Contributors include:

IVOR MONTAGU
JACK CARRINGTON
VICTOR BARNA
ANDY DONALDSON
PETER MADGE
GEOFF. HARROWER
N. ADAMS

JEAN TITTERINGTON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
From THE EDITOR

THIS is the last issue of Table Tennis until September, when we shall bring you all the up-to-date news and official reports ready for the new season. Order now to make sure you will receive it immediately it comes out.

This year has been the gravest ever known in the history of publishing. Prices of raw materials have doubled and the supplies position is desperate; the printing trade dispute hit us at a critical time. Thanks, partly to increased circulation, we have been able to maintain our standard size and price, and have, indeed, slightly increased contents.

These circumstances have prevented us making the enlargements we so much hoped for. They have made enormous difficulties in deciding what is finally to be published. Some features have had, unfortunately, to be curtailed.

As Editor, I have endeavoured to represent all sections and opinions impartially and have, indeed, been largely guided by the views expressed in your letters as to what is wanted by the majority. Favourable letters have easily outweighed the critical, but the latter are, nevertheless, usually the most helpful.

In the next few weeks, important plans and decisions must be made for next season's Table Tennis. If you have any suggestions on how it can be made better or our distribution system improved, please do write as soon as possible.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

We have had letters and discussions about the desirability of having our own playing facilities in the London area where our provincial and overseas visitors could meet, and numerous events be arranged. Many would like to see the E.T.T.A. headquarters in the same building, and it has been suggested by some that it would be well worth looking into this matter as a long-term investment and an eventual economy.

This was one of Bill Pope's dreams and the suggestion has been made that it would be a fine living memorial, worthy of his life work, to name such a Hall after him.

Suggestions have ranged from glorified huts to small Wembley stadiums. Incidentally, we hear that the Australian T.T.A. proposes to found a national headquarters on stadium lines.

We particularly invite your views on this, and your suggestions (if favourable) of what would make the ideal Headquarters and any scheme that would make it possible.

COUNTIES MUST COME

The article on County Associations, with others, must again be held over. Meanwhile, I would sincerely and earnestly urge all those leagues without a county body to consider forming one during the "off season." I will be only too happy to help in any way I can. As a secretary of a "small" county and intimately associated with others, I am absolutely convinced that county associations can be of great benefit and service to the lower scales of play.

Decentralisation is necessary. The E.T.T.A. will have to operate (as they did for the Coaching Scheme) through representative channels, i.e., county associations, more and more. Non-county leagues are in some danger of losing maximum benefits and wise league administrators with any vision will surely appreciate the potential advantages.

Meanwhile, I shall look forward to a continuance of your letters and news from wherever you may be, in preparation for season 1951-52.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, Editor.
Welcome to Champions’ Roll 1951

Our special congratulations to all the under-mentioned players who have won their first OPEN Senior Singles title in 1950-51. (In the case of veterans we can only include post-war records.) E. & O. E.

MEN

RON BAKER (Manchester), W. C. DAWES (Bristol), R. HESLOP (Gateshead), KEITH HURLOCK (Surrey), A. R. MILLER (Surrey), LEO THOMPSON (Bucks), PETER SKERRATT (Linens).

WOMEN

Miss J. COLLIER (Devon), Miss ANDREE JONES (Liverpool), Miss D. MUNNINGS (Linens), Miss Y. SEAMAN (Middlesex), Miss J. WALKER (Derby), Miss E. WEAVER (Surrey), Miss C. K. BEST (Yorks).

Eighteen-year-old ANDREE JONES (a finalist in the Daily Mirror Tournament last season) won the Irish Open, beating Ireland’s No. 1 and 2, and Scotland’s strong No. 2.

... DOROTHIE MUNNINGS, still a junior, and recent winner of the Grimsby Open, is also the current English Junior Champion (an occasion when she beat the world-ranking Linde Werf—a performance of outstanding merit).

... 18-year-old KATHLEEN BEST is a product of a revitalised Yorkshire, and is developing—under Alan Thompson—into a feminine Kennedy. In her second year of serious play she has won all her county singles matches, and lost only 1 set of 4 Ladies’ Doubles in the Premier Division. In the same week as she won the North-East England Open, she won the Yorks and the Leeds Closed titles.

Adele Wood, J. McCrory, and Marjorie Lightfoot are among her “sculls.” RON BAKER, TONY MILLER and PETER SKERRATT are all young county players who are making a forceful impression the hard way and of whom we shall certainly hear more... Skerratt must hold the record for match point games.

Bat Cover (left) Tells the Story

Their addition to our collection of original bat covers belongs to Surrey’s ELISIE WEAVER, and records her entry into competitive T.T. and her “encouragements.” The postmark is the

(Concluded on page 15)
A Lively Annual General Meeting

GOOD humour and critical frankness characterised the well-attended A.G.M., held at Caxton Hall, London, on the 28th April.

After a silent tribute was made to the memory of the late Bill Pope, the meeting decided to invite leagues and individuals to make small donations for a commemorative Chair for the Council Chamber and a framed photograph. Longer term projects were also considered.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Pertinent on selections of juniors and World Championship teams were asked. Mr. Montagu left the Chair and after considerable discussion it was agreed to invite leagues and individuals to make small donations for a permanent standing sub-committee. He also thought that the time had come to work out a new formula and publish the form. It was decided that a supply of forms would be available at E.T.T.A. office and would be sent to any individual on request.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. A. K. Vint) said that while we appeared in a strong financial position, we should not lose sight of the fact that we must face certain increases to the permanent position. We were faced with rising costs in paper, postage charges in some cases and a keen interest in some schemes in the present uncertain position. We were faced with rising costs and an imposing increase in affiliation fees exceeded expectations in the present uncertain position. We were faced with rising costs and an imposing increase in affiliation fees exceeded expectations of paper, postage charges and almost certain increase to the permanent position. He also thought that the time had come to consider new tournament regulations. There had been considerable improvement generally; inquiry was being made into cancelled or incomplete events and late starting of finals.

