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GREATEST TOUR OF ALL

Foreign Visitors Pack Hall: Visit 40 Centres: Civic Receptions: Grand Missionary Work: Results Next Year

By J. W. A. CONNOLLY

The missionary work of the present tour is such that it cannot possibly be calculated or even judged in value of cold figures. The 1938 tour is the biggest thing ever attempted by the English Table Tennis Association.

Now, two months after the conclusion of the world championships, we can sit back and reflect on the tremendous interest and enthusiasm which these newcomers to this country have created in a game in which England has long been foremost collectively.

Throughout the British Isles huge crowds have been seeing what we know table tennis can be for the first time. These foreigners have blazed a trail that will not easily be forgotten. It has been magnificent. Table tennis has been put on the map in every little hamlet in the British Isles. It is a feat of which all of us who have participated can be justly proud.

Say don't judge on figures for good enough reasons. In London the people never tire of the artistry of our guest tourists. They can play to capacity houses of 5,000, 6,000 and even 10,000 people. The smaller townships were equally enthusiastic and packed to perhaps 700 because that was absolute capacity.

Had the facilities and accommodation been there they too could have staged the event before thousands of enthralled fans.

The value of this tour will be felt in the increased memberships of clubs, and the new clubs and associations formed next season.

Take Manchester for instance. Five thousand people sat for eight hours through the grand international tournament. Manchester, like London, is well used to internationals, and their high standards of play; nevertheless the King's Hall, the biggest arena in that city, was packed as in the past only local boxing champions had been able to pack it.

Huge crowds saw Barna, Bellak, Vana, Leibster and Bergmann in Acton, Wimbledon, Dartford, Tottenham, Hendon and Southend, all in the London area, and every day it was a sell-out.

Now is the time to say that the new stars Bergmann and Vana have come to stay. They can light out a repetition of their world championship final at Wembley, and still draw the crowds in, because they are playing the best stuff we have ever seen in this country.

It is with the smaller towns that we are most interested. Coventry catered for 500 spectators, and the tickets were all sold a fortnight before the exhibition at the Coventry Gauge and Tool Company's recreation hall. Players also had the opportunity of visiting the Standard Motor Works.

At Cardiff the players were given a civic reception, and again the tickets for the matches at the City Hall were sold long before the date. They were given silver souvenir spoons, with the city coat of arms embossed as a memento.

And then away to Lydney in Gloucester. The only regret that the officials had after the tournament that they could not get a larger hall with bigger accommodation than 400. This in a district where the sport had always been considered a drawing-room game. The exhibition will be the means of giving a fillip to the game.

In Peterborough our troupe showed almost unbelievable artistry. The boys went away with another memento carrying the coat of arms, but left behind them the impression that this is table tennis as it can and will be played in the future.

Shrewsbury officials can give themselves a pat on the back for the way they put it over. They, too, are hoping that the wonderful capabilities of Barna, Bergmann and Bellak have awakened inspirations in local players.

I could go on for pages and pages describing the civic receptions and the wonderful impressions which have been left on the trail of glory of the 1938 tour.

Azlo Bellak, comedian of the Hungarians, amused the crowd at Ashton with his one-man game, "A la tortoise and the hare." If they did not turn up in their thousands at Ashton, the local committee can congratulate themselves on a job well done, and rest in the knowledge that the game has benefited as a result.

The troupe were given a civic reception by the Mayoress of Oldham (Mrs. Howcroft), and later presented with pewter tankards. Miss Vera Greenwood, British Cotton Queen, was there. Bellak again was the favourite with his endless tricks.

Three thousand spectators, absolute capacity, gathered in the St. James' Hall, Newcastle, for one of the earliest tour engagements. Arthur Haydon was a great success. Two thousand seats were sold in advance. The players and officials were entertained in the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and afterwards presented with small mementoes.

Every available seat was disposed of for the games at Tottenham. The deputy Mayor (Councillor A. Reed), and deputy Mayoress (Mrs. P. Baldwin), received the players in the Mayor's Parlour. Each player was presented with a petrol lighter.

(Continued on page 9)
Some "Good Old Days" in South Yorkshire

Amazing Growth of Sheffield's Activities

By "Tyke"

IX years ago, on October 7, 1931, to be precise, six representatives of various clubs—works' sports clubs, social clubs, church institutes, &c.—met to consider the possibility of forming a Table Tennis League in Sheffield.

After prolonged discussion it was decided to form a league, and after further discussion it was decided, with some trepidation, to affiliate to the E.T.T.A.

Although two of the original clubs had to withdraw, by the time match play commenced in mid-November, club membership had increased to 13 clubs (did someone say 13 was unlucky?), with 16 teams divided into two divisions of eight teams each.

It is not too much to say, that, apart from one club—the first league champions—there was very little knowledge of modern table tennis amongst the local players. "Penholder was almost universal, and wooden bats, many of them of weird shape and size, were the rule rather than the exception.

I remember one of these bats, made by a player who has since played in representative matches for the league, which was as big as a frying pan, and the blade was half an inch thick! Incidentally one of the most famous of these wooden bats (still used until recently by its owner), known to, and amongst the local players.

In April, 1932, the General Secretary of the E.T.T.A., in fulfilment of a promise made when the S. & D.T.T.L. became affiliated, arranged for some international players to give an exhibition in Sheffield.

The players taking part were Stanley Proffitt, Freddie Cromwell, Noel Ashton, and Schatzow, and they were accompanied by the local players. Oldroyd and Swan, of Manchester.

What a revelation to the local lads! On all sides the marvellous play of these brilliant exponents was being discussed, the predominant expression being amazement! With few exceptions the members of the audience had seen nothing like it before, but, having had the possibilities of the game demonstrated to them, they set out with real Yorkshire determination to learn how to play table tennis.

An immediate result of the exhibition was a wholesale scrapping of bats, with a corresponding run on "Proffitt and "Schatzow" bats, whilst in every club room erstwhile "penholders" were grimly tackling the "orthodox" grip.

So much for the early days; and now, skipping the intervening years—of steady and continuous progress—what of season 1937-38?

With a club membership of 49 clubs the S. & D.T.T.L. is easily the largest league in Yorkshire.

Seventy-two men's teams are divided into six divisions of 12 teams each, and there is a women's division of 10 teams, a grand total of 82 teams. Over 800 players are registered with the league, each having his or her own handbook with certificate of registration.

A POINT of interest about the league competition is that there is no fixed system of promotion and relegation. Each season the teams are matched up as closely as possible in the light of known facts as to playing strength, &c., and it speaks well for this system to find at this date only one unbeaten team (in Division three) out of the 82, and only four have won a match. At the moment Atas & Norfolk, the sports club of the famous steel firm of Thos. Firth & John Brown, Ltd., are slight favourites for the league championship. They are the holders, having won the championship for the past two seasons, but Brook House, the only private table tennis club in Sheffield, are running them very closely, and may yet spring a surprise.

In addition there is a Team Knock-out Competition for teams of three, and 42 teams have entered this competition. All classes are thus catered for, and there are trophies for every competition.

In the Wilmott Cup competition, the league registered its first victory by defeating Leeds 5-4 in the first round, but with a weakened team, were eliminated by Birmingham, 6-3, in the second round.

For the past four or five seasons we have received visits from the strongest teams of Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, and the same programme applies this season.

In December, Manchester, with Cromwell, Davies, Cohen, Casovsky, and Stanley, gave us a trouncing, but on February 12 the S. & D.T.T.L. made history by defeating Liverpool, 6-1.

Admittedly, Liverpool were weakened by the absence of one or two famous players, but our boys are beginning to shed their "inferiority complex" and if my friend Mr. Goldstein, of Birmingham, should read these notes I warn him to take notice!

It is a source of great satisfaction to the league officials that we are gradually building up a table tennis public in Sheffield. This is being done by careful spacing out of events, and the avoidance of anything in the nature of a "boom.

Our inter-league matches are usually well attended, although we are greatly handicapped by the lack of a really suitable hall in Sheffield for major events. A party of 250 visited Wembley by special excursion for the World Finals, and another party went to Blackpool for the English Open Finals. The interest is there all right.

Now what of our players? We had G. V. Barna with us for three days in Sheffield, and we gave him half a dozen youngsters to take in hand. Five of them 17 years of age, and one 16, and we hope to hear more of these boys in the future. The outstanding player is, of course, Eric Hardman, the 17 years old boy to whom belongs the honour of becoming Sheffield's first international player. He has, perhaps, not done quite so well as we expected, but we have hopes of him doing bigger things next season.

Very little behind Hardman are J. Powell, barely 17, and K. Young, also 17. All these boys benefited by Barna's tuition, and Powell particularly is expected to make a name for himself. He made his debut in real representative match play against Liverpool and celebrated it by winning two straight sets without being extended. It is the view of many competent judges that he will develop into Sheffield's best player. At the Final Trials in London he was nervous and his inexperience told against him, but he will overcome that.

