

OCTOBER 1947

Sixpence

TABLE TENNIS



COVER GIRL
(See Page 11)

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

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



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

Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. VI. No. 2

OCTOBER, 1947

From the Editor's Chair

Most County authorities are following the policy of "sharing out" their County Championship fixtures and other big events between their member leagues, so that the remoter towns shall not miss their chances of seeing tip-top play.

That such a policy will be welcome is clearly demonstrated by the following letter:—

To the Editor, "TABLE TENNIS."

I am Table Tennis secretary of my Youth Club and have been asked by members of our team to write to you.

The average age of our team of five is just seventeen and although we have not been in a league before, because we beat one or two first division clubs we have been placed in the first division of the Folkestone Table Tennis League.

We had our first league match last week and as you will have guessed we lost 17-8. We were very surprised to find that our opponents played much more patiently, building up for a slam and forced us to do the same.

We have been told that there is much to be learnt from watching first class players, but have been unable to contact anyone who would be able to direct us to any tournaments. Thus I am writing to you to ask you if you could let me have the address of anyone where we could buy tickets to watch a tournament or better still get instruction.

If you could do anything to help us we would be very grateful.

This little club will obviously be particularly interested to attend the Sussex Open tournament at Hastings on 22nd November; details on page 16. For the rest, we have passed on their plea to Kent TTA Secretary, Mr. F. G. Mannooch, 161, Borden Lane, Sittingbourne, who will no doubt be able to help them.

Speaking personally we do not think success will long elude these young readers. To lose the first league match by only 8-17 is better than the early experiences of many of us. But to realise *why* the match was lost . . . that is more than most of us achieved in the whole of our first season!

Other youthful teams, take heart, and other local organisers, take quiet note, of the latent enthusiasm exemplified by this letter.

Bill Pope, in the welter of preliminary work in connection with the February World Championships, found time to ask us to repeat the following item of good news for youth clubs:—

A Club which is certified to be a bona-fide Youth Club by a Local Education Authority Youth Committee, may affiliate to the English Table Tennis Association upon payment of the reduced fee of 4s. per year, even if playing in a senior league from whose clubs the normal fee is 7s. 6d.

For many young players, affiliation to the national association is the first rung of the ladder, so Youth Leaders are strongly recommended to give their juniors the best possible chances by joining the official fraternity right now.

NORTHERNER'S

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fever Rising

November 18/21st signals high jinks and frolics in Manchester.

Why? The show ground of the world is staging the world's greatest National table tennis championship; thus the English titles are set at Belle Vue.

Mind you it's not the first occasion the Northern Metropolis has had the honour. No, Sir. Few who witnessed the epic Glanz-Kelen singles of 1930 will ever forget. This took place in the concert hall of Messrs. Lewis's Ltd.

Now the rapidity of the game's growth has compelled the authorities to engage gigantic stadiums. They alone are capable of housing the multitude of fans who flock to such important events.

Invasion Coming

That there will be a mad scramble to obtain seats is evident. Already hundreds of tickets have been sold. Buses too, are being booked and to cope with the invasion from either side of the Pennines, extra space around the car parks is being cleared already. Mr. Buckland-Smith, high-pressure publicity chief at Belle Vue, informs me that of all the sporting spectacles booked, he has never had more enquiries at such an early date.

Much must still be done to put the house in order before the turnstiles begin to click. But take it from me no stone is being left unturned by Bill Worsley and his fine team of executives to make both players and spectators happy inside one of the most unique rendezvous of its kind in the entire world.

Plush - hush !

A peep behind the scenes gives you some idea of its magnitude.

For instance, the two King's Hall final nights, Thursday and Friday (20th and 21st) commencing at 7 o'clock; 11,000 folks, eager for refreshment of body and spirit, are able to sit in plush comfort around the vast circular arena—a setting of many an historical pageant, circus and first-grade fisticuff matches. It's going to be more intimate than at Wembley; the distance between onlooker

by STANLEY
PROFFITT

and contestant is smaller. The large programmes on sale complete with photographs and details as yet unprecedented, present the customer with the requisite histories. Prices on the closing evening (Friday) are £1 1s. 0d., (one row only), 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 5s. 0d. and 3s. 6d.

Non-stop Performance

First crack at the celluloid ball is on the 18th (Tuesday), in the Tudor Restaurant, where there's ample room for 8 tables each to be courted off and fully occupying the three sessions; 9.30 a.m., 2.0 p.m. and 6.0 p.m. Again on Wednesday the three sessions will be in full swing, whilst Thursday the two early periods (same times) are considered sufficient to conclude the preliminaries. Admission per session is only 2s. 6d.

For all this, at an estimate of 20 hours' play, four gross of balls are likely to be used; it's a big undertaking.

Losers are Winners

.... this Way

You lucky people—the competitors I mean. *Do you realise, one single 7s. 6d. entry holds an entitlement of 8s. 6d. worth of free tickets for the two final nights?* No, perhaps you don't. Furthermore a pass into the enchantments of Belle Vue itself where every attractive sport or amusement is adequately catered for. What could be nicer after a strenuous bout than to wander into the Italian Gardens, a stroll into the Tropical Aquarium or rest in the Rocky Mountain Enclosure? Alternatively "have a go" on the colossal amusement park; listen to the Band in the Coronation Ballroom, or sip ice drinks in the Palm Courts. All this and more is on your doorstep. Surely no such amenities have been the centre of any tournament before.

As a man-of-the-throng, having reserved part of my holidays for the occasion, I'm grabbing a *Rover Ticket* £1 1s. 0d. It's the best bet, for not only has one the advantage of a 7s. 6d. pew on each of the final nights, but can move about with freedom in and out

NOTE - BOOK



Swaythling
Cup
Player;
County
and
Lancashire
League
Cricketer

during the preliminary canters. A real basinful, one would say . . . It'll be carnival time all right.

Each competitor will receive a schedule informing his/her time of play, thus no time need be idled away in waiting.

In case of difficulty in obtaining tickets, drop a note to Mr. E. Worsley, "Arosa," 13, Nursery Road, Prestwich, Manchester.

