

Table

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CHISELLING: LAST WORDS.

By HON. IVOR MONTAGU.

My first article was designed to raise a row. It has.

In this summary, on the contrary, I want to write nothing except that which will raise universal agreement.

When a house is on fire the first thing to do is to wake everybody up.

When they are awake the unity of everyone is needed to save the situation.

It would be fatal if there were to be any split on this question. The help and agreement is needed of the chisellers just as much as of every other player and follower of the game.

Let me remove the first obstacle to unity by shouting at the top of my voice: *There is intended no personal criticism whatsoever of the character, characteristics or anything else personal of any chiseller.* I most painstakingly tried to put this over last time. I thought I had put it over to anyone who did me the credit of reading carefully. But that many do not read carefully is shown by the army of knights who leaped to the protection of neat Miss Hodgkinson's feet. I never said nobody was flat-footed. No sir! Any observation on the subject would have been as impertinent as it would have been offensive. What I said was that the lady *played table tennis flat-footed.* I haven't the slightest doubt that the lady plays on her toes at lawn tennis, as I do. But at table tennis she does undoubtedly stand on the sole of the foot. What's ignoble about that? I do too. I do, because standing on the toes, or the ball of the foot like Carpentier, costs more effort and I'm old and lazy and will never be any good anyway. But Miss Hodgkinson is young and spry and might flit like a fairy if she'd take the trouble. So she should. But I ought to have taken into account people as they are, as lazy to read as I am to move about, and written more carefully. I recognise I am to blame. Let there be no doubt at all: *I recognise, and wish all others to recognise, that I imply nothing whatsoever against the sportsmanship of Mrs. Coleman, Miss Hodgkinson, Bubby, Coles, or any person not here named who may accept the designation chiseller, and most wholeheartedly regret that any words of mine should ever have led anyone to suppose the contrary.*

None the less, chiselling is a menace to the game.

How then?

It is not a moral question at all.

I do not wish in any sense to be quoted as implying that there is any "moral" or "ethical" superiority about attacking over

defending. Such is superficial nonsense. Indeed I am as embarrassed by the attackers who have written to me saying: "Thank you so much, we always said that that — John Smith was a — to beat us by defence; if only he'd played the way we wanted him to, we would have won easily," as I am by the defenders, Mr. Warden, peerless doyen of them all at their head, who sorrowfully feel I have entered the lists against them. This is not so. Emphatically. I applaud as just as noble the victory of defence over attack. How could it be otherwise? Could I betray the greatness of the days of Bull and Perry and Stockholm? No, please, I do not mean this at all, Mr. Warden.

It is not a moral but a practical question. Coles beats Filby. Splendid, grand. Well done, Coles, a fine effort, you deserved your win. Bubby beats Marshall. Ditto. Equally Ditto. What's that, Coles and Bubby in the final? Oh lor! The spectators are looking at their wrist-watches. The last train goes at 12.3. Heavens! See that newspaper man yawning. He won't be kind to us to-morrow even if his copy gets to the office in time. Quick, ring up Lady Snoogins or Princess Popoff, or whoever's giving the prizes, and tell her her dinner-party guests can carry on eating at least another hour. Gosh! That's the seventh man who's asked for his money back. We'll never dare run this next year.

Coles is sporting when he beats Filby. Bubby ditto when he beats Marshall. When Coles plays Bubby, these boys have not changed. They remain the same pleasant persons, equally sporting in spirit. *But none the less the game has become no longer a sport.* Doesn't this example show that it's not in any sense whatever a personal matter. You can't blame a person, at one moment he's sporting and another he's not, when on each occasion he's doing his best and doing it the same way. But the fact remains that when they come together in pairs the effect is *positively lethal.* Not at all through their fault.

I and I alone at Prague refused to blame the Rumanians. I and I alone acknowledged that if my team could have played the same way, and won, I should have encouraged it to do so. I and I alone refused to blame Ehrlich for countering with the same tactics. *It is impossible justly to blame either player of a pair for doing their best according to the rules.* But it is none the less true that what the pair are doing is not sport, and that table tennis as a sport will not survive it if it happens often.

You may reply to me: "What does it

matter if chiselling does occur occasionally? At every sport there are periods of dullness — stone-walling at cricket, offside traps at football, hugging and stalling at boxing, yet these sports survive."

Friend, you do not realise your house is burning. Table tennis is not so long established that it can survive such a period. These other sports have age-long traditions behind them, and followers with memories who will not desert them easily. (Even so, boxing has had to introduce a "No Contest" rule.) Table tennis will not prove so viable. To live, it must expand and make new friends. Every match sees many present, brought for the first time. Spectacle, and they come again, bringing their friends. Chiselling, and they will melt like snow.

People in England even yet do not realise what happened in Prague. Unfortunately most of the accounts available have been written from the point of view of disappointed players. Many of these, mingling rather with their fellows with whom they could communicate, than with the public, whose language they could not understand, still themselves do not fully realise that disaster. Certainly the Czechs committed grave errors, both of taste and of organisation. These will be discussed at a more fitting occasion, which is certainly not now, in hot blood and by the sufferers from them. But such errors were in the main mere symptoms, of much graver injury inflicted on the Czechs. Let those who in England saw in last year's world championships the worthy culmination of a life's aspiration, the reward for devoted hours of sacrifice and preparation, reflect on what would have been their feelings if by the third day already they could see: jeering and contemptuous spectators; a hostile press; an empty box-office; a threatened police-prosecution (for continuing after the statutory hour; and this at the request of two visiting teams). Worse even than the disaster of the week, is the thought of the absolute death and impossibility of re-establishing table tennis before the Prague public for years to come. I should like to think that our organisers would not have panicked when faced by similar ruin, but I am not conceited enough to feel at all confident about it.

There is no question that Prague, though they hold one of the team cups and five out of the eight world championships now dare not run another table tennis event until the public memory has forgotten. Think what that means. Surely it's serious enough in all conscience. And it would be the same in England if we ran a tournament with chiseller X versus chiseller Y, occurring in it more than so often, with consequent

(Continued overleaf.)

dislocation of schedules, missing of trains and general calamity. This year it has been touch and go on more than one occasion. And the importance of the *Star* as the writing on the wall is that this tournament, we must recall, was kindly run (*vide* advertisements) to re-establish the repute of English table tennis, find white hopes, &c. And it found—finals lasting an hour and three-quarters apiece.

When I say chisellers must be driven from the game, and I do unrepentantly, I do not mean that chisellers will not go to heaven or are worse than you and I in the moral sense, or even *deserve* to be so driven. It is a purely objective fact. I would love to have one chiseller and wouldn't mind him winning every tournament. But we just can't afford to have so many, and them so often meeting and the game going on so long so often. The game just won't stand it.

