

# Table

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

# Tennis

Vol. II. No. 6.

MARCH, 1937

ONE PENNY

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS HALL

## The National Championships, London, 1937

By W. J. POPE

THE National Championships are over. A hectic three days for all concerned, officials and organisers, stewards, umpires and players. But a great triumph and a feast of super Table Tennis for all "fans" culminating at the Wembley Pool where grand finals were played before a huge and appreciative audience.

The preliminary rounds at the Paddington Baths attracted large crowds at each session, morning, afternoon and evening. Six tables were used continually. Referee Rose saw to it that no time was wasted and the timetable, arranged beforehand, was adhered to without a hitch. A "Wimbledon" standard was certainly reached on this occasion.

\* \* \*

Wednesday, 10th February, saw an invasion of London by the foreign "stars" fresh from their triumphs at Baden, or thirsting for revenge for defeats sustained there. The U.S.A. teams, nine members in all with their captain, the three "Hungarian Musketeers" with their compatriots Boros, Kelen, Ferenczy; Kolar and Kettnerova from Czecho, Liebster from Austria, Krebsbach from Germany, Ehrlich from Poland—all glad to be in London and eager for the fray. The Americans cock-a-hoop—now holders of the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups—what a marvellous performance for players unknown in world games so late as 1935—Barna despondent but determined to re-establish himself in English eyes, the dour Ehrlich, "what we have we hold" expression in his eyes; Bellak hoping to visit America as English Champion; a large French contingent of "unknowns" frankly come to learn; and our own Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams, tired but "home again"—how they enjoyed that first cup of tea! The sorting 'em all out for their various hotels was some job.

\* \* \*

Thursday, at 2-30 p.m. prompt, saw the start, and play was continuous until the adjournment to Wembley at 5 p.m. on the Saturday. The first sensation was the easy defeat of Haydon by Boros and Marshall by Ehrlich, three straight, and the calibre of the Americans was soon seen when each player got through the first day without defeat. Another surprise was the defeat of Kelen by the young London player Baron, who was again to distinguish himself the following day when, with H. Jones, a "penholder grip" player, they beat the World Champions McClure and Blattner

to reach the Semi-Finals of the Doubles. There were no other surprises on the first day, but beginning on the following morning heads began to fall. In the Men's Singles Kolar to Liebster, Proffitt to Blattner, Szabados to Ehrlich, Schiff to Barna, Brook to Bellak, Bublely to Ehrlich, Lurie to McClure. Then Liebster fell to Barna, Sears to Boros, Blattner to Bellak and Ehrlich to McClure, the two latter games being Table Tennis at its very best. Then we were down to the Semi-Finals and the names for Wembley—Barna v. Boros and Bellak v. McClure. In the Men's Doubles Schiff and Berenbaum beat Kolar and Liebster, Kelen and Lurie beat Marshall and Haydon, and then Baron and Jones, the heroes of the previous round, went down to the Manchester boy and the Hungarian. Bergl and Ehrlich had already lost to McClure and Blattner, and Hyde was unfortunate, being without a partner owing to Millar's illness. Proffitt, playing with a young partner, Rosen, lost to Bellak and Szabados in a hard fight.

\* \* \*

In the Women's Singles Thursday's games had gone "according to the book." On Friday Miss Kettnerova beat Mrs. Booker; Miss Woodhead went down to the American, Miss Fuller, in three straight; Miss Aarons beat Miss Wheaton three straight, following this up with a victory over Miss Krebsbach, and a surprise, Miss Jordan beat Miss Fuller,

the conqueror of Miss Woodhead. Miss Osborne was now in the Semi-Final, having beaten Mrs. Roy Evans, Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Steventon. On the Saturday, however, she lost to Miss Kettnerova three straight and the chance of an English woman at Wembley faded away. Mrs. Hutchings put up an unexpectedly hard fight against Miss Aarons and only lost in the fifth game.

In the Women's Doubles the finals were played on the Friday, Miss Osborne and Miss Woodhead (having beaten Miss Kettnerova and Mrs. Booker), and Miss Aarons and Miss Purves (having beaten Miss Krebsbach and Miss Dora Emdin). After a very keen struggle which attracted all the gallery, the English pair defeated the Americans, thus winning our only title—the score being 16—21, 21—13, 21—19, 21—18. In the Mixed Mrs. Kuenz and McClure, by virtue of victories over Miss Delay (France) and Bublely, and Miss Osborne and Barna; and Miss Aarons and McClure by victories over Miss Wheaton and Haydon, and Miss Kettnerova and Kolar earned the right to play at Wembley.

In the Veterans, the old London stalwart Arthur Melnick scored a fine victory ("up the Old Vics."), and in the Juniors the fight was between two Northerners, Ken Stanley of Manchester who beat E. J. Rumjahn of Liverpool, in a match which was broadcast by the B.B.C.

The great crowd at Wembley were presented with a wonderful programme. In the Men's Semi-Finals a stirring match

(Continued on page 2, cols. 1 and 2)

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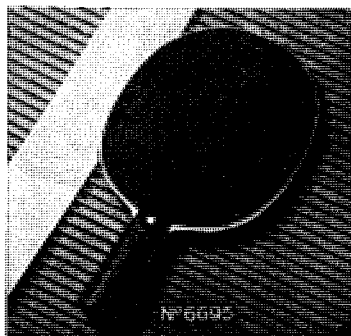
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Published monthly, October-May, by the  
EDITORIAL BOARD, E.T.T.A.  
64, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

'Phone: Hol 9544.

Hon. Magazine Secretary:  
W. C. CHARLTON

Circulation:

Miss R. SMITS  
Miss G. CAPPER

**Rates of Subscription—**

1 Copy of each issue (post free), 1s.  
4 Copies of each issue (post free), 3s.  
Quantities at rate of 3s. for 4 copies  
Back numbers sent if available.

