important of all, the addresses of all league secretaries. A free copy has been distributed to all affiliated clubs.

A limited number of copies is still available from E.T.T.A. office, 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Price 1s. 9d. post free.

NORTH MIDLAND INTER-TOWN LEAGUE at present only Nottingham, Mansfield and Chesterfield are participating. Neighbouring towns are invited to contact the secretary, Mr. J. A. Brown, 34, Big Barn Lane, Mansfield, Notts.

YOUTH CLUBS

E.T.T.A's encouraging concession

The question of the affiliation fee to be paid to the Association by Youth Clubs has been the subject of controversy for some considerable time, and the National Executive Committee has had the matter before them on a number of occasions.

They have now decided that the fee for bona-fide Youth Clubs should be reduced to 3/- per annum. If a Youth League decides to affiliate they will be accepted into good standing and the charge will be 3/- per Club, plus 1/- for each additional team in excess of one that may be playing for the Club in the League. The decision only applies to Youth Clubs who are affiliated to a local or national Youth Organisation.

As you will see, the reduction in the fee amounts to more than 50%, and the Executive Committee decided upon this figure because of their keen desire to attract all Youth Clubs throughout the country into the Association. They feel that the future of the game lies with its development amongst Youth and that we must look to the young players as the future representatives of the country in International Table Tennis.

We are hoping now that Youth Clubs will join the Association in large numbers and that the game throughout the country will benefit by their interest and enthusiasm. Special efforts should be made to attract the young players affected to enter all Open and other Tournaments. The decision does not affect Youth Clubs who at present play in a Senior League, as these will be expected to pay the same affiliation fee as is paid by the other Clubs in the League.

Readers may be able to help by broadcasting this information to all Youth Clubs, Leagues and Associations catering for Youth, and I sincerely hope that the decision now arrived at will be in the interest of the game throughout the country.

BEDFORD AND DISTRICT LEAGUE activities restarted this year, having had to close down during the war, owing to most Club rooms being requisitioned.

They now have 15 Clubs registered with the League (25 teams playing in 3 divisions, 2 men's and 1 women's). The position for first place in Division 1 very closely contested by Bedford T.T. Club and Bedford Lawn Tennis Club, the two outstanding players of the League being joined one to each Club—C. Weintraub to B.T.T.C. and P. Holroyd to B.L.T.C.

Neighbourly News - Service

Brighton Reports on Southampton's Tournament!

Players of the Brighton and District League gave a good account of themselves when they competed in the recent Southampton Open T.T. Championship, which attracted over 200 entries.

C. Seaman (English International and Brighton Champion) and G. B. Fretwell (who has figured in England trials) were outstanding in winning the Men's Doubles. In the final they won in 2 straight games. These two players were also prominent in the Men's Singles. C. Seaman reaching the semi-final by beating J. Glickman (London) but losing to H. Minter (Portsmouth) in the semi-final after some hard fought games. G. B. Fretwell, in the opposite half of the draw, beat G. Roberts (Southampton) in the semi-final and was opposed to H. Minter (Portsmouth) in the final, which H. Minter won after a good match in which the full three games were necessary.

Mrs. Clarke (one of Brighton's leading players) reached the final of the Ladies' Singles in good style. In the final she was opposed to Miss Patterson (London) who won after hard fought games.

Mrs. Bass (winner of Brighton 1945/6 Ladies' Juniors) and Mr. Bass (winner of Brighton 1945/6 Men's Juniors) did very well to reach the finals of the mixed doubles.

A long day for our players but every reason to be proud of their achievements.

(Signed).

G. E. RICE, Publicity Agent.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES T.T.L.

The Southern Counties Table Tennis League was formed in 1938, and comprised a Men's Division of one team each from Aldershot, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Salisbury and Southampton. The activities of the League were in abeyance during the war, but commenced again in the latter half of season 1945/46; Bournemouth winning the top place from Southampton, by one point.

This season, Winchester has joined the Men's League and a Women's Division has also been formed of one team each from Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Salisbury and Southampton. At the time of going to Press, Portsmouth and Salisbury men tie for first place, neither having lost a match, although Portsmouth lead on set average, and Bournemouth and Southampton lead in the Women's Division, being equal on points, but Southampton have had more sets scored against them than Bournemouth.

S. Minter, of Portsmouth, is the only player who has not yet lost a match, whilst R. V. Bryant, of Portsmouth (winner of the Veterans' Singles at Wembley last season) has lost only one.

THE MIDLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Finals 8th February)

This year's "Midland" at Birmingham Indoor Sports Stadium, set a high standard of organisation and comfort for players and spectators.

The Stadium has been specially laid out for table tennis by Mr. MacKay in consultation with the Birmingham T.T.A., who use it as their H.Q. Their competitors had ample room behind the seven tables in the centre "aisle," whilst leaving plenty of space for roamers amongst the tiered rows of seating.

