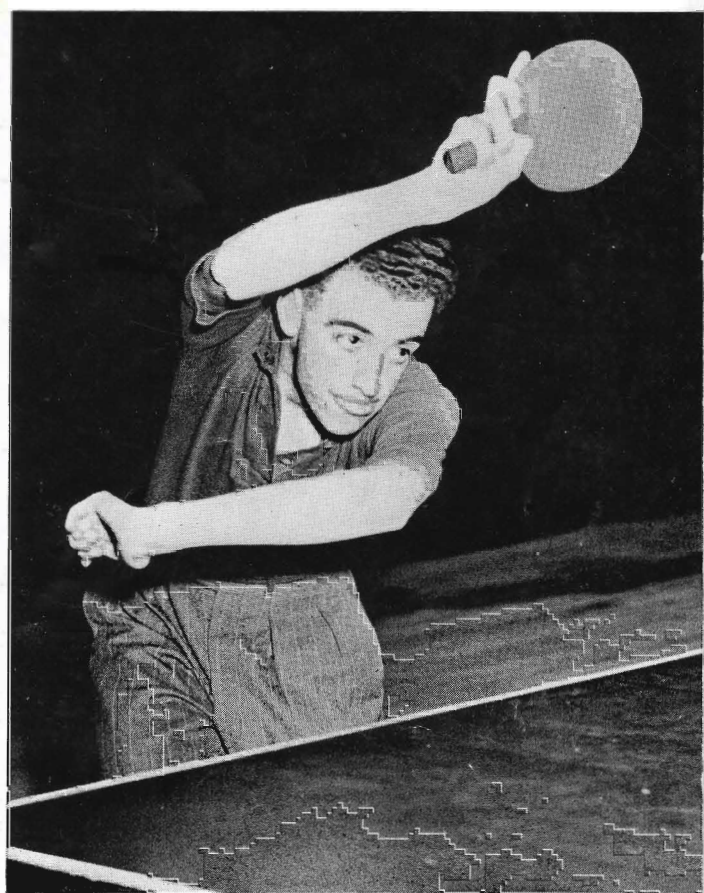


SEPTEMBER 1947

Sixpence

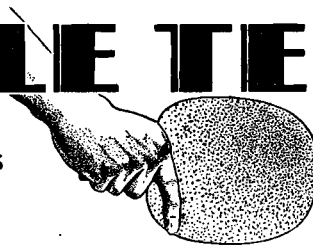
TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
69, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1



Publishers :
VAWSE & WILES, LTD.,
Guardian House,
London, E.17

Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. VI. No. 1

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Until such time as new buildings can be created, there are plenty of old halls that could be converted. If halls were not run by a commercial undertaking, they could be turned to profitable account by the local council. Well aired spacious halls would provide excellent facilities for healthy exercise at a small cost to the player. It would also help to curb the upward trend of juvenile delinquency by finding youngsters somewhere to go in the evenings.

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pong" as it was then called, first put in a serious appearance in this country in 1900, lovers of outdoor tennis soon found it to be an excellent way of training indoors.

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Since those days, the game has developed into something much more fine and artistic. Even in this lavish beginning, the growth of the halls bore unmistakable fruits. Sports clubs discovered their possibilities and were willing to sponsor table tennis as a game. As a result, the first match between Hungary and Austria was arranged. The argument for table tennis halls grows even more convincing when we realise that players like Kelen, Bellak and Barna trained unceasingly in these establishments in their early days.

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On the slow tables in Paris, in the World Championships, he showed his lack of experience. The youngster's game was built up on fast American conditions and to beat the volatile type of opponents characteristic of that country.

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But is Miles finished as a world player? Don't you believe it. All these others have weaknesses in their game—Vana included.

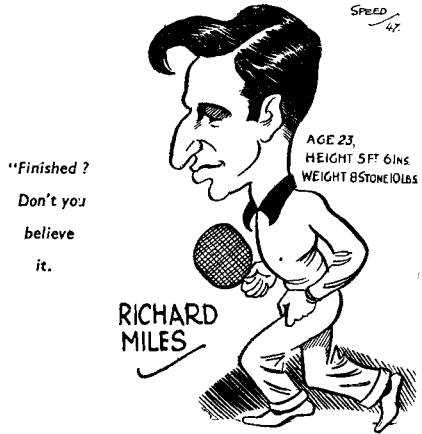
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at Wembley, 4-11th February, 1948

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Ivor Montagu, with tremendous diligence, compiled his own private "ranking lists" after seeing every candidate in action during the season, and studying results from all over Europe. Space does not permit us to print all his comments and explanations, but the following extracts from his notes should prove very interesting. Ivor's ranking of the men appeared in our July/August issue. He emphasised that "no weight beyond that of personal opinion should be attached to my lists."

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Beregi (Devenny), Osborne (Knott).

Notes

Dace's record of tournament wins is incomparable and gives her unchallengeable first place in this list; Franks' record of wins is second only to that of Dace, but here the verdict of international play is so decided that she must yield to Blackburn.

Best doubles players after the first three are Barnes, Patterson and Rivett.

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Of the numbered 12 Farkas has met and beaten all but three. She has lost only once (to Blackburn).

On the "world" plane, one can have little hesitation in placing Blackburn above Dace. Against non-English players in the numbered list Dace has lost only to 1 and 10, beating 7, 8 and 10; while Blackburn has lost to 1, 5 and 8, beating 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10. But as the only player to beat Farkas and by virtue of the remarkable series of Paris wins (v. Elliot 4.9; v. Thall 8.—18.11; v. Farkas 14.18; v. Pritzi 12.16.19) during which her form could have been bettered by no other woman player of the year, Blackburn must have the place.