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

(Continued from page 1)

between Barna and Boros was won by the former, but only after a stiff fight which went to the fifth game. Very exciting, very brilliant and a fine opening. Bellak and McClure was not quite so good, the Hungarian not being at his best and minus his usual fighting spirit. He won the second game and then had shot his bolt, and Jimmy made no mistake in the next two.

\* \* \*

Then came the Women's Singles, which will be the talk of the Table Tennis world for some time to come. Miss Kettnerova hitting brilliantly, and in spite of Miss Aarons superb defence took the first two games and went to 18—14 in the third—3 points for victory! Apparently exhausted by her previous efforts she slackened; Miss Aarons made her effort and won this, and one could see that the result was a foregone conclusion. In the fourth and fifth there was a repetition of the tremendous hitting by the Czech, but she broke down eventually in the long rallies. Instead of, as in the first two games, an untakeable smash to finish the rally, the final stroke generally went into the net or off the table end. How everyone sighed for a good "drop-shot," and how her lack of this shot illuminated Kettnerova's weakness! Miss Aarons stuck to her defensive game to the end and won point after point, not by her enterprise, but by the mistakes of her opponent. The U.S.A. player must be congratulated upon her tactics, she played the right game under the circumstances, and was a worthy winner, but the sympathies of the crowd were with the fighting Kettnerova, and she received a great ovation at the end. The score was 18—21, 19—21, 21—19, 21—16, 21—15.

\* \* \*

In the Men's Singles Barna was his old self, and his victory was very popular with the crowd, with whom he is a great favourite. Jimmy McClure put up a plucky fight, his defence was superb and he never lost a chance to hit back. Whilst Victor won in the fourth, the issue was in doubt until the last point. The final score was 21—18, 17—21, 21—14, 21—18. After the drama of the two sensational Singles the Doubles, whilst they were full of brilliant Table Tennis, did not enthuse the crowd. They were both won in three straight and the element of doubt and the tension of the other games was lacking. In the Men's Schiff and Berenbaum beat Lurie and Kelen, 21—18, 21—18, 21—13, and in the Mixed Miss Aarons and Blattner beat Mrs. Kuenz and

McClure in an all-American affair, 21—10, 21—17, 21—12.



**Miss RUTH AARONS**  
receiving the Singles Cup from Mr. H. Oldroyd at Wembley, Miss Kettnerova is also in the picture



**JIMMY McCLURE & VICTOR BARNÁ**  
shaking hands before the Final at Wembley

Thus came to an end another English Championship and another milestone on the road of development. The Press gave great assistance, as did the Authorities housing the events; and amongst the officials who must be congratulated on their work special mention should be made of Mr. J. M. Rose, the most efficient Referee; Mr. and Mrs. Hills, Umpires; Vennell and Ralph Ermdin, Stewards; Allen Rowlandson, Press; Miss Hamburger, Charlton and Diment, Hospitality; Wilson, Assistant Referee; Mr. and Mrs. Poupard, Tickets; and last but certainly not least, G. W. Decker, Equipment.

**THE LONDON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

By W. STENNETT

E. Bubleby, London's latest International, won his first major tournament when he defeated S. Coles in the Final of the London Open Championships, 21—19, 21—15, 22—20. Bubleby, who did not drop a game throughout the Tournament, was never really worried, though his task was facilitated by the fact that Coles abandoning, to the relief of the spectators, his earlier extreme defensive methods, attacked throughout, his flat forehand drive lacking that accuracy necessary to pass Bubleby's fine half-volley defence.

The earlier rounds had seen the elimination of last year's holder, G. W. Marshall, by Eric Filby, in one of the brightest games of the evening. Filby, after a fine win over Rogers eventually fell before the steadiness of Cole's defence. Lack of success among the attacking players may in some measure be accounted for by the playing conditions which, while a great improvement upon last year, still favoured the defensive game.

In the Ladies' Singles, Miss C. Wheaton, of St. Albans, won the event for the second time by defeating Miss D. Jordan in the Final, 21—17, 21—15. In the Semi-Final she had an easy victory over Miss Woodhead, who seemed to be below her usual form. Miss Jordan had earlier defeated the holder, Miss Osborne, in straight games.

The Men's Doubles provided another title for Contractor and Joyce, Rogers and Filby winning only one game. Filby, however, found some consolation in winning the Mixed Doubles with Miss Woodhead.

The Ladies' Doubles provided a surprise win for a new partnership in Miss Jordan and Mrs. Holt, over Miss Woodhead and Miss D. M. Emdin.

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# The World Championships at Baden

By HON. IVOR MONTAGU

TO the majority of our readers the holding of the English Championships has quite overshadowed that of the World Championships which were held at Baden the week before. The position of England in these events, however, are of the most vital importance to the game, and the fact that our teams were not able to improve their positions, and that in the Singles and Doubles events our players generally were defeated easily, must compel the Association to give serious consideration to the whole question of our representation, and to raise sharply the question of our representation, and the question of our methods in producing teams.

The one bright spot in the results was the success of Miss Osborne and Miss Woodhead in reaching the Final of the Women's Doubles. Although they were there defeated easily, it is something in these days to see the names of English players in the last rounds of any events, and these players must be congratulated on the fight they put up. Mrs. Hutchings went further than any other English player in the Singles, reaching the Quarter Finals, to be defeated in three straight by Miss Kettnerova.

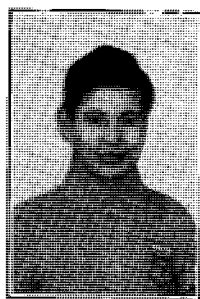
Having mentioned these two achievements, it is difficult to find in any detail of the games the slightest ground for hope for the future. Adrian Haydon was, for the first time in these events, a failure. For years he had been our No. 1, always to be depended upon to pull that "little extra out of the bag," but whether it was the cares of captaincy, or that he has passed his prime, time alone will tell. Miss Osborne, apart from her victory over Kettnerova in the Corbillon, and her great effort in the Doubles, was not the player we had hoped—she has again disappointed her friends who still thought she had it in her to win the Singles—spite of Ruth Aarons and the rest.

