MUCH as we would like to, we find it difficult to speak of this year’s National Championship Meeting in restrained terms. We boldly prophesied a sensational, record-breaking success; and it cannot be denied that it was gloriously achieved. Once again is there a heartening tale to tell of hearty crowds roaring their approval or superlatively brilliant play—swaying, twitching, groaning as thrill mounted upon thrill. For Finals night the Empress Stadium was as a place of siege. Here was not merely an echoed repeat of Wembley but a massing of such dense, insistent, feverish hordes as has never before been known to table tennis. The Underground Railway Company could barely handle so sudden, so vast an increase in local passenger traffic. Scenes at Earl’s Court and other stations were said to resemble Waterloo at the height of a Bank Holiday stampede; and among the unsung heroes of that frenzied night of 8th February are a large number of porters, guards and conductors, who must surely have caught that all London was fleeing from the Flood. Early the next morning, at about 12.30, they and the police were still trying to cope with the hundreds and hundreds of people who had taken the chance of being left stranded all night, rather than forego one single minute of it all.

An impression of the scene inside the Stadium is given by the photograph appearing on this page, and elsewhere in this issue we publish a detailed account of the championship events. As we write, one or two other facts come back to mind—that the Stadium lighting was 30,000 candle-power; that the “ball-boys” wore skates; and that the winners were delighted to receive their prizes at the hands of the charming donor of the International Trophy—the Dowager Lady Swaythling herself. No wonder the crowd gave her a special cheer—no wonder she is affectionately alluded to as the “Fairy Godmother of Table Tennis.”

As to the Press, the nationals and the leading provincials without exception were most generous in their support, even though we modestly make allowance for the “news value” of the occasion. We say again that we treasure closely the goodwill of our journalistic friends from Fleet Street and elsewhere, realising that the power of their pens has undoubtedly quickened the table tennis consciousness of the sport loving community. At root, this sentiment is an official one, but we imagine that all players throughout the whole country will appreciate that the good standing and fair name of their sport is in no small measure due to what the Press have done and continue to do.

On Thursday, 5th March, there will be played at the Paddington Baths the first international match between England and America. Our visitors, en route for Prague, may include those popular youngsters Jimmy McClure and Solly Schiff, two still more juvenile unknowns and two girls. One of these is Miss Ruth Aarons, undefeated champion of the U.S.A., and in view of what has been said of her astounding form, we shall be very interested to see how she shapes. By every sign and portent, the “house full” boards should be out again on the 5th.

The teams chosen to represent us at Prague look good, if records and capacity count for anything. Experience and youthful promise are well blended, and even if our chances of carrying off major honours look remote, our boys and girls can at least be depended upon valiantly to uphold the prestige of the old country. We congratulate the travellers on their selection and wish them the best of luck.

English Championships Finals, 1936. Some of the 8,000.
Second Barna Tour.
Bigger Crowds Than Ever.

The classic magic of AYX 651 have been blazing the table tennis trail again. Most of England has seen them, and whenever they have been, they have left behind a tale of new enthusiasts won to the standard, and of an ever-widening grip of table tennis upon the public mind.

AYX 651—the numbers of the fast car in which the now famous Barna "circus"—Barna, Szabados and Bellak—have been flashing around the country on an encore exhibition tour.

So great was the success of the previous tour of the popular Hungarians, just over two months ago, that many Leagues anxious to receive them had to be refused.

The clamour went on, however, district after district adding its plea to the cry of "more Barna," with the result that the E.T.T.A. had little option but to arrange a new tour.

Nationally, it has perhaps, been rather overshadowed by the English Championships, but to use a vulgarism—don't let that fool you.

Everywhere its reception has been immense, with such huge crowds swelling to the exhibitions that the second venture was reserved for Blackpool, where on February 15th a huge crowd of over 3,000 thronged the Tower Circus.

Excitement ran high during a match between the Three Musketeers and a North of England side consisting of F. & K. Hyde, C. W. Davies and F. Cromwell, and though the English success was limited to one, the crowd's enthusiasm would not be dampened.

