

# Table

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

# Tennis

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ONE PENNY

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS HALL

## Requiem on Prague By Hon. IVOR MONTAGU

[We offer no apology for printing Mr. Montagu's article in full on this subject, and for concluding it next month. English players can have no conception of the bitterness existent in continental countries, bitterness which threatens the very existence of the I.T.T.F. With Mr. Montagu's effort to restore a sense of perspective on the happenings we entirely sympathise.—EDITORIAL BOARD.]

IT has become a commonplace to say that London, 1934-1935, made everyone think Table Tennis was on a royal road. Prague, 1935-1936, was a "wet blanket." Returned travellers from Prague have told fearsome tales of disorders, riots, and every evil up to mayhem practised on the bodies of innocent Table Tennis players. I have preserved silence till now, because, I think, it is much better to examine such matters in perspective and when all suspicion of bad temper induced by receiving a personal thump on the nose has disappeared in the commentator. I break it now, because I think that only good can come from a cold-blooded analysis to guard us from future misfortune.

What are the allegations that have been made? We will list the most important and the best established.

1. The tables were not all the same and guest players did not have a fair apportionment of the best.
2. The tournament schedule was so disorganised that, in fact, there was no schedule, and guest players did not get a fair deal in consequent waiting, and its corollary, playing at short notice.
3. A lot of the umpires were "rotten," and the guests did not get a fair share of the impartial or efficient ones.
4. The organisers were often tactless, and did not deal sufficiently soothingly with guests' complaints.
5. The crowd was disorderly.

I believe all these allegations are well substantiated. But, and I insist on being quoted wherever and whenever the foregoing belief is quoted, all these allegations do not in anyway justify an attack on or even hard feelings towards the Czechoslovak Table Tennis Association or (as some idiots have actually directed it) the Czechoslovak people. Indeed, I would like to add my own allegation No. 6.

6. Insufficient sympathy and understanding when abroad. Tendency to tell travellers' tales, and enjoy posing as martyrs when home, on the part of guests.

Let us first dismiss the charge, in so far as it is brought of unsportsmanship, against

the Czechoslovak people. In the first place, every one of our international players knows that every Czechoslovak player's conduct gives the lie to this libel. There is not one Czechoslovak table tennis player, in all our experience, whose behaviour at the table, if not absolutely perfect, is better than many of our own. Two incidents, in particular, however, are cited to indicate original Czechoslovak sin in this regard. One is the scratching of Vana's opponent when he had reached match point. This, of course, was an absolute outrage, and the man responsible should have been hanged, drawn, quartered, debagged, and sent to Coventry by all his friends. But it is ridiculous to talk of this isolated act of a local club official (of the local club of Vana's opponent, who bullied him into doing it), as though it had necessarily any relation at all to the Czechoslovak national association, whom it presented with a fait accompli. (I must, however, say with all solemnity that I should have preferred to have seen the Czechoslovak Table Tennis Association express with more force their contempt for the idiot who was responsible. Perhaps they would have done, if they had not been stampeded the other way by equally idiotic attacks on Vana, who had nothing to do with the matter, and is a perfect little sportsman.) Every international player knows that this practice, or the suspicion of this practice (a national association or a

captain ordering a believed-to-be inferior player to lose), is so rife throughout the European Continent that the Hungarian papers in Perry's year, one and all point-blank accused me of having made Haydon lie down to Perry in the semi-final, in order to rest the latter before his final against Szabados.

The responsibility for the mad act of the club official lies not with Czechoslovakia's original sin or any such nonsense, but with fanatic nationalism that sees in these individual events a matter of national prestige, an heretical and unsporting tendency we have had to meet for many years, more strongly in countries other than Czechoslovakia and with more sporting experience.

Over the Dubouillé incident I have much less patience. Dubouillé lost his racket—let us be quite objective, and say "his racquet disappeared"—and a few minutes later he was called on to play with no grace at all to find it. From this incident, and without a shred of proof, not even a trace of finger-print or cigar ash, a whole host of imbeciles have invented the legend that some deeply subtle Czechoslovak, fearing that Dubouillé, if successful in his match, might have met and defeated a compatriot in the next round, must have deliberately kidnapped the unfortunate racquet. Puerilities! The same thing happened to Hales just before a London Congress match, and the only conclusion anybody came to was (a) that Willie Hales was a "darned" fool not to have taken better care of it; (b) a triple "darned" fool for

(Continued on Page 3)

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## JOHN JAQUES

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**FROM THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR**

The first half of the season is now over, and the Christmas holidays give us a chance to take stock of the position, and to prepare plans for the New Year. The growth of the game has reflected itself in the increase in the demands upon Headquarters for service, and we are called upon to help individuals, clubs, and leagues, with advice and information. The arrangements for the tour (including the match at the Memorial Hall exhibition matches, the preparation of the Handbook, the Wilmott Cup, and the monthly preparation and circularisation of the Magazine, has resulted in the office being the centre of hectic activity. Under these circumstances it has been difficult to function so efficiently as we should have liked, and for our shortcomings we apologise. We are now looking forward to the second part of the season, and whilst each locality is busy with their own League programme, interest in the National angle will be concentrated on:—

**THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.—**

Those who remember Wembley 1935, that marvellously thrilling final between Barna and Szabados, and the games at the Empress Stadium, Earl's Court, that sensational defeat of Barna by Haguenaer, the slow realisation that the unbeatable Champion was going down, and the silence, which could be felt, when all Victor's hits were returned with ease, and the points piled up on the side of the almost unknown Frenchman, will not require urging to attend again at the Wembley Swimming Pool on 13th February, 1937. We are making preparations for an attendance of 10,000, and tickets are now available. The arrangement by which club members can obtain blocks of 20 5s. tickets at 2s. 6d. each, has again been agreed to by the Wembley authorities, and as this has now become a sort of "annual rally" of "fans," we feel convinced all clubs will avail themselves of this concession again. We appeal to all club and league secretaries to take the initiative in arranging parties, selling tickets, and advertising the event. The preliminary rounds will take place on 11th and 12th February, 1937, at the Paddington Baths. Final arrangements have not yet been made, but an effort is to be made to run the events to a time-table as at Wimbledon. Members will remember that the Press were very critical of the arrangements last season, the late finishing and the hustle to get up to the finals. In the past every effort has been made to meet the desires of competitors who find difficulty in getting time off, but it is thought that the time has come when players should undertake

to be present from the beginning of the competition. Wimbledon would not be run so efficiently if the players were not available when called upon, and with such a huge entry, and our present obligations to the general public, it is suggested that participants should obtain leave from their employment for the whole tournament as Lawn Tennis players do. There is a Veteran and Junior Championship, as well as a "Consolation" event, and Entry Forms will shortly be available. We want volunteers to act as umpires, stewards, interpreters, etc., and we shall be pleased to hear from those members who are available. We are assured of a good entry—the three "Hungarian Musketeers," Kolar (the World Champion), Ehrlich (the holder), Liebster, Miss Aarons (the World Champion), Miss Kettnerova, are amongst the foreign players who have already accepted the invitation.

**THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.**—Most interested "fans" now know that the World Championships will take place at Baden, Austria, from 1st to 8th February, 1937. It has not been decided at the time of writing the exact date the British party will leave, and the cost of the trip will depend upon the number going. The Austrian railways have decided to reduce fares by 50 per cent., and visa costs, and visitors' tax will not be imposed for members of the party. The cost for a first-class hotel is approximately £3 for the period and the fare approximately £8. Any players thinking of going with the team should write in at once.

**THE AREA TRIALS.**—Every League has now been circularised about the area trials which are being held at Hastings, Exeter, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, and London on or before 16th January. These trials give an opportunity to all local players of promise to compete, the object being to comb the country for players with claims to represent the country. It is hoped that all Leagues will send their best talent.

**THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK.**—This will be in the hands of the clubs during the first week of January. It is late, but secretaries will see that the work necessitated for its preparation has been enormous. We appeal to all secretaries to make an effort to sell this publication. It is one of the finest books for propaganda, showing the enormous number of clubs, and it gives the Fixture List, the Records, the Rules of the Game, the Constitution of the Association, etc. The price is 1s., and we ask all organisations to have it on sale at any event at which players and public will be present.

**"Success at Table Tennis"**

The present writer is so embarrassed by the nice things Mr. Kelen says about him, that it is difficult to review his book. To start by returning compliments, however, he must declare that Mr. Kelen has conquered his position with the English public not in the facile manner of love at first sight, but by effacing an unfortunate first impression made during his first unlucky visit as a boy, and steadily convincing us as he grew up that he is one of the most sensible as he is one of the most sensitive of Hungarian Table Tennis players. In the sporting field he has watched, reflected, and analysed, and he here treats us to the fruit of his experience. Half-a-crown may seem to many people a lot of money for an unillustrated book, but the chapters, on "Technique" and "Training" are invaluable to the young and ambitious player. Not only do they in themselves contain more detailed tactical observations than any comparable passages in the Table Tennis books I know, but in their **method**, thinking out the **why** of a tactic by putting oneself in the place of an opponent and imagining what he would like least, they indicate one of the most important secrets of success at match play.

Three minor criticisms, one in praise, two in mild reproof. First, I am glad to read a reference from one of the younger generation appreciating the great constructive work accomplished for Table Tennis by Zoltan Mechlovits. Second, it would be better, perhaps, if in future editions he mentioned the dislocation of Perry's ankle in connection with England's loss in the play-off at Stockholm after the triple tie and I cannot imagine why he repeats the idiotic story that Table Tennis originated in Japan, or even where he got it from! I. M.

**SUCCESS**

AT

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**Requiem on Prague—**(Cont. from page 1)

participating in a big championship without a reserve racquet he could trust, and the same sort of conclusion would have been come to in Prague if everybody had not had hysterics.

Hysterics! That was what was wrong at Prague, both with hosts and guests. There may have been all sorts of personal sins, and swine and asses, and other lamentable animals in both groups, but to try to see the harm of these hysterics, let us examine the following cold facts, most of them ignored at the time owing to hysterics, about the six troubles I listed at the start of this article.

1. There are not enough fast tables in Czechoslovakia. The tables were too slow for international play. The Czechoslovaks did not know this properly until too late. Blame attaches to the International Federation, which has not yet established a standard measure of table speed. Somebody (whether the Czechoslovak T.T.A. or the I.T.T.F.) should have got a full complement of fast tables, not just one or two, but this would have meant a big expenditure.

Those who have later become most vociferous against alleged "unfair" distribution of the good tables, include one class, who at first, and even for two days of the tournament, actually did not realise that any of the tables were slow (and this includes, at least, one world champion), and one individual who had to play on a bad table claimed by his opponent as a result of quite fair toss, so I have no doubt these complaints are exaggerated.

