

TABLE TENNIS

OCTOBER, 1946
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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Official Magazine
of the
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Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. V. No. 1

OCTOBER, 1946

A Message from the President



As President of the E.T.T.A., the privilege of prefacing this first post-war number gives me a unique opportunity of reaching all enthusiasts old and new.

For physical reasons I am precluded from taking an active part in the organisation which has survived the terrors of war, and now goes ahead with renewed enthusiasm, but as a result, I am probably better able to see, from my Northern Window, all that has been done and is being done for the game.

For all new-comers to organised Table Tennis, the pre-war enthusiasts and the patient officials, a hearty welcome, and may their endeavours and their game be so effective as to enable this country to provide that outstanding talent with which we may look forward to capturing, at any rate, some of the championship honours of the world. Whether this be so or no, we have in our hands a powerful instrument which, if used correctly, may well play a useful part in the most necessary work of creating better understanding between the peoples of the world, without which that peace for which all are longing cannot be accomplished.

During the years 1939-1945 many players have enjoyed the game which has been played in camps all over the world, and I hope that their interest will be sufficient for them to join forces with the organised game and assist in whatever way they are best suited to prolong and prosper the affairs of the E.T.T.A.

The work we do now can become a blessing to countless young players of the future.

My very best wishes to you all,

"Wellyn,"

Carr Brow,
High Lane,
Near Stockport.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Harold Oldroyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

MY spies in New York report that the Americans have yet another secret weapon. It goes by the name of **Miles**, and in the final of the United States Open Singles it disposed of **Lou Pagliaro** in three games, each under 10 points. As "Paggy" was previously reckoned to be about the atomic limit in table tennis affairs, I am just wondering whether I ought not to pack up smoking a week or so before these boys come over for the English Open.

Seriously, when I recall the intensity of **Jimmy McClure**, the agility of Pagliaro, the dare-devil counter-hitting of **Garret Nash**, the possibility of a superman putting them all out of court makes me feel that big table tennis is going to be really worth watching this season.

Of course, there is a traditional tendency for stories to gain a little



GWEN MACE—A pre-war English "Hope" now returning to her old form.

colour as they traverse the wastes of the Atlantic. It *may* be true that what they have got back in the States is bigger and better, but it is a "dead cert." that what they have got in Prague is little and good. Vana for me, until we see!

* * *

Victor Barna, without whom no pre-war tournament or big event seemed complete, has been living in this country since he returned from America in the early days of the war. After several extensive tours on behalf of the Red Cross and similar charities, he has been very busy with his stage exhibitions during the last two years. However, he now hopes to be free to enter some of the major tournaments and, in the course of his practice sessions, has given some splendid speeding-up lessons to members of the English team preparing for the trip to Prague. Victor's game still has "World Class" written all over it and, with serious competitive training, might well touch the old heights again.

His application for naturalisation has now gone forward, and he expects to become a British citizen very shortly. In this connection I am sure Victor will forgive me if I refer to his recent slip of the tongue. Referring to his application, he said: "I expect to be *nationalised* very soon now."

Really, this Labour Government!

* * *

Several clubs, anxious to "revive" themselves, and having, by

some magic, overcome the problems of finding tables, are still without clubrooms. It has been suggested that some readers may be able to help. If you know of any halls, canteens, pavilions, etc., which might be put to such good use, we will gladly pass on the information. In most cases, clubmen would be prepared to do the necessary redecoration themselves.

* * *

Did you read the recent newspaper report of a British Army cricket match in Egypt in which **Lt. Stan Coles** scored 100 in 37 minutes? Stan was one of the most formidable London players just before the war, winning the Surrey Open, the West Middlesex Open and several other singles titles. In table tennis he was renowned for stone-wall defence, but strangely enough as a cricketer for Catford Wanderers he was a mighty hitter.

* * *

Even in troubled **Palestine** our game is not forgotten. From the R.A.F. station at Ramat David, **F/O. Johnny Somerville** writes to say that the Services are running a North Palestine Championship and numerous inter-station matches. Johnny, who comes from Leeds, but has lately played most of his table tennis at the Albion Club in Lon-

don, now finds himself up against the competition of a Scotsman, a South African and a Maltese in the semi-finals. As regards the Palestine native players, it is believed that, given settled conditions, they could put out a first-class team led by **Finkelstein**, previously Poland's No. 1.

* * *

Sweden, that fortunate country which had what is called "a good war," is starting the peace well, too. The Swedish T.T.A. has engaged a boarding school near Stockholm for a whole week in October for the purpose of running a special course on table tennis theory and training. Leading Swedish officials and players, with guests invited from neighbouring Norway, Denmark and Finland, will bring the membership of the class up to 80. This sounds good. We wonder what they will do for homework!

