

TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL
ORGAN OF THE

ENGLISH
TENNIS



TABLE
ASSOCIATION

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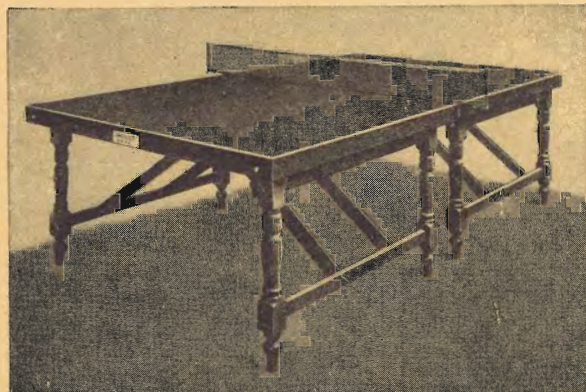
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OCTOBER, 1938

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VOLUME IV. No. 1

OCTOBER, 1938

THREE PENCE

Problems Still to Solve this Season but the game goes steadily forward

by

The Hon.

IVOR MONTAGU

Chairman, English Table
Tennis Association

WE enter upon a new year of table tennis with the game, at home, more solidly established than ever.

The World Championships of last year, the scale on which they were conducted, the ability and absence of friction with which they were carried through, not only made new and firmer friends for the game among the general public, but testified once again to the good fortune of a national organisation which can command the loyal unpaid service of so many enthusiasts.

The fact that, for the first time, the championship organisation did not involve financial loss is, further, an evidence at least of the capacity of the organising officers and committee members to profit from experience.

It augurs well for the solution of the outstanding problems facing English table tennis.

Nor must be forgotten the share of the players in this success. The national selection and training scheme established for the men was well repaid by the keenness shown, not only by those eventually selected for the representative team, but by others on its margin.

AS a captain I must here introduce a personal note of commendation for the conduct, not only of those who took part in the principal matches—and who, if they did not realise extravagant hopes in all matches certainly exceeded them in others—but for those also whose part was necessarily an unselfish, but none the less an essential and helpful one.

The achievement of the team in defeating one of those eventually taking part in the decisive match for the Swaythling Cup must not be underestimated, and in it all shared.

The high place attained by the women's team, and the feat of Miss Woodhead in being the second English player to earn the title of world champion, both deserve high appreciation.

* * *

Problems past—and to come

WHAT are the problems that chiefly face us at home? A year ago we were mainly preoccupied with the difficulty of control of registered players, the low standard of play—reckoned on the international plane—of our men players, our share of the troubles attending the world-wave of "pushing," and certain internal complications based on a feeling that, perhaps more attention could be paid by the central organisation, necessarily situate in London, to the affairs and aspirations of the provinces.

The most hopeful sign is that, as I think none will contest, while none of these problems has disappeared, they are none of them so pressing or urgent as twelve months ago.

It is apparent already that the chief problem of this season will be the rationalisation of our work in the association, so that all the manifold matters that arise will be dealt with as expeditiously, and the link between centre and provinces remain at least as close.

The headquarters staff too (particularly the honorary secretary), must be relieved of at least part of the onerousness of the burden they to-day assume. The maintenance on the right lines of the development of county bodies is an aspect of this.

* * *

A VERY important aspect is the development of circulation for the Magazine, as a means of informing and interesting all enthusiasts, and thus making them play a knowledgeable part in the furthering of the game.

Another effort will be made this year, by those who believe in its possibilities, to develop the League-of-Leagues in contrast to the tournament side of competition. Its fate will depend, as so many projects, on the availability of the proposed players.

Women's standards MUST improve

But particularly an effort is to be made to develop the women's side of the game.

Unlike our "playing" task last year, the purely domestic one of raising our own home standard of men's play to nearer the best level abroad, our task in respect to women's play is a part of our international one, to raise the general level of women's play in the best interests of the game.

Our women, as their excellent performance in achieving second place in last year's cup competition demonstrated, are the peers of the present best, but it cannot be denied that the present level of the international class in women's table tennis is deplorably low, lower than at any time since the post-war revival.

An excellent doubles pair in Czechoslovakia, one or two hard hitters from Germany, of whom too little was seen last season, and the remarkable defensive players Miss Pritzi and Miss Aarons—who else is there to-day?

(continued on next page)

IVOR MONTAGU WRITES . . .

(continued from page one)

Miss Mednyanzky, Miss Sipos, Miss Kettnerova, Miss Osborne, all these have abandoned or are on the point of abandoning earnest play, and there are as yet no signs of successors.

* * *

A CONTINUANCE of the present tournament position, in which the women's games have often to be hidden from the public as either ragged or unspectacular, and of world's finals in which the only question in doubt is how long the embarrassment will continue before the less patient girl breaks down, will have a deplorable effect on the game.

Table tennis cannot become a sport for men only, like football. The circumstances of its play, its social surroundings, require a social interest, in which women take as keen a delight as men, else the men supporters too will soon decline.

There is no reason why women should not be first class at the game. The athletic demands of table tennis will always set a barrier between man and woman of equal class in their own sex, but in Mednyanzky's heyday I have seen her soundly hit off the table at least two men who prided themselves on their English international badges.

There is no woman who could approach the feat to-day.

Encourage mixed doubles

THE gift by enthusiast Morris Rose of the Rose Bowl, gladly accepted by the E.T.T.A., will, by providing for women a competition corresponding to the Wilmott Cup for men, establish the champion women's team and its locality with a status corresponding to that of the champion English men's team.

But to secure a remedy a still deeper collaboration, embracing the help of all clubs, is needed, besides League entry to that competition.

Wherever girls appear who are skilful, they should be encouraged in each club no less than men, allotted the available tables no less than men, given chances to practise playing against men.

Where League rules allow, they might even be included—when outstanding—in the club's principal team; clubs, instead of running men's and women's singles, might run often a women's singles; and particularly, clubs should develop mixed doubles, for small prizes, so that men will encourage women to play, will develop their attacking and defensive strokes to deal with men's, and do their best to improve their partners, if only for the prize's sake.

* * *

A WORD about the international prospect. The most serious clouds that beset the Federation a year ago have now been dissipated, but the factors of uncertainty in the general international situation are not without their reflections upon the sport.

We are happy to feel that our relations with the U.S.T.T.A. are sympathetically re-established. Certain factors are making

the revision of the constitution of the International Federation necessarily a deliberate affair, and a slow one as well, but we believe that there is a general agreement between the various associations about the lines along which it must take place.

Not least promisingly, we believe that all difference of view on this subject formerly existing between the English and U.S.A. Associations has now disappeared.

We mark with sentimental regret the passing of the Austrian Table Tennis Association, founder member of the International Federation, which disputed the deciding match for champion nation in the first year of the championships, as well in the last year of its own existence.

Table tennis play in the territory formerly Austria will now be organised by the German Table Tennis Association to whose initiative the founding of the Federation was due twelve years ago.

We shall be happy to see some of our old friends among the former Austrians in the ranks of the German players who, as all visiting table tennis enthusiasts, are ever welcome in this country.

Fixtures for the Season

- Sept. 24.—East of England (Skegness).
- Sept. 30—Oct. 1.—Atrincham.
- Oct. 8.—ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Hastings).
- Oct. 8.—Dewsbury Invitation.
- Oct. 22.—N. & E. Riding (Hull).
- Oct. 28-29.—Lancashire (Manchester)
- Oct. 29.—Hartlepoons.
- Oct. 31—Nov. 5.—Home Counties (Whitefields Institute, London).
- Nov. 5.—Pontefract.
- Nov. 7-19.—N. London (Finchley).
- Nov. 12.—Hull.
- Nov. 12-13.—Sussex (Hastings).
- Nov. 18-19.—Bournemouth.
- Nov. 24-26.—Merseyside (Liverpool)
- Nov. 28—Dec. 3.—W. London (Bradix Club).
- Dec. 3.—Bramley.
- Dec. 5-10.—Hertfordshire (Watford).
- Dec. 9-10.—North Midlands (Mansfield)

South Coast To See French "Stars" this month

THE first official French international table tennis team ever to visit this country for a match with England will be seen at Hastings this month.

This will be on October 8, when the England team will have the opportunity to avenge their recent defeat at Le Touquet.

It will also be the first international match ever played on the South Coast, and it is expected that the Pier Pavilion, where the games are to be held, will be packed for the occasion. Tickets can be had from Mr. A. K. Vint, 5a, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings.

The match is also to be broadcast, and Mr. Stewart MacPherson, whose microphone descriptions of the recent Wembley swimming championships were such a success, will do the commentary.

