

Table

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ONE PENNY.

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

“OUGHT WE TO BOO THEM?”

LEGISLATE AGAINST PUSHING—OR TABLE TENNIS DIES.

By HON. IVOR MONTAGU.

[It is customary for Editors to disclaim responsibility for the views of their contributors. In the present instance, however, the Editorial Board of TABLE TENNIS wishes particularly to associate itself with this article from Mr. Montagu's powerful pen. On behalf of organised Table Tennis, it expresses grateful thanks to him, not merely for revealing the "chiselling" menace so clearly, but for the constructive suggestions he advances to counter it. Action of an official character can surely be expected in the near future, for the situation now so rapidly developing is obviously charged with possibilities of the most sinister kind.

Certain players are referred to, not as though they are the only sinners (that is far from the truth) but because the Tournament in which they participated is most fresh in the memory. They are simply "samples" of a table tennis tendency the administration now seeks to crush.]

Two hours for a point.

Seven hours for one match (unfinished).

Eleven hours for a "Swaythling" Cup Final.

A menace has appeared in our sport. If it is not crushed, table tennis is finished. The 8,000 crowds will melt away, the game will again be a laughing stock, the work of years wasted, the sport dead.

What has happened in U.S.A. and has happened in Prague is also coming here. The "Star" Finals were a portent.

Let not what I have to say be construed as an attack on Hodgkinson, Coleman, Buble, Coles. Four estimable and keen sportsmen and sports-women. Doubtless possessed of all the civic virtues, good wives and mothers, husbands and fathers, or wives, husbands, mothers, fathers-to-be.

But as table tennis players a menace, that must be humiliated, despised, sent to Coventry, driven out of public life, if table tennis is to survive.

Either they can't play, in which case they ought not to be competing in tournaments, or they can play and won't, in which case they ought to be punished.

My father used to tell me that the first rule of the game was to get the ball over the net, the second to get it on to the table. The "Star" finalists play as though these were the only two rules. They are wrong. There is a third. To get it there in such a way that the

opponent cannot get it back.

Playing to these first two rules and ignoring the third is what deservedly gets boxers chucked out of the ring, and their purses withheld. The equivalent is being done in table tennis in U.S.A. Shall we have to do it here?

Not yet, I think. And that is why I don't think we should yet apply the solution at the top of this article. I don't believe it's the fault of the players. Certainly not altogether. The four "Starrers," I think, are all triers. They would like to play, if they could. They don't: and a whole great lot of other table tennis players in England don't, because they haven't had the right kind of training, opportunity, encouragement and discouragement. The fault is shared by the Association, the Leagues, the Clubs. And if these tackle the problem the right way, I am sure that the players are keen and loyal and sporting and will do their share.

First of all, let us define the trouble: pushing, poking, the Americans call it chiselling.

Chiselling consists in (a) not attempting to make a winner. Still more important, it consists in (b) not trying to manoeuvre a position from which a winner can be made.

Nobody would criticise this as unsporting and worse (?), idiotic, if it really paid. If this system won matches the fault would be wholly and entirely with us table tennis legislators, and it would be up to us to find a way of changing the laws so that it

didn't win. But it doesn't even win. Not one big open tournament this year has been won by a chiseller. Lurie, Hyde, Marshall, Bergl, Silto—they're not chisellers. Even in Prague, where the conditions, slow tables, &c., were all on the side of poking, the new champions are not chisellers, Kolar, Blattner, Jimmy McClure. Even the Rumanians didn't win. And why not? Because anybody can beat a chiseller, you or I or the dullest dud, if we choose to play the same game. Even if the conditions are in his favour, he cannot win, because sooner or later he will find someone who, in an access of moral indignation, will play him at his own game and poke him out, as Mrs. Hutchings did Mrs. Coleman in the National, and as Ehrlich did Paneth in Prague when he took two hours to win the first point and swore he would let his hand drop off before he hit the ball. Two hours for the first point, forty minutes for the rest of the first game, five minutes for the second game and then the rest of the Rumanian side crumpled up. For your real chiseller is yellow, you can always make him pack up if you prove you mean business. All he achieves before he goes out is to dislocate the tournament and disgust the spectators. *The proof that chiselling is unsporting is the fact that it can only win by relying on the opponent to be kind enough not to play the same game.*

To discover the cause of the trouble let us return to our "Starrers."

Why I feel so kindly disposed towards our "Starrers" is because I believe they are chisellers not out of original sin, but because they don't know any better. I believe this because all hit at times (Mrs. Coleman, even, did twice). What made them chisellers was not working for their hits, the thousand million times they just put the ball across the net "to get it back." When they did hit, they did so less by plan than out of desperation.

And they didn't work for their hits mainly because they didn't know how.

Even when the ball to hit came along, they didn't recognise it. They don't know. What are they doing playing in tournaments when they don't know? What is little Hodgkinson doing, playing in tournaments without a backhand? Or, since you can play a fine aggressive game with forehand only (*à la* Kolar and Hamr) what is she doing playing so flatfooted she can't run round her backhand to hit forehand every time it does get up for her. Perry never had a backhand. Jones and Bull never had much. Yet these three great English defensive players were great, precisely because they could recognise the ball to hit and be on it and put it away like lightning. If Hodgkinson had hit all the balls she *could* have hit, she would have murdered Mrs. Coleman.

The trouble is, these players are playing matches too early. The trouble is, in general, that in England there are too many matches and not enough learning. There must be many young players in England who never go to the table except to play in a league match. How can they learn? Naturally as soon as a player learns one thing, in every match he does that one thing he knows, whereas really he ought to pack up that thing entirely and concentrate on something else. Hodgkinson's club ought to pay her something every time she plays a backhand drive. Instead of encouraging her to win their League matches and the Business Houses title, they ought to make her learn backhand, even if she loses every match for a year; then she might become a player. Or, if she decides to be a Hamr-Kolar one wing attack type, let her go in for skipping, squash, dancing, anything to cure standing on the whole foot. Next time she sees Kettnerova, don't let her watch the game, but Kettnerova's dancing toes; the beautiful lightness of that strong-built woman, never still for an instant, moving continuously through the game as though she ran a race, will make Hodgkinson feel ashamed.

It is so easy for a club, when they have a player like Bublely, to feel they are bringing credit on the club by staging matches for their hero to win on their behalf. If Bublely beat all the internationals in England he would still be a dud player. It would prove nothing except that his opponents had played him badly. It would still be impossible to pick him for an

important match. Because anyone can beat such a player as Bublely, anyone with even only one reliable attacking stroke, by keeping his head and picking the right ball for that stroke. If Bublely's club wish to bring credit on themselves, they will *lay off Bublely playing matches* and bring down all the first-class players they can get through the summer to play him for hours, *without scoring*, and make him practice the strokes *he can't do*.

