

Table

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

Tennis

VOL. I. No. 4.

MARCH, 1936.

ONE PENNY.

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

..... "On and On, and Up and Up!"

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 fifty crowds roaring their approval of 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 bus conductors, who must surely have fought 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 no less than 3,000 were reported to have been turned away from the doors; that Gaumont-British and British Movietone took excellent news-reels at Earl's Court and Paddington respectively; that Fred Perry broadcast a running commentary on the third round match

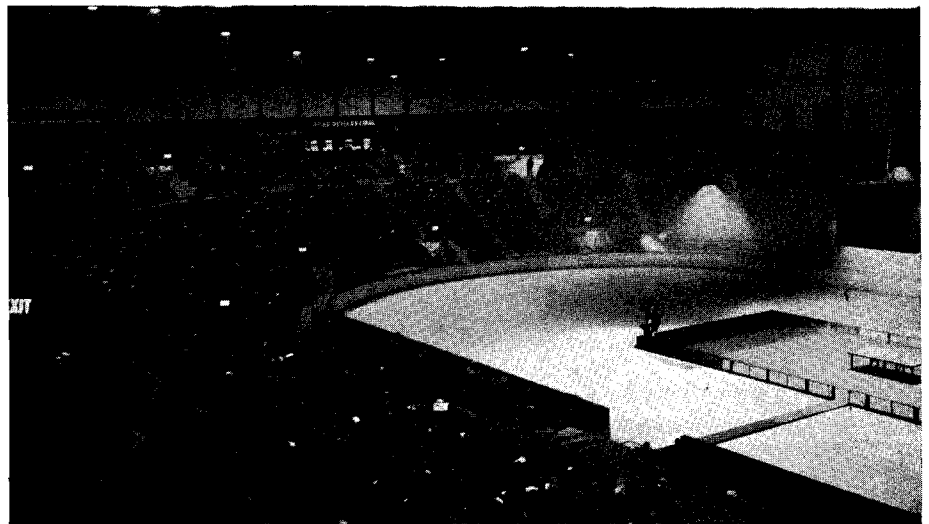
between Barna and Sears; that the Stadium lighting was 30,000 candle-power; that the "ball-boys" wore skates, and that the winners were delighted to receive their prizes at the hands of the charming donor of the International Trophy—the Dowager Lady Swaythling herself. No wonder the crowd gave her a 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.

From the Secretary's Chair.

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The Rush Period.

In the closing months of the season there is such a hectic programme that it is difficult to deal efficiently with the administration of the Association's business. The "Tour," the National Championships, the Open Tournaments, the Trial Matches and the World Championships, the match with U.S.A., the production of the Magazine, Committee meetings, and the general increase in work owing to the growth of the game, make it almost impossible for the officers to cope with the demands put upon them.

Important Decisions.

There are a few very important matters to be dealt with in these notes. First, the Wilmott Cup. The Executive Committee very exhaustively considered the recommendation of the General Council but reluctantly decided that it was impossible to undertake the competition this season. I trust that Leagues keen on this will understand it was only postponed because it was quite out of the question to run it, and the Executive Council decided that it should be commenced in the early part of next season. Secondly, the Committee decided that a General Council Meeting should be called in the North of England on March 28th next. This is to give members who find it difficult to get to London an opportunity to take part in the administration. Full particulars of time and place will be circularised in due course.

The International Congress at Prague.

At the last meeting the Executive Council gave instructions to our delegates on a number of points which are on the Agenda for consideration. "*Finger Spin*."—It was decided to vote that "finger spin" should be abolished for an experimental period of one season, all countries to report the result of the experience at the next Congress. "*Lower Net*."—England to vote that a lower net be tried out in each country next season by holding at least two tournaments with a lower net, data to be compiled, and further consideration given to the problem at the next Congress. It was also decided that if U.S.A. could not hold the World Championships next season to make application on behalf of England. If 1937 Championships held in U.S.A., England to apply for them in 1938. I hope to be able to publish the decisions of the Congress in the next issue.

The World Championship.

