

# TABLE TENNIS

NOVEMBER, 1946

Price Sixpence



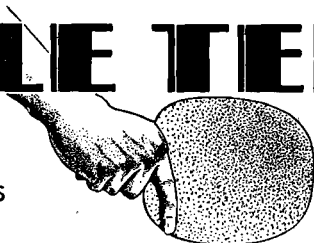
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

# TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine  
of the  
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION

Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

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Vol. 4. No. 2

NOVEMBER, 1946

## From the Editor's Chair

### Thanks, Old-Timers

THE reappearance of TABLE TENNIS seems to have been the signal for the reappearance of many old friends and supporters. Almost every post has brought letters bearing signatures which we have not seen since 1939 or 1940.

Many others have written in to wish us luck. To all these friends we wish to say "Thank you for your support; we shall do our best to live up to your confidence. In due course we shall get around to the task of answering your letters individually—meanwhile may this column serve as acknowledgment."

### Spare Them a Thought

The key-men in the success of the official magazine, as in every other Table Tennis venture, are the League Secretaries. The "Hon. Sec." of a club must always be a willing horse and a painstaking worker, but the Hon. Secretary of a league has to be a bit of a genius as well.

Not only does he have to reconcile the varying interests of dozens of differently constituted clubs, he has to fight for fair publicity for the game in the local press and for its fair position in local affairs.

The claims and opinions of his league must be presented to his county or national association at the right time and in the correct form.

Always the "red tape" work is there. The result cards, the handbooks, the minutes of meetings, the overdue subscriptions, the organising of the local championships.

### What Goes Up Must Come Down

But all this is only work coming up to the league secretary from "below."

In addition, plenty comes down from "above," e.g., from the County or National body. It is his response to this section of his work that marks the value of a League Secretary and decides whether or not his league or town is really going to be "on the map" in Table Tennis. A good Secretary senses the importance of passing on to his club all the information that comes his way: of explaining to all his players any official decisions which may affect them one day. He knows the benefit to be gained from an organised trip to the big championships, the enthusiasm which can be kindled by a first-class exhibition. He takes on a coaching scheme for his youngsters. He handles the ball permits. Clearly, the more work he can accept the better for clubs and players in his league.

### Can You Help?

Equally clearly, the less time your league secretary has to spend on the "upward" type of work, the more "downward" work he will be able to accept, for the good and interest of all.

Can you help these good Hon. Secs. who keep the game going? Of course you can. By sensible observance of local rules, by reporting for matches at the proper time, by paying subs. promptly and cheerfully, by helping on youngsters, even by filling in forms accurately, you may save them a few minutes.

Multiplied by many members, this becomes a few more hours which the Hon. Sec. can devote to constructive work.

We all get a kick out of the game. We shall not lose by putting a little more into it.

The Editor

# **QUIET, PLEASE, for the Treasurer**

**A. K. Vint, Hon. Treasurer of the E.T.T.A., speaks with the experience of 15 years in office.**

It is good to have our own journal once again so that expression can be given to our aims and objects for the future. However, it will not come amiss to see how we stand to-day.

✓ We have tried during the past twelve months to give a faithful account of our stewardship during the previous six years that the Emergency Committee functioned. At conferences of leagues and clubs held in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and Leeds the finance of the Association has taken a prominent part in all our discussions.

Our cash in hand at the outbreak of the war has not been touched. In fact, if anything, it has been increased. This is indeed a satisfactory thought, especially when we remember that no affiliation fees were levied during the war years. We asked for a voluntary subscription which, during the six years, produced only the ridiculous sum of £321 out of a total income of over £7,000. Yet we maintained an office and staff, organised hundreds of exhibitions, championships, tournaments, etc., and raised over £10,000 for charity.

In 1939 it was apparent to those of us most closely connected with the administrative side of the game that the startling increase in membership year by year was creating a bottle-neck at headquarters. Therefore steps were taken to engage additional staff and make structural alterations to the office. September 3rd, 1939, put paid to these plans, but the experience we had gained was not lost, because at the Annual General Meeting held in May of this year the National Executive Committee quite boldly advised the delegates present that it was essential to make a substantial increase in the affiliation fee, otherwise we could not maintain an effective organisation.

## **FACING THE FACTS—Efficiency Costs Money**

With practically a unanimous vote the proposals to increase the fees were accepted.

The delegates clearly recognised the advantages of a first-class administration, and in no uncertain manner endorsed the desire of the National Executive Committee to achieve this object.

Our aim is to ensure that our regular income can meet the salaries of our staff and the maintenance of an office.

We know an efficient secretariat can do much to enlarge the scope of the game, give a greater attention to the playing problems, the planning of bigger and better tournaments, the provision of National Championships and International matches on a scale yet unknown. These can only come about with undivided attention. The day of burning midnight oil by National Officers must cease.

The accumulation of reserves has never been part of our policy. We prefer to put back into the game all that we receive, and it is hoped that in the coming years our members will reap the reward of our investment.

**A. K. VINT**

HASTINGS, 1st Nov., 1946.



# Merseyside Maestro Plans Mammoth "Open"

## Billie Stamp invites the World

Even amongst hardened tournament players the name "Merseyside Open" raises a stir of excitement. The entries are always numerous and cosmopolitan, and the air of hospitality created by organiser Billie Stamp makes this Championship a landmark in the season.

This month, in the "coming-of-age" Merseyside Open, you will see in action the North's own stars, Casofsky, Goodman and young Rumjahn, the southerners Leach and Carrington (last year's finalists), Filby, Merrett and many interesting types from all over the country. The ladies' events alone should be well worth a trip to the Liverpool Stadium, including as they do the England trio, Vera Dace, Betty Blackburn and Peggy Franks, and Scotland's contribution to table tennis, Helen Elliott.