In the Swaythling Cup we finished 7th out of 13—exactly central. In the Corbillon Cup we were 5th of 9—again exactly central. Hungary and U.S.A. tied with 11 wins each and in the play off U.S.A. won by 5½ to 3½. At the score 4—3 to the U.S.A. McClure and Soos were scratched after one hour and then Schiff beat Barna. During the team matches Bellak was ill, with the result that Barna had to play in nearly all matches—a great strain—and this was doubtless the cause of the collapse of Hungary

against Austria 0—5. Czecho was third, Austria and Poland fourth and fifth—Belgium and Egypt were last with one win each.

In the Corbillon Cup U.S.A. won with eight wins—they only dropped one game each in the matches against Germany, Czecho and England. A very great performance by the Americans—Miss Ruth Aarons, the outstanding player, and the rest giving very adequate support. Hungary was last but one with one win, and Belgium last with none.

In the Singles Haydon went out to Szabados (0—3), Proffitt to Blattner (0—3), Hyde in the first round to Pivetz. Bergl went out to old Flussmann of Austria, who will be remembered by some as not being



M. BERGMANN  
(Austria)

World Champion, 1936-37

young even when he took part in the first World Championships at the Memorial Hall in 1926. Millar went to Hamr (1—3). In the Women's, Wheaton out in the first round (2—3) to a Rumanian; Woodhead in the third to Bussmann (0—3). Osborne and Jordan lost in the second round to Aarons and Sips respectively. In getting to the quarter finals Mrs. Hutchings disposed of Mrs. Wildam and Kleinova. In the Men's Doubles Proffitt and Hyde went out to an Egyptian pair, and Haydon and Millar ran McClure and Blattner to 5 games—all being close. In the Mixed Proffitt and Jordan lost to Kolar and Kettnerova, and Bergl and Mrs. Hutchings, after surviving three rounds, lost to Berenbaum and Fuller. In the Women's Wheaton and Jordan beat Mednyanszky and Sips before going out to the eventual winners, and Mrs. Hutchings, with a scratch partner, got to the semi-finals.

Full results were :—

**Men's Singles.**—Quarter Finals: Soos (H.) beat Blattner (U.S.A.), 3—2; Ehrlich (P.) beat Hazi (H.), 3—1; Bergmann (A.) beat Finkelstein (P.), 3—0; Hartinger (A.) beat Vana (C.), 3—2. Semi-Finals: Ehrlich beat Soos, 3—0; Bergmann beat Hartinger, 3—2. Final: Bergmann beat Ehrlich, 19—21, 25—23, 19—21, 21—14, 21—17.

**Men's Doubles.**—Semi-Finals: Bergmann and Goebel (A.) beat Tereba and Slar (C.), 3—0; Blattner and McClure (U.S.A.) beat Hamr and Pivetz (C.), 3—2. Final: Blattner and McClure beat Bergmann and Goebel, 3—2.

**Women's Singles.**—Quarter Finals: Aarons (U.S.A.) beat Hobohm (G.), 3—1 (ret.); Kettnerova (C.) beat Hutchings (E.), 3—0; Bussmann (G.) beat Depetrisova (C.); Pritzi (A.) beat Votrubeova (C.), 3—1. Semi-Finals: Aarons beat Kettnerova, 3—2; Pritzi beat Bussmann. Finals: Players scratched after 1 hour 45 minutes (score 1—1, 19—16 to Pritzi). Title vacant.

**Women's Doubles.**—Semi-Finals: Depetrisova and Votrubeova (C.) beat Hutchings (E.) and Werle (A.); Osborne and Woodhead (E.) beat Kettnerova (C.) and Schults (G.). Final: Depetrisova and Votrubeova beat Osborne and Woodhead, 3—0.

**Mixed Doubles.**—Semi-Finals: Eros and Dr. Adelstein (R.) beat Kolar and Kettnerova (C.); Vana and Votrubeova (C.) beat Berenbaum and Fuller (U.S.A.). Final: Vana and Votrubeova beat Kolar and Kettnerova, 3—0.

**Minor Singles.**—Finals: Boros (H.) beat Till (H.).

## MY IMPRESSION OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

By ALRED LIEBSTER.

Baden, a nice town near Vienna, was the place for the World Championships, 1937. It was not the usual life there; you saw players of all countries, in Table Tennis dress, walking in the streets, and the Baden people standing and looking at them.

But to speak about Table Tennis.

I take the best six teams, and they were: U.S.A., Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Austria and England.

Hungary played very well till the last day. I think, and I am sure, it was too much for their nerves after their losing against Austria. U.S.A., on the contrary, the more they played, the better they played.

Czecho-Slovakia is a really good team. They have good, young players, and they can improve, I suppose.

Poland will be in earnest next year for the Swaythling Cup. Besides Ehrlich they have two really good players.

Austria, I think, providing they had had a better start, would have had a good chance of holding the title. Bergmann, the new world champion, has no nerves, marvellous defence; a small, young boy, aged 18. If he can improve his attack I cannot see him losing the Singles title.

Last, but not least, the English team.

It is difficult for me to write in an English paper about the English players. They were unlucky this year, but here in England, I saw a lot of players, young ones, and mixed with the routined ones, it really will be a good team.

In the Men's Singles the biggest surprise for me was Ehrlich. I saw him the first time losing against a "Pusher," and I never thought he would lose, especially in the final, against one of that kind. I am afraid he will take the part of the famous unlucky players, such as Bellak, who never won a world title. Barna had exciting matches in the Swaythling Cup. Szabados lost quietly against a Polish player, but I hope, next year, he will be the old Szabados we have in remembrance.

