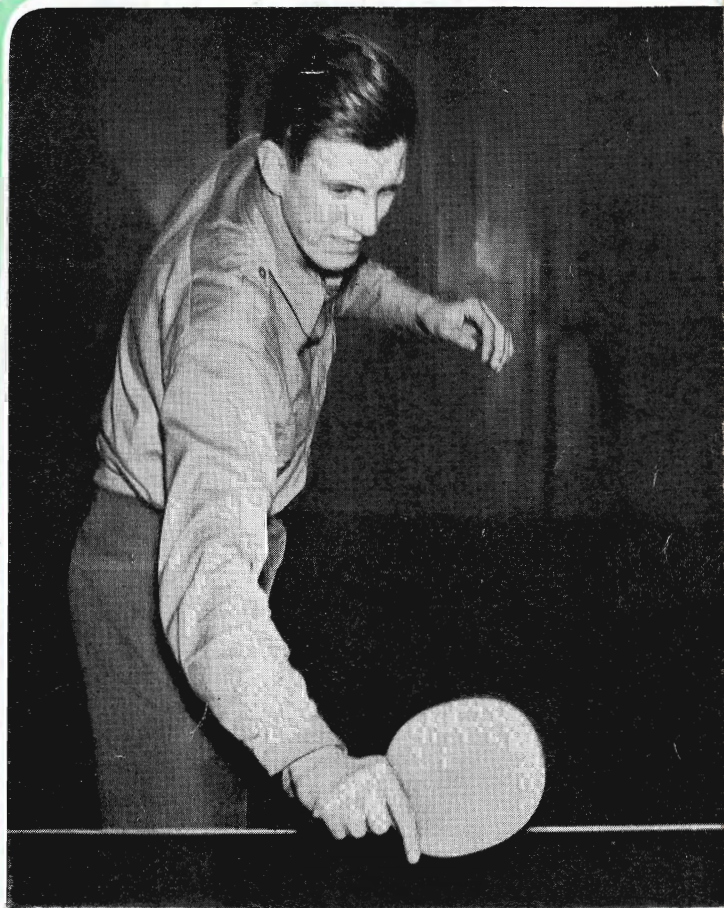


SEPTEMBER, 1948

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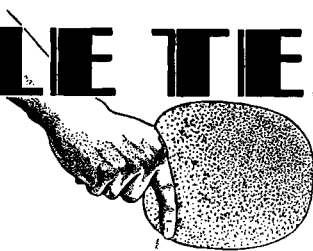
TABLE TENNIS



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
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Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

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SEPTEMBER, 1948

SALUTE TO THE ORGANISERS OF THE XIVth OLYMPIAD, LONDON, 1948!

A grand spectacle, a complicated job well done, and that in spite of the moans of the prophets of doom. These words sum up the verdicts of most honest observers; they could also apply to many such efforts in our own sport, differing only in magnitude.

How heartening to those who work for table tennis to be able to study, under the bright spotlight of Olympic publicity, and without any pressing responsibilities on their own shoulders, the problems—and the rewards—of their kindred spirits of the athletic, swimming, weight-lifting, and other “worlds” gathered together for “LONDON 1948.”

How heartening to note the improvements in performance; the increased respect of the general public for any sport when demonstrated properly; the unimportance of those “incidents” and “complaints” so eagerly seized upon by the reporter in search of excitement.

Most heartening of all, to come away from the mighty show feeling, *knowing once again*, that there is something in the meeting of human beings for sporting struggle; something good that can hardly be expressed in words, **and not at all in figures.**

Some people have asked why Table Tennis was not actually included in the Olympic Games now that it has “become of age.”

The official answer of the International Olympic Committee is that table tennis is only one of many sports knocking at their door. If one were included, the others would naturally feel equally entitled to the honour, and the organisation would be snowed under.

One needs only to think of some of the sports which are left out; Lawn Tennis, Badminton, Archery, Bowls, Golf, and even Cricket! Remember also that we have our own World Championships, in which *annually* as many countries compete as in any Olympic event.

* * *

Our sport did, however receive welcome recognition by the inclusion in the Olympic Games Art Exhibition of the portrait of “*Children's Table Tennis*” which was formally presented to the Hon. Ivor Montagu at the Annual General Meeting of E.T.T.A. this year.

“TABLE TENNIS” will be published on the 7th day of each month. A 7s. 0d. postal order will bring the next 12 numbers post free to you on the day of issue; or 3s. 6d. for 6 numbers. Remittances to either of the addresses shown above.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Sweden Plans

The Swedish Table Tennis Association has now confirmed arrangements for the World Championships of season 1948/49. They will be held in Stockholm, from 4th to 10th February 1949; the official match ball will be the "Villa XXX."

Sweden kindly offers to arrange suitable playing tours for those enthusiasts who can spare a few days before or after the Championships, with visits to various towns and matches with their clubs.

We shall publish further details when the E.T.T.A. official plans are decided.

EUROPE CUP

In the first round of the Western Zone of this competition, ENGLAND men have been drawn to play HOLLAND.

The match has been fixed for October 5th, 1948, and will be played either in Amsterdam or The Hague.

ENGLAND women, being the holders of the trophy, do not have to take the field until the final Challenge Round.

SELECTORS FOR SEASON 1948/49

The following will comprise the Selection Sub-Committee of the English Table Tennis Association for the coming season:—

Chairman: Hon. I. Montagu.

Hon. Sec.: G. R. Harrower.

Men's Non-playing Captain: A. A. Haydon.

Women's Non-playing Captain: Mrs. M. Knott.

Additional Members: Messrs. D. H. Thompson (Gloucester), E. Reay (Northumberland) (North - East Region), E. Worsley (Lancs.), T. Sears (Middlesex), L. E. Forrest (Yorks.).

It will be noted that there are nine members this year instead of seven as in past years. This should help in the sometimes difficult task of ensuring that an official can attend at all important events to watch form and look out for promising talent.