Here are a few words from Billie (up-to-his-neck-in-it) Stamp:—

THE LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT LEAGUE, like the Windmill Theatre in London, can say "We never closed" during the war period, and we feel that

this has contributed in no small measure to us being right back into our stride for the coming season with 10 Divisions, in which are included two women's divisions.

We were founded in 1926, and are celebrating our coming of age by staging the Merseyside Open Championship

Finals at the Liverpool Stadium, with a seating capacity of over 4,000.

Preliminary rounds will be played once again at the Gordon Institute, where 10 tables will be in use, on November 27th-29th, with the competitors outside the 30-mile radius playing on November



Ronnie Rumjahn, England's latest International, Aged 19.

30th. The B.B.C. have promised to make recordings of the final stages of the Tournament. The closing date for entries is November 19th, and forms can be obtained from W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool 18.

Following the Tournament on December 1st, an Anniversary Luncheon is being held at the Tudor Restaurant, London Road, and tickets, price 10/6, may be had from me.



"MAKE IT A  
DAKE"

Wyn (left) and Eileen Dake, Billie's lieutenants on the hospitality front.

# ODD



# SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

## London-Scottish ?

Good news that Leo Thompson is to be demobbed next month. One of the senior London players, Leo has spent hundreds of hours setting young players on the right path, and in the early days of the war was instrumental in interesting many branches of the Civil Defence services in the sport.

Recently he has been stationed in Scotland and has been able to help their young champion, Miss Helen Elliott, in her training. A little extra tactical knowledge added to Helen's brilliant natural game should make her a powerful contender for any tournament this season. Last year, in her first sorties from her native heath, she collected the Irish Open and Lancashire Open singles titles.

\* \* \*

## Overheard on a Luton 'bus:—

First gentleman: "My boy has gone crazy over this Table Tennis. He's fixing lights up in the garage and I've promised to get him a proper table for Christmas."

Second gentleman: "Jolly good idea. But I believe those tables are pretty expensive now."

F.G.: "Yes, I suppose they are. Still, there's no point in not doing the job properly. After all, what's a fiver these days?"

Those days he means, doesn't he?

\* \* \*

## Another Good Resolution Gone Wrong

Some folk are always unlucky. One of those stars whose misfortune it is to play Table Tennis so

well that it takes them all over the world returned recently, determined to show gratitude to his long-suffering employer.

"I am going to get in early every day and volunteer for late work, too. There is a promotion for somebody in the office, and I'm going to show the boss I can work as well as play."

At the next tournament we found him a disillusioned man. "I haven't a chance," he said, and went on to tell us this sad story.

Apparently his colleague at the office had himself become smitten with the germ, and every so often, in between phone calls, would whip out his bat and diligently practice topspin drives against the wall. As the resultant tattoo echoed along the corridors, knowing glances were exchanged in the managerial offices. Subsequent meetings between our hero and his boss were conducted in a decidedly strained atmosphere!

Incidentally, we can recommend the "wall" system for private practice. Bedroom walls for those who live in detached houses—office walls for Directors and upwards.

\* \* \*

## Is This a Record ?

West Bromwich & District T.T.A. now has 7 divisions in operation, comprising 67 teams. This alone would mark them out as one of the best organised leagues in the country. But they have another claim to distinction. They run in addition, a separate division for Doubles play only—and this also has 10 teams.

Now here is a really good idea. Doubles play apart from being more "sociable" than singles, builds up team spirit, quickens the footwork and encourages an all-round game.

Barna and several of the leading English coaches have often stressed the value of doubles in the training of a player.

**H**ERE you see **Benny Casofsky**, of Manchester, English International 1939 and 1946, North of England Champion 1944, Finalist in Birmingham Open last month.



Benny, who was coaching at Butlins, Skegness, during the summer, has one of the

most interesting "continental-type" games of all the present English stars. A controlled forehand attack, which includes both left-to-right and right-to-left sidespin hits, leads up to a really deadly "kill."

A dainty forehand dropshot also brings Benny many points. On the backhand, a half-volley defence and a flick of the "emergency" type, serve to relieve the pressure against all but the highest class of counter-attack. If forced back on to long defence, Benny shows excellent control still, but is obviously fretting to get in to the attack once more.

### The Weaker Sex

Extract from a report received from the captain of the "Sport Klub," Decin, North Bohemia—

"It can really be said that the English girls won twice: once at the table and once with the audience. Even before they played we loved them and we shall always remember our guests by their smiling faces." (These two smiling girls,

Dace and Blackburn, beat the hard-fighting Czechs 3—0.)

Extract from a letter received from the captain of the "Bat-swingers" Table Tennis Club, den Haag, Holland:—

"...sincere thanks for the visit of Miss Barnes and Miss Mace, who have given beautiful exhibitions in our towns and made great propaganda for Table Tennis. Our ladies have learned much from the training which your English ladies have given them in preparation for the match against Switzerland."

The fact that two such successful tours took place simultaneously emphasises our present good fortune in having so many women players of real talent. No doubt this is the result of the open-door policy of English table tennis whereby women may play, in most cases, in the same teams with men. Or it may be that the young English woman of to-day is altogether more athletic than her foreign contemporaries?

Whatever the reason we think it is a good thing.

*Table Tennis is good for the feminine figure and the feminine figure is good for Table Tennis!*

Non-playing Captain of our talented women's teams is **Miss Margaret Osborne**, whose photo you see here. Margaret, herself winner of many pre-war International honours, is not playing competitive table tennis this season, but keeps fit by playing serious lawn tennis. She has won her place already in the Warwickshire County team.



Her calm temperament and match experience will help our girls greatly in the big events to come.

# The Selectors' Job

By The Hon. IVOR MONTAGU,

*Chairman, English Table Tennis Association; Chairman International Table Tennis Federation.*

THE other day I had an argument. Somebody said: "There must be no nonsense this year. The people who do best in the trials have got to be picked, that's all."

