

Table

The OFFICIAL ORGAN of the E.T.T.A.

Tennis

VOL. I. No. I.

NOVEMBER, 1935.

ONE PENNY.

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

An Ambition Achieved.

ONE by one, and at an increasing tempo, the objectives of the E.T.T.A. are being reached. This, the launching of our own magazine, TABLE TENNIS, will be neither the last nor the least. The occasion calls for no flourish of trumpets but rather carries with it a sense of quiet satisfaction that a long-cherished ambition is now realised.

It is not claimed that this publication is, to begin with, anything but a promising infant. Walking lessons must precede sprinting practice. But we are quite certain that this editorial youngster will prove a welcome visitor in table tennis clubs and leagues up and down the country. Our mission is to inform, to interest, to instruct, to illustrate—in short, to do anything that print and paper can do to knit more closely than ever the ties binding the thousands of units of our great family of table tennis devotees: and to establish new ones. Above all, TABLE TENNIS is intended to be of service to every affiliated member, League, Club and Individual, including the parent body itself. Its subscribers can count upon an editorial policy which, while giving full rein to the "official" point of view, will nevertheless see to it that comment is free from prejudice. If it is frank, yet it will be fair; it will welcome suggestions and criticisms and will unfailingly act on them if possible; and it will constantly set before itself the ambition to provide so readable, informative and interesting a collection of news and comment, that its publication day will, month by month, be eagerly awaited.

Following the stormy excitements of last season, with teams from 19 countries here in London for the World's Championship, with a crowd of nearly 8,000 at the finals in

Wembley's splendid sports arena, with the intense attention of the public focussed on this dramatic rebirth of our sport, it might be thought that coming events will run a more tranquil course. This is not so. In progress, there can be no tranquility—and table tennis, so powerful now in its hold, must push on fast. How many know the financial outcome of the World Championship? How many would believe that it involved the E.T.T.A. in a loss of £500—that, accordingly, the organisation, so patiently built up during the years, was faced with sheer ruin? Thanks to the inherent qualities of the game as a game, to the incessant labourings of a devoted band of workers, to the whole-hearted support of the national press and to the unfeigned enthusiasm of our thousands upon thousands of spectators, it would appear that TABLE TENNIS had been installed well above the high-water mark of fickle popularity. So indeed it has: and it was all the more important therefore, to see that the deficit was rapidly made good in order that the new-found prestige of our sport should be equally unassailable. The required sum has now been secured, by loan and donation. The position is stronger than ever before and the future can now be faced, not with resolution only, but with the confidence begotten of sturdy weapons, tried and proven true.

CURRENT PROBLEMS.

What then of 1935/6? The season has begun with the expected rush of new Leagues seeking affiliation. Last April's total of 99 is now 130, the individual membership somewhere between 50,000 and 60,000. Next came difficult negotiations which, on November 1st, resulted in the E.T.T.A. acquiring its own office and staff for the first time in the history of the

game. This is an important development and will prove to be a wise one. At the same time were being solved the many problems incidental to the publication of this paper and to the intricacies of the Hungarian Tour. Our first issue coincides with the arrival in England of our old friends Barna, Szabados and Bellak, and we hasten to extend the heartiest of welcomes to this awe-inspiring trio. Nearly 20 towns are to be included in the itinerary planned for them during the next three weeks, and the Leagues which have been enterprising enough to "book" them can look forward to magnificent exhibitions by players who are as popular as they are brilliant.

The English Championships are to be played this year in the brand-new Empress Stadium at Earl's Court, London. It is already clear that the authorities there are wide awake to the enormous possibilities of the event as a spectacle. Conditions for play and for the public will be perfect in every way, and there is good reason to suppose that the "Open" will command the same degree of feverish excitement we so joyfully witnessed last February.

As to the acknowledged shortcomings of this our first modest issue we have no illusions—and no excuses. We commend it to you hopefully and earnestly. We ask your forbearance and your support so that we may the sooner strengthen our hands to present you with an enlarged publication more truly worthy, not merely of your subscription, but of the great Sport the broad interests of which it is designed to serve on your behalf.