Put this way, the point, I do submit should be appreciated by all chisellers themselves. We need their help, we have a right to it, and personally I expect it because I don't doubt that they have table tennis at heart just as much as everybody else. Nobody suggests that they should wildly indulge in hitting and throw games away because they can't. Sportsmanship, among everything else, at least always involves playing one's best and hardest. But what we do urge is that they should commit suicide, as chisellers, *i.e.*, help us by not opposing and themselves being in the foreground with proposals to help advantage the forcing game and discourage young players from following their own example. Let us acclaim throughout the world the example of Berenbaum, last year's U.S. champion, who, after defeating Haydon, came to the tournament executive and said: "I won only because the balls were soft. It would be a calamity if I were to beat Barna only because the conditions are similarly bad. I urge you to ask the agreement of the remaining players to play the closing rounds with harder balls."

What is to be done? First and foremost we must have our time-limit rule. This is not even capable of being disputed. However dull, football is limited to its hour and a half, cricket its three days, boxing its twenty rounds. Two stodgers at lawn tennis will fall down out of tiredness after about half a day or so. At table tennis alone is it physically possible for two diehards to occupy the greensward and never say die, if they be so minded, for days and nights, eating sandwiches as they go. It is in any case certain that no promoting organisers will risk another big table tennis event without this ultimate protection.

But, mark you, the time limit rule is not in any sense a cure for or even a preventive of chiselling. That is not its aim. It is only an ultimate protection for all concerned in case chiselling *does* occur.

The *cure* must be sought on other lines. In U.S. it has been sought by placing on the server the onus of attack and giving the umpire power to send off the field or out of the ring anyone not complying.

I am against this because it places on the umpire and not on the player the onus of deciding when defence is legitimate. This is bad because (a) in sport, the less an umpire interferes and the more he's only a scorer, the better, always; (b) especially in international matches such powers to an umpire

CHISELLING: LAST WORDS.

SUGGESTIONS TO OVERCOME THE "SLOW GAME."

(Continued from previous page.)

are bound to cause heartburning because his impartiality, though not questionable, none the less becomes questioned. *But I recognise that if no other way works, this may have to be tried at least for a few years;* and even now its advantages might outweigh its disadvantages in local play, where young players styles are formed. What about experimenting with it for a tournament or two?

I prefer two different paths. Change of objective conditions and moral suasion.

I. CHANGE OF OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS.

Mr. Warden, too, recognises the necessity of this. He suggests limiting the run-back. A pity, from the point of view of spectacle. Also, it would prevent the defender beating the hitter, which we want less than we want to discourage two defenders from poking one another, which it would not affect, and which can only be affected by making an occasional hit easier for the latter.

There are two ways: (a) Material; (b) Rules.

(a) Means always good balls and fast tables. Fast tables mean fast floors. We may have to bar all tournaments on linoleum, like the Indian Students, or on hollow wood, like Paddington Baths or the ice rink blocks. Research must get us the definite data for this. An affair for our I.T.T.F. and E.T.T.A. Committees. Their responsibility. They must hurry.

(b) Means trying out changed ideas. I, personally, believe we should go very slow in adopting them, but I would like the help of the table tennis world in trying them out quick. This means all table tennis players, even in the summer, and writing to us after.

Among the ideas proposed are:—

LOWER NET. People say it will make hitting easier, and angles. I am afraid it may make defence easier, lower, and thus hitting more difficult. Try.

LOWER TABLE. People say (a) it will make hitting easier; (b) it will make poking more difficult by afflicting the persistent piker with a crick in the back. Try.

WIDER TABLE. People say it will make angles easier, defence need more running. Try.

VOLLEYING. People say if one's opponent is playing really slow, a volley might be feasible and surprise him. Maybe. Try.

2. MORAL SUASION.

I have said in my last article that the piker (chiseller), the player who only defends without manoeuvring or even working for an occasional hit, is only a half-player. I repeat it and have little patience with those who deny it.

I recognise how good such can be. Hail, unstinted, to Warden! Hail to the Rumanians! But none the less, *they are less good than the best.* It is no answer, and the most rubbishy and idiotic argument conceivable to point out that they have beaten the best. An analogy from lawn tennis will remove the dispute from the personal and enable my chiseller readers to see the point without subjectiveness. Sharpe has

beaten Cochet. Peters is the only Englishman who has beaten Tilden. *Yet no one suggests they should play in the Davis Cup.* Mr. Warden hit the right nail on the head when he said that the chiseller wins so often because the hitter wins only when at his best and people are rarely at their best. *But the time above all when they may be expected to be at their best is in the Davis Cup.* True, they may not be, but how can you risk it? How can you play a man whose usefulness, even at his best, is dependent on his opponent not being at his best?

Granted that there is more of a case to be made for a piker under conditions of "Swaythling" Cup than of "Davis" Cup. Alone the fact, for example, that the matches being played in quick succession, the contrast of styles may give an advantage in having one chiseller on the side. Yet I have seen it often not come off, and merely have the effect of "playing in" the great opponent so that he won his next two, like even a good good-length bowler against a good batsman. But if chisellers preen themselves when we select them for the tactical possibilities they undoubtedly possess, become conceited, acquire imitators and multiply their kind, we just can't afford the luxury of selecting them, that's all.

A born chiseller will always chisel. To try to stop him would be tilting at windmills. But the menace is the made chiseller, who makes himself so merely because he sees his forerunners and realises it's the easiest way to limited success. "Easy," yes. Surely this is not arguable. I don't mean easier to make a hit than to make a defensive shot. I know to be able to defend well and get back low all kinds of attacking shots is very difficult, every bit as difficult as hitting and every bit as much of an art. But it is mentally lazy. It is lazy and pleasant not to have to think: how can I win this point—but just: how can I get this back so that my opponent doesn't win this point. Certainly it's just as lazy for the indiscriminate hitter merely to think: how can I bash? Indeed, attackers themselves are very much to blame for the spread of defence by their own stupidity and lack of enterprise in not mastering the drop shot. But I do urge defenders to realise that they are limited if they cannot also learn how to hit and when. The great Czechs, Kolar and Hamr, each in their first international year could only poke. They are still defensive players, but from their second year on each has acquired a truly wonderful forehand and a knowledge of when to use it. In all the ten world championships I can recall only about four semi-finalists, Suppiah, Mediaroglou, Kovacs and Kohn, who could not attack, and even at that I have seen Kohn hit six winners against Barna when 15/20 down. The menace is the made chiseller who *stays* so, not because he *can't* do better, but out of pathetic contentment with his lot. Chisellers, you have a right to demand we help you to learn better! You have a right to carry on your chiselling if you are modest and do not complain at our efforts to favour your opponents. But if you pretend that table tennis begins and ends with you, if you claim championships and set yourselves up as a model, perverting the youth, like Socrates, then the hemlock to you, and no mercy! Not because you are wicked, but because you and the State can't both live.