We must not expect too much. After all, the "Star" was restricted to non-internationals, *i.e.*, those who haven't yet learnt or never will learn to hit the right ball, and that is perhaps why the chisellers came through. "Starrers" presumably (hence I say "don't boo") are not *confirmed* chisellers, but only err through ignorance and are doubtless eager, anxious to learn. The important thing is not to praise them unworthily but to drive into their heads that what they have to learn is nearly everything. In fact chisellers are really such beginners that they could not achieve *any* success at all except in special circumstances. *These circumstances are when the good players have been damaged by too much exhibition play.* There happens to be such a time at the moment, on the world as well as the national field. Against a defensive player the attacker cannot hit everything (even Haydon, whose freak style makes it necessary to force the game all the time, has to play for his winners). The genius of Lurie a year ago was that, alone among English hitters and amazingly for one so early in his career, he could instinctively pick the right ball to hit, and contain himself patiently between. Equipped with this knowledge he could *eat* any defensive player. In his first season: Melnick, Contractor, Schediwy, Finberg, Blecha, Bergl. All this has gone, killed by exhibition play. Where is that Barna of the marvellous patience, of whom at the height of his unbeaten fame, when the superficial all saw in him only an attacker, Glancz discerningly observed (and proved to the table tennis world's astonishment) that you could beat him if you could make him hit out of turn. Gone through exhibitions. The Luries and the Barnas are so accustomed to adulation, so hungry and impatient for the music of the crowd cheering their hits, and *so used to their opponents, in exhibition, putting them up*, that they now fall victim to any good

defensive player, with defence enough to make them feel *they are hitting too seldom for the credit of a champion.* Exhibitions we no doubt must have to spread the game. But now that they are growing so frequent, I believe the only way we can save our good players is to make their organisers content with them in the form of *matches* of locals against the cracks, with only a very short inter-crack display to finish. (Indeed the "Star" would do the game an extra service if in future years its prizes included a match for each semi-finalist with a crack, and its finals were played off in the afternoon with the semi-finals, the evening display taking the form of "Starrers" v. "International Stars.") But meanwhile in the last years, the hitter has done too much showing off and the defensive specialist has thereby had undue prominence when its got down to tournament brass tacks. And when the defensive player is prominent there the chiseller comes into his own. He doesn't even need to be a good defender, that's the pity o't. The Rumanians, it is true, have marvellous, absolutely super defences. But boy Bublely, and Mrs. Coleman, they have nothing, as was shown every time gallant Coles (in spite of shutting both eyes) landed a drive on the table, or daring Hodgkinson strung herself up to push a creep-hit into the corner. Even the tyro, even the no-defence-chiseller, beats anybody who won't, or can't, hit the right ones against him; *i.e.*, beats even a first-class defence player (unless the latter chisels too). So that unless we can teach the will and the how of hitting the right one, his opponent chisels back, and every-one chisels and table tennis good-bye!

Chiselling must be faced with a will. Here and now. "*Grasp the nettle,*" &c. And by the following measures:—

(A.) In the international field.

1. By improving the materials of the game. Speed of tables, accuracy of balls, &c., to create the objective conditions that favour attack.

2. Research into every possible measure: lower nets, wider tables, lower tables, smaller balls, even volleying, that might conceivably favour offence. Though these experiments must be conducted with care and caution, and adopted only when certainty comes and as a last resort.

3. An interim regulation setting up a time limit for games. This has already been formulated and is, alas, abso-

lutely necessary for the protection of organisers of tournaments. Without it, it is not too much to say, no large scale international tournament will ever be organised again.

(B.) It still remains true, as Ehrlich has said, that the real effective fight will need to be waged within each nation.

1. By moral force. This will be by far the most effective. Let the chiseller understand clearly that he is a pariah. Not as a sinner, necessarily, but as a fool and an incompetent.

Such a player must (a) never be picked for an international or representative side whatever his record of success (b) must never be invited or allowed to take part in an exhibition match (which themselves must become less frequent at any rate in their present form), (c) must be discouraged from playing even in club matches. Although such rules are dangerous in the international field, where any controversy has such potentially dangerous consequences transcending purely sport considerations, rules entailing suspension in League play might well be introduced. They will lead to mistakes, indignation, that is true. But the scandal itself will help to ventilate the danger and every aggrieved victim has an excellent solution—*let him become more enterprising.*

2. Correspondingly there is the obligation on associations and clubs to give moral encouragement to enterprise. Let it not be thought defence must be discouraged. Of course it must be learned and encouraged too, only the pure defender must be taught to think of himself as half-baked, incomplete, a half-man. The player with a natural aptitude for defence must be scorned only in so far as he is not ambitious to develop an infallible hit and make opportunities for it. His example must be David Jones rather than Melnick, Bergl rather than Hales. His beacon must be Fred Perry. The Association must make a coaching scheme. Clubs must be selfless enough to give the youngsters they are proud of, facilities for hours of practice on *their weakness.* They must hold them back from too many matches and be far-sighted enough to applaud them far more when they just lose, trying something new and well, than when they win merely from an opponent's stupidity or impatience.

This sounds drastic, all right. But, the gipsy warns you; otherwise the game we love is gone, infallibly, and for ever.



Famous Players Interviewed.

No. 5: T. E. SEARS.

"Tommy" Sears, England's No. 7 ranked player, ever-popular figure at table tennis tournaments, famous for his brilliant variety of strokes, and who has just returned from Prague with the English team, is always frank in stating his views. Here are some of them, given to our "Roving Reporter" recently:—

R.R.: "What is your most pleasant table tennis memory?"

Sears: "Playing at Dinard (England v. France) with Haydon and Jones for the Dinard Cup, the first time it was put up. We won 6-3."

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

Sears: "Beating Sandor Glancz, then English Champion, 3-2 after being two-love down in a special match, England v. Hungary."

R.R.: "What is your advice to a young player anxious to improve his game?"

Sears: "Practise as often and as long as possible. Preferably with good players, but in any case, practise!"

R.R.: "How do you think table tennis could be improved as a spectacle?"

Sears: "Only the players can improve the game as a spectacle. There might be better accommodation for the spectators."

R.R.: "Do you think the standard of play in table tennis will improve with the passing of the years?" What will the champions of, say, 1945, play like?"