Ruth Aarons did not lose one match, but could not win in time against her rival, Pritzi. Pritzi is a similar kind to Bergmann, is but 17.

In conclusion, I am glad that the E.T.T.A. are to hold the Championships next year, because everyone can be sure to find good conditions, good organisation, and—I don't say too much, it's my experience—the most sporting spectators in the world.



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## The Truth about Prague - By GILBERT MARSHALL

MR. MONTAGU'S latest article on the Prague Championships, in company with his earlier ones, bears evidence of that hysteria of which he accuses others. I must first call attention to the fact that Mr. Montagu had returned to England when the majority of the "incidents" occurred, and is therefore not in a position to criticise.

Secondly, I am at a loss to understand his sympathy for the Czech officials. Any "loss of cash and prestige" which they suffered through the pushing epidemic was the direct result of their own bad organisation and the soft tables which rendered the attacker's task an impossible one against players who took advantage of the conditions and exploited their natural "chiselling" abilities to the full.

Mr. Montagu omits to mention that whilst visiting players were playing Swaythling Cup matches on the six bad tables, the Czech teams were using the only Jaques (a top, at that) for practice. This was a regular occurrence. In the Singles Championships, the three leading Czech male players, and the two leading women players, played all their matches on the Jaques table; visitors were compelled to watch this procession whilst struggling to play on the other abominations.

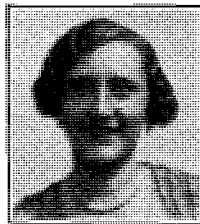
At this juncture I ask to be excused a personal note. Mr. Montagu makes an indirect, and impolite reference to myself, namely, "one individual who had to play on a bad table claimed by his opponent as a result of quite fair toss." The match referred to is the Quarter-Final between Ehrlich and myself. I have never disputed the fairness of the toss, but would point out that I was not a party to it. I contended then, and I contend now, that it was ridiculous for a match of such importance to be played on a table other than the show one, the Jaques. All the other Quarter-Finals were played on the Jaques, and I saw no reason why I should have to face an insurmountable handicap against a defensive player of Ehrlich's calibre. The matter was referred to the Jury, and without consulting me they tossed and I lost. They are the facts. It was noticeable that the Czechs did not permit Ehrlich to play the Final against Kolar on a bad table.

Mr. Montagu's remarks re the Vana incident are comparatively sane, but his comments on the Dubouille racquet affair are absurd. Dubouille's racquet "disappeared" immediately before he was due to play Vana, not, as Mr. Montagu alleges, before he was due to play an earlier match. In point of fact, Dubouille had decisively beaten Liebster in the round before he met Vana, and the combination of circumstances look a little peculiar, to say the least. A comparison of this affair with the Hales incident at the London Congress is out of the question, in London,

on the Centre Court (where Hales lost his racquet), one did not have spectators wandering round as though they were in Hampton Court Maze, nor waiters carrying beer, nor stewards with not the slightest idea of keeping the crowd in order. Regarding the question of a reserve racquet Mr. Montagu, having no idea of the practical side of Table Tennis, is apparently unaware that almost every first-class player relies on an old and trusty racquet to which he has become accustomed over a period of years, and that a sudden change, even to a reserve racquet, is a great handicap.



Mr. E. F. TASSELL who has been compelled to resign the Secretaryship of the Civil Service T.T.A. owing to illness



Miss L. AUSTIN (Secretary South London League)

Mr. Montagu omits to mention the somewhat peculiar incident in the match between Kolar and another Czech—I believe Novak. Kolar was losing at 16—10 in the fifth game, his opponent having defended magnificently throughout (on the Jaques table). At this juncture, Novak becomes a whirlwind attacker with no sense of direction and singular lack of judgment. Result, Kolar wins.

### H.M. THE QUEEN AND TABLE TENNIS

On Thursday, 18th February, the Royal Family visited the Sports and Games Section of the British Industries Fair at Olympia.

H.M. The Queen spent some time on the stall of Messrs. John Jaques and Son Limited, showing very great interest in the modern Table Tennis equipment manufactured by the firm, eventually purchasing one of the popular Jaques Sets.

A Table Tennis demonstration was taking place on Jaques stall when Her Majesty arrived, and she was thus able to witness a match between those well known players Mr. A. A. Haydon, the English International, and Mr. I. Kelen, of Hungary.

Her Majesty The Queen took a very keen interest in the play, and during the course of her conversation with Mr. Jaques, she remarked on its present-day popularity, and the wonderful manner in which the public had supported the Finals of the English Open Championships at Wembley.

### SUSSEX OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

By A. K. VINT

The ninth annual Sussex Open Championships held at Hastings on the 20th and 21st February drew over 300 entries for the various competitions. It is pleasing to note that in the Minor competitions two local players reached the Finals, the Men's Minor being won by H. J. Oakley (Hastings) and the Women's Minor by Miss F. E. Mullord (Hastings). A unique feature of this Tournament is the annual supper which follows immediately at the conclusion of the first day's play—the players and officials being the guests of the Hastings Corporation. This year Councillor W. H. Raby (President of the local Association), Mrs. Raby and Councillor A. Goldman welcomed the visitors, and Councillor Goldman who welcomed the guests on behalf of the Corporation said that for a number of years the Corporation had been alive to the fact that it was necessary not only to cater for the old but to cater for youth. Councillor Goldman said he had been a follower of the game for 20 years, and commented on the difference in the technique of the game as played to-day, and played 20 years ago with one hand on the table, saying that this difference called for a state of physical fitness that was all for the good.

