

TABLE TENNIS

JANUARY, 1947

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

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JANUARY, 1947

From the Editor's Chair

Trumpets, Please

Seven years without our Table Tennis magazine is good for nobody. Just as it is important for provincial leagues and members to have a clear understanding of what is going on at Headquarters and in the International circles of the game, it is equally desirable that officials and players in London, Manchester, Liverpool and other big centres, should know something of the opinions, ideas, and problems of Table Tennis followers in the smaller towns.

From time to time intrepid explorers have returned with tales of flourishing clubs and promising players in distant places, and occasionally in the Forces we met warriors from these remote tribes who surprised us with their prowess and cunning. For instance, one Yorkshire league boasts an under-17 team of four boys, guaranteed (by them) to beat any similar team in England. Another West Country league has two veterans over 55 who fancy themselves to beat any other lads of their age at singles and doubles. We cannot believe that these are isolated instances, so let us all share the good things, you provincial folk! A little publicity is a great encouragement for any hard trier, whether he be player or official; send your news and views in to this magazine, and we will share out the space as fairly as possible. At least, we cannot keep space under the counter!

* * *

Try, Try Again . . .

That fine young player, Johnny Leach, achieved a great ambition last month, an ambition shared by many, but attained by few; he defeated Barna in open tournament play.

The occasion was the final of the Welsh Open Championships at Cardiff on 14th December, when Johnny won in the 5th game after being down two games to nil.

Three weeks earlier, in the Central London Open, Barna had beaten England's No. 1 player 3—0. Just one week after that, Leach led Barna 2—0 in the Merseyside final, only to lose 3—2.

To face the master player a fortnight later, and to find himself two games down, might well have tempted the younger man to "give in." Instead, he stuck to his guns and pulled through against the vast experience and skill of his great opponent.

All credit to Leach for his win, but still more for his example to all our young players, to regard every defeat as a stepping stone, to keep a cool head, and NEVER GIVE IN!

And to Barna, the crowd's favourite for 20 years, credit indeed for the skill and craft he still shows us, and for his example to our older stars, to keep fit, to keep a cool head, and to take a setback with a smile.

* * *

How the Other Half Lives

From one type of tournament to another. A correspondent writes: "We took two 'bus-loads to . . . last Saturday, the best tournament I have ever been to, almost complete absence of stars, so all the more enjoyable for the average player. One argument against the E.T.T.A.'s efforts to stop tournaments clashing."

Well, there you are—Leach v. Barna every time, or Smith v. Jones? *You tell us, please.*

THE EDITOR.

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

Calling All Players

If you were a Belgian Table Tennis player, you would rejoice (because you had to) in the name "Pongeur." This is the official name for a Table Tennis player in that country. We sadly lack such a neat word to describe our followers over here, and somehow the literal equivalent, "Ponger," doesn't seem to strike the right note. The Americans, as usual, have a word for it—they call us "Table-tennisists." We should be interested to hear readers' opinions and suggestions on this point. Anything which will save a little space in the magazine will be welcome. The title "Racketeers" is, however, banned for obvious reasons.

* * *

Tournament Types

Here you see the popular doubles team, Howard Walton (left) and Bobbie Mackay of Birmingham.



With Walton as "tactical manager" and Mackay as "executioner," they achieved a powerful combination last season, reaching four tournament finals in succession.

Howard Walton won the Lawn Tennis singles championship of the R.A.F. last autumn, but tells us he is now demobilised, and "a gentleman" once more. Bobby is the Birmingham closed singles champion, and recently defeated Casofsky in the Birmingham v. Manchester match.

* * *

Fighting Their Handicap

We read recently of a football team called "The Silent Club." The players are all deaf and dumb youths, who have a fine understanding and hold a leading place in their local league.

The only deaf-and-dumb table tennis team yet reported is one in Ireland. They have their own umpire specially trained in "simultaneous" scoring. It is a little disconcerting when their spectators applaud; apparently a sort of hissing takes the place of normal clapping. However, all opponents praise their sportsmanship and spirit.

* * *

From the Dutch East Indies

Cor du Buy, premier player of Holland, writes: "Here in Batavia there is a full table tennis life. The only obstacle is the lack of balls.

"Several times I spoke on the radio about our sport, and a friend of mine, who lives in Soerabaya, and is one of our former best players, Broné, has flown over to give some exhibitions with me. After that we start for Soerabaya, where the same will take place.

"Table Tennis is a rather popular sport here, because it can be played in the evening when the sun is shining on the other hemisphere."

* * *

Progress

Followers of Judy Garland along the "Acheson, Topeka and the Santa Fe" will be pleased to hear that the Topeka Table Tennis League is one of the prominent members of the U.S.T.T.A. It is not known yet whether the Gibson girls are top of the ladies' division!

* * *

Birmingham Stalwart Returns

Maurice Kriss, of Birmingham, after two years' army service in Scotland, has now been posted to his regimental depot in Warwick. At one time during the war, Kriss, on his best form, competed strongly for tournament honours with the Czechs Sebestak and Berger. During his stay up North he won the East and West Scotland Open, and now that he is back "in circulation" we hope that his lively play will add interest to many Southern and Midland competitions.

* * *

The Things They Ask!

A Dewsbury reader sends the following query:—

"Dear Editor, Can you tell me how to get a really good polish on a shove-halfpenny board?" *What, so early in the season?* However, our readers certainly seem to know all the answers, so perhaps someone will oblige.

From Barnstaple: "We know the equipment situation is difficult, but can you tell us where we can get some new baize for our table?"

WE'LL BE HEARING FROM THEM.

In the final of the Czechoslovakian National Singles Championship, V. Teraba beat A. Slar. Bohumil Vana, the accepted No. 1 player, is reported to have taken up a position as coach to the Egyptian team in Cairo.

EASTBOURNE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

By BERNARD HOTCHKISS, Ex-Secretary, Eastbourne Wartime Table Tennis League, and Founder of the Martlets T.T.C.