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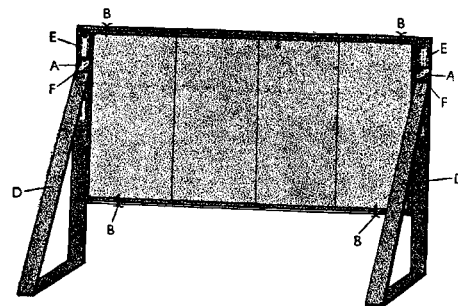
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If you would play well Study These First Essentials

By

VIKTOR BARNA

Five Times World Singles Champion

THE GRIP

FIRST, foremost and all the time, the racket must be bedded well into the hand. In fact, the blade is held and not the handle. The handle is used only to strengthen the grip.

The handle must not be too long, or it will disturb the balance of the racket held in this way. I consider a length of $3\frac{3}{4}$ ins. to be the absolute maximum. Moreover, the angle between the handle and the bottom edge of the blade plays a considerable part in the method of holding the racket.

Now, hold the blade between the thumb and the forefinger, the thumb one side and the forefinger on the other side of the blade, with the racket fitting snugly into the hand. Clasp the remaining fingers round the handle without straining the muscles of the hand. Let the racket become a part of yourself; an elongation, if you like, of your arm and hand.

The player who holds his racket by the end of the handle, as you hold a tennis racket, can have no "touch."

Flexibility of the fingers is essential, and the importance of a light and supple grip cannot be too strongly stressed.

SERVICE

The service consists essentially in putting the ball in play. Certain players attempt to obtain a winning point out of their service, but they are the exception. In opposition to many players' opinions, I do not believe that you can learn to serve a "difficult" service.

This is the part of the game in which little mannerisms of the players must often reveal themselves. You must not run away with the idea that you will easily cultivate a freak service. Such services

are the idiosyncrasies of individual players, by whom they were created to serve the particular style of those players.

You may try as you will to imitate any one of those services, but in your hands it will never become the weapon that it is in the hands of the player who developed it for his own use.

This is a point where intensive practice can only mean waste of time which might be usefully concentrated on more useful subjects.

SERVICE RETURN

In short, I consider it is far more important to concentrate on service return rather than the service itself. The player who is capable of returning any service can hold his own with any opponent.

The beginner may at times find himself opposed by a player who has a seemingly unreturnable service, but this need not necessarily be the measure of the difference in their actual qualities of play. I contend that it is within everybody's reach by constant practice, to become an absolute master of service return.

I do not strongly recommend either side or top-spin service. They bother nobody and such services are almost bound to be returned. The usual reply is either to attack at once or to return the service with chop on the ball.

In my opinion, the counter-attack is risky. As for the cut return, it can be excellent if you possess a strong chop; but generally the chop which is weak simply makes an opening for your opponent. I consider, therefore, that the half-volley return is usually the best answer to these services.

As to the sliced or cut service, it is a common mistake to return this by lifting, *i.e.*, top-spin. I refer, of course, to very heavily-cut services and what I say is just as valid during a rally as in the case of the service.

Never return cut services by half-volley. The best way of playing them is to let the ball bounce to its highest point and then quickly slide your racket under the ball—holding the racket flat—and cut it.

THE HALF-VOLLEY

The half-volley is not fully appreciated, even by the best players. Yet, when properly used it is perhaps the most important stroke in table tennis.

In the half-volley, you intercept the ball before it starts its upward movement at the bounce. In theory, you should not "push" the ball. You should hold your racket just in the path of the ball in such a way that it will rebound off the racket by its own momentum.

There are, of course, variations to this stroke which themselves may be barely perceptible, but which have far-reaching effects; but these you must *feel*; it is impossible to measure them scientifically.

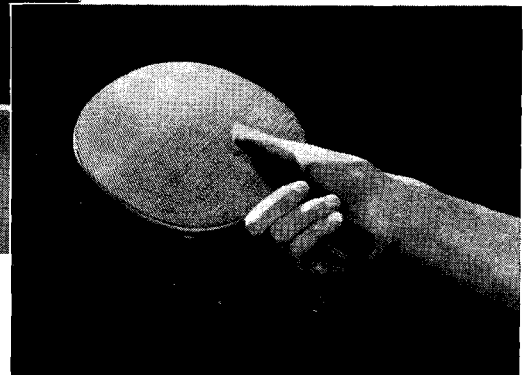
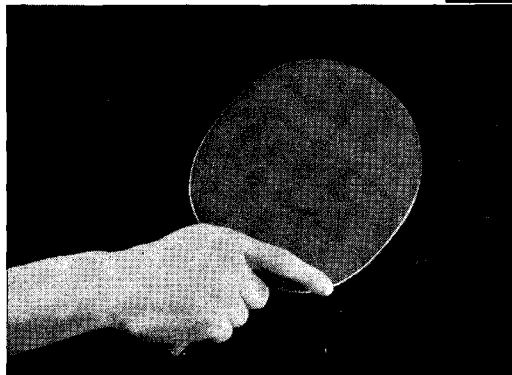
Thus, you must push the ball slightly, when it is a slow ball. On the other hand, you should give a slightly backward motion, suggestive of withdrawing the racket slightly, when the ball is a fast one. Of first importance is to hold the racket well so as to control the direction of your shot.

When you have acquired confidence in the half-volley; when you have learned to play the ball no matter what angle it comes; when you can return it with accuracy you are already a player to be reckoned with. You may well achieve victory over players much better than yourself, by the scientific application of methodical "stone-walling."

Long after this stage in my progress, and at the time when my comrades and I had already established new standards of international play, we still used this method in practice matches. We played nothing but half-volley for hours on end.

To add interest to the games, we used to place a glass on the table, the idea being to drop the ball into the glass as often as possible. Many a bet have we won or lost in this diverting system of intensive practice.

[Reprinted from "Table Tennis," by G. V. Barna, by permission of the publishers.]



Barna shows—left, the grip for attack, backhand and forehand. Centre, position for half-volley defence. Right, backhand attack seen from forehand. Note the position of the thumb.

OVER THE NET



ENGLISH Table Tennis, and, indeed, that of most other nations, enters upon a new season hampered by the lack of news regarding the next World Championships, due to be held in Cairo.

It is difficult to frame a season's calendar with the outstanding event still uncertain, and the provisionally proposed date of the first week in February is a long way from being confirmed.

* * *

There is no reason as yet to fear a breakdown of the Championships. Indeed, the King of Egypt is said to be keenly interested, and a government grant appears almost certain.

But so far all attempts from Europe to bring certainty to the arrangements have been left without reply, although details of last year's championships here were being planned long before this.

* * *

Mr. J. M. Rose, referee of the successful London World Championships, was invited to be referee in Egypt, and to go over in October or November to assist in organising the arrangements. But he has heard nothing further, and inquiries through the Egyptian Embassy have brought no reply.

It is one of the more reasonable explanations that Egypt's "best people" go out of circulation during the summer heat. The E.T.T.A. is now anxiously awaiting the Egyptian winter.

* * *

THE luck of the Swaythling Cup draw has kept England and Czechoslovakia consistently apart, ever since the increase of entries demanded that the draw should be made in two halves. In consequence the two national teams have not met since 1935, a state of affairs regretted by both sides.

Now the English Table Tennis Association have written proposing a series of three "Tests," to be played in England during October, and it is hoped that the Czechs will see their way clear to accept.

With world champion Vana in the Czech team, the matches would be an automatic success.

* * *

WOMEN are still lagging sadly in English table tennis. While the game strides out masterfully among the men, the women's interest is failing lamentably to keep step.

Here is an aspect causing real concern to the Association, who want to see the women as more serious players, and particularly as organisers.

Another big effort to attract the feminine interest is to be made this year, particularly by the Rose Bowl competition, fully explained elsewhere in this magazine; but the real remedy is with the women themselves.

* * *

The "Rose Bowl," incidentally, is Mr. J. M. Rose's own title for the trophy he is presenting. Quite a number of people suggested the "Rose Cup"; but, said "J. M.," who ever heard of keeping flowers in a cup?

* * *

Speaking of trophies, England visited France in August, hoping to bring home the Le Touquet Cup. The Englishmen didn't win at Table Tennis (though Seaman, who beat both Haguenauer and Bedoc, produced exceptionally good form), but showed Le Touquet that they were able to do quite a few other things besides.

* * *

Bibley entertained a large crowd at a local café by crooning, violin playing, and leading the Lambeth Walk.

* * *

PERSONALITY chatter. We have just had a letter from Ida Rorgouyinoва. You don't know her? Or has the Christian name given the riddle away?

Mrs. Rorgouyinoва was not so long ago Miss Ida Ferenczy, who is only one of a number of stars, both at home and overseas, who have found the close season for table tennis the best time to get married.

* * *

What would your wife do if, after being persuaded to go to the cinema while the house was given over to a table tennis committee, she returned to find the committee engaged in a darts match?

We heard of one, somewhere in Essex, who simply took off her coat and joined in the game.

* * *

And who is the Committee Secretary who has recently insisted on the appointment of a woman representative to attend their meetings?

He feels someone must look after the baby while mother's out and the minutes are being read!