2. It is, actually, not the custom at Continental tournaments to have a schedule. Doubters should read Helen Jacobs's account of her experiences at Lawn Tennis national championships in Prague, Vienna, and other capitals. A delightful inconsequence that may be perfectly suited when there are few players and plenty of time, becomes hysteria-building chaos in the circumstances of a modern Table Tennis Congress, compressed for economy's sake into a period, in any case, far too short for it. We should not ignore also (though there would doubtless have been chaos anyway, owing to imprevident schedulelessness) the unforeseen eating away of time due to "pushing" habits.

3. There always will be bad umpiring and unfair umpiring in all the world. But people should keep their eyes reasonably open, and the man who complains to me (as someone has) that a certain Czechoslovak lady player always had her husband umpire for

her, and that he only noticed it on the fourth or fifth day, is not a victim to be sympathised with, but the sort of person who should not be allowed out on the street in case some poor motorist runs into him.

4. Only three languages are widely spoken in the Federation—English, French, and German. I am not sure that guests did not often think their hosts stupid and stubborn, when all that was really true was that they did not understand their language. But I am sure that this problem was much underestimated by the Czechoslovak Association, who should, in the circumstances, have provided more and better trained (in Table Tennis matters) interpreters. I am sure, also, that guests underestimated the panic of their hosts through their inability to read the local Press, and thus appreciate the calamity in loss of cash and loss of prestige which overwhelmed the organisers as the result of "pushing."

5. The crowd was more noisy and more partisan than we liked, but I am quite certain (a) that it was considerably better than the last time in Prague; (b) not worse than some other Continental Table Tennis crowds, or any English football crowd; (c) a great deal better than any English crowd would have been in the presence of the "pushing" provocation. English critics are spoilt for crowds, and they forget there is no intrinsic reason why Table Tennis crowds should behave better than football crowds. English custom may be comfortable, but it is not a law of nature.

In concluding this section, I would say that I believe the Czechoslovak Association or some officials did on certain occasions favour their own players. But, before stones are cast, I would like English officials to examine their own hearts and memories, and say, honestly, have they never heard at a committee meeting the sentence: "Let us choose such and such balls, or table, or floor, because that will give our players an advantage"? Have they never heard a referee: "We cannot put him on now (or on that table), because I have promised—he shall, etc."? If we have in England a reputation for being fair to all comers, it is not because we do not look after our own people, or because we do not have unfair instincts, it is because we usually organise events competently and thoroughly enough to have time to repress selfish instincts and look after the other fellow as well. I am convinced, though I cannot cite evidence for my belief beyond general human probability, that where favouritism for Czechoslovak players may have occurred in Prague, it was certainly not due to deliberate lack of sportsmanship, but to that chaos in which one clings desperately to those one knows. The other fellow just seems a nuisance, and panic ruins everything. (*To be concluded*)

**England v. Wales**

Played at Newport on 2nd Jan. Teams: England, A. A. Haydon (capt., Birmingham), K. Hyde (Liverpool), H. Lurie (Manchester), S. Proffitt (London), M. Bergl (London), \*Dawes (Bristol), \*E. J. Filby (London). Double pairs: Hyde—Bergl, Proffitt—Filby, Haydon—Lurie. Wales, D. J. Thomas (Ogmore), T. Lisle (Birmingham), \*A. Sadler (Birmingham), R. Baglow (Newport) (capt.), S. Masters (Newport), and \*F. Smith (Cardiff). Doubles: Lisle—Thomas, Baglow—Sadler, \*D. Lewis (Cardiff)—L. C. Cann (Cardiff).

\* New Caps.

**The Wilmott Cup**

There were 36 entrants in this competition and all the "big" Leagues are taking part. London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sunderland, Bristol, will all be in the fight, and the winners will be the real "Champion League." First round matches will be played on or before 9th January, the entrants having been drawn into eight regions, according to geographical position. First Round draw is as follows:—

LANCASHIRE (EAST)—	EAST LONDON—
Bacup v. Ribblesdale	Woolwich v. S. London
Reddish v. Manchester	Barking v. Chelmsford
Ashton v. Stockport	WEST—
LANCASHIRE (WEST)—	Bath v. Bristol
Blackpool v. Liverpool	Salisbury v. Bournemouth
Southport v. Chester	HOME COUNTIES—
MIDLANDS—	Surrey v. Farnham
Birmingham v. Leicester	Usbridge v. Slough
Cambridge v. Bedford	LONDON—
YORKSHIRE—	Film Renters v. London
Huddersfield v. Sheffield	Wembley v. N. Middlesex
Leeds v. Grimsby	Eastbourne v. winner of
Sunderland v. winner of	Wembley v. North Middlesex
Leeds v. Grimsby	

Late News: Leeds beat Grimsby 9-0, Bristol beat Bath 7-2, N. Middlesex beat Wembley 7-2.

**A New Cup**

The Authorities of the Empire Stadium, Earls Court, have very generously offered to present to the Association a valuable trophy for national competition. It is suggested that it should be used for the new National League, which tournament will undoubtedly be, in the near future, the most prominent Team Championship in England, if not the World.

**The Visit of the U.S.A. Team**

The arrangements for the visit of the U.S.A. team to England are now completed. They will visit Brussels to play Belgium on their way to Baden, and after the World Championships will come to England to take part in our Championships. There will be four men and three women in the party, and amongst them will be three world champions, Miss Ruth Aarons, and Maclure and Blattner, the Men's Doubles Champions. Mr. Ellmer F. Cinnater, the Treasurer of the U.S.A.T.T.A., will be non-playing captain, and the party will be completed by Sandor Glancz. They will play England at Birmingham on 15th February, and an invitation has been extended to them to play in the Welsh Open at Cardiff on the 20th.