This attendance of 3,000 was an easy record for the tour and, in fact, for any non-championship event in the game's English history. The results of the games were:

- L. Bellak (Hungary) beat K. Hyde (North) 21-19, 16-21, 21-17.
- M. Szabados (Hungary) beat C. W. Davies (North) 21-12, 21-17.
- Barna beat Davies 21-16, 21-17.
- Szabados beat K. Hyde 21-11, 21-14.
- Bellak beat Davies 21-3, 22-20.
- Lurie and P. Cromwell beat Barna and Szabados 21-6, 21-14, 21-18.
- Szabados beat Lurie 21-15, 21-10.

There is no space to give full details of the tour's triumph elsewhere. Suffice that from London to Manchester on February 29th, these ambassadors of table tennis have put the ultimate seal on a great enthusiasm, kindled by the Earl's Court enthusiasm, and was reserved for Blackpool, where on February 15th a huge crowd of over 3,000 thronged the Tower Circus.

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GREETINGS, AMERICA.

The United States Table Tennis Association cable that their teams for Prague will consist of the following:— Jimmy McClure (Indianapolis), Richard Tindall (St. Louis), Robert Blattner (St. Louis), Miss Ruth Haydon (New York) and Miss Jessie Purves (Des Plaines, Illinois). The men figure in current national ranking, 2, 5 and 6 respectively, while the girls are No. 1 and 2. G. W. Marshall will join the team in Czechoslovakia and the contingent is being skippered by Sidney M. Bidwell (non-playing captain). Welcome to the Old Country, and may our first international match with you on March 5th prove happy and memorable.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Being a table tennis enthusiast and in touch with one of the leading table tennis organizations in Canada, I "ought you might be interested in the growth of the game in your country." I also sent a copy of TABLE TENNIS to Mr. B. Sidney H. Jones, and he was very delighted, and he also mentioned me with the game, as he said that on the whole Canadian table tennis is something like the American quintuplets—he's just learning to walk.

My friend runs the Winnipeg Table Tennis Club and he writes that within a month of opening, the members included 1,000, with an entry of 750, but no "stars" were uncovered and the majority of people who join are pro or semi-pro. He writes that within a month of opening, the membership increased from 170 to 210, notwithstanding the fact that it costs four shillings to join the club and two shillings an hour for the use of the table.

The tables are also poorly constructed, so here is a chance for Canadian tastes. Jacques or Rose to send some out. Vancouver is the home of table tennis, having leagues and national championships held there and over 35,000 playing members.

Hoping you can find room to mention this in TABLE TENNIS, and send it to other readers.

Yours faithfully,

C. Brady.

Mr. B. Sidney H. Jones writes to us suggesting that a "Pro-Friend Club" should be started through the column of TABLE TENNIS, and that one of the obligations of this notice will be to have his letter box with foreign envelopes to his complete satisfaction.

Famous Players Interviewed.

No. 4: H. J. Hales.

H. J. ("Willie" to his friends) Hales, England’s No. 5 ranked player, who has been a member of England’s Swaithling Cup team for the last two years and has held the London Business Houses Championship since 1923, is too modest to obtrude his views on the game, but our "Roving Reporter" managed to extract the following replies to "queries.

R. R. : "When did you first take up Table Tennis?"

Hales: "Six years ago."

R. R. : "What first brought you into prominence as a player?"

Hales: "Beating M. J. Cowan and M. Bergl in a Representative Match for I.B.H. versus London League."

R. R. : "What do you think of the chances of our team at Prague this year?"

Hales: "I see no reason why we should not do well—perhaps third or fourth. After all, Haydon has beaten Barna before now, and there is little chance of our being out of front."

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C. Brady.
ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIUMPH.
SENSATIONAL FALL OF THE BIG THREE.

A vast oval amphitheatre, with subdued orange lighting, is the scene of the Finals of the English Open Table Tennis Championships.

The place is the Empress Stadium, Earl's Court, London, and 8,000 people have filled it to capacity for the first time since its opening on November 1st last.

Sixteen thousand eyes are piercing through the semi-darkness at the small green table in the middle of an enclosure in the centre of a great ice-covered arena. Outside the enclosure are "ball-boys" dressed in dinner jackets and white gloves and wearing skates. At one end of the Stadium is a huge score board without word or figure.