Please, does everyone agree? I hope so.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

Congratulations, Stanley!!!!

We are sure that every table tennis enthusiast will join us in wishing Stanley Proffitt, the English International, a very good season with Essex County Cricket Club.

This gives us three county cricketers who also wear the English lions—C. H. Bull and L. Todd are both showing promising form with Worcester and Kent, respectively.

The eye training of table tennis helps these lads considerably, and we have heard them say that the cricket ball looks like a football after following the white sphere.

Haydon and Barna.

Latest; playing in 35 cities within a month is hardly what we should call a rest cure for V. Barna, ex-world champion. However, he seems to thrive on hard work, and successfully won the American Open Championships recently.

A. A. Haydon, the English star, was beaten by an American player—an unknown quantity to us in England—in the semi-final.

Their many matches are causing great excitement in the U.S. As an example of this let us quote some of the headlines that appeared after they have played:—

“Smash game thrills hard boiled American Sportsmen.”

“Barna the Wizard, and Haydon the Hitter amazed 1,500.” . . . and so on and so on.

The Women's Side.

There seems to be such great enthusiasm, even at the tail end of the season, amongst our women competitors, that next season we are bound to see a great improvement in the general standard of play.

The dress also will be considerably more regular than it has been in the past. The sooner male members of clubs begin to take this pride of appearance that is hereditary to the female the more prestige will the game get in England.

If you are in Doubt.

The English E.T.T.A. will more than be delighted to settle any disputes relative to the game. A card with the questions will receive the prompt attention of the organisation of the Association.

Efforts on your behalf.

Throughout the past season the Executive side of the E.T.T.A. worked so hard in furthering the interests of the game that two of the foremost members of the Committee had to take a compulsory holiday.

W. J. Pope, our worthy Honorary Secretary, is now recuperating in Russia after such a hectic rush from tournament to tournament. Mr. Corti Woodcock is suffering from nerve strain and has had to resign from the chairmanship to enable himself to get a complete rest.

We hope that no more valuable workers have to leave their posts owing to indisposition. All our sympathies are with our friends, and their quick recovery is our main hope. We cannot afford to be without such staunch supporters.

Miss M. Osborns



MISS MARGARET OSBORNE.

Made an International in 1933. The following year selected to play in the Corbillon Cup Team. At that time had never won an open tournament. On returning from abroad, won the London and North of England titles in successive weeks, and finished the season by winning the English Championship in London. Ranked No. 1 in England from then until the present day. In season 1934-35, won every event at the English Championships.

Q.: “How long after starting the game were you made an International?”

A.: “In my third season.”

Q.: “What were your reactions?”

A.: “I played only in the doubles in my first International. This made me all the more keen to become good enough to play as the first singles player.

Q.: “Do you think a regulation women's dress should be compulsory, if so, what design would you suggest?”

A.: “No. I think that women—and men too—should always change into suitable dress for the game. Women should certainly not play in fancy afternoon frocks, which I have seen even at big tournaments.”

Q.: “Do you like International Matches?”

A.: “Yes; but I prefer playing in tournaments.”

Q.: “Are you very nervous before playing?”

A.: “Not now, I used to be, but have overcome this by playing in a large number of tournaments.”

Q.: “Which was in your opinion your best match?”

A.: “Beating Fraulein Krebsbach in the English Open Championships this year.”

Q.: “Which was your worst match?”

A.: “There are several very poor ones. The worst was probably losing to Mme. Kettnerova after leading 12-4 in the final game in the World Championships, 1935.”

Q.: “For match play, which town do you like best apart from your home town, and why?”

A.: “I would rather play anywhere in England than in my home town—I can very rarely find my form in Birmingham. I prefer Liverpool best, where I think the most consideration is given to the players.”

SUMMER PRACTICE.

Now that the season is definitely ended and the strain of match play has been lifted the enthusiast can turn his thoughts to serious practice for next season.

A few hints and tips on the all-important point of how to improve one's game would not come amiss. Therefore, in this short article, coupled with one other in the next issue, we will endeavour to head our readers in the right direction.

In the first place a defensive player must cultivate an attack. It is impossible to explain how to reach that end, but one or two rules are essential to the steady hitter.

1. The bat must go through the ball and follow it as far as possible before the follow through takes it round the body.
2. The nearer the net the more top-spin to ensure the ball returning into play.
3. Hit a ball on top of its bounce.
4. Turn your body to the ball and transfer your weight from right foot to left for a forehand and from left to right for a backhand.

Bear these points in mind and you cannot go very far wrong. While practising these new shots take great care not to hit the wrong ball. One cannot hit a short low return with any degree of safety so leave them alone and content yourself with a half-volley.

And now for the attacker who wants a defence. As in the previous case there are many points to be borne in mind throughout the practice.

1. Footwork and body control is far more important than simply scratching the ball back.
2. A good defensive player finds himself in a central position after each shot enabling him to move quickly in any direction.
3. The “chop” must be kept as low as possible with a slight forward push at the moment of impact.
4. Slow top-spin makes a very good defence and rather tempts the attacker to overhit.

A method of controlling your hits and making you accurate is to place a match-box on the other side of the table and pitch your smashes in that area. After a little practice you should be able to strike the box once in every six shots.

The defensive player can also use this method, but he drops his ball on to the box.

In the next issue we will deal with tactical play and general polish of stroke production. Stick to your guns throughout the summer and a big improvement will be seen next season.

Mechlovits to Montagu—and Us.

ON "WHAT'S WRONG WITH ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS."

The following extract from a letter to me from Zoltan Mechlovits, the Trainer and Founder of Table Tennis supremacy, will be of interest. He responds to an invitation to state his views on improving the standing of the leading English players as follows:—

"You must remember, of course, that I have seen no English players for three years past. The Tournament results, however, show that in the International field *England remains still in the same place* as years ago: in third to fifth place in world ranking, with Haydon, Jones still the best, and nothing whatever to indicate that meanwhile table tennis as a sport in England has increased tenfold or even thirtyfold! In Hungary there are, in all, no more than perhaps 500 active players, in England 40,000, and yet Hungary stands at the head of the Nations! and it can by no means be said that our younger generation is always seeing Barna, Szabados, Bellak, &c., play and just simply copies everything from our 'Masters.' The players named have lived abroad for years now, they come home seldom and when they are home play little, either in Tournaments or practice. How then does it come about that Hungary is always able to put new, and again new, strong players into the International arena? As it is no secret, I shall briefly tell you.