* * *

In **Denmark**, too, table tennis is going ahead fast. The Danish Table Tennis Association is prepared to engage a good coach to visit Denmark this season, and if any English players are interested, they should apply to the E.T.T.A. for recommendation. Denmark will play International matches this year with Holland, France, Sweden and Norway.

THREE TO WATCH
(left to right)

Ronnie Hook
—Kent "Closed"
Champion

Dennis Miller
—English Junior
Champion

Howard Birch
—Halifax Cham-
pion



New Names Make News...

IF you are fortunate enough to own copies of our 1938-39 issues, you will find in them some mention of almost all the leading English players whose deeds are reported in to-day's pages. We may indeed be thankful that so many of our old friends are back, and still in fighting form. But that time did march on is clear enough to us when we read the name of **Johnny Leach (Essex)**. That name meant nothing to our readers of 1938-39, but now Johnny is already accepted as the outstanding player of the English team.

Unbeaten by any English player over the last 12 months, holder of the Merseyside, Lancashire, Thameside, Central London, Eastern Suburban, London and Wembley open singles and doubles titles, and 24 years of age. Next month we shall tell you a little more about this great young champion; meanwhile, a brief mention of some of the other stars whose names you will seek in vain in the pre-war magazine:—



Miss Peggy Franks (Essex), capped versus Wales last year, and 1st reserve for Czechoslovakia this month, Central England Champion.

George Goodman (Manchester), capped versus Wales last year, 1st reserve for Czechoslovakia this month, Yorkshire open and Cheshire open singles winner.

Ken Merrett (Surrey), brother of the brilliant young Cyril, who lost his life when flying with the R.A.F. Ken received International honours last season, and won the Bucks open singles.

* * *

New names of a different kind are those worn by old friends in disguise. Prominent amongst these are:—

Mrs. Jean Bostock, well known to lawn tennis fans, but always in our hearts as **Miss Jean Nicoll**, winner of the English Open in 1938-39.

Mrs. Devenny, wife of a British soldier, is none other than our present English Champion, **Miss Dora Beregi!** Dora,

originally known to us as a star in the Hungarian galaxy, is now, of course, a British citizen.

"Nicky" Nickelsburg, the popular Swiss No. 1, is now naturalised as **Mr. Nicholls**, the name under which he carried out his work in the Intelligence Corps of the British Army.

A British ex-Serviceman named **Alfred Cooper** left his card the other day. Puzzled? So were we, until we met him. It was that fine player **Alfred Liebster**, former leader of the Austrian teams in so many world championships.

Captain of the English ladies' team playing in Wales last season, was **Mrs. Miles (Wembley)**. To pre-war readers, **Miss Connie Oustainge**, of London Business Houses fame.

If you know of any we have overlooked, we shall be glad to receive a reminder. But get in quickly—there is a new crop of names springing up, aged about 17-18 years, and they will soon be making their own news.

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THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Record Brought Up To-date

By W. J. POPE

Hon. General Secretary, E.T.T.A.

It is clearly impossible at this stage to report on all the tournaments held during the war years, but I feel that an exception should be made in the case of our National Championship. The traditional "English Open" has been played off twice in the period "between the magazines," and for the sake of completing the records we must steal a little space for these two events.

FIRST WAR-TIME "OPEN"

The first was held in March, 1940. You will remember that miserable winter of darkness and doubt. As most of our young people were still in this country, and many clubs were still trying to carry on, our Association resolved not to break the continuity of the National Championships until compelled by circumstances.

It was a pale shadow of former glories, foreign contenders were few, and many of our own regulars were missing. Nevertheless, 5,000 turned up at Empire Pool on Finals Night.

There they saw Bergmann win an uninspiring match of slowness-but-sureness against Liebster. The snap that was missing from the men's matches was supplied in abundance by the women's singles.

In this event, the holder, Miss Jean Nicoll, went down to the storming left-handed attack of the new star, Miss Vera Dace. Vera went on to beat Miss Dora Beregi in an astonishing exhibition of fierce counter-hitting, considered by most experts to be the fastest women's match ever seen. Other title-winners were:—

Men's Doubles: R. Bergmann and A. Liebster.

Mixed Doubles: G. V. Barna and Miss D. Beregi.

Women's Doubles: Miss J. Nicoll and Miss D. Beregi.

In the years 1941-45, two official tournaments, the Metropolitan and the South of England, served, at least, to keep the organisation intact, until in the first post-war season we ventured again on a full-scale English Open.

FIRST POST-WAR "OPEN"

Thus, on 22nd March, 1946, were gathered together once more, a record number of English entrants together with competitors from Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Luxembourg, France and Czechoslovakia.