#### RESULTS.

**Men's Singles.**—Semi-Finals: Kelen (Hungary) beat J. Rogers (London), 21—10, 21—9; E. J. Filby (London) beat L. Baron (London), 21—11, 21—19. Final: Kelen beat Filby, 23—21, 21—15, 21—18.

**Women's Singles.**—Semi-Finals: Mrs. L. Booker (London) beat Miss N. Tansley (Brighton), 21—9, 21—6; Miss E. Finch (London) beat Miss L. Mine (London), 21—13, 21—16. Final: Mrs. Booker beat Miss Finch, 21—14, 21—9.

**Men's Minor Singles.**—Final: J. Oakley (Brighton) beat S. W. Moore (Brighton), 21—17, 21—22—20.

**Women's Minor Singles.**—Final: Miss Mullord (Hastings) beat Miss Hadlow (Brighton), 21—9, 21—8.

**Men's Doubles.**—Final: Rogers and Filby beat Kelen and Russell, 21—18, 21—14.

**Women's Doubles.**—Final: Mrs. Booker and Miss Finch beat Mrs. Ward and Miss Ward, 21—18, 21—9.

**Mixed Doubles.**—Final: Filby and Mrs. Booker beat Rogers and Miss Finch, 21—15, 22—20.

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The outstanding feature of the Railways Athletic Association Championships held in London, was the brilliant play of J. Silto who was mainly responsible for Swindon representatives carrying off all events. Silto, playing at the top of his form was never extended, although some good players took part. Silto beat the holder, J. C. Lamb of G.W.R., London, 21—6, 21—18, 21—10.

**Men's Doubles.**—J. Silto and F. Jefferies (Swindon) beat the holders J. C. Lamb and G. Turner in straight games.

**Women's Singles.**—Miss C. Jones (Swindon) beat Miss East (L.M.S.R., London), 21—13, 21—13.

**Mixed Doubles.**—J. Silto and Miss C. Jones beat F. A. Webster and Miss P. Harley in straight games.

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# Do You Remember ?

By NANCY DEBENHAM

**D**O you remember 13th February ? If you are a real Table Tennis "fan" will you ever forget it ? Wembley. Closely-packed thousands of spectators, many carrying in their pockets return tickets to Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, a dozen other centres of the game, all in London to watch the Finalists in the English Open Championships.

The green table, looking from the top of the gallery no bigger than a postage stamp. The tiny, agile figures, dancing and leaping in the radiance of the arc lights. The thousands cheering.

Remember it, indeed !

Gallant Bellak, in his striped jumper, is at his wittiest and friskiest, but in the Semi-Final he is not quite grim enough for the very-much-in-earnest American, Jimmie McClure. Jimmie means business. He attacks from each corner and does the Tilden stuff on the table, sending over a well-placed forehand hit then following it with some in-fighting. Bellak is honorably beaten and smiles his congratulations.

Barna and Boros ! Friends in Hungary, rivals at Wembley, but there is one person more delighted at Barna's victory than Barna himself. It is Boros. Barna's "flick" is in evidence. The girl "fans" murmur "Isn't he handsome." The boys shout "Well done. He's a wizard."

But Barna's wizardry is at its height in the Final. McClure, who seemed so skilful in the Semi-Final, is forced back and back, leaping and chasing that little celluloid ball which, from Barna's bat, seems bewitched.

The girls ? They, too, provide their quota of thrills.

Battle between blonde Ruth Aarons of America and brunette Kettnerova of Czechoslovakia. Drama ! In the third game Kettnerova seems to falter. She is murmuring something and Ruth stops and crosses to the Umpire. Kettnerova follows. Tommy Sears, in the Umpire's chair, looks worried and consults the Referee. There is a general head-shaking. The girls want a rest, but the officials say "No." "I cannot go on. I cannot go on" whispers the exhausted Kettnerova as the American continues her merciless game. Ruth has become a tennis robot. The staccato note of ball on table continues, magnified by the microphone, until even the spectators are dazed and hypnotised.

It is over. Ruth is English Open Champion. She stands on the rostrum with her arm round her opponent's shoulders.

But Barna is the hero of the evening. His gallant come-back, after having lost his English Open title the year before. After cynics had said "Barna is finished. He is a veteran, worn out at 26." His dazzlingly accurate and skilful game in that Final is the point we shall all remember longest, when we think of that evening of 13th Feb.

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Member of Executive Committee and Chairman  
Manchester Women's League

### ENGLAND v. IRISH FREE STATE.

The Eighth International Match between England and the Irish Free State takes place at the Orrell Club, Bootle, Liverpool, on 6th March. England have won all previous encounters. This is the third time we welcome the Free State team, and on each occasion Liverpool has been the venue. Keen interest has been aroused, and the Orrell Club will hold a Dance following the match.

The teams are as follows :—

**England.**—T. Ewbank, Capt. (Sunderland), W. Atkinson (Leeds), P. U. Rumjahn (Liverpool) and L. Cohen (Manchester); Mrs. Hutchings (Watford), Miss D. Newey (Birmingham). In Men's Doubles, Ewbank partners E. Reay (Sunderland), and J. K. Hyde plays with his brother, E. W. Hyde. New internationals are W. Atkinson, L. Cohen and 18 years old Peter Rumjahn, now ranked No. 2 in Liverpool.

**Irish Free State.**—C. A. Kemp, G. Hussey, D. L. Hennessey, and H. Carlile; Miss T. Whelan and Miss E. Yeates.

### MY IMPRESSION OF THE ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS.

By VICTOR BARNA.

This is the fifth occasion that I have participated in the English Championships and never for one moment do I alter my opinion.

They are, I always think, the largest and best organised tournament throughout the whole world—due to my friend Mr. Pope, and his hard-working colleagues.

The honour of holding the English title means more to me and my fellow players, more than any other tournament throughout the universe, including the world crown.