The time is barely seven o'clock when two figures in evening kit approach the enclosure. The huge cosmopolitan crowd—for people from all countries are here—is hushed to a deathly silence when one of the men approaches the glittering microphone.

What will he say?

"Ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure . . . ." No more is heard, for two of the competitors have now made their appearance. A thunderous round of applause has silenced the announcer.

Applause, deafening in its intensity . . . . Gradually, and only gradually does the noise subside.

"Ladies and gentlemen. The fifth round of the Men's Singles Championship . . . ." The announcer's voice is intoned sonorously over the microphone accompanied by the tap-tap of the one-thirteenth of an ounce ball as it is sent over the net by the players indulging in a "Knock."

And what knocks they are!

A ball has found its way out of the enclosure—it was one of those knocks that sent it hither—and a "ball-boy" skates gracefully away to retrieve the celluloid sphere. Just a "ball-boy"? Indeed no, for verily he is a skating Pavlova.

A clap of hands for the "ball-boy."

The umpire is now seated by the microphone and a silence pervades the hall as a coin is tossed for the right to serve. The silence is broken only by the voice of the umpire . . . . "Love-all."

The ball is served. Tap-tap from the microphone. Tap-tap, tap-tap, tap-tap, quicker and quicker . . . .

The Championship matches have started and table tennis has "arrived."

"Ping-pong" is dead! Long live table tennis!

It is big news.

There is a frail, grey-haired 81-year-old lady watching the game in progress. (She has saved hard from her old age pension for her seat and travelling expenses.) Her excitement knows no bounds as she watches A. A. Haydon, England's No. 1 player fight for supremacy over his Hungarian opponent, G. V. Barna, the World's Table Tennis "Ace."

Haydon is gradually, but gamely being beaten. He has sent a ball across the net out of the reach of the Hungarian.

"Well played, sir!" A point for the English lad. The battle continues, each player bringing into his play every art and craft he knows . . . . Barna brings that incomparable back-hand "flick" into use. The next two or three points are his . . . . "Terrific shots . . . . "Wonderful . . . ." The crowd is shouting itself hoarse . . . .

After four grand games Barna emerges victorious amidst round upon round of applause. Haydon now grips his hand, and after shaking hands with the umpire the two leave the court to cheers from already husky throats. It's "thumbs up," too, for the fallen.

Eight thousand people now alert and expectant await the next event. They show their impatience . . . . stamp . . . . they want another thrill. They know that table tennis will give it.

After 14 years' fight for recognition table tennis has endeared itself to the British public.

THE PLAY.

Described by "Roving Reporter."

In a field of 80 of England's best players, and including the champions of France, Czechoslovakia and Poland, it was realised that even Barna, Szabados and Bellak would be hard pressed to maintain Hungarian supremacy.

The earlier rounds were contested on February 6th to 8th at Paddington Baths, the scene of Barna's English Championship victory in 1934. Results went almost "according to plan."

Kolar's easy defeat at the hands of Bergl in three straight games, was the first surprise. The English International won comfortably, returning nearly everything Kolar could put over and piercing the Czech's defences with brilliant opportunist hits.

Then came the second big thrill. The many hundreds of spectators who had been looking on admiringly at Barna flicked his way past H. W. Sweetman, A. J. Wilmott and T. E. Sears, in successive rounds, and at Bellak's crushing array of strokes, suddenly realised that one of the cracks was up against it. Ehrlich was having to fight very hard indeed to keep Stanley Proffitt at bay.

Proffitt had won the first game and although Ehrlich levelled matters by taking the second, the Englishman went ahead again and, amid loud cheering, won the third game. Ehrlich got right down to his task and by concentrated defensive play, eventually wore down his opponent's resistance to win by 3 games to 2.

Michel Haguenauer had little difficulty in beating R. D. Jones, but Ehrlich, called "fans" by falling easily to Szabados and Bellak, in successive rounds, and including the champions of France, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, it was realised that even Barna, Szabados and Bellak would be hard pressed to maintain Hungarian supremacy.

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Women’s Singles.

Thirty-four competitors, headed by the World Champion, Miss Kettnerova, entered for the Women’s Singles Championship. Other prominent players were Miss Krebsbach, of Germany, Miss M. Osborne, holder of the English title, Miss Ida Ferenczy, the new Hungarian star, and Miss Wheaton, the London Champion.