But the problem is not so simple. If all one has to do is to pick those who do best in a trial, why have selectors? Why not just use adding machines to pick a team?

Every sport does appoint selectors, and it is pretty clear that the duty with which they are entrusted consists of more than adding points together.

The qualities the selectors need are: Knowledge of all the promising players in all parts of the country; time and opportunity to follow their doings; good judgment and complete "neutrality" as between different parts of the country; playing experience, if possible; knowledge and experience of the peculiar problems to be overcome in the international field.

Very seldom are all these qualities united in very few people. A committee of two or three is best, certainly. But the combination of these qualities is necessary, and if such collective wisdom can't be attained in few, then one must have more.

## WHAT IS THE TASK?

Narrowly: "To choose the best players for the particular match or

matches in question." More widely: "To help the players chosen to play at their best at the right time," in other words to pick as well a good captain (what is "good" in a captain is another story), and give him backing in ensuring the right facilities for physical training, practice and rest.

Examine this job more closely. What do we mean when we say Brown is better than Smith?

Arrange a ranking of the first ten to your choice—World first ten, or say, England first ten. It doesn't matter which. One thing is pretty certain. Your No. 1 cannot give your No. 10 nine points, start in 21.

Suppose you extend your list to a first twenty. No. 1 certainly cannot give No. 20 nineteen points.

In other words the difference between two players in your ranking cannot always be expressed as even one point in twenty-one. Sometimes it can, but often it is a mere fraction of a point mathematically — sometimes that is hidden or even reversed by the scores when the two play against each other.

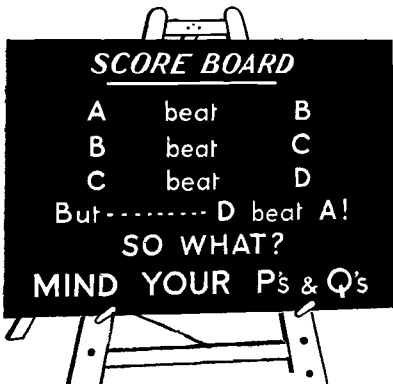
There are horses for courses. Sometimes a man may be good against people he knows, and weak against strangers. One may be capable of raising his game to unusual heights, and another is reliable, but flat, never plays badly, never plays better. Some players can do nothing against a certain type of game, while players they usually beat, may succeed against it.

## A MATTER OF STYLE

A few examples: In International matches Perry and Bull had a fairly equal record. In the World Championship individual events Perry did marvelously, Bull abjectly. Bull beat Perry in nine finals of home tournaments, the year that Perry won the World title. The World title was actually the first tournament Fred Perry ever won in his life, and in that event Bull went out in the first round hopelessly (3-21 in one game) to a man both Perry and Haydon could be sure of beating.

Usually Haydon beat Bull. Almost always Bull beat Perry. Always Perry beat Haydon. Bull could regularly beat men who as regularly beat Haydon. Haydon beat Barna, whom Perry never beat. Horses for courses. . . .

Consider another example; two Northerners this time. In trials and



SELECTOR'S NIGHTMARE

home tournaments there was no comparing Proffitt and Andy Millar. The tournaments in the North were won nearly always by Proffitt, sometimes by Cooke. Millar never took one of them.

Out on the International field a captain dared not play Millar against one of the lower teams. He could not have the least idea whether Millar would win or throw the game away. Whereas great-hearted Proffitt he could rely on for a certain three. But the captain was wrong if he preferred Proffitt for a tie against, say, one of the top four teams. In such case it was certain that he would fight magnificently, and just lose. One game had no unexpected secrets. It couldn't just rise above itself. Whereas against even the top teams, Millar would almost invariably win at least one.

What was the Selector's duty? To reward Proffitt for being a good boy, and chewing up his fellow English players in the trials? Or to pick the man who *could* smash one of the world's top players and coax him to reach that rare and unnatural level at the right time?

Consider a batch of defensive players. The one who is best for top-class play is not necessarily the one who will come out on top pitted against his fellow-defensive players.

R. D. Jones was one of England's best players. He could hit a high ball like a flash although not certainly enough. But his chop was his main asset. It kept

Some players may rank higher than their rivals on fast tables, but not on slow. Some may be of a temperament that doesn't do too well on tour.

All these considerations should show you why just to hold a trial and pick the winners is just for the Selectors to run out in cowardly fashion on the job that has been entrusted to them.

*Trials are not a "qualifying competition," by winning which a player "wins" his way into an International side.* They are a means of enabling the Selectors to pass available talent in review, and form that opinion on the available date that it is their duty to form.

The player who must be chosen is the one who will do best under other conditions, against foreigners who are not taking part in the trials. What he does at the trial against players who—because they are from his own country—*he cannot possibly meet in an International match* is only suggestive, it cannot be decisive.

This is not to say, of course, that a player who does play really outstandingly well in a trial cannot by so doing make sure of his place. He *can* win by such a margin that, whatever the Selectors honestly think of his later chances, they must put him in, for it would have a bad psychological effect on the team to leave him out.

## HE MUST USE JUDGMENT

But despite such occasional eventualities, nothing can exempt the Selector from the duty of using his judgment. A player's success is just one of the factors he must judge. The judgment remains his duty.

And what does this judge hope to find? What is he on the look-out for as sign of the world-beater? Certain qualities of play. The world-beater must be equable, or better still, with a temper but capable of controlling it. Nothing so ruins a good player and costs him matches as a temperament that broods on wrongs. You will have plenty of misfortunes in your career, be sure of that. The world-beater is often just a shade selfish, a bit of an egotist.

But a tiny warning. Don't be *too* "mean." Selectors *ought* to submerge all their likes and dislikes, they *ought* to remain utterly indifferent to kicks in the pants received from cocksure candidates, and select people solely on their merits and potentialities in play. *But*, though Selectors may not look it, they *are* human.