The youngsters are now reaping the benefit of the labours of such "old stalwarts" as Morton, Shivers, Armitage, and a host of others who, by their enthusiasm in the old days, enthusiasm which still continues, made possible the development of the game in Sheffield.

I must also say a word about the league officials, and possibly more important still, the club secretaries.

From its inception the league has been blessed with capable officials and committee men, and as for the club secretaries, well, everyone knows they are the keystone of a successful league, and right well have the club secretaries served the S. & D.T.T.L.

Are we active in Sheffield? I think we are, and in conclusion let me give one further proof. We dispose of 240 copies per month of this magazine, thus doing our little bit towards the success of our own publication.
Improve your Game

No. 7.

THE DROP SHOT AND THE SMASH

The Drop Shot is one of the finer points of the game and should be attempted except by a fairly good stroke player. It is a purely subsidiary stroke and ought always to be regarded as such.

Ability to "Drop Shot" well is of great assistance to a hitter, and saves always hitting into an opponent's defence with the alternative of slow top spin. But before it can be at all effective, first impress an opponent with hitting powers.

Do not confuse the Drop Shot with any short return. It is the most difficult form of short play—a feint to hit the ball and then just a touch at it.

It is easiest to play the shot against a high return near the net which seems to invite a smash. Your opponent gets back ready to return your hit but—never comes! You lose yourself for the blow, start your arm swing back and at the last possible moment just touch the ball over the net. This should mean a certain point.

Perfect timing is essential before the stroke is perfected. Be prepared to play the stroke a good deal in practice before experimenting in a match.

Don't be discouraged if you find you put the ball up high enough for your opponent to jump and make a quick "kill", or if you play in the ball gently into the net. Careful practice will eliminate these faults and improve your touch sufficiently to enable you to use the stroke at least occasionally.

Once you are really proficient it is tremendously effective against all but the quickest footed defensive players. It is a most unsettling stroke—for any opponent.

Avoid using it too often, however, or it will lose its sting—its surprise value—because good players will then always be ready for the shot.

There is nothing more futile than to see a well-placed Drop Shot backed by a decisive hit—otherwise the opposing player will not be ready to receive and defend.

Perfect timing is essential before the stroke is perfected. Be prepared to play the stroke a good deal in practice before experimenting in a match.

T is quite the wrong attitude to adopt. You must expect your Drop Shot to be awkward for your opponent and he should only be able to make a weak return. If he hits it—well, that's because you've made your stroke badly. The Drop Shot is a stroke that must be made well or not attempted. Practice the shot until you can execute it properly.

The Smash

The Smash is at the other end of the scale to the Drop Shot—it is brawn as opposed to guile. Sheer force, when called for, is always the best medium to use because of the most natural. Why worry about placing or anything else when the return is so simple that you feel you can hit it out of sight! Try to do that—it is a most exhilarating feeling to smash the ball right past your opponent—guaranteed to give confidence and likely to rattle an opponent if tried often.

However, there should be method even about your smashing. Pose ready for the blow. The chance formula shot will most often come after a previous good drive by yourself. Watch how your opponent shapes to your hits, then you will automatically position for a more telling reply.

This habit is most conducive to become a really good hitter.

Chop Smash

Against a "skied" return fairly near the net, chop smash can be played. Hit the ball with racket head held above the wrist and strike the ball almost straight downwards with a sharp chopping movement. It is advisable to try this shot to any but the simplest returns unless fairly expert at the chop stroke and even then its use should be carefully restricted.

Missed Smashes

Avoid carelessness about taking the simplest looking return. No player can afford to treat returns with contempt although I have often seen players do this—try to make their smash almost without looking at the ball and turn round to the audience with a smile as if to say—"its as easy as that!"

Careless habits make for loose play and will result in missed "sitters" and eventual lack of confidence. Never relax when playing in a match. Try to remain calm and businesslike about every stroke no matter how easy.

Next Month: Choosing the Right Ball—the Value of Restraint.

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THE star of the month this time is, I think, without question Joan Harding, the young West Ealing player. I don't mention Joan particularly for her singles play, but for her consistency with L. Baron in the mixed doubles.

I haven't kept anything like a careful check of the wins recorded by this pair, but I should say at random that they have won more than any other mixed doubles pairing, even including Arthur Haydon and Doris Jordan.

To my mind it is the remarkable steadiness of Miss Harding that makes the combination. It was rather amazing to find her courageous enough to take Arthur Haydon's service at Wembley and actually hit it.

She has the makings of a grand player, and I would like to see her paired with one of the really tip-top internationals, because I think she is worth it. Which rather reminds me that it is high time Miss Harding got some recognition in the shape of an international jersey. She's well worth that too. Her singles game has improved, but I think her doubles play deserves international honours.

It was liable to happen any time. After resolutely refusing to be drawn into the competitive side of the game again, I yielded to the gentle persuasion of my old friend Leslie Forrest, my assistant editor, and competent assistant to Bill Pope, and broke the golden rule.

We reached the doubles second round. We did well. We had a bye in the first round. That's all the story.

Talking of the Wembley tournament, I must compliment Mr. Tebb and the Wembley League Officials on their splendid organisation. The finals, please note, were finished at 10.15. Fitting compliment from the players was the shape of an entry of almost 600, and the best of the season. In future I think that Wembley at least deserve the ranking of a major tournament. It is seemingly ridiculous to have a tournament with such an entry rated second class.

JACK TEBB is practical minded. When the entry swelled beyond expectation, he hired the Wembley Institute. When the entries rolled in still he didn't tear his hair, he hired the Railway Club, and had twelve tables going every night. Other clubs please note!!!

Wembley fixed a scratching time, and they stood there through the championships. Players who didn't get there to time were scratched. Jack Tebb didn't brook any delay. The Wembley has always been one of my favourite ... they're great hosts at Wembley . . . other clubs please note that also. I shall be there again next year, every night.

Looking Around with J. W. A. CONNOLLY

(*) "Sunday Express" sports writer

MUST bid adieu to friend Stanley Profitt who this month goes to Scotland to take up a cricket appointment at Perth. I wish Stanley the very best of luck once again, and I am glad he will assist Barking in the Wilmott Cup final rounds.

Stanley has been almost as successful with his cricket as with table tennis. He started with Lancashire Colts, had a successful spell in the greatest northern nursery, the Central Lancashire League, played in the Birmingham League, and lastly, of course, with Essex.

I AM pleased he is to play in the Wilmott Cup, because Gerry King, the Barking second string, was one of my old pupils. Had Gerry been able to spare the time he would have been a brilliant left-hander.

He started with Mount Carmel, my old club, in Manchester, years ago, and was one of the first of the first league players. Incidentally I have a note that Mount Carmel have found new fields to conquer in the Manchester Catholic league, and are right bang on top of the table. That's good news, but as I have said before Bill Grogan and Norman Madden were always good players. They even used to beat me easily.

THE latest player to produce a bat is none other than Benny Marcus. Benny claims wonders by means of a cork inset in the handle. Says that the inset gives the player the comfort of a cork grip, and the wooden handle itself gives the bat the speed of an all-wooden handle.

Young Marcus is one of those players who have taken the game really seriously, and bordered on the top class without any international reward. He seems to have been out of luck since he won the West London doubles with Tommy Scan.

BARKING, the York City of the Wilmott Cup, with the knowledge that they have already defeated the holders—South London, travel North for the first time, full of confidence and surprisingly enough two of their team are Manchester men. I refer to that old stalwart Stanley Profitt and to Gerry King, both left-handed players. Don Chapman, still at school, will in all probability complete Barking's trio.

These men from Essex face a formidable array of talent, for Manchester have on their selected list the following—H. Larrie (our pocket edition Barnstaple Cresswell), L. Cohen, A. G. Millar, C. W. Davies and 16-year-old Ken Stanley.
TOURISTS SHOW MANCHESTER SOMETHING NEW
She Rose From Sick Bed and Won Title

BY S. W. RICHARDSON

For those who were lucky enough to be able to see Saturday's play in the Evening Chronicle table tennis festival it will live long in their memory.

Never before has Manchester seen such brilliancy, in fact I thought the standard of play in the final of the international tournament was better than the recent world singles final in which the same players took part.

Perhaps it was because R. Bergmann (Austria) the 19-years-old ex-world champion was all out for revenge, but he again found the 18-years-old B. Vana, of Czechoslovakia, the world champion, his master. Vana lacked nothing. He had an endless range and variety of strokes while his footwork was superb.

Ken Stanley, the English junior champion, gave Bergmann a hard fight in their first match, and he often beat Bergmann completely with drives.

Viktor Barna showed much of his old form against Bergmann, but he now lacks a fore-hand although his back-hand seemed as good as ever.

So keen was the play that hundreds of spectators sat from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. with only a short interval for refreshments.