Needless to say, the last were anything

but least! Vana won the Men's Singles, beating Bergmann in the final 21-10, 21-11, 21-16. Bergmann, then a Flt.-Sgt. in the R.A.F., appeared to be a little heavier and a fraction slower than in 1939, but Vana seemed to have lost nothing—in fact many considered that he had improved.

The second Czech, Slar, had two match points against Bergmann in his quarter-final, and the third, the fresh-faced 22-year-old Andreadis, delighted us many times with the contemptuous ease of a Bellak. He reached the semi-final, but beautiful strokes cut no ice against the dour Bergmann.

Vana-Slar won the doubles, beating Barna-Brook 3-1. In this game, Barna frequently showed flashes of his finest form.

OUR GIRLS WIN

In the Women's events, the only foreign challengers came from France, and proved no menace to our best. Miss Dora Beregi (now Mrs. Devenny, married to a British soldier) won the final from Miss Elizabeth Blackburn, who had previously beaten the holder, Miss Dace, in 17 in the fifth game.

OUR MEN STRUGGLE IN VAIN

The Mixed Final produced a ding-dong struggle between Filby-Beregi and Carrington-Dace, the former winning at 18 in the fifth game.

Harrower and Filby lost in the Singles rounds to the Czechs, and Bublely to Ehrlich, gaunt, but apparently rejuvenated after the tribulations of a German concentration camp. Our young hope, Leach, unbeaten all the season by English players, lost to Amouretti, a casual young French genius. Carrington stormed his first game 21-12 against Barna, but could not turn the scale at 19 in the next two. Casofsky, hailed with great hope by the North, for some strange reason "handed over" three straight games to the sturdy West Country veteran Dawes.

Women's doubles: Beregi-Dace beat Franks-Barnes in a close final.

Remaining titles were won by:—

Veterans Singles: F. Bryant (Salisbury).

Junior Singles (Men): D. A. Miller (Leyton).

Junior Singles (Women): Miss J. Mackay (Birmingham).

Once again Wembley was packed to capacity, and the support received from all quarters showed us that Table Tennis had already come "back from the wars."

Old England Speaks

AMONGST a number of enthusiasts watching the early season trials was **A. J. Wilmott**, best known of all our veterans. Willie is still as keen as ever, although health reasons may restrict his playing this season.

He was disappointed by the standard of play, and told our reporter he was struck by the number of points given away by weak strokes. What distinguishes a class player, says Mr. Wilmott, is certainty of stroke. The rally in the old days normally continued until one player or the other had made an opening for a kill. Now there is no reason for a player to study the niceties of making openings for winners, and the need for certainty of stroke has gone. The reason — the lower net permits bad strokes to win points. The players are at the mercy of "crazy" strokes, and so they have to take unjustifiable risks in order to avoid losing the point in this way.

Is it the Net?

How far the lower standard of play, which it seems to be generally agreed exists now, is the result of the change in height of the net in 1938, and how far war restrictions on practice and competition are to blame, is a point no one can decide. Nevertheless, there are many who think that the game now lacks the artistry which we used to admire so much ten years ago, and it may well be that Wilmott has got to the root of the trouble in laying the blame on the net height. Shall we see this old controversy revived this season? Wilmott's own opinion is that we should now try $6\frac{1}{4}$ or $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches, and it would be interesting to know whether any of the younger players who have been brought up on a 6-inch net will agree with him.

Come with Jack Carrington on his tour with Bergmann

THROUGH THE NETHERLANDS

AFTER six years' army service I was demobilised in October last and thought it would be a good idea to allow myself a short table tennis tour before settling down to the office desk. This resulted in my racket arm cleaving the air in some 150 cities in England, Ireland, Italy, France, Austria, Yugoslavia and Greece.

It was, therefore, with something closely related to relief that I sat down at the aforesaid desk one bright morning in May determined to reconstruct my peace-time career. After two weeks of this enthusiastic post-war effort, I will confess that my mind did sometimes wander, and I wondered when, if ever, I should again sail across the Alps in a Dakota or plunge through the Austrian snowdrifts in a 15-cwt. lorry in chase of the little white devil.

I had not long to wait for something to turn up. This came in the shape of an invitation from the Dutch table tennis authorities to make an exhibition tour in the Netherlands with none other than the World champion, **Richard Bergmann**. My sympathetic employer having decided that I was a genuine case of "demob jitters," I found myself once more on the road, this time via the more normal route of Harwich to Hook of Holland.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION

I knew that enthusiasm was strong in Holland, as I had met at the English Championships a leading Dutch official, **Mr. Leo van de Kar**, and had played a knock with their very promising champion **Cor du Buy**, but the extent of the club organisation and the keenness of their players still came as a surprise. We played exhibitions-cum-tournaments in the five leading towns, and everywhere the crowds packed the largest halls available. At least four officials invariably met us on arrival, and altogether we had a reception which I thought could only have been reserved for Mr. Churchill.

