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 efforts 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 everybody 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 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 organized 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 organiser 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 any way 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, 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 stumped 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 unportant tendency we have had to meet for many years, more strongly in countries other than Czechoslovakia and with more sporting experience.

Over the Dubouille incident I have much less patience. Dubouille 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 Dubouille, if successful in his match, might have met and defeated a compatriot in the next round, must have deliberately kidnapped the unfortunate racquet. Foulies! 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)
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 employers for the 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 Aaron (the World Champion), Miss Kettnerova, are amongst the foreign players who have already accepted the invitation. THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP. Most interesting "fans" now know that the World Championship 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 to which 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 circulated about the area trials which are being held at Hastings, Exeter, London, Leeds, Birmingham, and elsewhere from 1st to 8th February, 1937. These trials give an opportunity to all local players of promise to compete, the object being to cull the country for players of promise. 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 some 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

"Success at Table Tennis" The present writer is so embarrassed by the nice things Mr. Kolen says about him, that it is difficult to review his book. To start by returning compliments, however, he must declare that Mr. Kolen 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 unhappy 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 now 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 Mochlovsits. 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!
Table Tennis

Requiem on Prague—(Cont. from page 1) participating in a big championship without a reserve racquet he could trust, and the man who complained 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.

3. There always will be bad umpiring and 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 loss, so I have no doubt these complaints are exaggerated.

4. Only the things 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 wrong was that they did not understand their language. But I am sure that this problem was much under-examined 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 crowns, or any English football crowd better than any English crowd would have been in the presence of the "pushing" provocation. English critics are spoilt by crowds, and the Czechs are not a nation to 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 may be 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 it 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—she 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 what some 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)

The Wilmott Cup

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

LANCASHIRE (East)—
Becup v. Ribbledale
Reddish v. Manchester
Aston v. Stockport
LANCASHIRE (West)—
Blackpool v. Liverpool
Southport v. Chester
Mersey will visit Warrington and the Prescot
Birkenhead v. Leicester
Cambridge v. Beddolf
YORKSHIRE—
Bradford v. Sheffield
Leeds v. Grimsby
Late News: Leeds beat Grimsby 9–0, Bristol beat Bath 7–2, X. Millidore v. 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 championship. It 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 Arons, and Maclure and Hlastone, the Men's Double Champions. Mr. Eflmer F. Cinnater, the Treasurer of the U.S.A.T.T.A., will be non-playing captain, and the party will be conducted by Sandy Gleanz. 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 29th.

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

By IVOR MONTAGU

Table Tennis

"Congratulations, Mr. Montagu! I cannot find words enough to describe this brilliant work on our game. There has never been a book 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 the expert as well. As a dear reader, please do me the honour of taking my advice and securing a copy at once, you can never afford to be without it."—Mr. Ellmer F. Cinnater, Treasurer of the U.S.A.T.T.A.

130 PAGES, 11½" x 9", POST FREE.

PITMAN, PARKER STREET, KINGSWAY, W.C.2
**THE FOREIGN TOUR**

By W. J. POPE

The 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 deuce with Barna, but the champion was at his best, especially against Szabados and Lurie.

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

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

**Bolton.**—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 10–9 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.

**Sunderland.**—One thousand spectators. 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 of this 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 sportman was present.

**Southport.**—One thousand spectators. Crowd astounded. Barna beat Szabados, and after support the night before for London, had seen the Hungarian versus England Football Match. Were very disappointed with the result, but played with true spirit; Secretary says: “The result was a raging success. Everyone asking—when is the next.” Miss Freda James, the well-known local “star,” presented souvenirs. Mansfield now very much on the Tablo 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. Hobbies, Stanyer, and Baxter (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 display by the visitors. Knock-out competition arranged with Graham, Cooke, Greaves, Bradshaw, and Bovin to make the eight. Barna beat Bellak in the semi-final, and Szabados in the final.

**Shrewsbury.**—Five hundred and fifty present. Rising fog, Barna in great form also. Councillor R. S. Bamford played in a Liverpool versus Southport 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 five hundred spectators in the Eco Kink—miniature Wimbledon. Bergl, Marshall, Filby played a match with the visitors, which Budapest won 5–0. Filby played an impressive game against Szabados.

**Woolwich.**—Five hundred present. Marshall won the prize for the best performance by beating Szabados 21–17, 21–14. Crowds, which included Mr. James Scott, Secretary-Manager, Charlton F.C., very pleased with the show.


**Southampton.**—One thousand one hundred spectators, who were highly delighted. The form of Jones was marvellous. 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 Profitt took part, and Haydon’s game with Barna voted the best ever seen at Exeter. Profitt also in great form, but the play around 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.
The International Matches

The Fourth at Blackpool.—England's team was Haydon, Proffitt, Hyde, and the result was 2-nil. However, the next two matches were packed with drama as 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 the time in arrears, and driven to defend 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 him famous. Bellak, sure rendered 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 the National Championships, that is, from November and December, considered. Preliminary inquiries have been made. 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 January, 1937, for he is now a certainty for the match. 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 “mothered” the Hungarian boys, who often needed a feminine touch to achieve that indefinable air of smartness which they so successfully achieve, and finally she never grumbles.

Wales versus Hungary.—Hungary defeated Wales at Fishery Street to 0, in its first international match to be played in North Wales. There were 1,000 spectators. The Hungarians won 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.

Another Tour?

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Our second tour is now over and we cannot face England without expressing our thanks to all our friends in England, and the officials of the Association, for all the kindness 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. BARN.  
M. SZABADOS.  
L. BELLAK.

19th December, 1936.

Miss Olive Lancaster

SPALDING TAKES THE LEAD IN ALL TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT

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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 6-2 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 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 Nowy 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: O.W.R. Athletic Association, O.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 having their chance. Lucania and Mechanics' Institute have lost only one match each, while N.W.R. Athletic and St. John's have each lost two. Although St. Saviour's "B" have lost four they head the table. 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.

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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 give the answer—good officers, and keenness and enthusiasm on the part of the players.

Time was when Dora Emdin was really the foremost clubs in the country—Birmingham Women’s League since its inception in 1933. Keenness of the members is the keynote of the club’s success. Misses Newey, Lamprell, and Potter have all at one time or another, been members—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 and there are just one or two others—Grace Sewell among them—who can give a good account of themselves.”

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

No. 1—Aarons, U.S.A.
2—Kettnerova, Czechoslovakia.
3—Krebshach, Germany.
4—Smidova, Czechoslovakia.
5—Pritzi, Austria.
6—Osborne, England.
7—Signman, U.S.A.
8—Purves, U.S.A.
9—Busmann, Germany.
10—Wildman, Austria.
12—Miceneo, U.S.A.

The Women’s Trial

A woman’s trial is to be held in London or on or before 17th January, after which the “Corbillon Cup” team will be selected. All Leagues have been asked to nominate their best players, 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 pointed out that this club, despite the growth of the game of late years, 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 10th January (possibly 9th or 10th January.) The country has been “zoned,” and the following are the districts, with the names and addresses of the Secretaries responsible:

Hastings (2).—A. K. Vint, 5a, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings.
Birmingham (1).—A. A. Haydon, 96, Drayton Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham.

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, the responsibility of 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.

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

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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 smoothers 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 sit or stand for hours.

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 line."

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.....
Blackpool ..... 2 Manchester..... 7

TABLE TO DATE:

Liverpool ...... 2 2 0 0 18 0 4
Manchester ... 2 0 1 0 10 2 4
Birmingham ..... 2 1 1 0 11 7 2
Manchester ..... 3 0 3 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, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7.

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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