From THE EDITOR

"To put into the game all that is best in us and thereby get out of the game all that is best in life."

THIS is the season of the E.T.T.A. Jubilee celebration, and Table Tennis enters it with sparkling hopes, ambitious ideas, and definite promise.

The definite promise is that (almost alone among national periodicals) we are NOT going to increase in price, and also, that with the November issue we shall have a minimum of FOUR EXTRA PAGES. This is a remarkable achievement in present circumstances, but it indicates our determination to make Table Tennis the finest value of sports journalism in the world.

We plan to have it on sale on the first day of each month complete with Stop Press details of the very latest important results. There is a whole treasury of ideas to introduce in the months ahead.

Now great achievements are the sum of many small efforts, so once again I warmly invite your letters, ideas, criticisms and suggestions. It is they which help to decide the contents of the magazine. Wherever you are and whatever you say will always be welcome. It is YOU who can make this Magazine.

One writer claimed that at least 100 people had read his copy from cover to cover. It is good to bear this and it is good for the game, but it does not help us to make bigger and better magazines. Sixpence a month is within the reach of everyone, so please buy and DON'T BORROW your copy. This will help us to help you.

Table Tennis is obtainable through local leagues, newsagents, the publishers, or the Circulation Manager, etc. If you have any difficulty whatever, let us know immediately.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD (Editor).

Table Tennis will present the most brilliant team of players and writers in the world in a cavalcade of helpful, interesting and absorbing articles. It will bring you the latest news of tournaments and matches; secrets of the stars; official E.T.T.A. news; "table talk," from the dressing rooms and stories of the players. With correspondents in nearly every country in the world, it will present the best of the Table Tennis world to the World. It will have pictures, cartoons, humour and competitions. It will have interest for everyone of every age.

WELSH EDITION

A Special Welsh Edition of "Table Tennis" is published in association with the T.T.A. of Wales. This includes the Official News Magazine of the Welsh Association. Enquiries for this Edition should be sent direct to Mrs. N. Roy Evans, "The Rock," 16 Ty-Mawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.

* IMPORTANT *

MSS., articles, letters, photos, etc., should be addressed direct to THE EDITOR:

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,
12, Campbell Road,
Bedford.

The Circulation Manager is G. R. HARROWER, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts.

The English Table Tennis Association (Administrative Secretary: Mrs. K. PEGG), 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.1.
WHEN it comes to framing rules, drafting forms and questionnaires, or refereeing the English Open, then it's a matter of "Leaving it to George". Our photographer has caught E. G. WHITE in an appropriate pose, "quoting the appropriate authority." For George White is an officer in the Civil Service.

His emergence in post-war TT administration is not meteoric for it seems he has always been a solid (too, too solid, he might say) figure in the shadows round the time. His sister preceded him as a member of the N.E.C.

George is left-handed, only just tips the 30 years mark, has a lusty son, Timothy. A clut-playe uncle started him on the dining room table in mid-twenties from where he advanced to school TT, receiving the dutiolls distinction of getting concussion from TT! Has been TT minded ever since. He became a regular pre-war tournament contender, reaching several double semis and finals. Played for a Wimbledon club whose members included A. J. Wilmott, E. J. Filby and "Pinkie" Barnes, and held many official league and C.S. positions. During war service played in Cairo, Rome, Florence and Trieste once in an Italian Palazzo within two miles of enemy lines! In 1939 was editing the official Magazine single-handed, an outstanding distinction for a lad of 21.

But don't imagine that George is a one-sport man. Somehow he managed to find time to play for the L.C.S. 1st Rugger XV, and captain the "A" team for two seasons. (International C. G. Woodruff was then capt of the 1st XV.) Has played representative games in hockey and cricket (wicket-keeper), and was keen on lawn tennis until administrative work wrecked summer leisure time.

(Continued on page 15)
THE proceedings of the English International Selection Committee of 1951-52 have been criticized in the Press and at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

They were, indeed, open to criticism. (These, with a few exceptions—and in few exceptions—had been generally found acceptable). Main criticisms have been in relation to procedure. There were a lot of last moment decisions, decisions made by telephone and wire, public were not able to be sufficiently aware of what was going on.

This acknowledgement is not intended in any way as a reflection upon the contribution of any or all individual members of the Selection Committee, who by their keenness and service have regularly placed the Association in their debt; and, whether committee on the Committee this year or not, are hereby thanked.

Since the war, until last season, the Committee always contained at least one Administrator. Members chosen for their knowledge and handling of the game cannot also be EXPECTED to be administrators. Committee of the Association more fortunate. However, experience has shown that is desirable to have as a member of the Committee someone suitable of the administrative work.

These thoughts were in the minds of the National Executive Committee at the start of the new season, and it was decided that steps should be taken, in the light of experience, to remedy any faults and to prevent their recurrence. In pursuance of this object it was decided that some of the steps taken should be reported to the members of the Association through our Official Magazine.