Many readers will have seen Holland in the closing stages of the war, but it is unlikely that they had time to report their impressions, nor could the Dutch people at that time give vent to the boundless hospitality which seems to flow instinctively from them. We more fortunate travellers could take note, not only of table tennis matters, but of many

other interesting points of the Dutch way of life which is now quickly returning to normal.

For this reason our tour was a real education for us in the art of friendly living, just as much as it was a table tennis novelty. But to return to my journey.

There was **Richard Bergmann** on the quayside in the grey morning light at Hook of Holland, to perform which kindly act he had risen from his bed at 05.00 hours (5 o'clock in the morning to you!). Only those who know the great table tennis champions intimately can appreciate what that means! I shall tell my grand-children (I mean yours) that I, at least, made the World champion get up early in the morning.

"DUTCH UNCLE"

At Amsterdam we were met by two representatives of the Dutch T.T.A., **Mr. Leo van de Kar** and **Mr. M. Martens**. Mr. van de Kar was the sponsor of our tour, and incidentally is the masseur and trainer of the Dutch athletic team which did so well at the White City in July. Mr. Martens, a genial sportsman of 54 —and at that age ranked No. 4 in Amsterdam—was to travel with us all over Holland, and fully lived up to the title we awarded him, "Our Dutch Uncle."

We were not long in learning the essential points of the food situation; just now it is comparable with that prevailing in England, but with every sign of a more rapid improvement than we dare hope for. Ration coupons must be surrendered for most dishes in

restaurants, but side by side with the on-coupon menu an off-coupon menu is displayed, at appropriate prices of course.

When a commodity appears in the no-coupon menu, it is said to have "gone black." This gives rise to the intriguing situation wherein you place your order with the milkman for so many quarts of white and so many quarts of "black milk"!

Richard and I expressed a wish to try some of this black milk, thinking it might be good for our training. Sure enough, that very evening a mysterious bag was brought up to the umpire's table at the start of our final best-of-five, and from it appeared two handsome quart bottles of creamy milk—not looking so very black after all. No gift can be made in continental countries without a suitable speech to accompany it, and our benefactor excelled himself on this occasion with this noble effort:

"Richard and Jack, great table tennis champions, I greet you. Here is some reel Dotch mell-uk, from a reel Dotch Koo, presented to you by a reel Dotch freend. Shek-and!"

And we did.

The city of Amsterdam, fortunately, escaped serious war damage, although I saw roads which had been torn up, and houses torn down, not by bombs but by the citizens desperate for firewood in that last freezing, starving winter of the occupation. Quite a few of the T.T. youngsters had been forced to work in German factories, and are only just recovering their fitness.

(Please turn overleaf)

TEAM-WORK ON TOWEL

World Champion
(left) and the
author (right) after
one of their matches
in Holland.



THROUGH THE NETHERLANDS

(Continued from Page 9)

In Holland itself, enthusiasm for table tennis, as for other sports, seems to have become caught up in the great wave of physical and social energy which was released by the Liberation. Unlike England, where peace has brought a noticeable decline in communal energy, Holland has clearly received a tremendous tonic from her release.

UTRECHT'S CLAIM TO FAME

Our first "performance" was staged in the ancient university city of Utrecht, and a more hospitable and T.T.-conscious crowd than the Utrechtse naars we could not hope to meet.

The central position of Utrecht accounts for its choice for the 1946 Netherlands Championships, when the astonishing feat was accomplished of running through all events in one day, no less than 60 tables being brought to the hall for the purpose! Yes, 60!

We played our exhibition on table No. 1, and it was none too choice by our standards, so I hate to think what Nos. 59 and 60 were like. Those of you who have tried to run a tournament on even 6 tables will dwell with awe on the tenacity of the Dutch T.T. officials on that hectic day. Reclaiming land from the sea must be child's play to such a race.

In the circumstances it is not surprising that the winner, the amiable little **van Hamm**, of Hilversum, was actually weaker than several others who played us during our tour; they, no doubt, fell by the wayside in that free-for-all affair.

BEST PLAYER "EXPORTED"

Of course, the "real" champion of Holland was Cor du Buy, that attractive player who came over to the English Open this year and nearly made his way to Wembley in the Consolation Singles. (In the semi- he had match-point on Harrower, the English international, and only lost after a very unlucky "let" decision.) He has now sailed away to the East Indies, and the other Dutch aspirants will need a year or so to attain his standard.