I am being asked from all quarters for particulars of the trip to Prague. The dates are March 12th to 18th. We shall send a Men's and Women's team and if any players, or their friends, wish to accompany them we shall make the arrangements. It will be possible for any individual to make the journey and take advantage of the "party rate." The Czech Association will make arrangements at the Hotels and this is an opportunity for a Continental holiday in one of the most beautiful and historic cities of the world I shall be pleased to hear from other members interested.

Second Barna Tour.

Bigger Crowds Than Ever.

The magic numbers AYX 651 have been blazing the table tennis trail again. Most of England has seen them, and wherever 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 encoired 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 swarming to the exhibitions that the second venture must be acclaimed, if anything, a greater success than the first.

Starting at Portsmouth, on February 10th, and concluding at Manchester on February 29th, these ambassadors of table tennis have put the ultimate seal on a great enthusiasm, kindled by the Earl's Court finals. The seventh wave of its triumph 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 E. & K. Hyde, C. W. Davies, H. Lurie and F. Cromwell, and though the English success was limited to one, the crowd's enthusiasm would not be damped.

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, 18-21, 22-20.
M. Szabados (Hungary) beat C. W. Davies (North) 21-11, 21-17.
G. V. Barna (Hungary) beat H. Lurie (North) 21-10, 19-21, 21-15.
Bellak and Szabados beat E. and K. Hyde 21-15, 17-21, 21-13.
Barna beat Davies 21-16, 21-17.
Bellak beat Lurie 23-21, 21-16.
Szabados beat K. Hyde 21-11, 21-14.
Bellak beat Davies 21-8, 22-20.
Lurie and F. Cromwell beat Barna and Szabados 23-21, 14-21, 21-18.
Barna beat K. Hyde 21-9, 14-21, 21-14.
Szabados beat Lurie 21-15, 21-10.

There is no space to give full details of the tour's triumph elsewhere. Suffice that from Portsmouth on February 10th, the players progressed to Swindon, Middlesbrough, Oldham, Blackpool, Dublin, Stockport, Grimsby, Hanley, Barking, London (Lane's Club), Hendon, Norwich, Leicester,

Swansea and Manchester, with only four days for rest—fêted everywhere and with huge audiences to attest the warmth of their welcome.

All seats were sold for the opening exhibition at **Portsmouth**, where the Mayor greeted the players.

Although, owing to the hall having no gallery, the crowd was not too large, the tourists had a great reception.

From there the party drove through terrible snow and rain to **Swindon**. Here there was a packed house and an even more enthusiastic reception. The exhibition was a complete financial success.

At **Middlesbrough**, again, not a single seat was vacant, and here the play was some of the best of the tour.

In some splendid games, a feature was the excellent showing of two local players.

So to **Oldham**, where the Mayor and Mayoress and the Cotton Queen assembled to greet the party, all of whom presented with silver cups inscribed with the town's coat of arms.

Barna touched the height of his form here and was accorded a wonderful reception.

From Blackpool, described above, the circus crossed to **Dublin**. Thence back to **Stockport**, where it was unfortunate that the players suffered from the effects of their sea-sickness on the voyage.

Nevertheless they were wildly applauded by a 1,800 crowd which included the Mayor.

A still larger crowd, over 2,000, awaited the party at **Grimsby**, and here it was Haydon's turn to strike a disappointing patch, being upset by the long railway journey.

From this point the crowds were consistently high, and in the Town Hall at **Hanley** another 1,600 thronged to the show.

Here the tourists were joined by Lurie. All four were in great form and the *Evening Sentinel* describes the display as a "brilliant success."

Then back to London for a few days, commencing at the East Ham Town Hall, with the **Barking** League as the efficient (and delighted) sponsors. Here a record for the hall of 1,500, brilliant play and sensational win of Stanley Proffitt against Bellak. The jovial Mayor, Mr. Alderman Pope, threw an excellent party in his parlour after the show.

Next day to **Lane's Club**, the famous sporting centre in Baker Street, but no boxing. This time it was celluloid taking it on the chin—and "the count" went right on to 21! A semi-private crowd thoroughly appreciated a great show.