"Exhibitions": Disciplinary Action at Last.

Ever since its foundation, an essential part of the Association's educational work has been directed to the organizing of first class demonstrations, with the two-fold object of teaching its members how to improve their play and of edifying a constantly growing public following. But it has always been essential that the performers themselves should be of the required standard, and with this in view, a rule was laid down many years ago stipulating that all proposed exhibitions must first receive the sanction of the Executive Committee, or any member of it.

Though this rule is widely known and its wisdom respected, there have been occasions when members, either through vanity or obstinacy—or ignorance—have chosen to flout it. Such an incident occurred a few weeks ago at the Locarno, Streatham, and as a result the new Disciplinary Committee, set up by the Executive, imposed the following penalties: G. Woodcock, 6 months' suspension; D. Steer, 2 months' suspension. Subsequently, the periods were reduced to 3 months and six weeks, respectively.

We understand, further, that a number of leading players recently participated in a non-sanctioned tournament, and that this offence, too, is shortly to be considered by the Disciplinary Committee.

THE "PROFESSIONAL" QUESTION.

Most people will have read in the Press details of the important decisions arrived at by the I.T.T.F. and the E.T.T.A.; and although they have been widely circularised in official communiques to the leagues, we desire to call the special attention of every player to the actual provisions of the new policy.

1. The words "amateur" and "professional" are now deleted altogether from the rules and the word "player" substituted.

2. There is to be no distinction between players who receive, or do not receive, money for playing, so far as open tournaments, representative matches, league matches, &c., are concerned.

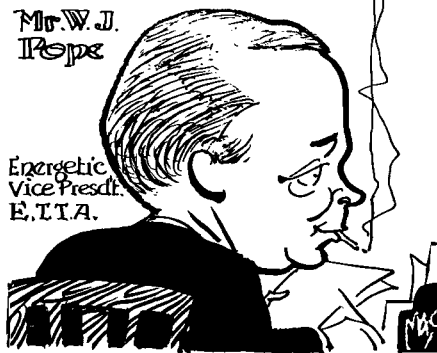
3(a). No player may receive, or affiliated body pay, any expenses or reward for playing table tennis (otherwise than a tournament prize as provided in the rules) unless sanction has been previously obtained from the Executive Committee.

(b). No player may enter into a contract in return for capitalising his skill at table tennis without the sanction of the Executive Committee.

(c). No player may enter into any contract providing for the exclusive use of certain materials, or exclusive play on certain premises controlled by a firm, IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The new rule is to operate for an experimental period of 12 months. The Executive Committee have decided to compile a special register, and it is now open for any player who wishes to avail himself of the revised regulations, to apply to the Hon. General Secretary for enrolment. The fee is 5s.

Players are strongly urged to remember that nothing whatever can be done, constitutionally, until and unless their names appear on the Special Register.



Believe it or not, this is Mr. W. J. Pope, as our cartoonist indicates. Perhaps we should say "was," for as everybody knows he has now returned to office as the Hon. General Secretary of the Association, having meanwhile worked a series of miracles as Organiser-in-Chief of the World's Champs.

Selection of England's Teams 1935/6.

In the course of his speech at the Annual General Meeting last April, Mr. Corti Woodcock, the Chairman, said: "The Swaythling Cup trials this season were even more exhaustive than those of last season. The teams selected were the best, undoubtedly, though I do not shrink from admitting that certain decisions were reached only with the greatest difficulty." Then having paid warm tributes to the members of the Selection Committee, to the ladies who had been co-opted to it with such success, and to those responsible for the organizing of the trials on nation-wide lines, Mr. Woodcock proceeded: "I am bound to add that, in my opinion, the meticulous 'weeding out' of the trials process during the last two seasons has achieved its object. The evidence it produces is entirely out of proportion to the time, labour, travelling and expense incurred. And it tells us nothing new. I consider that the selectors now have a perspective of national form adequate for their task, and I am positively opposed to further trials on the widespread plan hitherto employed."

