

Table

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

Tennis

Vol. II. No. 2.

NOVEMBER, 1936

ONE PENNY

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL

PROFESSIONALISM

Perhaps Germany will understand now

By the Hon. IVOR MONTAGU

THE German Table Tennis Association's official paper *Tisch Tennis* has recently been publishing some not very complimentary remarks about English Table Tennis. "What is English Table Tennis coming to?" they ask—"A Table Tennis Circus (the reference is to an advertisement in this paper) playing Table Tennis for money, indeed a Circus, and this in England, the jealous guardian of amateurism, the country from which we are supposed to take our pattern of sport!"

It is necessary to say quite firmly and severely once and for all that the old idea of sport as something belonging to amateurs and not to professionals is dead with the English people. Finished. It is a class idea. It persists only among snobs, among those who think that nobility and sportsmanship are found only among those who can pay the cost of learning to be good at sport out of their private incomes. We in England know the sort of hoity-toity person who regards "Rugger" as sport and "Soccer" as dirt, and we know what to think of them. Professionals and Amateurs have played side by side at cricket long enough for us to know that the man whose economic position obliges him to earn wages while he's playing can be just as good a sport as the one who only takes (though sometimes it's even more) expenses. "Sport," what *Tisch Tennis* calls the World pattern of the English idea, is the playing of the game for the game's sake, and for nothing else, no matter who wins or loses. Money may imperil this ideal, it is true, but we who have seen successive Olympic Games, have seen that it does not imperil it one thousand millionth part as much as National pride and glory. We have not criticised, and we do not propose here to criticise, those handbooks published officially for the German Sports Headquarters which speak of the object of sport as the development of the military efficiency of the

Nation—however alien such ideas may be to us. In the meantime, however, we may remind *Tisch Tennis* that the International Federation has agreed that each Association may operate, within its own borders, its own ideas respecting money and players, and we intend to stick to ours. We would not dream of permitting anyone in England to pay a German player anything of which the German T.T.A. had not approved, or of permitting an English player to receive anything in Germany

INTERNATIONAL MATCH

ENGLAND

A. A. HAYDON, S. PROFFIT
and M. B. W. BERGL

V.

HUNGARY

G. V. BARNA, M. SZABADOS
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without German T.T.A. approval. Let that be sufficient for *Tisch Tennis*. At present it is sufficient also for the I.T.T.F., and if ever it is not, well then, the I.T.T.F. can get along without us.

It is worth while to examine how the present position in the I.T.T.F. came to be reached. When we started, under E.T.T.A. leadership, a strict amateur rule was passed. But an honest amateur rule, not one grounded

in ancient snobbish tradition. We didn't, like the Amateur Rowing Association, bar any artisan from being an amateur (so that last year a policemen's crew, coming all the way from Sydney, found themselves banned from Henley); we didn't, like Lawn Tennis, bar any man who was a professional at other sports. We said an amateur at Table Tennis was a man who didn't make anything out of Table Tennis, neither more nor less, and we refused to ban Charlie Bull, who for years went all over the place playing Table Tennis, even representing England at World Championships, without even expenses from the E.T.T.A., just because he played cricket for a living in the off season. But very soon came in the player who did make something out of Table Tennis, and who pretended not to. He came in first not in England. He came in first in Germany. His first disguise was as a "clerk" or "secretary" in a Table Tennis salon. He soon spread to other countries.

UP AGAINST SHAMATEURISM

Now the E.T.T.A. (let us boast) is not hidebound or cowardly. We could see we had made a mistake. Where the shamateur existed, Table Tennis flourished and spread. The Public admired him—and increased. Young players emulated him and improved. The skilful master retained his interest in the game and remained as an ornament to it. In our country, however, where we stuck to "amateur" because the Laws said amateur (unlike some English Sport Governing bodies), all the talented players deserted Table Tennis after a few years as soon as they became of an age when they needed to make their way in life. We reflected. Allowing players to earn money by play certainly involves risk of abuse. Some Sports Associations in England no doubt refuse to do it out of conservatism that is purely snobbish and indefensible, others are doubtless swayed by genuine and not altogether indefensible precedence. But we have had the good fortune in England to see professionalism permitted and professionals and amateurs competing together without detriment to

(Continued on Page 2)

JAQUES for TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT

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sport, in Cricket, Association Football, Golf, Rackets, Squash Rackets, and real Tennis. If these could do it without abuse, why not Table Tennis? We changed our dolley.

From this time on, at the I.T.T.F. Congress Table, consistently urged twin resolutions. We demanded professionalism and denounced shamateurism; the two being clearly complementary.

But this was just what the I.T.T.F. could not give. We could have carried a majority, but we should have smashed the I.T.T.F. Nearly half the countries don't allow professionals and amateurs to play together at any sports. Some even have laws against professionals. Others are affiliated to their National Olympic Committees. It is just this Olympic shamateurism that we regard as foul hypocrisy. We think it nonsense to call a fencing instructor in the Army an amateur (amateur fencer, professional soldier) as the Olympics do. We think it nonsense for "amateur" athletes to get money prizes for reaching the finals as the Italian "amateurs" did, or to get promotion in their jobs for winning, as some German "amateurs" did at the last Olympics in Berlin. The cleavage was simple. The shamateur countries wanted to let the players earn money, but wouldn't allow them to be called professionals. We didn't want to stop them earning money, but refused to allow them to be called amateurs. Deadlock.