NEW RULE ON DRESS

The general concern over appearance and manners was reflected in the animated discussion on the proposed amendment to Rule 23, which, on pressure of a block vote, was adopted 922 votes to 655. The issue was not so much on the new rule, but whether it went far enough.

SUNDAY FREEDOM ASSOCIATION

Mr. Scott and Mr. Eyles wanted some attention to be paid to clash of county matches and open tournaments which made conflicting demands on leading players. It was suggested that efficient counties could minimise this to a high degree by arranging their county tournaments to the programme.

Mr. Kurzmann opened a discussion on new tournament regulations. There had been considerable improvement generally; inquiry was being made into cancelled or incomplete events and late starting of finals.

RICHARD BERGMANN

On the 7th April, Bergmann had made a request for a hearing in regard to his suspension. By telegram, he was offered the 17th April before the Disciplinary Committee (formerly designated the Appeals Committee, and now a permanent standing sub-committee). He accepted, but subsequently withdrew.

SUNDAY FREEDOM ASSOCIATION

Mr. Corti Woodcock explained the origin and its only intention was to give to every person and community their right to decide for themselves what they should or could do on Sunday. It aimed at adhering to 16th century "pious" laws and exempting the activities of the Common Informer; it was not trying to introduce any irreverent disregard. The Association was supported by an imposing number of national organisations, M.P.'s, etc. Individual membership was now possible at £2/6d. p.a. or clubs £10/6d. The Secretary was Kenneth F. Day, Director of Entertainments, Hastings. Mr. Woodcock had some explanatory/application forms and hoped that they would be received by members of the leagues.

Representatives of Bristol, Wolverhampton, Chesham, Reading, Surrey, Staines and elsewhere spoke for, and promised support, although in some cases an individual said he—personally—was not in favour of the forms being sent to leagues through official channels. It was decided that a supply of forms would be available at E.T.T.A. office and would be sent to any individual on request.

The result of the postal ballot for the election of Officers and National Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A. for 1953-54 was announced at the Annual General Meeting (28th April):—

Chairman: I. Montagu, 207 votes, elected.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: A. K. Vint, unopposed.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

N.W. Region: N. Cook, W. Stimpson.
Yorkshire: L. E. Forrest (unopposed).
Midland Region: M. Goldstein, M. Scott.
Eastern Region: L. S. Woolard.
S.W. Region: H. J. Amery.
Southern Region: F. G. Mannock, Miss L. Ferguson.

There is only one change, Mr. M. Scott (Wolverhampton) replaces Mr. D. J. Rowley (Worcester) in the Midland Region. 61 per cent. of the total electorate returned papers, although this varied between 48 and 83 per cent. in particular regions.

LIEGE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Belgium—14th-15th April

Team Championships

Final: ENGLAND 4, FRANCE 2

J. LEACH bt. G. Amouretti 17, 10, 13, 10; M. Huguenauer 15, 13, 16, 6.
THORNHILL lost to Amouretti 15, 13, 9, 16; lost to Hagenauer 19, 18, 13, 15.
Miss R. ROWE bt. Miss G. Watel 17, 19, 13, 13.

Individual Championships (Finals)

M.S. J. LEACH bt. M. Huguenauer 17, 14, 15.

SURREY OPEN

EPSON—33rd FEBRUARY

Semi-finals


Finals


W.D. Miss Piper/Mrs. Atherton bt Miss Seaman/Miss Seaman, 21–14, 21–18.
X.D. L. Adams/Miss Barnes J. Carrington/Miss E. Weaver, 11–21, 11–04, 21–14.

Page Three
The benefits of the scheme were becoming obvious in both national and international spheres, and he proposed a continued rise and success in British performances. Of greater interest to them, however, was the active membership increase following introduction of a national coaching scheme. The A.F.A., 500 per cent, and Grand National Archers Society, 400 per cent, were two examples.

Initially, there had been considerable scepticism and doubt, but this no longer existed in the minds of any qualified to judge. It was important who was the coach. The best players were not necessarily the best teachers; the best coaches usually came from top-class players who were also keen students and had found within themselves the happy knack of imparting and inspiring.

The ideal coach, said Mr. Latto, should have an unselfish love of the game. He should know all about it and be able to play it well. He must be a teacher, planner, administrator, missionary, diplomat, technician, official, leader, psychologist, etc., and enlarged on this theme.

The prime function of this course was the production of a coach. The fundamental principle was always that there was—basically—only ONE right way of moving, of making a particular stroke, etc. The good coach appreciated that this right way had to be modified to varying physiques, etc., and he must always be alert to spot natural genius, and help it to develop rather than put it back.

The ideal coach, in the speaker's opinion, was an unusual person and he thought the E.T.T.A. were fortunate in their selection of JACK CARRINGTON, a player who had made a highly specialised study of the art of table tennis coaching, for many years with proved success.

Mr. Latto then gave detailed examples of the national coaching organisation of other sports. In each case, there was a Coaching Committee at the national executive level, and Director of Coaching (or Chief Coach). This man, in well-developed schemes, was a full-time paid officer who, in addition to being a first-class coach, must have an aptitude for organising and administration.

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The Inspiring Zoltan

A Memorial Tribute

by IVOR MONTAGU

Zoltan Mechlovits, dramatic, autocratic but beloved captain of Hungarian table tennis, died in Budapest on March 29th, 1951.