Play in the Evening Chronicle championships was better than previous years and results were close. Again a Manchester player, A. Cohen (Manchester Jewish), won the men's singles. Cohen is 19 years old and has played the game two years. He shows much promise and has a nice all-round game with a terrific smash. When he becomes steadier he may be a great player. He beat B. Dorfman from Liverpool in the final after a few anxious moments towards the end. Cohen won the first two games convincingly but when leading 14-12 in the third game he wavered. Dorfman seized his chance and took that game, but Cohen got the next.

H. Cohen, his elder brother, runner-up last year, fell in the semi-final to Dorfman, thus killing hopes of a family final.

Mrs. E. Jones (Leek) rose from a sick bed to play in the women's singles and she won, which must have been a big consolation, mainly because of her steadiness.

Miss G. Bean must feel very unlucky. Runner-up last year, fell in the semi-final to Dorfman, thus killing hopes of a family final.

Mrs. D. E. Jones (Leek) rose from a sick bed to play in the women's singles and she won, which must have been a big consolation, mainly because of her steadiness. Miss G. Bean must feel very unlucky. Runner-up last year, fell in the semi-final to Dorfman, thus killing hopes of a family final.

The Hon. Lionel Berry presenting the "Evening Chronicle" Women's Singles Table Tennis Championship Cup to Mrs. D. E. Jones, of Leek, at Belle Vue, Manchester.

FIXTURES

1938.
Mar. 21-Apr. 2 West Middlesex (West Ealing).
April 1-2 Grimsey.
4-8 "Nuca", Transport House, Smith Square, London.
16 Scarborough.
18 Whitby.

Foreigners Sweep the Board in Pontefract Finals
But Lancashire Stars impress Crowd

By LEONARD JOSEPH

All records went by the boards at the Pontefract Open tournament on March 5th when a crowded hall—the first time such a crowd has witnessed a table tennis tournament in the town—paid full tribute to a brilliant evening's play.

To the organising secretary, and Yorkshire secretary, Frank Amies, must go the compliments of all concerned in the success of the event. He gave added spice to the affair by getting A. Ehrlich (Poland), A. Liebster (Austria), A. Boros (Hungary), Mrs. Beregi and Miss I. Ferenczy (Hungary) in addition to many Manchester stars including Leslie Cohen, Freddie Cromwell, Ken Stanley, C. W. Davies, &c.

The highlight of the evening was the final of the men's singles when Ehrlich defeated Liebster 22-20, 21-18, 21-19. The closeness of the scores indicates what a tight fight it was. A battle of giants, I called it, in more senses than one, for both are six foot tall and possess a fine understanding of tablecraft.

In the first game Ehrlich was losing 16-19 and 17-20, but he managed to pull out that extra bit to draw level to 20 all and then took the two deciding points.

What a reception greeted these two players! Ehrlich's non-stop whirlwind tactics against the ever-steady Liebster quickly captured the fancy of the spectators.

Ehrlich, in fact, had a "night out." He and Boros won the men's doubles, defeating Liebster and Cohen 15-21, 21-19, 24-22, while in partnership with Miss Beregi he won the mixed doubles against Boros and Miss Ferenczy in two straight.

In the mixed doubles semi-final, the Leeds pair, Eric Marston and Miss Rene Stott, found Boros and Miss Ferenczy too good to the tune of 21-15, 21-16.

The women's singles title went to the red-headed Hungarian, Miss Beregi, after three games, who defeated Miss Ferenczy. This pair accounted for Miss Stott and Mrs. Amies in the final of the women's doubles.

The entries received were 70 for the men's singles, 26 for men's doubles, 23 mixed doubles, and 16 in the youths' singles. In every instance the entry was at least double that of any previous year.
The World's Best Ten Players

1—Vana
2—Bergmann, Barna

England is Strong—but in Second Class Players

BY HON. IVOR MONTAGU

RANKINGS are generally guesswork, and any man has as much right to guess as another. We have never had one officially because it might cause bad feelings. There used to be an unofficial list prepared by Mechlovitz, Dr. Pick and myself which just helped to start controversy and provide a topic.

To do the self-same service, but in the absence of my two colleagues, here is one to be shot at—

FIRST, let me say that, in my view, world form has been low, very low, in 1936-6 and 1936-7. Last year we should have had to bracket together at the top five players—Barna, Bergmann, Ehrlich, Schiff and Vana—one thing that's never happened before and shows the want of a master—with Bellak and McClure just following.

This year, some begin to rise and draw out.

Here goes:

MEN.

1. Vana.
2. Barna, Bergmann.
3. Bellak, Schiff.
4. Ehrlich.
5. McClure.
7. Tereba.
8. Hazi.

Who is missing and why? Aarons, near No. 1. Bussmann near No. 3 Krebsbach (a mother), Wildam (retired), Wheaton (presumably busy), Delay (bereavement), Medniansky (retired), Adelstein (through causes unconnected with table tennis).

Thus not only were two of the present world's first five not competing this year, but many others in or near last year's first ten, and good candidates for this year's, have dropped right out.

KETTNEROVA, Osborne and Sipos are likely to drop out next year. A sad prospect. In these circumstances England will have to hunt and nurse and coax its newcomers.

Somebody, anywhere, will need to pull up her skirts and give the women's game a shaking up.

WOMEN.

Last year were exceedingly strong, with Aarons, Prizel, Kettnervova, Krebsbach, Bussmann, Osborne, Adelstein all crowded near the top. This year is the most frightfully weak year for women's table tennis—international class, of course.

The only reason why the three ranked in the first 25 pull out above their fellows in the great English strength is because they turned up triumphs in the season in one or two first class games.

If they hadn't, and thanks to it when it was needed, England wouldn't have tied in its Swathing group. Blattner, Kelen, Szabados are left out owing to lack of information.

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DURHAM COUNTY TOURNAMENT

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP FOR EWANK

The first Durham County closed table tennis championships were held in the Y.M.C.A., Sunderland, on Saturday, were an outstanding success, both from the point of view of playing and organization.

In the singles all the semi-finalists were Y.M.C.A. players. Ewbank and E. Reay were expected to reach the penultimate stage, but G. Ewart, created a surprise by eliminating H. Hunnam in the quarter-final, and J. M. Pettner made upset calculations by beating R. A. Punshon, who had previously accounted for F. Templeton and J. H. Jeal.

Ewbank beat Ewart 21-16, 21-12, and Reay beat Middlemiss 21-16, 21-16, and so paved the way for a final which will live long in the memory of those who witnessed it.

The final of the junior singles was also of a high standard and revealed J. Fishwick, of F. Bens, a player possessed of correct footwork. It was a pleasure to see him playing so confidently on both backhand and forehand.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES.


JUNIOR SINGLES.

SEMI-FINAL—Stamp beat Caigton, 21-10, 21-11; Fishwick beat Nicholson, 21-6, 21-11, 21-17. FINAL—Fishwick beat Stamp, 21-14, 25-23.

IN commenting my notes I must apologise for a mistake last month when I stated that H. T. Buse, Bath's number one, beat T. Smith, of Cardif, in the BATH. Western Inter-city match to secure Bath's only point. It has been pointed out to me that Buse's victim was F. Curtain.

This month Bath has secured victory, but in a friendly between Bath and West Wilt's. When visiting West Wilt's Bath took a weakened team and were consequently beaten by eight game to seven.

The following week was a different story in the match at Bath. The home team was represented by K. Ollis, A. R. Leach, C. Bristow, P. Kingston, R. Hillman and J. Offer, and a victory of ten points to four was recorded in favour of Bath. K. Ollis, A. R. Leach and C. Bristow secured two each, while P. Kingston and R. Hillman got one each. J. Offer and R. Hillman and C. Bristow won the two doubles games.

In a league match with Swindon we put out a team of players who had so far just missed inter-city selection, and got soundly licked by 33 games to one, or 769 points to 532. The only point won went to the honour of F. Derrick, who beat L. Joy 21-19.

West Wilt's are sending a team of players to Bath of 19 and wonder to give a start to some of the young blood. We are doing our best to find talent and build a team that instead of taking a licking nearly every match, will return with interest what we have had in the past.

J. Butcher (Oldfield Bapt.) lost his 100 per cent. league record when he was beaten by A. R. Leach "Bathwick " A", " G. T. E."
TOURISTS REACH PEAK FORM AT HASTINGS

Vana wins Sussex Singles

By Jack Carrington

THE Hastings Association took a bold step when they hired the ultra-modern Sea-end Pavilion for their two-day Sussex Open Tournament. However, judging by the satisfaction expressed by competitors and spectators, the venture was worth while, and should be productive in future years.

The cheerful airy hall was laid out very efficiently, each of the eight tables having ample run-back and side-room, whilst a touch of the festive spirit was added by the carnival decorations.

The final seal of neatness was given to the scene by the now famous Albert Hall surroundings (patents pending, Mr. Decker ?), separating tables into single courts.

