

Table

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

Tennis

Vol. II. No. I.

OCTOBER, 1936

ONE PENNY

REGISTERED AT STATIONERS HALL

Season, 1936-37 *By* IVOR MONTAGU

ON the verge of a new season, what have we the right to expect?

First, a big step forward in the efficiency of the Association. We have never had at Head Office a whole-time helper with the T.T. knowledge and experience of L. E. Forrest, to whom be all welcome. The pioneers of 15 years ago always felt that the Association would never be truly nationwide in its service until we had an office and a whole-time staff. Very few were optimistic enough to think we should get hold of them so soon.

I think we all deserve congratulations, not least of all the T.T. public rank and file, in sticking faithfully to the support of the Association idea until this milestone on the path is passed.

Don't think that all at once all your problems are going to be solved for you—remember the E.T.T.A. has always set out to give a service as a governing body about ten times as much as any other English sports governing body (where is the other sports body that sends world champions on tour up and down the country) without a hundredth part of the cash. You mustn't expect F.A. efficiency all of a sudden. But, still, I'm confident we shall move forward.

The Committee is a strong one, stronger still for the co-option of two past chairmen and its first Western

representative. Everyone will be glad to hear Corti is better and look forward to seeing (and feeling) him alive and kicking as vigorously as usual before the season's end.

Second, in play, I hope to see a general move forward to drop the rubbishing one-game system—England's worst handicap—from all serious competitions. I don't mean it has necessarily got to drop from all league play. After all, let's keep a sense of proportion, a game is **play**, if people like it let 'em keep it, but let 'em realise it for what it is, a makeshift round-robin friendly, for those leagues to whom the important thing is a weekly social with as many as possible taking part. For young players they want to exhibit as serious **competitors**, they must provide more scope to develop in **matches** over longer stages giving fuller value to head and intelligent outwitting by trial and error of the temporary villain on the other side of the net.

Third, in matches. We hope in tours to see more advantage taken in the localities of pitting local talent against the crack visitors. We hope to see a development in inter-city and inter-league matches before crowds, with youngsters getting in this way a "blooding" at travel and representative play on a small scale.

Fourth, selection. It's time to start looking hard for new players. I am

International Match England v. Hungary

(BARNA, SZABADOS, BELLAK)

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still quite sure our five best are the nearly-dud five of last year, Lord bless 'em, and they may still be the best five at the end of this year, but we must look out for new 'uns and do a bit of speculating or the future will be black indeed. We hope we shall be able to see and test every promise that any part of the country may put forward. We hope Haydon, our new captain, will be able to give time and attention to the task of getting the best team together, with at least one eye on the future. But now, as in the past, we set our face firmly against the nonsense of hard-and-fast trials, with selectors reduced to adding-machines automatically awarding the places to the ones with the biggest points. We shall keep to the method used in Cricket, in Lawn Tennis, in every other sport in the world, of regarding trials simply as an opportunity to see people and relying on our selectors to select.

Fifth, Vienna. We have a bit of experience of the conditions there. Stone floor, high bounce, fast play.

Continued on Page 2

JAQUES for TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT

AS USED FOR WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

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The Tournament Season

(We have engaged the services of Mr. T. E. Sears, the well known and popular International player, to write about Open Tournaments in every issue. The programme has not started, and this is an introductory article. We welcome "Tommy" Sears to the ranks of our regular contributors.)

Competitors and spectators! To everyone Tournaments mean something. Competitors should, this year, determine to improve; they should enjoy themselves but, above all, remember that "the game is the thing." For those who watch I hope this season with its increased number of tournaments will be just many more opportunities for witnessing spectacular play. If I may offer advice, may I ask spectators to be generous with applause when they are able, but, please do not applaud during rallies.

Returning to the actual tournaments, all the well-known ones will be run as usual. So far, there are no definite dates, but between now and January we have the following attractive programme: The Essex—held at West Ham last year—so successful and well worth attending from players' and spectators' point of view alike; Pontefract, for teams of three—a thorough good time with Yorkshire cheer; Home Counties at Whitefield Institute, Tottenham Court Road, starting its third year and gaining more and more popularity; the Lancashire Open at Manchester, which speaks for itself; the Merseyside, at Liverpool, which should once again provide stimulating entertainment for all concerned. A tournament with a novel touch is the Bournemouth, held at the Glen Roy Hotel, with accommodation for players at a guinea each for the week-end. Besides these, Championships will be held at Hull, Dewsbury, Bramley, Leeds. Then, in January, we have the Midland at Birmingham, the North of England at Manchester, both now so well attended and established that it is almost a crime not to go; the Middlesex at Herga, producer of players like Perry, Wilde, Bergl.

So far we have been taking the "happy" events, but now comes the end of January with the vital competitions ever present in our minds—the World Championships and the English National Championships. Let us hope—no, let us make this year a bumper year for English players, and whoever is selected to go to Vienna may they return with the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups; and may English players, for a change, become Champions of England.

After these dour and grim affairs let us return to the pleasant round—the Hampshire, at Bournemouth in January; Sussex, Surrey and Dorset Championships; Blackpool and North Lancashire—both probably to be held in February. Then the West Middlesex, at West Ealing—another happy hunting ground for all south players. More events in Yorkshire, Huddersfield, Halifax, Castleford, winding up with Scarborough and Whitby, held Easter week-end, and the West of England, probably at Ilfracombe.

