

Table

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Tennis

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ONE PENNY

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS HALL

Whither Table Tennis?

By C. CORTI WOODCOCK (Chairman, English T.T. Association, 1933-36)

MOST sports are administered by grey-beards, who, as often as not, are completely out of touch with modern tendency, current development, and the opinion of the rank and file. This is not so with Table Tennis, for those of us who were lucky enough to play some part in the early days of initiation and organisation, are surprised to find that we are still comparatively young men. To this factor, at least in part, is due the vitality of our sport and the astonishing progress it continues to make year by year.

In just over ten years, Table Tennis has leapt from parlour-pastime obscurity to a sport of international significance. At this moment, as I write, 14 nations are joined in battle—on a Viennese field—for the right to style themselves "World Champions." The 8,000 spectators present at Wembley for the English Championships next week, will see that at least six countries have sent their best men and women in pursuit of our coveted national titles. If we can hold them off, even here and there, it will be a red-letter day for English Table Tennis.

But I digress. The thought trying to escape is one of astonishment that so much can have been achieved in such little time. Time then, and time now—what a difference! Then, apart from a bare half-dozen workers and a few score clubs engaging in desultory League play, Table Tennis in its modern idiom, was practically unknown. The public hardly knew of its existence and what little the Press had to say was almost invariably damaging or spiteful. The new rules were recognised slowly, the trials of organisation were intensified by difficulties with equipment and balls, there was no headquarter office, no magazine, no star player, no public following—and no money. All that we fanatics could do was to work like mad, organise and administer soundly, travel the country, write hosts of letters, encourage rising young players (how good even then was Fred Perry when we packed him off to Stockholm in his schoolboy cap), make speech after speech and conduct a ceaseless "nagging" campaign on the Press.

At long last, the bonny blue eyes of Fleet Street began to see the light—a little further than St. Paul's, anyway. The first World Championship meeting was held just round their own corner, by Ludgate Circus: and it was then that Hungary, one of the original six nations comprising the International Federation, first staked her powerful claim to

chieftainship. In ten years she has been deposed only twice. Subsequently they saw that World Congresses were being held in Budapest, Berlin, Prague, Paris and Vienna; but the muddle-headed myopy was only cured when London staged the Congress two years ago, with 19 countries present with full teams and 30,000 spectators through the turnstiles in a couple of days. And so at last the dragon of Press antipathy and disparagement was nailed right home into his coffin.

How do we stand to-day? Abroad, some 26 countries have established mature, progressive organisations, many of them recognised and encouraged by their appropriate Ministry. Here at home, the English Table Tennis Association races still further ahead—easily the biggest of them all. When last I heard the figures, a few weeks ago, there were roughly 160 Leagues, 4,000 clubs, and an aggregate membership near the 75,000 mark. Impressive totals and certainly not static ones. With every season, there is a feverish rush of tournaments and championships, international matches, inter-League matches, trials, exhibitions, and so on. All public affairs of any importance attract great crowds, who marvel afresh at the amazing skill, speed and stamina of the star players. A first-class Table

Tennis match, properly staged, challenges comparison with any other sport as to thrill and spectacle. And, from the executive point of view, once you are in this game, it seems to me you are in it up to the eyebrows. The dratted thing gets you and won't let go.

There are three main reasons for this. First, the indisputable fact that, on sheer merit, Table Tennis is a glorious game—rich in its scope for the fit body, the alert mind, the keen eye: second, the joy of fighting one's way up-hill to put it right in the middle of the map: and last, the satisfaction of realising that not only is the game itself worth while, but more important still, those who play it. For I am convinced that no sport boasts a higher percentage of genuine sportsmen and women than does Table Tennis.

Well, it is good and it has "got there." I dare to say that as long as games of any kind are played in England, Table Tennis will always be prominent. It now takes its rightful place as one of our national sports and it would take downright crazy administration to shift it. So one wonders "what next—what of the future? Are there any 'snags'?" And I think there are, two of them, one approaching rather too near.

GET THIS RIGHT

The less of these springs from the very magnitude of the English Association. Right from its formation, its policy was to attract all and sundry to the banner of organised Table Tennis: and with clear thinking on both sides, it sought, and cemented, the

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)

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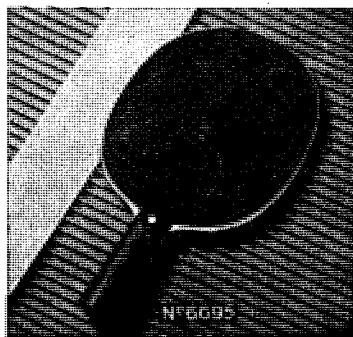
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FROM THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR

There was a very satisfactory attendance at the General Council meeting in London on the 16th January. Full reports were given by the Secretary and Treasurer and very interesting discussions took place. There were no important decisions and it was felt that matters of general policy and the future should be left to the next A.G.M. which would be the best place to thrash out thorny questions. A very interesting discussion took place on the official Magazine—and in response to a request for the views of the rank and file members it was obvious that a feeling existed that we should now "blossom out" to a full page Magazine with cover. More articles, more provincial news, more stories, more articles on how to play by experts, were all suggested. The Treasurer's report of a deficit of £70 did not depress the delegates as it was realised that this was an interim statement and there was an optimistic feeling that before the end of the season this would be made up.