This considered statement seems to give a pretty clear indication of the policy which we can expect the selectors to adopt this season: and we think it will present itself to the country as a reasonable one. For apart from the immense research the selectors have already undertaken, we reflect on the similarity of the policy adopted by other sports bodies. In cricket, 20 or so are tried out for a test team of 11; our friends of the L.T.A. look only to Perry, Austin and a handful more; in boxing there are never more than 3 or 4 contenders for any particular crown. The Selection Committee can be depended on to weigh the current form of our leading players with great care and will always be ready to listen to league and club officials who think they have discovered someone of real promise.

In time, of course, with the coming of a new generation, the old system of area and divisional trials will necessarily be renewed.

National Championships at New London Sports Palace.

The National Championships this year bid fair to be an instant success, and the E.T.T.A. congratulates itself in securing the new Empress Stadium, Earl's Court, London, for the staging of the finals.

This magnificent stadium, the latest of London's outstanding sports centres, offers perfect accommodation for between 8,000 and 9,000 spectators, and the finals are likely to rival the world's championship finals at Wembley in presenting table tennis as a first class sporting spectacle.

It is worthy of note that Wembley were sufficiently pleased with the World's Championships venture to wish to stage the National Championships also, but arrangements had already been concluded with Earl's Court—on a very satisfying financial basis.

The Championships take place on 6th, 7th, and 8th February, and full details of the venue of the early rounds, details of which have not yet been settled, will appear in our next issue.

1934/5 RANKING.

The following official lists were issued at the end of last season—the first time the Selection Committee have ever subscribed to a collective opinion:—

MEN.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Haydon. | 16. Hyde (E.). |
| 2. Jones. | 17. Findon. |
| 3. Bergl. | 18. Shalson. |
| 4. Millar. | 19. Joyce. |
| 5. Hales. | 20. Melnick. |
| 6. Lurie. | Bamford. |
| 7. Sears. | Reay. |
| 8. Brook. | Berman. |
| 9. Hyde (K.). | Lean. |
| 10. Proffitt. | Seaman. |
| 11. Foulis. | |
| 12. Davies. | |
| 13. Silto. | |
| 14. Marshall. | |
| 15. Cromwell. | |

WOMEN.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Osborne. | |
| 2. Woodhead. | |
| 3. Emdin (D.M.). | |
| 4. Bromfield. | |
| 5. Wheaton. | |
| 6. Berry. | 16. Malley. |
| 7. Norrish. | 17. Mine. |
| 8. Newey. | 18. Harman. |
| 9. Booker. | 19. Best. |
| 10. Emdin (D. L.). | 20. Doolan. |
| 11. Hutchings. | Roberts. |
| 12. Wood. | Hodginkson. |
| 13. Amies. | Potter. |
| 14. Moser. | Probert. |
| 15. Bartholomew. | Jackson. |

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Barna "Circus" Starts Great Mission Tour.

By a happy coincidence this first issue of the official magazine makes its bow just as three of the world's outstanding players are commencing a "mission" tour of England.

G. V. Barna, the world's champion, M. Szabados, the runner-up, and L. Bellak, ranked fourth in the world, have accepted the invitation of the E.T.T.A. to play a number of exhibitions all over the country with the object of stimulating our players to greater deeds and enticing newcomers to the fold.

The idea has proved popular beyond all anticipation with the local organizations, and a tour originally planned to last a fortnight, now seems likely to extend well into a month.

Here is the itinerary of the Barna "Circus" as so far planned:—

25 Nov.	Leek (Staffs).
26 "	Hull.
27 "	Newcastle.
28 "	Leeds.
29 "	Bolton.
30 "	Liverpool. To take part in Merseyside Championships.
2 Dec.	Bristol.
3 "	Plymouth.
4 "	Paignton.
5 "	Southampton.
6 "	Isle of Wight.
8 "	South London.