All the above-named members, except one, have served on the Selection Committee previously.

The exception is Mr. T. E. Sears, who will now be able to follow up his good work as non-playing captain of the England Juniors' teams of last season.

Who Wants a Good Table ?

Well, practically everyone, we suppose. How many clubs who are making-do with a "good old pre-war" table, would welcome a "good new post-war" table? There must be thousands.

But they are the lucky ones; for just imagine how many clubs there must be who would welcome the chance to get hold of a match-quality table, however old. And how many other clubs there must be who would like to add table tennis to their activities, but must stand by and watch their younger members drift away for lack of interest in the miserable board which must pass muster for a table tennis table.

It is not the fault of the youth organisers; they know that, properly staged, with good lighting and good tables, table tennis can offer a more healthy excitement to their lads and lasses than the local dance-hall or the latest gangster film. But in this age of shortages, the clubs and institutes are forced to operate with decrepit and unattractive equipment.

The English Table Tennis Association are now considering an approach to the Board of Trade, in conjunction with the leading sports manufacturers; in this way it is hoped to present to the Government both the moral and practical aspects of the problem, with a view to the release of the necessary quantities and qualities of timber for the proper development of the game.

If you know of any cases of hardship due to lack of proper tables, you can do a service to the game and to youth in general by sending a short report to the E.T.T.A. at 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

OUR COVER PICTURE

Tough-looking hombre in the wind-jacket is none other than the electric GARRETT NASH of SAINT LOUIS, Indiana. As a "G.I.," he startled the London wartime fans by winning a £500 Challenge match against the then world champion, Bergmann.

Last season, after becoming possibly the most-travelled table tennis player of all, through his U.S.O. tours, he returned to London as a member of the U.S.A. team, and what did he do? Why, he beat Bergmann again, in the Swaythling Cup match.

Garrett in action against a defensive player is a treat for sore eyes; Garrett in trouble against another "blitz-merchant" is equally good value for money. Whenever he plays, table tennis is always an exciting game—what's more, it is always a game.

With shaggy-dog haircut and shaggy-dog voice, he sometimes succeeds in making people think he is not what he certainly is... a kindly, intelligent sportsman.

MAKE-DO AND MEND

In a neighbouring column you may read of the efforts which are being made to improve the supply of match-quality tables. But, as we all know, discussions with Government departments are liable to take time, and it is unreasonable to look for any "gifts from the gods" in time for season 1948-49 at any rate.

So there must be many clubs who must once again "make do" with the faithful

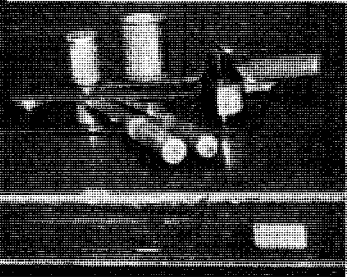
with a very fine nail; a heavy weight should be left on the patch for 24 hours. If the ply is lifting in various patches over 2 inches in length, the job should be left for professional treatment.

There may be many loose areas extending across the width of the baseline. A good joiner can cut out the complete end strip of ply, and replace with a veneer. He should try to replace with the grain



Here you see Vi Patterson, the young English international, intent on the task of "beautifying" a worn table.

As a good workman should, she has all her tools to hand—the safety-razor blade for trimming the splintered edges of the ply, glue for sticking down the small "offs," plastic wood for filling the craters, sandpaper for smoothing off the patches, ink for staining, and—we nearly forgot—PATIENCE FOR DOING A JOB THOROUGHLY.



old table which has probably served them since the "middle nineteen-thirties."

Many of these one-inch tops may look much the worse for wear to-day, but most of them are good at heart and will respond to a little face-massage.

1. OPERATION "WASH-OVER"

The biggest improvement, and the one which is most often completely overlooked, is the common or garden wash with those magic ingredients, SOAP AND WARM WATER!

By removing the sticky or greasy films from the surface, and making the white lines almost white again, you will restore most of the playing quality to the surface. Only in rare cases does it need scrubbing with a brush; it is better to rub hard with a cloth, to avoid wearing down the original paint.

2. OPERATION "PATCH-UP"

If the top ply is lifting in small areas, it can often be glued down and pinned

going the same way as the original ply.

Small warped and frayed portions of the plywood should be cut out cleanly with a safety-razor blade.

For the naked areas resulting from such treatment, and for those small "craters" which often occur in the ends and sidelines of the table, plastic wood is the answer.

Just force it in liberally and leave it to harden, quite roughly, for 48 hours. Then smooth it down with fine sandpaper on a flat block and re-paint with white paint or stain with black-and-green Indian ink as required.

Social Note

Miss Vi Patterson, pictured on this page, was married on 31st July, 1948, to Mr. Leonard Todd, of Walthamstow. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Todd every happiness, and hope that "Vi Pat" will continue to collect our readers' subscriptions for a long time yet.

Thank You—

I am privileged on behalf of the Executive, to pay tribute to two retiring colleagues.

To **Morris Rose**, English Table Tennis in general and the Association in particular, owes a very great deal. His connection with the Association goes back to its very inception. He has always been one of these enthusiasts in whom English sport is fortunately rich, who use their knowledge of the business side to give generous and expert advice to the less expert and amateur organiser. Not only in Table Tennis but in other fields, such as Sunday football, and particularly during the war years, clubs all over the country have had reason to remember his help.

In the E.T.T.A. he has never stinted his time when a job in which he could help was called for; he has helped with and personally participated in tours abroad from the days when they were much less popular and much more difficult than now. In 1938/39, for our most difficult trip of all, to Cairo, he accepted and successfully carried out the dual responsibility of managing the trip and captaining the team.

He was founder and donor of the J. M. Rose Bowl, which has played its part in putting English women's Table Tennis at the top of the international tree. Of late years, he has specialised in Refereeing. In this field he was the first to introduce—what has since become the model and envy of the Championships of other countries—the time-table schedule, cutting waiting to a minimum.