When war broke out in 1939 the local sportsmen of Eastbourne went off to bring freedom and sanity back to the world again.

The grass grew high in the cricket fields except where the steel of the plough turned the ground to brown or grey.

That first winter of war seemed dull to many of us Table Tennis Fans, and the thrill of League Matches left a gap in the weekly round.

Then came Dunkirk. In Eastbourne a few who could not serve formed teams to play the Army units and help relieve the tiring months of training. Here in the South matches were played with German bombers overhead, and time and again games were scratched as the Army stood to.

The standard of play was low. Teams were composed of youngsters, raw and straight from school, or else older men whose eye and wrist were no longer true. Occasionally the services produced a star, such as Harold Ogden, the Northants player, and the extraordinary young player, John Dean (16), who carried all before him until the Welsh Guards claimed him.

An unusual feature of the League, and an idea which still persists is that teams are played four a side, thus making possible drawn matches. We believe this adds spice to the league table, and sometimes gives a weaker team a chance of gaining a point. It also gives more people a chance to play each week.

In Eastbourne to-day are one or two individuals now playing who are definitely better than any we had before the war. Two of them are "imports," Mr. Knott, ex-Liverpool Champion, and R. Brereton, the Old Middlesex star. Finally there is young Arthur Ford, age 17, runner up in the Surrey junior championships two years ago. Among the old stars who have settled down in the new League are Geoff Brewer, of Polegate, Ron Scotcher, previous League secretary, also of Polegate, E. Higgins and K. Richardson, D.F.C., of the Martlets and A. Clover (Hailsham), and H. Dennis (Post Office).

Present League Secretary is Arthur Glover, of 16, Garfield Road, Hailsham, who would welcome challenges from Sussex Teams.

The League is go-ahead, and we look forward to the day when the public will again turn up and watch the teams play for League honours in what must be the cleanest sport of all time.

BRIGHTON & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

The Brighton League match with the Chelmsford League, played on 1.12.46 at Brighton, resulted in a good win for Brighton by 14 sets (11 singles, 3 doubles) to one set (singles). Brighton were represented by C. Seaman, G. B. Fretwell, Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Chapman, who are seasoned local tournament players, and two promising players, Messrs. Jacobs and Gerhman. The Chelmsford team included G. C. Wheeler, a past Brighton player, who showed that he had not lost any of his good form. Despite the one-sided result, the play was very keen and interesting, and was appreciated by a good gathering of enthusiasts.

They Knew What They Wanted

A New Year Flash-Back

by CHRIS CLARK (Northumberland T.T.A.)

If you could read through the few war-time records that we have gathered in, you might well be astounded at the trouble people took, the time they devoted, and the expedients they adopted, to maintain, if not quite "Table Tennis as usual," at least a recognisable model of the real thing.

Of course, it is well known that an Englishman will have his sport. Agreed, but before this last war there were many people, otherwise quite knowledgeable folk, who did not realise that Table Tennis had become one of those sports which the Englishman *will* have, at all costs—this is a national sport.

It will do no harm to recount here some of the handicaps which might have deterred less determined characters than the average Table Tennis fan during the recent war; the loss of members was obviously the first in importance. Less obvious, but equally deadly, the loss of club-rooms.

Home Front

Then there was travel—no cars, of course. There were buses, they tell me, but what self-respecting Table Tennis fan can use a last bus that goes at 9 o'clock? There were trains, too—I once met a man who got a seat.

The black-out was an insidious enemy; in itself it did not hamper Table Tennis, but it subtly imposed a stay-at-home mentality, and its ventilation problem often cloyed the pleasure of playing and watching the game. Its mere necessity caused niggardly or uncomprehending authorities to prohibit evening play in many Table Tennis premises.

Civil Defence, Fire-watching, Home Guard, Welfare duties, overtime, etc. clearly reduced the time and energy which the enlightened citizen might have liked to spend on his favourite sport. Admittedly, defence duties and factory clubs actually *improved* Table Tennis facilities for some, but these were mainly new recruits. The difficulties which I am recalling here were those which faced the older stalwarts, without whose efforts these recruits might well have been lost to the game.

Rationing of food and fuel was another subtle handicap; one needs to be keen to spend one's evening in a freezing

club-room without even the traditional "refreshments" to foster sociability.

The Sensitive Suffered

As for equipment... quiet, please! We shuddered at the sight of those weighty chunky bats with their spurious facings that insulted our intelligence; those tattered nets, those long-suffering rubber shoes (is that a queue over there?), and the BALLS... Balls, did you say? No chemist ever dreamed up such a mixture of lead and feathers as was inflicted upon the sensitive player (that means you and me), yet these drunken spheroids, by their rarity still control our pleasures. Only last week I was offered three eggs for a Villa XX ball! Generations unborn of chickens must mortgage their output before I could buy an XXX.

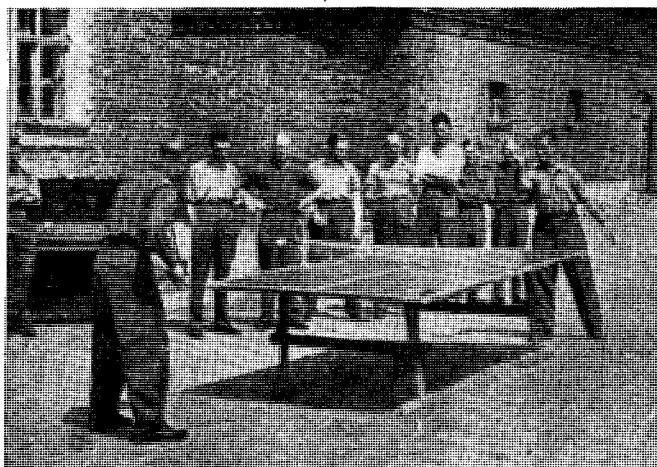
Even so, did you know that only by the skilful statesmanship of the E.T.T.A. officers was any production at all secured for club Table Tennis?