The third week has not yet been fixed, but provisional fixtures are:—

10 Dec.	Birmingham. Probably an England v. Hungary International.
11 "	Bath.
12 "	Dartford.
13 "	Woolwich.
14 "	Southend.

"CIRCUS" FOR AMERICA TOO?

America is following the example of England in arranging for tours by Hungarian and Czechoslovakian stars.

The tour is likely to start about 21st March and will probably include an exhibition at the Nationals or Philadelphia on 2nd, 3rd and 4th April.



Famous English Players Interviewed.

No. 1: A. A. HAYDON.

Our "Roving Reporter" interviewed Arthur Haydon recently and found the famous Birmingham International in reminiscent mood. The conversation went thus:—

R.R.: "When did you first start playing table tennis?"

Haydon: "About 1918, when seven years old."

R.R.: "What made you take up the game?"

Haydon: "My father being an old champion, we had a table at home."

R.R.: "When did you first become a good player?"

Haydon: "In season 1927/8 I was ranked sixth in the world. I improved suddenly, as the previous season my form was comparatively moderate."

R.R.: "To what do you attribute your success as a player?"

Haydon: "(1) My unorthodox style of play. (2) Accuracy of hitting. (3) Good match temperament—I can rise above my usual form when required."

R.R.: "What was your most exciting match?"

Haydon: "Against Barna in the final of the English Championships, at Buxton, 1933. We had a terrific match and I only lost 21-18 in the fifth game."

R.R.: "What was your best table tennis feat?"

Haydon: "Reaching the semi-final of the World's Singles Championship, 1928/9 and 1932/3."

R.R.: "What is your opinion of English play to-day compared with, say, 1928/9?"

Haydon: "General standard is much better to-day, but there are no new stars—with the possible exception of Lurie."

R.R.: "Why do we get so few players in the world's first ten over a period of years?"

Haydon: "Because our players as a whole take up the game too late. Abroad they play table tennis in the schools and the game is especially fostered in boys' clubs, of which there are a great number. In Prague there is a club with 23 tables."

R.R.: "What was your most amusing table tennis experience?"

Haydon: "When a Jewish acquaintance whom I had known for years offered to play me for 2s. 6d. if I played left-handed. I am a left-handed player!"

R.R.: "What are your other sporting interests?"

Haydon: "Mainly cricket. I play for Warwickshire's 2nd eleven (batsman)."

All the Tournament Dates.

Following is the list of tournament and championship dates, approved by the English Table Tennis Association:

1935.	
25-30 Nov.	North London Open.
29-30 "	Merseyside Open.
7 Dec.	Runcorn Open.
1936.	
12 Jan.	Kent Open.
13 "	Regal Cinema, Edmonton, Tournament.
20-25 Jan.	Essex Open, East Ham.
24-25 "	North of England Open.
27 Jan.-1 Feb.	Middlesex Open.
6-8 Feb.	English National Championships.
10-22 "	London Open.
27-29 "	Cheshire Open.
March	World's Championships and International Tournament.
2-14 Mar.	Wembley Open.
9-21 "	Surrey Open.
21-22 "	Sussex Open.
23-28 "	West Middlesex Open.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES.

14 Dec., 1935.	England v. Irish Free State (Dublin).
11 Jan., 1936.	England v. Wales (London).
4 April, 1936	Wales v. England (Women) (Wales).

Full details of Secretaries, &c., of any of the above tournaments can be found in the E.T.T.A. handbook, or on application to the new E.T.T.A. offices, Featherstone House, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

THIRTY NEW LEAGUES.

New leagues continue to swell the strength of the Association, and up to November 2nd no fewer than 30 had been accepted into membership for the present season.

To the following, and to any others since accepted, the E.T.T.A. extends a warm welcome to the ranks of organised table tennis:—

Barnes & Mortlake, Barnsley, Blackburn, Boston, Chelmsford, Chorley (Lancs), The Dukeries, Eastbourne, Exmouth, Hanley, Halifax, Ipswich, Isle of Wight, Liverpool C.Y.M.S., London Old Scholars, London Postal, Maidstone, Manchester Business Houses, Northampton, North West London, Norwich, Ribblesdale, Slough, Southport, Stoke-on-Trent (Ladies), Uttoxeter, Uxbridge, Wakefield, Wanstead, Wombwell, Worcester.