Many important matters of administration were considered at the Executive Committee meeting on the same date. Counsel's opinion is to be taken about our legal standing, and it was agreed to refuse the affiliation of the "Sheffield Hall." The Chairman's report dealing with the International situation and the I.T.T.F. Agenda was considered and instructions given, the question of players' meals when playing for England was put on a proper footing and the appointment of professional Auditors sanctioned. Miss Smits was co-opted on to the Selection Committee for the women's game. It was agreed that "Invitation" Tournaments should be subject to the same regulations as "Open" unless specific permission is given for variation. Yorkshire are authorised to run a County Championship, the Diary for 1936-37 is to be arranged in the summer, and it was agreed to ask all members of the E.C. and local officials to notify Head Office of all events taking place in their districts. The National League was considered and it was agreed that the two area bodies which have been formed in the South and West should not be included in the National League this season, but should run as separate competitions pending full consideration of the future of the League.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.—So much attention has been given to the Finals at Wembley that the preliminary rounds at the Paddington Baths, Porchester Road, London, W. (near Whiteleys), are not getting

the necessary publicity. They open on Thursday, 11th February, at 2 p.m.; on Friday, 12th, they commence at 10 a.m. and continue until 11 p.m.; on Saturday, 13th, commence at 9-30 a.m. to conclusion. The Finals of the Junior will be played at 4-20 p.m. on the Saturday, and will be broadcast by the B.B.C. There are no tickets being issued for the Paddington Baths. Pay at the door, the charges being 1s. 3d., 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. Six tables will be in use and spectators are assured of seeing great matches at any time. All the best foreign players are coming, as well as all our team returning from Baden. Early attendance is desirable if you want to see. There will be morning, afternoon and evening sessions but exact times are not yet decided.

WHITHER TABLE TENNIS?

(continued from page 1)

happiest possible relations with the various manufacturers. But now, the F.T.T.A. membership is veritably an army. It seems to me that the immense strain on the officers at headquarters, if nothing else, must soon lead to some measure of decentralisation. There is, after all, a limit to the endurance of flesh and blood—even Mr. Secretary Pope's: and moreover, a large number of Provincial centres are now so mighty that affiliated self-government, area by area, would appear to be not only wise and practical but definitely beneficial to the major interests of the game.

The other matter is vital. Played only in the drawing-room, Table Tennis is a bit of fun—no more. Played in public, an expert display can set a crowd on fire, can be a pulsing, crashing spectacle. It shakes hands with drama, it leaves you nerveless and exhausted. But only when there is biting aggression and fierce attack to be seen, such as we always have, for example, from the Hungarians and the Americans. Without the excitement born of scorching pace, brilliant offensive hitting and "way-back" defence, the crowds will yawn and fade away: and we can smash up our box-offices for firewood. People who pay good money are entitled to see good play, and it is up to the authorities to see they get it. Imprison the pokers, the pushers, the chisellers, the flat-feet: experiment with racket, ball, net and table—do anything except allow Table Tennis to slide back, to become a thing of sloth, forgotten by a sickened public. Rather let our traditions be strengthened anew, so that Table Tennis may lie ever more closely to the heart of the world's sport-loving and sport playing communities.

Japan regrets she's unable to . . .

(A prepaid telegram was sent to Japan inviting them to enter our National. Here is the reply received)

"I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your telegram of exceptionally cordial invitation extended to full Japanese Team of Table Tennis to participate in the forthcoming Thirteenth Finals for English Championship convened for the 11th February, 1937, with the assurance of offer of all hospitality. I note that the telegram has been sent reply paid, and I very highly appreciate your courtesy and consideration. I at once submitted the message to a special conference of the members of the Nippon Takkyu Kwai to discuss the possibilities for detailing a delegation to the Contest and at their unanimous request, I beg to tender you most graciously their profound thanks for the cordial invitation and the manifestation of congenial hospitality and their regret that the circumstances do not permit their detailing a delegation to take part in the forthcoming event. I am very sorry indeed, as any of the other members of our Association that Japan is going to miss the glorious opportunity to fight in the English Championship contest, and wishing you every success in the undertaking, I have the pleasure to remain most respectfully yours, The Nippon Takkyu Kwai. T. Usagawa, Chairman."

THE FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles—Final: Ehrlich beat Haguenaer, 21—17, 19—21, 21—15, 21—16.
Women's singles—Final: Mlle Soulage beat Mme Delarue, 3—1. Men's Doubles—Ehrlich and Manchiska beat Haguenaer and Guerin (holders), 3—1. Women's Doubles—Mlles Soulage and Delay won. Mixed Doubles—Dubouille and Mlle Soulage, won. Mlle Soulage, a young player in her second season, won three titles.

