SENDING

CONTRIBUTIONS

1 Letters, articles, anecdotes, news, etc., are always welcome. Should be as brief as possible, and sent direct to The Editor: LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, 12, Campbell Road, Bedford.

2 Articles and opinions, etc., expressed in Table Tennis do not necessarily represent official views. They may, in fact, be at variance. All articles published are the individual viewpoint of the writer whose name is given. Every reader has the same right of expression. Items under Official News are authoritative and also where expressly stated.

A SPECIAL NOTE

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GETTING YOUR MAGAZINE REGULARLY

Table Tennis should be readily obtainable from your local Hon. Magazine Secretary (in England) through newsagents, or direct from the Circulation Manager: GEOFF. R. HARROWER, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts. Subscriptions Rates are, Single Copies 7d. post free; Full season (9 copies) 5s. 6d. post free.

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ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION


From THE EDITOR

Winning Ways

"In the lexicon of Youth, there is no such word as failure."

I LOVE the stories of when England's scratch teen-age team beat Hungary and all but won the Swaythling Cup. . . . Inexperienced, conditions bad, precious night spent travelling with hardly any sleep, they couldn't be expected to win. It was an impossibility. Yet win they did, those three young lads. They won because they did not even think of losing . . . Sixteen-year-old schoolboy ADRIAN HAYDON had never played outside his home. "Were you nervous?" they asked him. "Goodness me no, I didn't even know there was any player in the world better than I!"

Thus the invincibility of Youth with the dare-devil bravado of Drake; with the courageous hearts if not the experience of Agincourt. A buoyant supreme confidence beyond all hazards of nerve, conditions, and reputations.

The Selection Committee, wise and shrewd and greatly experienced in these matters, have announced the English teams. They are the youngest groups sent for many a year and as gallant, aggressive and as proved a party as one could wish for. Rarely has there been such unanimity with the official choice.

Let us shout our confidence in the English teams. Let us urge them not to care one jot for armchair critics, nerves, opponents or conditions. Let them know we shall not blame them if they lose, for we know they will do their utmost. But let us also tell them to go right in with the ruthless determination to WIN; to show the three corners of the world that we can not only shock them, but that England can also be CHAMPION WINNERS.

Many, many thanks to all who wrote, for your encouragement, notes, ideas and suggestions. I want to follow or use many. It grieves me to hold over so much good material when I know that with a little more effort we can sell those few hundred extra copies that will justify the four extra pages, bringing funds to the league, and bigger, better value to every reader. Table Tennis is our own national E.T.T.A. Club magazine. Let us, each one, not rest in our effort until EVERY affiliated player is a subscriber. Do not lend your copy because it is the borrower who is letting our team effort down to a very big extent.

TO OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

YES, we are always delighted to hear from you wherever you are, and also to make any arrangements for you to receive copies singly or in bulk. LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, Editor.

Coverman ... Keith Hurlock

KEITH HURLOCK, 23-year-old manager of father's outfitting business in Croydon, has the distinction of being the only new International "cap" awarded this year. His prompt selection indicated that he has probably been on the Selectors' list for some time. He has notched world class form in brief dazzling moments, but the holding of such form to a consistently high winning level had, until his recent win in the Metropolitan Open, never been sustained. Let us hope that is an augury for Keith has both the fighting spirit and will-to-win. His record shows him taking games from Vana, Soos, Reisman, Lanskoy, etc., at their best, and he seems to do well at home or abroad.

He started playing in the A.I.C. four years ago, and was helped in his first two years by Harry Swetman. His game is one of nervous intensity, quick-fire "American" hitting and occasional drops; it could almost be an interpretation of Vana, whose game first inspired his interest. If Keith had an ambition it would probably be to reach the heights of consistency and sportsmanship he accords to Vana.

Keith loves table tennis. He always says it is one of the cleanest of sports, and the only one where snobbery is non-existent, and he loves trips to foreign tournaments even more than English. He doesn't like the "Expedite Rule," but his pet aversion is the player who albishes when he loses.
E.T.T.A. Official News from Headquarters

Important matters will be summarized here monthly. Readers are invited to send any queries for official ruling or comment to the Editor.

HELD 20TH NOVEMBER, 1950.

THE E.T.T.A. held an official Press Conference at the Royal Empire Society to give our Fleet Street friends the latest news, expectations, etc., of the English Championships.

Among the well-known sports editors, columnists and sports writers present were: Oliver Beaumont, The Times; Graham Silkirk, Sporting Record; Malcolm Cummings, Reynolds News; Stanley Doust, Daily Mail; Hylen Cleaver, Evening Standard; Roy McKelvie, The Star; Steve Roberts, Evening News; Harrison Edwards, Sports Press; Lance Tingay, Exchange Telegraph; Wynne Morgan, Press Association; Bob Downson, Associated Press of America.

The guests were received by members of the Committee, including Messrs. A. R. Vint, E. G. White, S. Kempter, G. Decker, A. Lewis, Cori Woodcock and Mrs. K. Pegg.

THE English Junior International team, under the captaincy of Mr. T. E. Sears, will leave St. Pancras at 3.55 on 20th February, 1951, travelling to Sweden by the S.S. Svecia.

The trip will be between £50 and £60. Anyone interested is invited to write to the E.T.T.A. Office.

RICHARD BERGMANN
Press Statement. It appears from a communication received from Richard Bergmann that he does not intend to apply himself of the offer for a personal hearing on his appeal against suspension.

11th December, 1950.

AN E.T.T.A. DIARY

SUGGESTIONS made by readers of Table Tennis that the E.T.T.A. publish an official diary were very carefully considered by the N.E.C. at the beginning of the season, when enquiries were made from publishers. Under all the circumstances it was considered that while the idea was excellent and would be borne in mind, it was not possible to supply a practicable proposition at the present time.

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

It is proposed that the E.T.T.A. National Coaching Scheme will be held over the week-ends of either 2nd-4th February or the 16-18th February, 1951, at Bisham Abbey, near Marlow. Jack Carrington was selected as Chief Coach and was asked to submit programme proposals. Two nominations were accepted from each county submitting nominations.

13th December, 1950.

COACHING—STOP PRESS

The Coaching Week-end will now be held at the Littleshall National Recreation Centre, near Newport, Salop, from 13th to 15th April.

19th January, 1951.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Swathling and Corbillon Nominations

The Selection Committee advise that the following players have been invited to represent England in the matches for the Swathling and Corbillon Cups in Vienna in March. Remaining selections will be made in due course:

J. Leach (Essex), A. Simons (Glos), Brian Kennedy (Yorks), Miss R. Rowe (Middx.), Miss D. Rowe (Middx.).

5th December, 1950.

The following team has been selected for England v. France at Birmingham on 27th January, 1951:

J. Leach (Essex), A. Simons (Glos), Brian Kennedy (Yorks), Miss R. Rowe (Middx.), Miss D. Rowe (Middx.).

THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held in the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 10th February, in accordance with the desire of the N.E.C. to give the Northern Counties first-hand contact with the Association.

18th December, 1950.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

APPROVED E.T.T.A. COACHES

G. V. Barna; J. Carrington; B. Caswell; A. R. Harrower; A. A. Haydon; J. Leach; S. Proffitt; T. Sears; A. W. C. Simons; K. Stanley.