Incidentally tickets purchased from League secretaries mean 10% to your League funds; quite a helping hand, don't you think?

For the masses travelling long distances, intent on staying overnight, my tip is to book your rooms early. There's the Queen's, Midland, Grand, Grosvenor Hotels of the larger type.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY TRIALS

Selectors had a tough task in choosing four teams during the all day Lancashire and Cheshire County trials at Manchester Y.M.C.A., on Saturday, 27th September.

OCTOBER 18.—Premier Division.
LANCASHIRE v. WARWICKSHIRE—at the Grand Hotel, Blackpool, Lancs.
B. CASOFSKY (Manchester), P. U. RUMJAHN (Liverpool), P. STEAD (Blackpool), Mrs. M. ALLEN (Blackpool). Reserves: N. Davies and Miss A. Wood (Manchester).

OCTOBER 18.—Regional Division.
YORKSHIRE II v. CHESHIRE—at Bramley, Yorks.
Cheshire: W. DEVINE, J. DEVINE (Chester), E. BROWN (Macclesfield), Miss BANKS (Chester). Reserves: J. Worsley, Miss Grimstone.

OCTOBER 25.—Regional Division.
LANCASHIRE II v. LINCOLN—at Ashton Lancs.
N. DAVIES, H. JOHNSON (Manchester), K. TIREBUCK (St. Helens), Miss A. WOOD (Manchester). Reserves: N.

Grundy and Mrs. B. Hardman (Manchester).
OCTOBER 25.—Regional Division.
CUMBERLAND v. LANCASHIRE II—at Workington, Cumberland.
Lancs II: H. A. SHEPHERD (Bolton), R. HAMILTON (Radcliffe), E. JOHNSON (Stockport), Miss K. BENSON (Blackpool). Reserves: H. Mills and Mrs. Hardman (Manchester).

High-light among the juniors was the form of Johnson and Brindle (Stockport), Brown (Macclesfield) and Johnstone (Nelson), who won through the afternoon sessions and were invited to compete with the seniors. Particularly Stockport's Johnson impressed for he alone made use of the half-volley as the link between attack and defence.

Miss Benson's claims to full County honours are high. Her match against Mrs. Beryl Hardman stood out as a classic. Mrs. Allen and Adele Wood justified their claims and starlet Margaret Booth is, so to speak, knocking at the door.

No Northern Notebook would be complete without the mention of Billie Stamp, benevolent Czar of Merseyside table tennis. He's at it again. Having joined the Liverpool/Amsterdam Association, a Dutch team is to be entertained from 14th/19th October. Matches are planned in and around the Liverpool district. Billie's party hope to make the trip to Holland next Easter. Look out for big news next month of the Merseyside titles which take place at the Stadium during the week following the English Open.

England's loss is Scotland's gain. Pre-war Swaythling Cup stalwart, Ken Stanley has taken a business appointment in Glasgow. Ken now holds the proud position of coach to the Scottish Association.

THE NEW SERVICE RULE:
For the sake of newcomers, we must remind everybody that the new "no-spin" procedure applies to every form of table tennis match. A descriptive leaflet has been supplied to affiliated clubs; for individuals requiring full details, we recommend that you send us 7d. in stamps for a copy of our July/August issue, in which wording and explanatory photographs appeared.

EUROPE CUP PROGRESS

England's Victory in Belfast

The following were chosen to represent England versus Ireland in the first round of the Men's Europe Cup competition:—

J. CARRINGTON (London), (captain).

J. LEACH (London).

B. CASOFSKY (Manchester) and

E. BUBLEY (London).

The selectors detailed the first three named to travel to Belfast, where the match was played on 10th October.

A writer in a London national newspaper commented that this was a staid and tried team, and the selectors had passed over the chance of trying out certain prominent players whom he named as possibles.

It is only fair to our selectors to point out to such critics that the Europe Cup is a knock-out contest, with the eyes of all our European rivals upon our performance.

Failure in a match which we "ought" to win would be as good as a present of several points to our Swaythling Cup opponents next February. Whereas in a "friendly" international match with our hospitable neighbours, Ireland and Wales, the usual team of 6 men could cover up one or even two experimental selections, the risk is too great in a needle match with only two members fighting the singles.

The Irishmen, notably Mercer, learned a lot in Paris last March, and it is no empty compliment to send an experienced combination to meet them on their own ground.

THE MATCH

by **E. N. Seymour** (member of the All-Ireland Selection Committee).

The Wellington Hall, Belfast, is an ideal venue for a match of this kind as it is spacious and yet possesses a certain degree of intimacy which creates the proper atmosphere. On all counts the Ulster Branch of the I.T.T.A. are to be congratulated for the excellent manner in which this event was staged.

Of the 4 matches played, England won 3; that reflects fairly enough the superiority of the English team. Benny Casofsky was unable to play the final singles against Martin owing to a sprained ligament, and the official result was therefore:—

England 3—Ireland 2.

From an Irish point of view the pleasing feature of the play was the

THE NEXT ROUND

England have now qualified to meet France in the 2nd round of the Europe Cup. The match will take place at The Indoor Sports Stadium, Pershore Road, Birmingham, on 17th November, 1947.

Last year, in Paris, France won the corresponding tie by 3—2. Our men will strain every nerve to reverse this verdict on a home table, and an exciting struggle is inevitable. Midlanders wishing to attend this Cup-tie should apply immediately for tickets to: Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.

grand form shown by Victor Mercer, who beat Casofsky and fought doggedly against Leach. Mercer's struggle with Casofsky was undoubtedly the game of the night. After a quiet start the first game went to Mercer with the score 29—27; in this deuce argument Casofsky retrieved 5 game points and Mercer 2 before the lead was clinched.

Casofsky took the 2nd set . . . Mercer the 3rd . . . Casofsky the 4th. In the thrilling 5th set, Mercer changed ends losing by 5—10, yet pulled up to 13—all. It went neck and neck to 19—all, when Casofsky got 20 first! In a frenzy of excitement the spectators watched a tense finish until Mercer succeeded at 23—21.