Sears: "Unless new rules are made, the only difference will be is that the general playing standard will improve. The table should be made to stand less than 2 ft. 6 in. above the ground."

R.R.: "What is your greatest complaint about the game to-day, i.e., if you were table tennis dictator, what reforms would you put into operation?"

Sears: "(1) More consideration for players is needed. (2) I would have one standard type of regulation table for all matches."

R.R.: "What is the finest table tennis match you ever saw?"

Sears: "Barna v. Kelen, in Berlin, 1930, in the Semi-Final of the World Championships. Barna won in the fifth game with the aid of a couple of edge balls. It was a wonderful exhibition of attacking and defensive play—the most intense and spectacular match I have ever seen."

E. J. FILBY WINS SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP.

H. Ransom beaten by 3-1 in Final.

Well organised by the enthusiastic Tournament Secretary, Mr. C. G. Milton, the Surrey Championships were brought to a successful conclusion on Saturday, March 21st, at Kennard's Stores, Croydon.

The winner proved to be young E. J. Filby, the well-known Surrey Tennis player. After disposing of the holder, H. Swetman, in the last eight, Filby beat R. Boorman in the Semi-Final and then went on to beat Ransom convincingly in the Final, by 21-15, 21-10, 16-21, 21-17.

Miss Hodgkinson, the London Business Houses Champion, was too good for Mrs. D. Law in the Women's Singles Final, and won easily by 21-14, 21-12.

In the Men's Doubles, A. E. Barnes and J. Rogers (Kingsway) beat A. Chapman and G. Thomas (War Office) by 21-14, 19-21, 21-8, 21-16.

Other results:—

Women's Doubles.—Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Burton beat Miss Hare and Miss Barnes, 21-16, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles.—H. Reeve and Mrs. Law beat A. Owen and Mrs. Owen 22-20, 21-16.

Men's Closed Singles.—H. Swetman (Clapham) beat D. Steer, 13-21, 21-13, 21-13.

Women's Closed Singles.—Mrs. Owen beat Miss N. Price 21-17, 21-11.

Boys' Singles.—S. Bromley beat K. S. Browne 2-0.

Girls' Singles.—Miss J. Croft beat Miss D. Remington 2-0.

WEMBLEY CHAMPIONSHIP FOR B. MARCUS.

Miss Doris Emdin beats Miss Wheaton in Women's Final.

With many of the leading players away at the World Championships at Prague, two newcomers to Tournament Finals: B. Marcus and H. Rosen, fought out the last match to decide who should have the honour of being Wembley Open Champion. Both players learned to play at the West Central Jewish Club, although Rosen has recently joined Whitefields.

Rosen put up two splendid performances when beating H. Shalson and M. Ayub, while Marcus did well to account for another International—N. K. Contractor—in the Semi-Final. Marcus beat his old clubmate in the Final, by 3 games to 1.

Some surprise was caused in the Women's Singles Final, Miss Doris Emdin beating the redoubtable Miss Wheaton by 18-21, 22-20, 21-15.

N. Contractor and J. Joyce won the Men's Doubles title. They beat M. Ayub and W. Stennett in the Final by 3 games to 1.

Other results:—

Mixed Doubles.—Miss D. L. Emdin and M. Ayub beat Miss N. Wood and J. Joyce, 21-22, 21-18.

Women's Doubles.—Miss Wheaton and Miss Wright beat Miss Wood and Miss D. L. Emdin, 21-19, 21-12.

Men's Closed Singles.—A. Bergl beat W. Marsh 2-0.

Women's Closed Singles.—Miss P. Hodgkinson beat Miss D. Spratt, 19-21, 21-15, 21-16.

World Championships at Prague.

By T. E. SEARS.

World Championships, but in name only. I can only give you my own impressions. Probably I shall not be unbiased, but for what they are worth—here they are.

The organisation of the whole Tournament was bad. The tables we played on were so soft that one could press one's fingers in them—except for one Jaques' table *top* which was almost entirely reserved for Czech players. Obviously it was the best they had, for they used it on the last night for the Finals of the individual events.

There were many unfortunate incidents; a great many of them due to rank bad decisions by umpires—invariably in a Czech player's favour. The crowd was the most unsportsmanlike I have ever played before. But it is only fair to add that the Czech players' sportsmanship, men and women, cannot be surpassed.

This Tournament undoubtedly proved to be the most sensational ever. The first shock came when a Hungarian team—composed of Bellak, Kelen and Hazi—lost to the Rumanian team 5—0. Then, next day Hungary lost again, France this time beating Hungary's full side, consisting of Barna, Szabados, Bellak, by 5—2; Haguenauer winning all three and Dubouillé beating Barna and Bellak. The Rumanians meanwhile went through without losing until they met Poland. Here Ehrlich determined to show the Rumanian defensive players what endurance really was. He played for the first point of the match for 2 hours 10 minutes, and Poland eventually won the match 5—0. But the Rumanians still won their group. In the other Group England hardly came up to expectation, especially when they lost to America! Here are England's results:—

Beat—Belgium 5—1; Germany 5—1; Yugo-Slavia 5—4.

Lost—America 2—5; Austria 2—5; Czechoslovakia 1—5.

A MARATHON FINAL.

Austria won this group, beating Czechoslovakia, their nearest rivals, 5—0. The play off for the "Swaythling" Cup between Austria and Rumania commenced on Sunday, the 15th of March, at 9.30 p.m. At 3.30 a.m. being 2 games all, the match was postponed until later in the week

and ended in a win for Austria 5—4 after 11 hours' play for the whole match.

The Czech ladies won the "Corbillon" Cup, and although England lost to Czechoslovakia, Margaret Osborne achieved a great personal triumph in beating Kettnerova, then the reigning World Champion. These are England's results:—

Beat—U.S.A. 3—1; Belgium 3—0; Holland 3—2; France 3—0; Latvia 3—0.

Lost—Czechoslovakia 1—3; Austria 0—3; Germany 0—3; Hungary 1—3.