* * *

Just before the National Executive meeting in September, Mrs. Goldstein presented Birmingham's energetic Honorary Secretary with a son.

Someone sent the baby a table tennis bat the day he was born and now they say the nurse can't get it away from him.

Unfortunately, we hear, he's using the penholder grip.

THE foremost Leagues are now all considering—some have got further than that—central headquarters for coaching, representative games and exhibitions. Blackpool and Lincoln were the first, Birmingham are just about to open as we go to press. This magnificent hall, which will have a paid staff and is to be open all day and every day, has ten tables and expects eight hundred members.

Primary object of all halls such as this is improvement of the general standard of play. Birmingham, however, are also organising an active social side to the central club.

Manchester are actively probing the possibility of a similar club.

* * *

The Athenian Club, in the Liverpool League, is endeavouring to interest new players by a scheme under which anyone may join the club free for a fortnight, with team players attending to coach.

It is then for the players to decide whether they are interested or not.

* * *

Incidentally the club have the famous Dixie Dean—who said football?—in their first team.

* * *

County bodies are in the news again. The Executive have set up a special sub-committee to consider how these bodies can best be organised to assist in the national development of the game.

* * *

Meanwhile, Essex have formed a County Association to run an Essex County League of representative sides, and an Essex Association championship. We hear also of a county body having been formed in Derby.

* * *

Pleased to record that our overworked Secretary, Mr. Pope, managed to find time for a South of France holiday during the summer. He also admits to a game of lawn tennis during a lunch hour.

* * *

THE B.B.C. are taking more and more interest in table tennis. The England versus France match at Hastings on October 8 is being broadcast by Mr. Stewart MacPherson, the well-known commentator, and there is a proposal for a series of microphone interviews on the North Regional programme with famous Northern players.

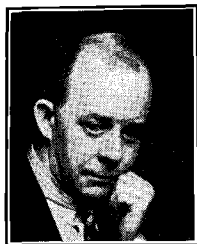
Jack Batty, of Manchester, whose table tennis commentaries have become very popular, will be writing about Broadcasting in Relation to Table Tennis in next month's issue.

* * *

Bermuda uses a table curtained underneath to prevent scrambling about for the balls.

We haven't seen this tried in England yet, but many umpires I know, who have lost their dignity bending to recover the ball for lady finalists, would appreciate the idea.

From the Secretary's Chair



W. J. Pope.

GREETINGS to old and new readers at the opening of the 1938-39 season. In the Table Tennis world to-day there is life and movement. Old Leagues are perfecting their organisation and getting ready, new

Leagues are being formed, fixture lists prepared, tournaments and matches arranged—all for the pleasure of the devotees of our sport during the next eight months.

This issue of the magazine will inevitably be devoted to our plans and it is pleasing to note, even so early in the season, that the progress made during the past few seasons is being maintained.

Already we are able to welcome these new Leagues: Chester le Street, Barnet, Leigh (Lancs.), Thanet, London Provision Houses, Belper, Lowestoft, Storrington, Clacton, Hyde, Chorlton, and we wish success to the new open tournaments at Hartlepool, Doncaster, Altrincham, Mansfield, Cheltenham, and to new ventures, such as the inter-League team competition between the Essex Leagues, the proposed Metropolitan inter-League tournament, the new Derbyshire County organisation, the development of the Midlands inter-League, and the County Championship.

Good luck to all those schemes now in embryo, and may the coming season be the most successful of all.

Still Backward

But what of the national game? The Executive Committee have already decided that efforts shall be concentrated on the women's game. Detailed particulars of the "Rose Bowl" competition will be found in other columns, and by the time this is in the hands of readers, plans will have been made to hold the special area trials for women players only.

Will the search be more successful than that of last season in connection with the men?

I think it will, and look forward to a successful effort to win the Corbillion Cup. I believe we have the players in England, and that they can be trained into a winning team.

Almost every League reports the setting up of new women's sections and, where they already exist, an increase in numbers.

Last season was the "world championship" season. This must be the "women's season."

World and National Championships

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, we have not been able to obtain from the

Egyptian Association the definite dates upon which they intend to run the World Championships.

Every effort has been made to obtain information—even the Diplomatic representatives of the Egyptian Government have been approached—but all we can say at the moment is that they *will* be played at Cairo, probably in February.

It has been very difficult to arrange our own fixtures in the absence of this "key" date, but it is now definite that the National Championships will be held during week ending January 28, 1939.

We hope to hold our own Championships on a large scale, with the finals at Wembley, or some other large arena, and Leagues can fix that date provisionally in making their local arrangements.

We hope to have another bumper rally of the fans and, of course, "finals night at Wembley" has now become the highlight of the table tennis season.

The "Registered Player"

The Executive Committee have decided that the regulations governing the player accepting remuneration for playing shall be continued during the coming season.

Page 20 of last season's Handbook gives these in full and it is emphasised that it is the duty of all players wishing to be placed on the Register to approach their local League at once.

The Handbook

This is now in course of preparation and I appeal to all League Secretaries to send in the necessary information as quickly as possible.

The book will contain new features such as a formula for arranging fixtures, how to run a "Ladder" competition, information about lighting and conditions, advice on how to run a Tournament, how to re-surface a table, and so on.

With the co-operation of local officials we hope to have it distributed in October.

Proprietary Clubs

The Executive Committee considered the question of proprietary clubs and halls at their last meeting. It was agreed that it was not possible to affiliate such premises through the owners, but only to accept properly-formed clubs of players taking part in the game.

Will all secretaries who are faced with this problem in their districts please write.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

At the General Executive Committee meeting held on September 10th, Messrs. I. Montagu, W. J. Pope, J. Batty, F. J. P. Hills, and M. Goldstein were appointed to act as a selection committee for representative teams during the current season. Messrs. A. S. King and M. W. Robinson, Miss P. Anderton, Mrs. D. L. Bunbury and Miss R. Smits were co-opted to assist the Selection Committee.

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: His Majesty the King

OFFICERS, 1938-1939

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Cheshire.

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Hon. Treasurer:

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5a, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings, Sussex.

Hon. General Secretary:

W. J. Pope,

Featherstone House,

64, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

(Phone: Holborn 9544)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

1938-1939

The Officers, together with the following elected members:

Mr. L. Bennett, 31, Cumberland Avenue, Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

Mr. R. Emdin, Northaw, Kingsbury Avenue, St. Albans, Herts.

Mr. M. Goldstein, 222, Alcester Road, Birmingham 13.

Mr. F. J. P. Hills, 87, North Side, London, S.W.4.

Mr. A. S. King, Teofani, Lower Avenue, Exeter, Devonshire.

Mr. K. A. Nicholson, 24, Nuns Moor Crescent, Newcastle-on-Tyne 4.

Mr. M. W. Robinson, 11, Elm Avenue, Garden Village, Hull, Yorkshire.

Mr. J. M. Rose, 39, London Road, London, S.E.1.

And the following co-opted members (see Rule 12a):

Miss P. Anderton, 125, Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 21.

Mr. J. Batty, 11, St. Leonard's Drive, Woodlands Park, Timperley, Cheshire.

Mrs. D. L. Bunbury, Dudley Lodge, Prestwich, Manchester.

Miss R. Smits, 20, Brook House, Gunnersbury Lane, W.3.

"TABLE TENNIS"

The Official Magazine
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MAGAZINE COMMITTEE:

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Messrs. R. Brewer, W. C. Charlton,
W. J. Pope, and E. G. White.

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by the 14th of the month.

New "Rose Bowl" Competition Leads Drive for Better Women's Play

By Nancy Debenham

THE thing which delights me as a sporting journalist, about the coming season is the news of the big drive to make British table tennis girls the world's No. 1 nation.

I like the positive way the English Table Tennis Association have set about the job, and the co-option by the National Executive of three of the leading personalities in the game is a very happy step.

Let me start by introducing them. All of you know Mrs. D. L. Bunbury of Manchester. She was non-playing captain of last year's British Corbillon Cup team who did so well in the world championships.

With her calm and reassuring manner she helped to keep the team together, and with the help of Mr. Montagu she gently but firmly directed their lives during that important week, contributing largely to the success of the whole team.

Miss Phyllis Anderton, honorary secretary of Manchester Women's League, is another organiser who worked hard at the last World Championships. It has always been her wish to see women's leagues all over Britain. She knows that league play is the finest training in the world for players who aspire to bigger honours.

Miss Rosalie Smits is the Southern member of the trio.

She has had charge of this paper's circulation ever since its commencement, and the success of the distribution side of it is to a great extent the result of her great powers of organisation and to the endless hours which she has put into this work.

This organising ability and capacity for work is now to be used also in a wider sphere. There will be many difficulties to be overcome, but her knack of arousing enthusiasm in others will make her invaluable as a live-wire in the women's game.