"First, the players of England used to be, and I have no doubt are, *just as gifted* as our players, and yet they get no better. In my opinion there are two causes for this: finally there is no *sport specialisation in England*; he who plays table tennis takes part in other sports at the same time—one must play table tennis seriously and exclusively, practicing any other game just so much and *no more* than will suffice for physical development. O.K. for hiking, swimming, rowing, tennis, boxing, but *quite casually*, not going out for results, and chiefly only to get the table tennis player into the open air. Besides this, every single day, or at least four times a week, *serious play*, always of at least 12—15 games and against different opponents. Second, *play throughout the entire year*. Our best players have become so good precisely owing to this circumstance, that they have played more industriously in summer than in the ordinary season. I have said again and again that *summer practice is the most important practice*. In summer there are no Tournaments, one can try out everything, change one's style, try out new hits, attackers learn to defend, and the opposite. In summer one has chances that never occur during the season, when the season arrives, one has to be *in form right away*, no first-class player has then any time to spare on learning, Barna, Szabados,

Bellak, Kelen, Glancz, &c., that is, all our top-class players, all played for five years throughout each summer five to six hours a day, the whole time in the open air. The generation now coming forward is still following this plan in Hungary, so I am sure they will learn a tremendous amount by such summer training.

"These are the two chief factors, the main difference between the English and Hungarian systems. Do you think that in England you will ever be able to overcome this difference? In table tennis *talent without serious development training is quite useless*.

"More Tournaments during the season! and *always best of five*. One must practice over the longer stretch. And the Club matches should be not one game up but *best of three*.

"Many more interesting matches! For example: regular annual team matches between Towns or Leagues, on the knockout system, three a side or better still on Davis Cup lines. The Final could be played each year in connection with the English Open Championships. The purpose of these matches would, in the first place, be interesting games which should attract the public, secondly and chiefly that they *would lead to keen competition* to get into these selected Town or League Teams. Furthermore, a result would be that the better players would get more representative practice and thereby 'routine.'

"Regular International Matches, not only in England, but also on the Continent! Against France, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, would be highly advisable! With women also, if it doesn't cost too much. I know from my own experience that such Internationals invariably improve the form of the player!

"And finally, the most important! In order that the above good advice may be carried out, the English Association must get hold of a *first-class, tactically and technically perfect official Association Coach* who shall visit every League separately throughout the year, busy himself with the good players, *particularly the young ones*, give advice that must be followed to the League and Club Executives, take in hand the training for the World Championships and the most important International Team Matches, &c. Of course *the Coach must be a professional*, in the sense, at least, that he must carry out his task seriously and *responsibly*. Of course the Coach must also be a first-class expert. I believe that sane simple means could soon be found to overcome the material obstacles, and with a series of English successes, which would certainly follow, the public interest would increase still further and the considerable costs of such a scheme thus easily be returned.

"I know thoroughly the talents and great sportsmanship of all English players; I am sure that in the hands of a good expert, the results would show that English table tennis strength could be underestimated only with peril.

"There may be some few other matters, but these are unimportant. I think and hope I've set out here the main points. It would make me very glad indeed if my advice should prove a help."

Ivor Montagu analyses these proposals (for which we must all thank Z.M.) as follows:—

1. More Tournaments. These are increasing. So far, in spite of encouragement, only the National Championships are best of five.

2. One Game Up Club Matches. We have been fighting these for years. Very slowly, too slowly, we are getting the better of them.

3. Inter-City or Inter-League Matches. These show a welcome increase. The "Wilmott" Cup, instituted for this purpose, will prove a help.

4. More International Matches, also abroad. We hope to increase these in future International "Circus" tours; we intend to encourage more "matches" and fewer "Exhibitions" and hope Leagues will support us in this.

5. Efforts by the players themselves—(a) more specialisation. I am afraid over here few players will adopt this, but the positive side of it, using other and especially outdoor sports for physical building up is desperately important. All our young players tend to drop points and leads once gained in little patches of unconscious tiredness and loss of concentration which would not occur if they were fitter. To be good at anything, a game just as a business, a player must *study or work hard*. There is no short road. This applies particularly to the (b) summer practice point. It sounds a terrible strain, but without it how can a player expect to be accurate, and how can he expect to be all round, and able to change his game according to his opposition, unless he will conscientiously practice at all the things he is bad at and not use the strokes he is good at, a thing very difficult to have character enough to do in competition time! Here especially also Clubs can help, because nowadays they would think it impertinent for any rising young player to stay each night on the table continuously for a dozen games against various opponents. They must try to collaborate with us if we pick promising "trainees" for such a privilege.

6. On the Coach question, we hope to be able before the end of the season to make an important announcement.

In general, Mechlovits' suggestions are all constructive and fit in many places with our own plans. We are glad to have them.

IVOR MONTAGU.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS.

H. Shalson, the English International, concluded a successful season by winning the North London Invitation Tournament. In the final he beat Stennett, a promising player, by three games to one.

In a recent exhibition match Mrs. Booker demonstrated considerable strength in all departments by beating Miss Dora Emdin in straight games. During the evening Eric Findon and Stanley Proffitt beat A. D. Brook with great ease. Brook must show better form than this to keep his position.

J. Joyce, who recently shattered a finger, is playing again—better than ever.

Towards the end of the season a team of exhibition players sprang into the limelight of first-class shows. Their games all mix well, and anybody looking for the perfect combination could do a lot worse than select A. D. Brook, S. Proffitt, E. Findon, all "Swaythling" Cup players, and J. Joyce, International.

News from the Provinces.

BATH AND DISTRICT.

Buse Retains Singles Title.

The Finals of the Bath Table Tennis League Championships, held at Brock Street Hall recently, drew an excellent crowd in spite of dull and rainy weather.

For the fourth time in succession, H. T. Buse (Y.M.C.A.) won the Singles. In the Semi-Final he defeated F. G. Huck (Y.M.C.A.) in 3 straight games and qualified to meet J. E. Offer in the Final. It was a grand tussle with Buse slightly the better man all the way.

A triangular match in which Bath, Swindon and Bristol, participated, was warmly received. The first match between J. Silto and D. Dawes resulted in an exciting victory for the former, after a hard fought fight. The scores were: 12-21, 20-22, 21-16, 21-14, 21-16.

The Town Clerk, Mr. J. Basil Ogden, presented the medals and certificates during the interval. Other members of the executive side of the game who were present at the Finals were:—Mr. J. T. Barnard, Mr. A. W. Clipsham, Mr. G. Everett and Mr. R. Clark.

EXETER.

The achievements of the Exeter and District Table Tennis League and its individual members have been phenomenal in this record-breaking season, now closed.

The League played 16 representative matches, and were beaten only once at Cardiff, by 9 sets to 7.