Weather caused some cancellations, notably those of the Manchester contingent, but interest was maintained by the prospect of another chapter of the Barna-Leach "serial" for the final.

This duly came to pass, after Eric Marsh had creditably disputed a semi against Barna, and Bob MacKay had dutifully faded out against Leach. The Birmingham favourite pleased the crowd by pulling up from 7-19 to 18-20 in the first game, a somewhat light-hearted affair.

Leach v. Barna this time proved to be more educational than spectacular. Each respected the other's defensive power and neither could work up a free attack. Patience and good judgment gave Barna a well-deserved revenge in this match, of

which the scores reflect the story quite fairly: **15-21, 21-16, 20-15, 21-18.**

Most spectators enjoyed the doubles final between Barna-Hayden and Leach-Carrington.

This contest, involving three players over 35 years of age, was yet remarkable for the speed displayed and the space covered by the pairs in their defensive and counter-attacking manœuvres. Barna's margin of accuracy in opening up the attack in close rallies perhaps just turned the scale against the England pair: **21-19, 21-18.**

Elisabeth Blackburn, the only 1947 international competing, dominated the women's events. Scores:

Singles: Miss E. Blackburn beat Miss M. Jones **21-9, 21-11.**

Doubles: Miss Blackburn and Miss V. Patterson beat Miss M. Jones and Miss J. MacKay **16-21, 21-17, 21-14.**

Mixed: Leach-Blackburn beat Carrington-Patterson **21-14, 21-16.**

The 17-year-old Robbins of Wolverhampton beat his 17-year-old clubmate Morris in a promising Junior final.

A good show by Secretary Morris Goldstein and his committee, who have already shown their enterprise by reserving a special train to take 500 "Brum" supporters to Wembley.

BRISTOL OPEN FINALS

22-2-47

Men's Singles Semi-finals—

A. W. C. Simons bt. W. C. Dawes 21-9, 21-9; P. Grant bt. F. Grigg 22-20, 21-17.

Finals—

A. W. C. Simons bt. P. Grant 18-21, 21-11, 21-7, 21-16.

Men's Doubles Final—

Simons and Hutchings bt. Hipkins and Pickett, 21-19, 21-14, 21-9.

Women's Singles Final—

Miss M. Jones bt. Mrs. J. Crosby 21-17, 21-16.

Women's Doubles Final—

Miss M. Jones and Miss E. L. Mason bt. Mrs. B. Rind and Mrs. J. Crosby 14-21, 23-21, 21-15.

There was not sufficient time to run the Mixed Doubles event.

A. Simons continues to play extremely well, he won the Cardiff Open Tournament on 8th February, beating W. Sweetland in the final, two straight. When Bristol played Cardiff on 15th February, the match score was five all, with Simons to play Sweetland, and he again beat him two straight.

Results of the Junior Singles—Semi-finals—
R. Alcock (Manchester) bt. J. Hurst (Newport) 21-16, 21-17.

W. Rowe (Torquay) bt. A. Dimembro (Bristol) 21-19, 21-14.

Final—

W. Rowe bt. R. Alcock 21-17, 12-21, 21-12.

Both these boys played extremely good Table Tennis. Alcock is 17 years and Rowe 15 years last January. If they continue in their present style, international honours should come their way.

THE WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN

will be held at

EXETER, on SATURDAY,
29th March, 1947

(Commencing 1 p.m.)

Particulars and Entry Forms from:

Mr. H. J. AMERY,
12, KENNERLEY AVENUE,
WHIPTON ——— EXETER

“ Does Lawn Tennis affect Table Tennis or vice versa ? ”

By ERIC FILBY, All England player in both sports.

I have often been asked to express my views on the respective merits of Table Tennis and Lawn Tennis and the effect of the one game upon the other.

There seems to be some controversy as to whether Table Tennis is of assistance to Lawn Tennis and *vice versa*. To come to the point at issue immediately, I must emphasise that, in my opinion, the Table game is of great value to one's Lawn Tennis, but on the other hand the latter is not such a great asset to Table Tennis.

Personally, I have found that Table Tennis is a sure method of quickening the eye, for it is really a lot faster than Lawn Tennis, as the playing space is so much smaller. In fact, no sooner has one played a shot at the former, than one has to be prepared for the next, whereas in the latter game the player does have a little time to regain court position, if necessary, after a shot has been played.

The Grip

Grip is a very big factor in the combination of these two games, and players using the normal “ chopper ” grip at Table Tennis (this is the same grip as the Perry Lawn Tennis grip) do notice that this is a great asset. I have the honour of using the same Lawn Tennis grip as the great Fred Perry, and in the production of the forehand drive there is a lot of wrist work, rather reminiscent of the Table Tennis shot, and I am positive that Table Tennis greatly influenced Fred in the production of his famous forehand, and was of great assistance to him in improving this shot, as it has been to me in, I am afraid, rather a minor capacity.