Monday, the 21st, saw the tourists at the Brent Bridge Hotel, **Hendon**. Once again a packed house, craning necks, and wild applause. Announcing was done by Lionel Seccombe, well-known broadcaster of boxing commentaries. Spectators included E.T.T.A. officials, Vice-President H. N. Smith, of Scarborough, and Dan Maskell, famous lawn tennis pro-champion.

A day's rest and off to Norwich—but we're off to press!

THE SELECTORS' VERDICT.

It is officially announced that the following have been selected to represent England in this season's Swaythling Cup and Corbillon Cup matches at Prague:—

Men.	Women.
A. A. Haydon.	M. Osborne.
M. B. W. Bergl.	W. Woodhead.
H. Lurie.	C. Wheaton.
S. Proffitt.	D. Newey.
J. K. Hyde.	1st Reserve:
1st Reserve:	Mrs. Hutchings
T. E. Sears.	(to travel).

The above teams, under the non-playing captaincy of the Hon. Ivor Montagu, will be accompanied by F. Cromwell (nominated for Doubles), and Messrs. Wilmott, Goldstein, Marshall (America), and Mr. and Mrs. McNutt.

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 Hughes Aarons (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. Biddell (non-playing captain).

Welcome to the Old Country, and may our first international match with you on March 5th prove a happy and memorable one.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.
Sir,—Being a table tennis enthusiast and in touch with one of the leading table tennis organisers in Canada, I thought you might be interested in the growth of the game in that land. I also sent a copy of TABLE TENNIS to you and he was very delighted, and he also inundated me with questions concerning the game, as he said that on the whole Canadian table tennis is something like the Dionne quintuplets—she's just learning to walk.

My friend runs the Winnipeg Table Tennis Club and he writes that within a month of opening, the membership increased from 110 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 Messrs. Jacques or Rose to send some out. Vancouver is the home of table tennis, having leagues and national championships held there and over 25,000 playing members. Montreal have lately formed an association and he hopes that other cities will.

Last season, or fall, as my friend says, Winnipeg had a city tournament and had an entry of 150, but no "stars" were uncovered and the majority of people still think it is a parlour game. I do wish that they could see Barna and Co. in action.

Hoping you can find room to mention this in TABLE TENNIS, as it might prove interesting to other readers.

Yours faithfully,

Catford, S.E. 6.

C. BRADY.

Mr. B. Sidney H. Jones writes to us suggesting that a "Pen-Friend Club" should be started through the columns of TABLE TENNIS. This we will very gladly do if readers show any general interest in the idea.

Meanwhile Mr. Jones, whose address is 97, Elsinore Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E. 23, is anxious to make contact with Table Tennis enthusiasts in Hungary, France, Czechoslovakia, Germany and the United States; and we hope the publication of this notice will choke 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 Swaythling Cup Team for the last two years and has held the London Business Houses Championship since 1932-3, 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 L.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 on form he is liable to beat anybody in the world. Then we have Bergl, who has so nearly defeated such highly ranked players as Ehrlich and Kohn."

R.R.: "What does first-class English play lack in comparison with that of the best foreigners?"

Hales: "In my opinion no Englishman has an all-round game as good as the best foreigners, although several of our players have either a first-class attack or defence."

R.R.: "What effect do you think lowering the height of the net to 6¼ ins. would have?"

Hales: "It should help to brighten the game—make the hitters more successful, but I question whether a reduction of ¾-in. would be sufficient to turn the scale in their favour."

R.R.: "Do you consider finger-spin or trick services tend to restrict the development of the user's stroke play?"

Hales: "This depends largely upon whether a player endeavours to develop spin services before he has perfected his ordinary strokes. If he finds he can win points by using spin services he will tend to prefer this method to risking going out for a winning hit."

R.R.: "What was your most amusing Table Tennis experience?"

Hales: "A Press Reporter recently wrote that 'After studying English Table Tennis he had come to the conclusion that an Englishman's strong point was his defence. There are, however, two English attackers of promise—A. A. Haydon and H. J. Hales!'"

THE WOMEN'S COLUMN.

By Mrs. H. M. BUNBURY.