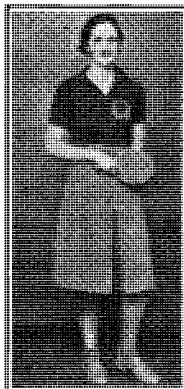
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# The Foreign Tour

By W. J. POPE

**T**HE tour of 1936 is over; 34 towns have been visited. From everywhere comes reports of big crowds, great games, and delighted spectators. Undoubtedly thousands of people throughout the country have been attracted to Table Tennis as a spectacle. Undoubtedly thousands of young players have gained a new idea of the game, and will improve their standard as the result of seeing the strokes as played by the "masters." The tour of these foreign players is valuable from every standpoint, and it is very pleasing to note that we can combine the "propaganda" tours with fine sporting matches. To Barna, Szabados, and Bellak we are indebted, as much for their play as for their willingness, their modesty, their enthusiasm, and their fine characters as sportsmen. The International matches are reported separately, but here are brief reports from other towns visited.

**Huddersfield.**—Hall full in spite of a "pea-soup" fog. Bedford, Hitchcock, Sykes and Deane took part, in addition to the tourists and Lurie. Dean went to duce with Barna, but the champion was at his best, especially against Szabados and Lurie.

**Halifax.**—Thick fog affected the attendance. Splendid exhibitions and the tourists in great form.

**Leeds.**—One thousand spectators present. All seats sold beforehand. Players presented with prizes by the "Yorkshire Evening Post."

**Sunderland.**—One thousand spectators. Players given a great reception and all the games received with enthusiasm. Ewbank and Reay, the local champions participated, as well as Stafford and Swales. Reay and Ewbank played well in the doubles against Barna and Szabados, and led 10—8 in the third game to lose 21—16. Play very much to the liking of the crowd, as was the grand final between Barna-Szabados. General public want a return visit quickly.

**Grimsby.**—Hall filled to capacity. Bennett and Hall, two local youngsters, played, the former making a good show against Bellak, and Hall against Lurie. All three tourists in scintillating form, the crowd roaring their appreciation at almost every rally. Sir James Blindell, M.P., J.P., presented the players with prizes, and expressed his amazement at the development of the game. He entertained the visitors to supper at the Yarborough Hotel, and on the Sunday the Grimsby Aero. Club entertained the party the whole day. Weather too bad for flying, but bridge, dancing, a "talkie," and a doubles tournament organised on the spur of the moment concluded a great week-end.

**Chester.**—Five hundred present and hall "sold out" two weeks beforehand. Local Press says: "Enthusiasts sat spell-bound,

and if an observer chanced to turn his attention momentarily to them, he would have seen their expressions flash from interest to excitement, to delight, amazement, awe, and envy. From seemingly impossible angles the agile Hungarians returned the ball time after time, landing it with unflinching accuracy, the lightning dashes of the combatants were extraordinary." Millar, Laurie, and Davies, with Devine and Juler (local players) took part.

**Southport.**—One thousand spectators. Crowd astounded. Barna beat Szabados in two straight, and audience so disappointed that it was over clapped and compelled them to play a third game. A new idea this of an encore! Publicity and Attractions Committee of the town gave the affair their whole-hearted support. Ken Hyde, E. W. Hyde, and Don Foulis took part, and every well-known local sportsman was present.

**Mansfield.**—Five hundred and fifty spectators. Players had left Southport the night before for London, had seen the Hungary versus England Football Match. Were very downcast with the result, but played wonderfully. Secretary says: "Show was a raging success. Everyone asking—when is the next." Miss Freda James, the well-known tennis "star," presented souvenirs. Mansfield now very much on the Table Tennis map.

**Leek.**—Five hundred spectators. The Hungarians played better than on any previous visit. Marvellous show. Miss Osborne and Miss Newey gave an exhibition—the first time Leek had seen women internationals.

**Uttoxeter.**—Town Hall packed to capacity. Barna in splendid form and his backhand flick made the crowd gasp. Bellak also on top of his form. Hibbins, Stanyer, and Buxton (local players) showed good promise and style, and the former put up a good show against Bellak. Haydon's play appreciated by the crowd. Five hundred spectators in a village of 6,000! Surely something of a record?

**Rossendale.**—Six hundred spectators. This, in the first season of the League, is very encouraging. All amazed at the wonderful skill displayed by the visitors. Knock-out competition arranged with Graham, Cooke, Greaves, Bradshaw, and Bevin to make the eight. Barna beat Bellak in the semi-final, and Szabados in the final.

**Shrewsbury.**—Five hundred spectators, in spite of heavy fog. Frost, a local player, showed promise against Bellak and Barna, and the crowd encored one of the matches. Haydon and Millar also played, but could make no impression on the Hungarians, although the Birmingham man played very spectacularly against Barna.

**Clitheroe.**—Six hundred spectators. Hall filled to capacity. Crowd raised to high pitch of enthusiasm, especially by Barna's brilliance. Lurie and Cromwell took part in an "unofficial" international match, but the most spectacular event was that between Barna and Szabados which held the crowd breathless. During the interval a cup, presented by an anonymous donor, was handed to Barna, who handed it to the League for annual competition. It is to be called the Barna Cup.

**Liverpool.**—Six hundred and fifty spectators. J. K. and E. W. Hyde, Foulis, and Bamford played in a Liverpool versus Budapest match. "Ken" was in brilliant form and beat Szabados 21—13, 21—17. Barna in great form also. Councillor R. S. Williams responsible for invitations to players to Liverpool versus Sunderland Football Match, which the Hungarians enjoyed very much. Said it was better than any English football match they had seen. Great connoisseurs of football these boys!