The Finals' night at Wembley is always a scene that no table tennis fan should miss.

Eight thousand people throng the vast hall; the atmosphere is almost electric. Every point is applauded to the fullest extent.

I think the English are the greatest sporting public, and it always gives me great pleasure to play before them.

About the individual play I could write for hours. Each game in this tournament is played at a high standard; everyone is giving of their best, with the sporting vein showing throughout.

Perhaps on another occasion I will give you a more detailed description of the play.

Let me again mention, however, how very much I enjoy playing in the English Championships.

### DIED ON THE EVE OF FIRST PAY DAY

For eight years Glamorgan Table Tennis star Albert Walker, 27, sought work in vain. Last week he got a job with Ogmores and Garw Council, and would have drawn his first pay this week.

**But death cheated him—he died last night.**

After two days at work Albert attended the village hall as a steward for the International Table Tennis exhibition game.

He told friends how delighted he was to be at work, saying: "I hope within a few days to receive my first pay for eight years. It will be great excitement."

**"My Table Tennis, too, has improved a great deal, because I am at last contented in mind."**

The following day he caught a chill which developed to meningitis, and yesterday killed him.—(From the "Daily Mirror.")

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# News from the Provinces

By L. E. FORREST

**HULL.**—New title holders in the Closed League Championship are: Men's Singles, H. Greensides; Women's Singles, Miss Thirsk. Greensides defeated S. Smith 22—20, 21—17, 12—21, 21—18. Miss Thirsk triumphed over Miss C. White 21—10, 21—10, 21—12.

**SHEFFIELD.**—Inter-League team gave a splendid display to defeat North Derbyshire by 7 matches to 3, 15 games to 10, in the return match at Buxton.

Feature was the fine display of young Hardman, the Yorkshire Junior Champion, who convincingly beat the home side's captain, Moody, and later had a victory over R. Hindle, playing No. 1.

**SOUTHAMPTON.**—Semi-final stage reached in Women's Team Knock-out Competition, last four being Albion (Eastleigh), Bellemoor, Civil Service, and Avenue. In Women's Level Singles, last four are Misses I. Enticott (holder), M. K. Bartlett (who recently won Hampshire title), L. Ferguson, and K. M. Clarke.

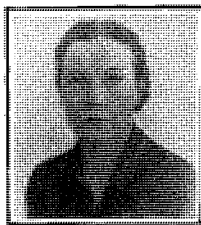
**BRIGHTON.**—C. Seaman (Sea House) ranks first in Division No. 1, having lost but one set, with G. Wheeler (Y.M.C.A.) second with two reverses. C. Sweetman, jun., of St. Anne's, has forfeited two sets in Division No. 2, and R. Beattie is second to him with four losses. Mrs. Clarke (Lewes Road) remains unbeaten in League matches, while Miss Jenking (Sea House) has lost only one set.

**CHESTER.**—Y.M.C.A. have made certain of Division No. 1 Championship for fourth successive season. By their defeat of City, Presbyterians have consolidated their position as runners-up. In this match, 17 year old J. Bennion, a promising Presbyterian player, was only narrowly defeated, 23—21, by E. Allen in the deciding game.

Second Division feature is defeat of Reliance Works, by Y.M.C.A. "B," 4—6. Reliance, however, are firm favourites for championship honours.

Old rivals in City, and Y.M.C.A. will contest final stage of Bradley Cup the Inter-Club Knock-out Competition. Large hall has been secured for the Closed. Last season's entry of 119 is expected to be easily beaten.

**SWINDON** women gained a decisive 21 games to 4 victory over Oxford women at Oxford. This was first big match for Oxford, and they lacked the confidence of their more experienced rivals.



Miss J. B. VICKERY  
(Exeter)

Miss Beazley, whose style was much admired, had a narrow escape when meeting Miss Waterhouse, result being 25—23. Misses Beazley and Hall each won 5 games. Oxford's successes were gained by Misses Crackston and French, each with 2 games.

Swindon men gained an easy victory over

Bath by 22 games to 3.

**EXETER.**—St. Thomas Methodists are meeting with nothing but success. Their three teams head the three divisions of the League, and all are unbeaten. A wonderful record considering the strong opposition from the once invincible Y.M.C.A.

There are seven entries for the "Sir Edgar Plummer" Cup, open to leagues in the South-West of England. They are Plymouth, Ilfracombe, South Devon, Taunton, Bristol, Swindon and Exeter. The first round draw resulted as follows: Plymouth v. Ilfracombe; South Devon v. Exeter (holders); Taunton v. Bristol; Swindon, a bye.

The West National League, Section "A," is an open affair. So far Cardiff have beaten Newport 9 sets to 4, and Exeter have beaten Cardiff by 7 sets to 5. Exeter now play Newport. The Cardiff-Exeter return match should decide the sectional winner.

**ST. HELENS AND DISTRICT LEAGUE** is having another very successful season.

The League have quite an abundance of talent at the present time, for many promising young players have come to the fore, and the standard of play generally has shown remarkable improvement compared with previous seasons. The League officials believe in giving these youngsters every encouragement and the Inter-League team has usually included four players under 16 years.

League has four divisions—1st and 2nd for male players, a Ladies' Division, and a Junior Division (for Boys and Youths up to 18 years of age).

The Ladies' Division has again proved to be one of the outstanding features of the League, and the standard of play by the ladies has shown great improvement. Y.M.C.A. Ladies, who are still undefeated, have practically assured themselves of the Championship Trophy for the second year in succession, and Sheet Works Ladies will probably finish runners-up.

This year's champions are: Men's, R. Webb (Y.M.C.A.); Women's, Miss M. Hale (Sheet Works); Men's Doubles, T. Asson and J. Flood (U.G.B.M.); Mixed, T. Asson and Miss M. Taylor; Junior Singles, A. Ellison (Thatto Heath N.C.).