To my great regret, circumstances prevented my attending the English Championships this year, but I hear on all hands that it was a great success from almost every point of view. Of course, we have got quite used by this time to our friends from the Continent walking away with most of the titles, and 1936 was no exception. We must, therefore, congratulate Miss Osborne for sharing in the retention of the Mixed Doubles title. True she was partnered by Barna, but they are worthy holders in the face of strong opposition. Congratulations also to Miss D. M. Emdin, for winning, with Miss Krebsbach, the Women's Doubles, and to Mrs. Hutchings and Mrs. Law for reaching the ultimate stage in this event. A word of commendation is also due to Miss Wheaton for reaching the final of the Women's Singles—a very fine performance.

Although unable to attend the Championships in London, I was able to pay one or two visits during the tour of the popular trio from Hungary. At Oldham, on 14th February, there was a large crowd—of which women formed a good proportion—very great enthusiasm was displayed. The Mayor, Mayoress and Chief Constable were there; but perhaps the most interesting feature of the evening was provided by the presence of the Cotton Queen. She is an Oldham girl, and Oldham is very proud of her—and not without good reason. By the way, Miss Lancaster writes to tell me that she has practically recovered from her very unfortunate experience, and I am sure we are all glad to know that she so luckily escaped.

At Blackpool, on 15th February, the Tower Circus was packed, and again I noticed a goodly proportion of women in the audience. I was struck by the fact that part of the galleries had been reserved for girls and boys from several of the High Schools in the district. All the good shots received vocal appreciation from them in no uncertain manner and it was evident that the finer points of the play were not escaping them. In my view, those who were responsible for the arrangements, showed commendable foresight in thus providing opportunity for the younger element to see table tennis as played by the masters. Blackpool has set an example which other towns might well follow.

Waterloo—it is said—was won on the playing fields of Eton. This epigram can surely be applied with equal force to the big green table. Like most other sports, table tennis demands that you should start when you are young and there should be no finer nurseries of the game than High Schools and Public Schools. Here and there, I am informed, tables have recently been installed, but these are in boys' schools and as far as I am aware, the game has not been seriously introduced as a recognised part of the school-girls' sports curriculum. The opportunities which are possessed by the schools for getting in that necessary early training are unique, and ought we not to look in this direction for our champions of the future?

Congratulations to Miss Osborne, Miss Wheaton, Miss Woodhead and Miss Newey on their selection for the Corbillon Cup Team. We all wish them the best of luck at Prague.

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, 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."

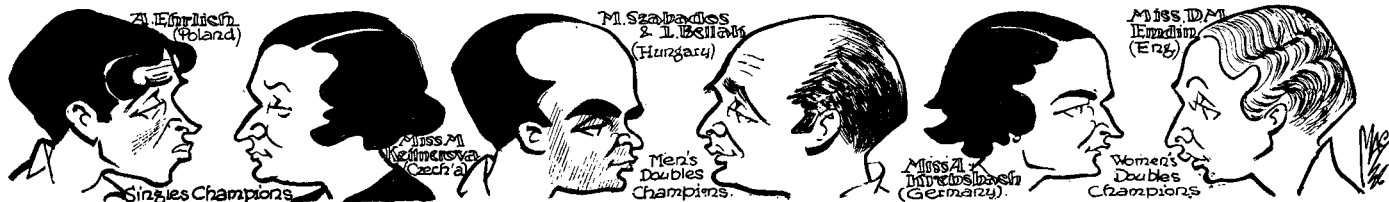
Kolar's easy defeat at the hands of Bergl in three straight games, was the first surprise. The English International won comfortably, returning nearly everything Kolar could put over and piercing the Czech's defences with brilliant opportunist hits.

Then came the second big thrill. The many hundreds of spectators who had been looking on admiringly at Barna flicking his way past H. W. Swetman, 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 Haguener had little difficulty in beating R. D. Jones, but Ehrlich, called upon to play again soon after his match with Proffitt, nearly failed against Bergl. At 19 all, in the fifth game, Bergl suddenly tried a big hit. Ehrlich returned it rather high, but deep. Bergl leapt to smash it home. Alas! the shot missed its mark. Dead silence, as the Englishman was match point down, but hopes were soon dashed, for almost immediately Bergl parted with another hard hit to give Ehrlich the match 21—19 in the fifth game.