Miss Ferenczy, Hungary’s No. 1 player, was early given very hard matches, by Mrs. D. Law and Miss I. D. Minn. Miss Wheaton quickly showed that she was in good form by beating Miss Woodhead and Miss Donovan. She opposed Miss Osborne in the Semi-Final, Miss Osborne had beaten Miss Krebsbach 3-2, after the German Champion seemed to have the match safe. Miss Osborne overcame the last-named pair, Miss Ehrlich and Haguenauer after leading 2-1. Their conquerors had earlier surmounted the stiff obstacles in Kolar-Bergl and later, their experience had a good deal to do with the victory. Miss Osborne was early given very hard matches, by Mrs. D. Law and Miss L. D. Mine. Miss Wheaton put out Szabados and Miss Newey, but fell to Bellak-Szabados in “three straight.”

The Other Events.

In the Men’s Doubles, Shalson and Hales won their way to the Semi-Final, but fell to Ehrlich and Haguenauer after leading 2-1. Their conquerors had earlier surmounted stiff obstacles in Kolar-Bergl and later, the holders, Barna-Sears.

The Women’s Doubles, Stallon and Hales got past Ehrlich and Haguenauer in the Semi-Final, the latter pair falling to T. E. Sears and Mrs. Jackson-Evans.

In the Consolation Singles, E. Bubley, of St. Albans, defeated the Anglo-German pair, G. V. Barna and Miss Osborne in the first round. In the last eight, she opposed Miss Haguenauer and Miss D. L. Emdin, going the same way and Barna led 17-13. She seemed to have the match under control, but Ehrlich’s wonderful defence and when Szabados tried playing for safety, he found that Ehrlich’s long reach enabled the Pole to hit the ball past him with deadly precision. Ehrlich won comfortably, by 21-14, 21-10, 21-13.

Event Two: Ehrlich v. Szabados in the First Semi-Final of the Men’s Singles, provided another rather one-sided match. Ehrlich’s forehand attack as a variant of his flick return was very effective, and Szabados found it difficult to get past Ehrlich’s side if Emdin in the third game, Barna tried to steady the ship, but Ehrlich was soon back in the game. After playing for safety, he found that Ehrlich’s long reach enabled the Pole to hit the ball past him with deadly precision. Ehrlich won comfortably, by 21-14, 21-10, 21-13.

Event Three: Haguenauer v. Barna, second Men’s Singles Semi-Final. This match provided the sensation of the Championships. At first all went well for the World Champion. His defence, when tested, was like iron and in attack the renowned flick was almost unfailing. First game to Barna 21-13, second game 21-16, and then had a burst of brilliant hitting to win the third 21-18. Barna half-volleyed far several points without troubling the Frenchman. The end came soon afterwards. Barna gave a despairing shrug and flicked the last few points away for Haguenauer to take the fourth game and the match 21-12.

A moment’s stunned silence and then a roar of appreciation from the crowd greeted Haguenauer’s triumph—the first defeat of Barna has sustained in an important match for several years.

Event Four: The Women’s Singles Final, between Miss M. Kettnerova (Czechoslovakia) and Miss C. Wheaton (St. Albans) went the way generally expected—the World Champion won. Miss Wheaton put up a gallant resistance, however, and gave the Champion her hardest match in the tournament. Miss Kettnerova won by 21-9, 19-21, 21-13, 21-15.

Event Five: The Men’s Doubles Final, between L. Bellak and M. Szabados (Hungary) and A. Ehrlich (Poland) and M. Haguenauer (France), provided some spectacular smashing and retrieving rallies. The Hungarians seemed out for revenge for the defeat of Barna and Szabados. After four exciting games, the Hungarians won by 21-11, 22-20, 15-21, 24-22.

Event Six: G. V. Barna and Miss Osborne easily retained their Mixed Doubles title, beating A. D. Brook and Miss V. Bromfield by 21-13, 21-10, 21-13.

Event Seven: The Women’s Doubles Final between Mrs. A. S. Hutchings and Mrs. D. Law and Miss Krebsbach and Miss D. M. Emdin, went in favour of the latter pair 22-20, 21-17, 17-21, 21-19. Extra experience had a good deal to do with the result of this match.