I will just mention, too, the almost complete absence of Press publicity and the restriction on private advertising, to complete this picture of the Table Tennis Organisers' war-time troubles. If in such conditions a game keeps going, and even attracts thousands of new supporters, then I think it is fair to say "*that is a good game, and there must be some good types in it, too.*"

Determination

Equally significant were the determined efforts made by players and organisers in the Forces to maintain contact with their game.

I know many who tramped five miles or so to reach a table; gave up their free evenings to organise camp competitions; travelled hundreds of miles to play or give exhibitions; sacrificed leave, performed extra duties, slept on floors (if at all) to take part in tournaments. I know one who flew from Essex to Yorkshire to assist his old club; another—*now it can be told!*—who flew as "spare parts" from bleakest Scotland to hospitable Belfast just for a knock. These were the *lucky* ones, too. Others I know, less lucky, who hitch-hiked into Alex. or Cairo or Haifa or Bizerta for their monthly, or three-monthly, or six-monthly



Another flashback. The Game proved a blessing to many P.O.W.s. This picture was taken at a camp in Germany in 1943. Player at the far end is C. H. Evans, now employed at E.T.T.A. Office.

game. Shall I forget the fresh-faced lads who asked me to give them a game before they went off once more with their trawlers to Iceland, their convoys to Murmansk, or their bombers to Berlin?

Or the letters from Africa, Burma, Italy, Iran, Madagascar, and all the other uncivilised places which know not Table Tennis, asking for news, photos, and gossip about the players and clubs back home?

To all these lads alike, to those who

faced the sudden dangers, the long privations, or merely the dreary routines of exile, the longed-for game of Table Tennis was no fad, no fetish, no triviality, but a sanctuary—a symbolic breath of normal life in their topsy-turvy existence.

Which brings me back to my original point, namely, that Table Tennis is no longer a freak or fancy game, but a feature of normal life, which hundreds of thousands want and are determined to have.

PARIS 1947 - all the world will be there

The World Championship meeting, which includes the Swaythling Cup and Corbillon Cup International team competitions, will be held in Paris throughout the period 27th February to 7th March, inclusive.

Arrangements have now been made to allow players and friends to travel as an organised party, leaving London on 26th February and returning on 8th March, at an all-in cost of £28 1s. 0d. per person.

This sum will include travel tickets London/Dover/Calais/Paris, returning by the same route, with second-class rail travel and first-class on the cross-Channel steamer; reserved seats out and home; the accommodation in Paris for the number of nights stated comprising double or two-bedded rooms, three meals daily (Continental breakfast, table d'hôte lunch and dinner), gratuities to hotel staff, all State and Municipal taxes, and the services of representatives where available. The quotation also includes two half-day sight-seeing drives around Paris and a

whole-day excursion to Versailles. The figure does not include cost of travel from provincial towns to London and return at end of journey.

It is hoped that some sort of season ticket arrangements will be available for admission to the Championships, the cost, of course, being extra to the above.

Valid passports will be necessary for the tour. Details of currency regulations will be forwarded when bookings are made.

Owing to the large demand for accommodation in Paris, prompt reservation is necessary, **TOGETHER WITH A DEPOSIT OF £5 PER PERSON.**

If you are interested, apply immediately for the necessary booking forms from E.T.T.A. Office at 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

It is not known how many will be accepted as competitors in the World Championships, but the French authorities have been asked to accept as many entrants as possible from the official party.

2. This Footwork Business

by Jack Carrington

(English International)

IT is generally agreed that good footwork is necessary for success at any game. Yet on first introduction to table tennis it appears to be the exception to the rule, the game which can be played "anyhow." Especially for tall people it appears to be possible to play without bothering about footwork, because they can reach any part of their half of the table without moving.

This "reaching" idea, in fact, seems to be the basis of the table tennis which is learned in the home or in crowded social clubs, where the game is only a sideline to other activities.

Of course, only a little education is needed to dispel this illusion; the first visit to an exhibition or big match will be enough. For there it will be noticed that the feet of the expert player are in constant motion—swift, sure, movements the *whole* time the ball is in play.

Even to make a simple service a purposeful movement of the feet is made, while in receiving service a continual shifting of balance from one foot to the other may be observed.

It Can Be Learned

So the first illusion vanishes, and it is realised that table tennis, as much as any other game, requires the cultivation of good footwork.

Unfortunately, at this stage, the novice often falls a victim to an equally misleading impression, namely, that footwork is "born" in a player, and cannot possibly be learned.

This is understandable, because the ball appears to go to the expert instead of the expert having to go to the ball. Nevertheless, behind that expert anticipation lie hours of simple practice and attention to detail. The whole thing *can* be learned, if the novice is prepared to take his problems slowly, one at a time.

The Secret

The easiest way to learn footwork is not to think too much about your feet, but to start at the opposite end, *in your head*.

THERE IS THE SECRET OF TABLE TENNIS — FOOTWORK MEANS HEADWORK !

Let me explain this in more detail.

1. The object of any foot movement is to place your body in such a position that your arm can perform efficiently whatever action you have decided upon.
2. Moving too much places you in a faulty position, just as surely as moving too little.
3. Thus sheer speed is not the answer; it is first necessary to know where you want to move to. This can be decided more quickly if you can tell within limits where your opponent is going to send the ball.
4. Anticipation of that kind springs from a knowledge of the spin and speed of the ball, the angles of the court, and the style of your opponent. In other words, the more you learn about table tennis in general, the better your anticipation, and therefore the easier your footwork will become.

Don't Worry About It

Approach footwork in that frame of mind, i.e., regard it as part and parcel of the game to be learned with each stroke, not as a special task. Then you will not become "foot-conscious" as so many do.

Before proceeding to detailed consideration of stance for various strokes, ask yourself the following questions. You will be surprised what an effect these simple things can have on your movements:

Do you rest your weight on your heels?