Footwork

Footwork is rapidly improved by Table Tennis, for fast moving is a vital necessity in the game. Without it one is at a great handicap, and needs a vast amount of experience and court-craft to counter-balance same. The table game is also a great help to anticipation, for one has to think, if any thing, rather more quickly here than in Lawn Tennis.

I do not advise the playing of the two games at the same time. Personally, I have always attempted to avoid this, but

when it has been absolutely necessary for me to play both games on the same day, I have found it most difficult to become accustomed to the extreme differences in the weights of the rackets. As regards the shots, one especially notices the contrast between the locked wrist backhand drive in Lawn Tennis, and the “ flick ” backhand of Table Tennis. I have found it most difficult to get any wristwork in my backhand “ flick ” at Table Tennis after coming off a tennis court earlier in the day.

Spin

Another important factor is Spin, and generally speaking, it is employed far more in Table Tennis than in Lawn Tennis. In the latter game the players mostly employ flat shots, but of course there are exceptions, especially in the production of the forehand drive, where a lot of top-spin is often used.

One famous Lawn Tennis professional had the notion that Table Tennis was a definite hindrance to Lawn Tennis, but he has now changed his views and is in favour of the playing of Table Tennis as a help to Lawn Tennis.

In conclusion, may I say that personally I do not believe that either game is a hindrance to the other, as long as they are not played at the same time. In fact I consider Table Tennis to be a great asset to Lawn Tennis, and the latter, in a very minor degree indeed to Table Tennis. Certainly it is more than a coincidence that many first-class Lawn Tennis players commenced their sporting career with the table game.

OUR WEMBLEY WEEK-END COMPETITION

Owing to delays following on the fuel crisis, we regret that this competition cannot be completed in time to invite the winner to Wembley.

Please keep your coupons ; details of a modified competition will appear next month.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPLEMENT

PARIS 28 FEBRUARY - 7 MARCH 1947

SUMMARY

	Winners.	Runners-up.
Corbillon Cup	... ENGLAND Hungary
	★	
Swaythling Cup	... CZECHOSLOVAKIA	U.S.A.
	★	
Men's Singles	... BOHUMIL VANA ... (Czechoslovakia)	M. Sido (Hungary)
	★	
Men's Doubles	... B. VANA and A. SLAR ... (Czechoslovakia)	J. Leach and J. Carrington (England)
	★	
Women's Singles	... GIZI FARKAS ... (Hungary)	Elizabeth Blackburn (England)
	★	
Women's Doubles	... G. FARKAS and T. PRITZI (Austria)	M. Clouter and R. Monness (U.S.A.)
	★	
Mixed Doubles	... B. SOOS and G. FARKAS (Hungary)	A. Slar and M. Depetrisova (C.S.R.)
	★	
Men's Consolation Singles	... H. ANDERSON ... (Sweden)	... B. Casofsky (England)

Highlights

Elisabeth Blackburn reached the Singles Final and, during the week, played what was generally conceded to be the best woman's table tennis ever seen. She beat Farkas, the new champion, in the team event, and Pritzi, the 1938 champion, in the singles semi-final, with complete ease.

Johnny Leach proved himself one of the great. (Read Haydon's comments.)

Leach and Jack Carrington reached the Final of the Men's Doubles. Their teamwork brought them victories over Miles and Pagliaro (U.S.A.) and Tereba and Stipek (Czechoslovakia).

These two club-mates met in the last eight of the Singles.

Benny Casofsky reached the Final of the Consolation Singles.

Eric Filby and Elizabeth Blackburn beat Tereba and Kettnerova in the Mixed first round, only to lose to Barna and Peggy Franks later.

Vera Dace reached the Singles semi-final but could not find her best form for the key match against Farkas.

Barna and Haydon reached the Doubles semi-finals and only lost 2—3 to the winners.

Players from the following countries took part this year:—

England	Palestine	France
Ireland	Egypt	Belgium
Scotland	India	Holland
Wales	Iran	Luxembourg
Channel Islands	U.S.A.	Denmark
Switzerland	Hungary	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Austria	Poland

Two young ladies accompanied the U.S.A. official team entirely at their own expense. They were Rita Monness and Mae Clouter, and they won through to the final of the Women's Doubles, losing quite narrowly even then.

Ivan (*Oh-so-easy!*) Andreadis thrilled the crowds with his beautiful style, but unaccountably went to pieces against the dour Ehrlich in the 3rd round (3—0).

Slar, too, with all his repertoire of strokes failed (3—0) against the determination of Haguener in the 2nd round.

A Few Impressions

By BENNY CASOFSKY
(English Swaythling Cup player)

Three good hard matches per day may sound like a table tennis player's dream, but, believe me, it is not all honey when your first match starts at nine and your last finishes at midnight.

In between these times you may play nine strenuous best-of-threes, but that is not the hard part, to me, at least.