Pritzi has lost many times to Farkas, but several times in the fifth game, and has beaten all the Czechs repeatedly. I think Dace can beat her, but this is only my guess.

Elliot lacks top-class match experience; did very well to beat all four U.S. tourists.

Perhaps I rate Roseanu too high; she has beaten Depetrisova this year and lost to Farkas and Kettnerova. Anyway it's my hunch.

Franks' best performances, very creditable, were her wins over Elliot, Kettnerova and Chartraz, hard matches with Dace and Pritzi—just earns last place.

Detournay is, I think, the best outside Central Europe, British Isles and U.S.A. Patterson did well to beat her, and very well generally in Paris.



Miss Vera Dace, famous English International Player, and Mr. A. H. Thomas, the Beckenham Cricketer, after their wedding at St. George's, Hanover Square, London, on 16th August, 1947

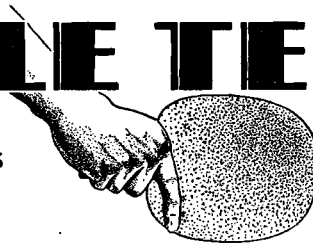
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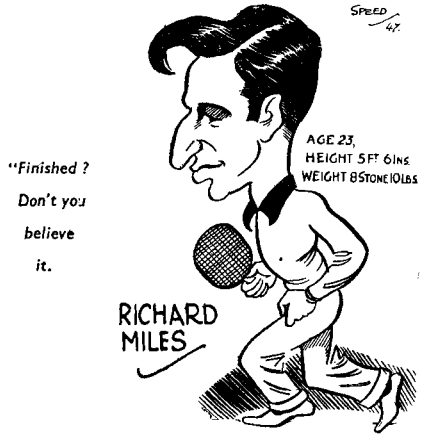
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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION TO STAGE THE ENGLISH OPEN

By J. R. THOMPSON

We are looking forward to one of our busiest seasons. With a full County programme already arranged, we are going to stage once again in the North the English Open Championships next November at Belle Vue, Manchester.

In 1938 the "English" was held in Blackpool under the able hand of "Bill" Worsley; it was a huge success from every point of view. In 1947 we are having the same opportunity and, with the same leader, together with a willing band of workers, there is no reason why 1938 shouldn't be eclipsed, provided, *and this is where you come in*, we have the help of every T.T. enthusiast in the County. Work there will be in abundance and we shall require a band of workers to carry it out.

Play will extend over the four days with the Semi and Finals in the spacious King's Hall; preliminary rounds will be played in the Tudor Restaurant each day from 9 or 9.30 a.m. Umpires, Stewards, programme sellers and others will be required in large numbers, particularly for the morning and afternoon sessions. For those who can afford to spare all the four days Bill Worsley will be glad to hear from you.

Billie Stamp and Bill Worsley will

jointly act as Referees of the Championships.

Well, there it is, folks, just a rough outline of the Star event for the North for next season. Needless to say, both the E.T.T.A. and L.T.T.A. will do all possible to bring over the Continentals, including Vana, Tereba, and others, together with our own Barna, Leach, Bergmann, Blackbourn, Dace, etc.

The Lancs. League this Season will have two Men's Premier Divisions, North and South, together with three Second Divisions each of seven teams, and with two Ladies and a Youths' Division. Below are the preliminary dates for the programme of Open and Closed Events under the jurisdiction of the L.T.T.A.:—

North of England	14th February, 1948.
Merseyside	27th-29th Nov., 1947.
Lancashire	January, 1948.
Cheshire	March, 1948.
Lancs. Closed	} March and April, 1948.
Lancs. League	
Closed	

The L.T.T.A. will also hold Trials for Juniors on 6th September, 1947, at Manchester, and Seniors on 4th October, 1947, in the Y.M.C.A., Manchester.

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JOHNNY LEACH
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England's No. 1 Player

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COMFORT — SPEED — ACCURACY

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INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

The I.T.T.F. now has a membership of 29 national associations. Presided over by the Hon. Ivor Montagu, five vice-presidents are now responsible for the geographical zones as follows:—

Western Europe: M. Marcel Corbillon (France).

Eastern Europe: Ing. M. Heydusek (Czechoslovakia).

Northern Europe: Dr. G. Ollen (Sweden).

American Continent: Mr. Maurice Bassford (U.S.A.).

Other Countries: Mr. Seyd Bey (Egypt).

The "British Isles" zone, consisting of the English, Irish, Welsh, Scottish and Channel Islands associations, is represented by Mr. Montagu, himself.

These, too, will watch your Interests . . .

At the first meeting of the newly-elected National Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A., the following were co-opted to serve as additional members of the Committee for the current year:—

Miss Lena Ferguson (Southampton), who thus becomes the only woman member of the Executive.

Mr. C. Richards (Scunthorpe), a member of last year's E.C.

Mr. C. Corti Woodcock (Essex), a past-chairman of E.T.T.A.

Mr. M. Goldstein (Birmingham), a past-member of the E.C.

All these have proved their value by long service to the game.

. . . and These will watch your Play

The following were appointed to the National Selection Committee for the current year:—

Chairman: The Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Mr. A. A. Haydon (Birmingham), non-playing captain.

Mr. G. R. Harrower (Middlesex).