YEARS ago—twenty-five to be precise—the first Hungarian team came to England. It consisted of one rather portly dignified individual (Dr. Jacobi), one extremely tall and graceful individual (Dr. Pecci), and one rather stout and tubby individual, extremely dark (Zoltan Mechlovits). Their play was a revelation. They astonished us—in the home of the game—and swept the board of all titles. Reinforced, they set out the next year for Stockholm to defend what they had won. We took out a challenging batch of young Hungarians, aged 16, 18, and 18. The Swaithy Cup was not then reduced to an inflexible order and system as it is now. Mechlovits was new in charge, and before the game I told him our boys’ ages, asking that, when the match was over and the score reached 5, the Hungarians should not finish but continue, to give them experience.

Everyone knows how the boys won victory over the champions. The crucial game (it made the score 5–2) was between Bull and Mechlovits. Mechlovits was a penholder grip player, the only one ever to gain a world title. He was a perfect master of varying speed, varying length, varying placement. His knowledge was immense, he was a tremendous fighter, and inflexibly calm. Bull must have run miles. He, a cricket professional in good training, was flat out and gasping at the end, his foot-soles steaming.

I went to Mechlovits, who was lying back bathed in sweat and quietly fanning himself with a programme, to ask that, in face of such exhaustion—we should be allowed to forget the two final games, as Bull, who had one more to play, couldn’t continue. “Then I will go on,” he said, rising. And then, bowing to us, “It is now we who ask you to be kind enough to finish the lesson.”

In the end, honour was saved by playing the last two matches simultaneously on two tables.

That was the real beginning of what became a lifetime friendship. It was not only personal, but extended to cover a special and intimate mutual interest between the table tennis players of the two countries that was to prove a tower of strength to the development of the game in both, and indeed, of the Federation itself.

Mechlovits won the singles that year, although the unpredictable Bellak held 8 match points against him in the final. Subsequently he came to England with several tours, reached an English Open singles final, was invited over to win—and won—our first Veterans’ title. He never gave up playing to the very end, though he soon gave up important matches. In the foundation years he was a discriminating, able and intelligent counsellor, maintaining through the testing years of the International Federation.

But as a captain, trainer, inspirer of teams, discoverer and inspirer of young people especially, that he was truly marvellous. What an eye he had for seeking out the weakness of an opponent, the exact moment at which pressure must be applied, precisely the tactics or strokes that the enemy did not want, the moment to continue inflexibly and the moment to change, the youth who had talent and inward fire and would repay fostering. At all this there was not, and could never be, anyone like him.

Many was the time during a match when Zoltan would murmur to Bill Pope or me, and predict not only the exact score that would result.

The supply of young Hungarian geniuses, under his leadership, seemed inexhaustible. I can well remember the first year, in Budapest, of Victor Barna, Szabados and Kelen, all three aged 17 to 18 (his answer to our three), and how—before an important match—he would keep them at home, quietly choosing from among them, and then arrive just beforehand, a burly figure in bowler hat and black overcoat with Astrakan collar, with one tiny creature nestling close to him on each side, under each wing so to speak, as they jostled through the crowd. And then—released thunderbolts.

Inflexibly loyal to his friends, with a sense of humour that sometimes only made his tongue more cutting, he was not—to all—an easy man to get on with. He was too dictatorial, stubborn. He led the young players under him a dog’s life. On tour he would rule them with a rod of iron and sometimes make them beg for tuppence of pocket money. How they hated it. Victor would tell you! Some never forgave him, but the friendship of others (although he was by temperament a lonely man) he retained to the end. Still others would admit that it was the making of them.

Table Tennis was his life and he had more to bring to it than most men. His terms were hard. Knowing his value and despising, frequently too obviously, the views of others, he understood cooperation with others to be their subordination, and as new generations grew who had not known him, this was impossible. But his friends loved him.

But when Fascism gripped Hungary more tightly before the war, not only Zoltan, but all the other table tennis great who had not emigrated, were thrust into the background. He survived the war after escaping twice from transports to the death camps (once leaping from a moving train), but having undergone nameless horrors and privations and with his health permanently ruined. A taxi bump in the back, shortly after liberation, nearly finished the job.

When he came to England after the war as the guest of Bill Pope and myself at the Wembley Championships, he was already very ill. He lay full of toxins in my cottage and the doctor despaired of his life. Nevertheless, he insisted on rising to play his first round in the first-ever Jubilee Cup (restricted to players who took part in the first

(Concluded on Page 12)
FOR your Playing Tip, and perhaps a smile, this month, take a peep into the notebooks of some of the candidates on the E.T.T.A. Coaches' Course held at Lilleshall in April.

I asked the students to criticise certain games, and from a number of excellent reports I cull the following, extracted, of course, from their full contexts:

[Initials A, B and C are used in place of the names of the three players concerned.]

A criticises B

"... the power in his forehand could have been used in more selected phases of the game, instead of... in opportunistic spasms..."

B criticises C

"... his determination to attack with his forehand was his undoing in the end. He should have steadied a little and waited for his winners when his opponent started to return everything."

C criticises B

"... I think that time would be well spent in smoothing his forehand attack; at present it is snatched and there is no full follow-through."

B criticises A

"... forehand attack at fault... through not being in good position. His game could be improved by making his forehand drive more consistent, with emphasis on correct footwork..."

Well, we don't need three guesses to know what B will be practising this summer, do we?

Summing up in a more general way, the Tip is this—once again:

WRITE THE OTHER FELLOW A LETTER POINTING OUT HIS MISTAKES... AND THEN—POST IT TO YOURSELF!

JACK CARRINGTON.
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
by GEOFF. HARROWER

Before a large crowd at Lincoln, Glamorgan made no mistake and succeeded in beating the home county by 7-2, thus winning promotion to the Premier Division in their first season in the Championships.

