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 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

International Match
England v. Hungary
(Barna, Szabados, Bellak)
MEMORIAL HALL,
Farringdon Street,
London, E.C.4
THURSDAY, NOV. 19th, 1936
commencing at 7-30 p.m.
Tickets: 10/6, 5/-, 3/6 and 2/6, can be obtained from 64, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
The Tournament Season

(We have engaged the services of Mr. T. E. Sears, the well known and popular International player, to write about 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 Mereyside, at Liverpool, which should once again provide stimulating entertainment for all concerned. A tournament with a novel touch is the Bournemouth, held at West Ealing—another happy hunting ground for all south players. More events in Yorkshire, like 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.

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 it beyond him to advance still further). This should be a crucial year for Millar. 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, Millie, less spectacles, 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, but Newey is still some way behind in singles.

Anyway, here's wishing everybody a good season (including myself).
“For the Women”  
By Mrs. D. L. BUNBURY

With the summer months just turning purple on the hills and the sun shining benignly on the garden, 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 meet 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 you may repeat the new ruling.

A 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. A 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.

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 congratulation on my efforts at Wimbledon and the International Swathing Cup matches will be held in Baden, just outside Vienna, next January 30th to February 7th, and I am sure your opinions would be very different.

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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, but it is hoped that 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, Stabados 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 been formed, and we are in correspondence with 45 others who are considering joining up. Will all Leagues please send their master for the Official Handbook as quickly as possible? A specimen in for the Wilmott Cup Competition, and the “National League” Committee have met and the new Regulations 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

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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 book so thorough, so comprehensive, and so instructive. It 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 giving my advice and securing a copy at once, you cannot afford to be without it.”—Eric Findon in Table Tennis (30 PAGES. 2s. 6d. NET. 3s. 10d. BY POST).
NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

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 rely on the talents of 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, Ongrean and Walkden prove to be the front-runners, who will find the standard of play in their new sphere much higher, whilst Burnage, Birchfields, St. Luke’s (Wessex), East Conps, Macclesfield 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. H. Rumbahn and E. J. Rumbahn, who have been carefully nursed, should justify the confidence shown in them, and come rapidly to the fore. Liverpool will compete in the Wilmott Cup Competition, the National League, and it is confidently expected that the results will be good. Interest, and G. C. 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 260 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 Cheshire County 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 Championship, which is now the largest in the country, 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.

UTOXETER.

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 from each section. A Ladies’ League 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 of the recent clubs, avowed their determination to 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 formerly in operation, and 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. Hind 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 announcement of the resignation of Mr. Glynn 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 Rhyll League proved so popular last season that it has now found necessity to form a second division. Eighteen teams will compete in this season’s campaign. It is hoped to arrange the Open Flinthish at Rhyll 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.

LINCOLN.

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 year 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

M. A. SWINDELLS, of the Ashton-under-Lyne League, is the enthusiastic purchaser of 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 Secretarieship, 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 attributed 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 Swabing Cup, Barna lost the World and English Championships and Barna and Szabados lost the Doubles, the Mixed losing their "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 organizers. 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 Swabing Cup team. They are staying at Whitby and players in England will be glad to renew acquaintance with Kelen, 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 Swabing 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 head-quarters, with ideal conditions for one 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!

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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.

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Yours truly,

ARTHUR J. KEY.

Norbury, 11th September, 1936.

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

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F. H. AYRES, Ltd., 111, Aldersgate St., London, E.C.1
Gossip from Ashton-under-Lyne

Mr. A. SWINDELLS, of the Ashton-under-Lyne League, was the first enthusiast to win the autograph of Mr. Manktelow. Well done, Mr. Swindells! Well done, Ashton-under-Lyne!

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F. H. DYRES, Ltd., 111, Aldersgate St., London, E.C. 1
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 the Men's 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 Cup, a Surrey Cup, 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 sportsmen. After his arrival. Good luck, Bert, best of Tennis that will boom on the Persian Gulf. "Bert" was a popular figure in all Table Tennis 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.

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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 endeavoring 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 Bath. 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.

**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 interest 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-apses, 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 brought it to Japan, where it is now played extensively.

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 Tokyo, 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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Learn to Play - -  By ERIC FINDON
THE FOREHAND AND BACKHAND SMASH

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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Two Pupils gained Cup Success last season, others won prizes

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,