One Irish reporter wrote that the cheer which welcomed this home victory "shook the lights over the table."

Martin was rather disappointing, being too prone to take a reckless slam at a ball without waiting for a proper build-up for his attack. He was easily defeated by Leach.

In the doubles Leach and Carrington had little difficulty in disposing of Martin and O'Prey. Had Morris (held up by the bank-clerks' dispute in Dublin) been available the doubles team would have been strengthened, I think.

With Casofsky unfit to play his second singles against Martin, a substitute match was played between Martin and Carrington. This was something of an anti-climax; the Englishman won by 2 sets to 1, always appearing the more polished player.

Of the English players, Leach was outstanding. He seems to improve from

News from Essex

Bill Parker
'hands over'



Eastern
Suburban



County
Team

On the resignation of W. J. (Bill) Parker, the Hon. Secretaryship of Essex County T.T.A. has been taken over by Mr. Roy Rosser, of Romford Y.M.C.A. club.

Will correspondents please note the full address:—

R. D. Rosser,
11, Tudor Gardens,
Upminster, Essex.

Thus Bill is relieved of a portion of the administrative burden which he has borne with such cheerful efficiency in Ilford and Essex for several years. It is believed that he intends to devote more time to actual

EUROPE CUP—(continued)

year to year, having now a perfect defence and an assured command of the table.

Casofsky played well, producing some really beautiful shots in an impressive 2-wing attack.

Carrington showed the same complete technique as Leach and was always playing well in hand.

Ireland failed because her players were not good enough. They did not lack spirit but their strokes are not sure enough and in their eagerness to snatch points they are too apt to hit the wrong ball. These, however, are the faults of youth and inexperience, and time wisely used will eradicate them.

Detailed scores: Leach beat Martin 21—7, 21—10, 21—9. Casofsky lost to Mercer 27—29, 21—17, 16—21, 21—19, 21—23. Carrington and Leach beat Martin and O'Prey 21—14, 21—11, 21—19. Leach beat Mercer 21—11, 21—14, 21—14. Casofsky conceded to Martin (scratched owing to injury).

EASTERN DRAW

The draw for the Western Zone of the Europe Cup appeared in our September volume. Here is the draw for the Eastern Zone:—

MEN: Czechoslovakia plays Rumania and winner meets Hungary. Poland plays Denmark and winner meets Austria.

WOMEN: Hungary plays Rumania. Czechoslovakia plays Austria.

The zone finals will be cleared off by 30th December, 1947.

1st Round Results (Men's)—

Wales (Sweetland, Chugg, S. Smith) beat Luxembourg (Weitz, Steinetz), 5—0.

play now; some say he has an eye on a place in the Essex team.

Not that his new leisure will be noticeable just yet—Bill is still the Joint Referee for the Eastern Suburban Open Championships, running from 3rd November, to 8th November, 1947. John Pickard is his co-Referee.

A huge entry is expected for this tournament of the season in the London area, and none of the officials will find much time for practice! Early rounds are being played in the North Ilford L.T.C. hall at Beehive Lane, and the Finals at Ilford Baths Hall, when Bergmann, Leach, Barna, Vera Dace, and other champions will be seen in action.

Worry for Surrey

The Essex team for the stiff match against Surrey on 24th October, 1947, (at Croydon) includes Leach and Carrington, supported by Wheeler the county closed champion, with Langner as reserve to travel.

Vi Patterson will take the field against Vera Dace in the singles, and Doris Rivett will partner her in the doubles.

Miss G. Patterson, elder sister of the young international, will travel as ladies' reserve.

Knocking at the Door

Denis Miller, English Junior Champion 2 years ago, is showing remarkable improvement in steadiness and tactics.

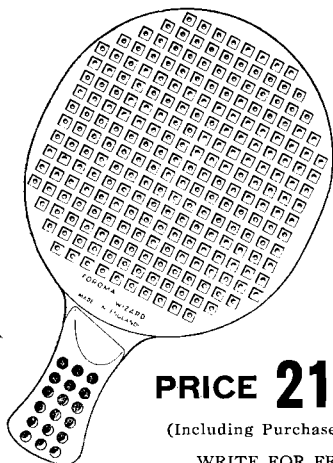
Recent news is that Brian Brumwell has been knocking up at Slough with Leo Thompson. As Keith Collar, our brilliant left-hander, will soon have completed his R.A.F. service, we look forward to a welcome stimulation of young blood in county circles.

With Pride and Confidence

WE RE-INTRODUCE THE

"FOROMA WIZARD"

(Prov. Patents 2908/6737/46. R.D. 849768/851990)



YOU WILL

PLAY LIKE A WIZARD

WITH A WIZARD!

The "Foroma" Wizard is the finest All-British Table Tennis Bat in the world. It is Unique, Scientific, Amazing. ITS EXCEPTIONAL BALL CONTROL has been proved beyond doubt. THERE IS NO OTHER BAT OF SUCH QUALITY AND ENDURANCE AND ITS POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.

PRICE 21/-

(Including Purchase Tax)

- Heavy and Light Weight now available. Individually Boxed. At all leading Stores and good Sports Shops.

WRITE FOR FREE INTRODUCTORY BROCHURE TO :-

BRITISH INDOOR PASTIMES LTD., 6/10 Wakefield Road, London, N.15

'Phone : STA. 9231/2. SOLE DISTRIBUTORS FOR :

John O. Greensmith, Ltd., Patentees and Concessionaires.

THE WORLD CHAMPION SHIPS **At Wembley, 4-11th February, 1948**

All over the Home Counties, E.T.T.A. officials and other voluntary workers are already immersed in the varied tasks of this colossal undertaking. Reports from foreign Associations show that their leading players are even now in training for the coveted team events!

Next month we hope to give you an idea of the progress that has been made. In the meantime, just a reminder about tickets: the "snip" of the booking-office is obviously the 25/- "Season Ticket," giving entry to *every session including Finals*, and transferable to friends of the purchaser at any time.

These are reserved for affiliated Clubs until 1st November, 1947.