Stan Proffitt  
"Great-hearted,"  
says  
Ivor Montagu.

extremely low, and was exceedingly difficult for even the World's No. 1 to play about with. Presently there turned up newer defensive players—Bergl and Hales (as well as several Indians)—whose defences and patience were quite good enough to reduce to futility David Jones' efforts to force the pace. But their chop was looser and higher. No matter how they could make a monkey out of Jones in a trial or a home tournament, the result could tell us not the least thing about their respective merits against Barna and Szabados.



Grand  
Young Man  
of  
Table Tennis



**H**ATS off to Mr. O. W. Tarrant, of Swindon. In the second division of the Swindon League last season Mr. Tarrant's tally was 84 league games won out of 100 played.

Now in Swindon they don't give matches away; they have an International of their own in J. Silto, and have always been noted for producing dour match fighters. So that an 84% record is something many a youngster might be proud of.

But—we almost forgot to mention it—*Mr. Tarrant is 69 years of age.* And many of us will be proud if we should retain that keen eye, that fresh complexion, that silver hair, and that enterprising spirit, when we enter our 46th season of table tennis.

Not that his game is old-fashioned; observe that business-like grip. He himself writes, "I think I am more famous in America than in England. During the war I taught the game to some 2,500 G.I.'s and several of them wanted to take me 'back to the States' as a table tennis showman."

**Not just a showman, Mr. Tarrant, but a showpiece for all that we admire in English sport.**

**STAR SALESMEN**

*Hats off, too, to the Swindon League for their fine support of the official magazine. Their orders for the October issue totalled 268 copies. Who will be the first to beat this record?*

Jack Carrington brings you Travellers' Tales from the English team's

**SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY**

**D**ANCING was prohibited by the Germans during their 7-year occupation of the Czechoslovak Republic. With the liberation came a surge of interest in the new styles and tunes, although, somewhat naturally, enthusiasm has outpaced the technical accomplishments of both bands and dancers.

Western foxtrots and quicksteps played by our hosts in honour of visiting table tennis teams were thus inclined to fade imperceptibly, after a gallant start, into some form of polka—which, to be true, was equally enjoyed by all concerned. There was one tune, however, which every band and pianist seemed to have mastered, and to which the mixed doubles teams, usually Rumjahn / Blackburn and Carrington/Dace, were expected to perform frequent "solos."

That was the foxtrot **Sentimental Journey.**

It may have been coincidence, but it was indeed a fitting theme-song for our tour of the Czechoslovakian Republic. For sentiment, thank goodness, is not yet divorced from sport, and on this particular mission the sporting interest was almost always accompanied by evidence of much deeper feeling.

**NATURAL FRIENDSHIP**

There was a natural friendship between the sportsmen of two sport-loving nations, strengthened by widespread respect for England as an ally whose stand against Germany had eventually atoned for the errors of Munich. There were the numerous meetings with the returned Czech servicemen, anxious to swap memories of places and friends in England. There were the less numerous but equally significant meetings with the English wives, still more anxious to refresh their memories and clearly loth to miss the breath of old England which lingered around our team. These enterprising women who braved the first difficulties of post-war Europe have found themselves highly esteemed in a land of

culture and discipline. They are lucky in many ways, but, as they would inevitably tell us before the evening was out . . . "England is good, too."

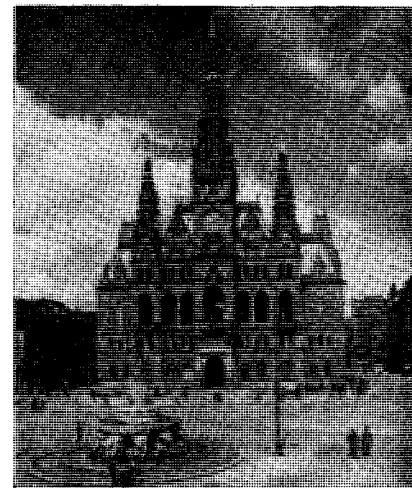
Add to all this that energy to be found in a liberated land, the natural curiosity of the local folk who had been cut off from the West for eight years, and the fabulous hospitality of the best-mannered people in Europe, and you will understand why this tour of ours was more than a string of Table Tennis matches. In fact, I must repeat the phrase I used to describe my tour in Holland—it was, for all of us, an education.

We, as privileged visitors, saw the beauty of the countryside, the skill of the craftsmen in the traditional industries of Bohemia, the fertile farms in Slovakia and Moravia, the dignity written in the very stones of the cities.

Easy now to understand why the Nazis coveted this land. Easy, too, to understand the determination of the Czechs to prevent a revival of the Nazi threat, and their anxiety to have their position understood by England.

**WE WERE AMBASSADORS**

During our civic reception in Liberec, previously named Reichenberg, the capital of the so-called Sudetenland, we were shown the Guest Book in which Hitler, Goebbels, Ley and others had signed after "taking over" the Sudetenland.



CIVIC HALL OF LIBEREC

Then we humble table tennis players of England were invited to sign as honoured guests. What pain, what toil, what courage, had been necessary to make the moment possible.

So much for the Sentimental Journey;



Miss VERA  
DACE  
Centre Court  
Girl of  
Two Sports,  
tells Jack her  
impressions.

now I will ask Vera to tell you about the practical journey.

I must say Transport Command of R.A.F. has gone down in my estimation; after my previous rides in their tin-seated Dakotas, the K.L.M. job from Croydon seemed really de-luxe.