The Committee


The first meeting of the new Committee was held on Saturday, June 30th, 1951, and it was resolved that at least two further meetings should be held before the selection of the South Junior Girls' match. The next meeting to be on September 8th, 1951, and the following meeting at the weekend of December 15/16th.

Methods

It was clear that no Selection Committee can function properly unless all members are in possession of all relevant results, and unless all members take steps to regularly watch candidates for selection. Therefore: (a) Arrangements are being made for all results of Open Tournaments, County Matches, Wilmott Cup and J.M. Rose Bowl matches, etc., to be collated by the Secretary and circulated frequently to members; (b) to facilitate the collection of results, a specific form is being perfected giving the names of players in the first two groups of the new Graded Players list. Additional names will be added if necessary, and a list will also been prepared during the season of promising junior players. These forms will be distributed before the events to members of the Selection Committee; (c) it was decided that members of the Selection Committee shall be present at all Open Tournaments in order to observe the play of the Senior men and members of the Committee will attend, and members of the Committee who by their keenness and service have placed the Association in their debt; and all, whether continuing on the Committee this year or not, are hereby thanked.

Consideration was given to the necessity, or otherwise, of Trials during the coming season. It was felt that only Junior Trials should be arranged for the coming season as there would be ample opportunity during the year to observe the play of the Seniors. Steps were being taken to include girls' events in some of the Junior International matches, and if girls' Junior Trials were not arranged, then it is possible that a North v. South Junior Girls' match might be played.

World Championships: It is hoped to send four men players (one a playing captain) and three women players to the World Championships in India next February. A. A. Haydon has been selected as playing captain of the men's team and non-playing captain of the women's team.

Developing Talent

The question of assisting talented players to still further increase their skill at the game was discussed, and it was agreed to hold a long weekend Practice and Training Course at the Lilleshall National Recreation Centre, from September 7th to the 15th, 1951. A total of fourteen players have been invited, eight boys/men and six girls. Selection was made by vote based upon the selection list. Additional names will be added if necessary, and a list will also been prepared during the season of promising junior players. These forms will be distributed before the events to members of the Selection Committee who by their keenness and service have placed the Association in their debt; and all, whether continuing on the Committee this year or not, are hereby thanked.

TOUR OF GERMANY

The International Selection Committee announce that the team to tour Germany from the 14th to the 25th September will be:- A. W. C. Simons, K. Craigie, M. Thornhill, Miss J. Roberts and Miss C. K. Best.

Matches will be played in both West and East Germany, with an International in Berlin on the 19th, September.
There's Chances in Thousands for YOU — this year . . .

says Jack Carrington

Springtime in September

THAT might be our theme-song in this first issue of the season.

This is the time when the keen T.T. player sees the first buds of promise and hope, and hears the young birds warbling loudly, and maybe a little inaccurately, of the joys of the season to come.

For the high-rankers, here it comes again, the perennial battle to wear the treasured England blue. It does not need a clairvoyant to see that our teams for the World Championships this year cannot carry any "passengers."

With air-fares to Bombay at some £120-odd per head, our selectors have no margin for interesting experiments. The bare numbers to do the job will no doubt be chosen, and as we have two World titles to defend (Johnny Leach and the Rowe twins), and another World champion, Bergmann, back in circulation after his season's suspension, there will be quite a bottleneck near the winning post for the other runners.

Moreover, although the World's does not start until early February, decisions must be made much earlier to enable those selected to acquire the necessary inoculations, etc. This will make the early tournaments and matches especially vital for a small circle of aspirants.

For the disappointed, consolation in the fact that the English Open will keep things "alive" as late as the end of March.

Just One Step Down

IF YOU consider this talk of Bombay and Wembley rather above your head, just one rung down the ladder of fame will bring you much closer to home. I refer to the National County Championships. Do you realise that on average working some 200-300 players can represent their county this season, with another 40-50 in the Junior competition? Is it unreasonable to suggest that this group of honours represents a perfectly practical target for almost a thousand contenders?

Then there are Tournaments. Is it going to be your target to reach, say, a semi-final of an Open singles or a final of a Doubles? A study of the home fixture list reveals that, even omitting the National events as "above our heads," this target can be reached during the coming season by over 700 of our readers. Several thousands of you must surely be within practical reach of those 700 honours places.

Inspiration enough for all in this short catalogue is there not? Certainly nobody can charge our organisers with failing to provide the incentives.

Choosing a Target

If we look at things this way, even the humblest of us can find a target to make this a really interesting season.

For the younger, the rising stars, choosing a Target is easy.

How about Targets for the Seniors (which in American means the over-35's)? And do not forget the Esquiers—with which title the sentimental Americans have dignified the over-50's? Let them not fade away; let them also choose a Target for the season. It could be a matter of a particular stroke, particular tactics, curing a bad habit, adaptation of style to physique... or it may not concern the individual himself, by the promotion of his team, his town, or some young local junior player. Or an administrative achievement.

WE frequently hear the young tournament entrant complain "They don't give you much time for a knock-up before your match here."