Both men started playing at a fast rate and Ehrlich won the first game 21-15 his superior all-round stroke play being the decisive factor. Haguenauer then resorted to defensive tactics with occasional hits against his opponent’s slow top spins. The Frenchman levelled matters by taking the second game 21-16, and then had a burst of brilliant hitting to win the third at 21-18. Both seemed as though Haguenauer would crown his already brilliant achievement by winning the title, but Ehrlich, now driven right on to defence, gradually wore his man down and took the fourth game 21-17. The Pole was frequently forced twenty feet or more away from the table to return Haguenauer’s fierce drives, but his defence—probably the finest in the game—was equal to the task. Midway through the fifth game, Haguenauer had shot his bolt and Ehrlich ran out the winner at 21-14.
News from the Provinces.

EXETER.

The first Open Dorset Singles Championship was won by L. R. Suter, of the Exeter Y.M.C.A., who defeated his International club-mate, R. Litten, in the Final by 21—20, 18—21, 21—17, at Dorchester, on 1st February.

C. F. J. Southcott and A. Bridle (Exeter), reached the Finals of the Dorset doubles Championship, but lost in the Final to Darwell and Casey, of Exeter, 15—21, 17—21, 17—21, 17—21.

The draw for the first round of the Sir Edgar Flummer Cup, open to the six Western counties—Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Gloucester and Wiltshire—resulted as follows: H. L. Rowse v. Plymouth, Exeter v. Taunton, Bristol v. Bath, Swindon, a bye.


Exeter have won 8 Inter-League Matches in succession this season. Bristol, and Swindon have been beaten twice and Plymouth, Ilfracombe, Exmouth and Cardif, once each.

JERSEY FOR EASTER?

Mr. E. P. Mirams, of the Jersey T.T. Association, writes to say that any team, or member of any club, who care to spend Easter in Jersey, will be made welcome, by his organisation, and that every effort will be made to arrange matches.

Mr. Mirams’ address is 2, Hazel Villas, St. John’s Road, Jersey, C.I.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT.

In the Northern “Open” the Leeds League gained distinction through the determined play of J. C. Baker and R. Stanyer (aged 16), who reached the Semi-Finals of the Men’s Doubles and were defeated by H. Lurie and F. Cromwell, the Internationals, and perhaps the best doubles pair in the country. Baker and Stanyer beat Shalson (the London International) and Phillips (who defeated two internationals in the English Junior Singles at Paddington Baths, when Stanyer was beaten by Sellman (London), the ultimate winner.

Leek League gained their best win to date in defeating Manchester R.B.W. at Buxton Hotels League in the return match at Leek, by 7 sets to 3, 15 games to 12. The Leek team was J. C. Baker (Captain), R. Stanyer, R. Billings, W. Buxton, and J. Pointon. Buxton impressed the visitors by his stylish backhand strokes and forceful attack.

The Leek League visited Manchester Business Houses League at Sunlight House, Manchester, and were beaten by 6 events to 4, but the result was in doubt until the last game.

The Evening Sentinel Team Championship of North Staffordshire, attracted entries from Stoke-on-Trent, Uttoxeter, Macclesfield, and the number received was 81 teams. Early rounds resulted in good games and each district is fighting hard to secure the honour of winning the handsome cup awarded to the winners.

LEICHER.

The Leeds League entertained the Manchester League on 1st February. Our guests, three out of five of whom were Internationals, proved too strong for us, winning by 9 sets to 4, in their return match at The Holly Bush, on Tuesday, 18th February.

The activities of the Woolwich and District Table Tennis League are now drawing to a close, and teams are busily engaged playing their concluding games.

The state of affairs of play is as follows:

In Division 1, Lewisham Lucania, who are yet undefeated, have two away games before they conclude their programme. It is very probable that they will be deposited from the leadership, as they have now strengthened their lead by four points. This week they defeated the R.A.C.S. at the Commonwealth Buildings. The Lewisham side owe their success to Jack Rogers and Jimmy Green, who must be congratulated on winning most of their games.

The R.A.S.C. Ladies’ Team have again won the Championship of the Ladies’ Division.