To me, the worst part is the sitting on the hard bench, watching and willing one's team-mates to win, hoping one moment and despairing the next.

Then again, the journey from hotel to the Racing Club took half an hour by Metro, with two changes, while as for the journey to the restaurant where we went twice a day for our food—! Well, we had the option of 10 minutes' walk, 5 minutes wait for a bus, and 5 minutes' bus ride, or a straight 20 minute walk. Each way, and twice per day.

Not that our hosts did not live up to the reputation of French catering; they really did. Food and service were excellent considering present difficulties; but to an English stomach some of the dishes were psychologically unsuited.

I am afraid most of our stomachs were very English in this respect! We missed our cups of tea (there is practically no milk at all in Paris) and, speaking for myself, I missed the pudding after our meals.

My impression of the players? Well, with all the real stars, I was struck by their calmness, their will-power to fight back after a run of bad luck.

If one is leading 19—11 one must never relax; it is necessary to play every point like a deuce point.

For the most part they put more energy into their play than our boys, and especially they seem to concentrate on getting all their weight into the fore-hand drive—even if this means "running through" the ball each time it is driven.

With this, of course, all the top men combine a really soft dropshot, and the contrast between the fierce drive and the gentle dropshot is the foundation of the winning game.

Ambitious youngsters should ponder well on that last paragraph.

World Championship Brevities

The first World Championships were held in season 1926-27, in London.

The last was in season 1938-39, in Cairo.

The next is planned for season 1947-48, in London. Provisional date is December of this year.

The only Englishman to win the Singles title was Fred Perry, of lawn tennis fame, in 1928-29. Miss Woodhead won the Mixed title with the Hungarian Bellak in 1937-38.

* * *

The holder of the Men's Singles, Richard Bergman, did not compete this time. After 4 years in the R.A.F., he has published his decision not to compete in further open competition.

He was at the Finals, however, and caused leaflets to be distributed, bearing a challenge in six languages. The leaflet states that Bergman will play any challenger for a £500 stake in a best-of-5 match, conditions arranged by himself.

Gambling in any form on table tennis is strictly barred by every national association, so no leading player could accept such a challenge without leaving the organised game.

* * *

Victor Barna won the Singles title five times and was runner-up once in the six years 1930-35.

This year the great star was eclipsed in the first round by Lou Pagliaro. A little unlucky to meet such a steady opponent at such an early stage.

Barna and Haydon, however, ran the Doubles champions, Vana and Slar, to 5 games in the semi-final and came very close to winning.

* * *

The new woman champion is Gizi (full name Gizelle) Farkas, 22-year-old Hungarian blonde. Plays in a bright red shirt and ginger slacks, to the accompaniment of war cries, groans and cheers from her team mates.

Hardly spectacular, but sure and courageous, and possessing the champion's instinct for turning the pressure on or off at the right moment in a big match. Has a splendid defence, but wins mainly by a sudden back-hand flick varied with drop shots.

Bohumil Vana, the Men's Champion, holds our English title from last season, and previously won the World's title at Wembley in 1938.

Our representatives were not without support. In addition to the official teams a party of two dozen enthusiasts travelled to Paris under E.T.T.A. auspices.

All were provided with season tickets to the sessions, but most of them "had a go" themselves in the tournament.

Then there were the Welsh, the Irish and the Scottish teams and supporters. Taking in the Channel Islanders and perhaps a half-share in the Americans, it was seldom that one of our players played a match without a few friendly faces on the side lines.

* * *

Scotland, unfortunately, only had two men, Brown and Gills, to represent them in the Swaythling Cup, owing to a last-minute hitch.

This, of course, eased Czechoslovakia's path to the final—a little!

Never mind, Scotland; you are only a young Association; may your resources soon increase enough to enable you to compete on a full scale.

Meanwhile, the Scottish women's team, Miss Elliott and Mrs. Nanie, kept the flag honourably flying. They beat Sweden and Belgium, while Helen actually took both Singles against U.S.A. and France.

* * *

The youngest member of the British contingent—and believed to be the youngest competitor in the whole tournament—was Miss Violet Patterson, of St. Mark's Club, East London.

Aged 19, she showed a fine flair for best-of-five match play, and took in her stride Miles. Gayna, leading French player, Detournay, Belgian international, and Siegrist, Swiss international.

* * *

The burly Sido of Hungary broke his bat at 18-all in the 3rd game against Goodman. Thoroughly dismayed, he appealed for a substitute. Eventually he picked one up, took it to the table with a look of utter disgust on his face—and proceeded to win the match 21-18!

SWAYTHLING CUP PLACINGS

Pool "A"	Matches		Games Record
	Won	Lost	
Czechoslovakia	8	0	36—0
Austria	7	1	30—10
Sweden	6	2	28—30
Egypt	5	3	21—20
Ireland	4	4	15—27
Denmark	4	4	15—27
Luxembourg	3	5	17—27
Austria	2	6	17—32
Egypt	1	7	3—36
Scotland	Scratched.		