This habit leads to slow starting. Try to poise your weight on the ball of each foot (not on the toes).

Do you "reach" for wide balls?

This is a bad habit if it means your taking the ball with fully-stretched arm. An arm that is slightly bent at elbow and shoulder allows you more margin of control; very often a slight foot movement will ensure this margin.

Do you stand too erect?

This is a common fault. It is no use standing on your dignity—the knee must be bent if you are to be prepared

(Continued on page 7, col. 1)

LEAGUE NOTES

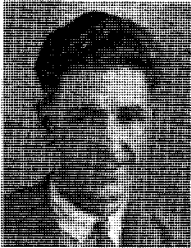
In the November "Odd Shots" column, our contributor, "The Umpire," paid tribute to *West Bromwich and District T.T.A.* both for the extent of their organisation and for their originality in running a special Doubles League.

This has produced two interesting sequels: First, GRIMSBY & DIST. T.T.A. point out that they actually have a Mixed Doubles League.

"We first had this idea in pre-war days when two or three clubs arranged friendlies on a home and away basis, and all the players enjoyed the games so much that this season there was a demand for the Association to organise a League on an official basis. As you will see from the Handbook, six teams have entered, and are having some very fine matches, we play three pairs a side, playing nine rubbers for a match; players can be drawn from any of the clubs' registered players only, so that only clubs with ladies' teams are eligible. From a club standpoint this is an excellent arrangement, as it encourages the social side. The League feels that this will improve the women's play, and increase the number of women playing, and as you are aware we are numerically very strong in the women's side compared with Leagues of similar size."

The second sequel comes from Liverpool:—

Speaking as hon. match secretary and registrar of the Liverpool and District T.T. League, we beat the record of West Bromwich by two divisions and 22 teams, our



This
Moore
records
more
records
than
anyone
else.

total being ten divisions, 99 teams, with 930 registered players. I receive 49 score cards per week, which are recorded in triplicate

(Continued from page 6)

to follow that ball up or down, to left or right.

Imagine a goalkeeper whose knees were bound in plaster! He could neither spring to a wide ball, nor get down to a low one.

Yet that is how many learners handicap themselves.

A little "cycling" exercise in the bedroom each morning would remove that imaginary plaster from the knees, and incidentally benefit the abdominal muscles.

(To be continued)

(once in a league handbook, once in a pre-written list in match date order, and also tabulated on squared paper in colours). I am also handling score cards for three knock-out competitions: The "Readman," "Hyde" and "Bartholomew" Cups. In addition, all players occupying 1st and 2nd position in their respective Divisions are given an equal chance to be considered for recognition, for I keep all their match records. This involves over 200 separate records. I also find time to visit matches each week, thereby keeping in touch with club secretaries and players.

As a last remark, I work as well.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK R. MOORE.

* * *

CAMBRIDGESHIRE T.T.A. To the regret of all followers of the game in Cambridgeshire, Mr. W. J. R. Humphries, the secretary since 1936, has now resigned, having left the district. His successor is Mr. L. R. J. Constable, of 110, Milton Road, Cambridge.

* * *

RET福德 & DIST. T.T.L. On resuming his duties as hon. sec., Mr. H. Brown, of 64, Bigsby Road, Retford, writes: "I think our special thanks are due to Mr. S. G. Wynne for the way he has worked to keep the league going throughout the war years. We now have 13 teams—an improvement on our 1939 strength. The older members can still show the young ones the way home—so far."

* * *

HUDDERSFIELD & DIST. T.T.L. Always about the strongest playing area in Yorkshire, Huddersfield is now showing itself to be strong in organisation, too. There are 24 teams in two sections, the Chairman being Mr. W. Davies, and the Secretary Mr. W. Bedford, both well-known players. Mr. Davies has been compelled to take things easy lately, for health reasons, but Bedford has been putting up some excellent singles performances. England trialist, Howard Birch, is living in the South at present.

* * *

AYLESBURY & DIST. T.T.L. An exhibition by Barna and Brook helped to arouse renewed interest in this area, and already 10 teams are competing in the two divisions. The Liberal team, including Tommy Wenham and F. G. Simmonds, head the table, but Hazells Club, led by Gerald Brown, the Scottish Open runner-up, expect to make a strong challenge. Interested clubs or individuals should write to Mr. C. H. Thorne, 83, Old Stoke Road, Aylesbury.

ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1947

FINALS NIGHT

Arrangements have been completed to play the Finals of the English Championships at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, on Saturday, March 15th, 1947, commencing at 7 p.m.

News about the preliminary rounds, which will be played in London during that week, will be circulated later, but already it is definite that a number of men and women players will be entering from the U.S.A., a team from Czechoslovakia and France, and besides other foreign entries, possibly representatives from Hungary, Rumania and other Continental countries. It promises to be one of the most colourful tournaments we have held for many years.

We are expecting a great demand for tickets for the Finals at Wembley and already many requests have been received. There was disappointment amongst our affiliated members last season when it was found that tickets were sold out almost as soon as they were printed, and it has been decided to give our affiliated members an opportunity to purchase tickets before they are available to the general public. They will, therefore, be sold only to our members until January 25th, 1947, and orders should be placed now.

TICKET PRICES ARE :

21/-, 10/6, 7/6, 6/- and 3/6.

As a special concession, the 6/- tickets are available to affiliated members at the reduced price of 3/6, if ordered in minimum groups of 20 tickets.

Consult your club secretary on this point; if he is making no special arrangements, it will be best to make sure by ordering your tickets direct from E.T.T.A., 69, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY CASH and will then be dealt with in strict rotation. The Wembley authorities are, of course, responsible for the tickets and it is not possible for them to be distributed unless the order is accompanied by cash.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

These will be played at Ldme Grove Baths, Shepherds Bush, London, from Wednesday, 12th to Friday, 14th March, inclusive. There will be a morning, afternoon and evening session on each of these three days. Further details of tickets will be circulated later, and will appear in the February issue of this magazine.