Here is a synopsis of the season's play:—

West of England Team Championship (Sir Edgar Plummer Cup) Winner. Exeter League—team: L. C. Kerslake (Capt.), L. R. Suter, R. F. Litten and A. S. King, all of the Exeter Y.M.C.A., who beat the Bristol League in the Final by 9 sets to 2.

League Champions, Division 1. Exeter Y.M.C.A. King's Lodge (F. G. Grigg (Capt.), L. C. Kerslake, J. P. Plummer).

League Champions, Division 2. St. Thomas Methodists "A" (W. Channon, (Capt.), B. Townsend, F. Crever, H. Brewer).

League Champions, Division 3. Express and Echo Sports Club (A. Luxton (Capt.), R. T. Hosegrove, R. Dunstan, R. Brown).

West of England Open Singles. F. G. Grigg (Y.M.C.A. King's Lodge).

Dorset Open Singles. L. R. Suter (Y.M.C.A. "A").

Exeter Championship, "Whitton" Cup. L. R. Suter (Y.M.C.A. "A").

Exeter Doubles Championship. A. S. King and R. F. Litten (Y.M.C.A.).

Second and Third Division Championship. W. Tucker (St. Sidwell's I).

Best Inter-League record. L. R. Suter (Y.M.C.A. "A").

Best League record, Division 1. L. R. Suter (Y.M.C.A. "A").

Doubles. L. R. Suter and T. K. Ford (Y.M.C.A. "A").

Best League Record. Division 2—W. Tucker (St. Sidwell's I); Division 3—R. Congdon (Southern Railway).

LIVERPOOL.

The "Readman" Challenge Cup Semi-Final Tie between Falkland and Royal Liver

produced a big surprise, for the former and Second Division Team, defeated Royal Liver, placed second in Division I, by the remarkable score of 9-1 sets.

The "F. L. Forrest" and "G. B. Hyde" Challenge Cups have yet to be decided.

No fewer than seventeen Inter-League matches have been played this season. The programme concluded on April 4th, with the Men's team at Sheffield, and the Women at Blackpool.

The Champion Clubs are as follows:—Division 1, Ennismore; Division 2, Breckside Co-op; North, Nelta; South, St. Michael's "A"; West, Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. "A." Young Israel "A" and Jubilee will play off for the East Championship.

BAMFORD RETAINS "MONTAGUE BURTON" CUP.

Two Liverpool players retain Liverpool Table Tennis League titles for another 12 months.

They are F. Bamford (Ennismore) and Miss N. Norrish (Bootle). Bamford won the Men's Singles of the closed Championship and retained possession of the "Montague Burton" Cup, and Miss Norrish won the women's title for the fourth successive year.

In the Final, Bamford beat Don Foulis 20-22, 21-18, 21-17, 21-19, and Miss Norrish beat Miss J. Bartholomew 20-22, 21-7, 22-20.

It was a hard battle between Bamford and Foulis, both players proving themselves master tacticians and employing cunningly placed shots.

Mr. Henry G. Ralph, representing Sir Montague Burton, said he had been asked by Sir Montague Burton to congratulate the Liverpool League officials on the record entries—328—for this year's championships, and to say how delighted Sir Montague was to learn that there were 121 competitors for the cup he had presented for the Men's Singles Event.

It was Sir Montague's hope, said Mr. Ralph, that the spirit of goodwill would always be inspired by those competitions and that future efforts would create an even bigger interest.

Mr. C. E. Bartholomew, president of Liverpool League, presented the cups and prizes.

Results.

Men's Singles ("Montague Burton" Cup)—Semi-finals: F. Bamford beat P. U. Rumjahn 16-21, 21-13, 21-19; Don Foulis beat E. W. Hyde 21-13, 21-16. Final: F. Bamford beat Don Foulis 20-22, 21-18, 21-17, 21-19.

Women's Singles ("S. W. Richardson" Cup)—Miss N. Norrish beat Miss J. Bartholomew 20-22, 21-7, 22-20.

Men's Doubles.—D. Foulis and F. Bamford beat D. Class and R. E. Roberts 21-13, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles.—P. U. Rumjahn and Miss E. Malley beat F. Bamford and Miss R. Doolan 21-19, 16-21, 21-9.

Regional Doubles.—N. Freeman and I. Winterburn beat M. Canevali and L. P. Booth 21-15, 21-11.

Women's Doubles.—Misses S. Bartholomew and N. Norrish beat Misses R. Doolan and E. Malley, 21-19, 9-21, 21-13.

Men's Consolation Singles.—H. W. Fairhurst beat F. B. Knott 21-18, 21-23, 21-13.

Women's Consolation Singles.—Miss O. Kinder beat Miss A. G. Lemon, 17-21, 21-16, 21-16.

SUSSEX CHAMPIONSHIPS.

A record entry of 350 was received for the Sussex Open Table Tennis Championships, held at Hatherley Road Drill Hall, Hastings.

During the Tournament, the possibility was discussed of a big indoor sports centre for Hastings, where international championships could be staged.

Outstanding players competing, included Stanley Proffitt, English International and Swaythling Cup player, recently returned from Prague; George Marshall, American International and Swaythling Cup player; N. K. Contractor, Indian International and Swaythling Cup player; Miss Dora Emdin and Miss D. L. Emdin, A. J. Wilmott, English Internationals and R. C. Dawson, former English International.

About 120 competitors attended a supper held at the Grand Restaurant after the close of the play.

Mr. W. H. Raby (President of the Hastings and District Table Tennis Association) presided, and others present were Mrs. Raby, Mr. C. Corti Woodcock (Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association), Mr. W. L. George (Chairman of the Local Association), Mr. D. V. Hills (Tournament Secretary), Mr. Arthur Jones (General Secretary of the Local Association), Mr. P. A. Ward (Local Representative on the General Council of the E.T.T.A.), Mr. G. W. Decker and Mr. H. V. Tyler. About 30 Brighton and 40 London players, as well as players from other South Coast towns, were also present.

Mr. Raby welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Hastings and District Table Tennis Association. The Tournament he said, had proved a record for entry and seven Internationals were present.

High Standard.

Mr. Woodcock said that though the entry was exceptionally good, he was not so pleased with that as with the standard of play exhibited. The sprinkling of Internationals lent tone to the proceedings, and he was glad to see relatively unknown players hitting the ball intelligently and with purpose. He hoped Internationals would be found in Sussex in the near future.

It was a matter of great interest to those of the E.T.T.A. that Hastings was the only Corporation which lent an ear to the public requirements of the players. Hastings was one of the most progressive towns on the South Coast, and if only they would go further and provide a great central building for indoor sport to embrace squash, tennis, table tennis, and so on, the public would be in their debt.