Mr. D. H. Thompson (Cheltenham).

Mr. E. Worsley (Manchester).

Mr. E. Reay (Sunderland).

Mrs. M. Knott (Birmingham), non-playing captain.

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE NOW

Rubber covered bats - - from 4/6

Bats made to specification - - 7/6

Table Tennis net posts - - 6/-

(Welded all steel, unbreakable)

Bats Rerubbered (our own make) 2/6

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Special terms to Clubs. Write for current Price list.

JOHN G. TOMS,
18, Norbett Road, Arnold, Notts.

RANDOM

In the course of the season, it was sometimes just impossible to answer all the letters and queries received from our correspondents, nor was space available to print all that was worthy of publication.

Nevertheless, these undeservedly "dead letters" contain many items of interest and value, and here we skim quickly through some of them to pick out a few highlights.

DEAF AND DUMB Players: "The Umpire's" reference in the January issue to a Belfast team brought letters from many quarters. Notably Carlisle Deaf Institute reports its membership of Carlisle League since its inception 25 years ago.

Chas. Bourne, secretary of Croydon League, reports a flourishing deaf-and-dumb team at the All Saints' Club, Selhurst. And many others.

J. HILLMAN of LUTON suggests: "Scholarships" . . . suggests that a prize in a juniors' competition might take the form of a "free ride" with the England team to an international match.

C. E. BRISTOW of BATH: ". . . provided we handle it rightly now, table tennis has a great opportunity of becoming the National Indoor Sport of the next generation."

E. F. CHRISTOPHER of BRISTOL: The E.T.T.A. should compile a film for renting out on "How to play table tennis."

A. V. MEYERN of WEMBLEY: On certain club nights juniors should be forbidden to play scoring games, devoting the time instead to mutual practice of weak points.

DON FOULIS of LIVERPOOL: May I suggest that subscribers to Table Tennis should, after they have finished with their copies, leave them in their works or office staff canteens, reading rooms, sports clubs or what-have-you. This would help to spread the gospel amongst the barbarians.

I. I. MORGAN of HOUNSLOW: I would like to suggest that all County coaches should hold a proficiency certificate from the E.T.T.A. Coaching is not anyone's job—it is a highly skilled one, and furthermore, all coaches so appointed should meet at the commencement and end of each season to discuss future plans, new coaching ideas—in fact, hold a school amongst themselves.

HARVEST: The last Gleanings from last season's files . . .

Competing against men, Miss Helen Elliott won the Scottish Midland Open Championship.

Miss Molly Jones, the new International, also won an open event in Cheltenham. In fairness it must be mentioned that Bob Griffin, Cheltenham's outstanding 18-year-old, was absent. He is serving in the R.A.F.

Workshop Boys' Club retained the championship of the Dukeries T.T. League. Their leader, D. Bennett, successfully defended his 1939 singles title, beating his 14-year-old team mate, M. Thomas, in the final. Others of whom we should hear more are R. Oldfield, Healey, Webster and Mountain.

The Indian, Godrej was the hero or perhaps we should say "villain," of several time-limit matches during this year's World Championships in Paris.

In one case Godrej won the first game, and his opponent the second, both on time-limit, and the score was 18—12 against Godrej on the third, with two minutes to go.

The star chiseller let fly with six fierce drives and levelled the score to 18—18, just as the 20 minutes was up.

The umpire announced that the next point would decide the match. Godrej won—playing carefully again!

The speciality of the Indian chiseller's game was close half-volley defence with his wooden bat. The harder his opponent hit the sharper Godrej returned them.

His weakness was exposed in the English Open by the experienced Boros. At first, Boros fell into the trap and beat himself with his own hitting. In the next game the Hungarian simply "dolloed" the ball high and soft to the baseline, and laughed his way through to victory.

The Best Junior Team?

Nottingham winners of the Midland Junior League



Photograph: (front, left to right) B. Blackmore, N. Greenberg, J. Roe, C. Crane, E. Holmes; (back) C. R. Draper (secretary), D. C. Nichols (asst. secretary).

Final Placings:

	Rubbers				
	P.	W.	L.	F.	A. Pts.
Nottingham	6	5	1	36	18 10
West Bromwich	5	4	1	24	21 8
Birmingham	6	1	5	25	29 2
Leicester	5	1	4	14	31 2

This is the first time in the history of the Nottingham League that a junior team has participated in a competition, and the success achieved has given great satisfaction.

The team's one defeat was sustained at West Bromwich in their best and most

exciting match, which will long be remembered, the issue being decided 22—20 in the third set of the last rubber.

J. Roe and C. Crane, both only just 15 years old, are the two most promising youngsters in the Nottingham League.

Roe and Blackmore were undefeated in the Doubles, conceding only two sets throughout.

Foremost in sponsoring and encouraging this young team were Clifford Draper, the League Hon. Sec., and Donald Nichols, his Assistant Secretary.

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

In a friendly inter-county match at the close of the season, Ron Thompson of Halifax, representing Yorkshire, defeated Stanley Proffitt of Manchester, representing Lancashire.

It is interesting to recall that left-handed Stan Proffitt played his first international match before left-handed Ron Thompson was born. Stan, in spite of 6 years' army service, still serves up table tennis of the highest order, and only falters a little in concentration, as veterans do. He has just completed a bumper season in Lancashire league cricket, and is now sharpening his pencil in readiness to report the Northern tournaments for this journal.

* * *

Heard at the English Open Championships this year, during the electricity switch off:—

"I don't like this natural lighting for table tennis."