The Women's Council

ALL three have personality, energy, and ambition. Now they are helping to form a Women's Council to act as talent-spotters and organisers of the various women's leagues.

They expect letters from women, and the more they have to answer the better they will be pleased. Write to them care of the E.T.T.A. Office in London.

If you are interested in the organising side, and would like your name to go forward as a council member, let the E.T.T.A. know. Obviously not everybody can be invited to take part, but this Women's Council must be formed, and there is no reason why you should not be a member.

This magazine can then contain special features about women, written from the reports sent in by these women councillors. It will help to create still greater interest.

For years past the National Executive Committee have been striving to put the women's side of table tennis on the same footing as the men's. They have included women on the governing body; have tried to find the best women players by means of trials; have arranged many international matches; have brought the best women international players to this country to take part in our Open Championships, so that our girls can have match practice against them.

They have tried to encourage women's leagues and sections of leagues; have tried to interest women in organisation; have tried everything, in fact, to encourage the women.

Their efforts, although in part successful, have not made the women rush to the fore like the men.

Should Draw Crowds

IT has always mystified me to see the little interest taken in women's matches, in comparison to the rush that there is to see the men.

Actually, judging by other sports there should be more to watch the women. Look at lawn tennis. One can usually squeeze in to see an important match

between men, but when the leading women play there is not room to breathe.

I cannot hope to solve the mystery, but we can hope for some improvement now.

This year for the first time a National Inter-League Competition will be played for women only. It will really give women a reason for playing their very best. A goal at which to aim.

It will be run on similar lines to the Wilmott Cup for men, except that the actual matches will be played under Marcel Corbillon rules. The Trophy, presented by Mr. Morris Rose, is to be called the "Rose Bowl."

Every league should enter, whether they have a flourishing section for women or only a single club. If they do not, then I hope all you women players will want to know the reason why.

How are you, Miss "A," going to get the keenest match experience and play against other top-class players unless you are entered in this competition?

It is your golden opportunity to reach international class, and how are a Selection Committee going to choose you unless they see you in big matches?

Here is every woman's opportunity to become known. Play in inter-league matches will be watched, and records sent forward. It is a chance to make the women's game as eminent as the men's, so that women will attract big crowds, and convince them that their game can be just as thrilling and exciting.

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DETAILS UPON APPLICATION

LEAGUES or clubs, when they stage matches, will include women's matches as a matter of course. At the moment they never even consider having women-only exhibitions, and rarely include women at all.

The men rule the roost—and this must be altered.

Women look nicer, and even now their game is just as attractive and exciting to watch, if enthusiasts would only realise it.

I shall never forget that marvellous doubles final in the English Championships of 1936-7 between the U.S. pair, Miss Ruth Aarons and Miss Purves, and our own Miss Osborne and Miss Woodhead. That is the kind of match which should draw the crowd, and that is the type of game at which all women should aim.

In the future I hope, when hearing of new leagues and competitions, that they will not be men's leagues with possibly a section for women, but strong, vital leagues formed by women, governed by women for women, with just a section for the men, to keep them quiet.

See that the women's game immediately engages the attention and profound interest of your League officials, and see that they enter a team.

If they do not—well, nag them until they do.

Holiday Campers Enjoy their
Table Tennis, but...

the **TABLE ALWAYS LOSES**

by **ALFRED LIEBSTER**

(who has been acting during the summer
as coach at the *Brightstone and Mundesley
Camps*)

TABLE tennis is one of the popular games in holiday camps which are now one of the most popular summer recreations. Young and old, almost everybody plays the game, and at almost any available time.

They even play before breakfast, and you know what that means, on holiday!

I must confess that the game is not always played as a *sport*. It is often more like the old ping-pong, and when you hear the sound of the wooden rackets it reminds you of a discordant piano.

Fortunately there are always a number of players who can show how the game should be played, and it is amusing to see the "rabbits" gather to watch a player with a fair game—a good forehand and backhand, a few drives and a good defence.

When the weekly tournament is on, all the campers gather in the hall to see the games, and it is always crowded when the finals are played. There is always plenty of excitement and applause—especially when the result is close.

* * *

AS a coach you will be met, of course, with hundreds of different questions. "Is it really true that Vana is only 18, and do you think he is better than Barna?"

Or someone who cannot even hold the racket properly, asks: "Can you teach me the 'back-hand flick'?"

I tried to keep serious when a camper said to me: "I hear you are one of the champions. Tell me, how many times can you keep the ball on the table in a rally?"

And then there is the young boy or girl who stands at a distance looking at you, too shy to ask for a game. How keen they are, and how thankful when you show them how to play the strokes.

And there is the married man who approaches you to find out "whether it is really too late to learn to play table tennis at 48."

* * *

BUT I must say a word about the old stalwarts of camp table tennis—the table and the bats. They deserve it and, believe me, they have a hard life.

Don't think, please, that they are used only for table tennis. When dances are on, the table provides an ideal place to sit on. If you have a drink, of course the table is just the place for your glasses.

Something interesting happens in the middle of the room, and you can't see. Why not step on the table and use it as a gallery?

I suggest the time has come when the various firms should produce a special table for camp use. *But it must be made of iron!*

And the bat! Personally I always use a table tennis bat for table tennis, but you can't imagine the different kinds of work it has to do in a camp. There is an insect to kill, or a fellow is cheeky to his girl; a baby is crying and wants something to play with; or a nail is sticking out of some wood, and has to be knocked back.

* * *

VIKTOR BARNÁ and all the champions can say, if they like, that a bat must have a surface of rubber. *That won't alter the fact that the most popular bat in the camp is a wooden one.*

And a good thing, too, because what is the use of distributing around the hall each week so many nice bats with nice new rubber when the children follow you around and before the day is out pull all the rubber deftly off!

And if you were a child of four, what better fun, on your holidays, than struggling with nice new bats pulling the rubber off to see exactly what was underneath?

But the campers enjoy it—we all enjoy it—so what does it matter?



Miss Vera Dace won the Surrey Girls' Doubles

**SUMMER
ACTIVITIES**

RECENTLY we determined to find out what table tennis players do in summer. The results of our enquiries have suggested that most of them find quiet corners and go off to sleep, but there are a few about whom we have been able to secure information.

Eric Filby, for instance. England's No. 2 player in the Swaythling Cup last season is equally well known in the lawn tennis world, and most of our readers will remember the occasion when he defeated H. W. Austin in the Surbiton tournament, and his fierce struggle with the same player in the first round at Wimbledon. He is at present in the United States, where he is competing in most of the important tournaments.

Others, also, have been playing lawn tennis during the summer. Of the ladies, perhaps the most outstanding is Miss Jean Nicoll, who won the Wimbledon Junior Singles and also, with her brother, the Mixed Doubles.

Miss Vera Dace is another who shows promise at both the table and the outdoor game. During the summer she reached the Ladies' Singles Final of the *Evening News* tournament, and won the Surrey L.T.A. Girls' Doubles event.

Cricket has also claimed many table tennis stars during the summer. H. F. T. Buse, champion of Bath, has been Somerset's No. 3 batsman and has also had a very successful season with the ball.

Stanley Proffitt has been playing cricket for Perthshire. Despite bad weather and new surroundings, Stan managed to bag 52 wickets for an average of eleven runs apiece, and scored 382 runs in seventeen innings—an average of 29.25.

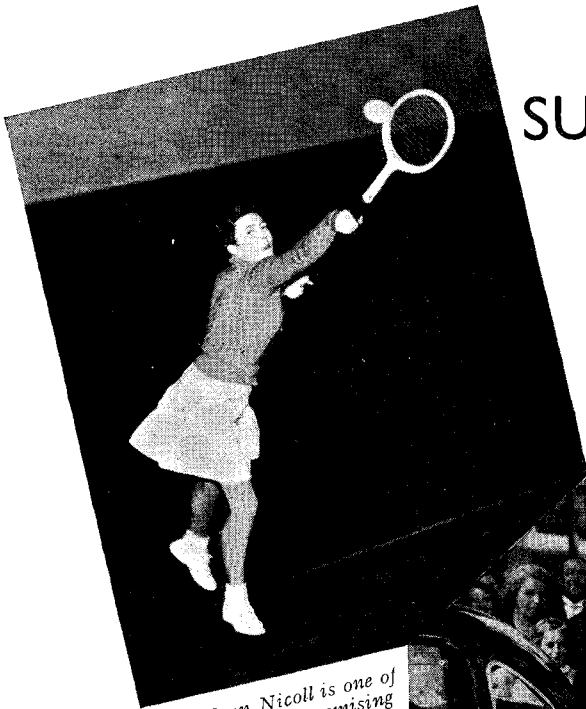
From Lancashire we hear of a host of league cricketers drawn from the table tennis ranks. Chief among them are G. Garratt, H. Foulds, and W. A. Peters—all stars of the Ribblesdale Association—and A. Birtwell, of Nelson.