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AT

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By ISTVAN KELEN

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Around the Open Tournaments

By TOMMY SEARS

There have been so many tournaments of late that it has been difficult to keep pace with them. The conditions generally are improving. At the Herts everything was admirable, except that on "Doubles" night room was scarce at the side of the tables, which produced irritation when players "bumped." At the North London conditions were a great improvement on last season and, I understand, next year will be even better. The Essex, as usual, was an example for others to imitate—good lighting and plenty of room. The Kent Open, however, was a distinct contrast—lighting being poor and everyone cramped for space. The balls used here also raised complaints from most players, and it is my opinion that some of the types of balls now being used in Open Tournaments are not satisfactory for first-class play. Points of interest from the play: Margaret Osborne's win at Watford, despite the handicap of a very bad cold, beating Dora Emdin and Wendy Woodhead; Marshall's defeat at Finchley by Filby—21—11, 21—12—a spectacular final between the latter and Rogers resulting in a win for Rogers, 3—2. Marshall in the news again at the Essex, losing to H. Jones, 3—21! At the Kent, Joyce played well, beating Marshall and Filby, to lose in the Final to Brook. Steer won the Consolation here for the third time in succession. Is it sporting for a player to deliberately lose in the Competition proper in order to win the Consolation? Bergl won the Middlesex; this tournament being poorly supported by first-class players owing to conditions. Miss Wheaton won the Singles, beating the young prodigy, Miss Nichol, who had just beaten Dora Emdin. In the Midland Open, Margaret Osborne scored a "hat-trick," beating Miss Newey in the Final after dismissing of Mrs. Hutchings in the Semi. Miss Newey beat Wendy Woodhead. Margaret won the Mixed with Haydon and the Women's with Mrs. Hutchings. Haydon won the Men's, and in beating Stan Proffitt played what I am told was the best game of his career and the most spectacular Final. In the North of England Lurie, dropped from the Swaythling Cup team, proceeded to get a "hat-trick," winning the Singles, the Doubles with Cromwell, and the Mixed with Miss Newey.

North London.—M.S.: Rogers beat Filby. W.S.: Dora Emdin beat Wendy Woodhead. M.D.: Joyce and Contractor beat Brook and Stennett. W.D.: Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Hutchings beat Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Finch. X.D.: Woodhead and Filby beat Booker and Stennett.

Herts.—M.S.: Proffitt beat Marshall. W.S.: Osborne beat Dora Emdin. M.D.: Joyce and Contractor beat Rosen and Coles. W.D.: Wright and Wheaton beat Dora Emdin and Sewell. X.D.: Wood and Joyce beat Dora Emdin and Contractor.

Middlesex.—M.S.: Bergl beat Bromley. W.S.: Wheaton beat Nichol. W.D.: Finch and Hodgkinson beat Wheaton and Wright. M.D.: Bergl and Contractor beat Baron and Jones. X.D.: Bergl and Nichol beat Dawson and Wheaton.

Midland.—M.S.: Haydon beat Proffitt. W.S.: Osborne beat Newey. M.D.: Lurie and Cromwell beat Cohen and Brook. W.D.: Osborne and Hutchings beat Newey and Woodhead. X.D.: Osborne and Haydon beat Hutchings and Brook. Junior: W. Beeston. Veterans: A. J. Wilmott.

Essex.—M.S.: Coles beat Baron. W.S.: Booker beat Doris Emdin. M.D.: Hales and Coles beat Jones and Baron. W.D.: Booker and Jordan beat Dora Emdin and Woodhead. X.D.: Hales and Doris Emdin beat Coles and Finch.

North of England.—M.S.: Lurie beat Cromwell. W.S.: Newey beat Rubens. M.D.: Lurie and Cromwell beat Phillips and Filby. W.D.: Newey and Steventon. X.D.: Lurie and Newey beat Cromwell and Doolan.

Kent.—M.S.: Brook beat Joyce. W.S.: Hutchings beat Finch. M.D.: Rogers and Filby beat Brook and Stennett. W.D.: Hutchings and Booker beat Finch and Keeling. X.D.: Brook and Hutchings beat Silto and Jones.

REQUIEM ON PRAGUE—(Continued from col. 3).

Of course, we know what this means. No one can expect, nowadays, a world title to be given every year to be held in the same country. Therefore, our proposal means abolition of the world title.

And why not? Lawn Tennis, more international than Table Tennis, gets on very well without world titles. Let each country, as at Lawn Tennis, build up for its own national championships the prestige they deserve.

Let the Swaythling and Marcel Corbillon Cup matches travel about like the Davis Cup. We have no fear, on such a small scale, with no strain of exhaustion, of anything but good feeling being the result. The recent play-off of the Mixed Doubles event in Prague, which reflected nothing but credit on both Hungary and Czechoslovakia, is an example.

But we do oppose the continuance, merely for the sake of tradition of measures suited to the formative period of Table Tennis, but unsuited to these over-developed days, of what is in danger of becoming a ceremonial, straining national resources and international goodwill.

REQUIEM ON PRAGUE.—(Continued)

By HON. IVOR MONTAGU

The view I have set down, at any rate, the view of our Association as an Association. The chief and largest error of the Czechoslovak Table Tennis Association was, in our opinion, the stepping forward at the start and trying, out of respect for the continuity of International Table Tennis, to replace the failure of Jugoslavia and organise the Congress in insufficient time. The E.T.T.A., which alone knows how near we came to economising and not providing uniform floors at South Kensington, or how near, after the first day of individual events, we came to a chaos worse than Prague, in spite of all our preparation, would be the last to throw stones at anyone not lucky enough to bring it off.

What we feel is: that with the spread of our sport, the International Congress has become, in all truth, too big an affair reasonably to expect to bring off a bull's-eye with every year.

Untold money has to be spent in advance cable organisation.

Time has to be sufficient not only for play, but to allow enough rest so that players' nerves are not overstrained.

Untold money has to be spent in perfect tables, floors, and conditions set up only for one week and taken down again.

Untold people have to be not merely enlisted, but trained as umpires, interpreters, runners, results, Press, referees, assistants, telephones, hotel and team attaches. Everything.

Many of these must be paid as well as volunteers.