The last eight were M. Szabados and H. Lurie, and M. Symons and A. Ehrlich in the top half; and G. Barna and A. Haydon and L. Bellak and M. Haguener in the bottom half. Lurie disappointed English "fans" by falling easily to Szabados 3—0, while Ehrlich beat Symons 3—1. Bellak disappointed his admirers, by losing 3—1 to Haguener. The Haydon—Barna match, was reserved for decision at the Empress Stadium, on Saturday evening.



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 L. D. Mine. Miss Wheaton quickly showed that she was in good form by beating Miss Woodhead and Miss Donovan, and opposed Miss Osborne in the Semi-Final. Miss Osborne had beaten Miss Krebsbach 3-2, after the German Champion had seemed to have the match safe. In the Semi-Final, Miss Wheaton confirmed her last year's London Championship victory over Miss Osborne, winning in three straight games this time.

In the other half of the draw, the man-like severity of Miss Kettnerova's forehand drive, proved a terror to her opponents, and as she was able to vary this shot with a very consistent chop defence, she had little difficulty in beating Miss N. Bright and Miss D. M. Jin. In the last eight, she opposed Miss Ferenczy, and fulfilled expectations by beating the Hungarian 3-0. The World Champion reached the Final by a fairly easy victory over Miss V. Bromfield.

The Other Events.

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

The Hyde brothers reached the Semi-Final in the lower half of the draw, but fell to Bellak-Szabados in "three straight." Some surprise was caused by the defeat of Haydon and R. D. Jones—England's No. 1 and No. 2 ranked players—by G. W. Marshall and R. C. Dawson. The last-named pair fell to Bellak-Szabados 3-0.

The Misses Osborne and Woodhead lost their Women's Doubles title, being beaten in the Semi-Final by the Anglo-German pair, Miss D. M. Emdin and Miss Krebsbach. In the other half, Mrs. Hutchings and Mrs. Law reached the Final. They put up a fine performance to beat Miss Ferenczy and Miss D. L. Emdin.

There was a high-class entry for the Mixed Doubles. In the first two rounds, Haydon and Miss Newey put out Szabados and Miss Roberts and Bellak and Miss Ferenczy, only to fall to T. E. Sears and Mrs. Jackson-Evans.

Barna and Miss Osborne, the holders, won through to the Final, beating Haguenaer and Miss D. L. Emdin, Ehrlich and Mrs. Sutton and then Sears and Mrs. Jackson-Evans.

A. D. Brook and Miss V. Bromfield came through the bottom half of the draw. They beat Silto and Mrs. Booker in the Semi-Final by 3 games to 1.

The Veteran's Championship was carried to its conclusion at Paddington Baths, the winner being the 45-year-old E. C. Gunn, of Plymouth. He beat the old Birmingham International, F. S. B. Lawes by 21-18, 12-21, 17-21, 21-18, 21-11.

G. B. Sellman, of Ealing, won the Junior title from a small "field," beating H. Rosen in the Final by 21-17, 18-21, 21-18, 6-21, 21-18. It is to be hoped that Sellman will emulate the example of the two previous winners of this title: M. Bergl and H. Lurie, both English Internationals.

In the Consolation Singles, E. Bublely, of Manhattan Club, won, beating the Internationals, G. W. Marshall and H. Shalson—the latter in the Final, at 25-23 in the deciding game.

Finals Night at Earl's Court.

The Empress Stadium, Earl's Court, housed 8,000 table tennis "fans" who watched the play as the English Championships were brought to their conclusion.

In the midst of the huge Ice Hockey Arena, was a wooden platform, upon which stood the Table. The "ball-boys"—in evening dress—wore skates, and swept swiftly round and round retrieving the fugitive ball when it was knocked out of the playing space.

Event One: Barna v. Haydon in the Men's Singles Quarter Final, showed us a restrained and somewhat inaccurate Haydon, who was seldom able to get his attack going smoothly. Barna won 21-4, 21-13, 19-21, 21-13.