The men's entry was particularly strong, headed by the four "Tourists," and supported by a large London contingent and players from Eastbourne, Brighton and other southern centres.

Saturday's play reduced these to the expected four semi-finalists, Barna, Bellak, Vana and Bergmann.

Not much trouble for the first two, but Bergmann had quite a struggle with Filby, whilst Jack Rogers showed his independence by taking a game from Vana. (Backhands barred, of course, in this match !)

Sunday evening session opened with men's semi-finals, Barna-Bellak and Vana-Bergmann. Both were soon over in two straight games. Filby and Rogers—Vana and Bergmann! we hoped that the old firm might pull it off here, but the Continentals were just too fast for them.

The ladies' finals which followed were not of first-class standard, but were rendered interesting by the presence of local girls in each event.

The men's final between Barna and Vana was a masterpiece of speed, tactics and stroke production. Nothing was missing and thoughtful players learned much from this model match.

With Victor less worried than at Wimbledon and Vana a little less grim, the score went to 3-2 this time, and left the feeling that Barna is still—but you know the rest !

Barna and Bellak v. Vana and Bergmann was a rousing tussle—no quarter given or asked, and on occasion all four players at one end.

The glorious uncertainty that is Bellak tipped the scale in favour of Hungary, and the crowd went home satisfied.

RESULTS.

Men's Singles.

Vana beat Barna 21-12, 13-21, 21-15, 19-21, 21-14.

Men's Doubles.

Barna-Bellak beat Vana-Bergmann 21-17, 16-21, 21-18.

Ladies' Singles.

Miss J. Harding (Ealing) beat Miss R. Hadlow (Brighton) 18-21, 21-19, 21-10.

Ladies' Doubles.

Mrs. Carrington (Tottenham) and Miss Tansley (Brighton) beat Miss Harding and Miss Mine (Wimbledon) 9-21, 21-18, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles.

Vana and Miss D. E. Ward (Hastings) beat Barna and Mrs. Carrington 14-21, 21-15, 21-8.

South of England and Surrey

Filby's amazing feat in Croydon champs.

Stanley Coles wins Singles Title

Whatever remarks I had intended to pass about the earlier rounds of the South of England and Surrey titles were forgotten in the amazing feat of Eric Filby in winning five titles in one day. I have never heard anything like it, and I doubt if I will again, unless some player tops it by winning the whole half-dozen next year, but then that isn't likely.

Filby would have swept the board, but for Filby and Rogers and Vana and Bergmann. It wasn't that Filby played poorly, it was simply that he found Stanley's defence too good. On his day Coles is one of the finest defensive players in the country, and he didn't miss many marks at Croydon.

Eric got one back when he and Jean Nicoll beat Doris Emlyn and J. Coles. In the women's final, Filby took the first set, and Stanley set his teeth to take the second, but very few southern pairings can stand up to the barrage of sideline drives that Filby and Rogers swish over. It was the free hitting, good defending game that always true to type, pleases the crowd; and believe me this did.

Jean Nicoll gave up her "double," when she won the women's doubles with Mrs. Carrington. They beat Doris Emlyn and Mrs. Collier 21-18, after each side had taken a deuce game previously.

There is very little to write about the Surrey finals beyond the fact that Filby got another treble. He beat Gilbert Marshall very comfortably in three straight in the afternoon. Then with Miss Nicoll he managed to wipe up Miss Burton and H. H. Hall, Croydon. But in two straight, a host of points was being extended. To cap it the Rogers-Filby combination beat Conrey and Ridout in three straight in the doubles. That really is the whole story.

Mrs. Collier again met with defeat in the women's final. Out she went in two straight sets to Miss Roberts. Mrs. Collier again had a splendid opportunity, but it seemed rather as though the excitement brought on an attack of nerves. She's had the experience now, and I hope it will stand her in good stead.

Lastly, Miss Barnes, hard working Wimbledon district official, won the women's doubles with Mrs. Owens. They beat Miss Sampson and Miss Shaal.

FINALS RESULTS.

SURREY CHAMPIONSHIPS (BATHS HALL, CROYDON).

Singles (Men's)—E. J. Filby (holder) beat R. Date 21-14, 21-13, 21-10; (Minories)—P. Date beat H. Carter 21-16, 21-11, 21-11; (Boys)—Peter McGhee (Rutlish High) beat Brian Hirst (Brighton) 21-16, 21-9, 21-12; (Girls)—Missfavoured Miss Burton and Miss Mine (Wimbledon) 9-21, 21-18, 21-13.

Doubles (Men's)—Mrs. Collier and Mrs. Carrington beat Miss Robertson and H. H. Hall, Croydon 21-10, 21-12, 21-13; (Minors)—Miss Sampson and Miss Shaal beat Miss Burton and Miss Mine (Wimbledon) 9-21, 21-18, 21-12.

South of England Championship (Baths Hall, Croydon).

Singles (Men's)—E. J. Filby beat R. Moreton 21-14, 21-13, 21-10; (Minors)—R. Date beat H. Carter 21-16, 21-11, 21-11; (Boys)—Peter McGhee (Rutlish High) beat Brian Hirst (Brighton) 21-16, 21-9, 21-12; (Girls)—Rosemary Cook (Wimbledon) beat Joyce Croft (Concord) 21-14, 21-13, 21-19; (Doubles (Men's)—E. J. Filby and J. Rogers beat R. E. Ridout and J. Corney 21-14, 21-20, 21-19; (Women's)—Miss Barnes and Mrs. Owen beat Miss Shaal and Miss Sampson 21-17, 21-12, 21-18; (Mixed)—Filby and Miss J. Nicoll beat H. H. Best and Miss Burton 21-13, 21-12.

South of England Championships (Baths Hall, Croydon).

Singles (Men's)—E. J. Filby beat R. Moreton 21-14, 21-13, 21-10; (Minors)—R. Date beat H. Carter 21-16, 21-11, 21-11; (Boys)—Peter McGhee (Rutlish High) beat Brian Hirst (Brighton) 21-16, 21-9, 21-12; (Girls)—Rosemary Cook (Wimbledon) beat Joyce Croft (Concord) 21-14, 21-13, 21-19; (Doubles (Men's)—E. J. Filby and J. Rogers beat R. Moreton and G. F. Marshall 21-14, 21-13, 21-10; (Women's)—Miss Sampson and Miss Shaal beat Miss Burton and Miss Mine (Wimbledon) 9-21, 21-18, 21-12.

J. W. A. Connolly.
LOCAL charities should benefit considerably from the exhibition arranged by the Derby Rotary Club. The Mayor and Mayoress attended and welcomed the foreign players. There were a thousand spectators.

From Grimsby I got the following: "The Hall was filled to capacity, 600 people, and many turned away. All the reserved seats were sold a week previously. Ida Ferencsy and Dora Beregi appeared with the tourists. The display was well appreciated by the crowd, and Bellak was better than ever. It wound up with a thrilling last rubber between Bergmann and Vana. Sir Walter Womersley attended the players. Quite a galaxy.

At Llanelli the visitors were met at their hotel and driven to the Town Hall, where they were given a civic reception by the Mayor (Ald. A. Davies). The players and members of the Hull and East Riding Committee, headed by the president Mr. Judge, and the Vice-President Mr. Smith, were entertained to dinner before the Hall Exhibition, and afterwards the players were the guests of the Paragon Motor Company. Nearly 1,000 people again. Good work.

At Southend the tourists again had a Civic reception. One thousand breathless spectators crowded the Kursaal. The inclusion of Stanley Profit, always popular in Essex, pleased the crowd, although it was a pity that Viktor Barna was not there, owing to illness. The tickets were sold out long before the evening of play. It was interesting to note that the Bergmann-Vana thriller was so exciting that the crowd asked for a third game, got it, and still asked for more. The players were presented with a souvenir bearing the Southend coat-of-arms.

Even on St. Patrick's night, with so many counter attractions, the tourists drew 500 spectators at Herne Bay, pretty good I thought. The crowd went up in the air when Barna beat Vana, Leibster and Bergmann in the semi-final. Mr. Pullinger, chairman of the council, Mr. Davies Taylor, entertainments manager, and Mr. E. E. Lomer, well-known local sportsmen, all showed great interest.

At Woolwich also the boys had a great reception. The local committee staged the show wonderfully. Again the thrill for the crowd came in the Bergmann-Vana game. No one seems to tire of this repetition of the world's singles final. The Mayor and Mayoress of Woolwich were there, and Vana showed the Mayor how it was done and the correct way to hold the racket.

Engraved cigarette cases were presented to Barna, Bellak, Filby, Rogers and Haydon, and engraved writing sets to Bergmann and Vana. All the reserved seats went before the match, and the attendance was almost a thousand.