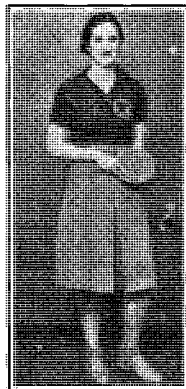
The organiser and organising staff have to be not merely proficient, but the kind of people who would command very high business efficiency salaries.

We believe that without this, no matter who or what nation runs it, we will get chaos, hysteria, ill-feeling at the championships.

This means, we believe, only the English Table Tennis Association can now run the championships successfully. Let us be frank. It is not because we claim any special virtue, but because only in England have we the number of followers of the game necessary to provide the volunteers, and the number of spectators to provide the cash necessary for proper organisation of the championships.

A travelling Congress was all very well in the educative days. It is now too big. Imagine! If Wimbledon were to be organised each year, ad hoc, in a different country with courts temporarily got together, how much room there would be for ill-feeling.

(Continued on col. 2)



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By IVOR MONTAGU

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Teams for Baden By Hon. IVOR MONTAGU

THE teams have been selected for Baden. It is not desirable for one member of a committee to make statements that are only his personal view, nor is it right for him to make statements on behalf of a committee unless all have been consulted. However, I know many people are interested, and I am sure the things I have to say are not contentious, so here goes.

First: the Men's. In some quarters there is an agitation for an entirely fresh team. The idea is that our present players are not, and never will be, good enough, and we should try others. Now we are very sensible of the problem, and I think the players are too. We know they are not good enough—they know it, too. And I think they are all quite unselfish enough to be keen to see new good ones come along in English Table Tennis. Frankly, it was our hope to be able to send several new faces this

you didn't bring them into the team even the first time you recognised their talent and their certain future. They had to be ripe. Now we are all of us, I think, convinced there's no new player to-day who's a better proposition for Baden than the ones we've sent, and (we've done a lot, a frightful lot of hard thinking and heart-burning about this) we're all pretty well convinced that there's no new player who is sure enough to benefit from Baden so much as to make it essential to send him. We may be wrong, but that's our conviction, and there it is.

A few words, however, about those not selected. We are very pleased at the play, the keenness and general merits of everyone who took part in the trial. If everyone is not mentioned it is only because of space. Lurie: We are satisfied Lurie is to-day one of England's first four (witness the fact that we have nominated him for seeding in the

a strong doubles pair. Of all those not selected I will observe, again, that we were pleased with form which is steadily improving. Miss Jean Nichol has made a most bright impression for one with the time that lies before her. We hope Miss Hodgkinson's keenness will give rise to further improvement, and of Mrs. Hutchings we will observe that the margin of potential usefulness between herself and the reserve selected is nearly invisible. Neither would lack our confidence.

Third: The two teams as selected. It is fully the Selection Committee's view, after the most careful consideration, that at this day, and in the circumstances of Baden, no better combinations could possibly be found among the whole hosts of English Table Tennis players. I think also we are unanimous in the view that they may well play better abroad than they do here, and we believe they have it in them to do better than they did at Prague. Of the two new captains, I will say only that I am completely confident that they will be as useful to their sides, and are as worthy of support

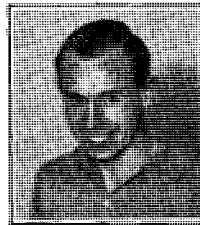
OUR SWAYTHLING CUP TEAM



M. B. W. BERGL
(Harrow)



S. PROFFITT
(London)



A. A. HAYDON
(Birmingham) Capt'n



KEN HYDE
(Liverpool)



A. G. MILLAR
(Manchester)

year. But we cannot do it. Granted the most important thing for us is to bring along new players, it is not always the case that thrusting into the National team is the best way to bring them along. We have seen many players who, from the point of view of their careers, have taken harm by being selected too soon.

There is this also to be considered, and we have considered it, that in fairness not only to foreign countries who, after all, are our hosts, but to the great rank and file mass of T.T. "fans" the National team should be the best. You can put in a younger player if you think there is a chance he may jump up and play better than an old one. You can't put him in just because he's young, and the old one is not so good as you'd like. Just think, in the years before Austin and Perry, when English Lawn Tennis was "duff," no one said "change them every year, and if they don't win then, change them again." No, you picked each year what were the best; helped and relied on them to do their best. Granted, Austin and Perry had to come along, but

English Championships). We are glad to see him settling down and think him better than last year. We have not abandoned hope of seeing him one day a very high player indeed, even in world ranking. But we think he will not take hurt by a year in cold storage. Filby: We think this a very promising player with a very encouraging style. He will benefit more from a trip abroad when he has experience. Bubleby: We are much impressed by this young man's keenness, his hostility and determination. We think his game presents features of weakness when measured by Continental class, and we have not ignored the fact that Baden takes place on a stone floor. We recognise his determined qualities, and he can rest assured that selection committees will not lose sight of him, even if they do not think him suited to a given international team on a particular occasion. Of the others I will only say that we are glad to see our friend Ewbank still in good form, and we recognise good promise in Cohen.

Second: The Women's Team. Selection here is simplified by the necessity to choose

as any captain an English team has ever had. They both know how vain I am, and will in consequence understand that that remark is intended as a compliment. Good luck and pleasant play.

THE GERMAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Results of the German Closed Championships were as follows: Men's Singles—Final: D. Mauritz beat Deisler, 21—16, 21—11, 21—12. Women's Singles—Miss Bussmann beat Mrs. Hobohm (Krebsbach), 12—21, 21—17, 21—14, 18—21, 21—16.

Both titles were retained by the holders.