J. M.
ROSE
Model
Referee



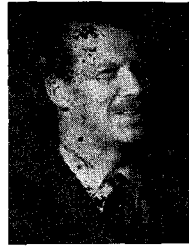
The clockwork style at Wembley last year was a fitting climax to this side of Morris Rose's work. I know that it was a sad disappointment to him that in the end everything went through only 99.5 per cent. correct, but if anyone is inclined to think a penny the worse of Morris for the lone mishap, I would beg them to bear in mind that the wrong track seems to have been started by a

by **IVOR MONTAGU**

Chairman E.T.T.A.

conversational bloomer between him and me, so that at least three farthings of that account should be laid at my door.

Raymond Mortlake Mann is a much more recent friend. But in all my connection with Table Tennis I have never



R. C.
MORTLAKE
MANN
Perfect
Host

known anyone more ready to turn out to represent the Association in all weathers and circumstances and more able to do it with dignity and presence before the public. It is not merely his advantage in inches that counts in this field (I should say about four over me, and nearly as many feet over the General Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer and our old friend Corti). But essentially a bluff and hearty forthrightness that makes him as valuable a friend in Committee as host at our big functions.

These goings leave two big gaps in the Association set up; they leave us now with good wishes, which I express on behalf of us all, but we are confident that the interest they retain in the game will ensure that we shall see more of them.

ADDITIONS TO N.E.C.

Following on the decision taken at the Annual General Meeting of E.T.T.A., the Southern Region of the country is to have two representatives instead of only one, on the National Executive Committee.

Mr. F. G. Mannooch, of Sittingbourne, was re-elected in the first place; Mr. L. A. Preston, of Epsom, who tied for second place in the voting, has now been declared elected to fill the second vacancy.

Miss Lena Ferguson, of Southampton, the other party to the "tie," will once again serve on the Executive, having been co-opted by the Committee as per rule. It is known that her judgment is greatly valued, especially in matters affecting the women's side of the game.

Another wise counsellor co-opted to serve on the Executive is Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, President of Essex T.T.A. and previous Chairman of E.T.T.A.

SEEDING? . . . CERTAINLY!

says SAM KIRKWOOD

Well-known "Sporting World" reporter

For all its popularity, table tennis cannot be claimed as a money-making sport in this country. The average tournament just about pays its way; not infrequently it shows a loss. The moral is that while money-making is not the be-all and end-all of competitive "open" play, in the interests of spectators and organisers tournaments must be made as attractive as possible.

The seeding system helps here. Why? Because paying spectators—who usually are interested in seeing only semi-finals and finals—are practically assured of seeing the best players in any given tournament fighting it out in the concluding rounds. After all, the "customer" pays to see the best, and organisers are bound to see that, so far as lies in their power, they get it.

"Ah, yes," you might say, "*that's all very well: but what about the players themselves? Why shouldn't the average player be given a fighting chance, via an unseeded draw, to get through to the later rounds?*" Under the seeding method the unknown is almost assured of a comparatively early K.O., because he must meet a 'star' in his quarter. 'Rabbits' pay their entrance fees like anyone else and are entitled to get within smelling distance of a prize."

Per Ardua ad Astra

There's something in that. But—the fact remains that *every star was once a rabbit* and had to prove himself the hard way. Every player has the same opportunity to do so: one of the reasons why open tournaments are run is to afford chances

to the unknown to prove himself. When a player is seeded it is a mark of acknowledgment that he has earned his laurels, that he has arrived—it is foolish to say, as some do, that he is the object of favouritism. As an ordinary club player myself, I have always cheerfully paid my entrance fees, enjoyed my games (or game), and had no "crib" whatsoever because superior men, of proven merit, were rightly considered by organisers to be probable semi-finalists and were therefore seeded.

It Works at Wimbledon

Here I make the not irrelevant point that the wonderfully successful annual Wimbledon lawn tennis series are planned, organised and run on the seeding basis. Critics, players and scores of thousands of tennis followers alike are almost unanimous that this does much to make the tournament the attraction it is.

However, my main point is this (as I said before): that those who pay hard cash which pays for the organisation of competitions—to wit, the spectators—must be given every consideration, and are entitled to see the best players battle it out on finals night. Dispassionate and knowledgeable seeding is the answer—and a sporting challenge, incidentally, to the unknown to strive his utmost to upset calculations.

Anyway, if there is a better method than seeding which ensures that the player worth his salt, together with the T.T. followers, get a square deal, I'd certainly like to hear of it.

NORTHERN NOTABILITIES

A PROFFITT PROFILE OF A WELL-KNOWN MERSEY-SIDE FAMILY

If Billie Stamp hadn't despatched this data post-haste, or Dr. Rumjahn, M.D., had not taken a liking to our country when, at 14 years of age, he came over with the Indian contingent for the King Edward 7th Coronation, the theme of this personality column would never have been written.

As it is, here is the story. The mere mention of the name Rumjahn on the Merseyside is enough to make the eyes sparkle. Of the doctor's fame, not only as a medical practitioner or a cricketer

boys are left handed, Pop being the only complete right hander in the family.

Not content with each gaining a table tennis international badge whilst at school, the brothers have each been individual holders of the Liverpool Closed Championship at various times: Peter 1938/9; Ted, the present holder; and Ronnie throughout the war years. Isn't this unique?

Peter—the elder, age 30, with a strong athletic frame, first wore an England table tennis shirt in 1936/7. His dusky brow always looks so serious. It would be incorrect to christen him "laughing boy," but his behaviour is a model for any young sportsman or veteran to copy.

As an Army Sgt., along with brother Ted, he represented the Western Command at Hockey. He is a prolific run-getter and a useful change bowler for the Northern cricket club in the Liverpool competition.