True, and with tournament entries swelling as they are, you are never likely to have more time than you now get. Yet how do our Jimmy Juniors use those precious few moments? You know the answer, don't you, Jimmy? Two or three swings with your backhand or forehand, retrieve the ball from the spectator once or twice, and then the Umpire calls "Ready."

Those first games are vital and many of them are frittered away because one of the players has "no touch."

Unless you are very experienced, it really pays you better to devote the short knock-up time to finding the right touch, by pushing the ball cautiously around, and chopping when necessary. Touch that ball as many times as possible in the period allowed and your muscles will learn a safe reaction.

Remember, too, that the correct touch varies according to the type of table, ball, floor, and even the atmospheric conditions of the hall. At the same time, you need not forget the few minutes' practice necessary to get your drive going sweetly. Not at all—hide yourself in a quiet corner and swing your arm in vertical circles until your shoulder is thoroughly loose. No ball, nor table, needed for this kind of warm-up... just a little air!
Spotlight on Youth

Focussed by

PETER MADGE

LEFT — Peter Madge

WRITING for the season's first issue is like planning a house in a cloud—there's nothing to build on. However, welcome back table tennis players and the best of luck in the months ahead.

The last lonely walk back to the pavilion has yet to be taken, the last double fault has yet to be served... but by Issue No. 2, the fold should be full and the din of battle sounding through the leagues of England.

In May, I mentioned BILLY ENGLAND (Nottingham) as a challenger to the formidable trio of Booth, Ingl;er and Pullar. Challenger he certainly is for in the Cheshire Open he defeated Ingle and Pullar before narrowly losing to Cliff Booth in the final.

A few weeks before he won the Bedfordshire Junior title by beating Brokebank in the final. Great stuff. Watch him.

The South will have to work hard to give worthy opposition to the Northern contingent at the next junior trials... It seems a pity that the only time N. meets S. in the junior field should be at these trials. I should like to see a North v. South junior team match at least once a season. Perhaps it could be timed to coincide with an Open and the visitors play in that too. Snags? Probably hundreds, but worth a thought.

Junior Seniors

Two most outstanding up-and-comers are also from the North—19-year-old RONNIE BAKER (Manchester) and KATHE BEST (Leeds), who is 18. Both have represented their counties in senior teams and are bright hopes for future international honors. Down South, Surrey's PEGGY PIPER is winning more serious attention to singles play, and as a result of intensive summer practice, is a player who will probably call her own tune this season.

Teddy Bear and Brunus

"GIPSY ROSE" LOWE has been crystal gazing, but the big brass earrings and shawl don't fool us, Jimmy Lowe. Off with the motley and tell us about the Young Lions Den of Ashford (Middlesex).

"Ashford," declares Jim, fixing us with a sentient eye, "raises bears as well as lions, and last season two cubs from this here part caught the eye of Staines and county selectors. They were Ted and Bob Seaman. Ted is 17 and is known as Teddy Bear, while Bob, just 15, is known as Bobby Bear or Brunus. Both are left-handers with good defences. Teddy Bear has already played for Middlesex juniors and I don't think it will be long before Brunus does the same. Watch 'em both. They're really grizzly on the table."

HI, THERE! Just to remind you this page is by, for, and about all youngsters up to 21. Your news, views and pics always welcome... Start shooting... The freedom of the page is yours.
BY GEOFF. HARROWER

YET ANOTHER BIG INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

In our September issue last year, when giving a list of the teams competing in the Championships for the coming season, I said: "The day when the National County Table Tennis Championships achieve a 100 per cent membership cannot be too far distant. The coming season sees the figures rise to 43 teams from 27 counties, truly a National competition."

Well, the days of 100 per cent membership have drawn yet nearer with the advent into the Championships this season of Northamptonshire and Staffordshire, and 29 counties now provided no less than 49 teams for the coming season. The size of the Premier Division has been increased to eight counties, Glamorgan being the addition, whilst another new innovation is the creation of two Second Divisions. The Second Division South, in particular, seems very strong, and for the first time the second teams of Essex, Middlesex and Surrey will be able to battle for supremacy in one division.

But more of this next month. For the moment, just a list of the competing teams:

**PREMIER DIVISION**
- Essex
- Glamorgan
- Gloucestershire
- Lancashire
- Middlesex
- Surrey
- Warwickshire
- Yorkshire

**SECOND DIVISION SOUTH**
- Bedfordshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Devon
- Essex
- Gloucestershire
- Middlesex
- Surrey

**MIDLAND DIVISION**
- Derbyshire
- Leicestershire
- Northamptonshire
- Nottinghamshire
- Staffordshire
- Warwickshire

**EASTERN DIVISION**
- Bedfordshire
- Buckinghamshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Hertfordshire
- Norfolk
- Suffolk

**SECOND DIVISION NORTH**
- Cheshire
- Durham
- Lancashire
- Lincolnshire
- Northumberland
- Yorkshire

**JUNIOR DIVISION**
- Bedfordshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Essex
- Hertfordshire
- Kent
- Middlesex
- Nottinghamshire
- Surrey

**NORTHERN DIVISION**
- Cumberland
- Durham
- Northumberland
- Yorkshire

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**
- Berkshire
- Hampshire
- Kent
- Sussex

CHAMPION COUNTY (MIDDLESEX) v. THE REST OF ENGLAND.