The individual events. I have just picked out the high spots:—

First round sensation—Szabados lost to Mauritz of Germany. The second round—Vana (Czech) losing to Zdarsky (Czech) 20—16 in Final set. Vana's opponent ordered to scratch! Third round—Barna loses to Soos, a fellow countryman, 3 straight games! Hyde beat Hamr (Czech) making a great recovery after being 2 games down, to win 3—2. In the same round Haguenauer (France) and Marin of Rumania played seven hours to reach 2 games all, Marin leading 5—3 in the fifth. Eventually compelled to toss for the match. Marin won! Haydon once again seemed to be the only English player likely to succeed. He reached the last eight, but then lost to Bergman of Austria rather easily. Marshall also reached the last eight—being the first American ever to do so. In the Final, Ehrlich (Poland) lost to Kolar (Czech) 3 games to 2. Miss Aarons of America played through the whole Tournament with wonderful steadiness and determination, and became the new World Champion. Her only loss was in the "Corbillon" Cup to Kettnerova 2—1, but she had her revenge—beating Kettnerova in the Semi-Final 3—1, and then Krebsbach (Germany) 3—0 in the Final.

U.S.A. AGAIN.

Another American success came in the great achievement of Blattner and McClure who amazingly won the World Doubles, beating Kolar and Petricek in the Final, 3 straight.

The Ladies' Doubles was won by Kettnerova and Smidova of Czechoslovakia.

The Mixed is still undecided, owing to the fact that the hour was extremely late, and Kolar, who had just played in the Men's Singles and Doubles, had to play in the Semi-Final against Hamr and his partner, which he refused to do. But in my opinion the title should have been awarded to Kelen and Mednyansky who were there and ready to play.

And so, on a note typical of this year's Tournament ended the World's Championships.

Next year the venue is Vienna. Let us hope that the I.T.T.F. will take strong measures to ensure that there is no repetition of this year's Championship with its farcical conditions. I am sure that I am only echoing the majority of players' sentiments when I suggest that in no circumstances should Czechoslovakia be allowed to stage the World's Championships for at least another ten years.

WHAT THE CZECH PRESS THOUGHT

We give below day-by-day extracts from some of the leading Prague newspapers:—
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TILL THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

BAD MANAGEMENT AT THE T.T.

CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Scandalous Conditions and Defective Dispositions.

It is unfortunately the case that we have again and again to refer to the fact that our Management learns nothing in respect of organisation.

The Table Tennis World Championships, enormously increased, again showed this defect. What the public and the players have to stand at the hands of the Management does not exactly reflect credit on the latter.

On Sunday, play continued until 3 o'clock in the night. What this means for the players, who are under strain every day, need not be mentioned. In addition is the fact that some players consist of half-grown boys of 14 years of age, which may carry catastrophic consequences due to overstrain.

The Final of the "Swaythling" Cup began at 11 o'clock at night; every sensible person must have seen this would lead to a catastrophe. When the public called for an end at 2 o'clock in the morning, they were told that it would be carried through even if it meant playing to the middle of the morning. At 3 o'clock, when the match stood "2 all," it was finally broken off and transferred to Wednesday to finish. It is no wonder that under these conditions, the onlookers were few; one can, in the final instance, hardly expect onlookers to remain until the early hours of the morning in order to see the final results.

REGULATIONS AGAINST PAT-BALL.

The I.T.T.F. at their meeting yesterday, came to certain decisions in respect of measures to be taken against pat-ball which threatens to ruin this sport as a spectacle.

At the next matches, hard tables, livelier balls and lower nets will be introduced.

The Championships for 1937 will be played in Vienna.

The Jury at the World Championships dealt yesterday with an incident which occurred on Monday in the play between Zdarsky and Vana. When the game stood 2 all and 20—16 in his favour, Zdarsky scratched, on the orders of his Club official (Zizkov), to Vana, who apparently had better chances in the Tournament.

The Jury excused the players on the ground that Zdarsky acted on definite orders, but decided that in future such an incident would be punished by disqualification.

The World Championships continued yesterday. The organisers endeavoured to make up the time lost due to errors arising from bad organisation, and played through without stopping at mid-day or evening. The play reached its limit of chaos in organisation and the responsible individuals frequently found themselves in impossible situations.

In a number of cases, winners were correctly given a walk-over owing to absence of their opponents: unfortunately these, in most cases, were Czech players.

Three or four hours later the missing

(Continued at foot of page 5, col. 1.)

England Beats U.S.A. 6-3.

HAYDON AND BERGL IN GREAT FORM.

MISS OSBORNE BEATEN BY MISS AARONS.

Although there was a disappointingly small audience at Paddington Baths to watch the first England-U.S.A. Table Tennis Match, distinction was added to the evening by the presence of the American Consul-General and Lady Swaythling.

Miss Woodhead (England) started off in champion style against Miss J. Purves (U.S.A.) and the English girl's much superior stroke play gave the American little chance in the first game. Miss Woodhead won it 21-12. Miss Purves then showed us she possessed a fine defence, and, returning many apparent "winners," she levelled the score at 21-15. In the third game Miss Woodhead got a lead of 18-11 but then became a little erratic with her smashes. Miss Purves made a most gallant attempt to pull up and actually drew level at 19 all. However, she had then shot her bolt and missed two easy shots to give Miss Woodhead the match at 21-19.

M. Bergl v. R. Tindall, resulted in an easy second victory for England, Bergl's clever mixture of awkward hits and steady defence completely disorganising his opponent's game. Bergl won 21-10, 21-11.

Match No. 3 was a Mixed Doubles—H. Lurie and Miss Woodhead (England) losing to R. Blattner and Miss J. Purves by 20-22, 21-15, 19-21, thus recording U.S.A.'s first win of the evening. The winners combined well, but Lurie and his partner made a fine effort to save the match in the third game. After being down 4-10 and 13-17 they drew up to 10-20, but could not get another point. A. A. Haydon—England's No. 1, v. J. McClure of U.S.A., was expected to provide an exciting match. However, Arthur Haydon proved to be in World Championship form and, although McClure made some lightning backhand drives, the Englishman's devastating attack gave the American little

(Continued from page 4).

players turned up and demanded to play, a demand, which, extraordinary to relate, was granted by the Management. By this means complete chaos occurred, which obtained in a threatening form.

THE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS RUN THEIR TURBULENT COURSE AND FINISH WITH SENSATIONAL RESULTS.

There was a scandal in connection with the Mixed, caused by bad management on the part of the organisers.

At 2.30 in the morning, Hamr-Kleinova and Kolar-Smidova were due to play their Semi-Final so that the winners would, in the Final, meet Kelen-Mednyansky. Both Czech players refused to play, which was very readily comprehensible, as, for example, Kolar had taken part in all Finals on the last day and in addition, carried through a heavy day's work previously.

The Committee held a short meeting and announced that the decision of the Mitropacups would be deferred.

chance during the greater part of the match. Haydon won by 21-13, 21-10.