Cosy, cushioned seats, and warm air around the feet and, best of all, a sweet Air Hostess plying us with coffee and sandwiches and grapes. The sun shone beautifully as we rose from Croydon and made our way out over Margate. But just as we were thinking about lunch at Schipol, Amsterdam, we found ourselves over a thick blanket of cloud. It was a little disconcerting to learn that we must circle around in the "soup" for an hour and a half to await our turn to land. However, Elizabeth Blackburn, who was sitting next to me, assured me with the confidence born of five years in the W.A.A.F., that our pilot really knew his stuff.

Finally we started to drop through the cloud blanket. Down and down, ears beginning to "pop," still no sign of Holland, and I hoped the Low-Lands really were as low as they were made out to be. I was very keen to catch my first glimpse of the Dutch countryside, but I didn't want to sponsor a new song: "Coming in on a Windmill and a Prayer."

Catching Ronnie Rumjahn's eye, I asked him if he was scared. "Of course

## SUMMARY

*Our team landed in Prague 30th September and left 16th October. Between those dates, by dividing into two teams of three, each two men and one woman, they completed a programme of 23 matches. This includes the men's and women's International matches, of which the results were counted separately. The men lost 0—5, and the women won 3—0. Of the remaining 21 matches against the best provincial teams, one was lost, one drawn, and the remainder were in our favour.*

*Our girls only lost one singles each throughout the tour. Of the men, Johnny Leach finished with the best record, and the other three had fairly equal results. The non-playing captain wrote: "Our women showed themselves superior to the experienced Czech champions; our men were a little below the best Czechoslovak players, but close enough to make a hard fight of every match. Nobody failed, and all adjusted themselves well to the difficulties of strange conditions, different food, constant travelling and somewhat 'strenuous' hospitality."*

not," he replied, "I'm not scared—just thoughtful!"

At about 300 feet we spotted a canal below, and within a few minutes we were eating buns and coffee in the buffet of this Piccadilly Circus of the European airways.

When we were shepherded into another silver plane emblazoned in red "CESKOSLOVENSKE AEROLINIE" we felt we really were going places. Climbing quickly through the murk, we broke surface into brilliant sunshine and sped off South-East, singing "Vana, here we come." A hundred miles of "cotton-wool land" were crossed while we coped with more coffee and grapes, and then, just beyond the Rhine, the weather changed completely. Perfect visibility all the way showed us the great heart of Germany.

Huge forests, mathematically neat patchwork fields, deserted "Autobahns," on which we could clearly see the famous fly-over intersections. Around each village and town and bridge the inevitable bomb-craters.

The patchwork plain became monotonous; Johnny Leach slept, some of us started to air our French on our polite

but puzzled fellow-passengers, and Jack and Ivor Montagu indulged in some violent Chess. A kindly looking Dutch gentleman watched them, occasionally shaking his head sadly; he turned out to be an ex-champion of Europe on his way to report a big tournament in Prague.

Jack and Ivor confided to me later that after two or three moves the expert would advise one or the other of them to resign, which made chess rather a depressing business!

Sudden excitement amongst the Czech passengers heralded the crossing of the German-Czech frontier. Here were the Sudeten mountains, obvious ramparts for the fortifications which the Germans bypassed without cost under the Munich arrangement. Quickly we passed on over the cultivated central plain, and now it was Prague glowing yellow and red in the evening sunshine.

Thank you, Vera. Now I have asked Johnny Leach to let us have his comments on the play and the players we met in Czechoslovakia, and these will appear in next month's instalment of the "Sentimental Journey."

## TOURISTS AT THAMESIDE

The first final at Plaistow on 19th October was the Mixed Doubles in which Vera Dace and Johnny Leach proved too strong for Betty Blackburn and Jack Carrington, and won 21—18, 21—12.

Jack Kurzman, on behalf of the Committee, then welcomed home these four Internationals from their tour in Czechoslovakia and expressed appreciation for their entry in the tournament so soon after this very strenuous trip. Finally, he paid special tribute to the play abroad of the two girls, which he said was outstanding in the annals of English Table Tennis history. Jack Carrington replying on behalf of the players, presented to Jack Kurzman, as representative of London Table Tennis, a book on Prague autographed by the four players. This book had been presented to the team at the Prague v. London match in Prague on 13th October.

**Semi-finals.**—Ernie Bublely started off steadily enough against Jack Carrington, taking the first game at 21—17, but in the second Carrington unleashed a strong attack and won 21—7. Still hitting strongly on both wings, Carrington went on to win the third game 21—11. Bublely showed himself below his 1939 form, being slower and much less sound on defence. Leach beat Filby 21—11 in the first game, but found him much stiffer opposition in the second, only winning through at deuce.

**Finals.**—The Men's Singles between the team-mates Leach and Carrington was a keen fight, each knowing the other's moves; Johnny's surer hitting got him home in the final set. (21—19, 17—21, 21—12.)

**Women's Singles.**—Peggy Franks having defeated Elizabeth Blackburn in the semi-final was expected to worry Vera Dace, and certainly did so. Peggy dominated most of the match with brilliant hitting, but suffered from over-eagerness at the match points. Vera was not in top form, but knew when to

(Continued on Page 12)

# Lucky Dip

## In the Editor's Postbag

### DON'T SHOOT NOW!

Dear Sir,

I was pleased to receive my copy of TABLE TENNIS once again after all these years. It occurs to me that you may be able to answer a question which has puzzled me for some time when thinking about the game. Why is it that Manchester has never produced any women International players? From Manchester has come men players like Proffitt, Lurie, Miller and recently Goodman and Casofsky. But where are the women stars? Liverpool, Birmingham, Exeter as well as London have all provided brilliant women players over the years but, according to the records, only one Manchester player, Mrs. Scott-Hall in 1932/1933, has been capped.

Can anyone give the reason? Is it the Manchester weather which prevents the development of women "stars"? Or what?