Arthur Haydon and Doris Jordan are two of a number of players who have regarded the close season for the game as the best time to get married. We expect that Mrs. Haydon will now be taking a prominent part in the women's game in Birmingham; perhaps she will fill the place that Miss Osborne will leave vacant if she maintains her decision to give up competitive table tennis.

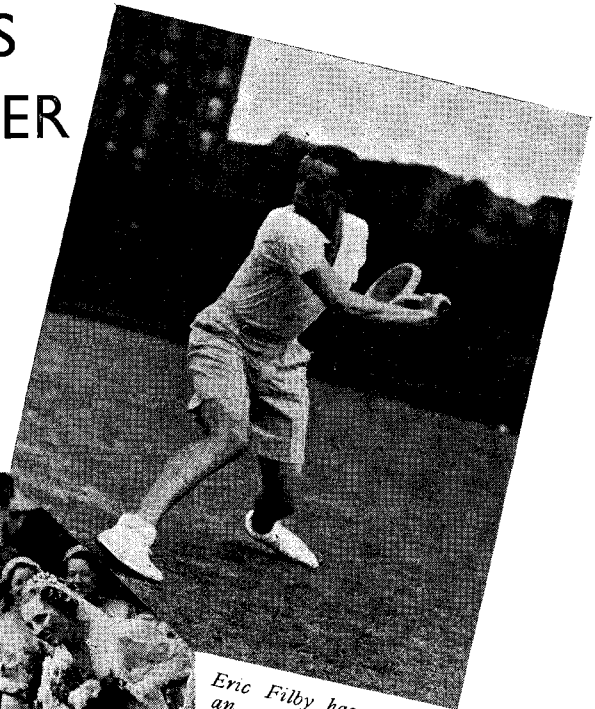
Lisle, Birmingham's Welsh international; A. D. Brook, now living at Horsham; "Bill" Stennett, who will be playing in the Wembley League this season; Miss V. Bromfield, and H. H. Bridge are other well-known players who have been married during the summer.

HERE IS WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING

THIS SUMMER



Miss Jean Nicoll is one of Britain's most promising young tennis players.



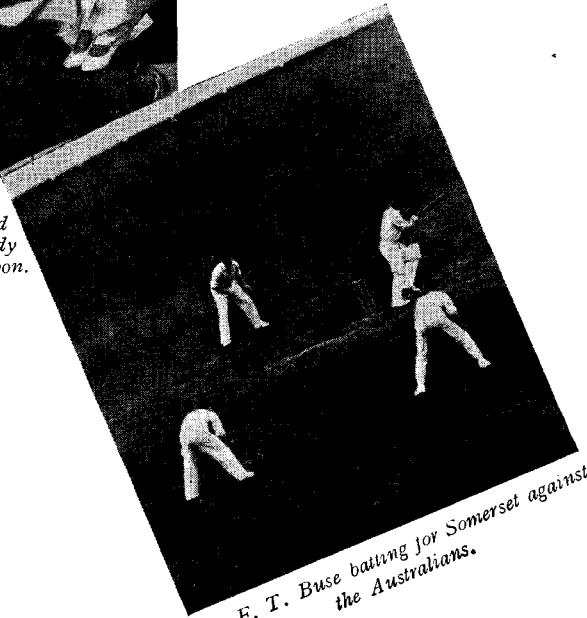
Eric Filby has also had an outstanding tennis season. Note the fierce backhand "flick"!



MARRIED
A. D. Brook and his bride get ready to start on honeymoon.



Stan Proffitt . . . 52 wickets, 382 run. for Perthshire.



H. F. T. Buse batting for Somerset against the Australians.

THE MONEY YOU PAY AND HOW IT IS SPENT

Mr. A. K. Vint, E.T.T.A. Hon. Treasurer, discusses some interesting details of the accounts.



Mr. A. K. Vint

OUR financial year has ended and the one question uppermost in the minds of those responsible for the finances of the Association is "Have we come out on the right side?" Briefly, we have had an income of £2,428 and an expenditure of £2,392, which leaves us with a balance of £36 on the year's working. In addition there is a surplus of £283 on the World Championships. What a contrast to the general account seven years ago—income only £281 and expenditure £278!

As each year goes by we show a marked growth in our progress not only in the programme of activities but also in financial stability. The past 12 months have been of increasing activity and it is to the credit of the National Executive Committee that, in spite of having the vast financial responsibility of arranging the World Championships, we have repaid from the surplus we made on the Championships all the loans raised to meet the deficit of the World Championships of 1935. Surely no mean effort!

Let us examine the accounts of the past year in detail.

Our Leagues, clubs, special organisations, and individual players paid to the Association in affiliation fees a sum of £677. Increasing membership is a healthy sign for any organisation and it is interesting to note the steady advance during the past few years:

Year.	Affiliation		No. of Leagues.
	Fees.		
	£		
1933	169	....	55
1934	233	....	71
1935	303	....	99
1936	446	....	121
1937	554	....	158
1938	677	....	206

Each year certain makes of ball are approved and in return we are paid a "rebate" according to the sales of the particular ball. This year we received £184 which means that 1,059,640 "official" balls were purchased by players. Seven years ago we received payment in respect of 150,000 balls!

The Association sanctions official Tournaments and a royalty of 12½% is paid on entry fees received from competitors, and this produced £93. In other words this means that 10,000

players took part in the 1937-38 Open Tournaments, as against just over 1,000 in 1930-31.

Another excellent source of revenue has been the tour of the foreign players which resulted in a profit of £187. This has helped to meet the decrease in our income caused by the National Open Championships being staged outside London.

Where does the money go?

The administrative side of our work costs £707. This covers rent of our offices in Holborn, salaries, printing, stationery, telephones and postages. The two latter items are of particular interest. Telephones cost us no less than £84 and postages £120. Think what the latter item means! 30,000 communications, circulars, and reports sent out to Leagues, clubs, and individuals in one year!

The Official Handbook for years has been a drain on the funds of the Association and the net cost of the last issue was £215. It is hoped this year as a result of a decision by the National Executive Committee to revise the form of publication.

A sum of £82 was expended on training players and it is hoped to extend this item in the current year to include the women players.

Sometimes at meetings and in correspondence it is suggested that our affiliation fee is too high. Is this true especially when it is realised that last year the total amount received from affiliation fees (£677) did not cover the cost of administration (£707)? In some quarters attempts have been made to increase these fees but we have resisted these efforts because we have been able in the past to raise the additional revenue required by other means, such as tours by foreign players, ball rebates, the organisation of tournaments, the sale of handbooks, rule cards and so on; but as the Association grows so our commitments are doing likewise. *For every 3s. 6d. paid by the Leagues the Association is providing a service which is equivalent to a sum of 10s. 6d. per Club!*

Can we continue such a low fee, and at the same time keep Table Tennis in the front rank?

We think the answer is Yes!

FAMOUS CLUBS

No. 1. Central Mission (Swindon)

THE Central Mission "A" team first entered the Swindon and District T.T. League in 1925, and at the conclusion of their first season, they had played 36 matches, lost 35 and won 1. For the next three years Mission persevered, then in 1929 the club gained its first honour, by the selection of G. C. Nichols to play for Swindon against an English International side, at Swindon.

The 1930 season brought the Mission right to the fore, but after beating Sanford Street Congs. (five successive years league winners) home and away, they failed to stay the pace, and finished the season runners-up.

1931 season saw them drop to third place, but in 1932 and 1933 they rose to second position again. In 1934 not only did they win the league championship, with an undefeated record, but they produced the Singles Individual Champion, S. Killard.

In 1936-37 they became champions again. In this season A. Richens performed the notable feat of playing 125 games and winning 124, his only defeat being at the hands of a player in the "Mission" B team. Last season they retained their position as League Champions.

LONDON C.S. CLUBS

No. 4.—Home Office

EXHIBITIONS by players such as Perry, Bull, Percy Bromfield, and R. D. Jones were an early feature at the Home Office Club when it was formed in 1928 with some fifty or so members.

Styles were revolutionised and enthusiasm for the game increased. In three years, the ladies' team had reached the top of the First Division in the Civil Service League, a position which they again held in 1935-36. Last season, the team were runners up to War Office, the first three players—Miss Nelson (who has held all the Civil Service ladies' titles at different times), Miss Irving, and Miss Wilson—all wore C.S. Representative badges.

The men's team has not been so outstandingly successful, but progress has been steady. Within the last few years, its personnel has changed completely owing to the influx of promising youngsters. Such stalwarts as A. Nicholls—six times Club Champion—have given way to Frank Wilson (who has played in a Service representative side), C. Jones-Evans, M. Marks, and G. Emerson.

TABLE TENNIS

GERMANY—AUSTRIA

The International Table Tennis Federation has notified the E.T.T.A. of receipt of the following letter from the former Austrian T.T.A.