There is a brief outline for everyone to think about, full particulars will be circulated in due course. I only hope that we shall find time to get to 50 per cent. of them. Here's hoping!

STOP PRESS—Since writing the above definite dates have been fixed: Home Counties, Oct. 26-30; Lancashire, Oct. 30-31; Bournemouth, Nov. 6-7.

SEASON 1936-1937.—(Continued from Page 1)

The E.T.T.A. should hold its trials under the same conditions and aspiring players should familiarise themselves with them. This doesn't mean long-defence is no use, it does mean a long-defender has to resign himself to losing the skin of the soles of his feet. The attacker will get plenty to hit, but must get used to the difficult kill of a high bouncer.

We did well there last time. Equal third. Haydon, Jones, Millar, Rimer, Brook. Haydon reached semi-final. Millar had his best championships ever. "Brookie" turned in one useful match

and do as well again. I've no idea how, or even whether, he plays nowadays, didn't see him play all last year. Bergl has not yet played as well as Jones did then, but he made so much real progress last year that I don't put it beyond him to advance still further.

This should be a crucial year for Lurie. Is he going to grow up a bully capable of mopping up all the second-rate tournaments but incapable of even a fighting spirit against a better class player? In spite of all his cups I regard last year as a definite setback for him. It is time he beat somebody of the class of his victims of two years ago. Get down to it, Lurie, less spectacle, more hard work and determination, or your place will be in danger.

No, it's not going to be so easy to get such a good team as went to Vienna before. Ken Hyde turns out some nice fights, but he doesn't hit the ball as wide as Teddy Rimer used to, and Proffitt, for all his keenness in point collecting, doesn't keep the ball as tight and low as "Brookie" did that season. It's up to some of these youngsters whom we're watching to step ten paces forward and strengthen all those weak spots in the team.

Women? Well, Margaret Osborne and Wendy Woodhead if only they'd take it into their heads both to play well in the same match would beat any women's team in the world. On form they're odds on to mop up the Americans anyway, as they did last year. Our chief task is to find some way of stabilising them in top gear. And we need reliable third and fourths to rest them. I have an idea Newey-Woodhead have possibilities as a pair, too, but Newey is still some way behind in singles.

Anyway, here's wishing everybody a good season (including myself).



A. ERLICH, New English Open Champion

against the Latvians, and Rimer a couple of good ones against India and the Jugoslavs. Jones came off, as always, against the Czechs and shook up everybody else until his feet got raw.

Can we get as good a team this time? The captain, if he feels fit, will be as good as ever. Millar, if only he would reproduce and keep up his form of that year (what a pity he has never got any better) could walk into the team

SLAZENGER'S *for*
TABLE TENNIS

“For the Women”

By MRS. D. L. BUNBURY

WITH the heather just turning purple on the hills and the sun shining benignly on the gardens, it hardly seems possible that the beginning of the Table Tennis Season is so near at hand. Indeed, by the time this goes to Press we shall all be in the throes of the 1936-7 Table Tennis Year. It is always exciting to begin a new season. It is delightful to greet old friends and friendly enemies. We are happy, too, to welcome very warmly our new Leagues, clubs, and individual players, and we hope, very devoutly, that we may applaud new stars rising in our firmament.

You will probably have read of the new dress regulations now adopted by the E.T.T.A. In case it has escaped your eye may I repeat the new ruling. Shoes, rubber soled, any colour. Skirt, shorts or trousers must be grey. Sports shirt or blouse of a single colour, not too light or bright—a club badge of reasonable size may be worn. If a cardigan is worn in play it must be of the same colour as the sports shirt.

This rule will be strictly enforced at all tournaments. I am sure you will agree that it leaves plenty of scope for individual preference whilst ruling out some of the very undesirable colour schemes which baffled description in the last few seasons.

I should like to thank most sincerely the women who have written to me such charming letters during the summer months. In particular, I have had one from a schoolgirl which may interest you. In her letter she says: “I am at one of the largest Public Girls’ Schools in England, and we are taught to play, as in most other schools, the usual round of games such as cricket, hockey, lacrosse, tennis, and so on. Table Tennis

is an unheard of thing. It is not because the Headmistresses look upon it as an unhealthy game, but because it never has been played, and they don’t care to start something new. This last term somebody brought back a Table Tennis bat and a few balls to our House, and we started having American Tournaments. In fact, after a few days our House Mistress gave us prizes. It became a really popular game. I think it would become very popular at school, too, if only someone would introduce it.

“I have heard several girls give their opinion on Ping-Pong (as it is called here). I heard one girl say the game is too easy, and another that there was not enough competition. None of these girls have ever seen a Table Tennis Tournament or I know their opinions would be very different.

“We have a very large hall in the school building, with two galleries—an ideal place for playing. It would be marvellous to be able to have something to play when it is wet (and we have had very few fine days this summer). I took a friend from school, who was staying with me for Easter at my home, to see a Table Tennis Tournament. When she had seen a few games she was amazed and said, ‘I had no idea Table Tennis was anything like this—wouldn’t it be popular at school?’ Now, come on somebody, and suggest this game for the sports side of our school life!”