**Streatham.**—One thousand nine hundred spectators in the Ice Rink—miniature Wembley. Bergl, Marshall, Filby played a match with the visitors, which Budapest won 5—0. Filby played an impressive game against Szabados.

**Woolwich.**—750 present. Marshall won the prize given for the best performance by beating Szabados 21—17, 21—14. Crowd, which included Mr. James Seed, Secretary-Manager, Charlton F.C., very pleased with the show.

**Dartford.**—500 present. Special tiered seating built. Budapest beat South of England 5—1. Bergl beating Szabados. Crowd interrupted play with enthusiastic applause.

**Southampton.**—One thousand one hundred spectators, who were highly delighted. The form of R. D. Jones was surprising, and he took games from Bellak and Szabados. Miss Newey (Birmingham) and Mrs. Booker also took part.

**Exeter.**—Seven hundred spectators at the Civic Hall. Haydon and Proffitt took part, and Haydon's game with Barna voted the best ever seen at Exeter. Proffitt also in great form, but the play aroused the crowd to great enthusiasm. Will do a great deal towards further popularising the game in the West country.

**Paddington.**—Crowd rather disappointing, but nearness of Christmas a factor. Ehrlich and Liebster brought over specially to make an exhibition. Marvellous play, and the game between Marshall and Barna rose to great heights. Marshall's hitting wonderful accurate and consistent, and the Champion looked really worried. Just got home after a close struggle in the third game.

The officials at Head Office, and the Committee responsible for the Magazine, wish all our readers a Very Happy New Year.

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## The International Matches

**The Fourth at Blackpool.**—England's team was Haydon, Proffitt, Hyde, and the result 9 "love." The Tower Circus was packed by an enthusiastic crowd who saw the Englishmen outpaced, outmanoeuvred and overwhelmed. The craft, ability to change tactics when they were down, and their amazing staying powers contributed to the success of the Hungarians, and Barna's brilliant match against Haydon was the most spectacular of the evening. It stirred the crowd to a pitch of feverish excitement in a dramatic and exhilarating duel. The world's greatest player was at one time in arrears, and driven to defence against the great forcing drives of Haydon, who packed everything he knew into the game in a desperate effort to force the pace and upset his opponent. Unperturbed Barna electrified the crowd by his uncanny capacity to run yards back and retrieve anything that came his way, and, after drawing level it was he who made the running, sending across those lightning-like backhand flicks which has made his name world-famous. Bellak surrendered a game to each of the English players, and Hyde took one from Szabados. All the others were won in three straight. After the match hundreds of people stormed their dressing room for autographs, and the three "Musketeers" were busy signing until the early hours of Sunday morning. The local paper says: "They beat us with a smile, they signed with a smile, and they left us with a smile."

**The Fifth at Birmingham.**—Hungary vanquished England 9-0 in the fifth and final match, which took place at the Central Hall. About 2,000 spectators present. The score does not give a genuine impression of the play, for England on several occasions came near to winning sets. Haydon played brilliantly against Barna, although losing the first set, it was a very close thing, and in the second when the score stood at 17 "all," Haydon suffered an unlucky net shot, which seemed to unsettle him sufficiently to lose what looked almost certainly his game. Haydon's games with Szabados were both close; he was one game up against Bellak and leading 17-11 in the second. It looked impossible for the English player to lose. Bellak drew level at 18 "all," and won this and the third game both off the "deuce." Proffitt looked as if he would take a game from Barna; and he, too, won the opening game from Bellak, but lost the next two. Lurie ought to have won the second game from Barna. With both players making great use of their clever defences and similar backhand flick strokes, there were long rallies with Barna frequently outpaced by Lurie's swerving backhand shots. Barna's vicious backhand flick down both sides of the table and his spectacular defence brought forth much applause. Szabados and his uncanny half-volley close-to-the-table defence, and his occasional mighty forehand drive was cheered time and time again as he thwarted the fighting English players. Bellak's humorous manner and abundant store of unorthodox shots, and his extraordinary ability to produce lightning winning shots with apparent indifference, when he appeared lost, were clapped again and again.

**Wales versus Hungary.**—Hungary defeated Wales at Rhyl, by 9 sets to 0, in the first international match to be played in North Wales. There were 1,000 spectators. The Hungarians were always masters of the situation. In spite of Wales' heavy defeat, D. J. Thomas (Cardiff), the present Welsh Champion, was in brilliant form and fully extended his opponents, who were often worried by his heavy chops. Thomas definitely assured himself of a place in the Welsh team to oppose England on 2nd January, 1937, for he is now a certainty for that match. Freddie Bamford (Liverpool) and Gordon Thorndill (Llandudno), both of whom were making their first appearances in the Welsh side, found the occasion a little too big for them, although Bamford was exceedingly unlucky not to take at least a game from Szabados. Bamford most certainly was not on form in this game, but he, like Thomas, should secure a place in the Welsh team to play England.

Our second tour is now over and we cannot leave England without expressing our thanks to all our friends in England, and the officials of the Association, for all the kindnesses we have received. The hospitality which has been shown to us all over the country has made our tour most enjoyable, and we have been thoroughly happy in meeting, and playing before, such wonderful sportsmen. We hope that what we have done will help your players, especially the younger ones, and that in a short time the English Table Tennis team will be on top of the world.

G. V. BARNA.  
M. SZABADOS.  
L. BELLAK.

19th December, 1936.

## Another Tour ?

The running of another tour is being considered. Preliminary inquiries have been received from a number of districts, disappointed in November and December, and if there are sufficient requests it will become a practicable possibility. Barna, Szabados and Liebster will be available after the National Championships, that is, from 15th February onwards, and Leagues interested should write to the Association Secretary at once.