Pool "B"	Matches		Games Record
	Won	Lost	
U.S.A.	8	0	40—4
France	7	1	35—10
Hungary	6	2	33—16
ENGLAND	5	3	33—18
India	3	5	16—32
Belgium	3	5	18—29
Switzerland	2	6	22—36
Wales	2	6	14—36
Holland	0	8	10—40

England's scores.—Lost to U.S.A. 2—5; to Hungary, 3—5; to France, 3—5. Beat India, 5—0; Wales, 5—0; Belgium, 5—0; Holland, 5—0; Switzerland, 5—2.

In the final play-off Czechoslovakia beat U.S.A. by 5 events to 2. Miles, the American champion, lost all his three matches.

CORBILLON CUP PLACINGS

Pool "A"	Matches		Games Record
	Won	Lost	
Hungary	7	0	9—3
Czechoslovakia	6	1	8—3
Wales	5	2	6—10
Holland	4	3	6—11
Austria	3	4	4—6
Egypt	Scratched.		
Luxembourg	Scratched.		
Roumania	Scratched.		

Pool "B"	Matches		Games Record
	Won	Lost	
England	6	0	18—0
U.S.A.	5	1	15—6
Belgium	3	3	11—12
Switzerland	3	3	10—13
Scotland	2	4	11—13
France	2	4	9—15
Sweden	0	6	1—18

England's scores.—Our team beat all opponents in Pool "B" by 3—0, and beat Hungary in the final by 3—0.

TABLE Collected

Old England

A. J. Wilmott, venerable English International and member of the Jury of the I.T.T.F., was much in evidence in Paris. Unable to play owing to a leg injury, his advice and experience were available to all.

Resplendent in his royal blue blazer with white braid, and England badge on the pocket, he was indignant when a French waiter insisted on seating him amongst the Americans. Apparently the Frenchman thought that such fine feathers could not belong to the English cage!

Young Czechoslovakia

The strength of Czechoslovak table tennis is truly remarkable. Outside the three who dominated the Swaythling Cup, namely Vana, Andreadis and Tereba, were 7 or 8 other men capable of beating most of the other countries' teams.

Their play is characterised by speed of hit, forehand or backhand, incredibly wide angling, and a clever use of sidespin in both defence and attack.

Defenders rarely trouble these boys. As one of them said in delightfully apt English, when asked his chances against a redoubtable opponent: "If he will hit, well, I am not sure; but if he will chop, then I think it shall be convenient for me."

It was!

Time Marched On

How many points make a game. Twenty-one, you say? Not always. The slow tables at Paris led to a mild revival of the old "chiselling" tactics, and the time-limit of 20 minutes per game had to be applied several times.

Lou Pagliaro, playing Soos of Hungary, was astonished to find himself suddenly declared the winner of the first game at the score of 18—17. This seemed to give him ideas, because when Paggy met Ehrlich in the Singles quarter-final, he didn't even bother to get 18 points.

He won the first game by 9—4!!
(More about time limit games in our next issue.)

Wot—No Cup?

Our girls fought for a Cup that doesn't exist now! At least, the cup presented by M. Marcel Corbillon. President of the French T.T.A., Association, cannot now be found.

The reason? In 1939, the so-called

TALK FROM PARIS

by JACK CARRINGTON

German team won it, by virtue of having "annexed" Trudi Pritzi, the Austrian, who was then reigning World Champion.

The Cup went home to Berlin and then came the war. Ivor Montagu "moved in" shortly after the liberating forces, but all his detective work drew blank. Some blamed the Russians, some the English, and some the American bombers. Nobody blamed the Germans.

But there it is—or rather, there it isn't.

Hit 'Em Off-sky!

An interesting first round encounter was Casofsky versus Turnofsky. The latter was a tall young Czechoslovak with an attack as facile as the Manchester man's. Turnofsky won the ensuing slogging match by 3—1. At one point, going the wrong way for one of Benny's drives, he ingeniously smacked a winner from behind his back!

Cromwell's Ruins

Freddie Cromwell, veteran Manchester International, was there, reporting the Championships for the Kemsley newspapers.

Having the bad luck to break an ankle just before travelling, he was very pluckily hopping around the tables and up and down stairs, gleaning news, on a pair of borrowed French crutches.

However, he got some quiet fun out of telling Roy Evans, the Welsh captain, what he *would* have done to him in their 1st round match. Moreover, he scored a real "scoop" by collecting the "big shots" autographs on his plaster-of-paris bootee.

Vana Speaks

Some observers maintained that the quality of the play was below pre-war standard, and that the players were inferior.

Hear what Vana had to say on this matter: "In reality the players are much better than before the war, but the play itself in this Championship is down by about 30 per cent. There are several reasons, each of them affecting the play a little, and altogether a lot. These are the weak lighting, the balls, the irregular tables, and the very cold atmosphere."