This big match will for the first time be played outside Middlesex when on Tuesday, 16th October, 1951, it will be staged at the Aylesford Paper Mills, Larkfield, near Maidstone, Kent.

Tickets will shortly be available at the low prices of 5/-, 3/6d. and 2/-, and can be obtained direct from Mr. L. Presland, Hon. Sec., Table Tennis Section, Aylesford Paper Mills Sports Club, Larkfield, near Maidstone, Kent.

In all probability the Rest side will include Johnny Leach, Aubrey Simons (these two players having already accepted invitations to play), Brian Kennedy, Peggy Franks and Molly Jones, whilst Middlesex are sure to include Victor Barna and Diane and Rosalind Rowe.

Full details next month, but do not delay in ordering your tickets. The match will NOT be televised this year.
4,000 MILES away, where the West African coastline makes a sharp right turn over the Equator, is the land once known as the White Man's Grave. The mercury bubbles in the thermometer and it must be the hottest hotspot for Table Tennis in the world.

Nigeria is about eight times the size of England. It's capital, Lagos, a sprawling cosmopolis about the size of Coventry. The Lagos T.T.A. has only been founded two years but has already 48 teams.

"There is a natural interest in the game everywhere," says JACK FARNSWORTH, Chairman of both the L.T.T.A. and the Nigerian T.T.A. (which has just been formed).

"I am certain to find a table set up in a shady corner of a backstreet. The youngsters seem to acquire a table proportionate to their size."

Practically all league matches are played out of doors, usually starting about 4 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday. Indoor playing rooms and the cost of light are a big handicap, but they aim to play all First Division matches indoors in the coming season.

D. McKay, a former Essex player, is Captain of the Coasters (the only all-European team), and has done considerable good work in coaching. GORDON FORREST (of the Civil Service League) was the only European to merit entry in the representative match against the Gold Coast (Accra).

The first Lagos Open Tournament for Spalding's "Villa" Cup was held in April, VAUGHAN beating CHINWUBA in the final, which was attended by His Excellency the Governor, Sir John MacPherson, and Lady MacPherson.

At the end of April, a Gold Coast team flew the 350 miles from their capital city, Accra (a town about the size of Bournemouth) to play a marathon match, teams of 6-a-side, all play all, over 4 days. After a very even

(Continued bottom page 9)
UMPIRE'S CORNER

WHY is the County Umpiring Scheme not having the big number of entrants one would expect?

To find out, I approached a number of players personally with an application form. Most were interested, but the majority took one look at the questions on the form and said, "Crikey—which is beyond me!" or words to that effect. Some were more interested in playing and were not keen on spending time umpiring.

With another former executive member of the Worthing League, I am offering a Gold Medal to any Worthing League player who will pass as Probationary-County Umpires. Most were interested, but Umpires.

I am offering a Gold Medal to any as full County Umpire during the season 1951-52, and a Silver Medal to any who pass as Probationary County Umpires.

T.T. Hotspot concluded

start, Accra suddenly pulled ahead to a shock win of 24-12. The Governor and Lady McPherson again attended, being accompanied this time by the new Chief Secretary and Mrs. Benson. The nationalist leader, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, also attended and presented his cup for an annual inter-colonial competition.

Accra TT was established two years before that of Lagos and the players are mostly penholders, while those of Lagos are of the orthodox style. The Accrans have a better match temperament than the Nigerians, and their approach to the game is dour, poker-faced and determined. Peter English from Yorkshire is a hard-hitter stationed on the Gold Coast.

Doubles play has yet to be accepted and is rarely seen outside exhibition matches. Women are just beginning to show an active interest. In the next 18 months it is hoped that some of the 18/19 year olds will be up to our county standard.

We give Gold Medals...

— says W. G. LANCASTER

in a scheme to encourage Good Umpiring

but the Bark is worse than the Bite...

— say The Experts

A number of qualified County Umpires have written to us confirming their initial consternation on seeing the form for the County Umpires Test. From their comments, however, it would seem that there is really "nothing to it" if you take the questions in small doses over a period and don't hesitate to check up those things you are not quite sure of. Attempted in this manner, I think this will be a much more interesting method and one likely to appeal to those many practical people who do not care for book and paper work. From it, we hope to turn out more efficient umpires in a shorter period.

Actually, this is just a rough outline of my scheme, which I admit has plenty of room for adjustment. Any comments will be very welcome.

W. G. LANCASTER

PUGNACIOUS PEGGY PIPER

DON'T be deceived by the casual air or the poker-face of this compact figure in the ultra-smart piped Surrey blazer. Meet 19-year-old South London clerk Peggy Piper, five-foot-eight, something of Determination and Dynamite blasting her way to the Selectors' Eye. On the table, casual is the very last word to describe her.