Yours,

C. LOVERING,  
School Grove,  
Manchester.

### A LITTLE ADVICE

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the column "Old England Speaks" in the first issue and agree that the standard of play is lower than, say, ten years ago. Then, however, most ordinary league players used only chop defence. When these players met, one witnessed a long, uninteresting struggle. There was rightly an outcry against this, as Table Tennis as a spectacle was being ruined. Fortunately one now rarely sees in opposition two players both using chop defence only. However, one must, I think, admit that the best of these players of the middle 'thirties using defensive chop strokes were good. They hardly ever played a false stroke and knew how to play upon their opponents' weaknesses. To-day they are replaced by attractive players who score wonderful winners, but, as Mr. Wilmott says, also make too many bad shots.

I noticed in the last Metropolitan tournament two youngsters with brilliant attacking shots both lose to a steady defensive player who used his head. Had the attackers used theirs they certainly would have won. Thus, if the modern hitter will realise that his game must be sound rather than chancy, that

The publication of a letter does not imply that the writer's views are in any way official. It is seldom that the "man-in-the-club" has all the facts at his disposal. But his views will always be interesting. Replies are invited, but please be brief and to the point.

sometimes to slow up a game will lead to victory (he won't be accused of playing "ping-pong"), and that tactics often pay better than brute force, I don't think we shall have to worry about raising the height of the net, which would possibly result in a return to the safety first methods of a decade ago, and none of us want this to happen.

Yours,

N. G. TEBBOTH,  
London, E.12.

### BAD OLD DAYS?

Dear Sir,

You may talk of a higher or lower net, discuss the effects of inferior equipment, blame Strachey's diet for the higher percentage of missed "sitters," etc. I leave all that to the professors to work out.

But as an average player returning to Table Tennis after a gap of six years, there is one great change to be observed. The difference is that in to-day's matches and tournaments the players actually seem to ENJOY the game!

What is a sport for? Is it not to expand the lighter side of life and bring out the best in human character? To watch pre-war Table Tennis matches was to see chiselling in two forms: not only in its Table Tennis meaning of stone-wall play, but also in the American sense of grabbing for advantages at all costs.

The noticeable improvement in the spirit of the players to-day is perhaps one of the few good after-effects of the war. Keep it up!

Yours,

N. BIRTLES,  
Southend-on-Sea.

(Continued from Page 10)  
play steadily. The scores tell the story—Vera won 21—6, 7—21, 22—20.

Peggy Franks, partnered by Betty Stevenson, could not hold the Dace-Blackbourn combination, which won 21—10, 21—11; nor could Glickman and Hook seriously worry Leach and Carrington, the latter winning 21—9, 21—14.

L. R. NORMINTON.

## Young Man at the Centre of Affairs

Photo shows Mr. Charles H. Evans, who, as announced in last month's Magazine, was chosen from 160 applicants to be full-time organising secretary at the Head office of E.T.T.A. Now aged 28, Mr. Evans was, before the war, a promising player in the Action and District T.T. League.



He considers that his 5 years in a P.O.W. camp have marred his playing prospects and is concentrating therefore on the organising side of the game. His knowledge of French, German (and, he says, enough Polish "to get by"! ) should prove a great help to our Hon. General Secretary, Bill Pope, when the big rush of international matches, championships and tours starts again in the New Year.

## NEWS FROM WALES

On December 14th, Geoff Harrower, the present holder of the Welsh Open Championship, will be defending his title at Cardiff. England, Scotland and Ireland have been asked to nominate entrants, and there is every indication that in addition to the opposition Harrower will meet from Welsh players, there will be several of his own countrymen eager to carry off the trophy.

On one occasion before the war, when Ernie Bubleby was the eventual winner, Victor Barna, who had entered, was forced by an injured arm to adopt the role of spectator. Victor has been asked to enter again, and as he has said he hopes to be there, Welsh enthusiasts are talking over his chances of doing what he was expected to do in 1938.

World Champion Bergmann has also been invited, but it is not yet known whether he can come to Wales for this event.

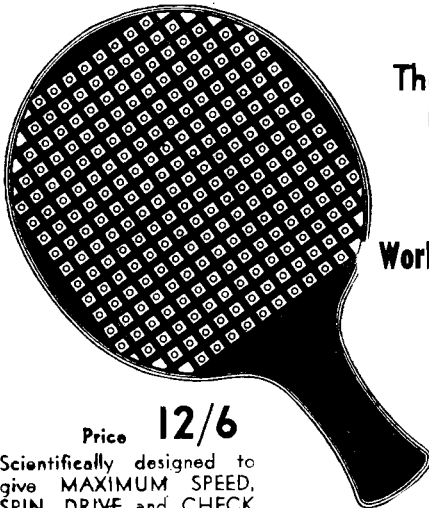
The Welsh officials are looking forward to a truly International meeting on December 14th, for in addition to the request for official nominees from the other countries, invitations have been extended to a large number of the International stars, both men and women.

The first of a new series of International games with Scotland is scheduled to take place at Edinburgh on January 4th, whilst on January 25th, at the well known Adeline Patti Pavilion at Swansea, Wales meet England in the usual international series. This is distinct from the European Cup Tie which took place at Cardiff on November 9th.

**NANCY ROY EVANS,**

Hon. Gen. Sec., T.T.A.W.

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# DO YOU BEAT YOUR WIFE?

**Yes?** Then read  
this

**Y**OU are obviously a man of some character and determination. Table tennis means more to you than pandering to chivalrous conventions, and you may well feel pretty pleased with yourself—for a time. *But let me whisper to you—you may not be the best player in the town.* There may be better players than your wife who can roast you and take a vicious delight in doing so. That flick of yours, so deadly against wifey's dolly-drops, will not work against a chop-merchant, for instance. And that forehand drive of yours is a chancy affair really, isn't it?