The little maestro went on to say:

"In this Championship there are at least twelve players who could win the Singles title. Now, if it would be held in England, with English tables and balls and lighting . . ."

"Yes," I prompted.

"Well," said he, with a suspicion of a smile, "it would be something different!"

What the Ex-Champion Said Afterwards, and what He Didn't Say

Over a cup of tea on the cross-channel steamer, Richard Bergman expressed his opinions thus:

"I do not think to-day's players are inferior; the form of play may be less spectacular, but that is the modern style and it is here to stay.

"In the old days you were either an 'attacker' or a 'defender.'"

Fair enough; you could settle down to play a pleasant game. But now the job is just to win 21 points and to win them in the safest way.

"If necessary, you abandon one wing altogether for attack, as Vana has his backhand, just to cut out possible error.

"This technique need not be less spectacular really, but the real solution lies not with the players but with the organisers.

"For good—and good looking—table tennis, we must have (1) standard tables, English type; (2) well-selected balls; (3) a non-slip floor; (4) strong and well-spaced lighting; and (5) a warm atmosphere.

"Cold stadiums like Wembley or the Palais des Sports in Paris affect both the players' muscles and the flight and resiliency of the ball."

Of the players, Richard said:

"Vana was a worthy winner of this year's World's. No new phenomenon has yet appeared.

"Leach has now proved himself in the World Champion class. Miles needs a year's play outside the U.S.A. before he can be fully judged.

"Farkas is good but Vera Dace, in good form, is still the strongest woman player."

"And you," I asked him "could you have won this year's championship?"

The smile he gave me was certainly in the World Champion class.

The Captains Report

Adrian Haydon

Margaret Osborne

It has been a pleasure to captain this team. They have conducted themselves well, have fought as hard as I knew they would, and have achieved more than I really dared to hope before we went.

Every player in England may be proud of the great performances of Johnny Leach. To lose only two Singles in the Swaythling Cup matches was remarkable, but even more heartening was the way he learned a lesson, and improved his judgment from every struggle.

When it came to the World Singles, he went from strength to strength. Two games down to Agopoff (France), he pulled out 3—2.

Then, facing the much-heralded Richard Miles, he produced a masterpiece of tactical play which completely broke the American Champion's morale (3—0). Two rounds later he did much the same to that great attacking player, Tereba (3—1).

Leach v. Carrington in the quarter-final had a familiar English ring, and speaks much for the tenacity of Johnny's partner in breaking through so far.

In the semi-final against Vana, our young man played one of the best games I have seen. Rushed off in the first game 21—10, he fought back to claim the second 21—19.

The third game was open, too, until 17—all, then Vana scored from a net-ball and an edge-ball in succession. At 20—18 to Vana, Johnny still came again to make it deuce, only to lose 22—20.

In the fourth game, Leach found his 7—4 lead remorselessly converted by the clockwork precision of Vana into a 7—14 deficit!

Apparently undismayed, he climbed that long road back to 15—16. But then it was Vana's turn and he ran out a winner (3—1) at 21—16.

What a great effort against a man with the World Championship in his grasp (for everyone sensed that this was the real "final" and, in fact, Vana went on to beat Sido to 10, 14 and 9).

All our boys improved in the good company. Bubley proved a reliable "bread-and-butter" match winner but could not upset the top-class defence.

Goodman, Casofsky and Filby all lent good support when required, according to their particular styles.

Need I say how thrilled I am to see our team so firmly established as the world's best, and winners, for the first time, of the Corbillon Cup with a record score of 21—0.

Against this success, we must measure a certain disappointment that none of our girls could quite pull off an honour in the individual events. But I must agree that Gizi Farkas, in her determined way, was a well-justified winner when she met Vera Dace in the semi and Betty Blackburn in the final.

These two perhaps did themselves less than justice in losing their Doubles to Pritzi-Farkas; Peggy also, I feel, could have defeated Furstova.

But things like this must happen in any long tournament, and at least our girls never faltered when a team match was involved. All three have time to learn from this experience; and I think what they will learn first is to study each opponent separately, and to adapt their own play according to conditions and the state of the score.

It was pleasant to note great improvement during the week on the part of Vi Patterson, our "reserve," and Helen Elliot of Scotland, whom we unofficially "adopted." Helen's tactics were excellent; she gave Blackburn a hard fight, and has future championship possibilities within her.

That such strong players as Pinkie Barnes, Gwen Mace, Molly Jones and Doris Rivett are not called upon merely emphasises the strength of our women's game. They would all do credit to many of the national teams.

CRAYDEN CREEPING UP?

Famous Surrey Tournaments Revived

Both Ron Crayden and Vera Dace performed the strange feat of winning two singles titles in one day, when the revived Surrey and South of England Open Championships were decided at Croydon, 15th February, 1947.