So far she's concentrated on Doubles play and toward the end of last season clicked eight open titles: viz. W.D. of Surrey, West Middlesex, Hants and Southampton (with Doris Altherton), and X.D. of Kent, Hants, Southampton and Bournemouth (with Harry Venner). But her Singles performance in reaching the Finals of both the Bucks and West Middlesex Opens at the tail of last season promises something really good, for her victims included Ros. Rowe, Peggy Franks, Joyce Roberts and Margaret Fry! Since then, Peggy has won the South London Closed.

Peggy adores Table Tennis. She started playing in 1946 as a more active way of spending the lunch hour, Ron Sharman gave a hand then, and since, and during the summer, Ron, Peggy and Harry Venner have been having a real tightener-up at the Atherton's Putney Open T.T. Club. She gets real joy out of playing Table Tennis and watching Table Tennis (from which she learns a lot), and for occasional variety a good speedway match. Her game is not unlike a right-handed Vera Duce—steady push on the back-hand and deadly aggression with the fore-hand.

While she will fight like a wildcat for the last point, and for victory, she has the particular charm of being just as cheerful whether she wins or loses. In fact, she always says that you won't get far unless you can be a good loser.

A typical instance of her team spirit and will-to-win once occurred in a league game when she was 13-20 down in the deciding game. She was wearing slacks and, in bending swiftly to retrieve a ball, was horrified to hear a ripping noise. The worst had happened! She hastily donned her mac and promptly continued the game—and, moreover, won it!

Peggy is a twin, and (we suspect) has always been a little sorry that sister Pat has never taken to Table Tennis. There's still time, however, for Pat is already enthused and has acquired a more than useful backhand.

At her present rate of progress and performance, Peggy has a very good chance of playing in a World Championship—and BEFORE she's a veteran.

Page Nine
Dick Miles back to the Top Again

DICK MILES, within a month of his welcome return from the backwoods of suspension, has risen as naturally to the top as cream on milk, winning the Men's Singles Championship of the United States in a spine-tingling final with MARTY REISMAN.

Miles rocketted through to the final without conceding a game. Reisman chased up in the other half, having a tight fight with the South Korean champion, KENNY CHOI, 22, 20, 22, and also dropping two games to Doug Cartland in the semis.

Then came the dramatic final.

Reisman ("The Cat"), with his lightning reflexes, versus the sleek smoothness of Miles ("The Panther"). Reisman shattered Miles to a two big game lead, then incredibly, Miles evened up to two games all. Marty Reisman put on the pressure in the final game and was leading 16—9, within five points of the title, but he could only make one more point against the ice-cool wizardry of Miles' defence, and so for the sixth time (and third against Reisman) Richard Miles became U.S.A. Champion.

RESULTS

R. MILES bt M. Reisman —15, —18, 10, 12, 18.
W.S. L. NEUBERGER bt P. Ickhoff 16, 7, 9.
M.D. W. Holzrichter/M. Reisman bt R. Miles/D. Cartland 14, —10, 19, 12, 15.
X.D. D. Cartland/L. Neuberger bt R. Miles/S. G. Prouty 18, —19, —12, 19, 16.

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Page Ten
**E.T.T.A. Official News from Headquarters**

Important matters are summarized here monthly.

**The President**

Our President, Mr. H. Oldroyd, of Manchester, is gravely ill, and we know that all followers of Table Tennis, particularly those who ever had the privilege and good fortune of being associated with him, will wish to send him sincere wishes for a steady recovery to good health.

* * *

**Swedish Juniors’ Tour of England**

The Swedish Junior Team, consisting of three junior players and a non-playing Captain, are due to visit England from the 10th to the 24th March, 1952. This will be the annual “exchange” tour by which English and Swedish juniors tour each country in alternate years.

Besides playing matches, it is desirable that the Swedish boys should have opportunities of seeing how we live, and have visits to local factories, sports, and other places of interest. County Associations have the opportunity of inviting the Swedish players for a two- or three-day visit, and the details have been sent to each County Secretary.

* * *

**Bergmann and Boros**

Following an appeal for the lifting of his suspension by Richard Bergmann, and the receipt of assurances as to future conduct, this player is reinstated as from July 1, 1951.

Stephen Boros’ suspension is also terminated from July 1, following a similar appeal and assurances.

* * *

At the first meeting of the new National Executive Committee, the following Sub-Committees were appointed:

- **Registration Players Panels Committee**: W. Stamp (Chairman), H. J. Amery, E. G. White.
- **Rules (new Sub-Committee)**: G. R. Harrower, E. G. White.
- **Grading Section**: I. Eyles, G. James, G. R. Harrower.
- **Umpires**: E. G. White (Chairman), N. Cook, Miss L. Ferguson, G. R. Harrower, G. James, A. Montgomery, M. Scott, L. S. Woollard.
- **Registered Members’ Committee for 1951-52**

The Ballot resulted in the following being elected to the Committee: Mrs. P. Allen, Messrs. G. V. Barna, J. Carrington, A. A. Haydon, S. Proflitt, and A. Simons.