A Table Tennis Association has been formed for Scotland. The Secretary is Mr. G. K. Thompson, c/o J. Bryce, 32, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

Wales beat the Irish Free State at Dublin by 11 Events to 3.

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England v. Wales

FROM THE WELSH POINT OF VIEW

By H. ROY EVANS.

Played at the Newport Athletic Club's spacious gymnasium, the match provided conclusive proof that the Welsh standard is improving rapidly, for the final result of 7 events to 2 was by no means a fair criterion of the respective merits of the two sides.

Hyde delighted with his methodical and virile attack interspersed with cleverly executed drop shots, which had Lisle, who played without spirit, "all at sea." Hyde won easily, two straight.

Lurie followed with another two straight victory over A. Sadler, new Welsh cap from Birmingham. The Manchester boy flicking accurately, won an easy first set, but Sadler played well enough in the second to get his opponent slightly rattled, but did not possess a good enough attack to stop Lurie winning eventually.

Lewis and Cann, pen-holder hitters, then proved themselves too quick on the ball for Proffitt and Filby, and the Welsh pair won a brilliant attacking game, in which Filby did not convince.

Masters followed this up with a Welsh victory over Dawes, new English "cap" from Bristol. A wearying game with Dawes using his thick crepe rubber to impart heavy top and side spin. Masters' defence was just too steady for Dawes, and the Welshman's very occasional forehand hits gave him a valuable victory.

Bergl, playing the Welsh Captain, Baglow, tried to hit his pen-hold opponent "off the table." He certainly stopped Baglow getting his attack going, but made so many mistakes in so doing that they kept level in both games, and only Bergl's resorting to finger-spinners gave him game. Not a convincing victory.

The next Doubles found Lurie with a surprisingly inaccurate Haydon as partner against D. J. Thomas and a very spiritless Lisle. The English pair won a good first game, but, taking advantage of a momentary falling-off in the second, Thomas and Lisle settled down and took it. In the third, play was close and spectacular, with Lurie's attack and Thomas's defence the bright spots. A ding-dong battle, with Lisle netting three easy returns to give England another event.

Filby, new London "cap," then took a 21-19, 21-19 victory from F. Smith, also playing in his first 'National. Not a good game, with neither playing up to International form. Suffice it to say that Filby's steady defence and occasional hits were a shade better than Smith's too cautious top spin.

Then the game of the evening—Proffitt v. D. J. Thomas. To Proffitt the first, by virtue of clever attack and placements, although disturbed by a 13-17 to 18-17 pick up by Thomas. The second to Thomas, whose retrieving was marvellous, and whose impudent smashing of the loose ball took Proffitt by surprise. A great fight for the third, with the crowd "on their toes." Great Table Tennis this, attack and defence combined by both players. An eventual narrow victory to Proffitt, and both men came off so thrilled that they shook hands with the Referee instead of with a bewildered Umpire!

Hyde and Bergl against Baglow and Sadler was an anti-climax. The English pair were just about value for their 21-18, 21-18 victory, to give England final victory by 7 events to 2.

The Lower Net

OUR EXPERIENCE IN U.S.A.

By D. A. KITTERMMASTER.
(First Vice-President, U.S.A.T.T.A)

It is no doubt generally known in England that we have adopted a six-inch net for official play this season. It's a success! Its elimination of "pushing" was conclusively proved in the recent national inter-city tournament where in no single case did the hitter fail to win. Last season, playing in the same room with the same lights, tables, and balls, the chiselling type of player nearly always won. This season exactly the opposite was true, and the matches were the most exciting and interesting that have ever been seen here. Even Blattner and Berenbaum fell before

OUR CORBILLON CUP TEAM



Miss M. OSBORNE
(Birmingham) Captain



Miss W. WOODHEAD
(Amersham)



Miss C. WHEATON
(St. Albans)



Miss D. JORDAN
(London)

young hitters who blasted them off the table. The only answer I can find, as players and conditions were the same as last season, is that the lower net has given enough advantage to the attacking player to enable him to hit through the defensive type. The programme at the inter-city gave ample ties and matches to give the lower net a thorough trial.

THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND AND SURREY CHAMPIONSHIPS

By C. G. MILTON (Chairman, Surrey T.T.L.)

OUR plans are not yet complete, but the Leagues throughout the South and South-West are being asked what support may be expected in their areas. When replies are received centres will be appointed for groups to play off in close proximity to the home town of the competitors. They will then play off until the quarter finals, which will be played in Croydon. The number of entries will decide whether the finals of the South of England or the Surrey will be staged in the first or second-half of the week ending 20th March.

These championships will be the most important and valuable ever held in the South. Readers will remember the "Star" Tournament last season. The Directors of the "Star" have made the organisers the magnificent offer to allow the "Star" Challenge Trophies to be presented in this first South of England Championships. The ownership of the trophies will remain in the hands of the Directors but will be vested in us for the purpose of this tournament. Such wonderful trophies, to be held by the winners for one year, have never been offered before for competition under the auspices of the E.T.T.A. In addition, for the remaining events, the trade have given their wholehearted support, and we shall have the "Jaques" Challenge Trophy and the "Spalding" Challenge Trophy. The Committee of the Surrey Championships are very proud that they have a trophy for every event—the Men and Women Singles; Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles; and the Boys and Girls' Championships—and now we have a new Championship commencing its life with full equality to the Surrey, which is now in its third year.

It is appropriate and fitting that I should publicly acknowledge the generous action of the donors of these remarkable trophies, and in the name of those who will compete I say "Thank you for your support we shall give you a good show."