Teddie—28, this twelve months married, blossomed forth in the table tennis sphere in 1938/9. The England selectors had no alternative but to honour this boy. Cheery and always ready to joke, he doesn't favour the cricket club of his elder brother or indeed that of his father. Huyton are fortunate to have his services which incidentally is the same team as old-timer Ken Hyde.

Ronnie—21 years old, tall and handsome is the babe of this set-up. Recently demobilised from the Army, he toured Czechoslovakia with the English table tennis team in 1946. A real stylist, and when he becomes accustomed to civilian life those in close contact with him say he will join the exalted ranks as a Swaything Cup player.

All Merseyside hope he will soon recover the form lost when Ronnie had to answer the call of his country at such a vital time in his table tennis career. Needless to say he won fame by representing the Army at Hockey and assists Huyton on the cricket field whenever available.



PETER

RUMJAHN is considered by most observers to be showing the best form of the family just now. Left-handed, as are all the brothers, Peter is patient and clever, and especially useful in Doubles. He will be a stalwart of the Lancashire side in the County Championships.

for Clubmoor, but on the field of sport in general, volumes may be written. *To see him now (weighing 14½ stone), it is hard to comprehend that in his youth he obtained a University blue for cricket, lawn tennis, soccer and rugby between 1909-13 and whilst studying at the Liverpool Institute won the "Victor Ludorum" running cup for three years in succession.* Yes, it's a record. His time for the hundred yards in those days rarely deviated from 10¼ seconds. Phew!

And his son Teddie—the middle one—kept the honoured name on the school plaque by winning the same trophy years later as if just to safeguard the family name. How's that?

Like father, like son: that's how it goes in this great household. Their sporting activities appear to be in a tangle, but they all steer the same course. For instance all have represented their county at hockey (Pop recently retired at the age of 60) and figured prominently in the City's cricketing circles. The three

STAN. PROFFITT'S Northern Notebook will be resumed next month. Northerners are invited to send news and comments direct to him.

TIMING IN ATTACK . . .

The diagram you see here has been reproduced from a Continental magazine, and purports to show the relative timings of the various forehand drives employed by famous experts.

To understand it you must imagine you are standing in a forehand driving position rather to the left of the ball, with your left foot considerably nearer to the table than your right. (Left-handers must get round the other side—on the next page, so to speak!)

From this position the arrows show the bound of the ball as returned by your opponent somewhere away to the left.

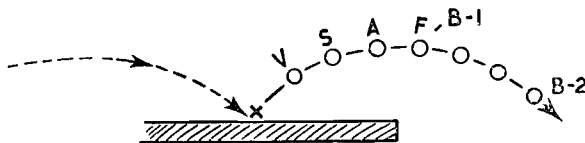
The key letters will now give you a

fully recovered—you are usually quite literally “on your back foot.”

Now what is that “A” we see sitting prettily at the very top of the bounce? Why it can belong to none other than the lordly Andreadis, for whom all things must be done with due regard to style and pleasant living!

Not for him the back-breaking jerk-and-jump of Vana, the cat-and-mouse, swallow-the-ball pouncing of the *gamin* Stipek. They defy Nature's laws; he, Andreadis, will co-operate with Nature. If the ball is willing to bounce a certain height, he will allow it to do so before attempting to direct it to his own will.

But even the lazy Ivan concedes this



good idea of the point of contact of bat and ball as wielded by the masters.

There you see Vana's quick pick-up, almost at the half-volley point. Stipek, hovering over the table in his crouched posture, yet just watching that ball a fraction of a second later than his boss, Vana.

Have you thought why this is so? Well, Stipek uses a flat-push hit with topspin as an afterthought—he must have that ball clear, of the net before letting go. Vana, however, “pulls up” the ball with mainly vertical swing, and the flat-push element is an afterthought, imparted by his trunk movements. The resulting curved trajectory is safer and thus he can whip up the ball from half-volley position, getting speed and direction on it before the defender has fully recovered from the previous drive.

Incidentally, this is why the Vana drop-shot is so effective; when you see him shape up to hit the ball from its half-volley position you know it is not bluff—he really can send you over a fizzer from that spot and so you dare not rush in immediately as you would when you see most players meeting the ball half-volley. Also the drop is made, just as the drive is made, fractionally earlier and thus before your balance is

point . . . that a successful hitter must take the ball before it starts to drop.

Later in the diagram you see Flisberg and the two positions called “Bergmann 1” and “Bergmann 2.” These are late hits.*

Nevertheless, it may be that you have seen these two lovely players hitting, and envied their forehand drives? True, they can drive, but you must compare class for class, and by contrast with Vana, Andreadis, Tereba, Miles, etc., Flisberg and Bergmann are *not* “hitters.” They can hit. *That is very different, and you must bear it in mind when applying it to your own class and trying to make decisions about your own game.*

I will explain a little further. The timings of forehand drives “F,” “B-1” and “B-2” are those of defensive players. The defender is nearly always just that fraction late in *deciding* to hit, especially in his early days. His footwork may be as fast as the attackers, as Bergmann's certainly is, but he keys his body up for defence for, say, the first tenth-of-a-second every time, and then goes in. As a result he learns a late style of hit which rarely becomes as venomous or consistent as the natural attacker's who is looking for an opening the whole time.

This is not to say that a defender

. . . . **JACK CARRINGTON** tells you
The How and Why of Famous Players'
Forehand Attacking Shots

should not try to become an attacker, nor that his hits are inferior—far from it, their rarity and suddenness makes them most effective. No, I am simply concerned that you should be able to analyse other people's games, and understand why one can do what another cannot, and what must be sacrificed when some new advantage is gained.

After all, "a good game" consists of many things besides hitting and defending stroke-play.

You could do worse than make yourself a chart like this one, for all your clubmates and rivals—you will learn much.