England now led by three matches to one. The next event—a Women's Doubles—put England further ahead. The Misses Osborne and Woodhead—England's Corbillon Cup Doubles pair—have developed a fine understanding, and they were much too consistent in both attack and defence for Miss Aarons and Miss Purves, who were beaten by 21-15, 21-15.

England 4, America 1. England won the match when H. Lurie beat R. Blattner in the sixth event. Lurie could not get going at all in the first game, in which Blattner showed fine control over his forehand attack. The Manchester youngster then delighted the onlookers by sending over a stream of backhand shots reminiscent of Barna. Blattner wavered under the strong pressure, and he lost the next two games and the match. Score: Lurie won by 9-21, 21-18, 21-12.

Although England had now won the match there was great interest shown in the meeting between Miss M. Osborne and the unbeaten Ruth Aarons, of U.S.A.

Miss Aarons' form earlier, in the Doubles Match, had seemed too poor to be true and she soon confirmed this idea. Such brilliant defensive footwork has seldom been seen before by a woman player, and despite all Miss Osborne's brilliant forehand driving, the American Champion retained her unbeaten record. She won by 21-17, 27-25. The last few points were very exciting, Miss Osborne several times saving match point by hitting an outright winner.

England suffered another set-back in the Men's Doubles match, when Bergl and Stanley Proffitt failed against R. Blattner and R. Tindall by 21-18, 16-21, 17-21. A. Haydon and Miss Osborne restored England's three match advantage when they conquered J. McClure and Miss Aarons by 21-17, 12-21, 21-12 after an exciting struggle. Miss Aarons made some forceful exciting winning hits, but the superior combination of the English pair decided the issue in the third game.

Result: England 6, U.S.A. 3.

This is an impossibility, because the moment that a team scratches, the opponent has to be immediately declared the winner. Accordingly the Hungarian pair, Kelen-Mednyansky, should have been declared winners. They were ready to play in contradiction to their opponents, in respect of whose refusal one can certainly take no objection whatever as they were completely exhausted.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the uncomplimentary press reports in connection with the Table Tennis World Championships recently held at Prague, we beg to state that the Spalding Villa Table, acclaimed by leading players as the fastest ever produced, was not used at the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

A. G. SPALDING & BROS. (BRITISH), LTD.
24th March, 1936.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Apart from one perfectly good Jaques top, we understand that all tables used in Prague were of Czecho-Slovakian manufacture.]

LONDON TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE.

Section Notes

By A. E. Haynes, Competition Secretary.

In the majority of the Sections, the leaders seem to be well away on their own with a clear lead, but in seven Sections, the issue will not be decided until the final match is played. In the Second Division East, W. & C.O.B. have just a slight lead, with City of London College close runners-up. A different tale is told in the Second Division West, however, where three teams are all level on points, with a possibility of a fourth catching up. Lucania, Ealing Common and Barnet having 16 points for 11 matches played and Heston 14 points for 10 matches played. In the Ealing Section, P.S.A. have had a close fight with Quest with P.S.A. just coming through at the end. A close finish will also be the case in the North Section, where Hornsey Y.M.C.A. and Finchley are running neck and neck. In the South Section, Wimbledon "A" and Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. have to fight it out for the right to enter the play-offs, having finished all-square. Toddington and Lucania are having a tussle for leadership in the South West Section. The Ladies' South Section have also two teams level at the end, Addiscombe and Wimbledon having to meet again for the right to enter the final play-offs. In the Ladies' North, there seems every indication that Whitefields will finish on top, though Watford are still in the running. West Ealing Ladies have a clear lead in the Ladies' Ealing Section.

Lucania "A" Hammersmith are at the top of the Acton and Ealing Section. St. Bride lead the Central Section, Manhattan and their "A" Team are at the head of the East and East Central Sections respectively. Prince Albert have established a clear lead in the North Central, while Bethnal Green seem able to keep their lead in the North East. Old Lyonians are going strong in the North West Section and in the South-East, Addiscombe are well in the lead. St. Mary's cannot lose their lead in the West Section, while the same can be said for Paddington in the West Central and also Little Ealing in the West Ealing Section. There is no doubt that there are some stern struggles ahead for the right of entering the Second Divisions next Season.

Kingsway and Clapham Runners-up.

West Ealing's galaxy of table tennis "Star" players successfully carried them through their League programme in the Premier West Section. Out of fourteen matches played only one was lost against Lucania Elephant by 5-3, R. D. Jones losing two matches and M. Bergl one, while R. Milligan, the reserve, also lost two matches.

Clapham and Wimbledon had a battle for second place, which went to the former by a small margin.

In the Premier East Section, Indian Students, after a great struggle with Kingsway, eventually triumphed by two points, 26 to 24. Both teams lost only one match, Kingsway lowering the Indians colours 5-3 at Kingsway, but their opponents reversing this result in the return match.

There should be a battle royal for the League Team Championship, when the Indians meet West Ealing. M. Bergl, T. Sears and A. D. Brook have been the mainstays of West Ealing Club. For Indian Students S. Proffitt, M. Ayub and H. Shalson have borne the brunt of the hard matches. The two teams will also meet in the final of the London League Knock-out Cup, for teams of three aside.

M. BERGL THE NEW LONDON LEAGUE SINGLES CHAMPION

Maurice Bergl, of Harrow, added one more title to his already formidable total by annexing the London League Singles Championship, held at Paddington Baths on 31st March.

Ernest Bublely, the "Star" Champion, beat the holder, A. D. Brook, in straight games in the Semi-Final, but found Bergl too good for him by 3 games to 1 in the Final. Bergl beat E. J. Filby in the other Semi-Final.

Miss Wendy Woodhead, of Amersham, again won the women's Singles Championship, her fourth successive victory in this event. She beat Mrs. D. Law (Whitefields) 3-0 in the Final.



News from the Provinces.

COVENTRY.

The Annual Tournament has this year created great interest and enthusiasm. About 200 entries were received and the matches were played at the Ritz Ballroom, where nine tables were in use. The finals were played at St. Thomas's Hall on March 13th and attracted over 200 spectators. Both Singles Championships have changed hands this season, but in the Men's event, the holder did not defend his title. Ivor Jones (Radford Hotel) became the new champion by beating B. Joy (Magnet), who won the title in 1934, 21-18, 21-13, 17-21, 21-17. Miss D. Bassnett (Styngian) won the Ladies' Singles, beating Miss D. Warner (Herberts) the holder 21-14, 21-15, 21-11.