Miss OLIVE LANCASTER

League secretaries have probably to thank this efficient lady for one of the most important items in the itinerary of the Foreign Tour—punctuality.

She has never yet been late. She has always been ready to lend a hand with the odds and ends connected with rapid transit from hotel to hotel. She has never missed a match or exhibition. She "mothers" the Hungarian boys, who often need a feminine touch to achieve that indefinable air of smartness which they so successfully achieve, and finally she never grumbles.

The following is a complete list of the places visited, on the Tour with the number of spectators at each:—

Maidstone .....	550	Mansfield .....	530
Gravesend .....	500	Leek .....	500
Bristol .....	2,000	Uttoxeter .....	500
Plymouth .....	1,500	Blackpool .....	2,000
Bolton .....	500	Rossendale .....	600
Darlington .....	500	Birmingham .....	1,500
Burnley .....	600	Shrewsbury .....	540
Northampton .....	600	Rhyl .....	900
London .....	1,200	Clitheroe .....	600
Manchester .....	2,000	Liverpool .....	650
Huddersfield .....	700	Streatham .....	1,937
Halifax .....	400	Woolwich .....	900
Leeds .....	1,000	Dartford .....	500
Sunderland .....	1,000	Southampton .....	1,100
Dewsbury .....	500	Exeter .....	700
Grimby .....	600	Paddington .....	700
Chester .....	500		
Southport .....	1,000		29,807

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# NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

By L. E. FORREST

**BIRMINGHAM CITY CLUB**, with A. A. Haydon and Margaret Osborne outstanding, head Division No. 1 of Birmingham League at present. Washwood Heath second, two points behind. City beat Washwood Heath 6-4 in opening match of season. Washwood Heath unbeaten since; City same. Haydon certain to win his two games for City in every match. In order to beat City, therefore, opponents must win six games out of eight.

New method of play in Birmingham League operating most successfully. Last year each member of team of five played only one set each, the best of five games. This year each team member plays two sets, the best of three games each, and a draw of 5-5 is possible.

Annual "Evening Despatch" men's and women's non-inter-city players knock-out competition has attracted record entry of nearly 500 players. Men's winner gets £5 voucher in addition to silver trophy.

Big entry for closed championships in which there is a men's doubles event for the first time. Arthur Sadler, ranked No. 3 in City, is present holder of men's singles title. Sadler is a Welsh defensive player with deadly angled backhand flick. Bordering on international honours for three past years. Has never had a trial. Another Welsh player, international Tommy Lisle, is favourite for closed singles title this year in absence of Haydon. Lisle and Sadler are favourites in doubles event.

Sadler won both open and handicap events in recent open Washwood Heath tourney.

Young Tommy Haydon, younger brother of "A. A.," playing much better these days. Less impetuous, and hits harder than ever. Is getting much more subtle and is quite as fast on his feet as famous brother. Looks like getting international in two seasons' time—certainly no more.

Margaret Osborne, on form, ought to win women's singles title in Midland open this season. Actually she has never won honour despite innumerable similar successes in other parts of the country. Dinah Newy knocked her out last year, and Mrs. Booker got better of Dinah in final.

**SWINDON**.—A number of new clubs have joined our ranks this season: G.W.R. Athletic Association, G.W.R. Mechanics' Institute, Lucania, Highworth, St. John's and Wills' Sports Club. There are now 45 teams playing in the League.

Three inter-town matches have been played. Bristol and Bath being beaten, while the match with Cardiff was lost.

Central Mission "A" is the only unbeaten team in Division No. 1. They are followed by Regent Street Methodist "A" and Marlborough Camp Club "A," who have lost one and two matches respectively.

Junior Imperial and St. Saviour's "A" are fighting neck and neck for the 2nd Division trophy, each having 20 points out of a possible 22.

The Championship of the 3rd Division is very open, at least five teams "fancying their chance." Lucania and Mechanics' Institute have lost only one match each, while G.W.R. Athletic and St. John's have each lost two. Although St. Saviour's "B" have lost four they head the table, having played three matches more than their nearest rivals.



L. COHEN (Manchester) J. ROGERS (Woolwich)

**LLANDUDNO**.—Llandudno will stage the North Wales Open on 8th and 9th January, 1937. Venue is Craigside Hydro, which houses the Welsh Tennis and Badminton finals.

**BRISTOL**.—Wilmott Cup venture began auspiciously at Bath on 19th December, 1936.

Dawes, Hipkins, and Simons, the Bristol trio, recording an easy victory by eight matches to one. Dawes and Hipkins, each of whom won three matches, will compete in the Welsh Open on 9th January, 1937.

Championships now very much in full swing. The individual, the Belsten Cup, the World, and the Post competitions keeping star players hard at it. Hipkins, whose only league defeat to date is by Bissicks, was surprisingly knocked out of the World singles by A. C. Hutchings.

**BOURNEMOUTH**.—The first half of the League programme completed. North Bournemouth, with maximum points, lead Division No. 1; two points dividing them from N.A.L.G.O. North Bournemouth "B" head 2nd Division; while Hinton House and Ace of Clubs "A" top the 3rd Division and Ladies' Section respectively.

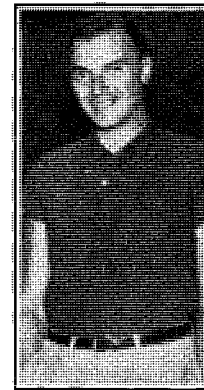
Our first inter-league match resulted in a home defeat at the hands of Southampton, who triumphed 14-11. Only D. Tucker, who won four games, produced his usual form, other winners being E. Gilbert, 3; G. Platt, 2; S. Sims and F. Woodsford, 1 each. W. Muller won all his games for Southampton.