Well, there we were in Utrecht, in this enormous hall, beautifully laid out (the hall, I mean), with 1,000 spectators to encourage us. All was done with due ceremony, first an exchange of National Anthems by a magnificently uniformed band, then a presentation to the Mayor, and later a radio interview.

They pulled a fast one on us during our final match, stopping play and allowing the spectators to hear our recorded interview on the air.

As both Richard and I had somewhat rashly experimented with the Dutch language, the broadcast competed with our play as an entertainment for our hosts! Richard had learned his Dutch in Holland during the advance; as for my own efforts, well, Johnny Leach and Vera Dace, who have travelled with me in many countries, will tell you that I always know enough of each language to cover the three main topics. The first two being table tennis and food.

After this experience we played for safety; I learned off pat a neat little speech in best B.B.C. Dutch, and Richard would get up after me and say: "Mijn vriend hebt voor mij al' gezegd" (My friend has said everything for me). This joint venture usually brought us as much applause as our table tennis!

As to the general standard of play over there, I should say it is about the same as in England 10 years ago. That is to say, great enthusiasm, not much knowledge and a whole lot of misplaced energy. I am not comparing our top-notchers of 10 years ago, who, after all, were nearly up to world-champion standard, but the great body of the game throughout the country.

THE UMPIRE'S DECISION

The umpire is the real hero of Dutch table tennis; he sits with his nose almost on the net-posts, as does his linesman on t'other side—a sure sign that they have never had Vana flailing around on their tables! Seriously, the umpire there is part of the game, and is the real boss. Once Richard and I mutually agreed a "let," but in front of 1,500 people the umpire quickly put us in our places—he would make the decision, he said. Scores were invariably sung out loud and clear, and results summarised after each game and match; a service which the crowd fully appreciated. All you umpires, please note.

Of course, the score is the thing for most continental sportsmen. They find it hard to realise that a player may be playing for exhibition, for demonstration purposes, or for sheer art. Thus, when Richard and I, on our "day off," played some friendly club games with some of the tour helpers, we found all the scores were noted down and **duly** published in a magazine!

IT'S THAT JOKE AGAIN'

By JACK CARRINGTON

IF one may scoff at many, may not the many share a quiet laugh at the one? Even when that one is "Beachcomber," famous feature-writer of the mighty *Daily Express*?

We thought it was dead, that joke, but to Beachcomber, self-appointed defender of ancient institutions, nothing is dead that once lived. For here he is, in this year of grace, commenting upon an alleged decision of the Olympic Games Committee not to include table tennis in the 1948 meeting in London:

"Players of ping-pong," he says, "who like to call their game table tennis, are trying to hold their heads high after this blow. But," he says, "if ping-pong had been included, such sports as kiss-in-the-ring, skittles, hunt-the-slipper, etc., would besiege the Committee."

Let us be tolerant to a writer who lives under the terrible strain of having to churn out something humorous for three million readers every day—once a month is hard enough for us.

Let us not get hot under the collar—that collar which Mr. B., no doubt, pictures us wearing as we play our "ping-pong" contests.

Let us remember that Beachcomber's mental picture of table tennis is probably as accurate as our own vision of Beachcomber's joke-filing system. We see, for example, a patient secretary (could her name be Hotchkiss?) bearing a dusty folder to the great man's desk.

"The Ping-Pong joke, sir. You asked for it, sir . . . Er—excuse my presump-

tion, sir, but isn't it getting a bit worn? My friends tell me it isn't funny any longer?"

"Nonsense, my girl! It went down well in 1926, didn't it? And the Editor laughed again in 1936, didn't he? Get cracking on it; you know . . . skittles, egg-and-spoon races, all the usual stuff. Oh, and don't forget that bit about the Ping and the Pong representing the exact sound of the game, or the inventor's name or something."

What can we do with a man like that? We thought of inviting him to a tournament, but then he might have to travel in one of those new-fangled horseless carriages, whose owners like to call them motor-cars.

No, just in time we remember that this venerable purveyor of ancient jokes has also his good points; first and foremost he is the arch-enemy of all who take themselves too seriously, so we shall take no official action (is that a sigh of relief we hear?).

Let us, however, learn the lesson; clearly there is work still to be done, and not only by the official magazine. We must all extend an open invitation to the Beachcombers and those who still laugh at their jokes—leave a couple of seats at the end of the row there, please—to come to our contests and discover for themselves that table tennis is not foolish, but it's fun.

PING! . . . PONG! Is that the sound we hear in our clubs? Or is it the sound of a new idea vainly knocking at the door of a Fleet-street office?