The E.T.T.A. always welcomes any inquiry or suggestion, and I can assure you that if we can in any way help or advise you we shall be only too happy to do so.

I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming Miss Phyllis Anderton on her election to the Executive Committee. We have reason to be very grateful to her for her wholehearted assistance in the past and I am sure the women’s side of the game will be greatly strengthened by her appointment. And now—a happy season to everyone of us!

F. J. Perry

Cunard White Star
R.M.S. *Queen Mary*.
6th August, 1936.

W. J. Pope, Esq., E.T.T.A.,
64, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

DEAR MR. POPE,

Many thanks for your letter of congratulation on my efforts at Wimbledon and in the Davis Cup. I can assure you that it was much appreciated, especially as I have been out of the Table Tennis World for so long.

I should be most grateful if you would be so kind as to convey to your Committee my appreciation of their kind words and charming thought.

Wishing you the best of luck for the future.

Yours sincerely,
FRED PERRY.

From the Secretary’s Chair

OFFICIAL NEWS

The work at Head Office since the last issue has been concerned with general arrangements for the forthcoming season. At the time of writing little definite information can be given. We have received applications for dates for all Open Tournaments and every effort will be made to avoid clashing—unfortunately it has been found impossible yet to fix the date for the English Open—consequently confirmation of dates asked for has been impossible. Similarly with the tour of Barna, Szabados and Bellak—applications are pouring in, they are booked for at least a month—and dates will be confirmed shortly. The England-Hungary International match will take place at the Memorial Hall, London, on November 19th (probably items broadcast by the B.B.C.), and a proposition has been made that a series of Test Matches should be arranged at various towns on the tour. Already 13 New Leagues have affiliated, and we are in correspondence with 45 others considering joining up. Will all Leagues please send their matter for the Official Handbook as quickly as possible. Entries are coming in for the Wilmott Cup Competition, and the “National League” Committee have met and provisional Rules have been circulated. The question of “Training of Players” and the new Regulations for “Paid Players” will be dealt with in the next few days, and this “Latest Bulletin” is being dashed off during the period when we are snowed under at Featherstone House to say to all Secretaries that the organisational work is well in hand and that they will be receiving replies to letters, and all difficulties will be straightened out, in due course. In the meantime bear with us, please!

WORLD’S CHAMPIONSHIP

The World’s Table Tennis Championship and the International Swaythling Cup matches will be held in Baden, just outside Vienna, next January 30th to February 7th, 1937. The German Championship will be held the week following at Dresden, so tourists wishing to compete will be able to go from Vienna. The International “week” brings to mind the recent match between Hungary and Austria. The former won an exciting game by 5 matches to 4. Barna was beaten by Bergman and Leibster, of Austria. Bellak is reputed to be in the best of form and will take considerable stopping in the Singles Championship.

By IVOR MONTAGU

TABLE TENNIS

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

ERIC FINDON in *Table Tennis*
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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

MANY provincial Leagues have already commenced their activities, many others will start this week, and on all fronts, North, South, East and West, the watchword is progress. Affiliated leagues, from "stronghold" centres to the small towns, all report increased membership returns, while many are the new leagues we welcome into membership with our Association. In our next issue, I will give a complete list of the season's affiliations. At the time of writing there are no match results to hand, so our first provincial notes will take the form of a summary of the various leagues.

MANCHESTER.

Seventy teams in the five divisions have commenced their league fixtures in the Manchester League. Grove House, last season's champions, are likely to find their position challenged by several teams which have strengthened their list of players. Y.M.C.A. continue to reply on A. G. Millar, C. W. Davies, L. Bowyer, A. W. Waite, H. C. Cooke, N. Davies, W. Stanley and E. Morris, whilst Manchester Jewish have signed on some promising youngsters. H. Lurie has left Grove House and thrown in his lot with the King's Club, a new team admitted to the Third Division, South-East. He will find it much harder to keep his form in the lower grade, but he seems to have improved during the close season, and will doubtless retain his place in the Swaythling Cup team.

Waterpark, Greengate and Walkden promoted to the first division will find the standard of play in their new sphere much higher, whilst Burnage, Birchfields, St. Luke's (Weaste), Weast Congs, Maccabean and Manchester Jewish "A," who have come up from the regional sections of the Third Division, will discover keen opposition barring their path to further progress for promotion.

Everything points to another steady season of hard play in all sections, and from the long list of young players all anxious to put their names on the Table Tennis map it should be possible to provide some fresh and invigorating material for the English team to play at Vienna next year in the World Championships.

LIVERPOOL.

The game in Liverpool continues to make rapid strides, and the problem now confronting the Management Committees is how to accommodate the large number of clubs that have applied for membership. Ninety teams will commence their league programmes this week, and the teams as last season are divided into two divisions, and four regions.

This season it has been found necessary to form a Second Division both East and West regions. Several of the younger players, notably P. U. Rumjahn and E. J. Rumjahn, who have been carefully nursed, should justify the confidence shown in them, and come rapidly to the front. Liverpool will compete in the Wilmott Cup Competition, the National League, and it is confidently expected that the Readman, F. L. Forrest, and G. B. Hyde Cup Competitions will again prove to be popular events. The Open Cheshire

which was unavoidably suspended last season, will again be held, along with the ever popular Open Merseyside.