At Mansfield the full 550 seats available were sold days before the visit. The Mayor and Mayoress attended the matches, and the boys were given souvenir cigarette boxes made in Mansfield, and cigarettes made in Nottingham. My correspondent says that the finest incident was in the third set when Barna beat Vana. They do tell me that Bergmann lost his heart to the dainty little receptionist in the Swann.

THERE was a complete success. Our hall was filled to capacity, 700 spectators being present. All the reserved seating accommodation was sold out a week before. During the evening, Mr. E. Allison, Chairman of the League, presented the players with souvenir pewter ashtrays, engraved with the Barrow coat-of-arms. This exhibition was a milestone in the Barrow and district league's progress, and has created enormous interest in table tennis circles in these parts.

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It was one of the finest attractions that the spacious Pier Pavilion had ever held.

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The Liverpool officials can look back on this, our greatest tour ever, was initially intended to last just a fortnight. From Grimsby by I got the following:

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At Llanelli the visitors were met at their hotel and driven to the Town Hall, where they were given a civic reception by the Mayor (Ald. A. Davies). The players were presented with silver spoons (the emblem of the town). Proposing the toast to the players, the President Mr. Smith, were entertained to dinner by the Mayor and Mayoress. The display was well appreciated by the crowd, and Bellak was better than ever. It wound up with a thrilling last rubber between Bergmann and Vana. Sir Walter Womersley attended and Lady Womersley made a presentation to the players.

SHREWSBURY was delighted because local champion J. Frost put up a good show against Viktor Barna and Vana. The 400 spectators went into raptures with the Bergmann-Vana game. Viktor Barna, always a local favourite, acquitted himself better than ever. It wound up with a thrilling last rubber between Bergmann and Vana. Sir Walter Womersley attended and Lady Womersley made a presentation to the players.

The tourists were received by the Mayor and Mayoress in the Mayor's parlour on arrival at Ashton-under-Lyne. Indeed an honour. Mr. Swindells presented pewter ashtrays with engraved coat-of-arms to Barna, Bellak, Filby, Rogers and Haydon, and engraved writing sets to Bergmann and Vana. All the reserved seats went before the match, and the attendance was almost a thousand.

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In conclusion, I merely state that this, our greatest tour ever, was initially intended to last just a fortnight.

APPRCIATION!!

May I intrude on your columns to offer my congratulations to all the hard working Officials, who carried through the organisation of the World Championships with such outstanding success. I think I am only expressing the opinion of many other Associations in the Provinces, who would like to have taken a more active part in the Championships had their geographical position allowed.

Through the publicity gained the status of the game will be considerably raised, and it will react by renewed enthusiasm in all parts of the country.

Again thanks to all the Officials, and Stewards, from the London Area, their efforts were appreciated.

"G.H.," Coventry.
BOYS’ CLUBS SHOULD BE MEANS OF REPLENISHING PLAYERS

By F. A. Mackenzie

An interesting experiment, which is being watched by League and E.T.T.A. officials, is being tried on Merseyside—it is the organisation of a league solely for boys.

In the Handbook is an entry, The National Association of Boys’ Clubs, just a small entry in “Print,” but what does it mean in “fact”? For the benefit of those who have no knowledge of the workings of the Boys’ Clubs Association, I propose to give a brief outline of their organisation then it will be realised why the Wirral Boys’ League is an experiment, and why it is being watched and assisted by Billie Stamp and his colleagues of Liverpool, the E.T.T.A. Office and the N.A.B.C. Headquarters.

Boys’ Club is a group of say 30 or 40 boys attached to a Church, Institute, Scout Troop, Boys’ Brigade, or any other body whose constitutional rules are acceptable by the N.A.B.C. These clubs are eligible in certain cases to Government grants. To facilitate the workings of business, the clubs in a town or district amalgamate into a Town Federation, the towns and districts into a County Federation and the counties into a National Association, and there you have the National Association of Boys’ Clubs.

Let us suppose that you are the Secretary of one of these Boys’ Clubs (affiliated N.A.B.C.)—we will leave out the hundred and one other items of your business and only deal with your table tennis. You very quickly find that you cannot form a definite team and that your chosen team is quite likely to be a player short on the last minute. Your players, unlike your seniors, can be sent to bed or to night school instead of being allowed to go to the club, and dozens of other reasons, but you are compensated by the fact that all your players are “affiliated” by virtue of the N.A.B.C. affiliation and you are able to call on any member as a reserve.

You very quickly learn that your team must not play a “Full Night Match” because, whereas Tommy Jones may stay out until 10 o’clock, Billie Smith must be home by 9 o’clock.

You will also have the same difficulties regarding apparatus, &c., as does a Senior Secretary; but they will appear more difficult because you will, in many cases, be called upon to supply personal gear such as rackets, and if you have a match a bus ride away, you may have a fares account to ensure the presence of full strength, and will have to make sure that a responsible person accompanies the team in many cases.

Now for your troubles as a Boys’ “League” Secretary. The apparatus and conditions question will give you a nightmare you didn’t bargain on, especially if you have been used to a senior league with championship tables.

Methods of teaching players the rules and instructing club secretaries must be devised. League rules “toned down,” as compared with senior league rules, and yet to uphold the prestige of your federation.

With all these difficulties you will naturally ask it is worth while carrying on with boys’ table tennis in league form, and as one who has organised a league during its first year (with the help of officials of Liverpool League, E.T.T.A., and my own federation, to whom I offer my thanks) I say Yes,” and in doing so, you will probably ask my reasons and advice. Well, here goes.

1. It creates a nursery to replenish first division, if not international players.

2. The Boys’ League teaches the sport to youngsters, creates an interest and following which, up to now, has been lost. It provides indoor athletic occupation during winter months, and has proved to be a good social activity.

3. That the E.T.T.A. should define “Junior Table Tennis,” and should adopt an age limit in conjunction with the N.A.B.C. applicable to all tournaments and players.

4. That it is essential that the Management Committee of the Local Boys’ League should, whilst working on its own, have a friendly understanding, even to the point of being a subsidiary with the Management Committee of the Local Senior League.

5. A Boys’ League also carries the boy over that difficult period, i.e., the first two years of night school, and also makes an easy channel for transferring to senior table tennis.

6. There is a Boys’ Federation in your district—a letter to the N.A.B.C. and the Secretary’s name and address will be sent you—get in touch with the Federation Committee and try and start a Boys’ Table Tennis League in your district.

Table Tennis

County Championship.

Northern Section—Results.

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On Reflection

Who would like to come back stage of the Hotel-keeping business? An enquiry—Can you accommodate the members of the table tennis teams taking part in the world’s championships at the Albert Hall and Wembley? How many? Oh, about 175, that’s all. Well! if not, why not? All that we could find out was they did not all like steak and kidney pudding. Strange and unreasonable (after all we do, why shouldn’t they?). They didn’t all get up at 7 a.m.

They were not all deaf and dumb (and did we find this out). Anyhow, we liked the look of the Hon. Secretary, and agree not too much steak and kidney pudding. We issued don’ts in twenty different languages, and they duly arrive. After all we are surprised to find them all quite human.

I found that having ascertained that we were anxious to please them, they showed they were in no hurry to offend us or any other visitors to the hotel.

They didn’t all do the same thing at the same time, but then they were not all a party of school children from the wilds of Wigan and unlike the children didn’t like tripe and onions; yes, we are proud to include many new friends through our association with the E.T.T.A., and the many letters of appreciation have proved to us that you have only to be reasonable with the client to make a good customer. The following menu was a great success—

Tomato juice (Danes American), Grape Fruit Victor, Pineapple juice, Juif Schirf, Kippens & Buttle, Eggs and Bacon Ungarn, Vienna Schnittel Laslo, Fruit Salsa International. Tea 1938 Vint-age, Lemonade Richard’s.

A little bit unbalanced but who cares. Cherrio, Boys!

“W. H. P.”
G. H. JONES, of the Turnbull Club, Manchester, has just completed 112 consecutive appearances for his team over a period of three years.

Jones was one of the first members of the League and assisted the old Y.M.C.A. team to win the championship in the League’s first season in 1927-28.

His untiring work in those days helped to found the League and even to this day he is still an untiring enthusiast.

Now grown up with the full cares of a married man, he has a young son who may some day follow his father’s footsteps, or go further in keeping the "Jones" in T.T.

A Simcock, of the Carlton Club, Ashton-u-Lyne, has just completed a nice double hat-trick in winning the singles and doubles championship of Ashton for the third successive season.

This time his doubles partner, J. Millington, fell sick, but with C. H. Renshaw as deputy, the doubles were again won. It was hard luck on Millington.

Simcock, who is 25 years old, has played the game three-and-a-half years.

ASHTON-U-LYNE have a grand worker in A. Swindells, now treasurer of the League. His untiring efforts have put Ashton well on the table tennis map.

He organised the recent visit of the foreign artists. Mine was “so-and-so and his performing lions.”