As organiser, I want to put in a personal word to those who are competing. My postbag is always heavy, and I anticipate it will be more so this season. Will you, therefore, help by sending your entries early?

If the South of England secures the support it deserves, we in Croydon will soon be competing with the National body in the size of the events we run.

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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

By L. E. FORREST

(The Editorial Board has been inundated with news of happenings in all districts. Lack of space prevents us dealing with each area, and with 155 Leagues it will be understood that it is impossible to report at length on matches of interest to all our readers. Our Provincial expert has run through the reports and hopes to mention all Leagues in turn in future issues.)

OXFORD.—From "strength to strength" seems the motto of this Association. Starting five years ago with only six or seven clubs, the membership has grown year by year. This year has brought more success, seven clubs in Division 1 of the Men's League and 13 in the second Division. The Association has now formed a Ladies' League and eight clubs are battling for honours. Sponsored by the "Oxford Mail," the Individual Championship shows no falling off in interest and large entries have been received.

CAMBRIDGE thoroughly enjoyed first exhibition. Players: Bergl, Brook, Proffitt and Stennett. Y.M.C.A. remain undefeated in Division 1, strongly challenged by college Servants and Wesley Fellowship. Exciting struggle for Division 2 supremacy goes on between Y.M.C.A. "B" and College Servants "B." In Inter-League matches we defeated Bury St. Edmunds 13-12, 14-11, Bedford 19-6, lost to Luton 11-14. Not a bad record for our first season.

SALISBURY.—The first-half of the League programme is completed. Y.M.C.A. "A" with maximum points lead Division 1. Y.M.C.A. "B" head Division 2, while Wilts and Dorset Motors and St. Martin's Church Club are fighting neck and neck for the Division 3 trophy—each club is unbeaten at the moment.

Championships are now in full swing. The First Round, which was completed on 9th January, did not produce any surprises, Richardson (St. Mark's) and Larkin and Richardson, the present holders of the Senior Singles and the Doubles Championships respectively, had easy passages into the Second Round.

CHESTER.—Our Inter-City encounter with Manchester resulted in an 8-1 sets win for the Mancunians. W. T. Moore notched only set at expense of N. Davis. Tit-bit was the event between Lurie and Devine, which former won 21-17, 21-19.

No change in League leadership, Y.M.C.A. still supreme. City Road Presbyterian and City fighting for second place Division 2, led by Reliance Works with margin of five points and match in hand. Five teams struggle for second place.

Liverpool.—Royal Liver retain unbeaten record, but lost valuable point to Young Israel. Clubmoor advancing. Margin of one point divides Thorndale from Athenian in Division 2, both teams unbeaten. Surprise side in the North is St. Simons and St. Judes, undefeated despite strong opposition. United lead South, Ballfield "A," East, while Lee's Tapestry remain supreme in the South. At Sheffield, our Men's team triumphed 10-0 sets. Party making trip to Wembley.

STOCKPORT.—Members of National League look ahead. F. Cromwell engaged to coach young players. Plans to form a schoolboy League. H. Airey holds record of having played in every representative match since formation of League.

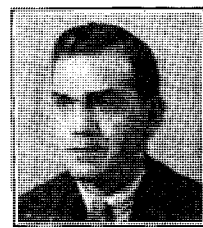
GRIMSBY players entering Open Tournaments, a new and popular feature. Thirty-nine "fans" visited Leeds, and were rewarded by Miss M. Piercey's feat in winning Women's Singles. Competition for places in Coronation Cup team very keen. Lincoln provide opposition on the 4th, Spalding 18th.

RHYL.—Our Women's team accounted for Chester Women to the extent of 10-0 sets. Miss C. Wadsworth in fine form. League Championship slowly resolving itself into something like final order expected. Church Club and Methodist have met and drawn. In turn these teams have defeated their closest rivals. Popular "Open Flintshire" will be held at the Pavilion 27th. Prospects of last season's record entry being broken.

London League

By E. A. VENNELL

The London League with 165 affiliated teams and over 1,700 registered players is having a successful season. The first-half of the League programme is now completed and Kingsway head the table in the First Division East, with Whitefields second. In the First Division West, Wimbledon and Croydon are putting up a keen fight. West Ealing, for the first time for many years, are not in the running. Manhattan are leading in the Second Division East and seem certain of promotion to the First Division. In the Second Division West, Kingston and St. Mary's head the table, each having lost a match. Acacia, City of London College "A," Crown Cork, King Edward, Kingsway "B," Paddington, Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. and the XXIV teams are undefeated in their respective sections.



E. A. VENNELL,
Secretary, London League

In the North, Lyndhurst lead with only one defeat, while in the North-East three teams are fighting for the leadership. Hendon and Watford have the same number of points in the North-West, and there is also a tie between Hoover and Lyons in the West Ealing Section. In the Ladies' North Section Kingsway are top, Wimbledon just hold the leadership in the Central Section, and West Ealing are undefeated in the West.

Over 300 entries were received for the closed tournaments. Marshall, Sears, Bubley and Filby are possible semi-finalists. A surprising win in the First Round was that of Hens (Whitefields) over A. D. Brook. In the Doubles we may see Joyce and Sears opposing Marshall and Rogers in the Final. Miss W. Woodhead (champion for four seasons) is defending. Stiff opposition is provided by Mrs. Booker, Miss Jordan, and others.