APPROVED COUNTY COACHES

A. D. Brook; K. Craige; R. J. Crayden; E. J. Filby; D. Heaps; S. Rosenberg; R. L. Sharman; A. Thompson; L. Thompson; H. T. Venner.

APPROVED LOCAL COACHES:

G. Alderton; R. Allcock; Mrs. P. Allen; H. J. Anker; F. Ashforth; F. Bamford; Miss L. R. Barnes; F. B. Brumwell; R. V. Bryant; F. Cromwell; A. E. Elliott; B. G. Fretwell; G. Frischer; E. Goodman; K. Hurlock; E. Hyde; Miss M. Jones; I. Kertzman; F. B. Knott; A. R. Miller; J. W. Pickard; W. Pooler; E. J. Rumjahn; P. U. Rumjahn; T. J. Roberts; A. H. Shepherd.

APPROVED EXHIBITION PLAYERS

L. G. Adams; G. Alderton; R. Allcock; Mrs. P. Allen; G. V. Barna;

(Continued on bottom of page 3)
The Style of a Rising Champion

LINDA WERTL
16-year-old Austrian Dynamo

OUTWARDLY there is little to show that 16-year-old LINDA WERTL is one of the most dynamic little personalities in post-war table tennis. Slight slim build, pale, red-haired, it is difficult to imagine the ferocious and determined tigress which she becomes on the table, burning with intense concentration, will and nerve of a real champion.

The amazing thing is that Linda comes from a little village near Graz where she can beat everyone, men included, to a few points. She succeeded without coaching because she gave all the time and everything she had to table tennis. So are champions developed.

Those who saw it will for long remember the glorious battle of technique and courageous wills between HELEN ELLIOT and Linda in the semi-finals of this year's English Open. It was tense, magnificent, right to the last match point of its five games.

While this tremendous match was being fought, DENIS OFFER, a very well-known figure in Middlesex circles and a keen amateur photographer, was also in action with his camera and has vividly recaptured the spirit of Linda's vigorous style during the actual semi-final with Helen.

These pictures, which were taken with normal lighting, were snapped at different points of the match, but being placed in their present sequence give an excellent idea of Linda's individual style and superb concentration. Note particularly the lightning footwork, the eye on the ball, and the follow-through which is given with the full weight of the body, rear foot well poised in natural balance, somewhat reminiscent of that other great red-head, Dora Berezgi.

These are intimate studies of a great match in which every rally had the tension of a game. Note the agile, suppleness and natural body movement: EVERYTHING Linda has is concentrated solely on the winning of that particular point. In WINNING and letting style look after itself.

We are grateful indeed to DENIS OFFER for permission to use these pictures and congratulate him on their excellent impression.

"Pinkie" Barnes was Wrong!

"It's Results that count" declares JOHN McLVEEN

I WAS ASTOUNDED to read that "Pinkie" Barnes continued to attack against Trudi Pritzi because any attempt to "play out time" would be distasteful to the spectators.

What a shocking display of tactics deliberately employed by one of our finest women players! Spectators who really know, appreciate good tactics every bit as much as a display of hitting, especially when the latter is destined to lose points.

This is just one more instance of our general attitude that "the game's the thing, old boy." Play fairly, but don't hand your opponent the game on a plate. Table tennis regulations were framed to keep the game interesting and fair for all (including spectators), and as long as the rules are adhered to, I fail to see how one could be called unsporting. Does Miss Barnes think that the spectators castigated Miss Pritzi for her refusal to be shaken from her usual defensive style after losing the first two games?

If Miss Barnes had attempted to "chisel" when leading 11-6 in the third game, I'm sure Miss Pritzi would not have been content to let the game slip away from her.

Surely one plays games from the pleasure they afford, and what pleasure can there be in throwing a game away when it is in one's grasp.

If all our up and coming sports men and women have the same attitude of mind to their sports, then it's going to be a long while before we add to our meagre stock of world titles. We may still be "The World’s Champion Losers," but that's not good enough.

IT'S RESULTS THAT COUNT.

APPROVED EXHIBITION PLAYERS—continued from page 2.

Miss L. R. Barnes; A. D. Brook; F. B. Brumwell; R. V. Bryant; J. Carrington; B. Casovsky; K. Craigie; R. J. Crayden; E. J. Filby; B. G. Fretwell; Miss M. G. Fry; E. Goodman; R. E. Griffin; G. R. Harrower; A. A. Raydon; D. Heaps; K. Hurlock; Miss M. Jones; H. Kennedy; M. Kriss; J. Leach; E. Marsh; W. McCave; A. R. Miller; Mrs. J. Miller (Roberts); W. Poole; S. Profitt; Miss D. Rowe; Miss R. Rowe; E. J. Rumjahn; P. U. Rumjahn; T. E. Sears; R. Sharman; A. W. C. Simons; K. Stanley; Mrs. V. Thomas; A. Thompson; Leo Thompson; H. T. Venner.
Overheard in the dressing room, and from an official of local prominence:

"I was leading him twice in the second game and then he sent two dirty ones. I nearly protested."

"You should have caught the ball." "Caught it? I never even saw it!"

From S. E. Francis, Derby.

* * *

ITZ THE NAME!

Some Editor won’t achieve fame if he makes a mistake (twice the same).

Though phonetically right, The spelling’s not quite—It’s not SteinEzz, but SteinItz is the name!

* * *

PAUL HOLT, famous columnist, brilliant war correspondent—Atlantic crossing on an American cargo ship (1939).

NOW there are three distinctly different movements a ship can make. If you have a head wind and a head sea, it’s just chop, chop, chop, all the way. And if you have a cross wind and a head sea, it’s corkscrewing you’ll be doing.

But if you have a cross wind with a following sea, the ship will behave like a drunken duchess being butted into the ballroom by a goat. I distinctly felt the goat.

It was just about the hour when the full effect of this peculiar method of progress was being borne in on me, that a wild and wiry little man accosted me on the top deck and insisted I went below to play him at ‘ping-pong.” He was wearing striped white trousers or gym shoes and had on his head a cloth check cap of the kind Harry Tate used to wear professionally.

The ship was now drawing out her innards and leaving them behind in her wake once every fifteen seconds.

It was extraordinary. My opponent would bounce the ball on the table and make a stroke at it with his bat but the ball would stay still in the air for quite a second and then, when his bat had finished its delightfully graceful arc, the ball would begin, of its own volition, to progress across the net in my direction, bounce once in a lazy way, rise towards my bat and pass straight through it. I was glad to lie down after that.

UNCLASSIFIABLE ADS

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE. Almost new Backhand Flick, slightly rusty, only used week-ends. Or would swap for reliable Drop Shot. Box 99A.

SLOW TOPSPIN, any length. 5d. a roll. No clothing coupons. The well-known DENMILLA brand.

UMPIRE’S ELIXIR, the Salve to Solve. Merely apply to Neck and Ears and avoid that nasty Friction Burn. Obtainable in all good County Stores.

THE “INFAMOUS” BALL HOLDER used by many experienced tournament players. Detachable pocket, easily fitted to skirt or trousers. In sizes to hold 1, 3 or 6 balls; in all shades to match dress. References required. Shady Mfg. Co., Ltd., Morden.