Actually the finals were played in the arena that had for many weeks housed the circus and many of the dressing rooms used by the players and officials were still labelled for the artists. Mine was “and-also-and his performing lions.”

The Rumjahn family at Liverpool are great sportsmen. Father, Eric, Peter and little Ronnie all play the game. Father has kept goal for Lancashire at hockey and both Peter and Eric have had county hockey trials.

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FOR RAPIDITY
of ACTION,
SUPPLENess of
LIMB, and Stamina

WONDERFUL TESTIMONY
Rapidity of action and suppleness of limbs, as well as stamina are of the utmost importance to me. For these I have found ELLIMAN Athletic RUB of the greatest aid. How great you can judge when I tell you that although according to age (26) I should be past my prime at Table Tennis, I am still playing in international matches, and what is more I am playing better than I ever played before.

STANLEY PROFFITT
International and Swrajpur Cup Player,
Table Tennis Coach and Essex County Cricketer

ADDs HIS
TESTIMONY WITH
GREAT PLeASURE
to
THE WORLD’S
WONDER
MUSCLE TONIC

ELLIMAN
ATHLETIC RUB 1/4
1/- and 2/6 (Club size) of all High Class Chemists

THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL
UPPER BEDFORD PLACE
(RUSSELL SQUARE), W.C.1
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TENNIS,
BILLIARDS and
TABLE TENNIS

Five minutes from City and West End — Centrally Heated —
Hot and Cold Water in all Rooms
MODERATE CHARGES

W. H. PRICHARD,
Resident Proprietor
SHEFFIELD defeated Hull by 10 rubbers to 2 on March 5 on their initial visit to that city. It was a great game and SHEFFIELD, although Hull lost, their players showed promise. Atlas and Norfolk T.T.C. are League champions for the third successive season. With J. C. Kramer, Yorkshire county player, J. F. Green, a Yorkshire junior champion, J. Powell, who took part in the Yorkshire area trials and the Final trials S. Bricklebank, F. Richardson, and N. Henderson (past Yorkshire doubles champion with Green as partner), Atlas and Norfolk have a strong all-round team, and are worthy champions. The champions of the other Divisions are as follows: —

Division 2.—Rotherham Y.M.C.A. "A." B.
Division 3.—Crookes Y.M.C.A. "B."
Division 4.—Boys’ Club.
Division 5.—Unemployment Assistance Board.
Division 6.—St. John’s Methodists.

Women’s.—Edgar Allen, for the second successive season.

Finals Night and Annual Prize Distribution will be held on Saturday, April 9, at the Wostermo Hall.

Events.—Men’s singles, semi-finals and ­finals; ladies’, veterans’, and junior singles finals.

Prize List.—Ten Cups (held for one year), 15 miniature cups, 41 medals and six bats.

HERE has been the most thrilling finish ever to decide the First Division championship, the Granville Club leading the Y.M.C.A. “A” on set aggregate of two sets. In the Second Division, Wem Y.M.I. “B” team have practically won this championship by beating the G.P.O. “B” team, who have been on top throughout the season. We have had a successful season regards clubs fulfilling fixtures; club members have supported important events such as Midland County League matches. Although we are optimistic regards next season, and expect an increase of clubs applying for membership. Unfortunately our singles champion, J. R. Frost (open style), is leaving Shrewsbury within the next two weeks. As a player he has done tremendous amount of good in raising the standard of play in Shrewsbury.

The Wembley championships are over. League matches are again in full swing. Herga still lead the men’s First Division with WEMBLEY LEAGUE. 26 points followed by L. N. E. R., 20; Institute, 19; W. Hill, 18 points and two games in hand. Other League leaders include L. M. S., Tithe Farm, L. N. E. R., Harrow Weald, Hall Telephone and Northwich Park. A women’s representative match versus the London Business Houses League, played at Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, resulted in a draw six all. Miss J. Nicholl again excelled herself in beating Miss P. Hodgkinson and Miss Oustaining in two straight games. Misses Richards, Misses Dickens, Miss Cox and Miss Pettigrew won one each for Wembley. Miss P. Fowler failing to score. The return match takes place at Wembley where the G.P.O. “B” team, who won the championship this season, take on the Wem­bley. In the final of the team knock-out competition at the Lancelot Hall, Wem­bley Hill put up a very stiff fight, but they could not hold the Herga, who won by six games to three.

For the Herga, D. Mackie and R. Nicoll were unbeaten. J. Bailey, who should have played for Herga, was unable to play owing to illness, and C. Blum, who took his place was very unlucky not to win a set. For Wem­bley Hill W. Morris, R. Spurgeon and R. Masham won one game each. The trophy for this event, the A. J. Elvin Cup, was presented to the winners on the Wembley championships finals night by Mr. L. E. Forrest of the E.T.T.A.

THE Bromley and District Table Tennis League, although, actually in its infancy, is now established beyond even the dreams of our hard working team of past and present chairman, H. W. Morgan, and is in the right hands of Mr. D. H. Jones, now Secretary, and Mr. A. R. Cox, now Captain. Victory is the end in view, and the first step of the right kind is the formation of a team to compete in the Third Division 2 to hold the place of Division 2. For Wem­bley Hill W. Morris, R. Spurgeon and R. Masham won one game each. The trophy for this event, the A. J. Elvin Cup, was presented to the winners on the Wembley championships finals night by Mr. L. E. Forrest of the E.T.T.A.

There have been some new semi-finalists this season. Two new semi-finalists will appear in the Third Division 2, while the first to beat Roger.

To the Leeds City Club have won Division 4 at the first time of asking. The position in Division 2 indicates a likely tie between Education Department and St. Clement’s, the former of whom have put up a smart performance in the knock-out tourney for the Jaques Shield.

The introduction of Table Tennis to a number of public billiard halls is a sign of things to come, and it is likely that with these movements and clubs have been formed and are likely to compete in the League next season.

SWINDON have won the Western Counties League. They are unbeaten with the splendid aggregate of 72 wins against 10 losses in the League and have still to lose a game. Swindon, who held every title, captured all but the women’s singles at the Railway Athletic Association Championships held at the Liverpool Street Gymnasium. J. Sitto retained all three titles (the men’s singles without dropping a game). In the mixed doubles he appeared with Miss C. Jones, who he partnered F. Jefferies in the doubles. The League matches have been keenly contested and “play offs” are necessary in the Men’s Premier and Ladies’ Divisions. St. Paul’s and Central Mission will contest the former, while Oxus Ladies meet the Lucan Ladies.

SALISBURY looks back on another season of solid progress—record numbers of clubs, teams and players; record entries for the League Championships, and a successful new competition in the Mixed Doubles. Y.M.C.A. are now sure to retain the Championship, and S. Martin’s “B” to hold the Second Division, while the honours will probably land with S. Paul’s “C” in the Third. The change to three-set events in the First Division has been generally popular, and has been played in all Inter-League matches as well.

Two new semi-finalists will appear in the Senior Singles, L. Roper, who was not defeated by any competition by a Salisbury player till March, and Reg. Sheppard, "surprise packet" of the season. Promoted from the Division Third only this season, Reg. Sheppard, defeated the reigning champion in the Tournament and was the first to beat Roper.
TABLE TENNIS.

THAT both these players are under 18 augurs well for the future. The "old gang" is represented by Bob Bryant and Fred Gould, both playing better than ever.

The League has been well represented at local tournaments the Bournemouth, Hampshire, Dorset and West of England. Though no championships have been won, most players can claim to have occasional "crowded hours of glorious life." The women players have improved tremendously, but a clear No. 1 is Miss M. Fay (Marks & Spencer), sound in defence, and with a disconcerting forehand hit.

This is only her first season and in her first open tournament she reached the semi-final of the West of England, both in singles and doubles (partnered by another new player, Miss Q. Conduit).

More is bound to be heard of these players and several others who compete with distinction in a strong Third Division of the Men's League. And their comments on a possible Ladies' Division were positively devastating. Ah! Well! ! !

LINCOLNSHIRE.

Results of the finals of the Lincolnshire Closed are:

MEN'S SINGLES-A. Hall (Grimsby) beat N. Rimmer (Grimsby) 21-10, 21-9.


MIXED DOUBLES-A. Hall and M. Goodwin (Grimsby) beat B. Bennett and W. Perkin (Grimsby) 21-13, 21-18.

WOMEN'S SINGLES—Miss P. Scott (Grimsby) beat Miss B. Scott (Woodhall Spa) 21-13, 21-9.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES—Miss P. Scott and Mrs. Langridge (Grimsby) beat Miss M. Crust and Mrs. H. M. Chamberlain (Spalding) 21-9, 20-22, 21-14.

YOUTH'S SINGLES—F. Taylor (Grimsby) beat R. Rimmer (Grimsby) 21-10, 21-9.