AYRES

ANNOUNCE

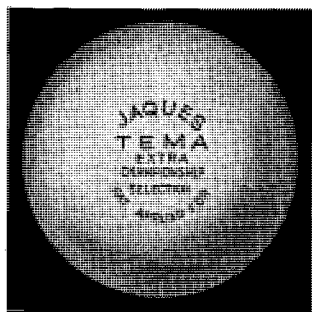
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1935 WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

M. A. SYMONS. "Table Tennis." Methuen, 3s. 6d. net.

If only because it is high time that the sport began to have its own "literature," it is evident that Mr. Symons' book on table tennis would, in any case, have received a warm welcome. As it happens, the work he has put into it is so full of merit that the sentimental aspect can be ignored altogether.

A large number of people are accustomed to address the author by his initials; and one begins to wonder if the scholastic significance of "M. A." cannot now be justifiably applied to his journalistic table tennis efforts. He would probably be unwilling to claim for himself exceptional ability as a performer with the racket, good though he undoubtedly is—but it comes as a revelation, and a very pleasant one, that he has applied himself and his pen so studiously to the A.B.C. of the game. In fact, he almost reaches X.Y.Z., so wide is the ground he covers.

Naturally, there can be found, here and there, statements which are open to debate; and not all players will be disposed to accept his views lock, stock and barrel. But it is equally certain that this book is rich in shrewd observation, sound deduction and well-balanced advice. From beginning to end, theory and precept keep on good terms with one another. Mr. Symons' style is clean and straightforward, his utterance commendably lucid; and the copious illustration has throughout been planned with obvious care.

"Table Tennis" will aid particularly the beginner and the middle class player, though even the crack will find his nimble 3s. 6d. well spent. In short, "Simmy" is to be congratulated on a really excellent piece of work which should not only repay him adequately for his two years' devotion to the task, but also those who are sensible enough to add the volume to their shelves.

C. C. W.

Table Tennis at Broadcasting House.

The B.B.C. staged a startling new item at the Concert Hall, Broadcasting House, on Wednesday, 6th November, when the International Table Tennis players, Messrs. A. Haydon, T. Sears, M. Bergl and R. D. Jones, and the Misses D. Emdin, W. Woodhead and M. Berry thrilled a large and enthusiastic audience by a fine exhibition of the modern game.

Mr. Eric Findon, also an International Table Tennis player, provided some light relief in his game with T. E. Sears.

The high spot of the evening's play was the Men's Doubles match. Haydon and Sears combined well after a shaky start and hit brilliantly against Jones' and Bergl's sound defensive play.

Mr. G. H. Dunbar, the B.B.C. Club Chairman, and Major Tate, the Club Secretary, received the players and E.T.T.A. officials, amongst whom were Messrs. C. Corti Woodcock, the Chairman of the Association, and Mr. W. J. Pope, Hon. General Secretary. Amongst those present was Mr. E. G. Parker, of the Royal Empire Society.

At the conclusion of the evening's play Mr. Dunbar thanked the players and the Association officials for providing them with such an excellent exhibition of International Table Tennis, and said that he hoped to be able to stage similar affairs annually.

NEWS, PLEASE!

The Editorial Board would welcome any items of news of interest to the English table tennis world. Especially welcome would be tidings of the women's progress in this country. "Eve" will be well catered for in future issues of TABLE TENNIS.

First Two To Bergl. A Success For Sears.

The Table Tennis Tournament Season opened officially with an Invitation Tournament held at Messrs. Yardley's, Stratford, E., early in October.

Prominent London International players in T. E. Sears, H. J. Hales, G. W. Marshall and A. D. Brook, and S. Proffitt, of Manchester (now resident in London), competed. In the Semi-finals Sears beat Marshall in two straight games, while Hales decisively beat Proffitt in the third game.