Fifty-one teams are competing in the Men's Knock-out, the League's "Cup Tie." It is too early to forecast, but West Ealing will strive to regain the Cup which they lost to the Indian Students last season after holding it for five seasons. The League side (Bubley, Joyce and Sears) easily defeated the Film Renters in the Wilmott Cup. North Middlesex was also beaten 6-1, and we shall probably meet Bristol in the Semi-Final.

Civil Service Championships

These were played at the Lucania Hall, London, the eliminating rounds taking a fortnight to conclude. The results were: Men's Singles, W. Stennett; Women's Singles, Miss D. Jordan; Men's Doubles, Stennett and Steel; Women's, Miss Bromfield and Miss D. L. Emdin; Mixed, Martin and Miss P. Nelson; Veterans' Singles, A. J. Wilmott.

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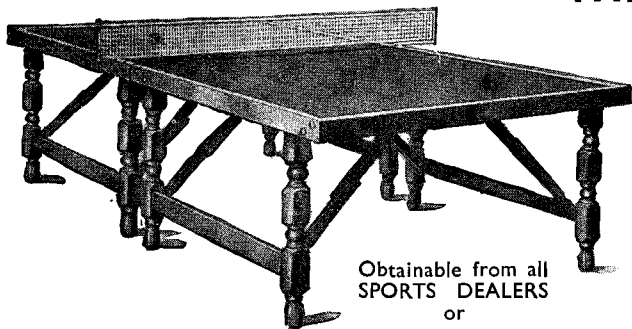
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The Wilmott Cup

THE most keenly contested first round ties were played at Ashton and Salisbury, where Stockport and Bournemouth triumphed respectively by the odd set in nine.

Salisbury were best served by Roper, who not only registered two of his League's four sets but was beaten by the narrowest of margins in his third set by Tucker—21-23, 22-24.

Ashton opened in a promising fashion by taking a 3-1 lead over Stockport who, however, fought back to draw level at 3 all. In the final and deciding set, H. Airey defeated the veteran Salthouse to give Stockport the match.

In a preliminary round tie Leeds, at home, scored a comfortable maximum sets win over Grimsby, only to be beaten in turn at Sunderland to the tune of 7-2.

The home Midland Leagues—Birmingham and Cambridge—each recorded 9-0 victories over Leicester and Bedford.

In a London zone preliminary tie the North Middlesex trio—Stennett, Carrington and Holmes—succeeded at Wembley with a margin of 5 sets. The loser's points were notched by Mackie who succeeded over Stennett, 14-21, 21-14, 21-9, and at the expense of Carrington, 21-16, 21-12. Mackie failed to Holmes, 12-21, 18-21.

In Round 1, Eastbourne having forfeited their right of table advantage, travelled to North Middlesex where they failed to register a set.

Two new Leagues—Film Renters and Farnham—put up plucky displays against formidable opponents in London and Surrey.

Complete Round 1 results are as follows:—

LANCASHIRE EAST.—Bacup 2, Ribblesdale 7; Reddish 0, Manchester (holders) 9; Ashton 4, Stockport 5.

LANCASHIRE WEST.—Blackpool gave Liverpool w.o.; Southport v. Chester: Southport scratched through default.

MIDLANDS.—Birmingham 9, Leicester 0; Cambridge 9, Bedford 0.

YORKSHIRE.—Huddersfield 7, Sheffield 1; Leeds 9, Grimsby 0; Sunderland 7, Leeds 2.

WEST.—Bath 1, Bristol 8; Salisbury 4, Bournemouth 5.

LONDON.—Film Renters 0, London 9; Wembley 2, North Middlesex 7; North Middlesex 7; North Middles 9, Eastbourne 0.

EAST LONDON.—Woolwich 0, South London 6; Barking 8, Chelmsford 1.

HOME COUNTIES.—Surrey 9, Farnham 9; Uxbridge 5, Slough 3.

Tit-bits of the second round draw were the London Zone clash between North Middlesex and London, and the Northern pairing of Huddersfield and Sunderland.

LATE NEWS

Round 2 Results:—

CHESTER	0	LIVERPOOL.....	9
CAMBRIDGE	0	BIRMINGHAM	9
BOURNEMOUTH	2	BRISTOL	7
NORTH MIDDLESEX 1		LONDON	6
BARKING	2	S. LONDON	5
UXBRIDGE	1	SURREY	8

World Ranking

Formerly U.S.A. Champion, and now one of the most active officials in the U.S.A. T.T.A., Mr. Coleman Clark has issued a world ranking list. Here it is:—

1. Sandra Kolar ... Czecho-Slovakia
2. Ehrlich Poland
3. Bergmann Austria
4. Haguenaer France
5. Szabados Hungary
6. Bellak Hungary
7. Barna Hungary
8. Haydon England
9. Liebster..... Austria
10. Marin..... Rumania

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GONGING THE CHISELLER

Adrian Haydon arranged an exhibition at a new Fire Station in Birmingham. Players arrived. Wonderful hall, packed with firemen, all in uniform. Very enthusiastic until two of the players went on. Rather dull play up to 8 points all. Suddenly, loud bell rings out all over station—the fire bell. In two seconds, the hall deserted and players were left by themselves at table. The T.T. officials were amazed to watch how quickly the firemen got down those poles to their engines. Players, however, thought they had been "gonged" for unenterprising play!