At last there came a solution. Every country was to control, within its own borders and in respect to its own players, the money and expenses question exactly as it pleased. In the World Championships, there might in no circumstances be any pay, but expenses, and each country would recognise without question the nominations of the other countries. But at home every country could be as strict, or as lax, as it liked. Only, to avoid trouble in International play in respect to those countries that actually have laws against the meeting of "amateurs" and "professionals," there is a "gentleman's agreement" (what an odd term for something so unfrank), i.e., an unwritten rule, that whatever domestic rules any country makes it will not in them use the actual words "professional" and "amateur." It is of this compromise of mutual regard and separate independence that *Tisch Tennis* must be reminded.

LISTEN, YOU CHAPS!

There is something else, however, of which our players must equally sternly be reminded. In making the laws for money and expenses in this country, we considered very carefully indeed the principles which should underlie them. We want to permit any youngster whose skill or personality is a certain draw, to enjoy his fair share of the "gate." We want to encourage him to share his skill and experience by exhibiting, teaching, devising implements of play. Above all we want to make it as easy for a youngster without much money to stick to the game as it is for the fellow with plenty of money. But we don't want "win-at-any-price" to creep in and we want our expenses rules to result in more, not less, play. That's why we're against wages and big prize matches, and contracts for exclusive play with one sort of sports goods or at one sports hall.

We know it's a very ticklish, dangerous job to get all the advantages and none of the disadvantages of allowing paid play. But we're determined to try and get them and

so long as we're the governing body in this country, to try to do so is our duty. This means: **whatever we allow we must control.** Now last year we didn't control much, if at all. It was the first year and as an experiment we let things have their head and matters take their course. We had rules, and provision for registration, but if people didn't obey we didn't pay much attention. **This year it's going to be different.** We've formulated our rules in detail and with very great care—they are referred to elsewhere in this issue—and even then, only after consultation with the players who are likely to be most affected by them. **They have got to be kept.** There may be mistakes in them, but we're pretty sure there are no mistakes in them that are likely to cause hardship before they can be corrected next year.

MEANWHILE, READ THEM, LEARN AND OBEY! We know that in some sports there are players so good, so invaluable, that they can ride roughshod over all rules and regulations. **There are no players invaluable in English Table Tennis to-day.** There are plenty of good players, but no one so good we can't get on without him, and **we're going to get on without you if you don't get into line!** Remember, taking more than expenses is an offence unless you're registered. Paying somebody not registered is an offence. Look up these rules and the others. You ought to understand them properly by 15th November. Grace till then, but for offences after—the hangman's rope. Suspension. Be careful, it's a ticklish job. If it comes off and our new rules can be made to work, it'll be no small matter of pride that our young sport will have made a step forward towards honesty and away from snobbery, where other sports have feared to tread. We want your help and loyalty: and we're sure we'll get it.

By IVOR MONTAGU TABLE TENNIS

“Congratulations, Mr. Montagu! I cannot find words vivid enough to describe this brilliant work on our game. There has never been a volume so thorough, so comprehensive, and so instructive. Each page contains paragraphs of great interest and help. It is a book for the beginner and a book for every international to read and study. And so, dear reader, please do me the honour of taking my advice and securing a copy at once, you cannot afford to be without it.”

ERIC FINDON in *Table Tennis*

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**PITMAN, PARKER STREET,
KINGSWAY, W.C.2**

NATIONAL LEAGUE NOTES

By JACK BATTY (Secretary).

The National League has been formed with a Premier Division comprising MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, BIRMINGHAM, BLACKPOOL, AND STOCKPORT. There will, no doubt, be disappointment in several quarters at the very modest beginning, but an experiment of this nature might prove costly to those leagues not possessing sufficient financial backing. The other leagues in the North and Midlands seem to regard this season's activities in the nature of an experiment, and there will doubtless be a big influx of intending members next year.

The first fixtures have now been announced, and should provide some attractive games:—

To be played before 30th November, 1936.

Stockport v. Manchester.

Blackpool v. Liverpool.

To be played before 31st December, 1936.

Manchester v. Liverpool.

Birmingham v. Stockport.

Blackpool v. Birmingham.

Liverpool v. Stockport.

Manchester v. Blackpool.

To be played before 15th January, 1937.

Birmingham v. Manchester.

A certain amount of laxity has to be allowed in the dates of fixtures, because Open Tournaments, the Barna Tour, the National Championships, etc., have already been decided on. Unless these other dates are always before the opposing teams, there is bound to be clashing of fixtures, and one or other match is bound to suffer. If consideration is given to the danger of clashing dates and other problems, there should be little doubt that, from the all-important financial aspect, the National League will be successful.

Matches are to consist of eight singles and one doubles (the best of three games) teams not less than four nor more than six to minimise cost of travelling.

Provision has been made in the Rules for Proper accommodation for spectators, and for efficient playing conditions.

The financial Rule which has now been agreed to reads: "A minimum admission charge of 6d. per person shall be made at each match. It shall be the responsibility of each home league to render a statement within seven days, both to the League Treasurer

SLAZENGER'S

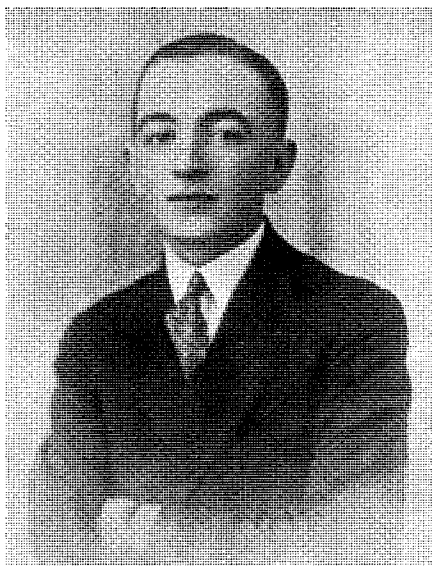
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JACK BATTY, Secretary National League

and to the visiting team secretary, together with proportion of the gate money as shown below: 20 per cent. of the gate money to the visiting league for travelling, etc., expenses; 5 per cent. of the gate money to the National League Treasurer.