The Final provided a most thrilling and spectacular match, Sears, after giving a wonderful display of all-round stroke play, beating Hales 21-19 in the fifth game.

Maurice Bergl, of Harrow, is now justifying the confidence long reposed in him by the English International Selection Committee. He has won—in most convincing fashion—the first two major open Tournaments held in the London area, the "Home Counties" and the "South London" Championships.

Home Counties Championships.

The Home Counties Championships, held at Whitefield's Club, Toplady Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W. 1, from 14th to 18th October, attracted a very large entry for the Men's Singles, including nearly all the best London players.

In the early rounds Bergl beat Marshall 2-0, and Proffitt was in great form, beating the Indian, M. Ayub, 21-13, 21-16, and later the holder, H. J. Hales, also in two straight games. The Men's Singles Semi-finalists were Bergl and Brook, and Proffitt and M. A. Symons.

Bergl's combination of patience, defence and varied top spin attacks proved too good for Brook, and the

Harrow man won comfortably in "two straight." Proffitt also reached the Final, beating Symons 2-0 after an exciting first game, when he recovered brilliantly from a 16-19 deficit.

The Final saw Proffitt vainly endeavouring to pierce Bergl's steady, long defence and also unable to stave off his opponent's clever counter attacks. Bergl took the first two games and, although Proffitt hit brilliantly to win the third, Bergl won the fourth game and the match.

The Women's Singles proved a triumph for a Whitefield Club player, the well-known International, Miss Valerie Bromfield, erstwhile English Open Champion, who beat Mrs. Booker in the Final by two games to nil. It was little unfortunate for Miss Dora Emdin that she had to play Miss Bromfield in the first round. Miss W. Woodhead, the popular player from Amersham, was notable absentee from the Tournament.

Ayub and Proffitt scored a fine victory in the Men's Doubles Final, when they beat Bergl and Hales by 21-14, 21-14, 21-16. Miss Bromfield and A. D. Brook won the Mixed Doubles, being successful against Miss Wheaton and Ayub, by two games to nil.

The Women's Doubles Final was an "all St. Albans" affair, the Misses Wright and Wheaton being too clever for Miss Doris Emdin and Miss N. Wood, and winning by two games to nil.

The South London Championships.

London's largest table tennis hall, the "Lucania, Elephant & Castle, was well attended for the South London Championships, held there from 21st to 25th October.

As expected, Bergl retained his title of "South London" Champion, defeating M. Ayub, India's Swaythling Cup Captain, by three games to one in the Final.

(Continued on page 5).



The Original English Team.

This very interesting picture is of the team which opposed Wales on the occasion of the very first International Table Tennis Match. It was played at the London Club, King Street Baker Street, London, on Friday, 9th March, 1923. Each man (eight aside) had to play each of his opponents one game of 31 up—a total of 64 games in all. We know that England won (perhaps diamond shirt-studs dazzled our opponents into defeat) but the actual scores have sunk deep into antiquity.

Left to right, back row: G. J. ROSS, London (reserve); T. HOLLINGSWORTH, Wednesday (ex-champion); G. W. DECKER, London; P. BROMFIELD, London (ex-champion); E. TAPPE, London; R. H. BERRY (reserve, Hon Asst. Sec., T.T.A.). Front row: G. BELSTON, Bristol (Western champion); A. F. CARRIS, London (1922 finalist); J. W. SWANN, Manchester and E. WOODS, Manchester.

THE RIVALRY IN THE NORTH.

Liverpool Challenge Fails.

Immense interest was aroused by the meeting of Manchester and Liverpool on Monday, November 16th. This was the eleventh inter-city encounter of the series, and Liverpool had high hopes of avenging last year's 6-4 defeat. They turned out a strong team, consisting of K. Hyde, D. Foulis, F. Bamford, E. Hyde and R. E. Roberts.