**DO YOU KNOW VICTOR BARNA?**

We all look on Victor Barna as the Don Bradman of table tennis. Who wouldn’t like a personal introduction to him? And what a host of questions you would like to fire at him. Well, sorry, we can’t arrange that for you all but we have done the next best thing. In the September/October issue of TABLE TENNIS REVIEW there is a long personal interview with Victor written by one of his intimate friends. There are lots of other features and photographs, including a really unique instructional article. You are sure of a good bob’s worth in TABLE TENNIS REVIEW.

Place an order with your NEWSAGENT NOW or send 5/8d. for the season’s issues.

Address:

TABLE TENNIS REVIEW, Kenworthy Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester 3
35,000 miles of Table Tennis

JOHNNY LEACH comes flying home crowned with personal triumph as a great player and a fine British sportsman. Each mail plane brings letters applauding him and saluting England.

On May 15th, Johnny left London by air for an exhibition tour with MICHEL HAGENAUER which was to take him more than 35,000 miles in the next fifteen weeks. Round one side of the world and back again. The second day out he is 6,000 miles away in the heat of India. Then after Bombay and Calcutta, 1,600 miles to Singapore. These included a refreshing visit to Hong Kong, and to Mauritius. The representatives of India were so delighted with his performance that they persuaded him to call at Hong Kong on his return.

As the long hop to Sydney, Australia, across to New Zealand, saw him and thousands of miles to Perth, Darwin, Singapore, Hong Kong and a final flying tour of India (Madras, Delhi and Bombay). Many places, after seeing him, have wanted to extend the tour, but Johnny is anxious to get home for the English season.

KEN WILKINSON (Secretary, New Zealand T.T.A.) has sent one of the most interesting and detailed accounts, including some reports by other observers. He writes:

"Ever since our visitors landed their personality has made an impression that has been echoing throughout the North Island and re-sounding in the South Island. . . . I was introduced at the morning tea reception tendered by the Government. . . . My first impressions were similar to that of others. Johnny in particular made a tremendous impression. I liked his easy flowing style, his modesty, his friendliness and his ability to be at ease and to make you feel at ease.

Like other table tennis tourists who have been to this country his first words, echoed by Michel, were: 'Any mail, Ken?' Fortunately I had two letters for Johnny, but alas, none for Michel, which made Johnny remark, 'you've had it tonight!' meaning that the four successive wins Michel had achieved would end that night. And right he was. Leach won 16, 15.

Inevitably, there was some comparison by the frank and hospitable New Zealanders (as with Australians) between these tourists and Barna/Bergmann (and some who still retain the Barna/Bolak tag). Victor Barna, apparently, still holds the accolade of impeccable audience-pleasing showmanship, Grand Master of Hectic Table Tennis.

"At Motueka, where the population is only about 2,000, a crowd of 500 were there to see him play which gave you an idea of their attraction. . . ."

"We left Auckland for Tauranga," writes ERRAL CHEAL, "and as we passed the College where my boys were boarders, Johnny and Michel stopped for a cup of tea and gave the pupils of the College a thrill with a one-game exhibition. Johnny did his novelty with one of the boys. I think the appreciation given by the schoolboys was more enthusiastic than anywhere else on the tour. Although it may have been a little thing to Johnny and Michel, it was really wonderful for the boys."

* * *

Being a World Champion and an ambassador of British sport is no light crown. Johnny had the most hectic table tennis summer imaginable and we are sure that none of the players, Johnny had had the most hectic table tennis summer imaginable and we are sure that none of the players, had the most hectic tournament a long-planned, well-earned holiday with Mrs. Daisy Leach and Johnny, junior, to say nothing of checking up on his Croydon sports outfitting business. Johnny Leach has not had more than about two week-ends with his family since Christmas!

So welcome home, Johnny. Congratulations and best wishes from us all. Make the most of that holiday, and come back fit and fighting for England.

At the Indian Championships in Calcutta in the first few days of the tour, Johnny was badly affected by the rapid changes of climate that, although not at his best, reached the final to lose to Hagenauer 16, 14 and 18. In the semi-finals, Hagenauer beat Jayant Sultana, who made such a colourful and successful debut in the World's, continued her upward career by taking 3 titles.
NOWADAYS nobody pays much attention to excuses. The story is told of the late arrival at an Open Tournament who apologised to the Referee thus:

"Sorry I’m late. It took me longer than I expected to strangle my aunt."

"Glad you could manage it," replied the organiser. "You’re just in time to avoid being scratched."

NEC Member, Liverpudlian secretary Billie Stamp (with colleague D. Crouch) was not able to forget table tennis while holidaying in Hastings recently. The Merseysiders attended the AGM of the Hastings Association at the invitation of Mr. A. K. Vint, the local President. For once, they had to keep silent, but were conscripted as scrutineers.

Keith Watts

At the A.G.M. of the Clacton Urban Council, two table tennis balls decided an electoral fate. The balls were inscribed with the names of councillors J. E. Ball and A. Brook and placed in a bag for a draw to decide who was the councillor to be returned unopposed for the Central Ward. The right ball failed Mr. Ball, Captain Brookes’ ball being the first drawn. To be white-balled is better than to be blackballed.