BIRMINGHAM.

Birmingham Association has commenced its 15th season, and no better example of the game's progress can be found than in this area. Nearly 200 clubs are expected to affiliate with the Association, which is now the largest in the country. Teams to the number of 280 will compete in the numerous divisions of the eight leagues. No new leagues have been brought into existence, but extra divisions have been added, notably to the Business Houses and Works League, and the Women's Leagues, both of which will consist of four divisions. The Birmingham League retains its nine divisions.

Birmingham City will welcome the return of A. A. Haydon, for without the assistance of England's captain, they lost the League First Division title for the first time in seven years. A team will be entered in the Midland Counties League, of which competition Birmingham are the champions, and representative matches are being arranged for the Women's Inter-City team against Manchester, Liverpool and London.

HULL AND EAST RIDING.

The Association has had to increase the number of men's divisions from two to three, in order to admit new clubs to membership.

The outlook for the future is good, and it has been decided that the Hull Open Championships, which have not been played for a number of years, will be run again this season on 7th November.

CAMBRIDGE.

Enthusiasm prevails at Cambridge, and a County Association has been formed with Messrs. Hayward and Humphries Joint Hon. Secretaries. With Oxford affiliated we may now see the University cities engaged in Annual Inter-League matches.

UTTOXETER.

An increase of seven clubs is reported, bringing the total up to 18 clubs. It has been decided that two clubs will be promoted and two relegated each season. A Ladies' League is in course of formation.

LINCOLN.

Decided on affiliation to the E.T.T.A., and at the League's A.G.M. Mr. H. O. Moss, Match Secretary, reported that 24 clubs would compete in the League. It has been decided that, subject to the discretion of the Management Committee, entries to the League be open to any club within a reasonable radius of Lincoln. Formerly the radius was fixed at ten miles. A rule has been adopted that no player arriving for a match after 8-30 p.m. will be allowed to take part except by arrangement with the two captains.

ST. ALBANS.

A new system of match play to that which has been in force since the inauguration of the League has been adopted. Instead of five members of a team playing each of five members of the opposing side one game each (25 games), the play will in future consist of eight singles and two doubles, the teams comprising four players only. Each event will be the best of three games. Three new clubs in addition to all last season's clubs have been elected, they are, Radlett Men's Club,

St. Michael's (St. Albans), and Townsend (St. Albans). Mr. F. C. Walters has again been elected Hon. Treasurer and Secretary. Mr. R. Emdin will continue to serve the League as E.T.T.A. Representative.

MANSFIELD.

A fillip will be given to the game in the Mansfield district by the decision of the newly-formed Mansfield League to entertain the foreign tourists on 2nd December. Fifteen clubs have affiliated, with two divisions made up of 19 teams. A promotion and relegation scheme of two up and two down has been agreed upon.

Four trophies are to be competed for—the "Jarvis" Shield (winners of the First Division), the "Brittain" Cup (winners of the Second Division), the "Hildreth" Cup (individual competition), and the "Jaques" Cup (knock-out on handicap basis).

NORTH WALES.

A sensation has been caused in North Wales Table Tennis circles by the announcement of the resignation of Mr. Glyn Roberts, of Llandudno, as Secretary of the North Wales Association. Mr. Roberts, who has been forced to take this step owing to pressure of business, has also resigned from the Llandudno Local and District Leagues, both of which he formed three years ago. Mr. Roberts is the pioneer of the game in North Wales and was the first Secretary of the North Wales Association formed last year.

The Rhyl League proved so popular last season that it has been found necessary to form a second division. Eighteen teams will compete in this season's campaign. It is hoped to arrange the Open Flintshire at Rhyl early in December, and a series of inter-League matches with the North Wales Leagues, along with Liverpool and North Staffordshire Leagues. Messrs. B. G. Baxter and P. Astley Edwards will continue to officiate as Secretary and Match Secretary respectively.

Llandudno.—It is expected that 14 clubs will compete in the Llandudno District League which number will include Penmaenmawr, last season's champions. Ten clubs make up the Llandudno Local League.

No fewer than 22 teams are expected to take part in the Bangor League, while the recently formed Holywell League is likely to commence activities with ten clubs in membership.

EXETER AND DISTRICT.

Applications for admission to the league for the coming season have been received from seven new teams and it is expected that by the closing date this number will have been largely increased.

Activities in the ladies' section are most encouraging, and although they are handicapped by playing facilities they are nevertheless making every effort to improve. Thanks for the work of this section are due to the untiring efforts of their secretary, Miss Vickery, who, since she has taken up the game, has made wonderful progress. Interest among the ladies has undoubtedly increased through the visit of Mrs. Booker at the end of last season.

Gossip from all Quarters

MR. A. SWINDELLS, of the Ashton-under-Lyne League, was the first enthusiast to win the autographed copy of Mr. Montagu's book. Well done, Mr. Swindells! Well done, Ashton-under-Lyne!

Talking of Ashton-under-Lyne raises the question as to whether they hold a record. With a population of 50,000 they have 46 clubs, 64 teams. Can this proportion be beaten by any other town in the kingdom?