The prizes were presented by Commander J. Drinkwater, who remarked that table tennis had gone through a difficult uphill career, and only in the last few years had it achieved its present standard in this country.

Mr. Corti Woodcock expressed thanks to Commander Drinkwater for presenting the prizes. He referred to the organisation of indoor sport in Hastings and hoped there would be a central headquarters for sport.

Mr. P. A. Ward expressed thanks to Messrs. Woodcock, Hills and Decker for their support, and also to the competitors and umpires.

Mr. H. H. Bridge expressed appreciation of the work put in by the Hastings officials with regard to the Tournament.

Mr. Corti Woodcock acted as honorary referee for the Tournament.

(Continued overleaf.)

(Continued from previous page.)

Results.

Men's Singles.—Semi-Finals: N. K. Contractor (London) beat J. Rogers (London) 23—21, 21—15; S. Proffitt (London) beat E. J. Filby (London) 21—11, 21—9. Final: Proffitt beat Contractor 21—9, 21—16, 21—10.

Women's Singles.—Semi-Finals: Miss Dora Emdin (St. Albans) beat Miss C. M. Hollick (Brighton), 21—11, 23—25, 21—15; Miss L. D. Minc (London) beat Miss R. V. Hadlow (Brighton) 16—21, 21—19, 21—18. Final: Miss Dora Emdin beat Miss Minc, 21—11, 21—11.

Men's Minor Singles.—Semi-Finals: H. Jones (London) beat R. R. Russell (Hastings), 21—9, 24—26, 21—15; R. E. Moreton (London) beat J. Jones (Bexhill) 21—17, 23—21. Final: Jones beat Moreton 21—19, 17—21, 21—13, 15—21, 21—18.

Women's Minor Singles.—Semi-Finals: Miss D. L. Emdin (St. Albans) beat Miss C. Jenking (Brighton) 22—20, 21—15; Miss D. Donovan (London) w.o. Final: Miss D. L. Emdin beat Miss Donovan 21—11, 16—21, 25—23.

Men's Doubles.—Semi-Finals: J. Rogers (London) and R. E. Moreton (London) beat G. W. Marshall (London) and R. C. Dawson (London), 19—21, 21—17, 22—20; H. Bridge (London) and E. J. Filby beat W. Stennett (London) and Contractor 21—15, 21—19. Final: Bridge and Filby beat Rogers and Moreton 21—16, 21—15.

Women's Doubles.—Semi-Finals: Miss Dora Emdin and Miss Donovan beat Miss Jenking and Miss Hollick 21—19, 21—19; Miss D. L. Emdin and Miss E. Finch (London) beat Miss Bell and Mrs. H. Windows (Hastings) 21—11, 21—8. Final: Miss D. L. Emdin and Miss Finch beat Miss Dora Emdin and Miss Donovan 21—18, 19—21, 21—19.

Mixed Doubles.—Semi-Finals: Miss Dora Emdin and Contractor beat Miss Harding and Bridge, 21—16, 21—18; Miss Finch and Stennett beat Miss D. L. Emdin and J. H. Adams (Harpden), 21—19, 21—18. Final: Miss Dora Emdin and Contractor beat Miss Finch and Stennett 21—18, 21—15.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The recent selection of Miss Connie Wheaton and Miss Bessie Wright to represent England, prompts a writer in a London Newspaper, to ask why it was that in St. Albans, a small town with a population of 28,000 (he evidently perused an old directory, for the population is now over 30,000) is able to produce such a galaxy of women table tennis stars, as the town can now lay claim to five or six of them.

Perhaps I can throw a little light on the subject. We are fortunate in St. Albans in having interested in table tennis some real old stagers who between them have infused into 400 or 500 devotees of the game an enthusiasm and keenness which I challenge any town in the country to surpass, or, perhaps, even equal.

To mention only one or two—Fred C. Walters, the founder, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer of the St. Albans and District League, whose enthusiasm is absolutely infectious; and Miles R. Crawley, an old stalwart who is no less keen. Ralph Emdin, a member of the E.T.T.A. Executive, is another whose interest goes back many years.

We have, in the League, a splendid set of officers from the President down to the Secretary (bottom in the list, but top for hard work), and though I would deny any suggestion that any of our players are mere pot-hunters, we have an array of challenge and other cups which will take a lot of beating.

Add to all this a good, sporting set of players who are always keen on beating one another and seeking to improve their game and you will find the incentive to reach the topmost heights.

We are all proud of our Women Internationals, past and present, and our only regret is that we have not produced a man who is considered good enough to represent his country—yet. But we live in hopes, for we have some excellent exponents I can assure you.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. TYSON,

Chairman, St. Albans and District Table Tennis League, St. Albans.

Annual General Meeting.

At The Memorial Hall, London, on Saturday, May 2nd, 1936.

Present: Mr. H. Oldroyd (President), Messrs. C. Corti Woodcock (Chairman), A. K. Vint (Treasurer), and 47 representatives of League.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present, and read a cable from the Secretary, despatched from Moscow, regretting his absence. It was explained that Mr. Pope had had to take a holiday for health reasons.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held 27th April, 1935, were taken as read, and adopted subject to alteration regarding Rule 9, "Honorary" before the Secretary and Treasurer, and "The Executive Committee shall have power to create and fill any other office which in its opinion is necessary and be at liberty to remunerate any officer who is not appointed on an Honorary basis."

The Chairman, in presenting the Executive Committee report, explained that at the last Executive Meeting it had been agreed that a comprehensive report of the Executive Committee work during the past year should be read in place of the Chairman's report. Mr. Montagu, in seconding the adoption of the report, regretted to note that no mention was made of the excellent service rendered by our Chairman, C. Corti Woodcock, who, owing to illness, was unfortunately unable to continue in office for the coming season. Proposed by F. A. Amies and carried unanimously, that Mr. Montagu's remarks be added to the report.

The Chairman, in introducing the Treasurer, said how greatly he appreciated all that Mr. Vint had done during the past year. Mr. Vint then presented a Receipts and Payments Account to date, remarking that an increase in revenue should be noted in affiliation fees, royalties, whilst the probable total of the foreign tour would be £500, resulting in a profit, after deducting expenses, of £150. The National Championships resulted in a profit, in fact the total receipts of £625 was a record, profits were also recorded on all matches with the exception of the American, which was due to lateness of fixture.

Of the Expenditure items legal charges of £14 3s. were for the preparation of the agreement for the lease of the office, on the handbook we lost £70. Balance in hand £352 7s. 9d., which amount may possibly be further reduced by reasons of several outstanding liabilities, such as magazine. As interest at 5 per cent. was being paid on the World Championships Loan Account, it was hoped that the Association would be able to repay 50 per cent. of the loans.