"Providing that if the 20 per cent. is not sufficient to cover the visitors' expenses, then the 5 per cent. (if necessary) shall also be remitted to the visiting League Secretary."

The National League has started, and its progress will be watched with interest all over the country. It is not too much to say that if this venture proves as successful as a similar attempt in the realm of football, then Table Tennis as a serious sport will have at last come into its own.

English Players to Visit Sweden

A very cordial invitation to send two of our players to Sweden was considered by the Executive Committee at their last meeting. It was accepted subject to terms, and the matter is now in the hands of the Selection Committee. Last season a German team visited Sweden and was soundly beaten.

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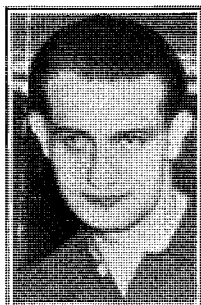
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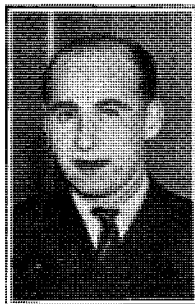
The Tour of England

IN response to requests from a number of Leagues, it was decided to risk another tour this season with the three famous "Hungarian Musketeers," G. V. Barna, M. Szabados, and L. Bellak—and a fortnight only was planned. The demands have been so great that the fortnight has developed into six weeks, and on Tuesday, 3rd November, the great "trek" will start. Opening on that date at Maidstone, they visit Gravesend on the 4th, and travel to Bristol to play on the 9th, when it is hoped there will be a record crowd for the West of England. On the following day they play at Plymouth, on to Bolton to sample a Lancashire welcome and to play at the local Y.M.C.A. on the 13th. On to Darlington, where they play on the 14th, back to Burnley for a match on the 16th, and then one exhibition before the great International Match in London—a visit to Northampton on the 17th. On the 19th they meet the pick of England at the Memorial Hall, when it is hoped that the officials of the B.B.C. will see such exciting play, that our claim that Table Tennis is an ideal subject for regular broadcasting will be amply justified.



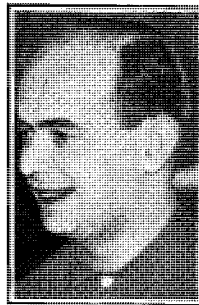
G. V. BARNÁ

No rest for the Table Tennis players on tour, they journey the following day to Manchester for a match at Belle Vue on the 21st, and then into Yorkshire to play at Huddersfield on the 23rd; Halifax on the 24th; Leeds on the 25th; up to Sunderland, for the first time, on the 26th; back to Dewsbury on the 27th; Grimsby for the week-end again to sample Grimsby good fare, with a visit to the Grimsby-Wolves football match in the afternoon. To Chester on the 30th; Southport on 1st December; Mansfield on the 2nd; Leek on the 3rd; Uttoxeter on the 4th; Lancashire again, when they visit the famous Blackpool arena on the 5th; Rossendale on the 7th; down to Birmingham for the 8th; Shrewsbury on the 9th; Rhyl—their first experience of North Wales—on the 10th; Clitheroe on the 11th; Liverpool on the 12th, when they return to London once again.



L. BELLAK

On Sunday, the 13th, they play in South London; on the 14th at Woolwich; on the 15th at Dartford;



M. SZABADOS

on the 16th and 17th, a flying visit to Southampton and Exeter. Their last match before returning to Budapest will be against a representative Civil Service team at the Paddington Baths, London, W.2.

We take this opportunity of publicly welcoming the players to our country with the hope that their stay will be very pleasant we know it will be an arduous one. We feel sure they will be enthusiastically welcomed by each League, and that they will serve up fine fare for the local "fans."

Correspondence

Editor's Note.—Letters from readers on any aspect of the game will be welcomed.

The Editor, "Table Tennis."

DEAR SIR,—With reference to your articles on "Stonewalling," would not a solution be found by awarding 2 points for a winning shot which the opponent did not touch with the bat.

This would put attacking play at a premium, as one successful attacking shot would compensate for either two into the net or off the table.

The rule could be amended to something like this:—"Two points shall be awarded when the rest is won by the player who last hit the ball whilst in play."

Tinkering about with the size of the table will only lead to a division in the camp as many affiliated clubs would be forced on the grounds of expense to continue to use a 9 by 5 table.

Inexpensive alterations such as weight of ball should be considered before anything which would cause outlay and probably lead to a breaking away of clubs.

There is no doubt that the "Stonewaller" is the most successful type of player in ordinary League play and unless something in the way of extra award is made to the attacking player the game will tend to become a battle of defences.

Yours faithfully,
Northampton. **R. A. F. BIGLEY.**

DEAR EDITOR.—In reply to the insertion last month re Ashton-under-Lyne League and number of clubs.

Our Reddish League, which comprise 14 clubs and 18 teams caters for a suburb of only 14,000 inhabitants. This pro rata beats the record of Ashton, doesn't it. Another point of interest. Last season, when we had 2 divisions and 15 teams with 130-140 registered members, we made 39 individual and club awards. Is this a record?

Yours,
Reddish. **LEONARD SMITH.**

The Editor, "Table Tennis,"

Featherstone House,

64, High Holborn, W.C.1.

DEAR SIR,—To correct a misunderstanding most discourteous to Stanley Proffitt, the consequence of my bad handwriting, for which I must apologise.

In my article I did not intend to refer to Proffitt's keenness in "point" collecting, but in "orange" collecting, an allusion that will be understood by all our party in Prague.