**LIVERPOOL** beat Blackpool in a National League match by 9 sets to nil.

Women drew with Blackpool after very exciting match, feature of which was the brilliant recovery of Miss R. Doolan, who, when Liverpool were 4—5 down, lost the first game of the final set but recovered to win 2—1.

In a South-West Lancashire and Cheshire Federation game, Southport were beaten 9—1 sets.

After carrying all before them for the best part of the season Royal Liver received two successive set-backs, Young Israel and Bellefield both holding them to a draw.

St. Simons and St. Judes, in their first season, beat every team in the North region, but surprisingly dropped a point against Crosby Scouts.

Elaborate plans have been made for the National League match against Manchester, which is to be staged at Picton Hall.

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

### PUSHING IN A LEAGUE MATCH

A 2nd Division local "Derby" between two Wallasey teams, Athenian and Thorndale, produced an anti-climax. Both teams indulged in chiselling tactics with the result that the match took five hours and a quarter to complete, eventually finishing at 1-10 a.m. The last set between J. H. C. Hughes and J. Leece alone took an hour and three-quarters. Result was a win for Thorndale, 6—4 sets.

We wonder who the unlucky Umpire was in the last set?

**ALL TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS WILL WISH** Miss N. Norrish, Liverpool international and No. 1 player a speedy recovery after her recent serious operation.

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## The Wilmott Cup

Bristol must surely be the unluckiest League competing in the Wilmott Cup Competition. On each occasion they have been compelled to travel, but they come up smiling as usual. In their path to the 3rd round, Bristol have accounted for Bath and Bournemouth, each to the tune of 7-2 sets. Mr. Milton assures me that Surrey will give the West Countrymen a great reception. Tie will be decided at the Baths Hall, Croydon, 17th March.

South London, finalists in 1935, have high hopes of reaching the semi-final stage at London's expense. This tie should prove to be the tit-bit of the draw, remarkable feature being that these London Leagues have never yet met in a representative match, so we have no guide as to form, and must await the result.

Unlike the London clash, Birmingham are not strangers to Liverpool, for these Leagues have met for the past four seasons in inter-city battles. Liverpool start with a moral advantage, for they have yet to suffer defeat from the Midlanders. Maurice Goldstein and his men will take heart by the knowledge that cup ties invariably upset League form. Manchester, the holders (should they succeed in defeating Ribblesdale at home) have a long trek North to Sunderland, where E. Reay, and the Durhamites will give the Mancurians something to think about.

The draw is as follows:—

- Sunderland v. Manchester or Ribblesdale.
- Liverpool v. Birmingham.
- South London v. London.
- Surrey v. Bristol.

Ties to be played on or before Saturday, 20th March, 1937. L. E. F.

### TABLE TENNIS ON THE RADIO

Most "fans" appeared to have "listened-in" to the B.B.C. commentary on the Junior Final at the Paddington Baths. "Who is Mr. T. Woodrooffe?" is the question we have been asked from all quarters. Our readers will be surprised to know that he is not a Table Tennis "fan," although we won't hold this against him.

We are indebted to the "Star" for the following information about Mr. Woodrooffe:—

"Leading member of new and exclusive profession—Radio Commentary. Formerly Naval Officer, retired with rank of Lieut.-Commander. Officially teamed up with Outside Broadcast Department last April. Since has had many strenuous and difficult jobs—Olympic Games in Berlin, Launching a Cruiser at Ulster, the Naval Review, signing of the Naval Treaty in St. James's Palace, was one of the Commentators at departure of "Queen Mary," Lord Mayor's Show, and won a vast following of admirers when he watched a village cricket match at Tilford. Has written a number of books—one on "Cricket in the Seven Seas," which gives a line on his favourite sport, at which he has played for Navy against Army."

### A. D. BROOK'S GREAT RECORD.

In the excitement of the World Championships, English Championships, and the Tour, the wonderful performances of A. D. Brook, in recent tournaments, may be overlooked. The record makes interesting reading, and here it is:—

Nov. 6...	Bournemouth.....	Won 3 Finals.	
Jan. 24...	Kent.....	In 3 Finals; won	Mixed
		Singles and	(Mrs.
		Doubles	
		Hutchings).	
Jan. 30...	Hampshire.....	Won 3 Finals.	
Feb. 20...	Welsh "Open	Singles and	Mixed
	(Newport)	Doubles with	Mrs.
		Hutchings.	

Appeared in two Midland Finals, one Merseyside, and one at the North London.

Brook has won the Bournemouth and Hampshire Singles titles for two successive years, and is actually holding eleven championship titles.



Miss L. V. HAMBURGER

is a member of the Hospitality Committee, and has rendered invaluable services to the Association as one of its official interpreters. Possessing a charming personality, and a knowledge of Continental languages, her services amid a Babel of tongues have been of a unique character.

### IRISH FREE STATE NEW CHAMPIONS

An improved standard of play was the most satisfactory feature of the Free State close championships, held at Dublin, in which C. Kemp and Miss Yeates lost their singles titles. Men's Singles: G. J. Hussey beat C. A. Kemp, 21-15, 21-12, 21-18. Women's Singles: Miss I. Whelan beat Miss M. Ward, 21-16, 21-9.

## The Second Foreign Tour

At the time of writing we have received enthusiastic reports from Derby, Rochdale and Ashton-under-Lyne, where at each centre packed houses witnessed thrilling exhibitions, by G. V. Barna, M. Szabados, and A. Liebster, the latter taking the place of L. Bellak now touring U.S.A.

Tit-bit of this tour is the flight from Southampton to Jersey, this being the first time the tourists have travelled by air. List of places included in the tour is as follows:—

February 15th, Natappro Sports Club (London); 16th, Television—Alexandra Palace (London); 18th, Rotary Club, Derby; 19th, Rochdale; 20th, Ashton-under-Lyne; 23rd, Cardiff; 24th, Bridgend; 25th, Treorchy; 26th, East Ham; 27th, Hoover Sports Club, Greenford.