CHISELLER, Rack and Thumb screw wanted urgently. Write, deliver or drop. Headmistress, St. Trinian’s.

EX-ARMY TANKS, Suit selectors. Radar equipment slightly extra. Permutation system, surplus W.D. requirements. Left-handed bats and left-handed balls for left-handed players. War Disposal, Ltd.

* * *

Obstinate Artistry

"He’s a jolly good ‘Retriever’!"

N.U.’S BREVITIES FROM THE U.S.A.

THE U.S.T.T.A. are very hopeful of competing in the world’s at Vienna in March and are raising a Fighting Fund to do purpose with a target of $1,150 dollars . . . Much will depend on whether the Special Services of the U.S. Army can cooperate (as last year) in return for exhibition services in Europe . . . CHUCK MEDICK, famous blind umpire, was involved in a car accident; suffered broken wrist and severe lacerations . . . JOHN VARGA has just got a new M.G. sports car: they say he needs a shoe-horn to get into it . . . ADOLF HERSKOVIC, ex-Yugoslav international, has come to strengthen New York’s T.T. talent . . . PEGGY McLEAN is now teaching at school, and GORDON BARCLAY hopes to pass for Indiana University shortly.

ROUNDABOUT

News Briefs from Everywhere

Mr. W. G. (Bill) GOLDFINCH, N.E.C., and stalwart lieutenant of Kent County and Mr. Mannoch, has recently taken up a new appointment in Lincolnshire . . . He has worked hard for Kent in the past seven years in many spheres, not least in the capability of the Kent teams, and has achieved a popularity that will make him missed, and, we suspect, make him feel the miss also.

Liverpool League are making a first-rate job of their monthly printed Digest, which deals only with their own league affairs. We believe they do well with Table Tennis in Liverpool, too. Good folks, these Liverpool pudders.

DEREK BARLEY, captain of the 1950 English Junior Soccer team, recently made his successful table tennis debut for Bucks County . . . Dr. K. Eckhardt, President of the united Germany Table Tennis Association, tells us that there are nearly 300,000 registered players and some 3,200-odd clubs, 130,000 in the East Zone and 160,000-odd in the West . . . Essex’s young administrative team are doing a grand job with increasing success. ROY CRITCH brings quite a fresh touch to the local Bulletin . . . Bedfordshire are making an ambitious start to their first Open, a one-day affair, with 22 tables, scheduled play, etc . . . LEONARD CARTER has been appointed Chairman of Cheltenham Association in succession to Dennis Thompson . . . YORKSHIRE are going up and forward. With the largest and most difficult territorial areas in the country, they not only run three N.C.C. teams, but have organised an elaborate and determined county coaching scheme, operated in six centres, and which is already bearing fruit. Their great social event, dance, cabaret, and table tennis with Victor Barna and Jack Carrington, and some novel ideas of Mrs. Arranka Forrest, will be in our next issue . . . FRED TILBROOK, Cambs League Secretary, has every reason to be pleased with the outstanding success of his junior proteges, Pam Banks and Pat Inglis, and feels that all that summer coaching was well worth while.

STOP PRESS

We are pleased to hear that the United States will definitely participate in the 1951 World Championships at Vienna, and will be represented by Jimmy McClure (Captain), Doug Carland, John Sommeil, Tibor Hazi, Leah (Thor) Neuberger, Peggy Ichkoff, Betty McInl, Reserves: Martin Reisman, Ruth Christ. Bill Gunn will accompany the team.

Neither of the current U.S. No. 1’s, Bill Holzrichter and Reba Monness were available for selection purposes.

Page Five
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
by GEOFF. HARROWER

With one month to go, only three of the nine divisions have named their eight counties for the first time, and to them I extend hearty congratulations. I refer to Kent (Junior South), Bedfordshire (Home Counties) and Surrey (Southern).

The victory of Kent is all the more pleasant when one looks back through the records of the performances of their senior side. Kent were one of the first counties to realise the importance of fostering their junior talent, and last season they assembled a very young side, the great majority of whom were still juniors this season. Led by two junior Internationals in Brocklebank and Eagles, nevertheless the strength of the side, in my opinion, lies in their No. 3 boy, Danton, who has yet to be defeated and who is like a tiger for every point.

Bedfordshire have a fine all-round side who intend to make a strong bid for a place in the Premier Division next year. With four of five other counties all anxious to make an equally strong effort to gain a place in the Premier section, interest in the Championships should be maintained during April.

In the other divisions competition is still close in several. Once more the Premier Division will not be decided until the final match. Middlesex, after drawing with Surrey in an extremely good match, and then their big win decided, although in several others all imagination is needed to forecast the eventual winners! Essex). At the other end of the scale, it is pleasant once more to comment on the improvement shown by two counties who seem destined to fill the bottom places in their respective divisions. Although Berkshire and Cumberland are still without wins, nevertheless their games average shows a substantial improvement on previous seasons. Indeed, Berkshire ran Bedfordshire 4-6 recently, and their No. 1, P. Morecroft, put up the performance of the month by defeating that formidable pair, Randall and Ironmonger, to them I extend hearty congratulations.

East Anglian Division
Cambridgeshire, Suffolk

SCARBOROUGH

EASTER SATURDAY AND MONDAY,
24th and 26th March, 1951
NORTH-EST OF ENGLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Approved by E.T.T.A. and Y.T.T.A.)
To be held at
BURNISTON ROAD BARRACK, SCARBOROUGH

Easter Saturday and Sunday,
ON SALE AT
Page Six
Playing Tip of the Month

by JACK CARRINGTON

THIS month we have a little story about Angles—a story which nearly every young player has to be told.

And I am going to suggest that this story will come alive much more easily if you yourself will draw the diagrams instead of just looking at the ones I have drawn.

So we start with a skeleton diagram with a number of points marked on it; you carry on with a pencil and complete the diagrams according to the text.

When JIMMY JUNIOR is trying out his shiny new forehand drive, he often finds that it works better from his backhand corner than from A-C, well and good. (Pencil this in faintly.) But sometimes he can only manage a moderate ball in mid-court, down a line something like A-E. (Draw this in firmly, with arrow towards E.) The reply to this type of drive mostly comes back along the same line.

If JIMMY can swing a sudden drive down the tramline A-C, well and good. (Pencil in faintly.) But if JIMMY JUNIOR is trying out the drive at E, the ball has dropped below table level.

Anyway, first we see JIMMY JUNIOR driving happily from the backhand corner. A ball which JIMMY JUNIOR drives down the tramline A-C, well and good. (Pencil in faintly.) But if JIMMY JUNIOR is trying out the drive at E, the ball has dropped below table level.

Now my analysis books show that after a push-block of the type E-F, a drive from point F ends with a lost point four times out of five.

The pitfalls are:

1. By the time JIMMY JUNIOR recovers from his heels at point A and reaches F, the ball has dropped below table level.
2. Even if Jimmy is exceptionally fast, he is setting himself a stern task. Just look at the angle between his running direction and his attempted drive. (You can draw it for yourself: A--arrow--F--arrow back towards E.) It's not everyone's cup of tea, Jimmy, is it?
3. This is the most deadly of all. A ball which JIMMY JUNIOR does succeed in driving fast must almost inevitably go back towards the same point E. (Pencil it in.)