## MY FAVOURITE STROKES (3)

A. LIEBSTER, "My Forehand"

**T**HE forehand is the strongest attacking weapon of most players. It is mine. Although each player has his own individual way of making the stroke, there are certain standardised points. For instance, the right-handed player **must** have

his left leg forward, his arm straightened, the upper part of the body not too much forward, or he will lose control of the ball. About 90 per cent. of strokes which hit the ball "out" are caused by either bad body positioning or "arm-holding." This is caused by ignorance of the fault in cases of weak players, and over-training in cases of good players.



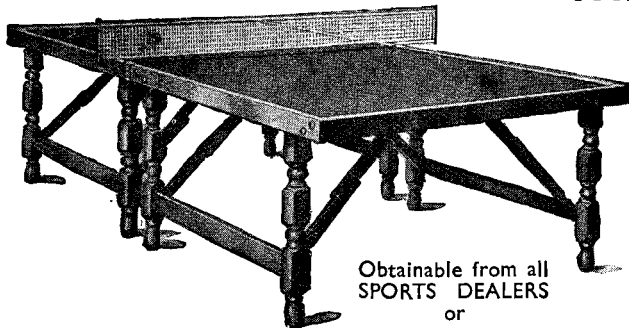
ALFRED LIEBSTER

In my opinion the ball is hit best when it reaches the top of its flight (dead point), because hitting the

half-volley is very risky. The "hold" of the racquet is very individual, and I agree with Koseluh, who simply throws the bat to the beginner, and the way he picks it up in his natural grip.

If the body is held properly, the grip of the bat natural, and the arm kept straight, the weak player will soon improve the forehand smash, and the correct timing of the ball will come with practice. If the player who has already a good attacking forehand finds he cannot make it successfully, he should discontinue playing for a little while. I have had this disagreeable experience myself, and once a prominent player almost lost his world championship from the same cause. A sort of "cramp" seizes the hand and arm, the elbow becomes bent wrongly and errors are easily made. After a rest, training should be resumed lightly and you will soon find that you are back in your old form.

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MANCHESTER - 22 Mosley Street | LEEDS - 3 King Edward Street | GLASGOW - 60 St. Vincent Street  
EDINBURGH - 3 S. Charlotte St. | BELFAST - 15 Lombard Street

# The Women's Game

By  
L. E. FORREST

One of the pleasing features of this season's campaign is that more and more women players are swelling the ranks of organised Table Tennis. We publish below a letter received from a St. Albans correspondent.

Last season a writer in a London newspaper asked why St. Albans is able to produce such a large number of good women players. In a subsequent issue of "Table Tennis" the Chairman of the St. Albans League sought to give the answer—good officers, and keenness and enthusiasm on the part of the players.

Time was when Dora Emdin was really outstanding as far as the St. Albans League is concerned, but to-day there are many women players who have worked themselves up to her standard, though, of course, she can still hold her own. Connie Wheaton, Doris Emdin, Bessie Wright, Nellie Wood—all internationals—are among the other outstanding women players in the St. Albans League, and there are just one or two others—Grace Sewell among them—who can give a good account of themselves.

Connie Wheaton has lately been adopting a good hitting game, and is certainly not now content with her accurate and consistent defensive chopping. The writer has watched her for some time, and has come to the conclusion that if she continues this game she will develop into a formidable attacker.

It is remarkable that Miss Margaret Osborne, England's No. 1 player, finds time to carry out the secretarial duties of one of the foremost clubs in the country—Birmingham City. Miss Osborne writes to say "that almost all—in fact I may say every, leading woman player in Birmingham has, at one time or another, been a member. Misses Newey, Lamprell, and Potter have all helped in building up a team which has won the Birmingham Women's League since its inception in 1933." Keeness of the members is the keynote of the club's success.

**BRISTOL.**—An interesting proposal to take effect shortly is an effort to form a central

mixed club, which will it is hoped stimulate interest among women players. The League boasts only one women's club—Fry's Ladies, who compete with distinct success in the fourth division.

**CHESTER.**—Women players are at present confined to two clubs—Curzon Park and City. The first-named club is regarded as the stronger side, but City have shown such improvement that a match between the two would produce a keen struggle. Curzon Park have Miss E. Guest, the woman champion, and Miss V. Woodfine, ranked second. In Second Division League matches these players have each won 75 per cent. of their sets.

City cannot boast of any player up to this standard, but many are progressing rapidly, notably Misses S. Allen and J. Warburton. The first Women's Inter-League match takes place at Rhyl on 14th January.

The U.S.A.T.T.A. has issued an unofficial World Women Ranking list. Here it is:—

No. 1—	Aarons ...	U.S.A.
" 2—	Kettnerova	Czecho.
" 3—	Krebsbach	Germany.
" 4—	Smidova ...	Czecho.
" 5—	Pritzi .....	Austria.
" 6—	Osborne ...	England.
" 7—	Sigman ....	U.S.A.
" 8—	Purves.....	U.S.A.
" 9—	Bussmann.	Germany.
" 10—	Wildam ...	Austria.
" 11—	Woodhead	England.
" 12—	Migneco ...	U.S.A.

## The Women's Trial

A women's trial is to be held in London on or before 17th January, after which the "Corbillon Cup" team will be selected. All Leagues have been asked to nominate their candidates, and the Selection Committee have nominated Miss M. Osborne, Miss Woodhead and Miss Newey to take part.