COMPETITORS. Entry Forms are available now from E.T.T.A. Office, and applications should be made early as it may be necessary to restrict the number of competitors.

Last year's entry in the junior competitions was disappointing, and it is hoped that officials throughout the country will do all in their power to help boys and girls to compete in these events in order to benefit by the experience of playing amongst the leading players of the world, in good conditions.

W.J.P.

THE WELSH "OPEN"

Leach Turns the Tables on Barna

A record crowd of 1,200 Welsh table tennis enthusiasts saw Johnny Leach defeat Viktor Barna in the Final of the Welsh Open Championships at Cardiff on 14th December.

It was a brilliant match in which Barna, playing as well as ever, took the first two games. But Leach, encouraged by his near success at the Merseyside, gradually took the



offensive in the third, which he won, and followed this by winning the fourth and fifth in grand style. Barna was undoubtedly a tired man in the fifth game, but this in no way detracts from Leach's magnificent achievement. His defence became better and better, and in the final winning game he scarcely put a shot wrong, counter-hitting Barna's backhand and piling on terrific pressure.

In the semi-final, Leach rather easily disposed of Sharman, whilst Barna beat Sweetland, the Welsh No. 1, in the other. Sweetland had previously done well to defeat Peter Rumjahn and Ron Baglow, after the latter had eliminated Geoff Harrower, the holder.

Barna and Harrower took the Men's Doubles title, beating Rumjahn and Sharman after the latter's close semi-final battle with Hammett and Baglow.

The Women's title was taken by Peggy Franks, who defeated Pinkie Barnes in a not-too-thrilling final. The last-minute inability of Elizabeth Blackburn and Betty Stevenson to travel left a fairly clear field for the two London girls, with only Audrey Bates and Beryl Jones offering Welsh resistance.

Franks and Vi Patterson won the Women's Doubles, beating Barnes and Audrey Bates in the final.

From a Welsh playing point of view the tournament provided little that was new. Sweetland again proved himself our best player, and his second set against Barna in the semi-final gave indication of an even better future.

The Welsh Juniors displayed plenty of latent talent, and the winner, Glyn Morgan, of Port Talbot, showed signs of a promising all-round game. His opponent, Hobby, must improve his attack if he is to enjoy the success as a Senior that he has had in the Junior ranks.

Looked at from the interest angle, the tournament was an unqualified success and should do much to increase the already large following the game has in the principality. The great effort spent on special lighting and the provision of tiered seating for the spectators was more than rewarded by the many expressions of appreciation.

Local players who had some criticism of having to play in eliminating rounds were among the first to admit that some qualification must be necessary in order to play in a tournament, of this standard.

NANCY ROY EVANS.

THE UMPIRE'S JOB—continued.

With a large audience the players must sometimes wait for the applause to die down. Here the umpire can help by waiting to call the score until the volume of clapping first begins to die down and then calling the score in a voice rather louder than usual so as to be heard above the applause. This will quieten the spectators, who, like the players, will take it as a signal for the next point to be played.

The Sinatra Touch

Nowadays microphones are often used. They vary considerably. The easiest to use are those which pick up a normal conversational voice about a foot from the mouth. Unfortunately, the type most often installed for public address systems in halls used for table tennis is what I call a "crooner's mike." The mouth has to be very close to this, and it often needs more of a whisper than ordinary speech to avoid distortion. Organisers should give umpires who will have to use a mike a chance to try themselves out beforehand, and to find out (usually from the electrician on the spot) the best way to handle the instrument being used. Don't be distracted by a mike; extra concentration on the game will dispel any nervousness in handling it. If the mike is really inefficient and your voice is adequate for the hall, it is sometimes better to have it switched off during the game and only used for announcements.

(Continued next month)

NEW REFEREE FOR THE NATIONAL

Many players and officials at the forthcoming English Championships will be sorry to miss Mr. J. M. Rose, who has acted as Referee for the National Tournament over the past 20 years. When the question of appointing the Referee for this year's tournament came before the Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A., Mr. Rose explained that for health reasons he is compelled to take a six- or eight-week holiday in Switzerland, and would therefore be unable to stand for nomination.

Mr. Jack Kurzman, well known as the London representative on the Executive Committee, is to be the Referee of this year's Championships.

MESSAGE FROM MACCLESFIELD

. . . and they want a Coach

Rapidly reaching the membership of pre-war years, over 300 Registered players now play weekly.

17 Clubs compete for 8 Silver Trophies: Entered the Lancs Association for the first time in our history: We pride ourselves on the way we can stage League events.

Over 200 people witnessed the Macclesfield v. Bolton match, staged in the Town Hall on Saturday, December 14, 1946. Visitors included the Mayor of Macclesfield. Bolton proved winners by 6 sets to 3.

We are to lose our last year's Men's Singles Champion, J. S. Barker, who is going to reside in Burnley for business reasons.

Recently visited Southport in the Wilmot Cup and Macclesfield won by 5 sets to 2, only 7 sets being played.

2 men and 2 women players will appear in the Lancs County trial on January 4, 1947, namely:

D. S. Heaps Men.

4 times Local Champion.

F. Förster

Mrs. D. Whiting Sisters.

„ M. Corbishley

Winner and Runner-up in Local Championship and Doubles Champions.

English Internationals visit Macclesfield on Tuesday evening, January 14, 1947, when 200 to 300 people will most certainly be present.

COACH WANTED.

Macclesfield wants to reach the top in Table Tennis, and for this purpose desires the services of a coach for, say, one evening each week, to bring along our very promising youngsters. All inquiries to the Secretary, H. Hough, 3, Pownall Street, Macclesfield.

* * *

WILMOTT CUP & ROSE BOWL 2nd Round Ties

WILMOTT CUP

(Teams of 3 men, playing 9 singles in all)

ZONE No. 1:

South London Lge. v. Chelmsford Lge.

North Middlesex Lge. v. Aldershot Lge.