There, SAMMY SENIOR is waiting coolly, to half-volley the ball out again to point G. (Draw the line F-G.)

So JIMMY, by his own insistence on speed, now has to go into reverse to cover the whole distance of F-G, which really does spell T-R-O-U-B-L-E.

Of course, JIMMY will sometimes get that flashing cross-court drive in. But it is SAMMY who smiles; experience tells him that 4 to 1 is good odds.

The solution to JIMMY’S dilemma after the block-shot E-F is . . . Hey, wait a minute! YOU have been drawing these lines in. How about telling us YOUR solutions?

The sender of the most helpful answer will receive a year’s free subscription to Table Tennis.

Address solutions to “JIMMY JUNIOR,” c/o Jack Carrington, 272, Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, to arrive not later than 16 Feb, 1951.

The Diagram Blank

The sender of the most helpful answer will receive a year’s free subscription to Table Tennis.

Address solutions to “JIMMY JUNIOR,” c/o Jack Carrington, 272, Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, to arrive not later than 16 Feb, 1951.

Personalities

NEW CORBILLON STAR

MISS JOYCE ROBERTS
(England and Middlesex)

Hard-hitting fighter JOYCE ROBERTS (Mrs. A. R. Miller if you prefer) is one of the most popular players in the game as well as one of the most formidable opponents for high honours. In fact, two internationals confide that she is the best bet for this year’s Corbillon team!

Joyce first became interested in table tennis when she saw Sebastek, Berger, Cyril Merritt and Kris in an exciting war-time final, and started playing during her service in the W.A.A.F., where she showed enough promise to represent them in the company of Betty Blackbourn.

Table tennis became a more “serious” sport for her in 1947, and when Joyce does that, she goes in to win. Her attitude is never never to give up until the other person has won, which explains something of her titles and her “caps.” As well as being a good swimmer, she is also a keen player of the Royal and Ancient.

With a charming chuckle she declares that her ambition is to perfect a reliable net cord drive. She dislikes those “stars” who trade on their names to arrive later than they should, etc. Things about table tennis which she loves include a certain prominent Surrey player and others who helped her when she started. While Joyce plays for Middlesex, husband Tony plays for Surrey, and they do not think that husband and wife should necessarily be doubles partners . . . in table tennis, anyway.

POSTSCRIPT
Our congratulations to Joyce on her selection to England’s Corbillon Team.
Cover Note

The keen table tennis guard his bat as soldier his rifle, and a bat-cover is a valuable life-preserver for the precious rubber facings.

But the covers can become more precious than the contents when they acquire such souvenir value as this specimen.

The young man who owns the home-made cover has embroidered over the original autograph of the star. His "bat" on this side alone includes four World Champions and eight internationals.

Talking of bat-covers, I am reminded of seeing Bo Vana, that great little man, cherishing his world champion’s weapon inside a crudely cut cover of household carpet. Wishing such a famous bat to have a worthy cover I presented the Czech star with one of these best English-made models. He was really grateful but his English was perhaps just slightly wide of the mark.

"Jack," said Bo, "I will revenge you for this; yes I will, indeed!"

Jack Carrington.

Tables for 8-year-olds?

by Major Joaquim Libano
(S. Paulo, Brazil)

We know that with a standard table the average youngster of about eight years of age finds some difficulty in returning the ball, due to the size of those tables in comparison with his (or her) own size. I think, however, that it would be most interesting and instructive, as well as a lot of fun, if children from six to eleven years could play on tables of reduced dimensions.

It was interested, therefore, when Mr. Djalma de Vincenzi, of the Federacao Metropolitana de Tenis de Mesa, Rio de Janeiro, recently told me that the Hon. IVOR MONTAGU had arrangements with him for studying the best sizes for a junior table. If it would be possible to furnish kindergartens and junior school playgrounds with smaller tables it should be of the greatest benefit to the game, and bring knowledge and enthusiasm to the youngsters. Tables for outdoor playgrounds could be of rain-proof material, such as cement or plastic material.

I suggest that the following dimensions would be suitable:

Length: 90 inches.
Width: 50 inches.
Height: 25 inches.
Height (net): 5 inches.

These sizes were obtained by reducing the standard length by 18 inches and the other dimensions proportionately. The proposed scale is therefore 10 inches to the foot.

F. H. Ayres, Ltd.
(In Liquidation)

Notification was made by the Joint Liquidators on 2nd January, 1951, that a first and final dividend is intended to be declared, and that any claims made after 18th January, 1951, are liable to be expunged.

Official Ranking Lists

M-Men, W-Women.

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U.S.A. National Rankings

1949-50

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Cover Note

The keen table tennis guard his bat as soldier his rifle, and a bat-cover is a valuable life-preserver for the precious rubber facings.

But the covers can become more precious than the contents when they acquire such souvenir value as this specimen.

The young man who owns the home-made cover has embroidered over the original autograph of the star. His "bat" on this side alone includes four World Champions and eight internationals.

Talking of bat-covers, I am reminded of seeing Bo Vana, that great little man, cherishing his world champion's weapon inside a crudely cut cover of household carpet. Wishing such a famous bat to have a worthy cover I presented the Czech star with one of these best English-made models. He was really grateful but his English was perhaps just slightly wide of the mark.

"Jack," said Bo, "I will revenge you for this; yes I will, indeed!"

Jack Carrington.

Tables for 8-year-olds?

by Major Joaquim Libano
(S. Paulo, Brazil)

We know that with a standard table the average youngster of about eight years of age finds some difficulty in returning the ball, due to the size of those tables in comparison with his (or her) own size. I think, however, that it would be most interesting and instructive, as well as a lot of fun, if children from six to eleven years could play on tables of reduced dimensions.

It was interested, therefore, when Mr. Djalma de Vincenzi, of the Federacao Metropolitana de Tenis de Mesa, Rio de Janeiro, recently told me that the Hon. IVOR MONTAGU had arrangements with him for studying the best sizes for a junior table. If it would be possible to furnish kindergartens and junior school playgrounds with smaller tables it should be of the greatest benefit to the game, and bring knowledge and enthusiasm to the youngsters. Tables for outdoor playgrounds could be of rain-proof material, such as cement or plastic material.

I suggest that the following dimensions would be suitable:

Length: 90 inches.
Width: 50 inches.
Height: 25 inches.
Height (net): 5 inches.

These sizes were obtained by reducing the standard length by 18 inches and the other dimensions proportionately. The proposed scale is therefore 10 inches to the foot.

F. H. Ayres, Ltd.
(In Liquidation)

Notification was made by the Joint Liquidators on 2nd January, 1951, that a first and final dividend is intended to be declared, and that any claims made after 18th January, 1951, are liable to be expunged.

Official Ranking Lists

M-Men, W-Women.

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The French boys Juge and Sala beat the Austrian Pilz and Schindler 3-2.
I AM AFRAID I may have a little trouble with this article, because, to begin with, I cannot agree with the question in the form in which it has been put to me:

"Our best English players (particularly the ladies), however successful they are at home, appear to fail before what is sometimes called the 'continental' style of play, or under continental conditions. Why is this, and how can they overcome it?"

For many years, when English table tennis was not at its best, this sort of outcry was commonplace amongst the critics: especially those who didn't know much or take the trouble to understand. They kept on prophesying English victories, and when their forecasts came unstuck, they blamed the players and accused them of having an inferiority complex, and what not!