If your Secretary has not sent in your application make him get a move on, because after 1st November, the lists will be open to the general public, and then we shall need mounted police at 69, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Naturalised Players may Represent England—E.T.T.A. Decision

WORCESTER TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE have appointed a special Magazine Secretary, one of whose tasks will be to popularise the sale of the official journal, and to ensure that all members who subscribe through the League shall receive their copies without delay each month. This is a good move indeed. Only the other day we spoke to a keen player who had long ago sent her money in to her league secretary, but was still waiting for her September magazine.

Our records showed that the bulk parcel had been despatched to that league a fortnight before! We know that league secretaries are entitled to a holiday, but it is important that such jobs as distribution of the magazine should be handed over to a reliable deputy.

We are grateful indeed to those secretaries who ease the job of distribution by placing bulk orders, but for those who do occasionally forget, this Worcester idea of appointing a special "Mag Man" will ensure satisfied customers all the year round!

This does not exhaust Worcester's original ideas. Having entered a city team in the Western Counties League, they face a travelling programme of 900 miles, not to mention 300-odd in the Worcester County League. The League has therefore chartered an 8-seater shooting-brake, the same vehicle which enabled them to fulfil every Away fixture during last winter's phenomenal weather conditions.

MIDDLESEX CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Season 1946/47, completed 11th Oct., 1947)

Men's singles: G. Harrower bt. F. Marsh 21-11, 21-19, 13-21, 21-11. Women's singles: Miss E. Benstead bt. Mrs. R. Bromfield 21-17, 21-23, 21-15, 21-18. Other winners: Haigh and Purser (men's doubles). G. and Mrs. Harrower (mixed doubles). Miss Benstead and Mrs. Bromfield (women's doubles).

At the meeting of the National Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A. on 4th October, 1947, it was decided that the three "World Stars" who recently acquired British citizenship, namely Victor Barna, Richard Bergmann, and Miss Dora Beregi (now Mrs. Devenny), shall be regarded as eligible for inclusion, if selected, in the England Swaythling Cup team.

This news was released rather too late for this magazine to publish any informed comment in the present issue. We shall be able to discuss this important development more fully in next month's "TABLE TENNIS."

THE BATTLE OF THE BABIES!

Unwittingly we deceived our readers last month, in the paragraph headed "What should be done for the Young Player?" on page 9. In the dead of night, by some means as yet undiscovered, the picture of young Johnny Leach fell out of the page and that of another "Table Tennis Baby" took its place. Sabotage is not suspected; more likely it was some chivalrous printer who believed that ladies should come first. For the charming infant who so gracefully filled our column was actually Miss Wendy Jean Bryant, daughter of the English Veteran Champion of season 1945/46. Wendy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Bryant are the Mixed Doubles champions of Salisbury League, and may be relied upon to see that little Miss Bryant receives a good education in the game.

Well, fair's fair, and here you see Master Leach looking none the worse for being gate-crashed by a dame!



Our apologies to the Leach and Bryant families for the mix-up. We have no doubt that the photographs of their respective "juniors" will become very familiar to readers of "TABLE TENNIS" a few years hence.

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

Busiest place in Wales on Saturday, 22nd November, will be Swansea, where the Swansea Open Championships will be taking place on *no less than twenty-four tables*.

Events, carrying Cups for all winners, will be:—Men's and Women's Singles, Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles, Junior Boys' and Girls' Singles.

Swansea and District League is operating 102 teams in nine divisions, so table tennis really means something down that way. Details of the tournament from Mr. J. L. Beynon, 19, Finsbury Terrace, Brynmill, Swansea, Glam.

* * *

Know any More ?

It seems that Ronald is a good name for a table tennis player to have. Ron Thompson of Halifax, perhaps our best junior just now, has these names also to encourage him:—

Ron Litten (Exeter), International.

Ron Sharman (London), ditto.

Ronnie Rumjahn (Liverpool), International.

Ron Moreton (Croydon), International.

Ron Crayden (South London), Surrey and South of England Champion.

Ronnie Hook (Eltham), Kent Champion.

Ron Langner (London), London representative player.

* * *

Putting his Heart into it !

A certain cricket club in Surrey are just wondering whether the

prestige of having an England table tennis star in their team is worth the expense. For Johnny Leach, whose table tennis driving has often been accused by the critics of "lacking sting," contrived in the course of a modest innings of 22 runs to break TWO bats so thoroughly that complete reblades were needed!

We don't know exactly what summer training Johnny has been doing, but this evidence suggests that "Sluggger" Schiff of U.S.A. and "Sledgehammer" Sido of Hungary will have to look to their laurels this winter.

* * *

North Middlesex League are running very close to the 200-team mark this season. When we mention that the popular Leslie Bromfield has had to resign the position of Hon. Sec., on moving his home from North London to Sussex, it will be realised that there was quite a job going for someone. Especially as this secretaryship was really a 2-man stint, with Mrs. Bromfield, like so many other table tennis wives, doing a lot more than bringing up the lunch in a red handkerchief!

Now who do you think has taken over this little odd job? None other than our old friend, the Hon. Sec. of the Middlesex County T.T.A., the editor of the new Middlesex magazine, the secretary of the National Selection Committee, secretary of the Open Tournament sub-Committee, secretary of the Umpires and Stewards sub-Committee for the World Championships, and secretary of the County Championship competition, Mr. Geoffrey Harrower.

Possessing a card-index mind and

an innate love of seeing the three sides of every question, Geoff. is a useful man to have on a Committee, especially if he is on *your* side!

He is a glutton for work, but in his weaker moments wonders whether he shouldn't spare a little time for eating, too. At present his only relaxation consists of running through the "Twenty Questions" on Sunday nights after retiring to bed, when we understand he consistently beats the experts' score . . . but no doubt Mrs. "Robbie" Harrower is a tactful Questionmaster.

Incidentally North Middlesex League held their usual Dance on 18th September, at which enough funds were raised to allow the League to pay half of the ETTA affiliation fees for all their member clubs. A good example of self-help.

* * *

Here is an S.O.S.!