G. Cloog

... Although as an organisation we exist primarily for the purpose of promoting the game of Table Tennis in our area, our greatest achievement is the creation of a goodly body of firm friends.

The beginning of a new season is always a good time to recall the words of our first President, the late Mr. J. Sowrey: ‘I always believe that I should play every game with the intention of winning it, BUT, more important, I should play it in such a manner that my opponent and I will be lifelong friends.’

And so, with those fine sentiments always in our mind, we go into our new season. . . ."

From the News Sheet of the Staines League.

Don’t worry if your game is poor,
And your successes mighty few,
Remember that the mighty oak
Was once a nut like you.

KNIGHTS OF THE NINE BY FIVE

By RALPH BARKER

Under the spreading arc lamps
The table, stout and green.
The edges shine
With a thin white line,
And the sound is crisp and clean,
For it’s ball upon wood
And the game is good
And the players alert and keen.
And whether you’re playing a tournament match
Or just a friendly game—
You love the tussle
And strain each muscle
To glorify the name
Of the prince of sport
On an indoor court—
There’s nothing quite the same.
You struggle with every nerve you’ve got
To keep the ball in play.
You may not win,
But you’ll never give in,
And many a man may say
That fighting the fight,
With all our might,
May fit us for moments less gay.

‘NEW SERVICE’ Kit for UMPIRES

“Just the Job” — Armchair Critics Review

This will solve all New Service Problems

Contents Include:

1 Tin Plasticine For levelling off hollow palms.
1 Spirit Level The hand must be flat in a horizontal plane.
1 Straight Edge The fingers must be straight.
1 Feeler Gauge The fingers must be together.
1 Wedge The thumb must be free.
1 Plumb-line Ball must rise vertically upwards.
1 Cine-camera with telephoto lens Ball must not spin before contact with the bat.
2 Theodolites To observe imaginary continuations of the sidelines.
1 Periscope To keep an eye on the striker-out meanwhile.
1 Packet Voice Pastilles For obvious reasons.

Now in Production Available Soon

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My Nightmare Tournament
by Mrs. F. A Merryweather

EVERY possible detail had been arranged, but we reckoned without our removal contractor who was responsible for collecting the tables. He decided to do a quick removal job first, but it took longer than he expected. Meanwhile, the boiler which was to heat the tournament hall had burst, and despite frenzied efforts refused to respond to any treatment.

Now the hall had been arranged in cooperation with Service authorities with astonishing results (as you will see) — but even that wasn’t enough! The man from whom we had hired the chairs had sent them all out to somebody else!

All of this had happened within a couple of hours on the actual tournament day, and, in blissful ignorance, arrived in good time complete with the balls, pensels, rubber, pins, string, chalk, etc. Nothing had been forgotten. And then I saw the hall! A disastrous sight of everything gone wrong.

The lights were in position, certainly, but where the tables should have stood was a huge gun! The room was icy cold. There were only two poor lonely chairs. A few early competitors huddled in a corner, still wearing their overcoats, scarves and gloves, gazed at me with mournful and reproachful eyes.

As the day went on, we managed to right many of the wrongs, but the great gun and bitter coldness remained with us for the rest of the day. And in my memory for ever.

However, despite all the unknown "dangers," tournament organising has given me some of my happiest moments, and I always look forward to sorting out large piles of entries from everywhere, some of whom have sent too little money, some (very few!) too much, and some none at all. Not to mention the player who wishes to "partner Jones if he comes, or if not Brown if he is not already fixed up with Smith ..." etc. To say nothing of the exciting hope that, by some miraculous chance, my husband should win it!

F. A. Merryweather

Mrs. Merryweather, Organising Secretary of the Northern East of England Open Tournament, the first major Open of the season. Husband is Derek Merryweather, former Lincs County player in both TT and Cricket.

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Book Review

Table Tennis for All
by Johnny Leach
Published by Nicholas Kaye Ltd.
Price 9s. 6d.
Reviewed by Peter Wargrave

"I HAVE tried," writes Johnny in his introduction, "to make this a complete book of instruction on the game of Table Tennis," and in the simple, straightforward friendly way in which he speaks, he sets out to do just that.

Table Tennis for All should interest the juvenile table-tipper to the 83 year old who still worries about his backhand, and also to those disabled in diverse ways.

This is a sincere and personal book, and Johnny shows you how he approached a problem and eventually found the answers. In a chapter on Dress and that controversial question of Shorts v. Longs, he recounts that he only started wearing shorts during his 1950 United States tour largely because of necessity. "The result surprised me I found that my footwork speeded up tremendously. I came back with three United States titles and a vow that shorts would be my choice for competitive play from then on."

For highest honours, you must, "above all, have patience not only the patience to wait, and go on waiting, for the opportunity to play the shot that will win the point, but the patience to carry on when that shot, by some miracle, is returned ... It is chiefly patience which distinguishes the great player from the really good one."