So far, I have been perhaps unfair to Flisberg; I always considered him as an all-round player, with slight defensive leaning. I see the diagram bears me out almost exactly. In his case his "left-handedness" often secures for his hits the surprise effect which should have been lost by their "late-ness."

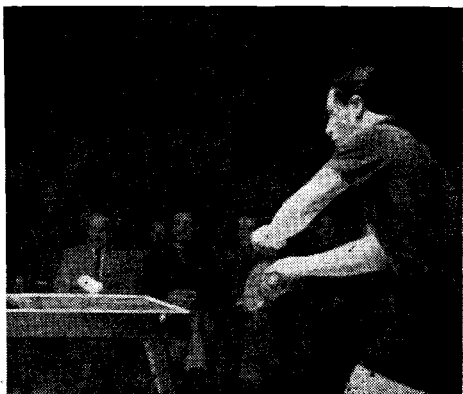
We come at last to the "B-1" and "B-2" timings. B-2 represents the famous Bergmann "looped-topspin" drives, taken very late and slow. Originally the first tame attempts of the ultra-careful young Bergmann at attacking play, they now amount to a form of "topspin chiselling"—whose value should be more widely appreciated.

As Richard grew in knowledge, he realised the necessity of hitting an earlier ball, and that is why we include position B-1. A confident Bergmann can maintain a consistent fast forehand attack from that spot, sufficient to beat average internationals.

One might ask: "If Bergmann is so wise, why does he not take a still earlier ball, near the V or S mark, and reap the maximum advantage for his attack?" The answer is: "He does—sometimes." We all saw it in the first game against Vana at Wembley this year. But he needs the run of the luck to keep it up. Once his confidence is shaken he reverts to his more natural timing at B-1. We saw this happen, too, at Wembley (against Miles and Reismann).

You see, we cannot all do everything in the game. To a certain extent we are prisoners of our own natural muscular rhythms—even Bergmann.

To change these rhythms needs great will-power and much practice. It is easiest for youngsters, but even they must



Richard Bergmann drops his bat to make his "looped-topspin" from position B-2.

practise a long time and not retreat from their objective. (Some people are actually *too* fast normally, and have a terribly hard job learning a slower rhythm for their game).

There comes a point where the benefits of a speedier rhythm and timing must be weighed against the losses; this is the problem for each individual, assisted if possible by the experienced coach.

Richard Bergmann is the World Champion because he is so good at this "weighing-up" process; his tactical decisions during play are superb as a rule.

What of Miles and the Americans, and Barna in good form? They are early hitters, and their play will be discussed in the next instalment of this article.

Meanwhile, a few interesting examples:—

Natural defenders who use their late hit correctly: Haguenaer (France), Soos (Hungary), Koczian (Hungary), L. Cohen, A. Simons, J. Leach, G. Harrower (England), Mercer (Ireland), Roseanu (Rumania), Stan Jones (Wales), Goodman (England).

Natural defenders who often waste their hits: Amouretti (France), O'Prey (Ireland), Sharman (England), Miss Franks (England), Miss Elliot (Scotland), Sweetland (Wales), M. Kriss (Birmingham).

A world-class hitter from a late position: Sol Schiff (U.S.A.). He hits from the "F" spot, absolute winners—significantly, he, too, is left-handed.

WAS WORLD'S WASTED?

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD suggests JUNIORS MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Whatever it cost, the World's at Wembley was one of the best investments the E.T.T.A. could ever have made to further the cause and raise the playing standards of the sport in England. The tragic pity is that so very few English players saw it from this, the most important angle.

The ideal age for a World's Men's Singles champion is about 18, and it takes at least three years to get there, and needs experience of international competition of high standard. **It would have been heartwarming to have seen throngs of the "around-fifteens" at Wembley. Comparatively, there were very, very few.**

Yet a World's Tournament only comes to England about once in 5 years, and is one of the few opportunities our youthful hopes ever have of seeing world-beaters in competition with one another. Every top class player will tell you of hours spent in analytically watching first class play. In fact, it might be said

that one could never be a world champion without this investment of one's time. **Our youngsters must realise this. Too many of them prefer the dubious value of a club knock-up and local adulation, to seeing and learning from the stars.**

Finally, I recall, when Marty Reismann returned from his double defeat at the hands of Andreadis and Vana he used, unconsciously, the adjective the crowd had applied to him. *"These Czechs are terrific,"* he said, *"but coming over here has really taught me something about table tennis . . . and with what I've learnt, I've got a lot of practice to get in before next year."*

The prime lesson for youngsters, is to see all the best players you possibly can, not so much for the spectacle but to analyse movements, strokes, tactics.

We have paid for the lessons. Let us get all the value we can from them.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

MIDDLESEX LOOKS AHEAD

The Middlesex Association are determined that no effort shall be spared towards finding and encouraging new young players, and have many schemes afoot towards this end.

In addition to coaching, a team, to be known as the Middlesex Junior Touring Team, will play matches each week during the season against many of our leading club sides. The opportunity will be taken to include as many youngsters as possible, and girls will not be neglected, as matches will be on the County Championships pattern (three youths and two girls).

Another venture to assist the youngsters will be a senior touring team, including Internationals, who will visit youth clubs, or groups of clubs, giving Exhibitions, Demonstrations and Advice. No charge will be made to member clubs for this service.

The popular Inter-League Championships, with three divisions, will be retained, and here again the youngsters will not be neglected, as two junior sections are being formed, in which all players must be under the age of nineteen on October 1st. Players doing well in this competition will be given a trial in the Junior Touring Team.

The Closed Championships will in all probability be held at the Paddington Baths during December. Here again, additional events are being staged for juniors. The Paddington Baths will also be the scene of the match against the Czech Touring Team, on October 25th.

Senior Clubs have not been forgotten and Knock-Out Team Championships for both men and women will be held, with the winners entitled to describe themselves as the "Club Champions of Middlesex."