There is no doubt that Glamorgan, who can call on all the Welsh World Championship teams, will be an attraction in the higher sphere, and should hold their own somewhere in the middle of the division.

PLAYERS' AVERAGES

PREMIER DIVISION

The outstanding feature of the season has been the maintenance of a 100 per cent. record by Ken Craigie, a fine performance, although he did not have to meet Leach, Barna or Simons.

WOMEN

Miss M. Lawrance (Cambs) 2 1 1 50
Miss E. Grimstone (Norfolk) 3 1 2 33
Miss A. Banks (Cambs) 1 1 1 33
Miss M. Flax (Hants) 3 1 2 33
Miss B. Clough (Yorks) 2 0 2 0
Mrs. E. Dodd (Durham) 4 0 4 0

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

MEN

P. L.
1 0 2 0
2 0 2 0
3 0 3 0
4 0 4 0
5 0 5 0
6 0 6 0
7 0 7 0
8 0 8 0
9 0 9 0
10 1 0 0
11 1 1 0
12 1 2 0

WOMEN

Miss M. Lawrance (Cambs) 2 1 1 50
Miss E. Grimstone (Norfolk) 3 1 2 33
Miss A. Banks (Cambs) 1 1 1 33
Miss M. Flax (Hants) 3 1 2 33
Miss B. Clough (Yorks) 2 0 2 0
Mrs. E. Dodd (Durham) 4 0 4 0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MEN

P. L.
1 0 2 0
2 0 2 0
3 0 3 0
4 0 4 0
5 0 5 0
6 0 6 0
7 0 7 0
8 0 8 0
9 0 9 0
10 1 0 0
11 1 1 0
12 1 2 0

WOMEN

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Miss E. Grimstone (Norfolk) 3 1 2 33
Miss A. Banks (Cambs) 1 1 1 33
Miss M. Flax (Hants) 3 1 2 33
Miss B. Clough (Yorks) 2 0 2 0
Mrs. E. Dodd (Durham) 4 0 4 0

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

MEN

D. Tremamonger (Beds) 12 10 2 83
G. Heald (Herts) 10 9 1 90
D. Thompson (Bucks) 12 9 3 75
C. Crowe (Beds) 12 8 4 65
F. Ricketts (Bucks) 12 8 4 65
K. Riegling (Beds) 8 5 3 62
R. Stracey (Bucks) 8 4 4 50
P. Morecroft (Bucks) 12 5 7 42
D. Barley (Yorks) 12 4 5 33
D. Randall (Beds) 12 4 8 33
H. Tipp (Beds) 12 1 2 10 17
G. Bushe (Beds) 6 1 5 17
J. Bryant (Herts) 10 1 9 10

WOMEN

Miss C. Brigid (Herts) 3 3 0 100
Miss D. Edlin (Herts) 3 3 0 100
Miss B. Carter (Beds) 6 2 4 66
Miss S. Beaver (Beds) 2 1 1 50
Miss S. Flax (Bucks) 4 1 3 25
Miss P. Coln (Beds) 3 0 2 0
Miss J. Riegling (Beds) 4 0 4 0

NORTHERN DIVISION

(Macluding Durham v Northumberland)

MEN

K. Park (Yorks) 12 11 2 91
R. Heaslop (Northumb.) 12 10 1 88
H. Needel (Yorks) 12 9 2 77
J. Head (Yorks) 10 9 1 90
T. Scull (Yorks) 12 8 4 60
H. Digan (Northumb.) 8 4 5 45
V. Pudlaks (Durham) 8 3 5 35
J. Hillier (Northumb.) 8 3 5 35
G. Stafford (Durham) 6 2 4 35
F. Huggon (Cumb) 12 3 9 25
K. Deweys (Cumb) 10 2 8 20
A. Brady (Cumb) 12 2 10 17

WOMEN

Miss C. Best (Yorks) 3 3 0 100
Miss A. Taylor (Yorks) 3 2 1 96
Miss D. Smith (Northumb) 3 3 2 90
Miss W. Burstine (Cumb) 2 1 1 50
Miss H. Wilkinson (Cumb) 2 1 1 50
Mrs. M. Wilson (Cumb) 6 1 5 20
Mrs. E. Dodds (Durham) 4 0 4 0

(Cont. Col. 1, page 8)
The Way to the Stars—No. 5

Secrets of the World Champions

Summer and Table Tennis

THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH IS

"What are your recommendations for summer activities for the ambitious Table Tennis player?"

answered by Victor Barna

FOR the ambitious player, young or old, there can be only one answer: play as much as you like, play as much as you can. In giving this advice, I am simply drawing on my own experience. When I was young, and even as I grew up, I played on right throughout the summer. I found that while older players, who gave the game a good rest during the summer months, found it hard work to recapture their old form when the next season commenced, my pals and I, including Bellak, Szabados, Hazi, and David, played very much better than we had done in the previous season and that our summer practice had brought us on by leaps and bounds, I firmly believe that our tactics helped us tremendously in our efforts to master the game though, to be frank, I must confess that our real reason for playing during the summer was not because we were advised to do so, or that we thought we would get benefit from it, but because we loved table tennis. We would have played all day and every day, if we had had the chance to do so.

There are people, I know, who advocate complete rest from table tennis during the summer months, found it difficult to play, but there are people, I know, who advocate complete rest from table tennis during the following season fully refreshed and with an interest on intensive practice and to experiment with new strokes when there are no tournaments or other serious events to worry about?

To return again for a moment to my text. But there are people, I know, who advocate complete rest from table tennis during the following season fully refreshed and with an interest on intensive practice and to experiment with new strokes when there are no tournaments or other serious events to worry about?