Let's face the facts and have a look at some of the players we have had in the last 25 years. Fred Perry, Charlie Bull, Adrian Haydon—all of the same "school"—were never afraid of continental positions, and always gave as good as they got.

The World-champion Hungarian team, Mechlovitz, Dr. Pecsi, Dr. Jacoby, had the fright and the surprise of their lives when they were beaten in Stockholm in 1928 by the young English team, and only Fred Perry's injury (he twisted his ankle) stopped England from winning the Swaythling Cup that year.

After the retirement of Perry and Bull, came David Jones, Stanley Proffitt, and Tommy Sears; and later on, Ken Hyde, Maurice Bergl, Lurie, Filby, Bubley, Casovsky, to mention just a few. Looking back now, how can one really compare these players with such famous, brilliant continentalists as Szabados, Bellak, David, Hazi, Kelen, Glancz, Kolar, Lauterbach, Liebster, Bergmann, Vana, Tereba, Hamr? It makes a terrifying list, doesn't it?

I don't want to disparage our internationals in the slightest. They were splendid players, every one of them, with lots of courage. But we must admit that they were outclassed, and to talk about "inferiority" or other complexes, is nonsense.

Since the war, England has produced some new players, among them, Johnny Leach, an English player will not crumble up when facing a continental. Aubrey Simons' victory over Vana, Kennedy's over Hagenauer, Jackie Head's over Amouretti—in big events and not in exhibitions—all these illustrate my point that one of our own continentalists can be, and often is, every bit as good as the European experts.

The same applies to the girls. Margaret Osborne and Wendy Woodhead were first-class players, though, unfortunately, just a little short of World standard: but Elisabeth Blackbourn and Vera Thomas showed what could be done when, in Paris in 1947, they won the Corbillon Cup without losing a single match, not even a set, although the opposition included all the crack continentalists, world-champion Gizi Farkas among them.

Now that I have got that off my chest, let me say that there is one thing which often proves a handicap to our players when they are up against continental opponents.

Playing conditions in England are far better than on the Continent, and that is why, when our players are touring abroad, the inexperienced ones, particularly, cannot produce their best form. On the other hand, our guests from the continent, almost without exception, play far better in this country than they normally do at home. I used to experience the same thing myself. I always felt I played at my very best in England.

Of course, this is a situation which is not easy to alter. We are justifiably proud of our own playing conditions: and WE cannot change THEIRS. The only thing I can advise is not to be afraid to PRACTISE when playing conditions are bad...

It has its good points!
OPEN TOURNAMENT FINALS RESULTS

SOUTH OF ENGLAND OPEN
Croydon, 19th November
M.S. J. LEACH beat H. Venner 10, 13, 17.
W.S. J. MACKAY beat J. Roberts 8, 15.
W.D. M. FRANKS/V. THOMAS beat D. Rowell and A. Simons 9, 10, 12, 17.
G.S. Y. BAKER beat D. Spooner 15, 16.

WALES OPEN
Cardiff, 9th December
M.S. J. LEACH beat A. Simons 13, 15, 10.
W.S. P. ROWE beat D. Rowell 17, 15.
M.D. J. LEACH/A. SIMONS beat G. Barnes/H. Rowell 12, 17.
W.D. M. FRANKS/G. ROLLAND beat A. Bates/J. Stevenson 15, 12, 18.
B.S. K. FITZPATTERN beat W. Nixey 17, 29.
G.S. D. SPOONER beat S. Jones 7, 12.

BOURNEMOUTH OPEN
Bournemouth, 9th December
M.S. J. HEAD beat H. Venner 9, 9, 17.
W.S. J. COLLIER beat R. Mead 19, 12.
B.S. B. JAMES beat D. House 19, 17.

CENTRAL LONDON OPEN
Kentish Town, 16th December
M.S. J. LEACH beat A. Simons 19, 19, 13, 10, 11.
W.S. D. ROWE beat R. Rowell 12, 11.
M.D. LEACH/SIMONS beat L. Adams/H. Venner 12, 16.
X.D. J. LEACH/M. FRANKS beat D. Miller/J. Roberts 15, 16.
B.S. S. BROCKLEBANK beat H. Joyce 18, 15.
G.S. D. SPOONER beat Y. Baker 13, 14.

METROPOLITAN OPEN
Polytechnic, 6th January
M.S. K. HURLOCK beat L. Thompson 15, 19.
W.S. J. ROBERTS beat B. D. Irish 18, 14.
X.D. R. MACKAY/M. JAYAKAY beat J. Head/H. Spooner 20, 19, 16.
B.S. J. A. HUNT beat D. Eagles 17, 20.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE OPEN
Sheffield, 13th January
M.S. R. BAKER beat P. Serratt 17, 13.
W.D. M. LIGHTFOOT/D. MUNNINGS beat B. Cough/M. Hall 19, 14.
B.S. G. PULLAR beat A. Hartley 15, 16.

BATH OPEN
M.S. W. C. DAWES beat D. House 14, 7, 14.
W.S. M. PHY beat A. Bates 15, 15.

LANCASHIRE OPEN
Manchester, 20th November
M.S. J. LEACH beat A. Simons 25, 16, 15.
W.S. A. WOOD beat C. Best -17, 22, 14.
W.D. A. WOOD/V. TAYLOR beat D. Johnson 13, 17.
B.S. G. PULLAR beat R. Poyton 11, 15.
V.S. J. HOLMES beat F. Cromwell -20, 19, 10.

SOUTHAMPTON OPEN
21st January
M.S. H. VENNER beat A. Miller 9, 19.
M.D. L. ADAMS/M. VENNER beat R. Cramond/A. Miller 17, 12.
B.S. S. BROCKLEBANK beat D. House 14, -12, 15.

SOUTH LONDON OPEN
West Norwood, 27th January
M.S. J. LEACH beat H. Venner 19, 10, 10, 14.
W.S. M. FRANKS/M. VENNER beat R. Cramond/J. Venner -17, 22, 17.
W.D. M. FYL/L. BARNES beat J. Roberts/P. George 18, 15.
X.D. J. LEACH/M. FRANKS vs. R. Cramond/J. Benetud 16, 19.
B.S. H. JOYCE beat R. Stevings 17, 15.
G.S. Y. BAKER beat D. Spooner 14, 18.

KENT OPEN
Herne Bay, 28th January
M.S. H. VENNER beat D. Burridge 14, -19, 20, 18, 19.
W.S. Y. BROOKMAN vs. P. George 14, 17, 16.

GOOD TABLE TENNIS TABLE FOR SALE
5/8TH TOP-EXCELLENT CONDITION
ONLY £10.
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Tilbury 3008. (Adv.)

MANCHESTER CLOSED

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Adwick, Manchester, 6th January, 1951
W.S. A. Wood bt. E. Grimstone 8, 12.

In the men's singles final Cezakovsky and Stanley were seen at their best and the match was worthy of Open Championship status. Stanley tried hard to stem the Cezakovsky hurricane, but he might as well have attempted to dam the River Elbe.

In the ladies' singles event Adele could not have played better for some time, and she appears to be recovering from the injury that took her to Stockholm two years ago. I don't think any player in England could have stood up to her in this competition, and she pleased the critics by producing a powerful attack from up her sleeve.