Event Two: Ehrlich v. Szabados in the First Semi-Final of the Men's Singles, provided another rather one-sided match. The Hungarian could rarely get past 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 Three: Haguenaer 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 unerring. First game to Barna 21-13. The second game looked like going the same way and Barna led 17-13. Suddenly Barna began to make mistakes and Haguenaer gained five points in a row to lead by 18-17. He won the game 21-19 One game all.

In the third game, Barna tried to steady up his game, but Haguenaer replied by a stream of forehand drives which had the master Hungarian in difficulties. Try as he would Barna could not gain the advantage over his ex-pupil and Haguenaer took the third game 21-16, to lead by two games to one.

Barna in danger! Now the World Champion would surely pull out something extra to force the victory. He tried using his

forehand attack as a variant of his flick campaign. Haguenaer's truly magnificent defence withstood the test and the Frenchman led 12-8. With victory in sight, Haguenaer pressed home his forehand attack against his opponent, who seemed to be faltering. Barna half-volleyed for several points without troubling the Frenchman. The end came soon afterwards. Barna gave a despairing shrug and flicked the last few points away for Haguenaer 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 Haguenaer's triumph—the first defeat 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.

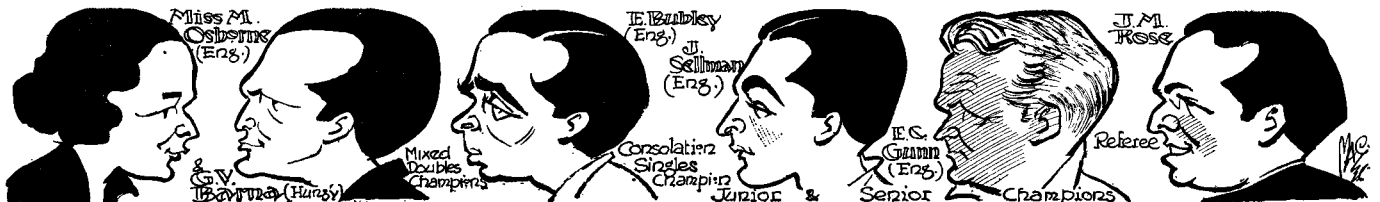
Event Five: The Men's Doubles Final, between L. Bellak and M. Szabados (Hungary) and A. Ehrlich (Poland) and M. Haguenaer (France), provided some spectacular smashing and retrieving rallies. The Hungarians seemed out for revenge for the defeat of Barna and Szabados. After four exciting games, the Hungarians 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, 21-16, 21-18.

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.

Event Eight: Men's Singles Final—Ehrlich v. Haguenaer.

Both men started playing at a fast rate and Ehrlich won the first game 21-18 his superior all-round stroke play being the decisive factor. Haguenaer 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. It seemed as though Haguenaer 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 Haguenaer's fierce drives, but his defence—probably the finest in the game—was equal to the task. Midway through the fifth game, Haguenaer 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—9, 21—20, 18—21, 21—17, at Dorchester, on 1st February.

C. F. J. Southcott and A. Bridle (Exeter), reached the Final of the Dorset Doubles Championship, but lost in the Final to Dawes and Casey, of Bristol, 18—21, 21—17, 21—20.

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

The Exeter League defeated the Bristol League in the Exeter Y.M.C.A., on Saturday, 15th February, by 14 games to 11. Exeter winners were L. R. Suter 5, R. F. Litten 4, A. S. King 3, L. C. Kerslake 2, C. F. J. Southcott 0. Bristol, C. Dawes 4, G. Bush 3, K. Bissicks 1, H. Hutchings 2, F. Hipkins 1.

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

Jersey for Easter?

Mr. E. P. Mirams, of the Jersey T.T. Association, writes to say that any team, or members of any club, who care to spend Easter in Jersey, will be made very 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.

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 games to 1. S. Rosenberg, by beating L. Cohen, robbed them of a clear-cut victory. The play was far more interesting than the score depicts and the visit, which we hope will become an annual affair, was much enjoyed by many enthusiasts.