Congratulations to Mr. J. Batty, the popular Secretary of the Manchester League upon his recent marriage. Last season "Jack" was the Registration Secretary, but it is no secret that most of the hard "graft" fell on his shoulders. To take on the immense amount of work involved in the General Secretaryship, and to get married at the same time, shows pluck, but we know that Mrs. Batty will give her husband every support in the work which is appreciated by every T.T. "fan" in Manchester and neighbourhood. Good luck, both!

I hear that the Swindon League is no longer the Swindon "Temperance" League. Mr. O. W. Tarrant can now carry on office with a light heart; how he has been able to carry on the office with a clear conscience is one of the mysteries of the E.T.T.A.

The coming season will be full of interest, but nothing will exceed that in the question of the future of the Hungarians. Dominating the world since the formation of the I.T.T.F. in 1926, they have lost the Swaythling Cup, Barna lost the World and English Championships and Barna and Szabados lost the Doubles, the Mixed found a new "home." Can they stage a "come-back?" There will be some dramatic moments but none will be more so than that at the Wembley Swimming Pool when our Championship is down for decision.

One of the new "Open" Tournaments to "catch on" is that at the Glen Roy Hotel, Bournemouth. The entrants last season have not yet ceased talking about its great success. Fine trophies and prizes, wonderful conditions and enthusiastic organisers. A fine week-end at this popular seaside resort, a modern, well-appointed hotel, and all within the pocket of the average Table Tennis player—the Glen Roy will be turning away applicants long before the date for closing entries.

I hear that two of our well-known Continental players are paying an early visit to England—Alfred Liebster, the Austrian captain, and Istvan Kelen, of the Hungarian Swaythling Cup team. They are staying at Whitby and players in England will be glad to renew acquaintanceship. Kelen was a participant in a match which many officials think the best game ever

played in England—the Final of the Singles, when Sandor Glancz won our Championship at Manchester in 1930. Liebster nearly created a sensation at the Imperial Institute when he led Barna in the fifth game in the Austria-Hungary Swaythling Cup match, only just failing at the post.

The Bath League are on the verge of the most prosperous season of their existence. They have succeeded in obtaining headquarters, with ideal conditions for one table. The Mayor of Bath is a Patron of the League, and the Town Clerk the first President. A Vice-President is Mr. R. A. Gerrard, the well-known Rugby International and County Cricketer, and the League expect much from H. F. T. Buse, the Somerset Cricketer, who is the leading player in the City, although he has not yet played in League matches. Seven new teams is a very big increase for a League which, last season, had a total of ten teams in the competition.

Well-known Table Tennis players engaged in Cricket and Lawn Tennis during the past summer have had many successes. Fred Perry—well, everyone knows what he has done; Frank Wilde has also had a very good season, just escaping, with his partner, C. E. Hare, the honour of bearing his country's colours in the "Davis" Cup match against Australia. E. J. Filby has had his best season, doing well at Wimbledon and in outside tournaments.

Leslie Todd has had a marvellous season for Kent, making his 1,000 runs and taking 100 wickets for the first time (he was mentioned as a strong favourite for Australia, but struck a bad patch at the psychological moment). Charlie Bull has not done quite so well for Worcestershire but Stanley Proffitt has had a good first season as a professional with Essex Second Team.

By the way, Victor Barna, visiting Southend as the guest of Stan Proffitt in the summer, saw his first cricket match and—was not impressed by our "National" game!

Correspondence

To the Editor of TABLE TENNIS.

SIR,

It is gratifying to know that the Association is considering the adoption of a time limit for a game. I would support this if another solution of the trouble cannot be found.

I suggest that the server, as well as the striker out, should be compelled to stand 3ft. away from the table until each of them had struck the ball once; then, that there should be freedom of movement until the completion of the rest, when the same positions should be reverted to until each had struck the ball once again, and so on throughout the game.

This would effectively stop serving over the table, as well as half-volley returns. It would improve the game, please the spectators, and should satisfy the players.

I do not favour the point being counted against the striker when the ball touches the net—except when the score is 20 all. I think it is monstrous that a fine game should be decided by a fluke. At that stage such a shot should be a let; this rule would immensely please the public.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR J. KEY.

Norbury, 11th September, 1936.

Editor's Note.—Any remarks from readers would be of great interest.

Has anybody an Original
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AYRES FOR TABLE TENNIS

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Gossip from all Quarters

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Talking of Ashton-under-Lyne raises the question as to whether they hold a record. With a population of 50,000 they have 46 clubs, 64 teams. Can this proportion be beaten by any other tow in the kingdom?

Congratulations to Mr. J. Batty, the popular Secretary of the Manchester League upon his recent marriage. Last season "Jack" was the Registration Secretary, but it is no secret that most of the hard "graft" fell on his shoulders. To take on the immense amount of work involved in the General Secretaryship, and to get married at the same time, shows pluck, but we know that Mrs. Batty will give her husband every support in the work which is appreciated by every T.T. "fan" in Manchester and neighbourhood. Good luck, both!

I hear that the Swindon League is no longer the Swindon "Temperance" League. Mr. O. W. Tarrant can now carry on office with a light heart; how he has been able to carry on the office with a clear conscience is one of the mysteries of the E.T.T.A.