"Why not?"

"I dunno, but it seems kind of unnatural, somehow."

* * *

Speaking in Glasgow recently, the assistant chief of police stressed the value of table tennis as a corrective to delinquency. It gave youth leaders, he said, a simple means of capturing the enthusiasm of lads who might otherwise be tempted to look outside their clubs for excitement and outlets for their energy.

* * *

The tension of a hard-fought deuce game is severe. We must admire the courage of both players in a game such as between Miss Vi

Patterson and Mrs. Irene Lentle in the final of the Middlesex Open Championships. The score ran to 32—30 before the decision went to the younger player; in spite of this setback, Mrs. Lentle went on to win the match.

This sounds like a record. Anybody know of a higher deuce result—in a properly authenticated match?

At the * annual * meeting of the Ulster Branch of the Irish T.T.A., it was revealed that the registered membership now totalled 3,376 players, representing nearly 200 clubs—the highest on record.

* * *

Scene outside the Centre Court at Wimbledon this summer:—

A "social" gathering of the Two-Star folk, i.e., those who shine at Lawn Tennis as well as Table Tennis, with a few of their humble T.T. followers. Notabilities such as Vera Dace, Eric Filby, Jean Bostock (Nicoll to you), Howard Walton, Derek Barton (Ilford T.T. League, did you know?), Cyril Kemp (Champion of Ireland at the two sports), all resplendent in their whites and sporting an average of 2½ tennis rackets apiece.

Amongst their supporters (who either don't or can't play Lawn Tennis—or else keep it dark and don't bother to play at Wimbledon) Pinkie Barnes, Eddie Blincow (Northampton Champion), Jack Sarl and others.

As they chat, swarms of autograph hunters accost the great Lawn Tennis champs, who oblige with practised ease.

SUDDENLY . . . along comes a determined looking youth with a scrap of paper and pencil-stub, pushes unceremoniously through the white-clad crowd, and rather pointedly requests the signatures of the Table Tennis players, demurely standing there in their workaday clothes.

Tactfully someone explained that "THESE are the Tennis Celebrities,

young man, not THOSE!" Without sparing them a glance he replied, "Well, I don't see why Table Tennis should be left out in the cold, even at Wimbledon!"

"OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES AND SUCKLINGS . . .?"

* * *

In Perry's Footsteps ?

Congratulations to **Bernard Crouch**, the Ashford and Staines League champion, on winning the London *Evening News* lawn tennis tournament this summer. The entries for this competition usually run into thousands, and the standard of the closing rounds is very strong indeed.

A pre-war winner was Fred Perry, who afterwards went on to win the World Singles title at table tennis before becoming virtual world champion of lawn tennis too. Another winner known to our readers was Vera Dace; she too has reached the top of the World tree at table tennis and may well lift the coveted title at Wembley next February.

All this augurs well for young ex-Navy man Bernard, whose style at both games is reminiscent of Perry's, with its seemingly awkward but cleanly hit forehand drive taken rather "too early," eyes glued to the ball the whole time, and above all a tremendous aggression.

* * *

Derbyshire County T.T. Association has been formed, leagues in membership being: MATLOCK, CHESTERFIELD, CLAY CROSS, ASHBOURNE, NORTH DERBYSHIRE (BUXTON), DERBY INSTITUTES, and DERBY BUSINESS HOUSES.

The county inter-town competition will be contested by teams of 3 men; friendly inter-town matches will be arranged for juniors.

Derbyshire will compete in the national County Championships. The individual closed championship will be staged in December at the Pavilion, Matlock Bath. All enquiries to the Hon. Sec., E. A. DAKIN, MORLEDGE HOUSE, SMEDLEY STREET WEST, MATLOCK.

* * *

News has been received of the death of Mr. George Ross, of the original "All-England" Club, at St. Bride's Institute, in London.

Ross was a remarkable man. He not only played for England several times at

table tennis but also represented England in the Olympic Games at Stockholm in gymnastics, and shot for England v. Scotland.

* * *

We are sorry to hear that Adolf ("Adi" Slar, the brilliant Czech player, partner of Vana in winning the World Doubles and the English Open Doubles, is rather seriously ill in a sanatorium and may have to give up the game.

Also ill is Miss Ludmila Amlerova, the patient and efficient "Foreign Secretary" of the Czechoslovak T.T. Association. Many will recall her at the English Open last March, wearing the famous Cossack fur cap.

Let us hope that it will not be long before we have better news of these good friends.

* * *

What should be done for the young player ?

Well, one answer might be . . . "make sure he chooses a good father."

Here is one young man who has made a good start by selecting for his father none other than JOHNNY LEACH, our first-ranking Swaythling Cup player, semi-finalist in World singles and finalist



in World doubles—and by all accounts quite a good father as well!

Young John chose a somewhat awkward time to arrive. It was during the night of Thursday 9th, May, 1946, just one day before his father was due to play the final rounds of the Wembley Open, facing World Champion Bergmann in the opposite half.

Notwithstanding a night completely innocent of sleep, Johnny went on to win the tournament, beating Bergmann at deuce in the 5th game after an hour's tussle!

When this young fellow gets his international badge, don't say we didn't tell you.

A.A. Wall (West Bromwich T.T.A.) describes

A NOVEL CUP COMPETITION

We have often heard discussions as to the fairest method of handicapping individual players, but how many readers have ever considered the problem of handicapping complete teams against each other?