One day you will meet the club champion, and what will your wife think of her hero then? There is only one safe way out—learn all the tricks yourself. Make sure of your monthly copy of **TABLE TENNIS** and read our forthcoming series of articles on "Astronomy—the Study of the Stars." In this series a spotlight will be thrown on the strengths and comparative weaknesses of all the great players, and in studying them you will surely find much to improve your own play. Look out for these articles . . . *and hide them from your wife.*

## *In Next Month's Magazine*

THE STAR UNDER THE MICROSCOPE,  
by A. A. Haydon.  
DEFENCE OR ATTACK,  
by Geoffrey Harrower.

## OBITUARY

We regret to report the death during October of two old friends of the game, Mr. A. B. Steel and Mr. B. L. Hookins.

Mr. Steel was well known to all Londoners and in particular to members of Whitefields Institute, as a powerful player and a great helper of young enthusiasts.

Mr. Hookins, in his younger days a player of near international class, had in latter years done much administrative work for the game in Yorkshire.

## LIVERPOOL TEAM'S IRISH WEEK-END

Peter Rumjahn, Teddy Rumjahn, Eileen Mansell, Audrey Kenny, during a week-end visit to Ireland, played two enjoyable inter-City matches. Against **Dublin** they lost 4—5, but **Belfast** rose to great heights and won by 6—2.

**No?** Then read  
this

**I** SAY, that's bad, old man. You probably think you are being clever, taking the easy way out and at the same time giving your wife the thrill of triumph. *But let me whisper to you—it doesn't always work out like that.*

Nothing palls more quickly than the thrill of triumph, especially triumph over the same person. Why do you think the club champion tries for the league singles titles; why does the league champion go off to the provincial tournament; why does the provincial title-winner plunge into the struggle in London or Manchester?

They all want variety and some new triumph. Before long your wife will tire of that game you play; she'll go off to find some real table tennis players, and they will ignore you and flatter her, and . . . But don't let me depress you too much. There is a remedy. You can do something about it; for instance, you could start by holding the bat correctly, lift your feet occasionally from the floor, and glean an odd clue or two relating to the difference between topspin and chop. Even to talk intelligently about such things would bring a new sparkle to the wife's eye. How to do it? Well, confidentially, old man, there will be a special corner for "rookies" like you in future issues of **TABLE TENNIS**. Look out for our new series "Table Tennis Without Tears," and wear the trousers (regulation grey flannel) in your family.

THE PROFESSOR.

## APOLOGY

We wish to thank all leagues who have sent in notes of their activities, and apologise to those for whom we have not been able to find space. We are hoping to have a larger magazine next month, and will then be able to give more space to league affairs.

## PRE-WAR QUALITY TABLE TENNIS BATS

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# LEAGUE NOTES

**BRIGHTON & DISTRICT T.T.L.**—Rapidly regaining strength; 50 teams already, i.e., double last year's entry. Good news is the return of the two stars, Charlie Seaman and George Fretwell. Seaman during his army service won various events in Brussels, Ostend, and Berlin, whilst Fretwell operated in the Mediterranean area. Hon. Gen. Sec., H. V. Sacchi, 60, Havelock Road, Brighton 6.

**CARLISLE & DISTRICT T.T.L.**—Stanley Armstrong, one-time Hon. Sec., has moved to Dumfries, his successor is Doug. Cooke. Stan Shaw, the Singles Champion, has taken over the job of Records Secretary to the league. The advent of five ladies' teams is a welcome sign. With the co-operation of West Cumberland and neighbouring Leagues it may be possible to form a County Body in this area. The Chairman of the league is the ever popular Jack Wilson.

**BARNSELY T.T.L.**—Unfortunate in having lost most of the old stars, including all four ladies who won the Yorkshire Inter-league Championship for two seasons before the war, Barnsley are compelled to look to the youngsters to restore their position. This may well prove a blessing in disguise, and we shall look with interest for further reports from this area. Hon. Sec.: Mr. F. B. Walker, 72, South Place, Vernon Way, Barnsley.

**NORWICH & DISTRICT T.T.L.**—Already have more players than in 1939; registered for 48 clubs. Important civic men, including Mr. W. J. Finch, ex-Lord Mayor, and Mr. A. W. Giles, Chairman of the Fitness Council, are helping the game in Norwich. The 18-year-old league Champion, Ireson, may well hit the headlines before long. Special efforts are

now being made to develop the women's game. Hon. Sec.: H. E. Betts, School House, Banham, Norwich; Gerald F. Rix is now Chairman.

**WORCESTER**: Two divisions are going into action this month; in addition 10 teams in the Youth League, under 18's, will receive help from the League.

Here you see Doug. Moss (left), and Harry



Hewlett (right), Worcester Doubles Champions—Harry is the Singles holder, too. They look bright and fit as T.T. players should, and keen as mustard—or should it be sauce in this district:

## Our WEMBLEY WEEK-END Competition

SATURDAY, 15th MARCH, 1947. IS THE DATE.

That is the date on which the finals of the English Open Championships will be fought to a finish in the famous Empire Pool at Wembley. On this day we may expect to see all the stars of the World's Championships fresh from their triumphs in Paris, and with a little luck, the best of our own players, too.

One of our readers will be there at the ring-side as the guest of *Table Tennis*, the official magazine; fare paid, hotel paid, and a presentation photograph taken with winners.

This is the prize for the eventual winner of our WEMBLEY WEEK-END COMPETITION, open to all readers residing in the British Isles.

### AN EASY ONE TO START.

The Rules of this Competition are quite simple. There will be four easy genuine questions to answer, one in each issue of *Table Tennis* (the official magazine) for the months of November, December, January and February.

Make a start now on your free trip to Wembley.

**HERE IS THE FIRST QUESTION.**—Find the *deliberate* spelling mistake in this issue of the magazine, and enter your answer on the coupon below.

There is no catch in this; it is a word every Table Tennis player should know. We realise this question is too easy, but we want to give you all a little confidence this month. The

competition, like our magazine, is progressive, and the next three questions may not be quite so easy.