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The ‘Cabinet’ of the E.T.T.A.

Holding a similar office in at least two other national organisations, this seemingly tireless Peter Pan of Administration has always been bigger than his job. He has an honest and vigorous hatred of being publicised and this feature will very very soon occasion his strong displeasure. That we regret sincerely, but on entry to his 21st consecutive year of office account it our privilege and duty to pay tribute where tribute is so patently due. Only two men appear qualified to write on “Bill” Vint (both his intimate friends and colleagues from the first). They are Chairman of the E.T.T.A., Mr. I. Montagu, and Mr. Corti Woodcock. Here is what they write:

IVOR MONTAGU:

B I L L” (A. K.) VINT is the greatest man in Table Tennis. He has been so ever since he first appeared, 21 years ago.

How he first turned up, I can’t now even remember. Probably he just took on the Treasurership, as he does everything else, from a sense of duty. I can very well remember what it was like before he came, however, in the Biblical expression: “without form and void.” Plenty of milling around and plenty of chaos. Then after he arrived—apple-pie order.

Are you mathematical? I’m not. Accounts are more or less magic to me. I’ve had trouble enough trying to datas my own expenses sheet ever since I was a kid. Anyway, it was Bill Vint who convinced that, in the hands of some people at least budgets can balance.

In his hands, budgets are more than figures. They are tools. They enable the job to be done this year and they enable one to think of doing it (if one can) better the next year. And they get bigger and bigger, so that one can do more and more.

Bill does everything so well that everybody leaves everything to him. This makes him work too hard. One day he may rebel and then where should we be? Also he is too conscientious for his own good. The moment he sees a thing badly done he is ready to do it right. It was in such a way that he took on the I.T.T. Federation accounts when they were in a mess—just in passing, so to speak—and now the I.T.T.F. is in a fair way not to know itself, it’s become so orderly, too.

While Bill Pope and I were doing the flamboyant things out in front, conquering new territory for the game at home and abroad, there was Bill Vint, at our shoulder all the time, unobtrusively consolidating the gains.

It was we who quarrelled and shouted and provided the drama, it was Bill Vint who handled the box office so that the show could go on again the next day.

And just to show how easy the other man’s job is, a short while ago he and his sprightly wife Nora took on the captaincy of a team and inspired England’s first win over Czechoslovakia for 20 years.

Everybody respects him. He is just. Everybody wants to know what he thinks before they make up their own minds. Nearly everybody thinks that they can run the Association better than the other people who run it, but everybody’s plan for improvement takes it for granted that Bill Vint will still be there to help, and they would run screaming from the prospect that they might ever have to do that part on their own.

We depend on him more than—often—we remember to remember. Long may he and Nora be here to keep us in such servility.

CORTI WOODCOCK:

F EW people know as well as I what a tremendous debt table tennis owes to this quiet, unassuming, self-effacing son of Sussex. I first “discovered” him when I was refereeing the Sussex Championships at Hastings in the late 1920’s, and immediately recognised how valuable a man he would be in the national field.

He has all the qualities of a man doing a man-sized job. He is quite alarmingly efficient. He is prudent, long-sighted and diplomatic. He possesses the virtue of patience and the breadth of mind to incline sympathetically to the other fellow’s point of view.

With the happy knack of seeing right into the core of a problem and of a quick assessment of values, he is scrupulously fair and well balanced in his judgments; and in his entire make-up there is no room for pettiness. Add to all this, a flair for organisation, both in mastery of detail and vision for planning of broad policies, a gift of easy and persuasive oratory, a specialised command of accountancy, a character of utmost integrity and a personality which endears him to all who know him—there is a small tribute to a man I am proud to count my friend. Bill Vint has well earned for himself a very special claim on the esteem and gratitude of the organisation he has served so long and devotedly.

West Middlesex Open

West Ealing, 14th April

From Peter Lowen

NOTABLE ITEMS: PEGGY PIPER beat Joyce Roberts and Joy Seaman in the quarter and semi-finals respectively. TONY MILLER knocked out Jack Head, Alan Rhodes and Len Adams. ALAN RHODES/JILL SEAMAN (a young local pair) beat R. Crayden/ D. Rowe in the Mixed.

T HE M.S. final was a rousing game with both Craigie and Venner at the top of their form. Craigie keeping a constant barrage of attack and Venner coolly blocking with angled half-volleys and snatching some very fine winners on opportunity.

Peggy Piper took the first game from Diane Rowe in the W.S. Final, but Diane then found her hitting form and won the next two. These two were also opposed in the ladies’ doubles, where Miss Piper was partnered by Mrs. D. Atherton and Miss Rowe by Mrs. P. Lowen, a fellow club member (Rosalind being at the Ligue Internationale). The Surrey pair won quite convincingly.

S. Brocklebank, beating the improving J. D. Jones, again proved a claim to being one of the best youngsters in the South, while Doreen Spooner reversed her defeat (in the Middlesex Closed) by Irene Barker.

Results Page 14.
Peggy Piper in Form at Bucks Open
Slough. 8th April.

The Bucks Open, which seems to improve every year, reached a new height this time. The numbers and the quality of the entries reflected the keen interest, and the organisation and conditions were highly satisfactory. The finals started punctually at 2.15 and finished about 10 p.m.

Johnny Leach was much below form, and his 2-straight defeat by RON CRAYDEN in the quarter-finals was not quite the shock it would have been had Brian Kennedy been well in hand.

PEGGY PIPER played an inspired game and touched the heights to beat both Peggy Franks and Rosalind Rowe, before she was beaten by DIANE ROWE in the final.

Junior International JOHN HUNT, who has so obviously benefited from the Swedish tour, created one surprise by defeating Jackie Head in the earlier rounds.