For the last three years in West Bromwich we have organised a handicap team K.O. tourney, in addition to our normal team k.o. I will not dwell on the many snags we found and the somewhat farcical handicapping-needed when the leaders of Div. 1 had to play the wooden-spoonists of Div. 7 in the past. We do believe we have now found a comparative fool-proof system.

Firstly we have barred Div. 1 and Div. 2 from entering the handicapping. This ensures that a lower club will win and makes a psychological difference.

First, group your teams.

This leaves us five divisions. Each division is then divided into 3 groups, varying according to prowess. For instance if the two top teams of any division were well ahead then they would constitute group "A," but if the 4 leaders were close, then they would all be group "A." Similarly with group "B" and "C." If one team in a division alone remained without a win, then that team only would constitute group "C" in that particular division.

The handicapping would then be given as follows:—

Div. 3		Div. 4	
"A" Group	(0)	"A" Group	(4)
"B" "	(4)	"B" "	(8)
"C" "	(8)	"C" "	(12)
Div. 5		Div. 6	
"A" Group	(8)	"A" Group	(12)
"B" "	(12)	"B" "	(16)
"C" "	(16)	"C" "	(20)
Div. 7			
"A" Group	(16)		
"B" "	(20)		
"C" "	(24)		

The figures show the number of points start given to *each player of each team* in that group. Now let's see how they work. A simple one first. Lyng Lane in Group "A," Div. 3 have to play Robinsons Group "B," Div. 5. Draw reads—Lyng Lane (0) v. Robinsons (12).

This means that each Robinsons' player will start at 12—0 against each Lyng player. *BUT each game will go to 33 points, not 21. A big difference.*

A practical example

Now take a match which has already taken place this season. Y.M.C.A. (Group "B," Div. 3) receive 4 against

Every team has an equal chance

Friar Park Ladies' (Group "C," Div. 7, receive 24). Do you get farcical play? Not a bit of it. Each Friar Park player should start at 24—4, but we always cut this down so that it reads 20—0 (not quite the same thing I agree but it still works), 20—0 but 41 points up. What was the result? A win for Y.M.C.A., but every *game* except two was only divided by 4 points in the end. This was an extreme case, but we were pleased to see its result. The handicapping is always worked out for the clubs beforehand, so that there is no quibbling. Games last a little longer than usual, but not much.

It sounds a little complicated, but it works quite successfully. The great thing is, that every team can enter the knock-out with a reasonable hope of getting through, and a certainty of close matches all round.

The WILMOTT CUP and the "J. M. ROSE BOWL"

The Rules of these two competitions have been overhauled and substantial changes made with a view to removing previous causes for complaint. In particular a serious effort has been made to improve the zoning arrangements and to clarify the financial responsibilities of home and away teams.

Entries for the new season close 15th October. Copies of the revised Rules may be had from E.T.T.A. office.

INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

Further trials for those who qualified in their Area Trials towards the close of last season will take place shortly—probably during October. It may not be possible to give very early notice of the exact dates, so candidates will be well advised to keep in touch with their league secretaries for news.

THE HULL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 1947
at the
EAST HULL BARRACKS,
HOLDERNESS ROAD, HULL.

First-class conditions.

Apply to your League Secretary for Entry Forms, or to Mr. H. Filinton, Hon. Tournament Secretary, Hull and East Riding Table Tennis Association, 28, Albert Avenue, Hull.

THE NATIONAL COUNTY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

First Year's Line-up

Teams taking part in the first year of the County Championships are:—

Premier Division: Essex, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey, Warwickshire and Yorkshire.

Northern Division: Cheshire, Cumberland, Durham, Lincolnshire, Northumberland and the second teams of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Southern Division: Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Sussex and the second teams of Middlesex and Surrey.

This season's programme allows of only one meeting between each pair of opponents, so the venue for needle matches may have an influence on the results. County Secretary Geoff Harrower explains that this is really an experimental season, and after further

experience it will be possible to consider whether a full programme of "Home and Away" fixtures is feasible.

County teams will consist of 3 men and 2 women. Matches will consist of 9 events, namely:—

6 Men's Singles, 1 Women's Singles, 1 Mixed Doubles, and 1 Ladies' Doubles (which can be substituted by a Men's Doubles if mutually agreed).

The pace in the Premier Division will obviously be pretty hot, with all the leading players qualified; the juniors of the leading counties will receive "battle training" in the second teams.

With the development of county organisations in other areas, there is great scope for the extension of the contest.

10 Years Rolled Quickly Back

when **Laslo Bellak**, world-famous "comic relief" of the popular Hungarian trio **Barna-Szabados-Bellak**, appeared in the E.T.T.A. office, in transit from a Scandinavian tour to catch the Transatlantic plane from Prestwick.

He very soon had a party of old friends, including Bill Pope, Mrs. Suzy Barna, and Stephen Boros, busily engaged in searching through the few surviving pre-war copies of this Magazine, with a view to checking some of his outrageous claims and slightly exaggerated anecdotes!

Since his last visit to England, Bellak has attained American nationality, has served 5 years as a Staff-Sergt. in the American Army, and has completed a 2-years' exhibition tour of the Far East occupied zones. On the recent European venture he was partnered by a charming brunette, Miss Peggy MacLean, finalist in the 1945 U.S.A. national championship.

Peggy confided that she must now return to college to complete her studies; Laslo, on the other hand, has no definite plans, and is clearly hankering after a more leisurely trip to this country.