By defeating Lincoln 12-4 away, Grimsby ensured the retention of the Haigh Cup and the final placings for this competition are:

**Grimsby**: P. W. D. L. F. A. P.
**Lincoln**: 6 6 0 0 64 12 12
**Boston**: 6 4 0 2 61 33 8
**Boston**: 6 2 0 14 25 57 9
**Boston**: 6 0 0 6 88 88

The championship of the Subsidiary Competition depends on the Louth v. Scunthorpe clash and the table reads:—

**Louth**: 10 10 0 1 30 30 30
**Scunthorpe**: 10 10 0 1 30 30 30
**Scunthorpe**: 10 10 0 1 30 30 30
**Scunthorpe**: 10 10 0 1 30 30 30
**Scunthorpe**: 10 10 0 1 30 30 30

The Second Division has been won by the Y.M.C.A. "C," making three Y.M.C.A. teams in the First Division next season. N.C.I. "B" were looked on as likely winners in the early part of the season, but disappointed and finished second in the County Championships, Cambridge though finishing bottom did in no way disgrace themselves.

The South London League is nearing the completion of its sixth successful season and there is an interesting situation at the head of the table.

**SOUTH LONDON.** of the First Division.

At the moment Brixton lead Ravensbourne by 2 points, with the return game between the clubs still to play. As Brixton appear to be winning under the strain, there is a distinct possibility of a play-off to decide the holder of the Nutnead Cup for the Championship.

There is a similar position in the Women's Division, where Rueilbider lead Denmark with the return game not yet decided. Despite the valiant efforts of youthful Miss Vera Dace, South London League candidate for international honours, the odds are on Rueilbider beating Denmark.

The recent Inter-League match against the Manchester League attracted the largest "gate" we have had for such a match. Nearly 200 people attended, and they saw a strong team beat the locals by 10 sets to nil. As the visitors included H. Lorie, L. Cohen and F. Cromwell, the result was no surprise, Chester's best performance was that given by W. T. Moore, who took Cohen to three close games.

We have been pleased with the promise showing by several players (under 17) who have beaten Rhyll juniors by 7 sets to 3 at Rhyll, and 6 sets to 4 at Chester.

Three members of this team are only 15 years old, and they are expected to develop into really useful players.

The results of other matches are as follows:—

**Hollwy 4, Chester "A" 6; Chester 7, Rhyll 3; Chester Ladies 2, Rhyll Ladies 8**.

In the latter match Chester's sets were again won by Miss E. Guest and Miss V. Woodfine, who each beat one of the Wadsworth sisters, Miss Woofine beating Miss C. Wadsworth, and Miss Guest beating Miss A. Wadsworth.

Chester are short of lady players, although there are now signs of an improvement in this respect.

Chester were beaten in the second round of the "Hyde" Cup by Southport, by 6 sets to 2 after beating Wigan by 9 sets to nil in the first round.

Y.M.C.A. have again won the local knockout competition for the "Bradley" Cup. In the semi-finals they beat City, and City Road Presbyterians beat St. Barnabas.

The final produced some excellent table tennis, although Y.M.C.A. won easily by sets 8 to 2.

These two teams, Y.M.C.A. and City Road Presbyterian, are still leading the First Division, and it seems that these are the positions in which they will finish the season. Y.M.C.A. "B" are at present the favourites for third place.

The Second division is perhaps the more interesting. We have two clubs, both in their first season as members of the League, who have up to date lost only one point each. These teams are G.P.O., and County Officers. In 17 matches G.P.O. have lost only 28 sets, while County Officers in 16 matches have lost only 30 sets. When they met earlier in the season the result was 6 to 4, and we now await expectantly for the return match.

Christ Church have been making a gallant effort to catch up with the leaders; they have not lost a match for the last three months, but their indifferent play to date has jeopardised their chances.

The first week in April sees the staging of the closed championships. A large hall has been engaged for three evenings, and the events will consist of singles, men's doubles, ladies' singles, mixed doubles and junior singles.

BURNLEY have now assured themselves of the Sir Thomas Higham Cup for the champion league in North Lancashire. N.E. LANC'S, has been a surprise, for Nelson have the North East Lancashire singles title holder in their team, and Alan Matson, who retained his title for the second year in succession, has won every set he played.

T. Alston has been Burnley's stalwart in inter-league matches, and he also had the Burnley League averages again, truly a great season, as he also won the North East Lancs. doubles championship with K. J. Holmes his partner.

N.A.L.G.O. are still ahead in the Burnley League table in both divisions, and look like achieving record with two wins in a row. They have participated in Whalley Church Institute division one, and Chatburn Church Institute in division two have assured themselves of the trophies in the Ribblesdale Leagues, but Ribblesdale School Old Boys and Whalley Church Old Boys are fighting out the Sir William Brass Cup Competition, while the closing rounds of the Lord Cup are arousing widespread interest. A dinner on April 8 closes the season's programme, and a big attendance will witness the presentations by Sir William Brass, the new President.

AS I write, early in March, our playing season has some six more weeks to run, and enthusiasm is now very high.

HARTLEPOOLS, we have women's, men's, and junior, are now nearing completion and all is set for our "Final's Night" which, this year for the first time, will be held in the Town Hall, West Hartlepool, followed by a dance, on Wednesday, April 13. Tickets are selling so fast that a second evening is assured. Recently the Durham v. Yorkshire match attracted 280 spectators. Officials were complimented by the County Officials upon so successfully staging the event.

We regret that we have only a moderate playing season, but we have managed to do well in future as a result of their experience this season.
The Carringtons in Form

Five League Titles

In the finals of the North Middlesex Table Tennis League (closed) championships at the Assembly Rooms, Wood Green, it was unfortunate that Doris Jordan, finalist in last year's competition, was unable to participate. This gave Mrs. F. Booker, a walkover in the Ladies' Singles and Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Carrington a walkover in the Ladies' Doubles.

The most exciting match of the evening was the final of the Men's Singles between J. H. Carrington and W. T. Stennett, finalists last year.

Carrington started like a whirlwind, hitting strongly and mixing his game with some very cunning drop shots which frequently left Stennett standing.

One game to Carrington 21-14. In the second game Stennett found his length and managed to level 21-19. In the third game Carrington seemed to tire and Stennett got a lead. After some long rallies Carrington caught up and eventually won the game 21-17.

The fourth game was similar to the first, Carrington hitting hard, though not with the ferocity first shown, and Stennett retrieving well. Down 19-14 Stennett won four points in a row and it looked as though he would succeed in getting the game but Carrington by sheer effort won the next two points for match.

The Mixed Doubles was another victory for Carrington partnered by Mrs. M. A. Carrington. Together they played extremely well and had won the match before Stennett and Mrs. F. Booker had settled down.

To complete his treble Carrington, partnered by Mrs. M. A. Carrington, won the Men's Doubles against J. Scarsbrook and A. G. Scarsbrook by three games to one. This was a good match in which there was some fine hitting on both sides but the greater experience of Stennett and Carrington enabled them to win.

The Consolation Singles were good matches and resulted in wins for L. M. Bromfield and Miss V. Weavers.

The League's thanks are due to Miss Joan Nicholls who came along at short notice to play in place of Miss Jordan. Her style and ease of execution are a joy to watch and augur well for her future in table tennis.


World Champion Beaten

VIKTOR BARNÁ'S SUCCESS

The West of England championships at the Civic Hall, Exeter, were, in every way, a huge success and the Final event of the evening, the Men's Singles final, between Barna and Bergmann will be remembered for years to come.

Barna was made to look very much like a "has been" in the first two games as the score of 6-21 and 14-21 would indicate but he fought back wonderfully well to win a most amazing game 6-21, 14-21, 21-15, 21-16, 21-19. The crowd of nearly 700 rose to its feet. Barna, however, was a gallant and sporting loser.

Other Final results were as follows:—

Ladies' Singles—Misses Doris and Miss Emdin beat Miss Dora Emdin 21-20, 21-15, 21-12.

Ladies' Doubles—Misses Doris and Doris Emdin beat Miss J. Brock and Miss J. Stowbridge, 21-17, 21-14.

Junior Singles—A. W. Simons (Bristol) beat T. White (Portland) 21-14, 21-11.

Men's Doubles—Barna and Bellak beat Vana and Bergmann 11-21, 21-16, 21-13, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles—Barna and Miss Dora Emdin beat Misses Doris Emdin 10-21, 21-6, 21-17.

Cups and replicas were presented to the winners and finalists at the conclusion by Mrs. T. J. W. Templeman (Deputy Mayor of Exeter).

The last event of the season in connection with the Exeter and District League will be the popular local "Finals Night " at the Drill Hall, Exeter, on April 6th.

Grimsby Fight Hard

But Manchester Win

MANCHESTER beat Grimsby by 8 matches to 1 in the fourth round tie of the Wilmott Cup at Cleethorpes on April 6th. Manchester were represented by T. Hall, W. Cohen and R. Stanislav, and Grimsby by A. Hall (Grimsby closed champion), B. Bennett (ex-junior champion of Grimsby), and K. Rimmer.