Will all organisers, when asking us to announce Junior Competitions, please remember to state the limiting ages? Thank you.

Good Wishes from India

From the proud but troubled new Dominion comes this charming letter with its good wishes which we feel sure all our readers will reciprocate.

"I am a member of your post-war "TABLE TENNIS" magazine. The copies are full of so many thoughtful and precious articles that I may think myself fortunate to be a member of such a magazine which is helping me in every way to improve my game. Every player who has ever gone through the columns will gain a lot of experience.

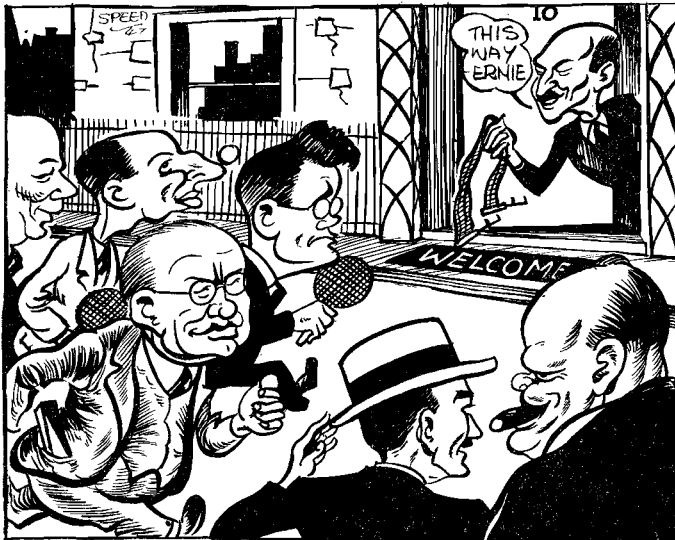
"Now I am looking forward with a wistful eye to have the next issues in elaborate shape with more valuable articles and important news.

"If available at present, will you send me copies of the pre-war magazine?"

"In this sacred moment of our long-awaited Independence Day I send my heartfelt wishes to you . . . JAI HIND."

S. Chatterjee.

(NOTE: Few pre-war magazines were left unsold, and such stocks as we had were all burned when the ETTA office at 64, High Holborn was bombed to the ground in 1940).



SELECTORS' NIGHTMARE (No. 2)

READY NOW

Watch Your
Dealer's Window

The

JOHNNY LEACH BAT

Designed by

England's No. 1 Player

for

COMFORT — SPEED — ACCURACY

Made by: S. W. HANCOCK, LTD., 119, The Chase, LONDON, S.W.4

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. 2.

BELOW THE BELT

Grey flannel trousers are not what they used to be. Smart shades and neat materials are no longer available. When they do return, it will be some time before players can afford to spare coupons for T.T. kit.

Thus, to comply with Regulation 23 of the E.T.T.A., men are compelled to trot out either their old-style flannel trousers, tattered and stained, in which case they look like tramps, or else wear the new-style chalk-striped flannels, in which case they look like spivs.

The regulation, designed to ensure smartness, defeats its objects under

present conditions. Yet slacks of other colours and materials are more easily obtainable, and more serviceable, since they can be washed.

But there is worse to come! Reg. 23 calmly lays it down that women must play in grey flannel skirts, trousers, or shorts.

New smart shades of flannel are available for women's wear. But look around us in the club and tournament hall, and what do we see? Tasty little affairs in rust-red rayon, sky-blue satin, old-gold taffeta and bottle-green corduroy.

And very nice, too. Don't let's stop them. (We can't, anyway!) But let the men do likewise. Men, let our slogan be "MORE LATITUDE IN OUR LONGITUDES!"

SUGGESTION: That E.T.T.A. amend the law that cannot be enforced. Amend Regulation 23 to allow the lower garments to be of any material and reasonable colour, subject only to the same colour rules as the shirt, i.e. not so light or so dazzling as to unsight an opponent.

CLIMBING THE LADDER

by Peggy Franks, (*English International*)

To reach top grade table tennis, just playing the game is not enough. The quick reaction of the limbs to the signals from the mind calls for a well-tuned body. Players who have impressed me with their high standard of physical fitness are Richard Bergmann, Guy Amouretti, Agopoff, and Vera Dace, our own English star.

Sluggish footwork is particularly noticeable among women players, and could be corrected to a great extent by ten minutes' skipping in the morning. Regular training, especially out of doors, banishes fatigue, and increases stamina. A healthy body gives added confidence, and aids concentration of the mind.

Synonymous with fitness is food. Do not eat too many starchy foods, e.g., potatoes, puddings, bread. Before a tournament or match steer clear of stodgy meals: make it a light one.

Practise in intensive style. Far better to play solidly for an hour than spend an entire evening with a number of odd games spread over three or four hours. Whilst on the table give it all your attention, but once finished relax and forget all about table tennis.

Just as important as stroke play is match tactics. Through continuous practice it is so easy to become a machine turning out backhand flicks and forehand drives. Each opponent sets a different problem. The strength of his defence or attack must be considered. Whether he can be lured into playing your type of game? The amount of fighting spirit he possesses? These factors must be assessed during the first few points and your plan of campaign moulded accordingly.

A great deal can be learned from watching top class players. Notice their footwork, and timing. Watch their stance at the table, note the way they overcome difficulties. Particularly see for yourself their services. Few top class players endeavour to make winners from services. Seldom do they serve at great speed. A short chop service that defies



Stylish all-rounder Peggy comes from an athletic family. Her father was a boxing champion, and her brother won several cross-country championships while serving in the Royal Navy.

the attacker is the one most favoured.

Yes, a lot can be learned by watching the masters, but mostly it depends upon you. The path to stardom is hard and fraught with disappointments in this highly competitive sport. Providing it is tackled courageously it can be interesting, exciting, and perhaps the royal blue English shirt can be more than an unsatisfied desire!