N.B. E.C.—Of the discussion which arose on several items (1) proposed by B. C. Amies, seconded by — Tarrant, the leagues be asked to submit to the E.T.T.A. full details of

cost of exhibition and profit made, — Manning (Stockport) asking that a detailed account from the E.T.T.A. would in turn be given, and agreed. Proposed by B. C. Amies, seconded by — Waller, that the Treasurer's report be adopted, with congratulations to the Executive Committee on the excellent financial position.

The new rules for the Wilmott Cup, which had been circulated, were then discussed, Mr. Montagu giving a detailed explanation on same. The donor explained that his reason for presenting the cup was to find new Swaythling Cup players, and on a vote being taken as to whether play should be on Swaythling or Marcel Cup lines resulted in favour of Swaythling by 14 to 10. Regarding ball used, — Rose (South London) suggested the visiting team might have the choice, Executive Committee asked to note.

After discussion, question 9a to remain, and agreed that player can only play for one league in the season.

N.B. E.C.—(This suggestion to be adopted for all inter-league matches). Rule 17—"Balls" to be taken out and inserted after "postage up to £1."

F. A. Amies formally moved the amendments to rules as set out on the agenda, Montagu, in seconding, asked that Rule 22 be redrafted so as to accommodate the dress of foreign players.

Rule 3.—Insert after the word "Officers" on line 2, "local Associations," and adjust other rules where necessary—carried.

Rule 11a.—Add "with the exception of the President"—carried.

New Rule.—Widely discussed enquirers being assured it was not compulsory for all leagues within the area to join, and an amendment that the grant should not exceed 50 per cent. of the deficiency in the area committee account was defeated. On voting for new rule, 232 for, 167 against, defeated on insufficient majority.

Rule 12.—(N.B. delete suggested clause (d) as new rule failed), delete and substitute:—The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of

- (a) The President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. General Secretary of the Association.
- (b) Eight members elected annually by the General Council.
- (c) Not more than three women members co-opted annually by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than two other members of the Association.

Rule 15.—Add new clause "it shall be the duty of the Annual General Meeting to elect the President, Vice-Presidents and Auditors, who shall take office from the day following the meeting."

To substitute for line 3, "when the Annual Report of the Executive Committee and statement of accounts . . . made."

Rule 22.—Add—"all male competitors must wear a dark sports shirt, grey flannel trousers or shorts, and rubber soled shoes," carried subject to re-wording re dress of foreign players.

(Continued on page 7, column 1.)

The "VILLA" BALL was adopted for the
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Rule 24.—Clause (g)—delete—carried.

Rule 6.—The proposition of the General Council and amendments by Hastings T.T.A. were defeated.

Rule 26.—Proposed by —Vint, seconded by B. C. Amies, carried, inclusion "Association, League, club player, member or official."

Rule 25 (b).—Proposed by — Vint, seconded by — Waller, delete "opening date."

Rule 4.—The substitution to this rule put forward by the Civil Service T.T.A. was defeated.

N.B. E.C.—The proposed English League by which the country would be defined to two areas was put forward by L. E. Forest (Liverpool), and seconded by — Thompson, that the matter be deferred to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Mr. Montagu gave an interesting detailed report on I.T.T.F. matters, such as the future of the World Championships, which might be limited to just the Swaythling and Marcel Cup events; ball question, tables, clothes, all of which had been dealt with in the agenda of the I.T.T.F. Congress. Proposed by — Swann, Seconded by — Milton, the report be adopted.

Mr. Montagu informed the meeting that Mr. Montagu had been made Chairman of the Advisory Board of the I.T.T.F., and Mr. Goldstein English Language Secretary—congratulations were extended to both members.

Mr. Woodcock, in proposing the re-election of our President, Mr. Oldroyd, stated how greatly we appreciated his keen interest, seconded by — Manning, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Oldroyd, in addressing the meeting thanked all for their kindness in again electing him as their President, and assured them that he would do all in his power to further the game.

Vice-Presidents.—Proposed by C. Corti Woodcock, seconded by — King, that the present Vice-Presidents be elected *en bloc*, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Woodcock's name be added to the list. Proposed by C. Corti Woodcock, seconded by — Milton, that Mr. A. J. Key, of Croydon, be elected. Proposed by — Milton, seconded by — Tassell, that Mr. Driscoll, with which proposition Mr. Woodcock wished to be associated. Proposed by — Hills, seconded by — Swann, that Mr. Wilmott be added to the list.

Hon. Auditors.—Proposed by C. Corti Woodcock, seconded by — Swann, that Messrs. Forrest and Coldrick be re-elected.

The President read the report he had received from the P.R. Society, stating that of the 123 papers issued, only 70 had been returned.

Chairman: Hon. I. Montagu, Mr. Woodcock had withdrawn.

Hon. Treasurer: A. K. Vint, unopposed.

Hon. Secretary: W. J. Pope, unopposed.

Executive: L. E. Forest, J. W. Swan, F. J. P. Hills, J. M. Rose, R. Emdin, M. Goldstein, K. A. Nicholson, F. A. Amies.

Mr. Montagu, before taking the Chair, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Woodcock, expressing the hope that we should have him back with us in the next season.

A.O.B.—G. W. Marshall gave his comments re pushing, which were duly noted.

The practice of canvassing for election votes was commented upon.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SOUTHAMPTON.

A big success was achieved by Mrs. Enticott (of the Albion Tennis Club, Eastleigh) recently, when she won the Southampton Table Tennis Association Ladies' Singles Championship.

In the final she defeated Mrs. Hayward (Avenue) by 21—9, 21—19, 21—19. Mrs. Hayward, holder of the title, has been undefeated in league matches for the past two seasons.

This is the first time Mrs. Enticott has won the championship despite the fact that it is not her first final appearance.

HULL TAKE STEPS.

The first steps towards increasing the playing strength of Hull and improving the standard of play has been taken. A special table tennis club will soon be in existence where the members and also the public can play at moderate charges for the use of the table.

LOFTUS AND DISTRICT.

The concluding game in the Loftus and District League was played some short time ago between West End Rovers and the Rest of the League, the former winning by 11 matches to 7.

Mr. B. L. Hookins, Vice-President of the E.T.T.A., was there to present the cup and medals.

TABLE TENNIS IN THE EIFFEL TOWER.

A table tennis floor has been allocated in the Eiffel Tower for enthusiasts in Paris. Between matches they can gaze at a beautiful panorama of the city.

Clubs are springing up rapidly in France, and there is a move on foot to stage an International Tournament at the International Exhibition next year.

THE NEXT ISSUE.

The next issue of TABLE TENNIS will appear during the month of July. All copy for that issue should, however, be sent in good time to avoid the delay that is caused by late news.—*Editor.*

(Continued from previous column.)