## The Area Trials

Now is the time for ambitious young players in the country. Complaints are sometimes received that "potential world-champions," local players carrying all before them, never get an opportunity to show their ability, and it is true that with the tremendous growth of the game of late years, it has not been possible for the Selection Committee to give attention to every district, especially those away from the big centres. Area trials have been arranged before, but without bringing forward players other than those already under notice as the result of their play in Tournaments. The standard of play has steadily improved of late years, and now, in some of the smaller Leagues, players are able to give hard games to the better known "stars." Every League has been asked to nominate their best players, and trials will be held before 16th January (possibly 9th or 10th January.) The country has been "zoned," and the following are the districts, with the names and addresses of the Secretary responsible:—

**London (4).**—F. J. P. Hills, 42, North Side, S.W. 4.

**Hastings (2).**—A. K. Vint, 5a, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings.

**Exeter (2).**—A. S. King, "Teofani," Lower Avenue, Exeter.

**Birmingham (1).**—A. A. Haydon, 96, Drayton Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham.

**Leeds, N.E. Eng. (2).**—F. A. Amies, "Iburndale," Highfield Road, Pontefract.

**Manchester, N.W. Eng. (4).**—J. Swann, 14, Norwood Avenue, Kersal, Salford 7.

The figures in parentheses are the numbers of players who will qualify to take part in the final trial to be played in London on Sunday, 17th January.

The organisation of the trials is, of course, through the Leagues. But all affiliated bodies are entitled to have their members considered, and if members of directly affiliated clubs, or members, are interested, they should immediately communicate with the Association Secretary.

Motto for January—All "fans" to Wembley on 13th February.

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Manchester Business Houses Women's Team: (Left to right) Miss E. PLACE, Miss E. KINSELLA, Miss HUMPHREYS, Miss E. CAMPBELL, and Miss E. SMITH

## From all Quarters

At Rhyl, Barna caused some amusement by walking down the High Street with a notice on his back saying "All valuables should be left in the safe." Bellak was, of course, the culprit.

From Liverpool come two funny stories, the first of a small boy on the platform who caused a huge laugh when Szabados "smacked" a cracked ball high into the air over the platform. Small boy caused a great disturbance on the crowded platform to recover ball and returned same to the complete astonishment of Szabados.

The second incident occurred at the football match (Liverpool v. Sunderland). Miss Lancaster was keeping all within hearing very much amused with her running commentary and questions to Barna. At half-time Liverpool were leading one—nil and, just after resuming, scored a second. Miss Lancaster's delight knew no bounds, and she informed Barna that the score was now one all. Barna differed—but to no avail—Miss Lancaster informed him and anyone else interested, that it was perfectly obvious because one goal was scored at one end and the other at the other end . . . Total collapse of Barna. (She hadn't noticed the teams had turned round.)

### Table Tennis in Madrid

Our Chairman, just returned from Madrid, reports that the citizens are certainly making Table Tennis play its part in the defence. On the main street he noticed the poster of an underground "Ping Pong" hall crossed out and transformed into a "Refugio" against air bombs for 350 persons. In one of the headquarters the staff of the people's army were studying a large-scale map of the city's defences. So large-scale, in fact, that the only table they had found large enough to pin it out on was a Table Tennis table!

Messrs. Spalding are marketing an extremely clever little gadget in the form of a Table Tennis Ball Retriever. It prevents all necessity to stoop in picking up Table Tennis balls which have a habit of rolling or bouncing into inaccessible places, and it most certainly fills a long felt want. At the price of 1s. 6d. it should command a very ready sale.

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BY

M. A. SYMONS

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## A Sticky Wicket

In spite of the publicity now given to the sport, we have still some way to go in educating the Great British Public, as the following true story will show.

Meeting a friend who has always expressed a polite interest in our Table Tennis performances, we had occasion to complain of a certain type of concrete floor in our club room, which gives off a light dust and smothers everything.

Said our Sympathetic Friend: "You must put that right; so bad for your table."

We replied that we were more worried about our eyes and throats, as we could always dust the table.

Sympathetic Friend: "Yes, but in time it is bound to rot the baize."

Collapse of the team.

We mentioned this later to another acquaintance, who laughed heartily, and said: "Why I thought everyone knew that the tops of the tables were green lino."

## National League Notes

Matches down for decision in December resulted as follows:—

Stockport ....	0	Manchester.....	9
Blackpool.....	0	Liverpool .....	9
Birmingham .	9	Stockport .....	0
Liverpool .....	9	Stockport .....	0
Birmingham .	2	Manchester.....	7

### TABLE TO DATE.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS.
Liverpool .....	2	2	0	0	18	0	4
Manchester ...	2	2	0	0	16	2	4
Birmingham .	2	1	1	0	11	7	2
Stockport .....	3	0	3	0	0	27	0
Blackpool.....	1	0	1	0	0	9	0

Cromwell provided the biggest surprise in defeating Haydon, England's No. 1, in a great match. Haydon had beaten Lurie in two straight, but Cromwell thoroughly deserved his win—playing probably the best game of his career. He defended brilliantly and flicked Haydon's drop shots in great style.

F. Hughes (Stockport) is a player of promise. He led A. Waite (Manchester) in the third game, and was unlucky to lose. J.B.

### OBITUARY

As we go to press we receive the regrettable news of the deaths of the fathers of Mr. C. Corti Woodcock and Mr. W. C. Charlton. Both died suddenly. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Editorial Board, and, we feel sure, all Table Tennis players, we convey to both of our officials our deep sympathy with them in their bereavements.

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