Old friends will recognise the eternal Bellak in his parting message:—

"I intend to come to England to compete in the World Championships in February; I can't tell you exactly how I shall finish up, but it will be better than second!"

A SUGGESTION BOX

For the Powers that be

In our mail we receive many suggestions; some serious, some flippant, some only wishful.

The publication of a "Suggestion" in this "Box" will have no official significance—they will be chosen purely for their interest, novelty, or practical value.

And here is Suggestion No. 1.

The E.T.T.A. should make a special effort to remove the unfairness in regard to Wembley tickets for Finals Nights.

True, it may be strictly "First come first served" but in practice the London clubs and leagues can whip their applications in, with cash, several days before most provincial leagues.

Yet Wembley Finals Night means more to provincial followers, who see less of "big-time" table tennis than Londoners do.

SUGGESTION: *That in future TWO-THIRDS of available seats should be allocated amongst leagues or clubs operating outside a 50 mile radius from Central London.*

Middlesex Closed Championships finals will be played at the Holy Trinity Hall, off High Street, Hounslow, on Saturday, 11th October, at 6.45 p.m. Quarter finals and semi-finals at 2.0 p.m. Admission all day, 2s. 3d.; most of the leading Middlesex players will be in action.

Astronomy - the study of the Stars

by Jack Carrington

(English International)

Hymie Lurie of Manchester is one of the reasons why we go to watch table tennis. To see him in action is to admire at one and the same time an artist and a precision engineer.

The general flow of his game is artistic in its variety and moodiness; the use of angles, the variety of length, the choice between attack and defence, all seem to come into play just because our artist happens to feel that way at that particular moment.

He appears neither to dictate the game nor to be dictated to—unless, indeed, some inner artistic spirit dictates the audacious backhand flicks, swerving-away forehand drives and the close-table chop returns which make a Lurie game something to watch.

Where does the "precision engineer" come in? Well, perhaps it is true of any artistic performer that if he is going to sail around performing to his own sweet satisfaction, flouting the rules which confine the average mortal, he will never be a success unless he has mechanical perfection to enforce his whims.

Barna-technique

Certainly the mechanics of Lurie's strokes are excellent. He shares with Barna, his great model, that middle-of-the-bat sureness in stroke play, producing a crisp, explosive little sound on contact; that copybook positioning, left shoulder out of sight, for his backhand attack; that effortless ability to apply maximum chop or maximum top spin without the wide margin of error required by lesser folk.

Like Barna, too, his backhand chop is a point-winner, owing to last-minute wrist action, although his forehand chop is more elaborately executed. (I christened Hymie our "pocket Barna" before the war and the label seems to have become generally adopted.)

That risky forehand

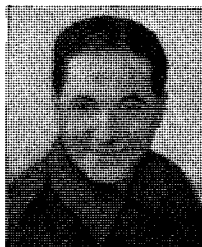
Any weaknesses? Well, yes. One is a tendency to adventurousness in wrong-foot forehand driving. Most backhand players naturally find themselves with the right foot forward most of the time, and develop a deceptive forehand drive

Star

No. 2



LURIE



First "capped" at age of 15

to either wing. But it is easy to misjudge, and the body balance cannot be adjusted during the stroke as it can with the orthodox stance.

Watching Barna, you will see that he plays the wrong-foot drive, but only sparingly, and balances himself carefully before hitting.

Too gentle?

Hymie Lurie just misses the Barna standard in one other important respect—study of the opponent. As I mentioned earlier, he sails through the game playing *his* way, forgetting that sometimes his way may suit the opponent nicely!

But the chief reason why Northern England's finest player did not quite "get there" was the natural modesty and gentleness of the lad himself. Hustled off to Central Europe to play for England at the age of 15, he never seemed to have a chance to build up that so necessary superiority complex. Still, he did enough in the late nineteen-thirties to raise England's prestige, and on occasion he scored wins over the four World Champions of his time.

A welcome return

And now? Well, it is a careless and slower version of Hymie Lurie whom you may watch in Manchester today. But all his mistakes are forgiven him, for our gay young stylist was in the thick of the Normandy fighting and sustained serious chest wounds.

Only the loyal support of his doubles partner, International Leslie Cohen, encouraged Lurie to fight back and to our pleasure he is here again to grace the game.

The New Service

“Wait for It”—says

ELISABETH BLACKBOURN

(World Championship Finalist)

I arrived in the U.S.A. in time to play in their national championships and other late-season events, and must tell you that I lost not a few important points on services. Although quite aware that the Americans play according to the “no-spin” service rules, I found that in a tight match, when I was concentrating on the play, it was easy to forget. Time and again I would send over a sharp service, fair enough according to our rules, but not released from the flat of the open hand, and umpires invariably called a fault. I strongly recommend a half-second pause before every service; this will give you time to recall the new rule, whereas if you dash in to the table, all “rarin’ to go,” you are almost certain to serve

from the closed hand by force of habit.

DON'T FORGET: THE BALL MUST NOW BE RELEASED OR DROPPED FROM THE FLAT PALM OF THE OPEN HAND WITH FINGERS OUT-STRETCHED AND THUMB FREE, WITHOUT IMPARTING ANY SPIN OTHER THAN WITH THE BAT.

(Some copies of our July/August issue, containing the explanatory photographs of the new service, are still available from the publishers.

The E.T.T.A. office will shortly distribute copies of these photos to every affiliated club; meanwhile you are advised to practise serving under the new conditions before the match season opens.)