Manchester led off with A. Millar, and after losing the first game to Foulis, "Andy" took the next two 21-8, 21-9. H. Lurie then beat K. Hyde 2-1, and from this point Manchester never relaxed their advantage. L. Cohen beat both E. Hyde and Roberts, two straight, and Millar and Lurie beat Hyde and Foulis in their cross-singles, two straight in each case. C. W. Davies lost to Roberts 1-2, and F. Cromwell to E. Hyde 0-2, but both beat Bamford 2-0. Manchester therefore won by the decisive margin of 8-2.

Each team included three international players, and the struggle was a tense one from beginning to end. Lurie was doubtless delighted to score off Ken Hyde, as the latter had recently deprived him of his Lancashire "Open" title. Cohen, too, the new holder of the Leeds "Open," strengthened his position by disposing of two such redoubtable men as Eric Hyde and Roberts.

GOOD FOR EXETER!

For the first time in their history, Exeter beat Swindon on November 16th, by the odd game in 25. 13-12 was the final score, and although actual details have not yet reached us, it looks as if the defeat of Silto, the well-known Swindon international, by Litten, was the deciding factor. We have since learned that Swindon have revenged themselves on the West country by beating Bath, though by no greater a margin than five games. This time, Silto went through undefeated.

FEATHERSTONE HOUSE.

Featherstone House, 64, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1, is now the official Headquarters of the Association. Though this is where the bulk of official work will be done, it is hoped that provincial members will look in when they happen to be in town. A Secretary (and a real find she is) is on full-time duty, and a little later, we expect to establish a properly organised Information Bureau with a complete service for the distribution of literature, rule cards, tournament entry forms, &c.

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It will be run by specialists in every branch of the game. Through the medium of its columns the most distant news will be brought to the fireside—in fact every player will be kept *au fait* with the activities of our neighbours near and far.

As National Secretary I am in touch with a large number of people I have never seen and I hear of the work they are doing. This places me in a position to realise, perhaps better than anyone else on the administrative side, what is taking place all over the country.

I know that this little effort will be read

eagerly by a large number of "fans" from Lands End to John o'Groats. When you read this remember that what you are thinking—which we hope is encouraging—thousands of others are also thinking. May all your thoughts be kind, and above all remember that a little bunch of enthusiastic E.T.T.A. members are doing their best "after office hours" to supply you with the most up-to-date and interesting news of table tennis gleaned from the four corners of England.

On page 6 will be found a subscription form. If you have not done so already fill it in and help your Association and satisfy your own natural craving for news. If you have ordered your copy pass this form on to a friend who might be interested.

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(Continued from page 4).

Ken Hyde Beats Lurie in Lancashire Championships Final.

Bergl's achievement in winning this Tournament was an even more meritorious one than his "Home Counties" triumph, for he had to beat in successive rounds W. Livy, S. Proffitt, G. Marshall, H. Shalson, and then M. Ayub. This he accomplished with the loss of only two games!

Ayub had a very easy draw by comparison, and he started off in the Final like a champion, returning every hit Bergl could put over and using great discretion in choosing the right balls to hit. He won the first game 21-10 and led 9-1 in the second game. Bergl then improved and reduced his opponent's lead to three points at 11-14. He had now got Ayub's measure, and with the Indian missing one or two "sitters" the Harrow man's superior steadiness gave him the second game at 21-17. Full of confidence, Bergl now returned to the attack and gradually forced his tenacious opponent into defensive errors, to win the last two games 21-18, 21-14, and secure the match.

The Women's Singles title went to Miss Dora Emdin, who beat Mrs. Holt in a very exciting Final. Mrs. Holt played pluckily all through, and it was only at 27-25 in the deciding game that she went down to a much superior stroke player. Miss Emdin, in an earlier round, gained a good win over Miss Woodhead by two games to one. Miss P. Moser, the holder, was prevented by illness from defending her title.

Proffitt and Ayub had an easy victory in the Men's Doubles Final over M. A. Symons and J. J. Coquet. Ayub was also in the Mixed Doubles Final with Miss Doris Emdin, but the winners proved to be H. H. Bridge and Miss W. Woodhead, whose attacking strokes were remarkably severe and well controlled. The Women's Doubles title was won by Miss Dora Emdin and Miss Woodhead.