In the Club Championship, run by the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association, Oxford Place Y.M.I., who incidentally head the First Division of the League, defeated Batley (Hanover Street) in the Final at Bradford by 5 sets to 4.

On the 7th March, the Y.T.T.A. run the Huddersfield Y.M.C.A. Team Tournament. Entries accompanied by a fee of 3s. must be sent to A. S. Carr, 10, Reginald Place, Leeds 7, before the 2nd March. Entries together with the usual fees for the West Riding Championships, which are to be held at the Bramley Liberal Club, Leeds, on 28th March, must be sent to the above address before the 23rd March.

LEEK.

North Staffordshire was delighted at the success of the promising 16-year-old Leek player R. Stanyer, in reaching the Semi-Finals of 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 Business Houses 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. Poinon. 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.

In the Northern "Open" the Leek 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 Singles) after a stirring encounter.

The *Evening Sentinel* Team Championship of North Staffordshire, attracted entries from Stoke-on-Trent, Uttoxeter, Macclesfield and Leek 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.

WOOLWICH AND DISTRICT.

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 improbable that they will be deposed 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 Sports Club Pavilion, Park View Road, Welling (next to the Bexleyheath and Welling Football ground).

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 outside 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.

Then the old stalwart, Freddy Cromwell, who has been one of Manchester's stars since the very 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 unlucky 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 Cromwell 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.

SIDNEY 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 their match, A. D. Brook won three of the lost 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 keen 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. Standbrook (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. Laforcade 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 Wednesday, 11th March and will be held at The Assembly Rooms, Wood Green.

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SOUTHEND.

The Men's Singles Championship of the League attracted an entry of 24 and was played off from 4th to 8th February, at the pleasant headquarters of the Alexandra T.T.C. The recent visit to Southend of the three Hungarians has improved the standard of play as well as stimulated considerable local interest in the of the League. The favourites were J. E. Brown, many times champion and Reg. Taylor, the popular county cricketer. Each reached the Final, Brown by beating D. Rogers—his York Road club-mate—by 3 games to 1, Taylor (of Ducat's) putting out P. Cooper, of the Alexandra Club 21—15 in the fifth. The Final was a ding-dong struggle which eventually ended in Brown defeating his challenger 22—20, 16—21, 21—15, 21—23 21—12.

The Women's Singles was won by Miss Winnie Geeson from Miss Joan Riley, 15—21, 22—20, 21—18. Both girls belong to the Alexandra Club, of which the "A" team at present tops the Women's Division of the League. W. A. Heally, of Southchurch, won the Men's Minor, beating H. F. Martin, of Alexandra Club, 21—16 in the decider, and girls from the same club met in the Final of the Women's Minor Singles. Here, Mrs. F. Evans beat Miss M. Green, 21—16, 18. The Referee and Tournament Secretary was Mr. League Secretary Arthur Allan-Rowlandson.

First Division leaders are York Road Institute, who, unbeaten so far this season, seem to be making straight for the "Iveagh" Cup.

SWINDON.

The St. Paul's "A" team are unbeaten in the Premier Division and are likely to remain so this season. Central Mission "A" and Baptist Institute "A" are fighting for the second position. The leading Clubs are—Central Mission "A" and St. Paul's "A." The Marlborough Camp Club should carry off the Second and Third Division honours with their "B" and "C" teams.

WEST BROMWICH.

Three-year-old West Bromwich League is going great guns. In 1933, started off with 20 teams, now 54. Two new Divisions were formed up this mid-season, one men's one women's—with eight clubs. An encouraging start. A recent knock-out tournament attracted 128 entries and produced good play. Team knock-outs draw crowds without any advertising. Yes, it's a knock-out!

Vigorous West Bromwich League, now about to help local Hospital effort: No half-measures either. Special competition and exhibition matches by their own stars will be staged on 11th March at the Town Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress are expected, and approximately 998 others, including Mr. A. Addison Wall, League Hon. Secretary. Keep it up, West Brom—"Brom" is already a name to conjure with in table tennis!

WEST ESSEX.