OUR COVER PICTURE

Stylish exponent of the forehand chop-defence stroke is MISS LEAH THALL, acknowledged No. 1 ranking player in the U.S.A. last season. Does not rely upon defence to win her titles, however; her strength lies in her ability to make sudden breakaways from defence, swinging two sharp forehand drives to opposite corners before her opponent has realised the crisis. If these are returned Leah usually settles down to close play again, until the next opportunity.

During the American team's tour last season, she lost on different occasions to our own "Big Two," Vera Dace and Betty Blackbourn, but took the World Champion, Gizi Farkas, to a close finish in the 5th game when they met in the World Singles.

Socially as well as tactically, Leah is a "good mixer," and during the wearing and wintry sessions of the World and English Championships, there was always laughter to be heard in any little group which gathered around her. A favourite subject for the Paris caricaturists, her comments on their efforts were more amusing than the pictures themselves!

It is almost a certainty that you will see her at Wembley this season; it is a dead certainty that you will like her.

YORKSHIRE PROSPECTS

by H. Doug. Shivers

(Sheffield Captain and Coach)

Trials

A comprehensive series of Area Trials is now in operation. Leagues have been zoned into groups of 3 or 4 and consequently it will be necessary to hold 8 Area Trials.

We hope as a result of these Trials to see no fewer than 128 players, exclusive of County and International players, who are excused until the Final Trials which will be held on Saturday, November 1st, at Messrs. T. Holdsworth's, Drighlington, nr. Bradford.

It was decided that no more than 16 players would be invited by the County to attend each Area Trial, and seeing that a number of tables will be in use at each one there will be ample opportunity for every player concerned to show his talent.

Coaching

Stanley Rosenberg, the International player from Leeds, has been appointed the Official County Coach; this indeed is a wise step taken in the direction of improving Yorkshire's standard of play.

I can guarantee that any young players under him will be given fair treatment and will appreciate, too, his pleasant personality.

Yorkshire will take part in the National County Championships. The first team in the Premier Division meet the following teams: Middlesex (H), Warwickshire (A), Essex (A), Lancashire (A), Surrey (H).

Big "Do" for Middlesex

The first of these matches versus Middlesex will take place during November at the Somme Barracks, Sheffield. I have just completed a proposed seating accommodation plan of the place and find it will be possible to seat 1,070 spectators; whether Sheffield will support the match to this extent remains to be seen. I am quite confident that the joint efforts of Nora Senior, the County Competition and Match Secretary and Mr. A. Jackson, the Secretary of the Sheffield and District Works Sports Association (organisers of this event) will go a long way towards ensuring this match a great success.

Our Juniors

The County Colts in the Northern Division will play Cheshire (H), Lincolnshire (H), Cumberland (H), Lancashire

II (A), Northumberland (H) and Durham (A), quite an interesting fixture list, which will go a long way towards giving any young player of promise the experience which is vital before his or her promotion into the first team can be merited.

It is really too early to forecast likely selections for the County teams and any new players of promise. A scheme sanctioned by the Sheffield League during the close season, in which I had a number of youngsters in hand for coaching with the help of Ernest Edson, has already made fair headway. These boys, J. Crookes, R. Dove, G. White, L. Buxton and A. Blackton, three of whom are still schoolboys, are entered together as a team in the 1st Division of the Sheffield League, and in time will be more than possibilities for the County first team.

Our Stalwarts

Players who took part in County Matches last season will all be eligible for selection again; indeed in my own opinion such players as W. Bedford (Huddersfield), C. Whitely (Elland), G. Mitton and R. Thompson (Halifax), A. Thompson (Leeds), J. Powell and J. Green (Sheffield), will be candidates for the Middlesex match. Talking of women players there is Nora Senior, whom I would consider still Yorkshire's No. 1, Marjorie Lightfoot (Leeds), Norma Quashy (Hull) and, it is hoped, Audrey Taylor (Bradford).

Yorkshire is Looking Up!

The Yorkshire Association have now 18 Leagues in membership; York, Middlesbrough and Scarborough being new additions, with directly affiliated clubs at Ripon Y.M.C.A. and a large military camp R.E.M.E. at Otley.

I do really believe that the Yorkshire Association is on the up grade, this happy state of affairs due chiefly to the untiring efforts of our popular and hard-working Secretary, Mr. Les. Forrest, ably backed up by his assistant, Mr. G. Lodge, Miss N. Senior (Match and Competition Secretary), and Mr. V. R. Wood (Hon. Treasurer) and our efficient new Chairman, Mr. M. D. Shaffner of Bradford.

Is the Single-Game Match Dead?

by Adrian Haydon, (England Captain)

To all intents and purposes the single match game is dead; but I would not like to see it done away with altogether.

For instance in Birmingham (and I believe in other towns too) for variety the local Association will use this system for Cup matches only. There are five players in a team and each plays each 21 points up. Thus every member of a team gets a crack at each opposing member, and derives great satisfaction in doing so. It is a change from the usual league matches where each player has two sets and believe me there are surprise results owing to the greater element of chance. I need hardly say that this method is not popular with slow starters and most star players dislike it for obvious reasons.

It is interesting to recall that in the old days matches against Wales were one game of 50 up. I don't suppose we shall ever see that again, but there is no disputing the fact that 50 up was pretty gruelling and it left no room for the old, old story—"I just couldn't get going in that game at all!"

Thorough Test needed

As far as present day International events are concerned this system is out, as such matches call for a thorough test of the selected player's skill which can only be decided by a set of either best of 3 or 5 games of 21 points up, in accordance with the present rules. The ideal form and number of matches is a point hotly debated up and down the country. Taking first of all league matches, I think the ideal method is as in the Swaythling Cup, namely three players playing each other best of 3. This is, of course, open to criticism on the grounds of expense as more teams have to be entered per club, and again isn't it better to give first team experience to a larger number of players than 3?

Therefore, all things considered I plump for the following combination:—4 singles players graded, plus 1 doubles match. Each singles player to play two matches best of three, i.e. No. 1 plays 1 and 2 etc., with the doubles giving a decisive result. By this method the services of six players

Adrian is here answering these two questions:

- 1. Is the single game match dead?*
- 2. What do you consider the ideal form of Table Tennis match: i.e. how many players and how many games each and whether mixed or not?*

can be utilised if necessary. I think this is also the best combination for International matches.