A Good Service

is assured to all sportsmen at

THE ALBION SPORTS SHOP (and Table Tennis School),

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Tel. : MITCham 4139

Retail Manager : JOHNNY LEACH

Catalogue sent on request.

JUST AVAILABLE! Attractive new design of Club Tables, conforming to all regulations and satisfactory for league play.

NEW SURREY "SEC."

Mr. Leslie A. Preston has resigned his position as Hon. Secretary of the Surrey County T.T.A.

The new county secretary is Mr. R. Atherton, and his address for correspondence is 18, Replingham Road, London, S.W.18.

BUSY BUCKS

Buckinghamshire, recent newcomer to County Association ranks, is busy with big plans for the future and has already started trials to pick the best team possible for the Home Counties League, to which they have been accepted. Although all the South Bucks Leagues have joined the Association, the Northern towns in the County have so far been slow to rally round. For those interested, the Secretary's address is Pennlea, 294, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Bucks.

There was keen competition for the inter-league tournament held last season, won by Slough. Encouraging as last season's entry was, however, more competitors still are hoped for this year.

Leo Thompson is assisting as coach and advisor, and youth is being kept in the limelight—as many as possible are being given experience against the seniors in County trials.

The Bucks Open Championships are being revived this season; details will be published in our fixture list.

NEW ZEALAND NOTE

(From our Special Correspondent)

This year over 1,000 teams are affiliated to the New Zealand T.T.A. and players are displaying a real pre-war keenness.

When we have had a few visits from overseas players, we may raise our standard sufficiently high to send a team to compete in the Swaythling Cup.

Russell Algie, just back from Europe, has told us that the standard of play over there was a good deal higher than we are accustomed to. However, he is keen to show us what he learned and this should do much to help.

At present we have Szabados (the old Hungarian star, now a naturalised British subject) touring the country giving exhibitions with Phil Anderson, the leading Australian player.

Already there is newspaper controversy between him and Algie; Algie praising the short attacking game of the Americans, and Szabados praising the deep game perfected by Barna and himself.

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

TEREBA IN ACTION AGAIN?

Unofficial reports say that Tereba, the great Czech stylist who won the English Open Championship in 1946/47, has returned to active play after a season of retirement.

Competing in a tournament in Prague, he is reputed to have slain Vana, Andreadis, and Stipek. Not a bad evening's work for a "has-been"! Looks as though we shall really have to get Fred Perry, our one and only World Champion, back into his grey flannels, to compete with this sort of thing.

* * *

Someone to Look Out for

This year's Men's Singles Championship of the B.A.O.R. was won by 20-yr.-old **Ray Moore**, of Wembley. A leading junior of the Wembley Institute Club before joining the R.A.F., Ray is tall and slim, and his Services training has given him the strength and balance which previously were lacking. His forceful sweeping drives on forehand and backhand are made with something like Garrett Nash speed, so when he returns to civvy life—just remember the name.

* * *

From a Young Emigrant to South Africa

"... I practise with some of the best players in this country, at the Johannesburg Y.M.C.A. : the standard is not bad out here but they need a lot of experience.

"They are trying to get affiliated to the I.T.T.F., but evidently have

not been allowed to, so far, because of the colour bar in South Africa. I don't think that is right and fair, because everybody who plays table tennis wants to go as high as they can, and if S.A. is stopped from joining the rest of the world at T.T. they will never get on.

"Also there are a lot of Englishmen out here, and it is very disappointing to them as you may guess.

"The well-known coach Leslie Booker has just come out from England."

* * *

In Trinidad To-day

We are always interested to hear of new centres of enthusiasm, and our Lancashire readers in particular will feel that they have a special interest in these notes about Trinidad, to which tropic spot they have recently exported that typical Lancs official, Jack Thompson.

The Trinidad & Tobago Amateur Table Tennis Association to-day comprises over 60 clubs with membership about 700.

The team which entered the 1948 World Championships did not represent by any means the full strength of Island players; it was composed of students and servicemen living here for reasons of duty. These "volunteers" however served to show the flag for the first-ever entry of Trinidad into I.T.T.F. contests. The reigning singles champion is Ralph Gomes, 6ft.-1½ins. youth of Portuguese descent, a vicious forehand driver.

Although handicapped by distance

from Europe and America, the colonies of the Caribbean Sea, have already got together amongst themselves with a view to improving their standards of play. A special Inter-Colonial Goodwill Series has been organised, in which British Guiana appear to be the favourites, with Barbados next.

When we think of the wonderful calibre of the athletes and cricketers produced by these outposts of Empire, we may well look forward to a strong table tennis challenge from them in the future, especially when they have been reinforced by the up-to-date experience of such as Jack Thompson. Incidentally, Jack writes: "Will would-be correspondents please note my address:—

J. R. Thompson, c/o C.D.C., Ltd.,
 Champ Fleurs, Trinidad, B.W.I."

* * *

A New Tourney for the Lesser Lights

With the two-fold object of assisting the National Sports Development Fund and encouraging club talent, the E.T.T.A. are preparing a widespread tournament scheme in co-operation with the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

On the lines of the Red Cross Tournaments of the war years, the idea is that the Council will provide club secretaries with tournament forms and publicity matter, plus a trophy for the winner, while the small entry subscriptions will be forwarded to the Fund.

International Table Tennis Champion **ALEC. D. BROOK** Complete Sports Specialist & Outfitter

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In Stock:

All Table Tennis Bats.

Table Tennis Covers.

T.T. Shirts in four colours as worn by Barna and Brook on the stage.

Parisien Windcheaters as worn by French team.

I am privileged to introduce something for which we have all been waiting. Tournament Table Tennis Tables with a minimum delay in delivery.