On Thursday, 5th March, the Woolwich League entertain the Surrey Table Tennis League in an Inter-League match at the Bexleyheath Club, Pavilion, Park View Road, Welling (next to the Bexleyheath and Welling Football ground).

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The “VILLA” BALL was adopted for the ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1936

The Spalding “VILLA” Table and Spalding Bats are the vogue

Illustrated Catalogue from Spalding Bros., Putney, S.W.I.S.

MANCHESTER.

Manchester calling! Oh, dear no, Manchester has not gone to sleep.

The season is proving one of the most successful since the League was formed in 1927; in fact, results and matters are completely overshadowing the interest in the various struggles for the championships, promotion and efforts to avoid relegation. Manchester has been playing on the average an Inter-League game a week and so far, touch wood, they are unbeaten.

But a hectic period is ahead with games against such famed teams as Liverpool, Sunderland, and Birmingham.

Liverpool and Birmingham have both been easily beaten earlier this season and considering Manchester’s team is, at the moment, practically as strong, I see no reason why they should lose. True enough, the services of Andy Millar have been lost for the present, owing to his business taking him to Birmingham and Liverpool, but with H. Lurie in such great form and C. W. Davies still improving, matters are not too bad.

When the old stalwart, Freddy Crowell, who has been one of Manchester’s stars, by no means since the early days of the League, is still holding his own against his more youthful opponents. Manchester have some very promising talent, chief among whom is the 13-year-old Kenneth Stanley, of the Manchester Y.M.C.A., who recently played against Sheffield—and won both his events.

Manchester Y.M.C.A., the Champions, have had an unseasonable season so far, and they seem to have little chance of retaining their title.

They still manage to turn out six teams each week. Grove House, with Lurie and Crowell holding their own, top the League with a three points lead over Y.M.C.A. and I expect they will win the title. Lurie hasn’t lost in a League match this season.

W. Richardson.

NORTH MIDDLESEX.

Tottenham Liberal and Radical Club defeated The Holly Bush T.C.C. by 21 games to 4, in their return match at The Holly Bush, on Tuesday, 18th February. In 6 match, A. D. Brook won three of the five games. It now appears that Tottenham Liberal Club must win the Championship, unless some very unexpected results occur before the end of the season.

The Closed Championships of the League have now reached the semi-final stages, and very lively interest is being shown by players and enthusiasts in the district. In the Men’s Singles the matches will be A. D. Brook (Holly Bush) v. J. J. Waller (Waltheof), and J. H. Carrington (Palmer’s Green) v. G. H. Standish (Holly Bush).

The Ladies’ Singles semi-finals are Miss N. Bright (Orchard) v. Mrs. B. M. Montgomery (Waltheof), and Miss V. E. Weavers (Co-op. Social) v. Miss D. Herbst (Waltheof). Miss Bright is the present holder of the Ladies’ Singles.

In each of the Doubles Tournaments, the holders have reached the Semi-Finals and are R. A. Lafarcade and A. Tisserand, Mrs. Montgomery and Miss D. Herbst and E. J. Dale and Miss Weavers. The Finals of the Championships have been fixed for Wednesdays in March, and will be held at The Assembly Rooms, Wood Green.
Latest Tournament Results.

SURPRISES IN LONDON CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Haydon beaten by Hales.

Marshall beats Stennett in Final.

There were some amazing "turn ups" in the London Championships played at the Indian Student's Hostel from 10th to 22nd February. M. Bergl was compelled to scratch from the tournament owing to illness.

H. J. Hales, having excelled himself by defeating S. Proffitt and A. A. Haydon, failed miserably in the Semi-Final against the safety-first Stennett. In the other half of the Semi-Final, Miss Wheaton beat against A. D. Brook, whom he beat 2-1, and he then made a complete hash of things against the dour Coles, who beat him 21-8 in the third game.

G. W. Marshall had entered the Semi-Final by defeating E. J. Filby, who had brilliantly hit Melnick off the table in the preceding round.

After watching such a surfeit of defensive play the spectators loudly cheered Marshall's winning hits against Coles in the Semi-Final. The American made his opponent look a very moderate player, winning 21-16, 21-14.