Yours,
London. **IVOR MONTAGU.**

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the latter part of the letter from Mr. Arthur J. Key in the October issue, I heartily endorse what he says, for on several occasions I have seen an excellent game ended by this fluke—for it is nothing else—and suggest that the time is opportune to have the rule altered.

There is not the slightest doubt but that it would please spectators and the players themselves.

As a new reader and member of the E.T.T.A., may I please congratulate you on a most interesting paper, for I feel sure I am going to enjoy reading it in the future.

Yours faithfully,
R. HORSFORD (Chairman),
Rochdale and District T.T. League.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

By
L. E. FORREST

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.

THE season has opened with few surprises, although Grove House, last year's championship winners, and holders of all the team titles, are finding it very difficult to maintain their position against the challenge of the Y.M.C.A. Manchester Jewish are also providing their opponents with keen games, along with Y.M.C.A. "A" Team and Rusholme Congregational.

In the second division, St. Lukes, Weaste, look like continuing their flair for promotion. They beat the strong Maccabean Team, also favourites, by a convincing margin, thus reversing the result of the Richardson Cup match last year, when Maccabeans secured the match by 15 games to 10. Birchfields and Manchester Jewish "A," also promoted from the Third Division at the beginning of the season, are strong challengers.

Walkden "A," Urmston, King's, Hyde Road "A," Birchfields "A," and Derby are the most promising teams in the regional sections of the Third Division.

Lurie, Cromwell, Millar, Davies, and our other Internationals are finding their services in great demand in connection with the tour of Barna and Company, so that with Open Tournaments and National League matches looming nearer, there is every prospect of a busy period ahead. In the midst of all this activity, the Wilmott Cup is still staying in Manchester, and hopes are not without foundation that if our crack "players" can produce anything like their best form, the Cup will be retained.

LIVERPOOL.

Royal Liver, with F. Bamford, the League Champion as No. 1, appear to be the "star" team this season, and have already won all their matches. Our League "A" team have won their first two matches in the South-West Lancashire and Cheshire Federation series, beating St. Helens at home 9-1 sets and Southport away 10-0 sets. The first Inter-League match with Rhyl was won to the tune of 10-0 sets, and the Women's match 8-2 sets. At Rhyl there was also a Men's Lawn Tennis match, and here again we emerged the victors, without the loss of a set. The tennis team was: F. Bamford, H. T. Griffiths, G. R. Grund, and K. H. Chrystal. Our first National League match is with Blackpool away.

November will be a busy month. On the 7th, the Women play Blackpool away; 12th, "A" team v. St. Helens away; 16th, Women v. Southport away; while on the 18th, a League Dance is to be held. The seventh Annual Open Merseyside, takes place 26th, 27th and 28th November, and we are all out to lower last year's record entry of 410.

UXBRIDGE.

Uxbridge League has commenced its second season. Two divisions have been formed and all Clubs in the League are looking forward to a successful season.

COVENTRY.

The Coventry Association has commenced its sixth season full of optimism. Twelve new teams have joined, and competition is expected to be very keen. Herberts, the Champions of Division 1 are expected to be

just as strong, and Stygian, last season's runners-up, are considerably stronger through I. Jones and W. Davies, two Inter-City players joining them. Ivor Jones, the Singles Champion is again playing brilliantly. The Ladies' League is strengthened by three new clubs and the standard of play is expected to improve. The Officers remain very much as last year but additional offices of Treasurer and Assistant Secretary are filled by Messrs. W. T. Fella and E. S. Saxton. A representative team has again been entered in The Midland Counties League.

EXETER AND DISTRICT.

The Exeter and District Table Tennis League programme is now in full swing. The 32 teams comprising of 3 leagues are battling hard for league points.

In the 1st Division, St. Thomas Methodists are likely to challenge the supremacy of the Exeter Y.M.C.A. The Mint Methodists are setting the pace in the 2nd Division, closely followed by St. Thomas Methodists "A," last season's Winners. In the 3rd Division, a new club, in Whiteways Sports Club, Whimple, are in the lead.

Local enthusiasts are looking forward to the visit of the famous Hungarians—Barna, Szabados, and Bellak, on 17th December. The Civic Hall has been booked and a record crowd of 1,000 is confidently expected.

The first inter-town match of the season will be played in the Exeter Y.M.C.A. on 4th November against Exmouth. Similar home and away matches are being arranged with Ilfracombe, Newport, Cardiff and Bristol.

The form of the leading local players is, on the whole, satisfactory. R. F. Litten, our only International is right on top of his form, while I. R. Suter, our Champion, has been polishing up his attack. F. G. Grigg, West of England Champion and Exeter's leading "penpush" player, is hitting harder than ever. Of the others, the most improved is C. F. J. Southcott.

BIRMINGHAM.

Birmingham Association is fortunate in having the service of the country's two leading players, Miss M. Osborne, and A. A. Haydon, on the Selection Committee this season. The King's Heath Club's first monthly tournament, when Singles, and Handicap Singles events were both won by a club member, G. Alderton.

CHESTER.

All Soul's making their debut in the 1st Division, did well to beat St. John's 7-3 sets away. H. Beynon, who last season won City Road's Junior Championships won his side's only set in the outstanding event against Y.M.C.A.

BLACKPOOL.

Enough matches have been played in the six divisions of the League to form some idea of the strength of the newcomers but early forecasts are often upset. Plans are well in hand for the England v. Hungary International Match at the Tower Circus on 5th December.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

The Stoke League has given the other leagues in the North Staffordshire Association a lead regarding the system of play to be adopted in the inter-league competition, thus making a uniform method a

possibility. They recommend that there shall be four, five, or six a-side with the "games" system in force, and as Stoke use the "points" system, this is a fine gesture, and indicates their willingness to do something practicable for the furtherance of the sport.