Across the Channel

The British Workers' Sports Association played in France against the equivalent French organisation. The British team was **Dawes** of Bristol, **Walton** and **Lisle** of Birmingham, and **Miss V. Dace** of London, and the result was: First rubber to France, 6-5; Second rubber to England, 6-4.

French official ranking lists at end of last season were:

Men: 1, **Amouretti**; 2, **Bordrez**; 3, **Haguenauer**; 4, **Agopoff**; 5, **Dubouille**.
Ehrlich, who used to play for Poland, now plays in France, and receives an "outside" ranking between Nos. 3 and 4.

Women: 1, **Logelin**; 2, **Nikola**; 3, **Joing**; 4, **Devertu**.

MIDDLESEX T.T. ASSOCIATION

THE MIDDLESEX TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, first association to be formed in the South of England since the war, has ambitious plans for the season, including the Middlesex Closed Championships, an Inter-League Championship for a trophy presented by Mr. Pegg, of the Uxbridge League, and a number of inter-county matches with opponents as far away as Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The Middlesex Association is under the Presidency of Sir Arthur Elvin, M.B.E., with Raymond Mortlake Mann as Chairman and Geoff Harrower, Secretary/Treasurer. All Leagues in Middlesex have signified their intention of joining, and the Association will be pleased to assist any other county in the South of England anxious to make a start with their own county body.

IN NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE
. . . A special contribution, "The Selector's Job," by **The Hon. Ivor Montagu**, captain of England's teams in many campaigns.

GEORGE WHITE

well-known Civil Service player,
writes :

It was good to see at the trials several prominent players helping the usual band of volunteers with the umpiring. This is another thing in which we have had to accept a lower standard during the war, and such minor faults of umpiring as calling deuce instead of twenty-all or twenty-one all, and even ignoring the volleying rule or giving "the benefit of the doubt" in the case of edge balls, have been all too frequent. I believe the Association is to carry out a drive on umpiring this season. It will certainly make for better games, and I would recommend all players and others who officiate as umpires to brush up their knowledge of the rules.

Among other Leagues and Associations now re-starting after being suspended during the war is the Civil Service. I understand that the C.S.T.T.A. is going to hold its championships again this season, and if there is sufficient response from clubs, the London C.S. League will play a modified league programme in the latter half of the season. All those interested should get in touch with **Mr. G. Glover**, 20, Ansell Road, S.W.17.

New Organising Secretary

THE National Executive Committee of E.T.T.A. have appointed **Mr. C. H. Evans** to the position of full-time paid organising secretary to assist the hon. general secretary in carrying out the increasingly heavy work falling upon Head Office. Mr. Evans was selected after the Committee had considered 160 written applications and granted 12 personal interviews. He is a Londoner, himself a keen player and very interested in developing the national organisation of the game.

* * *

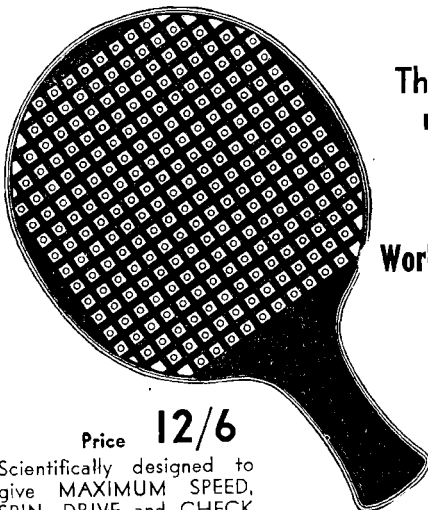
WESTERN COUNTIES T.T.L. The latest line-up is :—

Men's Section : Cardiff (last year's winners), Newport, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Bath, Swindon and Bristol.

Women's Section : Bristol (1945-46 winners), Cardiff, Birmingham, Bath and Swindon.

The matches with Cardiff, Birmingham and Bristol should provide fine training for the smaller town teams, and when the "Big Three" meet each other the sparks will fly. Watch these columns for results, you West Countrymen. Cardiff will stage the Closed Championships of the W.C.T.T.L. during November.

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English Team off to Czechoslovakia

*The team at the
Airport.*

Left to right :

JACK
CARRINGTON.

GEOFF.
HARROWER.

VERA DACE.

ELIZABETH
BLACKBOURN.

JOHNNY LEACH.

RONNIE
RUMJAHN.

IVOR MONTAGU.



BY special invitation from the Czechoslovak Table Tennis Association, an official E.T.T.A. team of four men and two women, in charge of a non-playing captain, left by air for Prague on the morning of the 30th September. After preliminary trials in London on 1st September and final trials in Southampton on 15th September, the following were selected to take part in this tour :—

Miss Vera Dace (London); **Miss E. Blackburn** (Exeter); **Messrs. J. Leach** (London); **J. H. Carrington** (London); **G. R. Harrower** (London); **R. Rumjahn** (Liverpool); **I. G. S. Montagu** (non-playing captain).