The "Novices" event (for players who had never

previously played in an Open Championship) created great interest as the form of many of the competitors was quite unknown. One interesting competitor was Santwan Ratanprakash, a very young Indian boy, hardly taller than the table! He displayed a clever chop stroke, but inexperience of competitive play led to his defeat early in the Tournament. The winner was J. H. Pickering, of the "Samuel Jones" Club, who beat I. W. Cousins (Civil Service) in the Final by two games to nil.

The Lancashire Open Championships.

H. Lurie, of Manchester, regarded by many as England's most promising young player, lost his Lancashire Championship title, being beaten by J. K. Hyde (Liverpool) 14-21, 21-19, 21-14, 21-19 in the Final.

Lurie scored many beautiful "winners" by exploiting his backhand flick, but the fierce forehand hitting and steady defence of Hyde were too much for him. In the Semi-finals Hyde beat C. W. Davies by two games to one, and Lurie mastered Bamford in two straight games. Manchester beat Liverpool, and Lurie gained his revenge when he and F. Cromwell won the Men's Doubles title from the brothers J. K. and E. W. Hyde, 21-19, 21-13.

Miss Norrish, of Liverpool, rather surprisingly lost her Singles title to Miss Rubens, but was successful, with H. Knibbs in the Mixed Doubles. The Women's Doubles event was won by Miss Davis and Miss Kinsella, who defeated the Misses Doolan and Malley by 21-17, 18-21, 21-12. The winners had a very hard match in the Semi-final against Miss Norrish and Miss Moss, eventually winning at 23-21 in the third game.

A feature of the Tournament results was the fact that all the titles changed hands.

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The following American viewpoint, reprinted from "Table Tennis Topics," might equally well apply to exhibitions in this country:—

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**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS'
SENSATION.**

At the moment of going to press, the International Table Tennis Federation announces that arrangements to hold this year's Congress in Zagreb have been cancelled. This is an unprecedented happening, all the more unfortunate as the Jugo-Slavian T.T.A. had given a definite undertaking. There had been hopes of securing Royal patronage.

We understand that all nations are now being invited to submit alternative proposals. On the face of it we envisage the possibility of the world's championships being declared void for the first time since the foundation of the I.T.T.F., but we are assured every effort will be made to avoid this. The situation is being anxiously examined, and we hope to be able to acquaint our readers with further developments in the next issue of TABLE TENNIS.

APPRECIATION.

The Editorial Board feels that the first issue of TABLE TENNIS cannot go to press without a tribute to the excellent work of Mr. W. C. Charlton, who has accepted the arduous post of Business Manager, and his Assistants, Misses Capper and Smits of West Ealing.

**RECOGNITION AT LAST—THE
PRESS IS WON OVER.**

Nothing has been more gratifying, nor more striking proof of the rise of table tennis than the aroused interest of the Press.

It took the success of the recent World Championships to arouse newspapers to the genuine "pull" of the game, but now table tennis news is a commonplace rather than a rarity, and more than one paper gives weekly "How to Play" hints.

More striking still is the number of newspaper competitions being organised, and the consequent publicity cannot fail to benefit table tennis tremendously.

Easily foremost is the Home Counties tournament of *The Star*. This paper is spending large sums and offering fine prizes in support of their competition, and the total entry of well over 5,000 has proved gratifying both to them and to the hard-working band of officials who did so much to stimulate their interest.

The *Manchester Evening Chronicle* has also embarked on a new singles tournament, open to all players in their area who cannot be ranked first class.

Other prominent provincial papers running competitions include the *Bristol Evening Post* (men's and women's singles) and the *Birmingham Evening Dispatch*; while more locally valuable work is being done by smaller newspapers, such as the *South London Press*, whose well-established team tournament has, this year, attracted a record entry for their limited area of close on 200 teams.

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