MEANWHILE FILL IN COUPON No. 1, BUT DO NOT CUT IT OUT UNTIL THE FINAL STAGES OF THE COMPETITION IN FEBRUARY.

## TOURNAMENT DIARY

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

- Nov. 18th/23rd.—Central London Open. Sec.: G. James, 19, St. Ann's Villas, W.11.
- Nov. 26th/30th.—Merseyside Open, Liverpool. Sec.: W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool 18.
- Dec. 6th/7th.—North Midland Open, Mansfield. Sec.: J. A. Brown, 34, Big Barn Lane, Mansfield.
- Jan. 1st/4th.—Metropolitan Open E.T.T.A., 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
- Jan. 11th.—Yorkshire Open. Sec.: F. B. Walker, 72, South Place, Vernon Way, Barnsley.
- Jan. 19th.—Southampton Open. Sec.: Miss L. Ferguson, 20, Atherley Road, Southampton.
- Jan. 25th.—North of England, Manchester. Sec.: W. Berry, 416, Moorside Road, Flixton, Manchester.
- Jan. 26th.—Kent Open Championship. Mr. F. G. Mannooch, 161, Borden Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent.

February 8th: Midland Open; 22nd, Bristol Open; March 10th/15th: English Open; April 5th: North East Yorkshire Open; April 19th: Cheshire Open; May 3rd: Bucks Open; May 10th: Wembley Open.

### FIRST POST-WAR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS DATE NOW FIXED

Meeting will run from morning of Friday, 28th February, to evening of Friday, 7th March, 1947. The venue will be the Racing Club de Paris, and the final session will be staged at the Palais des Sports, Paris.

## TABLE TENNIS

(the Official Magazine)

Will be published on 15th of

## EUROPEAN CUP

ENGLISH WOMEN beat FRENCH WOMEN 9—0 at Southampton 31st October, 1946.

### BLACKBOURN:

Beat Logelin	...	21—15	21—11
„ Nicolas	...	21—13	21—10
„ Joing	...	21— 6	21—15

### DACE:

Beat Logelin	...	21— 7	21—16
„ Nicolas	...	21—15	21— 8
„ Joing	...	21— 8	21— 9

### FRANKS:

Beat Logelin	...	21— 9	21— 8
„ Nicolas	...	18—21	21—17
			21— 7
„ Joing	...	21— 9	21—18

FRENCH MEN beat BELGIAN MEN, 4—1.

SCOTTISH WOMEN beat IRISH WOMEN, 5—4.

## LATE SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, AT MANCHESTER, 26th OCTOBER.

### Men's Singles—

E. Goodman bt. R. Sharman, 18,21, 21,17, 21,17.

### Women's Singles—

Miss H. Elliott bt. Miss E. Mansell (Liverpool), 21,23, 21,14, 21,16.

### Junior Singles—

R. Thompson (Halfax) bt. K. Tirebuck (St. Helens), 23,25, 21,14, 27,25.

### Men's Doubles—

Goodman and Markwell bt. Lurie and Cohen, 22,20, 18,21, 21,18.

### Women's Doubles—

Miss Elliott and Miss Mackay (Birmingham) bt. Miss Marshall and Miss Wood (Manchester), 21,13, 21,19.

### Mixed Doubles—

L. Thompson and Miss Elliott bt. L. Cohen and Mrs. D. S. Smith (Birmingham), 16,21, 21,8, 21,8.

### EUROPEAN CUP (WEST ZONE).

#### Men—

England (Leach, Goodman, Carrington) bt. Wales 5.0. At Cardiff, 9th November. Ireland bt. Luxembourg 4.1.

EASTERN SUBURBAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS, AT ILFORD, 9th NOVEMBER.

### Men's Singles, Semi-Finals—

Barna bt. Sharman, 21,14, 22,20. Filby bt. Harrower, 21,18, 21,12.

#### Final—

Barna bt. Filby, 21,12, 21,18, 21,8.

### Women's Singles—

Miss Franks bt. Miss Dace, 21,14, 21,17.

### Men's Doubles—

Barna and Brook beat Walton and Mackay, 21,18, 21,12.

### Women's Doubles —

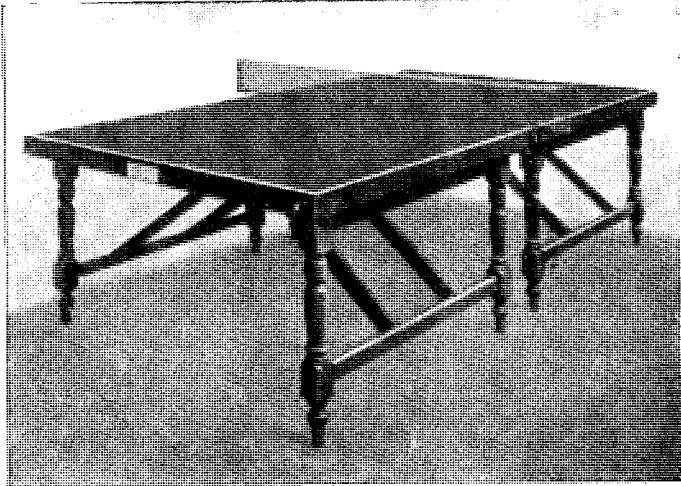
Dace and Blackbourn bt. Barnes and Paterson, 21,19, 21,15.

### Mixed Doubles—

Filby and Blackbourn bt. Hook and Franks, 21,16, 21,13.

SPECIAL CREDITS GO TO:—(1) Keith Collar and Vi Paterson (East London), who beat Viktor Barna and Vera Dace in the Mixed Doubles. (2) Peggy Franks, who beat Betty Blackbourn in the semi-final, and Vera Dace in the final.

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