At Leek, seating accommodation for 1,000 spectators will be provided at the new Market Hall, which has been selected as the venue for the visit of the Hungarian tourists. Misses Osborne and Newey, the Birmingham internationals, will be included in the programme.

Stoke League champions, Normacot Institute "A," gave a great display against Longton C.W.S., winning 502-323.

A. Pickard's defeat of F. Austin, 20-22, 21-12, 21-16, is the latter's heaviest defeat in league games for eight seasons.

In the Uttoxeter League promising form has been revealed by W. Peaty, a 14 year old player, and, although this is his first season, he has won all ten games in two matches.

Hanley League introduce a Junior Merit competition, and as a result hope to discover new talent.

Macclesfield.—There will be few Macclesfield League first division matches so closely contested as the encounter between the Conservatives and Parish Church clubs, when the former club brought off a great victory after being 8-12 games in arrears, to win 13-12.

SOUTHEND.

Six silver cups have been put up for competition, as well as 12 league medals for the league individual championships.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

St. Peter's, promoted to the First Division of the Ashton-under-Lyne League, almost brought off a big surprise when opposed by C.A.S.C., the strongest club, failing by the narrowest of margins—12-13 games.

An innovation is the formation of a Ladies' Inter-League team, which has already played home and away matches with Manchester Business Houses Ladies, winning the home match and losing away.

Enthusiasm prevailed at the Annual Meeting of the Isle of Wight Association. Twelve clubs are now in membership in two divisions.

Salisbury League clubs commenced activities this week. New clubs welcomed into membership are: Alderley, Rotary Lads' Club, Sandes Soldiers' Home (Bulford Camp), and Salisbury.

The Oxford League has decided that women should be allowed to play in all league matches, except those involving the premises of a club in which women are not ordinarily permitted.

Shrewsbury League, affiliated this season, has 12 clubs with 14 teams. With the prospect of more clubs joining there is every possibility of a Second Division being formed. The officials are enthusiastic and determined to put the league on the map this season.

Famous Birmingham players have already provided one exhibition, and the visit of the Hungarian tourists has aroused great interest. It is hoped to arrange both an open and closed tournament. The standard of play is improving, several clubs having changed from the penholder to the orthodox grip.

Learn to Play - - By ERIC FINDON

FOREHAND AND BACKHAND DEFENCE

THE defensive game has recently undergone a thorough examination by authorities on the game. No matter what decisions they reach defence will still play a great part in the make-up of the first class player.

There are many defensive shots, long forehand, long backhand, short forehand, short backhand, half-volley, slow topspin, etc. For the usual run of good club players the first four named are the predominating strokes to cultivate. So here we go on the road to "chiselling"! (Which, of course, must not be taken too literally.)

The long forehand chop is made with the body slightly turned in the direction of the shot with weight evenly distributed on both feet until the drag follow through which brings the body slightly forward on to the left foot. A steady even speed will ensure perfect "feel" and consequently more accuracy.

It will be as well to study the following points and practise them as much as possible :-

1. The bat must start at about shoulder height and finish up at about waist height having done part of a semi-circle.
2. The best moment of impact is just before the bottom of the swing. That means having to get back and wait for certain of the harder smashes.
3. Never try to *hit* a chop—just *push* it forward.
4. Watch the ball on to the bat and take your time.

The main points in backhand defence are similar to the attack, only the movements are reversed. The stance is slightly more face-on to the table and the arm is bent at the elbow. Don't make it a forearm shot but a full-arm swing. The amount of forward movement in both chops governs the height of the return so practise until you find the right combination for your own style.

The short-arm defence on both sides of the table is more of a sharp downward jerk than a clean sweep. The wrist plays a small part in this defensive shot. In all, the bat travels about 18 inches from start to finish—it is a faster moving shot than the long defence—and the line of the downward swing is almost straight.

This defence, when properly executed, allows the player to drop back and sit on the wall or smash at will. There is very little time wasted in working up a hit from this defence, and if I was asked which stroke to bank on and study, I have but one answer—the short-arm defence.

(NEXT ISSUE: How to mix defence and attack.)

Thirty-Three New Leagues

New Leagues continue to swell the strength of the Association, and up to 31st October no fewer than 33 had been accepted into membership for the present season.

Newspaper Tournaments

The Editor of the "Star" has decided not to run the Table Tennis Tournament this season. It was suggested that the E.T.T.A. should run the competition, and the "Star" offered to present the trophies. The Executive Committee, however, decided not to accept the offer owing to the heavy programme this season. Last season there were over 5,000 entries in this tournament.

The "Manchester Evening News" are again running their tournament, and it has been sanctioned by the Association. Last season there were over 1,000 entries.

In Bristol the remarkable position exists of two newspapers running tournaments. Last season the "Evening Post" ran a very popular event, and now the "Evening World" has decided to do likewise. As the Bristol League are running an international match with the Hungarians, and they have a very heavy programme of inter-town matches, the local "fans" will be well catered for.

The "Stoke Sentinel" and the "Birmingham Evening Despatch" are papers which run regular tournaments each season. I hear there is a proposition for a newspaper tournament on a very big scale in the Midlands, and further developments are awaited.

The Paid Player

The Executive Committee decided at their last meeting to tighten up the regulations regarding paid players, and these will be issued shortly. The fee for registration has been increased to £1 per annum, and amongst the new rules the following should be noted: No player is allowed to receive payment without permission, and any unregistered player receiving payment will be severely dealt with. Clubs and Organisations must not pay players without permission. Betting is not allowed and matches must not be played for wagers.