The Austrian Table Tennis Association informs you that its affiliation to your Federation is cancelled as from the 13th March, 1938, as our Association has dissolved itself owing to the happy incorporation of Austria into Greater Germany.

We trust that we shall be able to continue our work for this fine sport through the German Federation.

We tender our thanks for the friendly services which you have rendered to the Austrian game.

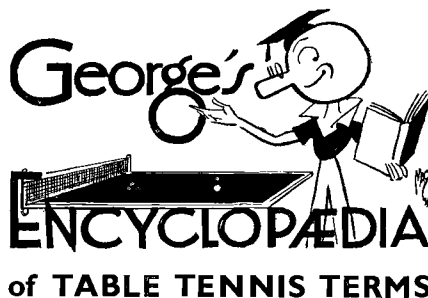
With Sporting Greetings.

The E.T.T.A. has received the following letter from the German Table Tennis Association.

In consequence of the return of Austria to the German Reich again, on the 13th March, 1938, the membership of the Austrian Table Tennis Association with the International Table Tennis Federation is liquidated. The country of Austria is a part of the German Reich.

We therefore have the honour to inform you that the Austrian Table Tennis Association is now a part of the German T.T.A. and consequently players of the Austrian T.T.A. have similarly become members of the German T.T.A.

We should be obliged to you if you would convey the appropriate information to the newspaper, "Table Tennis".



Ace.—A shot which wins the point outright. Most frequently used of services.

Angled Shot.—A shot played across the table so that the ball crosses one of the side lines of the far court rather than the end line. The greater the angle which the line of flight of the ball makes with the net, the more acutely is the shot said to be angled and, usually, the more effective is the result.

Backhand.—The left hand side of a right handed player, or the right side of a left hander. A shot played on this side of the body.

Backspin.—A spin imparted to the ball so that the top of it rotates backwards in relation to the direction of motion of the ball itself. A shot so played.

Badge.—A badge of reasonable size is permitted on a table tennis shirt, which must otherwise be of a single colour.

Players representing England in International matches, wear a shield-shaped badge bearing a design incorporating three red lions, whilst England's Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams have three lions in gold colour on their shirts.

Ball.—Celluloid, spherical, and defined as regards limits of weight and bounce by the rules. These also say that the ball must be "pale" in colour; in practice it is always white when new.

Bat.—The bat may be of any size, shape and material, and many freaks, including mirrors, have been used. Nothing other than wood covered with rubber is used by any well-known players now, however, with the exception of one or two of the Jugo-Slavians.

Blade.—This is rather hard to define. "That part of the bat which is not the handle" seems to describe it best.

Board.—A synonym for table. Seldom used in the South, but a common term elsewhere.

Bottomspin.—See Backspin.

Cannon ball.—Generally used to describe balls of the heavy, highly

polished "toyshop" variety. Also describes hard drives or services.

Cardigans.—If worn whilst playing, these must be of the same colour as the shirt.

Chiselling.—Deliberately playing a purely defensive and unenterprising game. This type of play was responsible for the lowering of the net last season and for the time-limit now imposed on games in all International events.

Chop.—A defensive stroke produced by a sharp downward motion of the bat, which is used as if it were a chopper. This stroke imparts backspin to the ball.

Chop Drive.—This always reminds me of a spiral staircase. Most people know what it is, but few can describe it concisely. It is a return to a high ball, imparting backspin and hitting the ball hard down on to the other side of the table.

Closed face.—A shot is said to be played with a closed face racquet when the racquet is sloped towards the ball at the top. Such strokes impart topspin.

Cluck.—A term used by a well known international player to express self contempt after making a bad shot.

Crack.—You can be a crack (expert) player, take a crack (wild shot at a ball, or have a crack (fracture) in the ball.

County Association.—A body formed to co-ordinate the play of Leagues and other bodies within its area. The exact position and functions of a County Association in relation to the national body are at present under review.

Court.—A player's court is that part of the table on the near side of the net in relation to him.

Cut.—See Chop.

Dress.—Regulation dress for all tournaments and matches sanctioned by the E.T.T.A. consists of grey trousers or shorts for men, grey skirts, trousers or shorts for women, with a shirt of a single colour (except for a badge of reasonable size) and rubber shoes. Players must not wear white or light coloured clothes that might unsight an opponent.

East of England Tournament RESULTS

Men's Singles: L. Baron beat J. Powell, 21-19, 21-19, 21-10.

Women's Singles: Miss Stott beat Miss Ward, 21-15, 18-21, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: Walton and T. Haydon beat J. Carrington and L. Baron 21-19, 21-19, 21-10.

Women's Doubles: Miss Stott and Mrs. Amies beat Mrs. Carrington and Miss Stegeman 21-18, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: H. Nickelsburg and Miss Stott beat Davis and Miss Smith 21-3, 19-21, 21-17.

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NEW ZEALAND ARE COMING TO THE TOP

—says Viktor Barna

BELLAK and I have just completed a three weeks tour of New Zealand, and as I write are on our way to Australia.

We have been playing for three continuous weeks in New Zealand and in spite of a very full programme have had a marvellous time.

We really felt we were in England. Table tennis players in the "mother-country" will be surprised to learn how popular the game is here. The Auckland and the Wellington Associations were founded in 1933 and it was only in 1934 that they founded the New Zealand Table Tennis Association.

It is amazing that in such a short time they have built such an efficient organisation and that the game has been so developed.

They have 7,500 registered members and Mr. K. Longmore, the Secretary, is a great enthusiast and a tremendous worker. If he remains in office we shall hear very much more of New Zealand table tennis.

Errol Cheal, who was New Zealand Champion in 1934, and is still a very good player, is his very able assistant, and these two, with Mr. Marshall, the President, and many others are making every effort to put New Zealand on the table tennis map.

IN three weeks we played in 16 cities which reminded me of our journeys through England. As well as exhibitions we played three Test Matches, and they were watched by 10,000 to 11,000 spectators.

The standard of the game, as yet, cannot be compared with the European or American standard, but there are a few very good players, and if they improve, as I think they will, we shall see them at World Championships in two or three years time.

I liked especially the play of Boniface (Wellington), Guzling (Wellington), E. Hughes (Lower Hut), Cantlay, the present New Zealand Champion (Auckland) and R. Algie (Christchurch).

In every city we had an official welcome by the Mayor, and in Wellington we were received by the Government and had very friendly chats with the Ministers.

Bellak had great success with his jokes; of course, in England you know them all, but they were new in New Zealand. He has improved his trick shot repertoire, and the audiences enjoyed it all immensely.

I hope to be able to write from Australia, and send my best regards to all my friends in England. My best wishes to all for a very successful season.

The Game

Barna and Bellak
in Australia

We have now heard from Viktor Barna in Australia. He says his tour with Bellak has been a great success. There were 4,000 spectators at Melbourne, 2,000 at Sydney, 1,500 at Adelaide and they have since been to Tasmania and Brisbane.

The tour ends with the Australian Championships at Melbourne from October 6 to 10. It is possible that the players will tour India before returning to England.

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Overseas

ENGLAND 3—FRANCE 4

At the invitation of the Federation Française de Tennis de Table the annual French match was staged at the Casino de Foret, Le Touquet.

In spite of a representative English team the strength of the French team was sufficient to give them the odd game.

Seaman played well to win both his games and the spectators will long remember his hard hitting battle with Haguenauer.

At the conclusion of the match the Le Touquet Cup was presented to M. Jaques Weill, the Secretary of the French Federation by M. Alex. Ehrlich.

RESULTS

E. Buble and Miss D. M. Emdin lost to R. Bedoc and Mme. L. Cnalamel 16-21, 13-21.
Miss D. M. Emdin lost to Mlle. J. Delay 21-12, 14-21, 16-21.
E. Buble and C. A. Seaman lost to M. Haguenauer and R. Bedoc 22-24, 21-14, 18-21.
E. Buble lost to M. Haguenauer 21-9, 17-21, 18-21.
E. Buble beat R. Bedoc 21-19, 19-21, 21-13.
C. A. Seaman beat M. Haguenauer 21-18, 16-21, 21-16.
C. A. Seaman beat R. Bedoc 19-21, 21-19, 21-15.

TRIANGULAR 'NATIONAL ENDS IN TRIPLE TIE

At the close of last season, a three-cornered international match was played in Breslau between Germany, Czechoslovakia and Sweden, and strangely, the match ended with all three countries level. Each defeated one opponent only to lose to the other.

The individual results are rather interesting:—

Czechoslovakia beat Germany 3-2.
Hamr bt. Sediwy and Mauritz.
Tuma lost to Sediwy and to Mauritz.
Hamr and Tuma beat Mauritz and Sediwy.

Sweden beat Czechoslovakia 3-2.
Andersson beat Hamr and Tuma.
Jonsson lost to Hamr and beat Tuma.
Jonsson and Andersson lost to Hamr and Tuma.