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Hints for the Beginner

By H. H. BRIDGE

FIRST-CLASS Table Tennis to-day is definitely a game for the trained athlete. If it is seen when being learned it appears to be a parlour pastime, but one has only to see a first-class club match and this illusion will rapidly vanish. A beginner should first of all realise that he must dress properly for the game. No football, tennis, or cricket player would play in his ordinary clothes, and the practice of changing should be followed from the start. Grey "bottoms" with dark coloured sports shirt of single colour and rubber shoes are, of course, now regulation. The question of skirts, shorts, or trousers for women players is still a controversial question, and it is left to personal preference.

The selection of the racquet is not important for the beginner, providing it is one of the standard type now sold by all sports firms advertised in this issue. The grip is vital. Don't use the "penholder," don't use a "freak" grip, however easy and natural it seems to you at the start. Watch the first-class players in any match or tournament, and whilst there might be slight variation in the actual position of the fingers, the general practice of every first-class player will serve you as a model.

When joining a club the playing conditions should be studied. Do not join a club with little run-back or bad lighting. Try to join a club with first-class players, and if you do not play with them at first you can watch them to advantage.

THE SERVICE.—The service at Table Tennis is rather different in its object from that at Lawn Tennis. It is not a winning force, and its primary object is to put the ball into play, if possible, with an advantage to the server. Very few first-class players have a tricky service, but they have many variations. The beginner should practice a serve fast and diagonally, shallow over the net, imparting "top-spin," and taking advantage of the whole of the table. The body should be turned slightly side-ways, the racquet hand being further away from the table. The forehand face of the racquet should be downward making an angle of 30 degrees to the horizontal plane. The stroke is commenced about 6 inches above table-level and about 12 inches behind the body. The racquet is brought sharply forward, rising slightly until it makes contact with the ball just behind the baseline of the table. Do not finish your stroke there but follow the maxim of almost every other ball game—**follow through**. The ball should have a certain amount of top-spin, but you should strike the happy medium between the flat hit and the spin. If you get spin, speed is sacrificed. For the same service from the back-hand court, the fundamentals are the same except that the back-hand face of the racquet is used. Slightly turn the body so that the racquet arm is nearer the net and across the body. The ball is then dropped from the free hand and at the same time the racquet is brought sharply forward with an upward motion as in the forehand. The reverse of these services is the "chop," the difference being, of course, that the ball is underspun. The racquet should be held above the ball, is brought sharply downwards you follow through just the same.

BIRMINGHAM

Adrian Haydon was in his best form for many years when he won the Men's Singles title at the recent Midland championships. His hitting was as accurate as it has ever been—no scraping the net and going off the end of the table—and in the final against Proffitt he caught the Londoner time and again with perfect drop-shots. There were long hitting and defensive rallies between Proffitt and Haydon in the final—the best ever seen in the Midland Championships. Both players were physically exhausted at the finish. Haydon's form was so extraordinary that it is generally reckoned locally, at least, that he should do as well as he has ever done in the World and English Championships.

Margaret Osborne laid that bogey of hers and carried off the Women's Singles title very easily; she also won the Women's Doubles, with Mrs. Hutchings, and the Mixed, with Haydon.

Non-Swaythling Lurie almost pipped Haydon in Semi-Final, incidentally, leading 20—19 in second game with one game up.

Brook beat Cromwell fairly easily, and then Lurie whipped Brook.

Midget T. Lisle, Welsh international, fought back and beat an unusual, dejected Marshall.

Whole city looks forward to international match between England and U.S.A. on 15th February, the Monday following the English Championships, at the Central Hall (2,000 accommodation). International match will be preceded by Finals of Annual "Evening Despatch" Men's and Women's Knock-Out tourney. R. F. W. Wyse, local player, journalist, will do running commentary for B.B.C., preceded by introductory talk by A. A. Haydon.

The "Despatch" tourney is now narrowed down (from entry of over 500) to 64 men and eight women, who will play down to Semi-Finals on 10th February. There is wonderful interest in this competition with entrants from Craven Arms, Evesham, Coventry, Walsall, West Bromwich, Stourbridge and other small towns within 50 miles.

"A Rose by any other name . . ."

Following the naming of a card hall in Germany, "Palais de Whist," an amusement alley called itself the "Playdium." Not to be outdone, a Table Tennis Club has now been formed under the name "Ping-Pongonia."

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BRISTOL.

Salisbury began well in Section "A" with a victory at Bath by 6 events to 5, but came "unstuck" at Bristol, where the home side won by 7 events to 1.

Cardiff, visiting Newport, won by 9 events to 4 in Section "B," every match but one going to three games.

Dawes, now in last eight of the League, "World" and "Post" Singles, is "favourite" for each, and has also reached the semi-final of the "World" Doubles and final of the "Post" Doubles.

Success at Bournemouth has put Bristol in the last eight of the Wilmott Cup.

Two only of Bristol's 60 league clubs are now unbeaten.

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CORRESPONDENCE

16th January, 1937.

DEAR SIR,—I was at the West of England Area Trial, held at Exeter on the 9th January.

Twelve players took part and were divided into three groups.

Ultimately the choice rested between Silto, Grigg, Litten and Dawes, all of whom had lost 1 set each. To have completed the system of play amongst these four only three additional sets were necessary, namely, Dawes v. Litten, Litten v. Silto, Silto v. Grigg.

The selector decided, however, to close the play and nominated Silto and Litten (both tennis-grip exponents), who, in his opinion, were possessed of best style and strokes, before, in my opinion, such points had become deciding factors. Grigg and Dawes were exponents of pen-push grip.

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