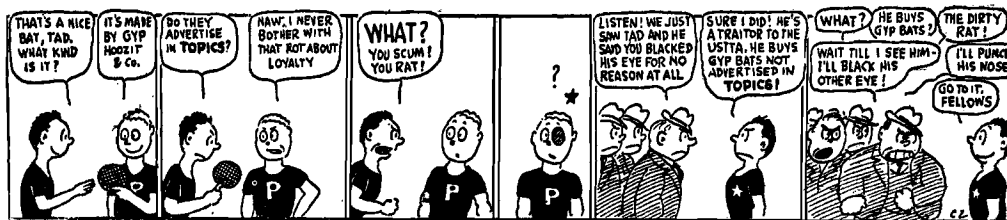
March 1st, Tottenham; 2nd, Portsmouth; 3rd, Jersey; 4th, Alford Lawn Tennis Club; 5th Eton Manor Club; 6th, Newport (Mon.).

### CHESHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Miss Dinah Newey of Birmingham was a triple winner, and G. W. Marshall, London, a double winner in the Open Cheshire Championships held at the Y.M.C.A., Wallasey. Together they won the Mixed Doubles, while Miss Newey carried off the Women's Singles, and partnered by Miss R. Doolan, Liverpool, the Women's Doubles. Marshall's other success was in the Men's Singles, when he beat J. K. Hyde, the Liverpool International. Miss Newey was in fine form throughout and in beating Miss Doolan in the Women's Singles her greater steadiness was the deciding factor. Hyde gained some consolation when, partnered by his brother Eric, they beat Marshall and D. Class to win the Men's Doubles.

### TELEVISION

On the Tuesday following the Championships unique matches were arranged at the Television Studios at Alexandra Palace, when the finalists repeated their epic matches of the previous Saturday at Wembley, for the benefit of "Telev viewers." Condition in the Studios are not yet, of course, match conditions, run-back being limited; but the necessary lighting arrangements surprisingly did not interfere with the play. Victor Barna and Jimmy McClure played in the afternoon and put up an excellent game; but the Championship result was not reversed. In the evening Miss Ruth Aarons and Miss Kettnerova played splendid Table Tennis, but the English Champion was badly handicapped by lack of space. Although she lost, it was a one-sided test, and she could not be expected to return the Czech's drives in so short a space. "Best of three" was played, but the only "needle" game was the third. Gold medals as mementoes of the first Table Tennis matches played on Television were presented by Mr. W. J. Pope, and we hear that Mr. R. C. Norman, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the B.B.C., and Capt. Cecil Graves, the Contrller of Programmes, watched the Barna - McClure match and were very much impressed.



In England we don't use "sich langwidge"; we can never think of the words. If we could we should be only too pleased to conduct such excellent propaganda as is here reproduced by the permission of "Table Tennis Topics" of U.S.A.

## Correspondence

To the Editor of "Table Tennis."

DEAR SIR,—With reference to Mr. Corti Woodcock's article in last month's "Table Tennis," I notice that although experiments with tables, etc., are suggested with a view to abolish chiselling, no suggestion is made of any amendment to the rules of the game or method of awarding points. In this connection may I refer to my letter published in "Table Tennis," in October, 1936, in which I suggested a change in the method of scoring, which, in my opinion, would encourage attacking play.

On behalf of hundreds of clubs who do not desire to be faced with the expense of, say, a new table, might I request that the suggested method of awarding points be given a trial.

If then found unworkable and a change of size of table is contemplated, might I suggest that the alteration be in length only, and that such addition be compensated by a dead area (into which the ball may not be served or played) on either side of the net, at least as large or even larger than the added area.

Such an alteration would serve two purposes, i.e., prevent exploitation of the short game by chisellers and permit all clubs to alter the size of the table without undue expense.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. F. BIGLEY.

(The suggestion made by Mr. Bigley was the awarding of 2 points for a winning shot which the opponent did not touch with the bat.)

5, Charles Street,

Berkhamsted, Herts.

15th February, 1937.

To the Editor of "Table Tennis."

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the final of the Women's Singles in the recent English Table Tennis Championships, I sincerely hope that your report in the next issue of Table Tennis will contain a strong condemnation of the unenterprising and dreary play of Miss Arons. In my opinion she ought to be debarred from taking part in this event in future years unless she gives an undertaking to show a little initiative occasionally. Thanks to Miss Kettnerova, the match was not entirely devoid of interest.

Yours faithfully,

W. R. GREENSTREET.

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### A TREMENDOUS ENTRY

The Surrey and South of England Championships, commencing at Kennards, Croydon, on 8th March, and ending 20th March, have attracted 740 entries. The finals will be played at the Croydon Baths.

Included in this formidable entry appears a galaxy of talent, G. V. Barna, English Champion, M. Szabados, while I. Kelen may also play, along with prominent London Internationals.

The organiser of these Mammoth events is Mr. C. G. Milton, of 5, Bramley Close, Croydon (Telephone: Croydon 1219), who will be pleased to supply any information.

### WEST OF ENGLAND

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### DORSET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Devon players carried off Dorset Championships held at Dorchester, L. R. Suter (Exeter Y.M.C.A.) was in fine form, particularly in the final, in which he defeated H. W. Swetman (Wimbledon). Suter varied his game more than his rival, whom he kept mainly on the defensive. Suter won 21—16, 21—19, 23—21.

In Men's Doubles Final Suter, partnered by A. S. King, also of Exeter, beat Swetman and R. Moreton by 2 games to 1. This proved to be a thrilling match, and it was the Exeter players' superior stamina which prevailed in the deciding game.

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