The coming season will be full of interest, but nothing will exceed that in the question of the future of the Hungarians. Dominating the world since the formation of the I.T.T.F. in 1926, they have lost the Swaythling Cup, Barna lost the World and English Championships and Barna and Szabados lost the Doubles, the Mixed found a new "home." Can they stage a "come-back?" There will be some dramatic moments but none will be more so than that at the Wembley Swimming Pool when our Championship is down for decision.

One of the new "Open" Tournaments to "catch on" is that at the Glen Roy Hotel, Bournemouth. The entrants last season have not yet ceased talking about its great success. Fine trophies and prizes, wonderful conditions and enthusiastic organisers. A fine week-end at this popular seaside resort, a modern, well-appointed hotel, and all within the pocket of the average Table Tennis player—the Glen Roy will be turning away applicants long before the date for closing entries.

I hear that two of our well-known Continental players are paying an early visit to England—Alfred Liebster, the Austrian captain, and Istvan Kelen, of the Hungarian Swaythling Cup team. They are staying at Whitby and players in England will be glad to renew acquaintance-ship. Kelen was a participant in a match which many officials think the best game ever

played in England—the Final of the Singles, when Sandor Glancz won our Championship at Manchester in 1930. Liebster nearly created a sensation at the Imperial Institute when he led Barna in the fifth game in the Austria-Hungary Swaythling Cup match, only just failing at the post.

The Bath League are on the verge of the most prosperous season of their existence. They have succeeded in obtaining headquarters, with ideal conditions for one table. The Mayor of Bath is a Patron of the League, and the Town Clerk the first President. A Vice-President is Mr. R. A. Gerrard, the well-known Rugby International and County Cricketer, and the League expect much from H. F. T. Buse, the Somerset Cricketer, who is the leading player in the City, although he has not yet played in League matches. Seven new teams is a very big increase for a League which, last season, had a total of ten teams in the competition.

Well-known Table Tennis players engaged in Cricket and Lawn Tennis during the past summer have had many successes. Fred Perry—well, everyone knows what he has done; Frank Wilde has also had a very good season, just escaping, with his partner, C. E. Hare, the honour of bearing his country's colours in the "Davis" Cup match against Australia. E. J. Filby has had his best season, doing well at Wimbledon and in outside tournaments.

Leslie Todd has had a marvellous season for Kent, making his 1,000 runs and taking 100 wickets for the first time (he was mentioned as a strong favourite for Australia, but struck a bad patch at the psychological moment). Charlie Bull has not done quite so well for Worcestershire but Stanley Proffitt has had a good first season as a professional with Essex Second Team.

By the way, Victor Barna, visiting Southend as the guest of Stan Proffitt in the summer, saw his first cricket match and—was not impressed by our "National" game!

Correspondence

To the Editor of TABLE TENNIS.

SIR,

It is gratifying to know that the Association is considering the adoption of a time limit for a game. I would support this if another solution of the trouble cannot be found.

I suggest that the server, as well as the striker out, should be compelled to stand 3ft. away from the table until each of them had struck the ball once; then, that there should be freedom of movement until the completion of the rest, when the same positions should be reverted to until each had struck the ball once again, and so on throughout the game.

This would effectively stop serving over the table, as well as half-volley returns. It would improve the game, please the spectators, and should satisfy the players.

I do not favour the point being counted against the striker when the ball touches the net—except when the score is 20 all. I think it is monstrous that a fine game should be decided by a fluke. At that stage such a shot should be a let; this rule would immensely please the public.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR J. KEY.

Norbury, 11th September, 1936.

Editor's Note.—Any remarks from readers would be of great interest.

Has anybody an Original "R. D. Jones" Bat (Seven Ply) for Sale?—Reply Box 301.

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H. H. Bridge leaves England

"Bert" Bridge, the well-known Wimbledon player has left England, and the good wishes of all Table Tennis players will be with him in his new position on Abadan Island, Persian Gulf. "Bert" was a popular figure in T.T. circles, and was in great demand for exhibition matches, in which type of game he excelled with his breezy personality and open all-round game. He has been called "the best player in England who never gained an International Cap," but undoubtedly his temperament was not suited for the grim and dour competition which gains places in these latter days.

He started playing competitive Table Tennis when he was 18, and was a member of the famous "Bedouins" Club, which consisted of five "Bridges"—brothers and cousins. He was the No. 1 player, Secretary and Treasurer, and general utility man, and it was due to his enthusiasm that they won the South Section of the London League and won to the Premier Division.

He formed the Wimbledon Club five years ago and he soon made this club one of the backbones of the League. He won many Doubles, the Sussex with Joan Harding, the Men's with Filby, the South London, Middlesex and West Middlesex with Wendy Woodhead, but in the Singles, whilst he was many times "runner-up," he just could not get there.

He played in the World Championships at Vienna and was selected to play for the International Club team which played Czechoslovakia. Bert was also a well-known Amateur footballer, playing for Dulwich Hamlet for four years from the age of 16, was centre-half for Wimbledon for six years, and played one year as an amateur for Millwall. Now you know his age.