Germany beat Sweden 4-1.
Sediwy beat Jonsson and Andersson.
Mauritz beat Jonsson and Andersson.
Mauritz and Sediwy lost to Jonsson and Andersson.

Before the match, a selection tournament was held in Vienna to pick players from "Gau 17" of the German T.T.A., which has taken the place of the former Austrian T.T.A.

In this, Pritzi, the woman World Champion, was allowed to compete with

the men, and reached the final, where she was beaten by Kaspar. Sediwy, out of form, lost in an early round, but was nevertheless selected for the international, when he played for Germany for the first time.

Kelen and Szabados delight Durban

Durban recently had the opportunity of watching Kelen and Szabados, who have been touring South Africa.

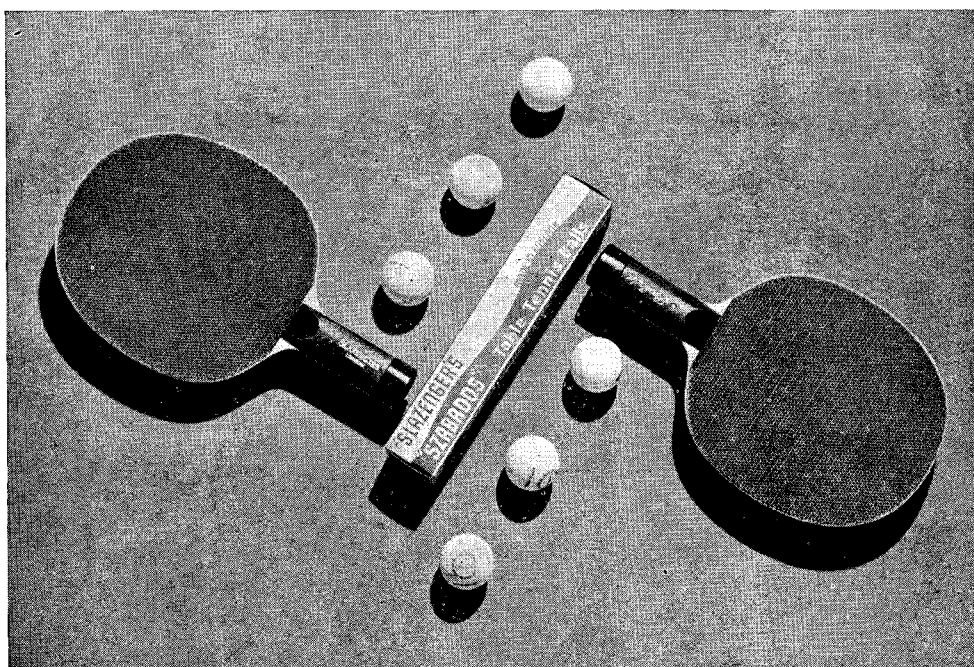
Modern first-class table tennis was entirely new to the audiences who watched the exhibitions and matches played, and everyone was amazed by the display which the Hungarians gave.

The impetus given to the game cannot be calculated. Already many leading players have changed to the orthodox style and grip, and an all-round improvement in play has been noticeable.

The Durban and District Association has only recently been formed, but already the local enthusiasts look forward to the formation of a Natal Province Association.

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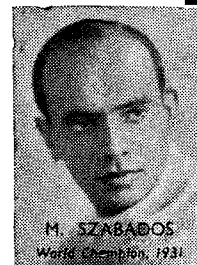
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FLASHES from the PROVINCES

BRISTOL table tennis provides the curious parallel of a flourishing association twice rejecting **B**RISTOL measures designed to improve the standard of play.

When the Bristol and District Association special general meeting was held in May, strenuous efforts were made to introduce to the Senior Division matches on semi-Wilmott Cup lines.

Teams six-a-side, each player to play two matches best of three sets—the style in which inter-town matches are played—were advocated in place of the existing five-a-side “all play all” system.

It's only logical, urged the “reformers,” that your best players should adopt the system they experience in inter-town matches.

But the meeting declined to allow Division I to decide its own fate, and overwhelmingly rejected the change for the Association as a whole. The proposal fell through.

Again, at the Association's annual meeting proper, a strong plea by League Secretary I. C. Eyles, that, in the interests of the growing women's section, all women's clubs should be confined to that section, was rejected.

“Unless you have your best women's teams playing in the women's section, the standard of play is never going to improve,” he urged. But the vote went against him.

Fry's Ladies, pioneers of women's table tennis in Bristol, hold, on merit, a position they value in Division III of the men's section.

* * *

NOW for the new season. As before there will be eight divisions—six for men, a doubles division and the women's section.

The news—I trust I am ill-informed—that H. S. D. Hutchings is definitely not available for town matches will come as a disappointment to all who saw his spectacular play last season; but Dawes, Hipkins, Simons, Shipton and other rising stars promise worthily to uphold Bristol's prestige in representative games.

Financially the Association has recovered from the ills of past seasons.

Treasurer Len Gould was able to paint a pleasing picture of a balance sheet restored to health, of the international match deficit of two seasons ago paid off, and of inter-town matches that showed a profit.

Secretary Eyles and Treasurer Gould, aided by First Lieutenant A. E. Aldworth, continue to guide the steps of the Association, with Mr. E. F. Christopher taking office as president for the 19th season.

Mr. C. J. Moon is the new chairman in succession to Mr. “Clarrie” White, with Mr. A. E. Richards, vice-chairman. The duties of match secretary fall, through the resignation of Mr. R. G. Hallard, to Mr. R. W. Eason.

Match selectors—that incorruptible trio—are Messrs. Eyles, Moon and Eason.

A CHALLENGE match between a team of six, representing the Western Counties League, and one from some other area, was the interesting suggestion put forward at the League's second annual meeting held at Bristol. From the pick of Swindon, Cardiff, Bristol, Bath and Ilfracombe Leagues, a strong side could be chosen.

WESTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

Hopes of extending the League this season, were expressed at the meeting, over which Mr. H. Massey of Cardiff, presided. Invitations to join, it was stated, were being extended to Exeter, Birmingham, Newport, Salisbury, Taunton and West Wilts.

Among points discussed were the possibilities of introducing a second division and a women's division. One important change of rule agreed to was that all future matches should be six-a-side, consisting of 12 singles and one doubles match.

The Western Counties “closed” championships this season will be played at Bath.

* * *

Mr. A. S. King member of the National Executive, has resigned from the Exeter League Secretaryship after ten years.

* * *

ST. ALBANS and District Table Tennis League shows a net increase of one club this season, three new clubs having been admitted,

ST. ALBANS and two having dropped out. There are now 19 clubs, and they have entered 38 teams in the three divisions. It was considered impossible to get out a fixture list for the 17 teams in Division III, and so it was decided to form two sections of this Division.

Mrs. S. F. Mayes, wife of the President, has presented another cup, so there will now be a cup for each section of the Third Division.

Harpenden Club, one of the oldest in the League, have closed down. The new clubs admitted are St. Saviours, Sphere Works and E.A.C. Social.

* * *

THE second season of the Lincolnshire Table Tennis Association opened with the Second East of England Open Championships at **LINCOLNSHIRE** Skegness in September.

In the County Championship the first match is against the new **Derbyshire** side, in mid-October, while the women's team receive the champions—Warwickshire.

In the senior inter-town competition, the Haigh Cup, Scunthorpe and Skegness join Grimsby, Lincoln, Boston, Spalding. Skegness are pinning a lot of faith on their youngsters, Darcy, Wright, Sheard and Allenby, who have been practising assiduously during the summer.

Boston should be reinforced by the inclusion of Renshaw from Grimsby.

Hot favourites for the Butcher Cup competition are Louth, but Sleaford are reputed to have some useful players. In both these leagues the number of players per team has been reduced from four to three, to give more time for travelling.

* * *

MANCHESTER and District League began their programme with a new division, and a full complement of 84 teams. With the **M**ANCHESTER growth in number of the suburban leagues which operate very near the centre of Manchester, it could not be expected that the senior league would continue to develop numerically, and the net increase of 14 new teams is most encouraging.

Important news is the signing of H. Lurie and Leslie Cohen by the Manchester Jewish club, thereby promising a triangular struggle for League honours. Grove House, present holders of the title, will continue to rely on F. Cromwell and B. Casofsky, while Y.M.C.A., who took second place last season, will have K. Stanley, the English Junior Champion, and several internationals.

Manchester Maccabi, having lost both Lurie and Cohen, will have to fight hard to retain First Division status. For younger players, the Manchester League has decided to embark on a series of intensive trials, to encourage promising talent and to provide a “reserve” of stars, when the form of the present Wilmott Cup team has declined.

This, coupled with the possibility of opening central headquarters fully equipped for inter-league matches, coaching, and exhibitions, should do much to provide an outlet for those younger players who have not yet had an opportunity of showing their worth.