**SEMI-FINALS**


**FINALS**

M.S. A. SIMONS bt. B. KENNEDY 18, 15.

W.S. A. SIMONS bt. R. ROSE 16, 16.

Kennedy beats Simons
WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN
Exeter. 31st March.

With the Indian team, and top English and Welsh internationals in force there was formidable, colourful and varied opposition confronting the very big event. For the men's singles event alone there were 250 competitors, easily a new high for the entry reflected the keen interest, and the organisation and conditions were highly satisfactory. The finals started punctually at 2.15 and finished about 10 p.m.

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Girls were Stars
THE CHESHIRE OPEN
Stockport. 14th April.

By F. GEE

This tournament proved a fitting close to the Northern season. The Fairey Aviation canteen provided excellent conditions, and the finals were graced by the Mayor of Stockport, and supported by Messrs. N. Cook, W. Stamp and H. Worsley.

Benny Casovsky was not at his best, in striking contrast to his team mate, RON ALLCOCK, who, after battering Leslie Cohen, out-generalled his Yorkshire opponent, HINCHCLIFFE.

MARJORIE LIGHTFOOT played what must have been the best match of her career in winning the women's title, beating on route the popular favourite, hard hitting Eileen Grimstone.

JEAN TITTERINGTON avenged her Wembley defeat by beating the English Junior Champion, DOROTHIE MUNNINGS, in the junior girls' event in one of the most attractive matches of the tournament. Both finalists in the boys' sweep a lot of time picking and choosing and I would have preferred more sparkle and enterprise when civic dignitaries are present.

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“I don’t want to be a Phenomenon”

said Miki

by Ferenc Gyorgy

It is said “Youth is a fault which improves itself every minute”—these two certainly have plenty of minutes before them, as their combined ages total only 29. The two smiling kids you see here are the “White Hopes” of Hungarian Table Tennis.

ASTRID NAGY, 15-year-old daughter of a Budapest physician, is a slim youngster, well matured in build and personality. After only two years of competitive play she has lifted the Junior Singles of Hungary for 1950 and has already had considerable success in adult play.

She has a correct and well-balanced style, with intelligent tactics. After any tournament success she is accustomed to receive an additional “Family Prize” from Papa; in the case of the junior championship this was a smart little handbag (and inside was a 100-forin note, conveniently “forgotten” by Mama).

MIKLOS PETERFFY, This little chap of 14, who looks out at us so optimistically, yet serenely, is the son of a Budapest headmaster. He is a ball-juggler in the class of the one and only Ferenc Soos. At 14 he is a complete player, needing only experience to place him among the famous of the T.T. world.

Amisth his many Premier-Class victims last season were the National Federation Captain Matravolgi, and the most renowned defensive expert in Hungary, Javor!

However, like young Astrid, Miklos is fond of his school studies, too, and when he overheard somebody remarking: “He’s going to be a phenomenon,” he piped up: “Not me! I don’t want to be a phenomenon, I want to be an architect…”

On another occasion, when he was congratulated upon winning three out of his five matches one evening, he replied: “Yes, but I lost two… My, if only I had a really good bat.”

Perhaps we should mention that the two opponents whom Miki did not beat were—Sido and Soos!
Many of the present generation of table tennis fans are sceptical regarding the style of the game played 30 years ago. They nurse the erroneous impression that the players merely poked the ball across the net towards each other until a mistake by one surrendered the stroke.

When Sunderland Table Tennis Association was formed in 1910 not one kindred association existed in Great Britain. The game which had flourished a few years previously had almost died out. We in Sunderland could therefore alter rules to suit ourselves, and the height of the net was reduced from 6ft. to 6in. so as to further speed up the game. That net height I am led to understand is adopted universally to-day.

The dissimulation of the game in the South of England some 30 years ago was due to the courageous and persistent efforts of a small band of enthusiasts. Those Grand Originals rendered such excellent service, often at great expense to themselves, that I suggest the E.T.T.A. should make the few still alive Life Members. They were tolerated.

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The Inspiring Zoltan

Continued from page 5

World Championships 21 years before). He proposed to me (with his tongue in his cheek) that we carry him there on a stretcher and he would rise dramatically from his supine position when his name was called! It would have been very effective, especially if we had added a trumpet. And it almost came to something of the kind. I shall not easily forget the sick man’s scorn as an obtuse acquaintance asked him why he was so insistent on playing as, surely, he did not expect to win.

He lived, with all his toxins, another three years—or, as he would put it—another three championships, and he still had his triumphs training the Hungarian champion club team two years running. He was there last year, in Budapest, as sage, deliberate and dignified as ever. Players of all nations who knew him still sought his counsel. And several of ours, not least Johnny Leach, will remember his encouragement.

In the last 12 months we have had to take leave of three great friends—Willmott, Bill Pope and now Zoltan. Mchlovits’ memorial lies partly in that wonderful record: 8 Swatchling Cups out of the first ten, 10 out of the first fifteen, and 77 individual World Championships titles out of the 141 so far played—an immortal inheritance on which the new Hungary is now building what was once a fad of a few aristocratic Budapest clubs into a mass recreation for tens of thousands.

Twenty-five years ago the loss of three such men would perhaps have meant that there would never have been a globe sport of Table Tennis such as we know it now. The fact that they can pass and the earth not be shaken is their epitaph.

Ivor Montagu.
OPINION

THANK YOU, ENGLAND.

"Through the medium of your excellent publication, I would like to express the sincere thanks of we three New Zealanders who participated in some of your English tournaments . . . for the excellent treatment and courtesies we received from officials, players and people generally. It would be impossible to thank everyone personally, so I would indeed be grateful if you would record our appreciation in Table Tennis . . ."