The West Essex League avenged their defeat at Chelmsford with a victory at Epping, on 31st January, by 14 games to 11. Winners for W. E. League: Coram 5, Little 4, Barrick 3, Goldsmith 1, Cox 1. Winners for Chelmsford League: Merrifield 4, Phillips 3, Amos 2, Peter Smith 1, Wood 1.

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 draw M. Ayub had a very hard game 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 rained shots to all parts of the table beyond the retriever's reach. Marshall won with almost contemptuous ease by 21—9, 21—14, 22—20.

In the Women's Singles 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 Miss Osborne beat Miss Dora Emdin 2—1 after a hard fight.

The Women's Doubles Final was contested by Miss Wheaton and Miss Wright, and Mrs. Booker and Miss Finch. The former pair won 2—1.

In the Mixed Doubles Final Haydon and Miss Osborne beat Ayub and Miss Wheaton by 21—16, 22—20.

The Men's Doubles provided yet another triumph for M. Ayub and Stanley Proffitt. They defeated A. Haydon and H. J. Hales by 21—16, 21—19.

HULL TITLE CHANGES HANDS.

The Annual Tournament for the Men's and Women's Singles Table Tennis Championships of the Hull and East Riding, took place at the Madeley Street Baths. In each case the title changed hands. The concluding results were: Women's Championship (Holder, Miss J. Boston)—Semi-Final: Miss Robson beat Miss Boston, 21—11, 21—11; Miss Thirsk beat Miss Cross, 21—7, 21—19. Final: Miss Robson beat Miss Thirsk, 21—12, 13—21, 19—21, 21—18, 21—15.

Men's Championship (Holder, E. Smith)—Semi-Final: E. Smith beat E. Burman, 21—12, 21—18; D. Mullholland beat R. Waterston, 15—21, 21—12, 21—16. Final: D. Mullholland beat E. Smith, 21—11, 21—18, 20—22, 22—20.

BERGL RETAINS MIDDLESEX.**Marshall beaten in Great Final. Fred Perry presents the Prizes.**

M. B. W. Bergl played at the top of his form at Herga Club to beat G. W. Marshall in one of the most spectacular Singles Finals ever seen in the Middlesex Championships. The young Harrow International's brilliant returns against Marshall's colossal smashing fairly astonished even his own club supporters. Bergl occasionally used his hitting to bring off a surprise, and generally successful, counter attack at critical moments in the games. Bergl won 22—20, 22—20, 9—21, 25—23. The scores give a fair indication of the closeness of the struggle. Ayub beat Shalson 2—0, but was easily beaten by Marshall in the Semi-Final, while in the other Semi-Final P. Williams, who did well to beat J. Joyce 2—0, lost to Bergl 20—22, 15—21.

Miss C. Wheaton won the Women's Singles, beating a "stonewaller"—Mrs. Coleman—in the Final by 17—21, 21—11, 21—15.

In the Women's Doubles Final Mrs. Holt and Miss Woodhead beat Miss Wright 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—18.

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, 16—21, 21—19.

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

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

F. J. BURLS WINS CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIP.

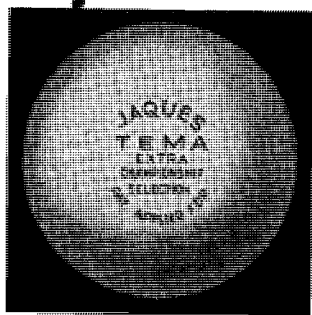
A large crowd watched the Civil Service Championships at Lucania Hall, Draper Street, London, S.E., when F. J. Burls surprised everyone by staging a successful "come back," to record his seventh victory in the Men's Singles.

He beat V. R. Buckmaster, a great "stonewaller," in the Final, by 21—12, 11—21, 21—18, 21—15.

Miss Dora Emdin won the Women's Singles title, beating her sister, Miss Doris Emdin, in the Semi-Final by 2—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 Dawe (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 the Men's Doubles L. W. Martin and H. Baker, of Engineer-in-Chief's, beat Burls and C. W. Thomas by 14—21, 21—18, 20—22, 21—19, 21—11.



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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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(Continued from column 2.)

When they played Hungary in a play-off, which was the only time 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.