He had a London Cap, a Surrey Cap, and an Amateur Cup Final Medal. His team won the Isthmian League four times in six years. He has taken his Table Tennis equipment with him to Persia, together with his "Squash" racquet, but I feel it is Table Tennis that will boom on the Persian Gulf after his arrival. Good luck, Bert, best of sportsmen.



H. H. BRIDGE

Our Helpers

In this, the first issue of our Second Volume, it is appropriate that we should express our grateful thanks to the members of the Money Order Department T.T. Club for their very valuable help last season. Those who have had experience of the difficulties in publishing a magazine will know the arduous nature of the task, which is more difficult when "volunteer" labour is depended upon. One of the most difficult tasks was the "envelope addressing," and this was undertaken by members of the M.O.D. They carried it out with unflinching regularity, and one of our most serious problems, in consequence, never gave us a moment's anxiety. Mr. Charlton was a most popular "taskmaster," and the rank and file fulfilled their "averages." Members of this club also attended on "packing night," folding and stamping, and the Committee pay this tribute to the ungrudging work put in.

National League

A meeting was held in Manchester on Saturday, 12th September, 1936, and attended by representatives of the Liverpool, Sheffield, Blackpool, Stockport, Chester, Manchester, Birmingham and Bolton Leagues.

The preliminary rules which had been drawn up were examined in detail, and several amendments proposed. The chief difficulties centred round the question of finance, and prolonged discussion took place, in an endeavour to discover an amicable basis for meeting travelling expenses of teams.

It was finally agreed to circulate a copy of the Draft Rules approved by the meeting to all clubs in the Northern and Midland areas who might be likely to support a National League, with the view to commencing activities by the second week in October.

It is expected that six teams will form the Premier Division (Northern) and that as other minor leagues become interested, these will be invited to form sub-divisions on a county or regional basis.

The Southern clubs have not as yet made any move in this matter, but a copy of the Draft Rules will be sent to one of the major London Leagues, with a request to examine the proposals so that a Premier Division (Southern) and appropriate sub-divisions may be formed, giving the League a truly National basis.

The following officers were elected to act on a temporary Executive Committee: Chairman, Mr. M. Goldstein (Birmingham); Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. J. Batty (Manchester); with Mr. H. T. Griffiths (Liverpool) and Mr. E. Worsley (Blackpool). Mr. J. W. Swann (Manchester), who was appointed by the E.T.T.A. to act on the Sub-Committee set up to examine the question will, of course, continue to serve.

J. BATTY.

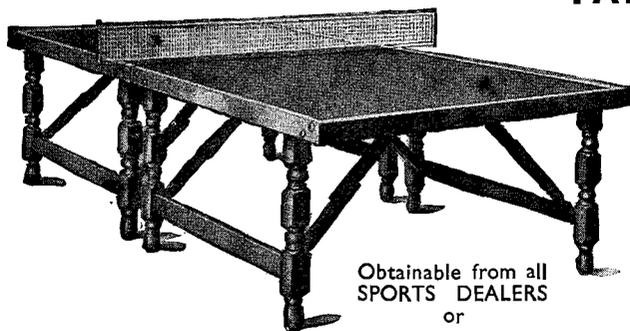
Tests with Altered Table

During the close season exhaustive tests have been carried out in the North of England with the table supplied by Messrs. Jaques. This can be lowered or raised, extended in width and length, and hard play on the varying sizes has been extremely interesting. Amongst the players taking part have been Reay and Ewbank, of Sunderland, Mulholland and Robinson, of Hull, B. L. Hookins, of Whitby, Amies, of Pontefract, and Atkinson, of Leeds. A full report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, but it is interesting to note that opinions are not unanimous.

The majority of the players express the view that the dimensions 9ft. 6in. by 5ft. 6in. by 2ft. 4in., with a 6in. net gives the best play and the general conclusion was that "this would provide a more athletic game—increased facilities for the attacker, the increased width making for a wide angle of play, and it is almost impossible for a player to win by purely defensive play."

Further tests will be made in various parts of the country shortly, and some interesting data should be obtained before the matter comes up for discussion at the meeting of the I.T.T.F. next February.

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Table Tennis in Staffs.

By J. C. BAKER

AS a working Journalist, it is remarkable how table tennis appeals to members of my profession. I think it about time I made some contribution to the excellent little magazine which is being turned out from the headquarters of the English Association monthly.

Though I have been playing in open tournaments in various parts of the country, including London, during the past two years I will confine this article to North Staffordshire, with which I have been intimately associated. G. V. Barna, the smiling Chevalier of table tennis, was my trump card when I determined to set about the difficult task of making North Staffordshire table tennis conscious.

At one time it was next to impossible to get even a paragraph concerning table tennis published in the local newspapers. Thanks to the Hungarians all that has long since been changed. In the little moorland town of Leek, Barna, Szabados, Bellak and the other world famous "stars" appearing at Wembley in the English "Open" two seasons ago did their stuff and sent the big crowd crazy.

The Sports Editor of my own newspaper put in an appearance. He saw the possibilities of this amazing game, and at once asked me to undertake the production of a weekly article containing local news on the game. As the newspaper has a sale of 72,000 daily you can imagine how useful this proved to be. Now the Sports Editor has his own table tennis team competition (sponsored by the newspaper) in full swing, and himself frequently attends committee meetings.