Mrs. D. L. Bunbury gave the report of the Women's Dress Sub-Committee, which resulted in shorts and trousers being barred, and if a cardigan was to be worn this should be of the same colour as the sports blouse worn underneath.

The question of reducing the fee for the English Championships was raised, and it was pointed out that a sub-committee was being formed.

Mr. Hills also mentioned again his suggestion that preliminary rounds for the English Championships should be run over the whole season to qualify for the event.

B. C. Amies (Leeds) asked if the Annual General Meeting could alternate between the North and the South.

Meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks.

"N.B. E.C." refers to a definite matter to be placed before the new Executive at their first meeting.

THE EXHIBITIONIST AND THE MATCH PLAYER.

How many people go to an exhibition match, thoroughly enjoy the games, return home enthusiastically looking forward to their own Club evening, only to be disillusioned when they see two first-class players matching brain against brain and not brawn against brawn?

In match play apparent chances are missed by the hundred. The ball sits up, hovers in the air asking to be hit, but it is only stroked by the over-cautious player.

It is not possible to achieve outstanding recognition at anything, especially sport, if you are not prepared to take a chance. How many people remember the historic final between Barna and Szabados for the world's single's crown at Wembley some months back? Barna, when facing defeat, took what must have been the biggest chance in his career—he attacked forehand. Apart from being a good tactical manoeuvre it was a stroke of genius. Szabados admitted afterwards that this forehand onslaught completely upset his equilibrium and *not* the fact that Barna stopped the game on account of a wrist injury.

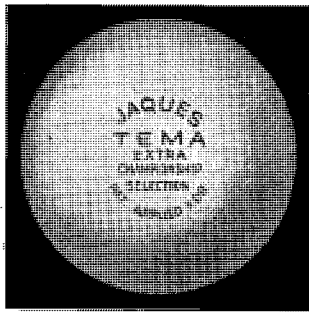
Let's take another sphere of sport—cricket. What do the papers, and what is more important the spectators, say when the opening batsmen stonewall for an hour in an effort to steal 20 or 30 runs for his side? He is booed for his cautiousness. A cricket ball is made to be hit, and the human side of sport gives him a conservative estimate of 25 per cent. of deliveries slow enough, high enough or loose enough to be hit to the boundary.

One of the greatest sporting events of recent years was the England-Australia air race. Could those airmen fly at a comparative slow speed and be sure of reaching their objective in reasonable time to be considered "in the race"? The obvious answer is in the negative—they had to take a chance and they, that little band of sporting aviators took the biggest chance of all in risking their lives.

And so like that famous song, "The Music Goes Around," we could go from sport to sport and find that the outstanding personalities are those who are prepared to throw their whole spirit into a race or match. This is the feeling that we want in table tennis. If one player takes a risk the other will follow suit. The foundations of the game are laid, but you can be a pioneer of table tennis even at this stage by making the game more exciting, more spectacular, and more appetising to the sporting tastes of the spectators.

A few players of outstanding ability are leading this crusade. They are coaching stonewallers and teaching them how to hit with the accuracy that they themselves have achieved. A. A. Haydon takes a chance. R. D. Jones takes a chance on his backhand, Eric Findon is always taking chances. So console yourself by the fact that if you lose the match your flag has been lowered in style. What worse nightmare is there than, after having lost a cautious match, you dream of the balls you could have hit but pushed back even though eventually you lost the point.

The spirit next season should be taken from those famous words of Shakespeare ". . . like greyhounds straining on the leash."



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PLAYER AND HIS STRENGTH

By **ERIC FINDON.**

The other day at a gathering of E.T.T.A. officials I was responsible for a laugh, inasmuch as I suggested that a "stroke" wasn't a "shot"! This is purely a matter of opinion, but I'm sure if a sub-committee of the Association was appointed to deal with the question they would reach a decision. However, I don't intend to dwell on this unconsciously humorous remark, but dive deeper into a topic that I was about to expound before being laughed out of court.

Each and every International has in his or her make-up one or more "shots" that makes him or her an International. His, or her, "strokes" on both sides may be perfect, but still not being consistent winners they cannot, in my humble opinion, be classified with the former.

As a first-class example we can take the mighty V. Barna, whose backhand is his chief weapon. I wouldn't suggest for one moment that he has no forehand. On the contrary his forehand is strong but hardly muscular enough to win for him the coveted crown. Take Barna's backhand from him and where would he find himself?

That "shot"—the Barna flick—is a winner. He has played hundreds of matches in this country and I'm sure that the majority of my readers will have seen him in action at some time or other. Have you seen Szabados work away at his forehand in an effort to make him use it? And have you seen Barna work right across the table on his backhand leaving his court only half guarded? Have you seen Szabados or Bellak smash a winner down that line that normally would have been guarded if Barna wasn't backhand mad?

And so we analyse all the players one by one. Szabados would be feeling the draught if his forehand suddenly gave him the air. He would have to play solely on defence with the occasional use of his backhand which cannot be classified with that of his colleague.

Take Haydon's forehand from him and he would be in the novice class again and would have to fight hard for his place in an ordinary club team.

Lurie, without his backhand, would also be a weakened player to such an extent that he would not be in his present position.

And so every player of repute has his main "shot" with which he wins games. Stroke production is all very well in its way, but if you have an unorthodox stroke that makes winners, cultivate it until it is eventually classified in the orthodox section.

When watching exhibition matches you'll find it interesting to find the main points of a player's game and mentally plan moves that would frustrate them. In that way you will be learning to sum up your opponent—an asset that is not found in many of our players, even Internationais.

C. A. Scott, a player of repute in London, had an index of players to which he used to refer before meeting them in a match. That is the spirit that wins games. Don't be downhearted because you have a stiff match ahead. Study your future opponent's game and counterplan. Never say die—and your efforts will be rewarded.

I should welcome any letters on the above items from any player who has views on them. I repeat the above is merely my own humble opinion.

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A QUEEN'S CLUB OF TABLE TENNIS.

Efforts are being made to establish a Queen's Club of table tennis in the heart of London.

The ideal situation has been found at Lane's London Club, Baker Street. The first step taken was to secure the services of Eric Findon, the English International Swaythling Cup player.

Findon, in conjunction with Mr. Harold Lane, has planned the ideal playing conditions. The subscription to the Club is 2/6 per annum, which entitles the member to use every section. The tables are charged for at 1s. 6d. per hour.

Arrangements are in hand for a centre court. It is hoped that space will be found for 100 tip-up seats.

Eric Findon would welcome any player who wishes to join him and make it the Club of clubs.

Four teams will be seen in the London League next season.



L. BELLAK.

The Comedian of the Table Tennis Arena is anticipating a bumper summer season on the Continent this summer.