The Manchester and Liverpool Leagues are to meet at Wigan on October 18, when last season's Wilmott Cup Final will be fought out again before a crowd new to first-class table tennis.

Last year, the Manchester League staged an exhibition for the benefit of the newly formed Wigan and District League, and the crowd of more than 300 showed tremendous enthusiasm.

Manchester Women's League, with two representatives on the Women's Council, is determined to play its part in encouraging women's play this season. More teams per Club, meaning more match play for the ordinary club member, is part of the plan adopted, and this object is being achieved by reducing the second-team fee by a third.

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TABLE TENNIS

IT was a blow to all Wembley table tennis enthusiasts to learn of Jack Tebb's resignation as Chairman of the Wembley League. Jack

WEMBLEY softened the blow in characteristic fashion, miraculously producing a successor about whom there could be no possible doubts—Leslie Forrest, late Assistant-Secretary to the E.T.T.A.

The new Chairman has already proved his popularity, and his fund of experience is going to be invaluable.

The League must also congratulate itself on the consent of Mr. A. J. Elvin, of the Wembley Stadium, to be President.

A hearty welcome too, to Bill Stennett, 1936-7 Wembley Open Champion, and an old rival in representative matches. Stennett, who will play for Wembley Institute, has been appointed official Coach to the League.

There is the usual expansion in membership—21 new clubs, and a total of eight men's divisions (teams now all 4-a-side), and four women's divisions. Teams will be entered in the newly formed Metropolitan League, the Western Suburban League, and there will be an increase in the number of women's representative matches.

IN Mansfield there is to be a new system of play, teams of three playing best-of-three games sets, instead of five in a team playing one game

MANSFIELD against each opponent. This has been introduced for a new Division, but existing Divisions continue to play on the old scheme.

Each club in existing Divisions may enter one team in the new section for each team in the old Divisions.

EVERY season has seen the Chester and District League's activities grow. Last season they began catering for junior players under 17. This year

CHESTER it is the women players' turn, and six teams have joined the newly-formed women's division.

These are City, County Officers, Curzon Park, Reliance Works, St. Mark's, and The Old Palace.

The two main divisions of the League will have 11 teams in each.

First team matches are being arranged with Liverpool, Manchester, and Rhyl—"A" team matches with Liverpool "A" and Holywell—junior matches with Liverpool and Rhyl—while the women will again meet the Rhyl women's team.

HULL are looking forward to a brilliant playing season, with a number of young players from whom great things are expected. Chief among them is

HULL D. D. Quesky, who is only 17, but caught Liebster's eye as a youngster of promise, and is expected to earn a place in the Yorks City team.

A. A. Abrahamson, another player still in his 'teens, and who like Quesky has been playing only for two seasons, may also earn a place in the team.

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Among the women, Miss Tector is a most promising young player, and it is hoped that Miss Margaret Osborne will be able to be present for the Hull Open, thus giving extra fillip to the women's game locally.

THE Midland Counties League starts with two men's sections—north and south—and a new competition for women.

MIDLAND Gloucester, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton are new entrants to the men's section, while Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton will compete for the Women's Trophy.

Only one match will be played this season against each opponent. This is in place of the former system of one home and one away game against each of the competitors.

Birmingham Association has 40 new clubs, and 100 extra teams.

PIONEERS of the team of five, each playing best of three games against three of the other side, the London Civil Service League

CIVIL SERVICE have decided that this arrangement can be improved by reducing the number of players in the team to four, each playing each man on the other side the best of three games.

This change has been largely responsible for a 40% increase in the number of teams in the League, which now stands at 172, representing 9 men's Divisions and 5 women's—surely the largest women's section in the country.

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M. A. Symons talks to the BEGINNER

YOU have just become really interested in Table Tennis.

For some time you have thought what a good game it was and promised yourself that one day you would take it up more or less seriously. Your desire is further stimulated when you beat some friends playing at your home on the dining table. They tell you you are quite good. You agree. "Join a club," they suggest. You decide to take the plunge and write to the E.T.T.A. They find you a club. So you go along there—full of hope.

The club secretary is all courtesy and consideration. He will be delighted to play you. You play. You find his services and spins very deceptive—very different from those of your friends. He seems to serve all over the place, first to your right, then to your left, sometimes very fast, sometimes just dropping the ball over the net.

You miss the ball several times and at other times can only spoon it up into the air. Then—crash! Away it goes and you can't get to it. You scamper about trying to reach to the ball for most of the points until the game's over. You lose 21-8.

You look somewhat disgruntled, feeling you've not played your best. The Secretary and his friend find excuses for you. They play; the friend proves much too good even for the Secretary. He seems very good.

INSTRUCTION for the BEGINNER

by M. A. SYMONS

No. 1.—Plan, Outlook, Weapons and General Advice

You ask him what's wrong with your game. You show him your bat. He doesn't say much but his look is enough. "Look! Here's my racket—how can you expect to play with a bat like yours. You want rubber on *both* sides of it and a proper handle—not one like that" (pointing to your own thick handle).

SO off you go to a sports shop. If you go to the right shop, you find an expert there and he soon tells you all you need to know about rackets, and fixes you up with the sort of racket you require—a small oval shaped racket with rubber both sides of the blade and a short wooden handle. As you walk out of the shop you feel: "I've got the bat, I've joined a club—it's only a matter of time before I become a good player."

IF you are lucky you will find yourself in a club where there are several fairly good players who will help you. In any case there will be one or more willing to give you a few friendly tips now and then.

But you must help yourself! You should plan out your game—sort it out a bit. Don't just scramble about in a maze trying to return difficult shots and wondering why you fail. First watch your best club players (you'll soon learn

who they are!). Listen and you'll learn something, for nearly all players are pleased to find a willing listener to whom they can explain how to play the game, how good they are, or what hard luck they had to lose to So and So.

A lot of club talk can be taken with a pinch of salt, but, since you have much to learn, some of the advice is bound to be of use.

Be ready to learn always. Remember that the *best players* had to learn, had to take terrific beatings—often far worse than the Secretary gave you—before they became good. Watch how the best players shape to good shots, how they serve, how they stand. Doing this you will inevitably think, if you have any flair for the game at all, "Why, I could do that with practice. I could beat these people in time."

That is the right frame of mind in which to take up any game. Table Tennis is very much a game of temperament and nerve. First you must *believe* in your own ability. Be optimistic but never self-satisfied.

The Wilmott Cup

A circular has been sent to all League Secretaries about next season's Wilmott Cup competition. The closing date for entries is October 15, and it is hoped that all Leagues will take part.

If any new Leagues have not received the circular, will they please write to the General Secretary.

for club play use

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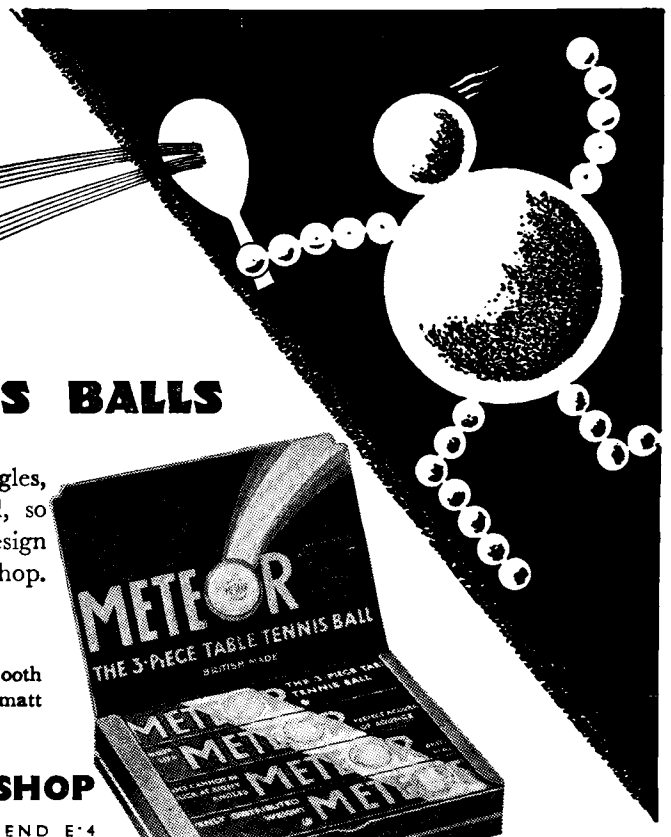
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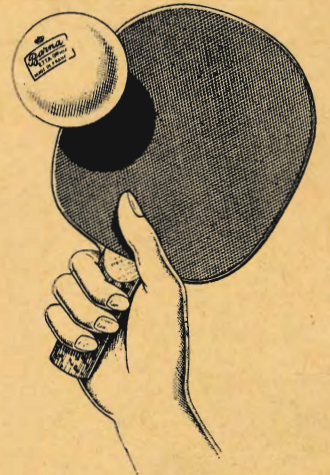
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