Woolwich Lge. v. Leatherhead Lge.

Thames Valley Lge. v. Wembley and Harrow Lge.

London Business Houses Lge. v. London Lge.

Croydon Lge. v. Dartford & N. Kent. Lge.

Ilford Lge. v. Willesden Lge.

Luton Lge. v. Central Lge.

ZONE No. 2:

Huddersfield Lge. or Blackpool Lge. v. Liverpool Lge. or Bishopham Club.

West Craven Lge. v. Crewe Lge.

Macclesfield Lge. v. Chester Lge.

Keighley Lge. v. Radcliffe Lge.

ROSE BOWL

(Teams of 2, 3 or 4 women, playing in all 4 singles and 1 doubles).

ZONE No. 1:

Barnet Lge. v. Ilford Lge.

South London Lge. v. Central Lge.

St. Albans Lge. v. Croydon Lge.

Wilkesden Lge. v. Wembley & Harrow Lge.

Woolwich Lge. v. Romford Lge.

Toronto Club v. Bedford Lge.

North Middlesex Lge. v. Beckenham Lge.

London Univ. Lge. v. London Lge.

Lucky Dip

In the Editor's Postbag

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Dear Sir,

In a match played in our Eastern Division the names on the score card were:

Turners Asbestos: W. Driver and D. Driver (father and son), J. Dawson and J. Dawson (father and son).

Gravesend Harriers: L. Honess and J. Honess (cousins), H. Kirk and N. Kirk (brothers).

Yours,

H. C. FLELLO,

Scores Secretary,

Dartford & N. Kent T.T.A.

AN ELLIOT OF A DIFFERENCE

Dear Sir,

In connection with your Wembley Week-end competition, I trust that the deliberate spelling mistake is not the way you give Miss Helen Elliot's name no less than five times in the current issue.

Miss Elliot is essentially a Scotch Elliot and only uses the one "t."

Yours truly,

R. D. DYKES.

Editor's Note.—No, the deliberate mistake was not in a name. This mistake was due simply to Sassenach ignorance. Our apologies to Helen and all Scotch Elliots.

1066 AND ALL THAT

Dear Sir,

After an exhaustive study, I am still in doubt as to the origin of table tennis, and it would be interesting to hear the opinions of your readers.

Amongst various books, etc., I have perused, I find the following:

1. John Jaques III took up a little-known game called "Gossima" and re-christened it Ping Pong. Its success was spectacular.

2. The actual inventor of "Ping Pong" appears to be Mr. James Gibb, an old Cambridge athlete.

3. A Major Wingfield is mentioned in connection with "Sphaeristike," which has some connection with the game.

4. The game of "Ping Pong" was introduced into England about 1900, and was first played with a battledore.

5. Murray's New English Dictionary states: "Ping Pong, a parlour game resembling lawn tennis played on a table with bats usually of parchment stretched on a wooden frame. So called from the sharp 'ping' emitted by the bat when striking."

Incidentally, whilst the name "Ping Pong" is connected with the sound of ball hitting bat, I understand that the aforementioned Mr. Gibb presented the idea of the celluloid ball and the name "Ping Pong" to a friend who ran a sports business, which started a boom that gradually spread over the whole world. I believe it was discovered later on that "Ping Pong" was a trade name, the registered property of this firm.

Yours faithfully,

E. F. CHRISTOPHER,

President Bristol T.T.A.

WELL, NOW, THAT WOULD BE TELLING!

Dear Sir,

We think you hit the nail on the head in your recent article in which you concluded: "Table tennis is good for the feminine figure and the feminine figure is good for table tennis."

By the way, could you tell us which club the young lady on your front cover belongs to? We are very keen on table tennis.

Yours hopefully,

THE COMMITTEE,

YOUNG WOLVES' CLUB.

TRAINING OF YOUTH

Have you any Prize Ideas

The closing date for the Page Letter Competition has been extended to 31st January.

We offer **TWO PRIZES of ONE GUINEA each to the senders of the two most helpful and practical letters under the heading**

"What should be done for the young player?"

Letters must be addressed to:

The Editor,

TABLE TENNIS,

69, Victoria Street,

London, S.W.1.

The Yanks are Coming ! But Don't Miss the Swiss !!

The U.S.A. team of four men and two or more women will be spending a few days in England before crossing to Paris for the World Championships. During their stay here, they will play a full-dress international match

AMERICA v. ENGLAND

at Westminster Central Hall, London, on Friday, 21st February, 1947.

The venue for this match is very conveniently situated and has admirable seating accommodation providing a good view of the play from all positions. This is the first appearance of the American stars since 1938 and will give us a tantalising pre-view of the opposition to be faced by the Czechoslovaks, the French and our own players in the World Championships.

The Middlesex Table Tennis Association are staging the semi-final match of the West Zone of the European Cup :

ENGLAND v. SWITZERLAND

at Rotax Club room, Chandos Road, Willesden, N.W.10, on Friday, 24th January, 1947, start 7.15 p.m.

A certain number of tickets may be still unsold by the time this magazine is printed ; Enquiries to :

J. S. Johnston, Table Tennis Secretary, Rotax Club.

G. R. Harrower, 34, Gallants Farm Road, E. Barnet, Herts.

England will be represented in this match by :

E. Bubleby and G. Harrower for singles ; E. J. Filby and K. Merrett for doubles.

The Captain will be E. J. Filby.

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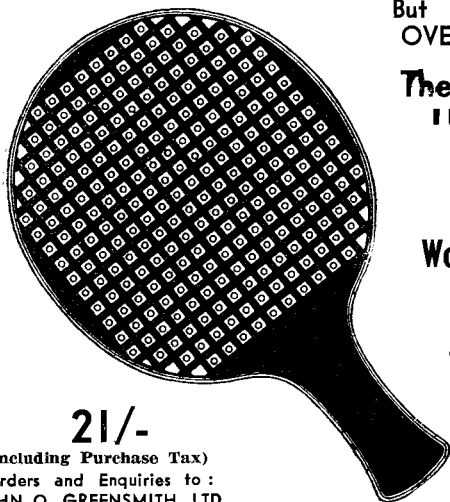
And the difficulties connected with its post-war manufacture it is regretted that orders cannot be executed as early as was at first thought possible.