Unmixed Blessing

As far as mixed matches are concerned, I am, on the whole, against them. Often the complete ascendancy of one or the other sex tends to give a false result. Keep them separate, but if the women are good enough let them take their places in men's league teams. This is by far the best way of producing top-class women players; for the more they play against men and match their speed and strokes against them, the better. I am certain that is the key to women's success.

TWO GOOD IDEAS

from West Bromwich T.T.A.

We have this year adopted the E.T.T.A.'s method of election of officials, i.e., by postal ballot. We find that at our A.G.M. in August, not all clubs can be represented; quite a number play "follow my leader" in the matter of voting; and also valuable time is often lost. We have now completed the ballot and the results are very satisfactory.

We first asked for nominations. Any name nominated by one club and seconded by another was put up for voting. A second circular letter gave the names as in E.T.T.A. procedure, and the voting was made. We thus have our officials *ready for action before the A.G.M.*, although they don't take over before then.

I would be interested to know how many Associations run a Summer League. Ours has proved a great success in recent years.

A. A. WALL.

THE SURREY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Surrey County trials were held at Croydon, on 29th September.

We had 24 men and 7 ladies participating, who travelled from all parts of Surrey and were very keen to make the grade.

The following were selected to represent Surrey against Essex.

1, R. Crayden; 2, K. Merrett; 3, R. Sharman. 1, Vera Dace; 2, Finkle Barnes.

For the Surrey II v. Middlesex II on the 27th October, the following were selected.

1, Head; 2, K. Joyes; 3, K. Hurlock. 1, Miss Plater; 2, Mrs. Holliday.

Hurlock earned his badge owing to his good all round improvement, and he just lost to Merrett in the trials 17—21: 21—13: 20—22. A very good performance.

Those not selected will be given further opportunity throughout the season to obtain their badge.

It may seem strange that Surrey's No. 1 player is not an International although Nos. 2 and 3 are, but it is felt that Crayden is long overdue his International honours.

A GOOD BOOK RE-PRINTED

The shortage of books on table tennis in this country since the war has now been relieved by the appearance of the 2nd edition of "TABLE TENNIS" by Ivor Montagu, chairman of E.T.T.A. and a guiding spirit in almost every aspect of the English and International game.

Although by modern standards not a practical expert, the author brings one of the keenest analytical brains of our times to the study of the game which he has personally helped to shape and mature.

Having served as non-playing captain of many English teams, he has a wide knowledge of the star performers of almost every "generation." His strong points are of course the history, the laws, and the tactical and psychological side of the game.

No less than 76 illustrations help to make this book a valuable aid to the education of all new enthusiasts. A number of the strokes shown are rather "dated," and to be pondered over rather than copied, but the film-strip of the Barna backhand flick-drive remains a classic.

The new edition is published by PITMAN at 8s. 6d.

Our Contemporaries

A commentator in the aristocratic *Cornhill* writes:—

"Journals are the mental pulse of a society and reflect its culture in general."

If this be true, it seems that the pulse of table tennis is quickening, and its culture extending. For now, in addition to the lively "Table Tennis Review" (edited by Arthur Waite and recently promoted to a quarterly), we have the Middlesex TTA magazine, edited by the tireless Geoff. Harower, and the promise of a Yorkshire monthly too. And if Yorkshire have a county magazine, shall Lancashire be far behind? Until recently, Epsom T.T. club had its own publication; no doubt there are others.

A local journal can devote more space to detailed treatment of matters of neighbourly interest; in reporting a tournament played in its own area it can publish much more than the semi-final scores to which we are restricted by paper rationing.

To all our contemporaries, *Good Luck*. May we learn much from each other.

Hastings & District Association

The major decision made at the Annual Meeting was the revival of the Sussex Open Championships, which have always been a favourite amongst South-Eastern players. The past winners include such great names as C. Bull, R. D. Jones, Vana, and Bergmann, and it is expected that a strong entry will again be attracted to the seaside. Actually the tournament will be played, as before, over the sea in the Pavilion of the Hastings Pier, on Saturday and Sunday, 22nd-23rd November. All the usual events will be played, including Junior Singles for either sex, so there is plenty of scope for young players. The local Corporation have always taken a generous interest in the Championships, and it is hoped to repeat the popular Social Event on the Saturday evening, to which all players are invited.

The Association continues to grow, and with 35 teams in the League, Division 2 has been split making 4 Senior and 1 Junior Divisions. New ground has been broken by the inclusion of a club from the ancient borough of Rye.

Chester Makes News

says Stan Dutton
(League Secretary)

First off the mark in staging a big show this season was the Chester & District League, who sponsored an Invitation Tournament in aid of U.N. Association, on 2nd October.

First round: local player Cadman made a respectable showing against Bergmann; Cheshire Open Champion Shepherd (of Bolton), forced back on defence by Carrington, could not exploit that forehand drive which had brought him success against Casofsky in the final of the said championship; Casofsky himself had to use all his experience to cope with a ferocious storming challenge from W. Devine, now clearly Cheshire's first man—the score went to 18 in the 3rd game.

Concluding the First round, Leach mastered Lurie in two sets, the latter showing better form than last year but still rather lacking in fight.

Semi-final round: Bergmann v. Carrington produced some nice consistent table tennis and a typical win for Bergmann.

Leach v. Casofsky saw the Londoner dominating the play to take a fairly easy first game. Casofsky thereupon appeared to give that strong right arm of his an extra dose of lubricating oil in an attempt to knock Leach off his game; the latter stood his ground against the swinging and kicking attack, counter-hitting with good judgment occasionally, to run out a close but deserved winner in two games.

Final: Bergmann beat Leach 21—18, 21—18, in a steady game which would need more space than we have here for analysis. Soundness was the keynote, with Bergmann's tactical decisions gaining him the points at certain vital stages in the match.