HULL OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIPS

11th November, 1950

British Triumphs in the FRANCE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Paris
M.D. H. Beolet/M. Haguenauer bt. A. Ehrlich 18, 17, 17;

FRANCE v. WALES 5-0
at Cardiff.
M.S. B. Leach/M. Haguenauer bt. D. Rowell 20, 18, 18; J. Leach/M. Haguenauer 15, 16, 18, 18.

Page Ten
3,000 Miles of Coaching in Scandinavia

SEVERAL correspondents have asked me “What about that Scandinavian summer tour of yours; why no report or stories?” It’s simply that printing difficulties and space shortage conspired to cut out many interesting items from our earlier issues.

A brief summary:
Under the auspices of the respective national Associations, I was the “headmaster” at two Summer Schools in Denmark, two in Sweden, and one in Finland. About 30 students attended each.

IN DENMARK, the first camp, mainly for minors, was at Helsingors (Elsine) or “Hamlet” fame), and the second at Glamsbjerg, on the island of Fyn. Here we had the senior players and I was assisted by members of the national team.

The first Swedish course, for promising under-20’s was held in the island of Gotland, in the Baltic between Sweden and Russia. Yvonne Baker of Essex, on holiday in Stockholm, was invited to the opening tournament by the Swedish TTA, and duly obliged by winning the Junior Girls’ Singles.

The second Swedish course took place in their beautiful National Sports College at Bosan, on the fjords near Stockholm. This was something quite different—here 46 county officials had an administration course, at the same time as I took the course for 20 potential county coaches.

Some of the sessions were mutual, so that would-be coaches got an idea of the organisers’ problems, and the organisers could see the lines we were working on for coaching.

In FINLAND we had the best 30 players, only two or three of whom were over 19 years old! Play took place in Helsinki, in one of those indoor tennis courts which abound in these countries of severe winter and ample supplies of timber.

This was a strenuous week for us, because the young Finns were strong and keen, and the language problem was tough.

ALTOGETHER we spent eight weeks and travelled 3,000 miles, and if, as we hope, we passed on a certain amount of table tennis wisdom, we drew wisdom in return from the long-established culture and friendly life of the Northern lands.

We? Yes, Mrs. Carrington accompanied me and worked so hard with the girl pupils that she received a special presentation in her own right, in each country.

You can guess that any one of these ventures would need a full magazine to do it justice. Over-shadowing everything, however, is the impression of the heart-warming hospitality and courtesy of the Scandinavian officials, who openly expressed their admiration for the way the English game has grown up, and who even then were eagerly planning a royal reception for the English juniors.

by

Jack Carrington

During two months of the summer of 1950, Jack Carrington was appointed as the Official National Coach-in-Chief to the Associations of Sweden, Denmark and Finland, from which he returned with the highest credits.

The official Swedish magazine, Svensk Bordtennis, indeed, not only gave extensive reports of his activities, etc., fully illustrated, but also gave him the rare honour of their front page. This was an attractive picture of Jack and Elsie waving goodbye from the ship. We had hoped to reproduce this cover, but unfortunately could not obtain a satisfactory impression.

Elsie Carrington, premier division player, certainly made an excellent impression in Scandinavia, and gets her quota of mentions and pictures.

The official appointment by a major national association of an English coach is a fine tribute to the English game, and another feather in the cap of our T.T. Ambassador.

Page Eleven
Selections from Readers' Letters

Action Please

"JUST to put a little life into Table Tennis, why not include some action photos in every issue of the magazine? Photos of Barnia, Bergmann, Leach, Reisman, Helen Elliot, Rowe Twins, Simons, etc., etc."

KEN KEEN, R.A.F., Norfolk.

Welcome the Kiwis

While in New Zealand recently I met many attractive players... Christchurch League were excellent, and I'm sure England will want to do all they can to help the three Kiwis now over here especially to get all the match experience they can. The clubs here are crowded... They recently met Ken Stanley and other Northerners, and I was wondering about a stay with the Manchester League and the Carrington School... They are a very fine type of sportsman, and want to enter all the competitions they can."

E. JAMESON, Croydon.

They're doing fine, Mr. Jameson

English Open Finals Too Long?

"I THOUGHT the finals, from 7 to 11.30 p.m., made too long a sitting. This view is shared by other people I have talked to, and it would be interesting to know what the general feeling is. It is not easy to leave earlier when one is a member of a coach party, and anyway - in my opinion - the doubles matches were first-class, and I should not like to miss any."

I would suggest for the consideration of the E.T.T.A. therefore, that semi-finals are played on Finals Night."

GEOFF PACEY, Bedford.

Any Opinions?

From DORA BEREGI

in Australia

"... We are staying here for about six weeks, and then moving into our new house. Now, as promised, to let you know of my T.T. activities. A few weeks ago I won the Sydney Open and Mixed Doubles. Last week I travelled to Queensland to play in the Australian Championships, winning the Ladies' Singles and Doubles and also the Mixed, beating Szabados and partner in the latter.

In the Inter-State Team Championships we had a grand fight, and we of New South Wales won the ladies' title. This makes me very happy as I was asked to captain the ladies' team. The whole championship was splendid and very well organised, with about 2,000 people for the finals."

Next week I shall open a T.T. Club with six tables, in partnership with a very nice Australian fellow. I do hope that it will be a success, and do as much as possible for the game... The standard has already improved and I shall work very hard to develop a ladies' team by 1951..."

News arrived shortly after this that "The Beregi Table Tennis College" had been opened, was immensely popular, and doing very well. In December, Dora writes: "At the present table tennis is very quiet here because of the terrific heat. I have been on a country tour with my partner, Phil Anderson, and have had a grand welcome everywhere. Phil is a lovely player. I am sure if he had a year's experience in England he would be the tops... Next March I am running a big tournament in conjunction with the Association... If Johnny Leach comes out next year ladies' title, I'm sure of a great welcome wherever he goes... I was sorry that young Ken Kennedy couldn't quite..."

"Tell the girls for me, TO GO TO IT and WIN that coveted Corbillon Cup."

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Money back Guarantee

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All Goods
Carriage Paid.

TOMS
18, NORBETT RD., Arnold - Notts.
TRAVELLERS' TEST

As announced in the December issue of T.T.M, it is the turn of our juniors to visit Sweden this year.

The task of selecting the three lucky lads to travel was not an easy one, and to simplify matters Junior Trials were held in London on Sunday, January 7th.

As a result of these trials the tourists will be selected from the following five boys: CLIFFORD BOOTH (Bolton), JOHN HUNT (Hertford), JEFFREY INGBER (Manchester), MALCOLM MACKLEY (Hull) and GEOFFREY PULLAR (Oldham).

At the trials I was particularly struck by the neat appearance of all the players seen at the Metropolitan Open tournament on the same hall during the preceding week.

Also noticeable was the absence of temperaments; one or two inaudible mutterings, perhaps, but that was all. And another thing ... they weren't bad players either!

Last year the northern contingent suffered complete eclipse by the Southerners. This year the wheel of fate turned and only John Hunt kept the Southern flag flying.