Crayden beat Filby 3—2 to win the S. of E., and he beat Merrett 3—0 to win the Surrey singles.

Vera Dace beat Pinkie Barnes 2—0 in both finals.

Remaining Surrey Open winners:—
Mixed Doubles: Leo Thompson and Vera Dace beat Gwen Mace and Merrett by 2—0.

Men's Doubles: Filby and Merrett beat Crayden and W. King (Willesden) 22—20 in the 5th game.

Women's Doubles: Misses Barnes and Patterson beat Mrs. Atherton and Miss Wright-Swallard 2—1.

Lucky Dip In the Editor's Postbag

"MOORE" WORK?

Although the Wolverhampton and District Table Tennis Association is not so large as the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League, consisting as it does of seven divisions and 68 teams, I am moved to mention that whilst acknowledging that Mr. F. R. Moore must be an enthusiast, his duties are comparatively light.

He is Hon Match Secretary and Registrar. This office is merely part of my duties with the Wolverhampton Association and is embodied in that of Secretary-Treasurer. No one needs to be told what that means. I also have to keep records, on similar lines to Mr. Moore, we also have K.O. competitions, and Individual Closed Championships. Being also a member of the selection committee, I also visit matches regularly, and make it a point never to miss an Inter-League game, whether Men's, Women's or Junior.

That's a good start, but I must mention that I am Chairman of the Midland Counties League, consisting of Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, Worcester, Coventry, Stourbridge, and West Bromwich. Admitted, the bulk of this work falls on the Secretary, Mr. M. Goldstein, but I did referee the M.C. Tournament! Being co-founder, with Mr. A. A. Wall of West Bromwich, of the South Staffs. Association, with Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Walsall, Stafford and Shrewsbury as members, also entails a certain amount of work, especially as I am Secretary-Treasurer! The South Staffs. runs a Men's and a Women's League and Individual Tourney, and I keep all the records.

I play for my Club team (there are four teams from the Club in Wolverhampton) as well as being Chairman of the Sports Club table tennis section.

Is it advisable to infer that being a member of the National Executive involves a certain amount of work? Because I'm a member of that as well.

Yes, I do work as well, but now it's only a five-day week, perhaps I can get to the Wolves away matches as well as their home games. Sorry I didn't get to see them beat Liverpool, Mr. Moore.—Yours sincerely,
PAT HASKEW.

"YORKSHIRE" AGAIN!

Dear Sir,

I see in your Editor's page, you mention a team of four youths in a Yorkshire League who claim they can beat any similar team. Could you please, as soon as possible, send me particulars of these lads, which League they play in, their names, etc. (if you know them).

There are four of us in a team here of the same ages and although we have not had the chance to play matches far away from our own town, we are as a team unbeatable here. And we think we'd stand a chance with most players, one or two men who have had tournament experience, and witnessed or played in many big Championships, etc., think we are pretty hot.

But, of course, here in Scarboro' we cannot improve further as we are right at the top, and vastly superior players have, in the time we have been playing (some of the war years) never visited Scarborough, so we have never had the opportunity to see Barna, etc., or even top ranking British players.

We think we are good and we would like the opportunity to prove it (or the other way) so we will also be pleased to see the names and addresses of Tournament Secretaries for the N.E. Yorks open, Grimsby open, etc., published in your magazine in time for us to get a few entry forms for these events. Also could you tell me where is the nearest place to Scarborough that top ranking players could be seen, perhaps in exhibition, etc. Such players as V. Barna, etc., tour the country I'm told, and if there was a possible chance to see them play we would go, as we're very keen.

Given bags of practice and experience, sooner or later we hope to make ourselves felt, in tournaments, etc. (I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your reply—if you can find time between games.)

Hoping you have the best of luck this season.

Yours sincerely,

H. NEWSOME

On behalf of the other three.

Dear Sir,

This I feel to be rather a rash boast, as I consider that I have in my Club four boys who, I feel certain, could give the Yorkshire team a fine old run for their money! These boys also are under 17.

I would be very pleased if we could possibly arrange a match between our team and theirs. Please write and tell me if you can help me in this matter.

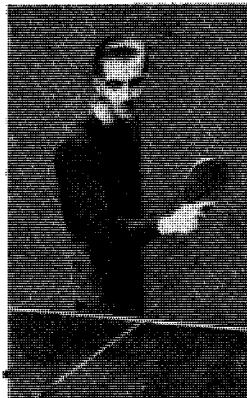
J. HILLMAN,

Club Leader.

RON SHARMAN

Our new English International
versus Ireland 25.1.47.

Won all three matches for South v.
North 20.1.47.