I am homeward bound, but T. R. D. Finiti and J. E. Knowles will be staying for some time, so if they appear in any of your remaining events this season, please don’t regard them as ghosts . . . I am only sorry I cannot have stayed longer myself . . .

If any English T.T. players are emigrating ‘way down under’ I shall be only too pleased to facilitate their entry into New Zealand table tennis circles.

With the very best wishes to your popular magazine and English table tennis generally, and with kindest regards to our many friends in England.

JACK BOROUGH,
J.S. Straulelen, Bombay.

SMALLER TABLES

"I think the suggestion of smaller tables for youngsters (February Table Tennis) is a very good idea, but would it not be a good idea to standardize the table to a standard size provide new handicaps? If a young person is going to take T.T. seriously, I think he should start practising on a standard size."

BERNARD G. SHARP.

This is the only comment received on this subject. Any more opinions?

PEN FRIEND WANTED

"I am nearly 17, very keen on table tennis and in my last year at school . . . I have had some success at the game, winning the Australian Junior title last year and most of the other junior titles in this country, and fair success in the seniors . . . I am wondering if you could find a pen friend (or even two) for me who is interested in table tennis . . ."

JOHN KLESEMAN.
Sydney, Australia.

Letters will be forwarded to John, who has, incidentally, been a student at the Table Tennis Academy run by Miklos Szabados.

THE STARS ON . . .

"I would like to see the feature ‘Engagements’ enlarged to accommodate names of leading players such as the Rowe Twins (of whom I am a great admirer) participating. Such notice would enable us to watch them in action more frequently."

ALAN PETERS.

Page Fourteen

Selections from Readers’ Letters

NO SMOKING

"I understand that a NO SMOKING rule is applied to Open Tournament Finals on the Continent. Would it not be desirable to apply the same rule here?"

With extra lighting generating more heat and a ‘smoky’ atmosphere, the foul and unhealthy atmosphere in which many tournaments in this country are played place an unnecessarily great physical strain on the players.

A. V. MEYERN,
Chairman, Wembley and Harrow.

Mr. Meyern’s proposal has been passed to the Open Tournament Sub-Committee. Other readers’ views welcomed.

A Constructive Proposal

"We have talent in England to beat the World, which should encourage us to look for further successes—I know we can find them if the Powers-that-be tackle the matter in the right way . . . my views (particularly for Ladies) are—"

"A long term policy. The E.T.T.A. to choose about 20 players, 14-19 years old, and arrange for the coaching . . . paid by the B.T.T.A. The League concerned to send a monthly return of all their games . . . The E.T.T.A. to hold a one-week Summer School where all could get together with coaches and officials. Expenses on a 50-50 basis. The venue to be central, and players who show up best to be given a fair share of representative matches to gain big match experience."

The National Executive has been considering this quite recently. What IS the present answer.

The N.E.C. are considering what can be done for talented younger players, particularly in “isolated” areas. Many problems are involved apart from the expense, such as venue, accommodation, time from work or school, type of training, etc., required, basis on which selection should be made, etc.

This is a constructive matter on which we invite the frank opinions and suggestions of ALL readers, and possibly a suggested list of candidates. Some recommendations already made include: Skerratt, Munnings, Lowe, Andree Jones, Titterington, House, Baker, and Pullar.

NOW LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

TOMS
for the FINEST TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT IN THE WORLD

PRICE £30
Money back Guarantee

A TOMS Tournament T.T. Table with 1in. BIRCH plywood top, and hardwood beading to protect table edges.

All Goods Carriage Paid.

TOMS
18, NORBETT RD.,
Arnold – Notts.
**Congratulations**

THE many friends of those attractive Yorks. players, MARCUS and NORMA BISHOP (Hull), will be delighted to hear that Mr. Sork called on Sunday, 11th March, and left the treasure of a little "White Rosebud," to be christened Angela Denise. Our best wishes to them all.

---

"Clubs are not made by men afraid of someone getting ahead.

"If all will work and no one shirk"

"You can raise a club from the dead.

"And if you play your personal part"

"Your neighbour will play his, too.

"Your club will be what you want it to be:

"It's not the club, it's YOU."

From the notice board of the Mossley S.F.C. Supporters' Club.

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**CLAIMS DEPT.**

WILLESDEN Schools' Sports Association claim to be unique in having a Boys and Girls T.T. Championship. Any challengers?

Their finals on February 28th provided an inspiring evening marked by great keenness, sportsmanship and a high standard of play before a large audience, which included the Mayor.

M. Thompson (Mrs.).

---

**JEANETTE ALTWEgg AT FINALS**

The 6th Finals of Beckenham League was quite a gathering of celebrities, including 2 Mayors and Mayoreses, civic and industrial dignitaries, Jeanette Altweeg (Work Ice Skating Champion), Sydney Wooderson, Ron Stedman, W. J. Hicks, Denis Compton was not able to make it on this occasion.

Jeanette Altweeg and Vic Fieldes (the Ice Hockey player) challenged the Mixed Doubles winners to a match and were only defeated 21-15, and sympathies were definitely with the losers.

Ron Etheridge won the M.S. Championship and Miss Wooten the W.S. titles.

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**THE BAT COVER**

(Concluded from page 2)

Hounslow T.T.C. have been unbeaten in the S. W. Middlesex League for four years—until their very last match of the season. Their victors were their second team, all under 18's, and including Harry Joyce, winner of the Junior Title in the South of England Open.

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**Ten Rules for Coming Clubs**

—after Karlheinz Simon in "Tisch-Tennis" (official German T.T. magazine)—

If you want your team to be good:

1. See to it that all its members are friends and sportsmen.

2. That it is led by an experienced person.

3. See that the best players are selected, not the wealthiest nor most popular.

4. Match it against better players. If it can face a heavy defeat and still show pleasure and fighting spirit, then it is able to improve.