Better things were expected of Ken's STAN BROCKLEBANK, but he never found his best form. Similarly with GEOFF PULLAR; his superior playing record made him my favourite for No. 1 position, but he was still recovering from the effects of a bout of flu and never really settled down, losing to Inger, Booth and Hunt.

Outside the Big Five the best performance was by, BRYAN MERRIETT, of Gloucester. He seemed a somewhat temperamental proposition than some of those ranked above him.

If Sweden is not to be for Bryan I should certainly like to see him given a place in the team to play the Welsh Juniors in March.

As we go to press we learn that the three boys selected for Sweden are Booth, Inger and Hunt. Heartiest congratulations to all three. It is a great honour which none of them will fail to appreciate. I know them all personally, and can happily say that no more pleasant trio could be sent abroad to represent English T-A's.

Bon Voyage ... and the best of luck!

PETER MADGE.

FAIR'S FAIR

My "open letter" to tournament organisers drew a number of comments from readers. Among them Michael Wood, of Finchley, writes: "If these rules are to be applied they should be for everyone; I have often been told that ordinary players are asked to stop knocking-up whilst two well-known players carry on as long as they wish."

I have spoken to a few of those players, but it seems that the reason is that the Northern players are barred from wearing a pair of biscuit-coloured shorts following a "sour grapes" complaint. Yet on the finals night three female internationals appeared in the lightest of light blue shirts. Fine hearts didn't change fair ladies!

JOHN HUNT (left)
New English Junior International who is also the youngst League ETTA representative. His enthusiasm started the organisation of the Bishops Stortford League.

HUNT IN PINK

January 6-7th was gala weekend for John Hunt. On the Saturday night he won the Junior Singles of the Metropolitan Open, beating David Eagles in the final, and on Sunday morning he battled his way through to the final stages of the Junior Trials. He now stands more than a good chance of being selected to go to Sweden.

TRIAL AND ERROR?

In view of his omission from the team to tour Sweden Geoff Pullar will have genuine cause for complaint against the One-Day trials system. In recent months he has registered victories over all the nominated players and was considerably below form on the day of the Trials.

The Junior "Caps" for Sweden

John Hunt, aged 17, has been playing for a year and is one of Jack Carrington's "discoveries." His furiously in style remniscent of Harry Venner, he does have a defence but seems to use it. It's hit or bust for John! Pot hate is strictly bankers, I think good losers.

He has a nice sense of humour and recounts his most amusing experience like this: "I was playing in a league match against a big hitter when he put over a high drop-shot to kill it stone dead but got my foot tangled in the table leg and in a flash the whole issue had collapsed with me on top. When the noise and dust had subsided and I had picked myself up the umpire smiled benignly at me and said, "Do you want a let for that?"

Cliff Booth, 15-year-old Bolton schoolboy, has been playing for about two years and first attracted notice when he reached the final of the Daily Mirror junior singles last year.

Although a defender by inclination, he employs a very efficient two-wing attack -- says he gets his biggest kick from killing a ball straight down his opponent's backhand tramline -- don't we all? Unlike most young players, cliff does not banker after a Reisman hit, he would prefer to have the ball punted and vicious chop of Guy Amouretti. Himself a model of calm concentration, one of his pet dislikes is reserved for temperamental players. He plays football for Bolton Juniors but his real interest lies with table tennis -- fortunately.

Jeffrey Inger was the discovery of the trials; like Cliff Booth, he is 15, has been playing for two years and has two more seasons in the junior ranks. Jeffrey is a "hypodermic" type: he plays in short, sharp jabs, mostly using a cross-table hit backed up by a flourishing backhand drive which is obviously a leaf from the book of his coach, Benny Cashady.

He reckons his best performance was against Michel Hagnauer of the last Merseyside Open; although he lost 17 and 16, an independent observer tells me that the old war-horse was far from "going easy." Jeffrey plays tennis, too -- but not over much as he finds that it interferes with the better game.
SPOTLIGHT ON EAST ANGLIA
Lowestoft and Suffolk combine with Norfolk and
The "Daily Mirror" T.T. Training Camp

The following notes have been extracted from the Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Daily Mirror T.T. Training Camp organised for the successful semi-finalists of the Daily Mirror National Tournament, 1950, which was held in the lounge of the Parkfield Hall Holiday Camp, Lowestoft, on 16th September, 1950. Principals concerned:

Jack Carrington, Instructor-in-Chief;
Aubrey Simons, Ken Stanley, Deputy Instructors;
Adrian Haydon, Johnny Leach, Instructors;
A. K. Vint, Administration/Organisa-
tion.

After a reasonably light-hearted start, Jack Carrington got down to business. He proposed to act as a kind of doctor-cum-sergeant-major, and Ken and Aubrey would be his assistants. They would hold inquests and post-mortems... the sergeant-major stuff would, of course, be introduced for their own good. During the morning sessions the "doctors" would break down games, analyse, comment and assist. In the afternoons there would be match play to get everyone into fighting trim. The evenings would be left free, but there were such attractions as the exhibition in Lowestoft on Thursday, the Carnival Dance on Friday, etc. Jack stressed particularly that trainees should not miss any small chance of studying each other's play, criticising and thrashing out doubtful points, etc.

The Spotlight

On Thursday evening, 21st September, no less than 13 players from the Training Camp took part in an exhibition in Lowestoft arranged by the Suffolk County TTA and the Lowestoft League. For some of the young trainees this was their first exhibition appearance; the public setting, and the mixing with the international stars, was regarded as a necessary part of their grooming for further progress.

On Friday evening, 22nd September, a party from Suffolk and Norfolk TTA's joined the Camp party in a Table Tennis quiz, followed by a dance. The "Daily Mirror" team consisted of Ken Stanley, Len Adams, Barbara Millbank (Essex), Alex Morton (Scottish TTA), Johnny Leach and Mr. Jim Lowe, senior (father of the English Junior Champion).

This team defeated Suffolk, led by county secretary ARTHUR DUR- RANT, but general opinion was that the luck of the draw had much to do with the result!

Question Master was Jack Carrington while Godfrey Decker acted as recorder and general consultant on historical items.

Suffolk took their revenge in the "Ice Hockey" match played afterwards in the ballroom, although the "Mirror" party claimed a replay on the grounds that the decisive goal was scored by Andree Jones, of Wallasey, who was only "on loan" to the visitors!

East Anglia is the "Tops"

Someone once angered the officials by referring to East Anglia as "England's Table Tennis Blackspot," and ever since facts have shown the error. All visitors return with tales of warm hospitality, great enthusiasm, good sportsmanship, and keen organisation. Lowestoft has, indeed, for long had the highest of reputations, and closer acquaintance shows the same fine spirit is typically East Anglian.

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(International Champion)
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Remember we are still at East Street, Horsham, but all correspondence, mail and orders will be dealt with from London in future, where ALEC BROOK will be glad to see you.

Page Fourteen
How Ladies should PRACTICE

by Peggy Franks

England’s famous Corbillon Cup star, who has frequently been described as the most stylish English woman player, and England’s No. 1, for 1950.

GOOD solid practice to a definite plan is absolutely essential for success. And, ladies, the first thing to do is to quit worrying whether the person the other end is wearing skirt or trousers.

There are lots of odd theories on what girls should or should not do. Most of these “made-to-measure” rules come, of course, from the “superior” sex! I don’t think you can make hard and fast rules for any player, male or female. Nevertheless this one great basic principle of success underlies everything: YOU MUST HAVE LOTS OF good solid practice.