Championship Dates

Following is a list of Open Championship dates approved by the English Table Tennis Association:—

1936.	
Oct. 24.....	Pontefract.
" 26-30...	Home Counties.
" 30-31...	Lancashire.
Nov. 6-7....	Bournemouth.
" 7.....	Hull.
" 21.....	Dewsbury.
" 26-28...	Merseyside.
" 30-Dec. 5	North London.
Dec. 5.....	Bramley.
" 7-12...	Hertfordshire.
1937.	
Jan. 2.....	ENGLAND AND WALES.
" 9.....	Leeds.
" 5-16...	Middlesex.
" 15-16...	Midland.
" 18-22...	Essex.
" 11-23...	London.
" 22-23...	North of England.
" 24.....	Kent.
" 29-30...	Hampshire.
Feb. 4-6....	Blackpool and North Lancs.
" 6.....	Dorset.
" 6.....	Castleford.
" 11-13...	ENGLISH NATIONAL
" 18-20...	Cheshire.
" 27-28...	Sussex.
" 22-Mar. 6	West Middlesex.
Mar. 6.....	Huddersfield.
" 1-12...	Wembley.
" 13.....	ENGLAND & WALES (WOMEN).
" 13.....	Yorkshire Open (Halifax).
" 8-22...	South of England and Surrey.
" 27.....	Scarborough.
" 29.....	Whitby.
April	West of England.

Wilmott Cup

Thirty-two Leagues have entered for this competition, and owing to the late meeting of some Committees the closing date for entries has been extended to 15th November.

Sheffield League has entered upon its sixth season with four men's divisions. For the first time, a team will compete in the Wilmott Cup competition, while another innovation is the formation of a ladies' section for which the League President, Major John Wortley, has presented a cup.

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IMPRESSIONS at the GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING at MANCHESTER. By W. A. PETERS (Chairman, Ribblesdale T.T.A.).

THE first meeting of the 1936-37 season! It's like going back to school, greeting old friends, meeting new ones, and wondering what improvements have been made during the holidays. Old friends! and we've only met them twice. Mr. W. J. Pope, enthusiastic as ever, and finding time, we were glad to note, to act as Good Samaritan to two foreign players stranded in England. Mr. Batty, heard broadcasting the night before, exact, concise, and, as chairman, never forgetting the meeting must go on; Mr. Swann, stimulating as ever, a member of England's first International team; Mrs. Bunbury, energetic on behalf of the women, and, by no means last, our President, Mr. Oldroyd, friendly as ever, full of the game of which he is such a fine patron, a man who has played many games, and well known on the cricket field in Lancashire. A grand sportsman and a worthy President.

New friends from Blackpool, Southport, Chester, Ashton, Oldham, and Preston. We must hear what these delegates have to say. How are the other Leagues faring? Blackpool's success at the famous Tower is a story worth hearing. Three thousand enthusiasts to see Barna and his teammates and what a fine show they gave! We know because we were there, and saw Lurie and Cromwell uphold the prestige of Manchester. How many leagues want to see the Hungarians this winter? It must be decided that a tour shall be organised, and only important centres visited, otherwise Barna, Szabados, and Bellak will have to play in their sleep between Sunderland and Penzance.

My colleague, Mr. Brooks, outspoken as ever, and Mr. Pope replying in a speech to make even a luke-warm delegate inspired to go back to convert his clubs. But Mr. Brooks is enthusiastic, as his six years' work in Ribblesdale proves, and as Chairman I know how much the game and our organisation owes to this thoroughness. I put forward our views. We believe in starting players young and have, for four



Miss DIANA NEWAY
The Birmingham International

years, organised schoolboys' and junior Championships, and sent our best players to the schools to give exhibitions. We know the boys appreciate our efforts, and suggest leagues might secure co-operation of headmasters if Mr. Popewould send to each secretary a sample of his own persuasive eloquence on paper to encourage them to fertilise this fruitful soil. Through the schools we must popularise the game and train players to beat the foreigners.

The meeting agreed to a system of trials for the selection of the England team; we admire the Blackpool suggestion that coaches be engaged by leagues and look forward to seeing results. Ribblesdale has used exhibitions by Internationals for years to raise our standard. We understand the necessity for leagues to foster the

"classic" style and agree that, in the hunt for points or trophies, the "chiseller" often scores at the stylist's expense.

It must be confessed that the enterprise of the National body, led by Mr. Pope staggers the officials of certain leagues, who budget in odd pounds and dare not talk of increasing clubs' financial commitments. We remind the Management that our officials are doing their utmost in a rural area, and progressive innovations involving expenditure can only proceed according to the purses of clubs' treasurers.

Is it better for us to accept clubs with small rooms, or to confine our competitions to teams with adequate space for a long run-back? Our aim is to foster Table Tennis and we are never forgetful of that object. We do not insist on anything more than standard equipment, and realise that additional clubs mean more players, who, once having seen the game played by "stars" desire to improve by every means. After our second exhibition with Internationals, one of our teams, playing in the basement of their club, struck for a bigger room. Furniture was moved but they were not satisfied and now play in the dance hall of the club. Such is our method of progressing, and our organisation has widened its scope in the same way. In 1932 we had a knock-out tournament with six teams competing. In 1933-34 we started a league and a doubles knock-out. Now we have three singles leagues and three doubles leagues, and our programme includes a League Singles Championship, and one for juniors and schoolboys. The present champions include three boys who, last year, played in the junior championship, and we have enough Table Tennis news to fill columns every week in our local newspaper

This is the first of a series of short articles by famous players. No. 2 will be by G. V. Barna on "My Backhand."

MY FAVOURITE STROKES.

(1). M. SZABADOS.