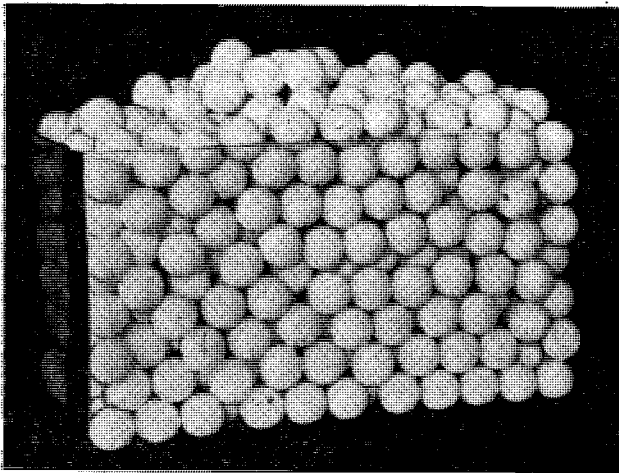
These tables produced as a result of three years' extensive research, are comparable with the finest pre-war tables.

Solidly built, with turned cabinet legs, and a super fast surface, I played on one at the Glasgow Empire Theatre just recently. I was amazed at the speed and quality and can find nothing but praise for them. They are surely destined for use in the best clubs and future national championships.

Send for particulars of both club and tournament models.

A NICE TRIP FOR SOMEBODY

Bedford and District League issue an open invitation to any London club (or county side of similar standard) to send a team or teams for a trial of strength. Juniors and ladies' teams especially invited. Fares paid and a good time promised for all; write Mr. Alan Coles, 23, College Road, Bedford.



**NO
 MORE
 BALL
 PERMITS**

Board of Trade permits are no longer required for ball purchases — but don't expect to see quantities like this available to every club.

Indications are that balls will be nearly as scarce as ever this season.

BILL EVANS says:—

TABLE TENNIS IS NEWS!

... If you "Know the Ropes"

Most club secretaries and tournament promoters realise that to intensify public interest in the game the help of the local Press is invaluable.

Some, however, do not, or if they do, don't know the way to go about enlisting the support of their local journals. I propose here to try to "lift the veil" for those who are "in the dark" regarding Press publicity.

I say publicity advisedly. I am not referring to advertising, which has to be paid for. Publicity is free, but it must contain something of genuine news value, whether it be local or national. Results of league games are the most common example of table tennis appearing in the local Press. But there are other forms of publicity, not so obvious, but worth striving for, and I will try to suggest some of the "angles."

The first requirement, however, is to know how to submit items to newspapers. Contributions should preferably be typewritten—double spacing—or written clearly in ink. They should be addressed to the Sports Editor at the head office of the paper, and if possible sent two or three days before the paper is on sale. Certain technical difficulties in a newspaper office require outside material to be delivered early, so do not make the mistake of sending an item which occurred, say, on Sunday, to the paper on Thursday, for publication on Friday!

League Matches

The custom is either for the league secretary or individual club secretaries to post the results and tables on special cards. If this is not being done, contact your paper straight away, the Editor will be glad to help.

Annual Meetings

Such things as the Chairman's or Secretary's review of the past season, election of officers, finances, and the numerous interesting items that crop up at these meetings are worth publicising. The minutes of the meeting have to be taken anyway. It is easy to take the chief points, give them an interesting introduction, and put them in the post.

The author is a Reporter, and in his spare time is Secretary of Broadstairs T.T. Club.

Tournaments

In this case a preliminary advertisement, giving the time and place, is customary. But accompanying it can be a brief "write-up" of the better known players who are appearing, how others can enter, and the trophies offered. **As a tournament is something special, tickets should be sent to the local Press with a request that a reporter be sent.**

Invite a local councillor—the Mayor if you can get him. He will be glad to say a few words of praise or congratulation, and in doing so gives the event a tinge of "news value."

There is also the "away" angle. When local players are victorious or reasonably successful in tournaments in other parts of the country, their achievements should be made known in the area they represent.

Internationals and Exhibitions

These are handled in the same way as tournaments, with the addition that the players can be "built up" more easily, because they have a bigger reputation. Particulars of internationals are easy to obtain, and they themselves are always happy to oblige.

To handle personal appearances properly some form of publicity is required in the national Press. The local paper can generally be relied upon to submit items of this kind, and a word with them will probably result in not only securing some advance notice of the match, but also the printing of the result the day after. Many provincial papers have on their staffs a man acting as local correspondent for the "nationals."

Table Tennis has reached its present heights because ability has been put on show and the public fascinated. But the liaison between the champion in the centre of the hall and the "fan" waiting in the queue is the Press. **See that table tennis "gets home" to the public—then it will be found in their homes!**

PARKER'S "PING-PONG"

In looking through a pile of old books which I was going to send to salvage the other day, I came across one called "Ping-Pong. The Game and How To Play It, by Arnold Parker, Queen's Hall Champion." It was published in 1902 by T. Fisher Unwin. I picked the book up and began to read about Ping-Pong. Mr. Parker begins by stating that his is the first book on the game. "Ping-Pong is a game which has been jeered at and called ridiculous, and articles have recently appeared in the Press which even go so far as to say that the popularity this game has attained, and the fascination it exercises over strong men, as well as over women, is a sign of decadence in the people in this country."

The author goes on to explain why Ping-Pong had become so popular. Firstly, it affords amusement for hours together and requires no small amount of skill to play it well. Secondly, a great deal of exercise is obtainable from the pursuit of this game. And last, but not least, there can be no doubt that the fact of ladies being able to play almost as well as men, is one of the chief reasons for its popularity.

The chapters to beginners are justified because, "It's only during the last few months that it has sprung into popularity. Therefore there are but few players who have played more than one year and the vast majority have only played a few months, and must therefore rank as beginners."

* * *

The qualities necessary for good play are listed as good nerve, sound judgment, resolution, temper under control, fair sight and sympathy between hand and eye. Mr. Parker gives the earliest date of mention of Ping-Pong as being 1881, when it was played with cigar-box lids for bats, champagne corks for balls and rows of books for a net. "Most players seem to agree that the game was first started by Mr. James Gibb in 1899, and was published at his suggestion by Messrs. J. Jacques and Son under the title of Gossima, changed in 1900 into the name which has met with universal approval, namely, Ping-Pong."