The two schools of masculine thought are:

1. A girl should practise only with men, and
2. A girl should practise only with her own sex.

I say it doesn't matter which or both. It is desirable, of course, that one’s opponent, even in practice, should be at least as good, or preferably better, than oneself. Now generally speaking, a woman’s play, being roughly about 10 points below that of equivalent men’s play, this means that it is often necessary to play with men to make any improvement. Or, put another way, it is usually easier to get a male opponent of suitable standard.

Those who assert that girls should practice solely or mainly with their own sex claim that such players can more easily adapt themselves to the soft-touched, chiselling type of game which they firmly and persistently believe all women play!

Now the other point of view. How often we hear that Miss Blank plays such a wonderful game in practice, but can never do well in matches!

“It’s all because she will practice only with men,” moan her supporters, “and she just gets lost when she comes up against opponents with a different type of game.”

In fact, ladies, the men considerately give us a ready-made alibi for whatever we have done before we lose. I don’t believe there’s anything either way.

It’s NERVES and nothing else which handicaps Miss Blank. Exactly the same kind of thing which affects some of our male critics, when they tighten, close up, edge at balls and exhibit a complete lack of self-confidence.

When nothing rests on a game, one can concentrate merely on good stroke production, style, or a particular shot, but when it comes to the tense excitement of an important match, then most of us tend to work ourselves up to an over tension. This seems to paralyse our natural thought and reflexes. But I don’t have criticism when they tighten, close up, edge at balls and exhibit a complete lack of self-confidence.

The only way to overcome nerves is to enter all the competitions and tournaments you can. When nothing rests on a game, one can concentrate merely on good stroke production, style, or a particular shot, but when it comes to the tense excitement of an important match, then most of us tend to work ourselves up to an over tension. This seems to paralyse our natural thought and reflexes. But I don’t have criticism when they tighten, close up, edge at balls and exhibit a complete lack of self-confidence.

To sum up then I believe one should practice with the best opponents possible, male or female; practice solidly to a definite plan; and then try to carry your practice game into every competition you can, with the consoling thought you’re not letting a team down if you lose.
**ENAGEMENTS**

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D. in every case. Intending entrants are recommended to apply as early as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<td>Indoor Sports Stadium, Pershore Road, Birmingham, 5.</td>
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<td>Road, Birmingham, 12.</td>
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<td>Swiss Championships</td>
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<td>Drill Hall.</td>
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<td>Richmond Hill, Clifton, Bristol.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Old Market Street, Bristol 1.</td>
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<td>Referee: I. C. Eyles.</td>
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**CHAMPION BUSTERS**

For 12 years Maude Institute have held the Leek League's Premier Division leadership without a single defeat, during which they have only been held to a draw twice; no wonder they can play third of the four interleague players!

But every Goliath must meet his David, in this case it was the "village lads" of BADDELEY GREEN W.M.C. who bearded the giant Maude in their own castle and galloped away with a 9-7 victory.

The rest of the story has a moral of hope for all would-be champion busts, individual or team. Baddeley Green already entered the league last season and were promoted to the first division this year!

**FLYING HIGH**

THE Royal Air Force Table Tennis Association is really flying high and has a record of enterprise second to none. It takes pride in having two new Swathing stars, Kennedy and Thornhill. An account of this fine association, its players and representative matches will appear in our next issue.

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**THE T.T. CUPS**

The semi-finals and the final of the J. M. Rose Bowl competition will take place at Hastings on 17th March, 1951. Semi-finals in the afternoon, finals in the evening.

Negotiations are taking place to stage the semi-finals and the finals of the Wilmot Cup competition at some time during March.

---

**THE WILMOT CUP**

**Second Round**

Zone 1. — Willesden 6, Central 5. Slough 5, Thames Valley 4; London Civil Service 6; Croydon 3; North Middlesex 5; Wembley 1.

Zone 2. — Thameside 6, South London 9; Manchester 5, London Banks 1; Bedminster 7, Laidon 0; Queens Cranleigh 9, Naigo 0; Worthington 8, Southport 5; Beckenham 1, Bromley 8.

Zone 3. — Luton 6, Bedford 3; Welwyn Garden City 6, Watford 3.

Zone 4. — King's Lynn 5, Boston 3; Newcastle 9, Scunthorpe T.T.C. 5; Cambridge 7, Grimsby 3; Norris 5, Lincoln 6; Worthing 6.

Zone 5. — Northumberland 6, Carlisle 2.

Zone 6. — (South). — Huddersfield 1; Leeds 8; Sheffield 6; Burnley 3.

Zone 7 (North) — Chester 7, Southport 2; Bolton 8, Nelson 1; Liverpool 9, Preston 0; Darwen 6, Manchester 1.

Zone 8 (South) — Winchester 8, Devizes 9; Garswood 9, Guildford 6; Leatherhead 8; Den T.T.C. 1; Brighton 9, Horsham 6.

Zone 8 (West) — Reading (sec.) v. Chard; Bristol 5, South Devon 4.

**Third Round**

Zone 1. — Central 8, Slough 1; London Civil Service 7, North Middlesex 2.

Zone 2. — Manchester T.T.C. v. Fellows Cranleigh (won); South London 9, Southend 0.

Zone 3. — Lincoln 5, King's Lynn 0; Scunthorpe T.T.C. v. Cambridge 5.

Zone 6 (South) — Leeds 8; Sheffield 1; Liverpool 5; Chester 2; Manchester 6; Bolton 1.

Zone 7 (South) — Winchester 8, Worchester 1.

Zone 8 (South) — Brighton 9, Guildford 0; Leatherhead 0; Southampon Civil Service 9.

Zone 8 (West) — Chard 0, Bristol 9.

**Zone Finals**

The team mentioned first is drawn to play at home. To be played on or before 3rd February, 1951.


Zone 4. — Welwyn Garden City v. Luton.

**J. M. ROSE BOWL**

**Second Round**

Zone 1. — West London 6, London Civil Service 4; North Middlesex 1, Central 8; Reading (sec.) v. High Wycombe; Staines 2; Willesden 5.

Zone 3. — South London 9, Insurance Office 6; London Banks 3; Southend 0; Laidon 2; East London 7; London Business Houses 4, Ilford 5.

Zone 3. — Bishop Stortford (sec.) v. Cheshunt; Brenton 1; Grimsby 5.

Zone 4. — Gravesend 1, Woolwich 8; Byfleet 6; Amersham Town 7; Worthing 1.

Zone 5 (East) — Leeds 6, Northumberland 3; Bradford 9, Burton 1.

Zone 5 (West) — Blackpool 1, Manchester 8; Crewe 6, Liverpool 5.

Zone 6 — Luton 4; Watford 4; Birmingham 5; Bedford 4.

Zone 7 — Welwyn Garden City 0; Bristol 9; South Devon 7, Bath 2.

**Third Round**

Zone 1. — Willesden 1, Central 8; High Wycombe 6, West London 5; East London 2.

Zone 2. — Ilford 6; Southend 0; South London 7, East London 2.

Zone 3 (East) — Leeds 5, Brentford 1.

Zone 5 (West) — Manchester 5, Liverpool 3.