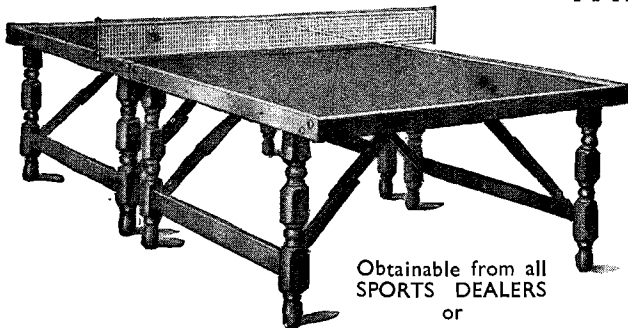
I HAVE two special shots. They are the half-volley, and the "fore-backhand." Both shots have the advantage of speeding up the game considerably. The "half-volley" does not give the opponent an opportunity to recover because of the speed of the ball. To be able to do this shot properly one has to be quick and well-trained.

The "fore-backhand" has the advantage of preparing the attack and with the forehand I generally score the point. This shot is particularly mine and very few other players use it. With this "fore-backhand" I dominate the game because I can launch an attack from any position; but this shot alone is not sufficient as it is not very strong—it is only well placed.

It is very advantageous for players with a strong forehand because it is possible to score without deranging the hold of the bat. I hold the bat very lightly because I am deranging the hold quite often, depending, of course, whether I am attacking on the right or the left. Naturally, this has to be done quickly so that no time is lost.

In my opinion both above-mentioned shots are very useful, but a lot of training and practice is absolutely necessary to develop them.

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EDINBURGH - 3 S. Charlotte St. | BELFAST - 15 Lombard Street

A Popular Visitor from Hungary

ISTVAN KELEN (Stephen to his English friends) has been holidaying in this country and when he called at the office in Holborn, we seized the opportunity to interview him. He is the fourth player in the famous Hungarian Swaythling Cup team, is a student of the game, and has written a book about it which runs to 4 Editions and 10,000 copies. He was semi-finalist in the World Championship at Berlin in 1930, has been three times champion of Austria, twice of Czechoslovakia, and last season won the Budapest Open. Asked to give "Table Tennis" some information about himself he told us he was born in Budapest on 12th March, 1912. He started Table Tennis at 12 years of age and it came about like this. He had been saving his pocket-money to buy a set of chess but, marching into the shop to make his purchase, found the cost to be 12s. and he only had 8s. Seeing a set of Table Tennis within his juvenile means he was tempted, fell, and that was how he started the game! Playing competitive games at school he became a "fan," was selected for Hungary in 1928, and has been a certain choice ever since. He considers his best game was in Berlin in 1929 when Barna defeated him in the semi-finals and won the World Singles for the first time. The score is eloquent 20/21, 19/21, 21/4, 21/7, 19/21.

Asked to tell us about his other interests he revealed his passionate love of literature and of writing, which, he confessed, took first place. He began to write at 9 years of age and sent his first article to the newspapers when 17 years old. Since then he has been engaged in writing, is on the staff of the "Pesti Naplo," a famous Hungarian daily, and writes regularly on Popular Science for a well-known Scientific Monthly. He has written five novels, one of which, called "The Girl from London" won a Literary Prize and another has been translated into Czech.

Kelen has strong views on the superiority of Table Tennis over all other games and declares that it requires more intelligence and concentration than any other game. He has a great admiration for Fred Perry and is convinced that his domination at Lawn Tennis and Table Tennis is chiefly due to the intelligence he applies against his opponents. He thinks Stanley Proffitt our best English player at present and the fault with English players that they take the game too casually. A great believer in Summer practice, he said that the best Hungarian players play two days each week in the Summer and train on a regular plan.

As the result of his travelling in various countries all over the world he has come to the conclusion that in 10 years time Table Tennis will be the greatest sport in England and America and that the number of players and the standard of play will increase by leaps and bounds. On the Continent, however, he predicts the game will decline. In Hungary no new stars are coming forward, the best players outside the team are still Lovasi, Hazi and Soos and there are no new women players to take the place of Mednyanszky and Sipos. In his opinion Ida Ferency's match temperament will always prevent her reaching the top place.

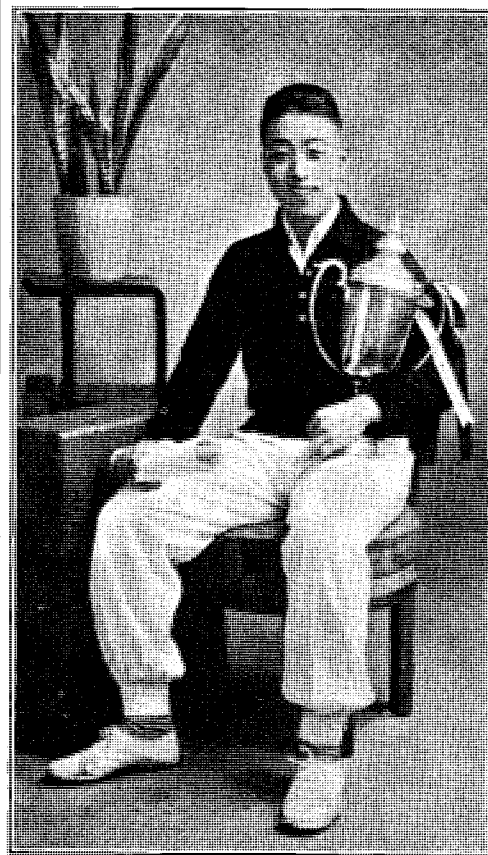


ISTVAN KELEN

Asked his views of England and the English, Kelen said that when he toured the country some years ago he wrote his impressions each day for his Hungarian paper. These were published in book form and he was now negotiating for an English translation. His general impression was that the English were not interested in happenings outside their country as Continental people are. For instance, English football results were published in the Hungarian Press each Sunday in detail. Hungarian sportsmen follow the fortunes of their favourite English team. They had their Arsenal "fans," their Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa "fans," etc.* but he had yet to find an Englishman who was interested in Hungarian football, or even knew it existed! He had visited Hyde Park and listened to the Open-air speakers discoursing on every subject under the sun. This was quite a revelation to him. London struck him as a place with more windows than any other city in the world. He said he left England with regret, which we assured him was shared by English T.T. players, and he promised to take the good wishes of all our T.T. "fans" to the players of Hungary.