Other results were:—Men's Doubles Championship, B. Joy and L. Line (Magnet), holders, beat S. Jones and K. Shellard (B.T.H.). Mixed Doubles Championship.—J. Trafford and Miss D. Warner (Herberts), holders, beat W. Davies and Miss B. Peacham (Radford Hotel). Men's Junior Championship.—H. Welch (Y.M.C.A.) beat H. Sharpe (Herberts). Men's Singles Handicap.—W. Davies (Radford Hotel) beat B. Joy (Magnet). Ladies' Singles Handicap.—Miss D. Cox (St. Thomas's) beat Miss D. Warner (Herberts).

EXETER.

The popularity of table tennis in Exeter has grown to such an extent that the Exeter City Football reporter has remarked in his notes on the dwindling crowds attending Football matches and wonders if the sporting public of Exeter are turning their attention to other branches of sport. As table tennis matches in Exeter are drawing bigger crowds than any other indoor sport here, surely he must be alluding to table tennis.

The "Sir Edgar Plummer" Cup games, open to Leagues in the Western Counties, have reached the Final stage. In the Semi-Final, Exeter beat Ilfracombe by 9 sets to 2 and Bristol beat Swindon by a similar margin. The Final will be played in Exeter on the 11th April, and it is hoped that Sir Edgar Plummer will present his Cup to the winning team.

By the time these notes appear in print, the Exeter League's "Final Night" for this year will be a thing of the past. April 1st is the date of the "High Light" of local table tennis tournaments, to be played at the Drill Hall, Exeter.

Semi-Finalists for the "Whitton" Cup, the Open Championship of Exeter, are L. R. Suter, holder (Y.M.C.A. "A"), J. P. Plummer, F. G. Grigg (Y.M.C.A., King's Lodge) and W. G. Heals (Y.M.C.A. "A") or L. C. Kerslake (Y.M.C.A., King's Lodge).

The Doubles Championship Final will be played between R. F. Litten and A. S. King, holders (Y.M.C.A.) and F. G. Grigg and L. C. Kerslake (Y.M.C.A.)—winners 1934.

HASTINGS.

The Hastings Association has played one representative match to date, when the London Business Houses League were the visitors. The home team were defeated by 13 games to 3. A return fixture is pending. Men's Singles and Women's Singles matches against Brighton will take place some time in April. A shield is competed for in each event. Brighton hold both for the moment.

In the N.A.L.G.O. South-Eastern District Table Tennis Championship, the Hastings Branch (holders) visited Brighton in the Semi-Final and were narrowly defeated by 5 games to 4. The final between Brighton and Maidstone will be staged at the Hastings N.A.L.G.O. Club.

The League Programme is drawing to a close in Division I. Y.M.C.A. are certain of the Championship. Divisions 2 and 3 are still open to doubt.

The Osborne Club entertained a team representing Eastbourne, the result being a draw 18 games all. R. R. Russell, for Osborne, won all his games. Osborne also visited the B.B.C., the result being a win for Osborne by 22 games to 3.

Hastings Championships Winners:—W. Wallis (Y.M.C.A.), J. Jones (Bexhill), Miss D. E. Ward (Osborne), Cozens and Reilly (Bexhill), Miss C. E. Spencer (Nalگو) and W. Wallis (Y.M.C.A.), Miss C. E. Spencer (Nalگو) and Miss D. E. Ward (Osborne), R. Wilkins (Osborne).



"Osborne" Handicap Tournament Winners:—R. R. Russell (Y.M.C.A.), G. Tyler (Y.M.C.A.), Miss F. E. Mullord (Nalگو), Russell and Tubb (Y.M.C.A.), Miss Y. N. Mullord and R. G. Mullord (Nalگو), Miss C. E. Spencer (Nalگو) and Miss D. E. Ward (Osborne)

HUDDERSFIELD.

The Assembly Room at the Y.M.C.A. was crowded on the occasion of the Inter-Town Table Tennis Match between Huddersfield and Manchester, which had been promoted by the Huddersfield Y.M.C.A.

Manchester were represented by four internationals, C. W. Davies, A. Waite, H. C. Cooke, and L. Bowyer, while the usual Y.M.C.A. team, W. Bedford, J. Hitchcock, and E. W. Sykes, together with R. B. Deane and H. Fletcher, were Huddersfield's players.

The home men put up a fine display, and to lose by only 4 matches to 5, with one unplayed, can be reckoned a good performance. Eight Singles games were played and one Doubles. Shortage of time prevented a further Doubles match from being completed.

Huddersfield won three Singles and the Doubles match, and at one time led by 4 matches to 2, but later the visitors, who did not tire as quickly as did the home men, pulled up and took full advantage of loose shots, and at the finish were one match up.

Bedford was the best of the Huddersfield players, combining defence and attack happily, and his game with Waite, to whom he just lost (21-14, 21-23, 19-21) was a treat to watch. After the first game, which Bedford took rather easily, the lead changed hands frequently. Waite won the second game after a couple of deuces. The third was also a ding-dong struggle, and at last the Manchester man got the better of matters by 2 points.

Deane played his usual attacking game against Cooke, and won by 21-15, 22-20. Against Bowyer, Deane had a player of the same style as himself, and in his first game he found the Manchester man's weak spot.

In the Doubles games, Bedford and Hitchcock were greatly superior to Cooke and Bowyer, and although they lost a set at 18-21, they won the match with two other sets at 21-5 and 21-10.

LEEDS.

Within a week of winning the Leeds Individual and the Leeds Youths' Championships, B. Hassan, the Yorkshire champion, has left Leeds for Dublin. In addition to being a regular player for the representative Leeds side, Hassan has played No. 1 for the County this season, and, along with S. Rosenberg, is the Leeds Doubles Champion. From these records it will be seen that the North has lost a fine player, but it is an ill wind, &c., and perhaps it will be better for the game to have the awards more evenly contested in the future.

The finals of the Individual Championships of the Leeds League proved very interesting though, unfortunately, the number of spectators was not as large as usual. In a Semi-Final of the Individual Event, B. Hassan (Oxford Place) beat F. Sharp (Nalگو) 3-1, to go on and defeat W. Atkinson (Nalگو), the holder for the past three years, by the same score. W. Atkinson had accounted for F. Alderson (Bridge Street) in the Semi-Final by three straight games. B. Hassan continued his winning way by capturing the Youths' Championship from his clubmate, S. Rosenberg, by 3 games to 1. The 2nd Division award proved an easy thing for A. Simpson, of the Middleton Club, who beat A. Kemp (Oxford Place) by 3 straight games. The Doubles Championship went to B. Hassan partnered by S. Rosenberg, this pair defeating W. Atkinson and A. Simpson in two straight games.