The Final, between Marshall and Stennett, was played immediately afterwards, and again the hitter named Shakespeare died. Marshall's clever play the spectators loudly cheered Marshall's winning hits against Coles in the Semi-Final. The American made his opponent look a very moderate player, winning 21-16, 21-14.

In the Semi-Finals, Miss Osborne triumphed over Miss Woodhead in the Final by 21-16, 21-17. Miss Woodhead had rather unexpectedly put out Miss Wheaton in the Semi-Final, while Ayub and Miss Wheaton 2-1, while Ayub and M. Bergl beat the holders of the Men's Doubles Championship-Joyce and Contractor-in-the Men's Doubles Final by 21-18, 21-15.

J. Joyce was on the winning side, however, in the Mixed Doubles. He and Miss Nellie Wood gained a popular victory when beating H. H. Bridge and Miss Woodhead (holders) by 21-19, 21-15, 21-15.

In the Local Events M. Bergl and J. Tobin divided in the Men's Singles, and Mrs. Halsey (Woodlands) beat young Miss Joan Nicholl (Herga) 21-16, 21-10.

Fred Perry presented the prizes at the conclusion of play, and in the course of a witty speech, remarked that the only time he now played Table Tennis were on board a liner or in the South Sea Islands!

BERGL RETAINS MIDDLESEX.

Marshall beaten in Great Final.

F. J. BURLS WINS CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIP.

A large crowd watched the Civil Service Championships at Lucania Hall, Draper Street, London, S.E., when F. J. Burls surprised everyone by staging a successful "come back," to record his seventh victory in the Men's Singles.


Miss Doris Edmond won the Women's Singles title, beating her sister, Miss Doris Edmond, in the Semi-Final by 21-0, and in the Final easily disposed of Miss G. V. Thompson by 21-8, 21-14.

The Final of the Mixed Doubles provided a very exciting match. L. W. Martin and Miss P. Nelson were leading S. Steel and Miss Daye (Ministry of Health) by 20-15 in the deciding game, but Steel and his partner stuck grimly to that last point and eventually pulled off an unexpected victory by 24-22.

In Prague 4 Years Ago.
By ERIC FINDON.

With the news that Czechoslovakia had accepted the Swaythling Cup and World’s Championship matches came memories of our last visit to Prague, the Capital, where they will again be contested. What has the English team to face, apart from the continuous play?

First and foremost there is a nasty journey out there. I recall that Teddy Rimer, Sunderland, and A. Millar, Manchester, were new recruits to England’s Swaythling Cup ranks. Young Andy was completely knocked out by the tedious journey.

We had had one main break for a match against South Germany, at Wiesbaden and against Darmstadt. The latter necessitated a further journey of some 50 miles. As the matches were played on the same day, we had to split forces. I went with the travelling side and the Swaythling Cup men were allowed to stay in Wiesbaden, thus reserving their strength as much as possible.

Eventually we arrived at Prague, all looking slightly the worse for wear and tear.

The first match was against France. England put out R. D. Jones, A. A. Haydon and C. H. Bull. It will be remembered that this series was the last occasion on which Charlie Bull wore the three gold lions of England.

And now about the conditions of play we must expect.

In the first place, the tables were bad. When we all went along to the Town Hall to examine them, they looked rather like the English Channel during a heavy ground-swell. Being on the slowish side they needed getting used to before our boys could settle down.

They may have improved this year. Let’s hope they have.

The Czechs have since then seen many examples of perfect lighting. They have seen the English lights which take a lot of beating. They are bound to have profited by these lessons and I am sure they will make a great effort to achieve perfect lighting.

In Czechoslovakia they are not lacking in enthusiasm. The crowd, on the whole, are a sporty lot. They like good play and show their appreciation. When the Czech team is in action there is always great excitement.

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When they played Hungary in play-off, which was the only Hungary had been beaten, the feeling was so high that the players had to have protection against the over-excited members of the public. It was a grand match and a triumph for Czechoslovakia.

The hospitality of the Czechs was unbounded. The only point against them was their extraordinary liking for duck, which seemed to have a place on every menu. The bread was covered with seeds. Teddy Rimer objected to this and asked them if the English team was taken for a flock of canaries! This was immediately put right.

There is nothing more to say now, except to wish the English team the very best of luck—I wish I was going with them again.

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