Assuring all patrons of our speediest attention in deliveries.

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Page Thirteen



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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Professor has a Theory!

Miss "Pinkie" Barnes, attractive brunette International from Surrey, interviewed for *Table Tennis*, gave as the reason for her intriguing first name: "because her real name is much too long and complicated for *Table Tennis*."



"Pinkie" Barnes

Oh, come, Pinkie, you'll have to tell us now. Admittedly, distinguished Ladies-of-the-Table have caused us anxious moments in the past, what with their *Kettnerova*, *Votrubicova*, *Depetrisova*, *Rorgouyino*, *Mednyansky* and *Zdobnitzka*, but shall we be daunted?

As for *Nazvytye* it was easy once we knew it rhymed with "nightie."

Veteran Umpires (and printers) still survive who served their apprenticeship on the mere men *Mechlovitz*, *Bonna-venture*, *Szabados* and *Tagliabue*. To such the later names of *Holzrichter*, *Haguenauer* and *Pagliari* are anæmic abbreviations. Of course, the All-Time Ace was awarded to the steward who successfully brought to the table the doubles match: *Maksimovic* and *Majaroglou* versus *Goditiabois* and *Dzindziliauskis*!

(Questioned in the bar afterwards, he is reported to have said: "It was dead easy, guv'nor. I just sticks me 'ead in the dressin' room door and hollers: 'Ere, come on, yer wanted—YOU, YOU, YOU and YOU!'") Ever since then he has lived quietly in retirement at Cheam, and who can blame him?)

How to be World Champion

So far as the men's game is concerned, research shows that these armour-piercing names, although worth 5 points against a stooge, are a definite drawback if you want to become World Champion. For that, it seems, you must have a 2-syllable name, easily announced and easily remembered in any language. Thus since 1931 the only World Champions have been *Barna*, *Kolar*, *Bergmann* and *Vana*. Our own best at various times have been quoted as *Haydon*, *Lurie*, *Filby* and *Bubley*, all conforming to my rules, you see?

Other scientists (?) maintain that what you need is a name beginning with "B." Certainly a composite team of "B's" at any period would take some beating, e.g., *Burls*, *Bernstein*, *Blatchford*, *Bromfield* (*Percy*), *Bull*, *Bergl*, *Boros*, *Bellak*, *Beregi*, *Blackbourn*, *Blattner*, and, of course, *Barna* and *Bergmann*. This school says that *Vana* is cheating and that V and B in many languages are interchangeable. This is true, but with that forehead he can afford to be a bit eccentric!

According to this system *Barnes* qualifies, too, so perhaps that is why our Pinkie keeps her other long and complicated name a secret?

I see that her other hobbies are Writing, Dancing, Music and Singing. Now if she were a Chess fan we should begin to worry because that appears to be the only game which produces names likely to tease the hardened T.T. reader. They have to cope with such as *Eliskases*, *Tartakower*, *Bogolubov* and *Znosko-Borovsky*. The last-named makes even old *Dzindi* . . . (you say it) look to his laurels!

Foolproof Systems

By working on the "2-syllable" and "B" systems you may forecast the results of the coming World Championships in Paris.

Eliminating *Vana*, *Bergmann* and *Barna* for the moment (just like that!), we find that *Bubley* or *Bordrez* should be considered for the Men's Singles and *Blackbourn* for the Women's. *Amouretti*, poor fellow, clearly carries too much of a load. But what of the modern tendency towards streamlining—perhaps a simple monosyllable is a better bet now? In that case look out for *Leach*, *Franks* and *Dace*, and a certain *Miles*, who is said to be even better than *Nash*. And again *Barnes* qualifies.

And Now It's Your Turn

With this foolproof system you can see what an absolute riot I would be if I went in for forecasting horse-racing.

Now I want you all to be scientists, too, so will you please study the names in this article and then turn to page 15? There you will find the 3rd coupon for the *Wembley Week-end Competitor*, which will give you a chance to air your own theories.

Good luck,
THE PROFESSOR.

AREA TRIAL MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

League stars' opportunity

The Selection Committee appointed by the Executive Committee has decided that Area Trials will again take place, and they will be arranged as follows:—

Town.	Convener.	For Players in Districts :	No. of Players to Qualify.	
			Men.	Women.
BIRMINGHAM.	A. A. Haydon, 14, Valbourne Rd., Birmingham, 14.	Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire.	4	4
BRISTOL.	Mrs. D. Anderson, 4, Codrington Pl., Clifton, Bristol, 8.	Hereford, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Devonshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Cornwall.	2	2
MANCHESTER.	W. Stamp, Buena Ventura, Farndale Close, Liverpool, 18.	Northumberland, Durham, Westmorland, Cumberland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire.	4	4
PETERBOROUGH.	Mr. C. Richards, Carthage, 60, Exeter Road, Scunthorpe.	Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Huntingdonshire.	2	2
LONDON.	R. C. M. Mann, 48, Forty Avenue, Wembley Park, Middlesex.	Metropolitan Area, Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire.	4	4

Our WEMBLEY WEEK-END Competition

Most readers know the rules of this competition now. All you have to do is to answer one question in each of our issues for November, December, January and February.

Do not cut the coupons out until the last question appears in February.

The winner will qualify for travel to London, a ringside seat at Wembley, and hotel accommodation in London for one day, all at the expense of TABLE TENNIS (the Official mag.).

Any reader resident in the British Isles is eligible for the prize.

Do not cut the coupons out until the last question appears in February.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION (No. 3).

Here is a serious little problem for you, based on the Professor's not-so-serious article, "What's in a Name?" on page 14.