This youths' team at Huddersfield very favourably impressed many of the older and experienced players, G. Selby, a lad of 17, from the Burmantofts Lads' Club coming in for particular commendation.

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In the Final of the Yorkshire Association's Inter-League Competition which was played at Bradford on the 28th February before an enthusiastic audience of 200, the Leeds League as represented by S. Rosenberg, B. Denby and F. Sharp, lost to the Huddersfield League players E. W. Sykes, W. Bedford and J. Hitchcock by 4 sets to 5, exactly the same score as the Leeds League No. 2 team had lost by at Huddersfield in the Semi-Final. E. W. Sykes again proved himself a fine player by beating all three of his opponents, the best player for Leeds being S. Rosenberg.

MANCHESTER.

Within a month's time the season closes in the Manchester League and in that period there will be the usual last minute struggles for the Championship, promotion, and to escape relegation.

Actually as I write these notes, I hear that St. Luke's, of Weaste, have won their match this week, which makes them sure of the Championship of the Third Division West, which carried promotion into the Second Division. Congratulations to them. They have an unbeaten record and I see no reason why they should not complete the season with that record. Waterpark, also unbeaten, have already assured themselves of the Second Division Championship, so after one year in that Division, they will regain their First Division status.

Grove House seem certain to regain the Championship of the League after three years. They owed their success chiefly to H. Lurie and F. Cromwell in the early stages of the season, but later to the greatly improved displays of G. Phillips, B. Casofsky and H. Cohen. Manchester Y.M.C.A., the Champions, have still an outside chance of the title, but are sure to finish runners-up. Grove House are also in the Semi-Finals of the "Richardson" Cup and "Hardman" Cup Competitions, and have a good chance of a treble success.

Manchester still retain their unbeaten record. Their visit to Liverpool provided them with a narrow win by 6 sets to 4, despite F. Cromwell and C. W. Davies losing both their sets. G. Phillips, making his first team debut, proved himself to be a really good "find" for Manchester and being only a month older than Lurie and playing at the same Club, he should do well in the future.

Sunderland were also beaten, and very easily too, the North-Easterns failing to put up their usual strong opposition. Manchester Business Houses and Macclesfield were also beaten in Inter-League Matches.

NORTH MIDDLESEX.

Mr. C. Corti Woodcock was amongst the very large and enthusiastic gathering of supporters who watched the Individual Championship Finals of the North Middlesex League, at The Assembly Rooms, Wood Green, on Wednesday, 11th March.

The Finals proved personal successes for J. H. Carrington and Miss N. Bright, who both claimed the Singles and also a Doubles title. Carrington had played splendidly in the Semi-Final to beat G. H. Standbrook in straight games, but the one disappointment of the evening was the non-appearance of A. D. Brook which gave Carrington a walk-over in the Final. In the Doubles Final, Carrington was partnered by A. D. Paul, and they gained an excellent victory over J.



THE AMERICAN TEAM IN MID-OCEAN.

Left to right: BUD BLATTNER, DICK TINDALL, RUTH AARONS, JAY PURVES, JIMMY McCLURE, SIDNEY BIDDELL (non-playing Captain). Bud and Jimmy are now Men's Doubles World Champions and the new Women Champion, the blonde Ruth, is seen wondering where those magic feet have gone to.

Joyce and L. M. Bromfield by 3 games to 1.

Miss Bright was not seriously extended in retaining her Ladies' Singles title, and in the Final she defeated the much improved Miss Herbst 21-14, 21-16. In the Ladies' Doubles, Miss Bright and Miss Hilton beat Miss Herbst and Mrs. Montgomery by 2 games to 1. Miss Herbst was in three Finals, but was successful only in the Mixed Doubles, partnered by A. J. Holmes. In the Final they defeated E. J. Dale and Miss V. Weavers, the former holders, at 11-21, 21-19, 21-12.

Mr. W. T. Bennett, Chairman of the League, officiated as M.C. in his usual excellent style, whilst kind assistance was given to the Committee by Mr. E. J. Davidson and Mr. A. Kelly.

WOOLWICH.

On the first Tuesday in March, a gathering of some 120 people witnessed the Woolwich v. Surrey Inter-League match at the Bexleyheath Sports Pavilion, Park View Road, Welling. This was the first meeting between the two Leagues and an excellent match was seen.

Surrey were represented by H. Swetman (Clapham), E. G. Reeve (Croydon), R. Moreton (Croydon) captain, and F. Mann (Addiscombe).

Woolwich fielded the following side:—Jack Rogers (Lewisham Lucania), A. Sangster (Magnet), J. Hales (Bexleyheath), W. C. Price (Greenwich Central Hall) and E. G. Evans (Lewisham Lucania).

Mr. Charles Cooper, President of the Woolwich League, welcomed Mr. Oldham, the Surrey League Secretary, and his team, to Bexleyheath.

Surrey ran out winners by 7 points to 5 in a very exciting and interesting game.

(Continued from last column.)

In the Semi-Finals, Proffitt easily beat Brook 2-0, but Coles had a great match with E. J. Filby, the latter succumbing 21-18 in the third.

Miss Wheaton won the Women's title, beating Miss D. M. Emdin 2-0 in the Final.

Ayub and Proffitt won yet another Doubles Championship, this time against P. Williams and W. Lean (Kingsway), by 2 games to 0.

The Mixed Doubles title went to M. Ayub and Miss Wheaton. They beat N. Contractor and Miss D. M. Emdin by 2-0 in the Final. Miss Wheaton and Miss Wright beat Miss N. Wood and Miss D. L. Emdin in the Women's Doubles Final.

LONDON BUSINESS HOUSES CHAMPIONSHIP WON BY W. LEAN.

Hales Beaten by Carrington.

There was a great surprise in the London Business Houses Men's Singles Championship. H. J. Hales, holder for the last three seasons, was beaten in the last eight by J. Carrington (Unilever) 21-19 in the third game. Carrington, who has improved considerably since last season, showed excellent all-round stroke play to beat Hales, but failed in the Semi-Final against W. Lean. It was fitting that Hales' own Clubmate—both he and Lean hail from the Samuel Jones Club—should avenge his defeat. Lean went on to win the Championship, beating R. Hayman, of Doulton's, in the Final, by 21-10, 21-19, 22-20.

Miss Hodgkinson easily retained her Women's Singles title. In the Final she beat Miss Edwards (Doulton's) 21-8, 21-12.

In the Men's Doubles, the combination of Hales and Lean was outstanding and they swept through all opposition, beating Terry and Taylor (Hay's Wharf) in the Final, by 21-8, 21-10, 21-14.