5. See that it keeps in good training and that each player, as far as possible, plays one opponent whose style he does not like.

6. See that it includes strong doubles players, for doubles matches are often decisive.

7. See that it takes all opponents seriously.

8. See that its members always pull together, even outside the club room.

9. See that none of its members become conceited, or the weaker ones grow jealous of the best— that is the beginning of the end.

10. See that it takes every loss smiling, for that is the test of the real champion.

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"Yes, dears, I know you might be as good as the Rowe Twins with practice—but MUST you play when father's having his rest?"

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Page Fifteen
ENGLAND beat INDIA 8-1
Eltham, 3rd April
By N. B. Adams

WORLD Champions Johnny Leach and the Rowe Twins received a tumultuous reception in their appearance in the international match against India.

The crowd of about 900 included Corin Woodcock, E. G. White, G. Harrower, F. G. Mannooch, selector Tommy Searls, Ron Jones (secretary Australian T.T.A.) and H. N. Smith, former President of the U.S.T.T.A.

Thornhill, apparently nervous, could not hold the persistent attack of R. Bhandari in the first match. K. Jayant (considered the best Indian player for a quarter century) set hearts quickening when he trounced Aubrey Simons in the first game, but recovered his serious form and drive. Simons made quite sure of the next two.

Thornhill gained confidence with every stroke against the solid defence of India's No. 3, T. S. Thiruvengadam, and won in straight sets. Simons made the score 3-1 by beating R. Bhandari, although by a cleverly mixed play the Indian took the middle game. Diane had no difficulties with M's. V. P. Siriw-ardene.

Johnny Leach's match with Jayant was almost as great an attraction as Rosalind Rowe, who beat her in a confident bout of fine stroke play.

Twelve-year-old Sayeed Sultana was almost as strong against Leach/Thornhill, but found the English pair even more steady, and in the second set especially, Thornhill matching the hitting of Leach. The Rowe Twins, in a superb exhibition of doubles play, completely outclassed the tenacious Indian pair.

Conditions were excellent, and Mr. T. T. Ramjanjun (secretary, All-India T.T.A.) seemed pleased with all arrangements.

The tournament was held in the Kent Junior title by beating David Pullar. Great things are hoped for from Jeff Ingber, whose improvement has been remarkable, and P. Pullar, all with two more seasons to go as Juniors and destined to scrap behind them. Best prospect at the moment is Cliff Booth. Great things are expected of Jeff Ingber, who has been referred to as a Young Lion's Den... is it my imagination, or do all the cubs seem a little shy?

No Summer Break for Johnny

By PETER MADGE

THE T-A PAGE proposes to award the M.M. (Metaphorical Medal) to the favoured few worthy of special recognition... No one will dispute the claim of the Rowe Twins for the Best Performance of the Year... then one each to Michael Thornhill and Brian Kennedy... An M.M. for Keenness goes to Kent's Stan Brocklebank. He lives way down in Canterbury, but is rarely absent from any Southern tournament. Those conversant with transport facilities in that part of the world will realise how many miles he has covered in a Mixed Doubles match... will have a busy T.T. summer. Immediately after the International match in Paris on May 8th he leaves London Airport (accompanied by Michel Haguenauer) for Calcutta. Then follows a 10-day Indian tour, 10 days in Singapore area, four weeks' New Zealand tour, and about six weeks' Australian tour.

A little further East another challenger... in favour of Cliff Booth. Great things are expected of Jeff Ingber, who has been referred to as a Young Lion’s Den... is it my imagination, or do all the cubs seem a little shy?

In the North we find Booth, Inger and Pullar, all with two more seasons to go as Juniors and destined to scrap amongst themselves for tournament honours; the balance, if any, being slightly in favour of Cliff Booth. Great things are expected of Jeff Ingber, whose improvement since the Swedish tour may be measured by his two recent victories over Pullar.

A little further East another challenger has arisen of late — this is BILLY ENGLAND, of Nottingham.

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Thornhill gained confidence with every stroke against the solid defence of India's No. 3, T. S. Thiruvengadam, and won in straight sets. Simons made the score 3-1 by beating R. Bhandari, although by a cleverly mixed play the Indian took the middle game. Diane had no difficulties with Mrs. V. P. Siriw-ardene.

Johnny Leach's match with Jayant was almost as great an attraction as Rosalind Rowe, who beat her in a confident bout of fine stroke play.

Twelve-year-old Sayeed Sultana was almost as strong against Leach/Thornhill, but found the English pair even more steady, and in the second set especially, Thornhill matching the hitting of Leach. The Rowe Twins, in a superb exhibition of doubles play, completely outclassed the tenacious Indian pair.

Conditions were excellent, and Mr. T. T. Ramjanjun (secretary, All-India T.T.A.) seemed pleased with all arrangements.

The tournament was held in the Kent Junior title by beating David Pullar. Great things are hoped for from Jeff Ingber, whose improvement has been remarkable, and P. Pullar, all with two more seasons to go as Juniors and destined to scrap behind them. Best prospect at the moment is Cliff Booth. Great things are expected of Jeff Ingber, who has been referred to as a Young Lion’s Den... is it my imagination, or do all the cubs seem a little shy?

In the North we find Booth, Inger and Pullar, all with two more seasons to go as Juniors and destined to scrap amongst themselves for tournament honours; the balance, if any, being slightly in favour of Cliff Booth. Great things are expected of Jeff Ingber, who has been referred to as a Young Lion’s Den... is it my imagination, or do all the cubs seem a little shy?

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