Hall played far below his usual form in the opening game of the evening against Cohen, but Bennett very nearly beat Cohen. Manchester were represented by T. Hall, W. Cohen and R. Stanislav, and Grimsby by A. Hall (Grimsby closed champion), B. Bennett (ex-junior champion of Grimsby), and K. Rimmer.

The game between B. Bennett, who is just 17 years old, and L. Cohen, which the latter won to 19 and 19, was the most interesting of the evening. They both concentrated on their very fine backhand shots, bringing off some strong attacking strokes.

Bennett was not good enough on the forehand to win the match, however. Stanislav beat Hall in the fifth match by the odd game, enabling Manchester to pass through to the next round.

RESULTS.

L. Cohen (Manchester) beat A. Hall 21-10, 21-15; B. Bennett 22-20, 21-10; and N. Rimmer 21-17, 21-10.

B. Casofsky (Manchester) beat T. Hall 21-19, 21-16; and N. Rimmer 16-21, 13-21; and A. Hall 21-17, 11-21, 21-10.

K. Stanley (Manchester) beat N. Rimmer 24-26, 21-12, 21-19; A. Hall 27-19, 16-21, 21-14; and B. Bennett 21-15, 17-21, 21-12.

E. C. HEBBLETHWAITE.
FILIBY WINS THE SINGLES

Joan Harding's Bid for Higher Honours

The surprises in the Wembley championships were not reserved wholly for the finals' night. The initial result that started me off at a tangent was the defeat of Tommy Sears by D. Mackie, the young Herga player. That was in the first round. True enough Tommy's form was almost too bad to be true, but at the same time Mackie played well enough to justify the win.

Next came the defeat of Bill Stennett, the singles holder, by L. Baron. That was in the third round. Not content with putting out the holder in straight sets, Baron proceeded to get the better of another international, Maurice Bergl, in the next round. Not an easy draw for Baron, putting out the holder in straight sets, and Eric Filby easily enough managed to win 21-18, 21-12, 21-12.

Not content with the men's, Baron beat young Harry Rosen, and Eric Filby easily enough managed to beat Benny Marcus, former Wembley championships winner. That was in the first round.

In the men's semi-finals Dora Emdin beat sister Doris comfortably, but Doris Jordan had to fight really hard before beating Connie Wheaton, but it was by no means an inspiring match, defence being the order of the day.

In the men's singles final Eric Filby proceeded to cut Baron to pieces, as if to show that the London championships had been a flash in the pan for the unseeded player. Baron fought well enough to lose the first set to 18, but he was never in the picture with those crisp Filby drives down the line, and lost the next two games both at 12, and very comfortably Filby played at that.

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The finals' night brought another crop of surprising defeats. Doris Jordan and Arthur Haydon—what a very safe mixed doubles pair they have always seemed this season—went out to Baron and Joan Harding in the mixed semi-finals. In the men's, Baron beat young Harry Rosen, and Eric Filby easily enough managed to beat Benny Marcus, former Wembley championships winner. That was in the first round.

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The outstanding match of the series was undoubtedly the men's singles final between W. Straker (Hay's Wharf) and E. Ridout (T.M.C.), and so many were the fluctuations that it was not until the fifth game was well advanced that Straker began to waver against the magnificent defence of his opponent, the score being 13-21, 21-18, 8-21, 21-15, 15-21 and ending in Ridout's favour.

Mount Pleasant provided both finalists in the men's junior, and two games, each 21-18, enabled Rose to defeat his clubmate, Brant.

Although Phil Hodgkinson (Lensbury), won the women's singles and who defeated Miss Oustainge (United Dairies), 21-9, 21-13, 21-18, she had a great fight in previous round against Miss Broadberry (Glaxo), who was only beaten after three games.

**RESULTS**

Singles:
- Men's, E. J. Filby beat L. Baron 21-18, 21-12, 21-12; men's closed, A. Bergl beat R. Marsham 21-18, 20-21, 21-13; women's, D. M. Emdin beat D. Jordan 21-17, 17-21, 21-13; women's closed, J. Nicoll beat Mrs. Timmis 21-12, 21-14;
- Doubles:

J. W. A. Connolly.

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**Record L.B.H. Champs. Entry**

The 13th annual individual championships of the L.B.H. were a great success, and Wendy Woodhead, who presented the cups and medals, must have been impressed by the high standard of play. Records were made in both the number of entries, and in a playing sense, for Miss P. Hodgkinson (Lensbury) won the ladies' singles for the fourth year in succession which brought with it the holding of the Dallas Norris Cup.

The number of entries totalled 667, a record for the Business Houses, and also a world record for a closed tournament. These were made up as follows:

- men's singles, 90;
- men's singles (junior), 198;
- women's singles, 77;
- men's doubles, 162 (81 pairs);
- mixed doubles, 74 (37 pairs);
- women's doubles, 56 (28 pairs).

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**TWO WINNERS**

Jack Tebb, referee in the Wembley Championships, congratulates the "closed" singles winners: Alec Bergl and Jean Nicoll.
The Ultra-Beginner

The Forehand Drive

Up to now, defensive strokes have been the main theme of this series of articles. Theoretically, you can return any ball which comes over on your side of the table, so now a rough outline of the fundamental principles of attack will be dealt with.

You will probably find, when on the offensive, that you have a natural aptitude for one particular attacking stroke. This shot, whatever it may be, must be practised until you have it as near perfect as possible. It is far better to have a consistent and damaging stroke on which you can rely at all times, than a mediocre all-round, orthodox game.

The essential difference between a drive and a kill is that with the former, the ball is hit with a top-spin movement, thus tending to overcome your opponent's chop. It is used as an adjunct to the kill, which is a perfectly flat hit, without any spin whatsoever, the impact receiving the whole weight of the body.

The main points to remember, when attempting a forehand drive, are the essentials: the left foot about 12 inches in front of the right, the left shoulder inclining towards the table; the impact of the ball at the top of its bounce; last, and most important, the follow through with the bat and arm after the ball has been hit.

When "killing" a high ball, however, there are certain minor differences. You must stand more sideways to the table, and your own position at that particular moment.

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In spite of the writings of experts on the matter, it is impossible to apply in practice a forehand or backhand hit as described on paper. The execution of the movement depends entirely upon your opponent—the amount of chop he puts on the bat, the placing, and your own position at that particular moment.

THE women's singles championship was contested between two old rivals, Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) and Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmawr). Mrs. Evans playing at the top of her form ran out winner, but only after a really fine game. A. D. Brook (London) and Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) won the mixed doubles title after an exciting struggle with Needles and Miss Adams (Gilfach) in the semi-final.

RESULTS.

Men's Singles.

Men's Doubles.
T. Smith and F. Smith (Cardiff) beat H. Needles and R. Rees (Gilfach), 21-12, 21-15.

Women's Singles.
Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) beat Mrs. B. Morgan (Brynmawr), 21-18, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles.
A. D. Brook (London) and Mrs. E. H. Evans (Maesteg) beat F. Curtis and Mrs. Matthews (Cardiff), 21-20, 21-12.

DURING the progress of the various open tournaments it has been particularly gratifying to note the fine form shown by several players who are considered by the authorities as back numbers. I refer particularly to T. Smith (Cardiff), L. Samuels (Aberdare) and H. Needles (Gilfach). These three players together with J. Meredith (Aberdare) and F. Curtis (Cardiff) of the younger school, and you have about the five most consistent men in Wales at the moment.

The next event of importance is the Welsh Closed Championship to be held early this month. A record entry is anticipated and all Welsh players are advised to enter this event.

D. J. Thomas, the holder, will again defend his title, but his loss of form this season makes the tourney very open.

Scotch Tour

A N enthusiastic reception was accorded the players who visited Edinburgh for a series of exhibitions. The visit reflects credit on the newly formed Scottish Association, who sponsored the games, and on the Edinburgh League who made all the arrangements.

This was the first visit of its kind to Scotland and the combination of the two American Swaythling Cup players, Bernard Grimes and Louis Pagliaro, and Londoners, L. W. Bromfield and J. Frischer, proved most popular to the crowds. The hall was booked for only three nights, but it was packed each time.

During the matches the enthusiasm of the spectators was extraordinary. Friendly matches were also arranged between representative Scots players and the Englishmen. Edinburgh's No. 1, Reddy, gave Frischer quite a good game, while Barclay (Glasgow's No. 1), put up quite a good show against Bromfield.

EXHIBITIONS—COACHING—

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12/6 pair

(See picture of Mrs. Booker, the famous International)

SHIRTS or BLOUSES in any colour from
3/6 pair

GREY SHOES with Zipp fastener, nest appearance
6/11 pair

 GREY ANKLE SOCKS
1/6 pair

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for E.T.T.A. events during the last ten years.

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