A good all-round tactical player who has improved consistently this season.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

March 22nd.—London Open: E. A. Vennell, 15, All Hallows Road, Caversham, Berks.
 March 20th/22nd.—Irish Open: N. M. Willson, 128, Sandown Road, Belfast.
 March 29th.—Grimsby Open: J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby.
 March 29th.—West of England Open: H. J. Amery, 12, Kennerley Avenue, Whipton, Exeter.
 March 29th.—“Gwent” Open, at Newport, Mon.: Mr. G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport.
 April 19th.—Cheshire Open: W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 18.
 May 3rd.—Bucks Open.
 May 9th.—Wembley Open.

Exhibitions.
 Mar. 18.—U.S.A. team at Aylesford Paper Mills, near Maidstone.
 Mar. 19.—U.S.A. team at Croydon.
 Mar. 20.—“Evening Chronicle” finals and International Invitation Tournament at Bellevue, Manchester.

CHESTER AND DISTRICT

THE CHESTER AND DISTRICT LEAGUE started activities in September, 1946, again after a break since 1940. Interest is gradually on the increase, especially at the home matches of the Lancashire League, South Western Division, where victories were gained over Southport and Crewe and an excellent match with Liverpool was lost 6—3. Chester's No. 1 player, J. Devine, has been representing the city now continuously since the League's formation in 1933. His younger brother, W. Devine, has made great strides since 1940 and is now No. 2 player, also partnering his brother as the Doubles players.

Great interest is being shown in the Wilmott Cup as the team have progressed to the 3rd Round and have high hopes of disposing of Crewe and reaching the final of Zone 2.

The name of R. C. Juler is well known in table tennis circles and after inaugurating the league and acting as Hon. Secretary for 6 years he is now a very active Chairman.

Good support is received from the local press and a 6-inch column is devoted to notes and league tables weekly.

The Y.M.C.A. are having a hard battle for 1st Division honours this season and are closely challenged by County Officers.

TABLE TENNIS BATS

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CAN YOU HELP?

Many enquiries are received by this journal from players wishing to join Table Tennis Clubs in all parts of the country. Unfortunately, owing to the equipment situation we do not know of many clubs who are in a position to accept new members. Any Club Secretary who is interested in receiving such applications should submit details to us for inclusion on our register.

WILMOTT CUP DRAW Inter-League Men's Teams Competition

Zone 1. Round 5.
 North Middlesex League v. London League to be played by March 29th.
Inter-Zone play-off. Round 1.
 Winner of zone 5—Southampton League v. Winner of zone 2—Liverpool League.
 Winner of zone 6—Lincoln League v. winner of zone 7—Birmingham Association.
 Winner of zone 8—Sunderland League v. winner of zone 1—North Middlesex League or London League.
 Winner of zone 3—Norwich League v. winner of zone 4—Bristol League or Exeter League.
Inter-zone Semi-final.
 Winner of zone 8 or 1 v. winner of zone 5 or 2.
 Winner of zone 6 or 7 v. winner of zone 3 or 4.
 Inter-zone play-off Round 1. To be played by April 12th.
 Inter-zone semi-finals and finals to be played on April 26th on a neutral table.

ROSE BOWL DRAW Inter-League Women's Teams Competition

Zone 1. Round 5.
 North Middlesex League v. London League.
Inter-zone play-off. Round 1.
 Winner of zone 4—Bournemouth League v. winner of zone 1—North Middlesex League or London League.
 Winner of zone 5—Exeter League v. winner of zone 7—Grimsby League or Sheffield League.
 Winner of zone 6—West Bromwich League or Birmingham Association v. winner of zone 3—Blackpool League or Liverpool League.
 Winner of zone 2—Northumberland League—bye.
Inter-zone Semi-final.
 Winner of zone 3 v. 6, v. versus winner of zone 5 v. 7.
 Winner of zone 2 v. winner of zone 4, v. 1.
 Inter-zone play-off Round 1. To be played by April 12th.
 Inter-zone semi-finals and finals to be played on April 26th on a neutral table.

Women's Match Thrills

South London League beat Central League 3—2, the decision resting on the final doubles in which Miss V. Dace and Mrs. D. Atherton defeated Miss E. Barnes and Miss S. M. W. Swatman at 21—18 in the third game. At one stage in her singles match against Miss V. Dace, Miss Barnes held a lead of 19—16 in the third game. The England No. 1 player only pulled through at the score of 23—21 after many exciting moments.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

(2/- per line. Box Nos. 1/- extra.)

MATCH TABLE TENNIS TABLE wanted, Jacques or similar reputable make. Must be in tip-top condition. Particulars and price to: Secretary, Y.M.C.A., Table Tennis Club (1946), Gt. Russell Street, W.1.

FOR SALE.—Pe-war Table Tennis Table; new condition, 8ft. x 4ft., £3.—Phone: Hamilton, Temple Bar 7676.

PERSONAL.—“Would Harry A. Price, late of No. 5 M.D.C. (Guildford), please communicate with Percy C. Lawes, 38, Shepherds Lane, Guildford.”