From the names appearing in that article, place, in order of merit, a World team of 3 men and 2 women, and an England team of the same numbers.

NOTE.—You are to judge each individual on his or her best form, i.e., at the peak of their careers.

The "correct" rankings will be decided according to the aggregates of the coupons received in the competition.

THE GREAT OCCASION.

Just to remind you, "Wembley Night" is Saturday, March 15th, 1947, when the finals of the English Open Championships will be staged at the Empire Pool, Wembley.

WEMBLEY WEEK-END

COUPON No. 3

From the names printed in THE PROFESSOR'S article I place my teams as under:—

Men. World. England.

No. 1

No. 2

No. 3

Women. World. England.

No. 1

No. 2

Name

Address

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Jan. 19.—Southampton Open. Miss L. Ferguson, 20, Atherley Road, Southampton.
 Jan. 25.—North of England. W. E. Wood, 44, Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.
 Jan. 26.—Kent Open. F. G. Mannoch, 161, Borden Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent.
 Feb. 1.—Hampshire Open. F. S. Brown, 124, Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Bournemouth.
 Feb. 8.—Midland Open. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham.
 Feb. 15.—Surrey and South of England Opens. C. G. Milton, 5, Bramley Close, South Croydon, Surrey.
 Feb. 22.—Bristol Open. Mrs. D. M. Anderson, 4, Codrington Place, Clifton, Bristol, 8.
 Feb. 27 to Mar. 7. — World Championships, Paris.
 Mar. 12 to 15.—English Championships.
 Mar. 22.—London Open. E. A. Vennell, 15, All Hallows Road, Caversham, Berks.
 Mar. 29.—Grimsby Open.
 Apl. 5.—N.E. Yorkshire Open.
 Apl. 19.—Cheshire Open.
 May 3.—Bucks Open.
 May 9.—Wembley Open.

Other Big Dates

Jan. 18.—England v. Ireland at Liverpool Stadium.
 Jan. 20.—North v. South Trial Match at Y.M.C.A., Manchester.
 Jan. 25.—Wales v. England at Swansea.

TABLE TENNIS

(The Official Magazine)

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LATE NEWS

The England team to play Ireland at Liverpool Stadium on 18th January, 1947, will be:—
 J. Leach, B. Casofsky, E. Filby, R. Runjahn, Miss V. Dace, Miss E. Blackburn.
 Reserves: P. Runjahn, Miss M. Franks.
 Non-playing Captain: A. A. Haydon.

The following team will represent England against Wales at Swansea on 25th January:—
 E. Bubley, E. Goodman and two other men, Miss E. Blackburn, Miss M. Franks.
 Reserve: A. Symons (Bristol).
 Non-playing Captain: A. A. Haydon.

TRIAL MATCH SELECTIONS, to be played at Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, Manchester, on 20th January, 1947.

North Team: B. Casofsky, H. Lurie, L. Cohen.
 South Team: E. Bubley, E. Filby, R. Sharman.

SCORE BOARD

THOSE GIRLS AGAIN!

EUROPE CUP (WOMEN),
 19th December, 1946
 ENGLAND (Dace, Blackburn, Franks) beat BELGIUM 5-0.
 FRENCH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS,
 3rd January, 1947

Women's Singles—

Winner: Miss V. Dace.

Runner-up: Miss E. Blackburn.

Mixed Doubles—

Winners: Miss Dace and J. Leach.

Runners-up: Miss Blackburn and G. V. Barna.

Men's Doubles—

Winners: G. V. Barna and J. Leach.

Men's Singles—

Winner: Guy Amouretti (France).

Runner-up: G. V. Barna.

LEINSTER OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS,
 7th December, 1946

Women's Singles—

Winner: Miss V. Dace.

Runner-up: Miss E. Blackburn.

Women's Doubles—

Winners: Misses Dace and Blackburn.

Mixed Doubles—

Winners: Miss Dace and G. V. Barna.

Runners-up: Miss Blackburn and R. Litten.

Men's Doubles—

Winners: G. V. Barna and C. Kemp.

Runners-up: I. Boros and R. Litten.

Men's Singles—

Winner: G. V. Barna.

Runner-up: I. Boros.

METROPOLITAN TABLE TENNIS

CHAMPIONSHIPS,
 4th January, 1947

Men's Singles Final—

E. Bubley beat E. J. Filby 21-15, 21-18,

19-21, 21-17.

Women's Singles Final—

Miss M. Jones (Gloucester) beat Miss B.

Steventon 21-16, 21-15.

Men's Doubles Final—

E. J. Filby and K. Merrett beat J. H.

Carrington and R. Crayden 24-22,

21-19, 22-20.

Women's Doubles Final—

Miss L. R. Barnes and Miss V. Patterson

beat Miss M. Purvis and Miss S. W.

Swatman 21-17, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles Final—

Miss B. Steventon and E. J. Filby beat

Miss M. Jones and A. W. C. Simons

21-16, 21-15.

WESTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

MEN'S SECTION

Swindon 9, Gloucester 2; Cheltenham 1, Birmingham 10; Newport 4, Cardiff 7; Newport 7, Swindon 4; Bristol 10, Cheltenham 1; Birmingham 6, Cardiff 5; Cheltenham 1, Bath 10; Gloucester 2, Bristol 9; Bristol 6, Newport 5; Gloucester 3, Cheltenham 3; Cardiff 10, Newport 1.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Bristol	5	5	0	10
Cardiff	6	5	1	10
Birmingham	5	4	1	8
Swindon	7	4	3	8
Newport	6	3	3	6
Bath	5	1	4	2
Gloucester	6	1	5	2
Cheltenham	6	0	6	0

WOMEN'S SECTION

Bristol 10, Bath 1; Cardiff 11, Bath 0; Swindon 2, Bristol 9.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Bristol	4	3	1	6
Cardiff	4	3	1	6
Birmingham	1	1	0	2
Swindon	3	1	2	2
Bath	4	0	4	0