This is called the North Staffordshire and District Competition, and is organised by the *Evening Sentinel*, of Stoke-on-Trent. Entries cover a wide area including Leek, Uttoxeter, Macclesfield, and other towns. Last season 81 teams entered at short notice after Christmas, and there will soon be double that number.

New leagues are springing up everywhere, and competitive table tennis is sweeping all before it, having put billiards and other indoor pastimes in the shade in my own town, Leek. I have not neglected the ladies, from a publicity viewpoint, and there are several Ladies' Leagues in these parts. Inter-league matches on a "friendly" basis are now played out, and we are endeavouring this year to organise an Inter-League Competition, comprising Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley, Leek, Macclesfield, Uttoxeter, and possibly other leagues. Leek has so far proved the most progressive of the local towns, first-class equipment being common at all the clubs, while the players long ago learned modern methods of play.

R. Stanyer, a 16 year old Leek boy, reached the Junior Finals of the

"Merseyside" and Northern Open Tournaments, and the Semi-Final of the English "Open" at Paddington Baths. He is the outstanding player, and has yet to fail when pitted against any of the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire stalwarts. Other youngsters are likely to bring fame to Leek.

Uttoxeter League are to welcome Barna on his forthcoming tour, so that the district is assured of another "gala" night. Leek has had Barna twice, including his first appearance in England on his last tour, while Hanley League also staged his appearance in the Potteries. An organisation known as the North Staffordshire Association was formed at my suggestion last season, and is doing wonderful work in uniting the local leagues.



STANLEY PROFFITT

Proffitt, the English Table Tennis International and Swaythling Cup player, has returned this season, from the cricket field, full of enthusiasm and excellent form. He is playing better than ever and proved his worth by a great win in the final of an invitation tournament, over W. B. Bergl. By the way, Proffitt is now qualified for Essex County Cricket Club, and next season hopes to be in the County eleven. He has taken his 100 wickets this season and scored 1000 runs with the bat. There is no doubt that Stanley will be up for "test selection" before long. His Table Tennis is stronger each season and his conqueror will have to know his P's and Q's.

The Game in Japan

The English Table Tennis Association has been honoured by a visit from Mr. Matsui, Adviser to the Japanese T.T.A. His interpreter was with him, and after many hours of difficult negotiating, a successful interview was concluded.

Contrary to general belief, the Japanese players are not so strong as we are in the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Matsui volunteered the information that at a World Championship Meeting they would not stand much chance.

After seeing and playing against one of England's internationals he resolved to advise the change from plain wood to rubber. The various spins amazed him. He was most intrigued by a few finger-spins, and practised hard on the spot to master them without much success.

There are 8,000 enthusiasts in Japan—600 clubs. Mr. Matsui explained that this visit was to thank his English friends for having introduced the game to him 30 years ago. He himself took it to Japan, where it is now played extensively.

The table, at the moment, in Japan is smaller than that we use, and the net lower. They are, however, changing to recognised standards in order to compete in international matches.

In Japan there are no prizes for winning tournaments. The names of the winners are inscribed on a window in the shrine of Emperor Meiji, in Tokio, the Capital of Japan with regard to sport. This method would not suit a lot of other national players whose object is merely the cup, and not so much the honour.

Spectators are admitted free of charge to the tournaments, and there is no entrance fee for players. The Ministry of Education pays all expenses.

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THE FOREHAND AND BACKHAND SMASH



THE ambition of most table tennis enthusiasts is a forehand and backhand smash. The erratic type is no asset to one's game because one is inclined to lose more points than win them. A defensive player will benefit by the weak smasher's mistakes.

The forehand smash must be comfortably settled in mind with regard to production, and then nursed up gradually until the time comes when the action is automatic and the speed deadly. Don't go to the table and imagine that a semblance of a forehand will win games—it will not!

How does one execute the forehand shot? The question is far easier to ask than the answer is to write. However, with a few fundamental rules to follow, it will be very difficult to go far wrong.

At the moment of impact the body should be side on to the table with the right foot almost in a direct line behind the left. The weight is thrown from back to front foot a fraction of a second after the racket, thus getting the whole body behind and over the smash.

The stroke does not finish at that point. The racket must follow through,

in the direction you wish the ball to take, until it swings up and tails off at about shoulder height. The racket starts its journey from about waist height and travels in a slightly rising *straight* line, thus imparting the necessary top spin.

The backhand is almost the reverse movement. The racket starts its swing from behind the body, rising in a straight line until it has completely followed through. The feet are in the reverse position to the forehand—the right in front of the left, and the body side on to the table.

The difference between the two shots is that in the forehand the arm is more or less straight, and in the backhand there is a distinct bend at the elbow, making it into a kind of pivot for the forearm.

A slight increase of speed at the moment of impact for these two strokes will add that little something the others haven't got!

Nurse these two strokes by beginning softly and gradually increasing the strength and speed when your accuracy warrants it. Always remember to *keep your eye on the ball*—the table will not move!

Next issue: *FOREHAND AND BACKHAND DEFENCE.*

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A RISING STAR?

It is interesting to note that Frau Anita Felguth, the German International Corbillon Cup player has given birth to a fine baby.

Congratulations Mrs. Felguth.