Reserves : **Miss P. Franks** (London); **E. Goodman** (Manchester); **B. Casofsky** (Manchester).

Full details of the programme have not been received, but it is understood that the Czechoslovaks are making a big event of this visit, and our team will be called upon to play in various provincial towns, with the principal match England

v. Czechoslovakia in Prague, on 7th October.

The results of matches played up to the time of going to press will be found in the stop-press column of this magazine.

The only new International in our team is R. Rumjahn, the 19-years-old brother of Peter and Teddy, the well-known Liverpool internationals. Ronnie rose above all his previous form in the trials, and with the experience which he will gain from playing the Czechoslovak champions he should develop still further.

He has just received his calling-up papers for the Army, but we are pleased to say that the authorities have granted him deferment to travel with the team.

Belated Congratulations

To : All-England representatives during season 1945-46.—J. Leach, G. Harrower, J. Carrington, K. Merrett and Misses Vera Dace, Peggy Franks, Pinkie Barnes, all of London; B. Casofsky, G. Goodman, L. Cohen, C. W. Davies, all of Manchester; Misses Betty Blackburn and Dora B'regi, of Exeter; Miss Betty Steventon of Birmingham and Mrs. Connie Miles of Wembley.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

The following Open Tournaments have been sanctioned by the English Table Tennis Association :—

- Oct. 12th. — Birmingham Open, at Birmingham. Already played off.
 Oct. 14th/19th.—Thameside Open, at Plaistow. Sec. : L. R. Norminton, 31, Acacia Avenue, Romford.
 Oct. 24th/26th.—Lancashire Open, at Manchester. Sec. : E. Wood, 44, Hill Lane, Manchester, 9.
 Nov. 4th/9th.—Eastern Suburban, at Ilford. Sec. : W. J. Parker, 37, Hamilton Avenue, Barkingside, Essex.
 Nov. 13th/16th.—Hull Open, at Hull. Sec. : A. R. Ogley, 1, Brindley Street, Holderness Road, Hull.
 Nov. 18th/23rd.—Central London Open, at London. Sec. : G. James, 19, St. Ann's Villas, W.11.
 Nov. 26th/30th.—Merseyside Open, at Liverpool. Sec. : W. Stamp, 3, Farndale Close, Liverpool, 18.
 Dec. 6th/7th.—North Midland Open, at Mansfield. Sec. : J. A. Brown, 34, Big Barn Lane, Mansfield.

Fuller details of the following will be printed in our next issue :—

January 4th: Metropolitan Open ; 11th: Yorkshire Open ; 18th: England versus Ireland ; 19th: Southampton Open ; 25th: North of England.

February 8th: Midland Open ; 22nd: Bristol Open ; March 10/15th: English Open (provisional).

April 5th: N.E. Yorkshire Open ; 19th: Cheshire Open.

May 3rd: Bucks Open; 10th: Wembley Open
 Provisional dates for the World's Championships in Paris are February 27th to March 5th.

The Merseyside Open tournament next month forms part of the coming-of-age celebrations of the Liverpool T.T.A. Genial Billie Stamp and his confederates are planning a really "smashing do." They hope to welcome all their old visitors from London and Birmingham and many new friends this time from other centres. Accommodation can be arranged if application is made early.

TABLE TENNIS

(the Official Magazine)

Will be published on 15th of each month. Price 6d.

Order your personal copy from your Newsagent or send 4s. 1d. for the next seven issues (Nov.-May, 1947), post free, to the publishers Vawser & Wiles, Ltd., 644, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London, E.17, or to The English Table Tennis Association, 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Small pre-paid advertisements can be accepted for publication in later issues of the magazine at the rate of 2s. per line (average six words per line). Box numbers 1s. extra. Rates for display advertisements will be submitted upon application to the advertisement manager.

MIDLAND ITEMS

BIRMINGHAM : Morris Goldstein, now demobbed from the Army, is already back in harness as hon. sec. of the Birmingham T.T.A. The number of clubs in membership is fast approaching the pre-war total. First off the mark in the tournament race, with the Birmingham Open, 9th-12th October, this Association intends also to be the first to re-open their central headquarter's club. This will be at the Birmingham Indoor Sports Stadium, 63-65, Pershore Road, Balsall Heath, where classes for improvers, training for the City teams, and many big events will be staged. Enquiries to Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.