Other results:—

Men's Junior Singles.—S. Griffiths (London Co-op.) beat J. Smith (Allenbury's) 2-0.

Women's Doubles.—Betts and Broadberry (Glaxo) beat Oustrange and Savage (U.D.) 2-0.

Mixed Doubles.—P. Williams and Mrs. Warner (U.D.) beat Smith and Miss Latham (Allenbury's).

S. COLES BEATS STANLEY PROFFITT IN WEST MIDDLESEX FINAL.

Some Thrilling Matches.

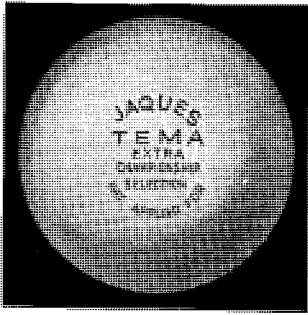
The West Ealing Club, Mecca of London's Table Tennis Stars, was the scene of some brilliant matches which were played during the concluding rounds of the West Middlesex Championships, 23rd to 28th March.

In the Men's Singles, Stanley Coles set the seal on a most successful season by beating Stanley Proffitt 3-2 in the Final. The match was, unfortunately, held up until nearly midnight, owing to the heavy programme of other events which had to be decided on the same evening, and Proffitt, who has suffered from this congestion of events in other Tournaments this season, had to play several hard matches at the end of the evening with only short breaks in between. Coles defensive play was very fine, however, and he confirmed a London League victory over Proffitt by again beating him, the scores being 21-17, 17-21, 21-14, 18-21, 21-11.

Earlier in the evening some marvellous table tennis was seen, when G. Marshall just managed to beat M. Ayub 21-19 in the third game. Ayub led 17-13, but Marshall then had a burst of inspired hitting and pulled up to 17-18. Marshall went on to lead 20-18, and at 21-19 hit four terrific smashes, three of which Ayub returned in truly marvellous manner. At the conclusion of the match, they applauded both players for several minutes.

Another splendid match took place when Proffitt beat Marshall in the last eight. Marshall forced Proffitt on to defence, but overhit after leading 17-14 in the third game.

(Continued in previous column.)



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"Star" Championship Results.

The three events—Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and Mixed Doubles, in the Home Counties Table Tennis Tournament promoted by the *Star*, the well-known London Evening Newspaper, were brought to a conclusion at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C. on March 23rd, before over a thousand spectators.

The three beautiful trophies were presented to the winners by Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, Chairman of the E.T.T.A.

The Tournament, which attracted over 5,000 entries, commenced in October last year.

In the afternoon the Semi-Finals were played off, E. Buble (Manhattan Sports Club) beating P. Williams by 3 games to nil, and S. Coles being successful against J. Carrington (Unilever) by 3 games to 2. In the Women's Singles, Miss Hodgkinson and Mrs. Coleman reached the Final, by beating Miss Baker (Finchley) and Miss Hollick (Seahouse) respectively. W. H. Livy and Mrs. Law (Whitefields) lost easily to H. H. Bridge (Wimbledon) and Miss J. Harding (West Ealing) in the first Semi-Final of the Mixed Doubles. In the second Semi-Final, M. A. Symons (Clapham) and Miss P. Hodgkinson (Woodlands) beat L. W. Martin and Miss P. Nelson (Eng. in Chief, G.P.O.) by 3 games to 1.

The first Final was the Women's event. Mrs. Coleman's superior steadiness gained her the first game rather easily, Miss Hodgkinson netting many simple returns. When she settled down, Miss Hodgkinson's heavy chop stroke and occasional forehand drives to the corners proved winning shots. She won the second and third games and led 8-6 in the fourth. Mrs. Coleman redoubled her efforts and began to put slight side spin on to her returns. These shots, coming on to her opponent's backhand side, gained many points for Mrs. Coleman, who began to get a lead. Finally her opponent was induced to try too many attacking strokes. Fourth game to Mrs. Coleman 21-14. In the fifth game Mrs. Coleman's persistent defensive play triumphed, and she finally won it at 21-11 after a match lasting over an hour and a half.

Then came the Men's Singles Final, between E. Buble and S. Coles (Beckenham).

Both players frequently resorted to defensive tactics, but Buble occasionally brought a good backhand flick into play and led 18-14 in the first game. Over-confidence lost him this game, however, at 21-19. He settled down to a long lead in the second, taking few risks, and the game was never in doubt—one game all. Coles fought back in the third game and brought his long dormant attack into effect. He won the third game to lead 2-1. Buble's superior steadiness, the severity of his forehand chop stroke, and the awkwardness of his left-handed returns, now began to trouble Coles and he showed signs of tiring.

Buble pressed home his attack after long rallies and levelled matters at 2 games all. The fifth game saw Coles attacking for the first few points and he led 5-3. Buble's determination at this stage was very evident, and, with Coles going back on to safety tactics, the game gradually swung round until Buble led 16-11. The Beckenham man's resistance had now been worn down and the

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East Londoner ran out the winner at 21-12.

The Mixed Doubles proved to be easily the most exciting match of the evening. Bridge and Miss Harding attacked almost from the start, and Miss Harding frequently ended the rallies by means of her deadly backhand flick. The first two games went to Bridge and Miss Harding by 21-19, 21-18. Symons and Miss Hodgkinson were by no means finished, however, and they reached 20-18 in the third game. Amidst intense excitement their opponents levelled the scores at 20 all. Eventually, in spite of having two edge shots against them, Symons and Miss Hodgkinson won the third game 24-22. With Miss Hodgkinson improving as the match went on she and her partner also won the fourth game 21-16, to square the match 2 games all. They held the lead almost throughout the fifth game, and led 19-16. Then Bridge hit some brilliant smashes. He and Miss Harding drew level at 19 all. With the match depending on the last two points the spectators were on the tip-toe of excitement. Miss Harding put a shot over the side of the table (19-20) match point. Then a rally, and finally Bridge top-spun the ball over the end of the table to give Symons and Miss Hodgkinson a well-earned victory 21-19 in the fifth game.

Interspersed between the Tournament Finals, exhibition matches were played by M. Szabados, L. Bellak, M. Haguenaer and H. Lurie. The crowd were greatly thrilled by the spectacular hitting and long distance defence of the Hungarians. Lurie's backhand flick was also well in evidence, but Haguenaer was not in the form which enabled him to defeat Barna in the English Championships.

Sir Samuel and Lady Hoare were interested spectators.