The "Volleying" Rule

Some of the "new Leagues" joining the Association have never played to the Rule with regard to "volleying." The importance of playing to the Rules of the Game must be emphasised, and it must be remembered that if a player stops the ball with his racquet, or racquet hand, the point is against him, even if it is obvious that the ball is "out." If the ball touches the net in service, and is going off the table, and is volleyed, then it is a "let."



T. NAKAGAWA.

It is more than probable that this Japanese sportsman, who was so prominent in the Olympic Games this year, will play Table Tennis at the International Meeting in Baden, Vienna, next year. Mr. Matsui, the first holder of a Japanese title in Table Tennis, stated when visiting the E.T.V.A. recently, that the Japanese were more than confident of putting up a good show against all nations but did not expect to win. The International Swaythling Cup Matches, to be played in Tokio in the early future, will possibly reveal some new World Honours players from the East.

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Make a note of these places and when you are near any one of them drop in for a few minutes. The game is played on an ordinary Table Tennis top and retails at 25s. and 45s.

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Gossip from all Quarters

We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. Maurice Goldstein upon his marriage which took place recently.

All his friends desire the best for the popular Secretary of the Birmingham Association, and wish for him, and Mrs. Goldstein, many long years of unbroken felicity.

We deeply regret to record the passing of Mrs. Hyde, the devoted wife of our old and esteemed friend, Mr. G. B. Hyde, a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A.

We join with his wide circle of Liverpool friends in expressing to him our sincere sympathy in the great loss he has sustained.

Ronald, the youngest of Dr. J. Rumjahn's three sons, already participates in Regional Table Tennis League games.

Short in stature, this nine-year-old Liverpool boy shows amazing agility, and has often left his more experienced opponents helpless. Already he is regarded as a potential champion.

Peter, aged 18, and Edward, aged 16, two notable table tennis enthusiasts, are equally well-known in other branches of sport, the elder being hockey captain at Liverpool Institute, while Edward is the youngest player to have gained the honour of playing in a Lancashire County hockey trial match.

We congratulate Dr. Rumjahn, himself a prominent sportsman, and Mrs. Rumjahn who, before her marriage, was well-known as a hockey and tennis player, upon the athletic prowess of their sons, and for providing the Liverpool League with three brilliant exponents of the game.

The National Workers' Sports Association is running a Nation-wide Championship this season. It will be played off in zones centering around large towns and will be open to members of Trade Unions and Labour Parties. All events will be played. Details and entry forms can be obtained from Mr. H. Bence, 32, Parson's Green Lane, Fulham, S.W. 6. There will also be a National Team Championship.

An effort is being made to run an Open Tournament in Wales. The practice of clubs sponsoring such events is, for the first time, being tried by the Hanover Table Tennis Club, Lucania Hall, Cowbridge Road, Cardiff. Valuable prizes are being offered and the Tournament Secretary, Mr. R. C. Powell, 7, Turberville Place, Cardiff, is anxious to obtain the entries of E.T.T.A. players. Entries close 4th November, so Bristol, Bath and near-Wales Leagues should write at once. The tournament starts on 9th November and continues for a week.

Two table tennis enthusiasts recently made an effort to cross the channel in a collapsible canoe. They were Eric Findon and Charles Rendek. The latter is a friend of Szabados, the Hungarian, and also Amateur Light-weight Wrestling Champion

of Hungary. Weather conditions were against them and they were forced to give up after travelling 7 miles.

Let's see what Findon has to say.

"There is very little doubt that had we had the weather conditions with us we should have smashed the existing record for the crossing. It was a fearful fight from the start. The waves three miles out were from 20 feet to 30 feet high and the wind tore us from our course. However, when we had covered seven and a-half miles in the excellent time of 65 minutes the captain of the cruiser following forced us to give up the attempt."

"In our preparations for the crossing Rendek and I played table tennis and table badminton regularly, and we owe a lot to these games for keeping our nerves in order and our brain alert enough for any emergency. On two occasions had we not been so well trained in mind I'm sure we should have capsized and possibly gone to visit Davy Jones' Locker (no relation to R. D. Jones!)."

The best of luck next time, you boys!

STOP PRESS

HOME COUNTIES:—

M. Szabados beat M. Bergl.
Mixed Doubles:—S. Proffitt and Miss Jordan.

Men's Doubles:—Filbey and Coles.

Women's Singles:—Mrs. Booker.

Women's Doubles:—Miss D. L. Emdin and Miss M. Wood.

LANCASHIRE OPEN:—

H. Lurie beat A. G. Miller.

Women's Singles:—Miss Rubens beat Miss Norrish.

Men's Doubles:—Lurie and Cromwell.

Mixed Doubles:—Rosenburg and Miss Stott.

Women's Doubles:—Misses Norrish and Doolan.

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and all Doubles

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Men's & Women's Singles

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Closing date for entries Wednesday, 18th Nov. 1936

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"Mac" Challenge Cup—Women's Singles

"W. S. Romain" Challenge Cup—Junior Singles

Entries close 18th November, 1936.

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