The game seems to have been in existence as Table Tennis before Gossima, but as Table Tennis it was played with a small india-rubber ball like a lawn-tennis ball. "But the game found little popularity, nor did it under its new title (Ping-Pong) until the present seam-

All enthusiasts know a little of the game's history from official handbooks and programmes. Here Harry Miles adds some interesting information from a book written when even ping-pong was in its infancy.

less Xylonite balls were invented and placed on the market." This was about Christmas, 1900. "For the next few months, everyone, more or less, played Ping-Pong, but summer coming on induced most people to put the game away until the present winter. The boom started about September. Clubs were formed everywhere. A tournament was held last December at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, for the Table Tennis Championship of London. The entry was enormous, between two and three hundred. Partly as a result of this tournament the Table Tennis Association was formed and about the same time the Ping-Pong Association sprang into being."

* * *

"The height of the Ping-Pong boom," states Mr. Parker, "was reached during the tournament held at the Queen's Hall." The Press wasn't altogether favourable. One report said, "The Ping-Pong game is smaller in every respect than Table Tennis and strikes the on-looker as less scientific . . . the scoring is confusing." Actually the table and scoring were the same in both games. Another report commented that *a white waistcoat makes the ball invisible to the opponents.* Then the fact that a little boy (aged 16 years) could compete with adults at the game is cited as a matter for scorn. The author of the book mentions the improved play. "*The stone-wallers, though prominent, were not so pre-eminent as on the first occasion.*"

The book goes on to deal with the implements necessary for good Ping-Pong. The room should be well-ventilated and all furniture should be covered or put away. "*As it is most irritating to play under a flickering light, either electric light or incandescent gas burner should be used.*" The size of the table should be between five feet six inches and ten feet long, between three feet and five feet wide. "*Although many players assert that they get a finer game on a table twelve feet long.*"

(A further instalment will appear next month)

1948/49 EARLY SEASON DIARY

Date	Tournament or Event	Venue	Tickets or Information from :
Sept. 25-26 ...	East of England Open Championships	Butlin's Camp, Skegness	Mrs. Merryweather, c/o Ruston Bucyrus, Ltd., Lincoln.
Oct. 9 ...	Birmingham Open ...	Indoor Sports Stadium, Pershore Road, Birmingham	M. Goldstein, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
Oct. 16 ...	Hartlepoons Open ...	West Hartlepool ...	W. Baillie, 24 Powlett Road, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.
Oct. 23 ...	ENGLAND v. CZECHOSLOVAKIA	The Stadium, Liverpool	W. Stamp, 3 Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 15.
Oct. 25 ...	Middlesex v. Czechoslovak Touring Team	Paddington Baths, London, W.1	G. R. Harrower, 34 Gallants Farm Road, East Barnet, Herts.
Oct. 30-31 ...	Sussex Open ...	Hastings ...	C. Senior, Flat 2, Quarry Bank, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

SOME LATER LANDMARKS

Nov. 1-6	Eastern Suburban Open.	Feb. 16-19	THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (in London).
12-13	Yorkshire Open.	26	Midland Open.
20-21	S. of England Open.	Mar. 5	Surrey Open.
25-27	Merseyside Open.	11	ENGLAND v. IRELAND (at Liverpool).
Dec. 3-4	Pontefract Open.	19	West of England Open.
10-11	Welsh Open (at Cardiff).	19	Grimsbty Open.
13-18	Central London Open.	21-26	West Middlesex Open.
Jan. 3-8	Metropolitan Open.	Mar. 31-	
15	Hull Open.	Apr. 2	North of England Open.
15	WALES v. ENGLAND (at Swansea).	Apr. 5-10	Middlesex (Herga) Open.
16	Hampshire Open.	16-18	N.E. England Open.
20-22	Lancashire Open.	25-29	Wembley Open.
30	Kent Open.	May 7	Thameside Open (finals).
Feb. 4-10	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Stockholm).	21	Bucks. Open (finals).

THE NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

With the advent of Gloucestershire to bring the Premier Division up to 8 teams, and the addition of the new Home Counties Division, a full and interesting programme is assured for the season.

When the fixtures start, reports of the County matches will appear each month in "TABLE TENNIS."

The first month's fixture list shows all the teams taking part. Period ending October 31st, 1948 :—

PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex v Yorkshire
Warwickshire v Lancashire
Essex v Surrey
Lancashire v Gloucestershire

NORTHERN DIVISION

Lincolnshire v Lancashire II
Cheshire v Yorkshire II
Durham v Northumberland
Northumberland v Cumberland

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

Cambridgeshire v Essex II
Bedfordshire v Middlesex II
Hertfordshire v Buckinghamshire

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hampshire v Sussex
Surrey II v Kent

The opening activity of several of the County Associations will be the staging of matches with the touring Czechoslovak team (see Czech fixture list below).

THE CZECHOSLOVAK TOUR

The Czechoslovak Touring Team, consisting probably of 4 men and 2 women, will play matches and exhibitions as shown below. Final nominations are not yet to hand, but the parties will almost certainly include the famous Bo Vana, the World Champion of 1947 and finalist 1948, and Ivan Andreadis, most attractive stylist of the modern game.

Additional fixtures will probably be confirmed within the next few days. Full details will be available in our next issue, out on October 7th.

October date	Fixture or Venue
18	At Cheltenham.
19	At Hartlepoons.
20	v Yorkshire.
21	At Derby.
23	International v ENGLAND, at The Stadium, Liverpool.
25	v Middlesex, at Paddington Baths, London, W.1.
26	At Birmingham.
27	v Kent.
29	At Southampton.
30-31	At Hastings, for Sussex Open Championships.