Introducing

THE INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COURSE

designed by an ex-international who has met and played the greatest players of the past twenty years, and who has made an intensive study of the technique of Table Tennis tuition. Entirely individual in character, this course shows how to gain those few vital extra points that turn the novice into the good club player, and the good club player into the International.

Write for full details to

THE INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COURSE,

THE SHIP HOTEL, SWINDON, WILTS.

(Advertisement)

THAT OTHER KIND OF TABLE TENNIS

Nothing Barred—Except the Rules!

By an International

We who study the game rather seriously are apt to forget that many people play table tennis for fun. One of the finest reminders to the expert is to assist, as I did recently, at the weekly tournament staged in a large holiday camp.

First inkling of this event is a list posted in the dining-hall inviting campers to compete in such competitions as Swimming, Athletics, Bowls, Putting, Lawn Tennis, Snooker and Table Tennis.

A short scanning of the lists at the end of the first day shows the last two leading easily in the number of names entered.

Typical snatches of conversation in the small crowd which appears to be perpetually craning its collective neck at these notices:—

"Are you really going in for the Table Tennis, Ethel?"

"Well, Glad, I can't play Tennis and I'm no good at Swimming, so it's the only thing I can put my name down for."

"Oh look, Table Tennis. That's a cert for Ken, he's hot stuff, he played for the army or something." (This disposed of the theory that Ken Merrett had smuggled himself into the camp.)

"Dad, you must have another go at Table Tennis. You'd have got through last week if it hadn't been for that fellow with rubber on his bat."

And so on. The gist of it all being that one man is as good as another in Camp Table Tennis. And to be sure there is some truth in that, as I was to find when I saw the tournament in full swing. Full swing is perhaps the wrong term to use, seeing that five tables were in use in a room just spacious enough for one, so that a full swing of the Leach variety would have decapitated half a dozen other players!

Survival of the Fittest

The girls were advertised to start at 2.15 and the men at 3.15 p.m. In true holiday spirit these times were neatly reversed at the last moment; the girls were sent off to fill in the odd hour

with horse riding, swimming or just titivating, whilst a hasty S.O.S. was sent out to fetch the men competitors in from their snooker, swimming, or just nattering in the bar.

The Games Room organiser, submerged but confident amongst the 73 competitors, was soon despatching pairs to various tables and receiving results at the rate of one a minute. Of course, it was sudden death, with a vengeance—one single game, take the balls out of the box "as they rise," play for service, no fiddling with the net, and off we go. If you are one of those sensitive creatures who likes a knock-up first, you are liable to find yourself five points behind before you realise that the scoring has started. No use appealing to the umpire, because there isn't one! To claim such a luxury in the early rounds is looked upon as an attempt to enlist an ally!

Regulation Table Tennis dress also appears to be banned; one suspects that it would be regarded as a kind of fancy dress in that assembly of mixed garbs, ranging from polo sweaters with riding breeches, bare chests and football shorts, tailored costumes and high-heeled shoes, down to plastic two-pieces and bare feet. Never did you see such a variety of tops and bottoms in the best sense of the word.

The Champions emerge

Gradually the few stalwarts possessing their own rubber bats begin to stand out from the ruck. These, humble enough people in their own small town league, need only produce an occasional heavy chop to be regarded here as miracle-men. By the time four of these have qualified for the semi-final a slight strut becomes noticeable as they go to the table. The semi-solemnity of the final suffers a temporary eclipse as two young men, average age 5 years, stalk each other Red-Indian fashion through the under-carriage of the table. For tomahawks they brandish two of the Camp's best wooden bats. Perhaps they are wise beyond their years! Another pause while tables Nos. 4 and 5 take the overflow of afternoon tea customers from the sun-lounge.

(Continued on page 15)

WESTERN COUNTIES ACTIVITY

by Ivor Eyles

Just a few notes on the development of the above league. Interest is very high in the men's game, and from the extension it is now possible to run two Divisions, promotion and relegation (one up and one down will operate). With regard to the ladies I regret that no new blood appears to be coming along, and Bath and Cardiff have been forced to withdraw from the Women's Section. The usual "closed" championships of the league will again be run and, what is more, my league wish to challenge any other league such as ours or the pick of the County Championship or a team representing London to a match.

We are convinced that the West Country does not receive a fair representation in the selection of teams for the various international and other teams.

I would draw attention to both Aubrey Simons and Ron Litten, of Bristol and Exeter respectively, who had much more impressive records than the majority, being selected for such a "push over" match as Scotland. We wish to pit our strength against the best that can be found and feel confident that the result would be very beneficial to our English selectors.

The line-up for Season 1947/48 is:—

MEN'S SECTION.

Division 1.	Division 2.
Bristol.	Bristol.
Exeter.	Bath.
Birmingham.	Cheltenham.
Cardiff.	Swindon.
Newport.	Oxford.
Gloucester.	Weston.
Worcester.	Forest of Dean.

WOMEN'S SECTION.

Bristol.
Exeter.
Birmingham.
Swindon.

Bristol are to be commended in running a team in the 2nd Division to "blood" all their promising youngsters.

THAT OTHER KIND (continued)

For the final an umpire is allowed, and this is where I, as guest International, come in. However, I am not permitted to develop a swelled head; one of the clubmen, rubber bat displayed as prominently as a new engagement ring, prompts me throughout in a stage whisper.

What is that commotion over there? Only the snooker competitors chasing two more Red Indians, who are merrily bowling a red and a white down the concrete path! Others have their troubles, too, it seems.

THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS Official Amendments

As discussed in these columns in recent issues, several changes in the Rules have been adopted, to take effect from 1st July, 1947.

Here are the exact amendments which you should make to all available copies of the Rules of the Game:—

Law No. 3.—The Ball. Delete "pale in colour" in line 2 and substitute "white, but not brightly reflecting."

Law No. 4.—The Racket. Insert comma after "weight" and add "provided it is not white, light covered or reflecting."

Law No. 10.—A Good Service. Add, between the first and second paragraphs another paragraph, in brackets, as shown below:—

"(In the delivery of the service the free hand of any two handed player shall be open flat, with the fingers straight and together, thumb free, and the ball resting on the palm without being cupped or pinched in any way by the fingers. The ball shall be released by the free hand either lifting upwards or dropping away.)"

Appendix to Laws. Knotty Points. Point No. 4. Hand Spln in Service. Delete present paragraph No. 4 completely and renumber Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 to read Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7.

These amendments will be embodied in the current season's E.T.T.A. Handbook; we shall inform readers when the handbook is ready.

For

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DIARY OF EVENTS

Date	Tournament or Event	Address for Enquiries or Entries
Oct. 4/5	East of England Open	J. Browne, 331 Hainton Avenue, Grimsby.
Oct. 11	Hartlepool Open	W. Baillie, 24, Powlett Road, West Hartlepool.
Oct. 25	Hull and East Riding Open	Mr. Flinton, 28, Albert Avenue, Anlaby Road, Hull.
Oct. 27/Nov. 1	Birmingham Open	Morris Goldstein, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
Nov. 3 to 8	Eastern Suburban Open	W. J. Parker, 37 Hamilton Avenue, Barkingside, Essex.
Nov. 15 & 16	South of England Open	E. Worsley, 13 Nursery Road, Prestwich, Manchester; or
Nov. 18 to 21	English Open Championships	W. Stamp, 3 Farndale Close, Liverpool, 18; or
		E.T.T.A. Office, 69 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
Nov. 22 & 23	Sussex Open	D. N. Tyler, 1 York Buildings, Hastings.
Nov. 27, 28 & 29	Merseyside Open	W. Stamp, 3 Farndale Close, Liverpool, 18.
Dec. 1 to 6	Central London Open	G. James, 19 St. Ann's Villas, London, W.11.
Dec. 6	Pontefract Open	L. Forrest, 15 Briarfield Road, Frizing-Hall, Bradford.
Dec. 6	North Midland Open	J. A. Brown, 34 Big Barn Lane, Mansfield, Notts.
Dec. 12 & 13	Welsh Open Championships	H. Roy Evans, 16, Tymawr Road, Rummy, Cardiff.
1948		
Jan. 3 (finals)	Metropolitan Open	E.T.T.A. Office, 69 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
Jan. 10 (finals)	Scottish Open Championships	
Jan. 11	Kent Open	At Herne Bay.
Jan. 17 (finals)	Lancashire Open	
Jan. 24	Brighton Open	
Jan. 31	Hampshire Open	
Feb. 4 to 11	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	At Wembley.
Feb. 12 to 14	North of England Open	At Manchester.
Feb. 21	Surrey Open	At Croydon.
Feb. 28 (finals)	Midland Open	At Birmingham.
Mar. 6	West of England Open	At Exeter.
Mar. 8 to 13	Middlesex (Herga) Open	At Harrow.
Mar. 13 (finals)	Cheshire Open	At Wallasey.
Mar. 20	Grimsby Open	
Mar. 27	North Eastern Open	
Apr. 3 (finals)	London Open	
Apr. 10	Yorkshire Open	
Apr. 17	West Middlesex Open	At West Ealing.
May (date not fixed)	Wembley Open	

EUROPE CUP FIXTURES

Men's Competition (Holders Czechoslovakia) :

DRAW FOR WEST ZONE.

1st Round: FRANCE a bye; IRELAND (home) versus ENGLAND; WALES (home) versus LUXEMBOURG, SCOTLAND a bye. To be played before 10th October.

2nd Round: FRANCE versus winner of IRELAND v. ENGLAND (if Ireland, then France is at home; if England, then England is at home); winner of WALES v. LUXEMBOURG versus SCOTLAND (home). To be played before 20th November.

WEST ZONE FINAL: Winner of France, Ireland, England (home) versus winner of Wales, Luxembourg, Scotland. To be played before 30th December.

INTER-ZONE FINAL: To be played by arrangement between winners of East and West Zones, perhaps most conveniently while the team of the East Zone winner is on the way to the World Championships (just before 4th February) or on the way back (just after 11th February).

CHALLENGE ROUND. Versus Czechoslovakia (home) during the latter part of the season.

Women's Competition (Holders, England) :

DRAW FOR WEST ZONE.

1st Round: FRANCE bye; WALES (home) versus SCOTLAND. To be played before 30th October.

WEST ZONE FINAL: FRANCE versus winner of WALES v. SCOTLAND (home). To be played before 30th December.

INTER-ZONE FINAL: To be played by arrangement between winners of East and West Zones, perhaps most conveniently while the team of the East Zone winner is on the way to the World Championships (just before 4th February).

CHALLENGE ROUND: Versus ENGLAND (home), during the latter part of the season (perhaps most conveniently just after 11th February, if the East Zone winner happens to be the challenger).

In this, the second year of the contest, the holders will not be engaged until the final Challenge Round (as in the lawn tennis Davis Cup competition).