A different matter was the grand Men's Doubles match between Bergmann-Casofsky and Carrington-Leach. Bergmann's steadiness and Casofsky's "tramline" winners secured them the 1st game at 21—18, but the England pair then settled down to their clockwork attacking routine to take the 2nd at 21—9 and the 3rd at 21—15. Some masterly play was seen in this event.

* * *

The same Bill Devine set up what must be a record by being chosen to play both table tennis and lawn tennis

for his County *on the same day!* The date was to be 18th October, when Bill was to represent Cheshire against Yorkshire at the outdoor game at Bradford in the afternoon, going on to Leeds for the table tennis match v. Yorkshire same evening. However, this versatile young man in due course was selected to appear in the National Trials in London on 19th October, and the Cheshire T.T.A. wisely decided to release him from the evening match so that he could travel early to London and have a proper night's sleep before the trials. If he finds his usual burst of speed he may upset some of the more fancied trialists in Town.

* * *

Two men's and one ladies' divisions are being run in the Chester League this year, and our city team intends to make its mark in the Lancashire League—not that we expect to win the first match, of course—it is against Manchester on 18th October.

* * *

On still another point it seems that Chester can claim the headlines this month. In the September issue of "TABLE TENNIS," a deuce score of 32—30 was quoted as a probable record. Well, playing in the Chester League last year, J. Cadman won the 3rd game of his match with E. Dutton by the amazing score of 38—36! We shall be very surprised to read of anything to beat this.

FINALS OF EAST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT SKEGNESS, 27th SEPTEMBER, 1947
Men's Singles: J. Wrona (Lincoln) bt. A. Abrahams (Hull), 21—17, 18—21, 21—16.
Women's Singles: Mrs. P. Wiles (Grimsby) bt. Mrs. M. Rimmer (Grimsby), 21—18, 21—12.
Youths' Singles: E. Beedle (Hull) beat T. Rice (Scunthorpe), 21—12, 21—20.
Men's Doubles: G. Gibbons and G. Sharp (Lincoln) bt. Wrona & L. Skidns (Lincoln), 21—19, 21—15.
Women's Doubles: Miss Quesky (Hull) and Mrs. Wiles bt. Mrs. Lammim and Mrs. Isaacs (Hull), 21—15, 19—21, 21—13.
Mixed Doubles: M. Bishop and Miss N. Quesky (Hull) bt. R. Ebbattson and Miss K. Peake (Scunthorpe), 21—14, 23—25, 21—13.

STOP PRESS

NATIONAL TRIALS

More than 60 players took part in the nation-wide Trials in London on October 19th, watched by 6 members of the Selection Committee.

R. Crayden (undefeated), D. Millar, A. Symons, Miss M. Jones (undefeated), Miss Benson and Miss Purves, distinguished themselves in a hard day's play.

(Full details in our November Issue).

DIARY OF EVENTS

Several alterations and additions have been made since last month's Diary was printed, so readers are advised to check their fixtures carefully.

Date	Tournament or Event	Address for Enquiries or Entries
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	C. A. Bourne, 46, Elm Park Gardens, Selsdon, Croydon.
Nov. 18 to 21	English Open Championships	See special article in this issue.
Nov. 22 & 23	Sussex Open	D. N. Tyler, 1, York Buildings, Hastings.
Nov. 27, 28 & 29	Merseyside Open	W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 18.
Dec. 1 to 6	Central London Open	G. James, 19, St. Ann's Villas, London, W.11.
Dec. 3 to 6	Ulster Open	N. Wilson, 128, Sandown Road, Belfast, N.1.
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 1948	Welsh Open Championships	H. Roy Evans, 16, Tymawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.
Jan. 3 (finals)	Metropolitan Open	E.T.T.A. Office, 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
Jan. 9	England v. Wales	At Bath.
Jan. 10 (finals)	Scottish Open Championships	
Jan. 11	Kent Open	At Herne Bay.
Jan. 17	Southampton Open	
Jan. 31 (finals)	Hampshire Open	At Bournemouth.
Feb. 4 to 11	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	At Wembley.
Feb. 10 to 14	Leinster Open (Dublin)	
Feb. 12 to 14	North of England Open	At Manchester.
Feb. 12 to 14	Lancashire Open	
Feb. 14 to 15	Brighton Open	
Feb. 21	Surrey Open	At Croydon.
Feb. 28 (finals)	Midland Open	At Birmingham.
Mar. 6	West of England Open	At Bristol.
Mar. 8 to 13	Middlesex (Herga) Open	At Harrow.
Mar. 13 (finals)	Cheshire Open	At Wallasey.
Mar. 20	Grimsby Open	
Mar. 24 to 27	Irish Open (Belfast)	
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	
May (date not fixed)	Bucks Open	

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

Oct. 24	Surrey v. Essex	At Croydon. L. Preston, 22, Diggins' Rise, Epsom.
Oct. 25	Cumberland v. Lanes. II	At Whitehaven. E. King, 44, Irish Street, Whitehaven, Cumberland.
Nov. 8	Warwickshire v. Yorkshire	At Coventry. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
Nov. 8	Cheshire v. Northumberland	At Stockport.
Nov. 14	Middlesex v. Essex	At Willesden. G. Harrower, 34, Gallants Farm Road, East Barnet, Herts.
Nov. 15	Sussex v. Hampshire	At Brighton. W. L. George, 8, Vicarage Road, Hastings, Sussex.
Nov. 15	Lincolnshire v. Yorkshire II	At Scunthorpe. Miss F. A. Sewell, c/o Ruston-Bucyrus Ltd., Lincoln.
Nov. 22	Yorkshire v. Middlesex	At Sheffield. Miss M. Senior, 66, Morgan Road, Sheffield, 5.
Nov. 26	Kent v. Middlesex II	At Woolwich. F. Trew, 46, Chelworth Drive, Woolwich, S.E.18. (Not decided.)
Dec. 13	Yorkshire II v. Cumberland	At Eastbourne.
Dec. 13	Sussex v. Hertfordshire	At Eastbourne.
Dec. 20	Hampshire v. Middlesex II	At Bournemouth.
Dec. 20	Essex v. Yorkshire	At Romford.