CHELMSFORD : Younger, and naturally smaller than the Birmingham Association, Chelmsford T.T. League does not intend the Midlands to have a monopoly of the bright ideas. They, too, have acquired a central league headquarters ; have taken a leading part in the reforming of the Essex County Association, and are at present negotiating an exchange of teams with Heerlen, Holland T.T. Club. Hon. sec. is Mr. S. R. A. Precious, "Hawthorns," Galleywood Road, Great Baddow, Essex.

LATE NEWS

CZECHOSLOVAK TOUR

The English team, for the purpose of touring Czechoslovakia, was divided into two parties, one captained by Jack Carrington, with Vera Dace and Johnny Leach, and the other captained by Geoff Harrower, with Elizabeth Blackburn and Bonnie Bumjahn. Results received to date are as follows :—

Beat Teplice	7-1	Beat Uher-ki	
„ Rumburk	7-0	„ Brod	6-0
„ Rudolice	7-1	„ Vyskov	6-0
„ Deeln	7-0	„ Ivanovic	8-0
„ Most	8-0	Drew Kromeriz	3-3
„ Brno	6-1	Beat Jablonec	7-0
		„ Lobrec	7-3

The result of the international match played in Prague on Monday, October 7th, was Czechoslovakia 5, England 3. The three English wins were secured by our women players in two singles and one double.

The women's team to meet France on October 31st at Southampton in the 1st round of the European Cup is :—

Miss Vera Dace (London).
 Miss Elizabeth Blackburn (Exeter).
 Miss M. (Peggy) Franks (London).

Reserve :

Miss Betty Steventon (Birmingham).

BIRMINGHAM OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS.

Men's Singles—

G. V. Barna bt. B. Casofsky 21.16, 21.15, 21.15.

Women's Singles—

Miss M. Franks bt. Miss B. Steventon, 21.8, 21.14.

Men's Doubles—

G. V. Barna and A. A. Havdon bt. B. Casofsky and R. Litten, 21.15, 11.21, 21.8.

Women's Doubles—

Mrs. D. Smith and Miss B. Steventon bt. Miss V. Patterson and Miss J. Purvis, 21.12, 21.13.

Mixed Doubles—

R. Sharman and Miss E. McBryde bt. R. Hook and Miss M. Franks, 24.22, 21.13.

WILMOTT CUP AND POSE BOWL COMPETITIONS.

The E.T.T.A. Executive Committee have decided that the Rose Bowl (women's teams) and Wilmott Cup (men's teams) nation-wide competitions, open to all leagues and clubs, are to be run again this season. Send in your entry now.

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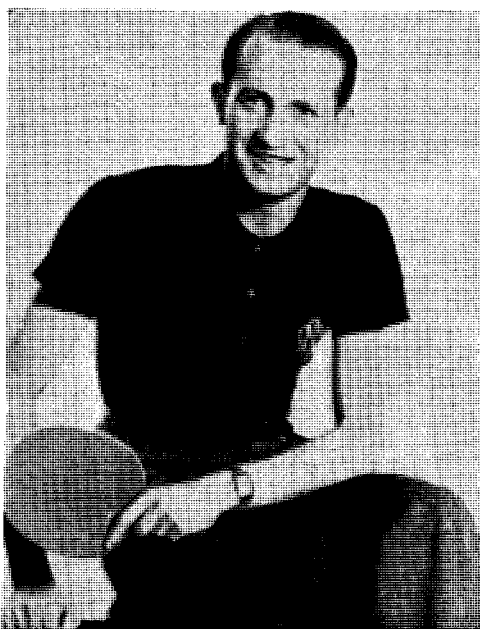


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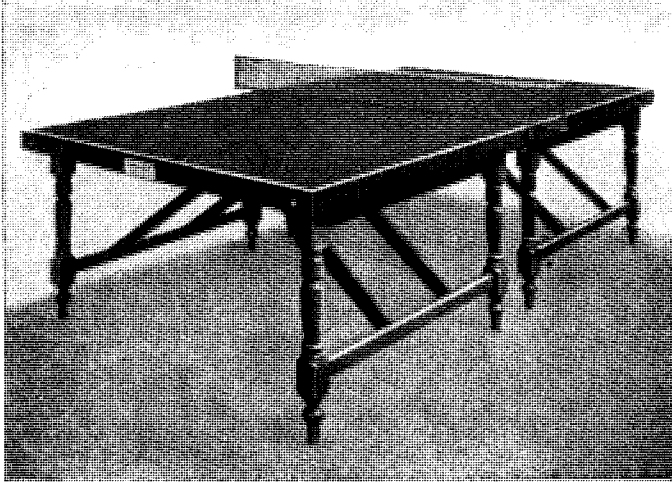
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As well as the ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS and
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Jaques regret that owing to the absence of suitable
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Tables are not now available. Immediately production
recommences the public will be notified.

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