The reader is guided gently through clearly-defined preliminaries to The Strokes: How and When to Play Them, in a Part 2 comprising 19 chapters. These are always interesting coming from a world champion and Johnny does not disappoint.

He offers some valuable advice under Some Tactical Lessons. "You lose matches either because the other fellow’s play is better than yours, or because your play is worse than his. There is no other reason. . . . This is a lesson everyone needs to learn — using defeats as a means of finding out how to win next time."

And again: "Never say that you lost because the conditions were bad ... when I happened to hear a scrap of conversation that went something like this: ‘Yes, I know the conditions are pretty awful, but it won’t make much difference in the end — the best player will win all the same.’ This was so obviously true that I forgot my worries about the playing conditions. . . ."

And so from the intricacies of tactical singles to the subtleties of Doubles, which "must be played as a team game. The best individual player in the world is no use at doubles unless he is a good partner."

It is good, also, to read: "... You will hear spectators comment, ‘Smith is playing so well tonight if only Jones could back him up more they would win easily.’ Nine times out of ten, Jones is playing a big part in the match, not merely sure that Smith has the chance to play those brilliant shots and if they win, he will deserve as much credit as his partner.”

This is a straightforward British sportsman’s book bearing the imprint of one of England’s most reputable sports publishers. If you are a beginner, then you can take Johnny’s introductory advice and use this as a handbook for a two or three year course, letting Johnny show you his way up the ladder to a success unequalled by any British-born player. There will obviously be less value for the more advanced player, although most players would benefit from following the advice, hints and recommendations for higher match play, including those on Table Manners.

There are no diagrams or scientific theories, but there are 16 pages of photographs specially taken by Peter Madge (photographer of Table Tennis).

It is typical of the double World Champion’s natural modesty and loyalty to dedicate his book "To my father, without whose help my table tennis career would not have been possible," and later, when he "met up with Jack Carrington, who took my game in hand and really set me on the road to success ... beginning of a partnership and friendship which are still as strong as ever.”

Johnny is a great guy. He’s won most of the most important titles in the world and that most glorious title of all — being a grand British sportsman.

Peter Wargrave
Planning a National Coaching Scheme

COACHING is akin to medical science and can be as dangerous in the wrong hands. It can make or it can mar. Teaching of play is only one of its responsibilities. Before we can have a National Coaching Scheme, we have to agree—all over the country—on fundamental principles,

Despite apparently diverging opinions, all the great sources of teaching inspiration do agree on fundamental principles of play. Yet these principles are not followed by many who coach in their locality. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, yet with a little specialist experience, that same man can become a highly successful local leader. Instead of mass-producing mere stroke players he will learn to encourage the innate individualism of future stars.

Table Tennis is wonderfully rich in human appeal. The coach must know how to appeal to all the senses, including humour. He must be able to suggest all its vital, dynamic, endearing qualities. He must make it live.

Table Tennis so closely combines physical and mental activity that you cannot divorce them. The coach then becomes much more than a teacher of strokes. He enters the field of Teaching, Specialist teaching, in the field of Physical Education. It is in recognition of this essential fact that the Ministry of Education is doing so much for the development of British Sport through the medium of the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

The E.T.T.A. Coaching Committee covered a considerable amount of ground in their experimental weekend course at Lilleshall in April, but the potential field of coverage is so vast that the Coaching Committee would obviously benefit from a consensus of national opinion.

JACK CARRINGTON (the Chief Instructor at Lilleshall) raises many of the problems in his detailed advisory report to the Committee. It is interesting to note that Jack refers to the “ETTA Education Scheme,” which, he says, implies “broad leadership, example and active promotion work from above.” He emphasised the desirability of giving equal “opportunities to all, rather than specialised help to the talented few,” and that the “ETTA task must be to equip our teachers to pass on to young recruits not merely one particular technical theory, but all the richness of our sport.” This object is, of course, ever present in the minds of the Coaching Committee.

but this would entail the working out of a Master Plan of Co-ordination at the highest level and the preparation of some kind of “Manual” that would give a very clear idea of the accepted basic principles and ideals of coaching, showing how each affiliated organisation could make the maximum benefit of the Scheme.

In present circumstances, the ETTA cannot spend more than one or two hundred pounds in the year. Yet its responsibility is to offer compatible benefits to ALL members. How can it do this except by providing an authoritative plan of progress and co-ordination, some form of centralised administration, and perhaps by the provision of such invaluable media as visual aids, projectors, film strips and loops, and advisory memoranda?

The tremendous popularity and success of coaching schemes in many leagues and some counties is clear proof that those with sufficient interest and enthusiasm CAN find the financial means. An E.T.T.A. National Scheme would permit greater economies and more values through co-ordination, etc.

How have other sports bodies organised their National Coaching Schemes? In almost every case on the same lines:

NATIONAL COACHING COMMITTEE
(with a Director of Coaching or similar title)

COUNTY COACHING COMMITTEE
(with Chief County Coach)

LEAGUE COACHES
(and in some cases, Club Coaches)

(Concluded from page 2)

His most memorable experience occurred when he was umpiring the World’s W.D. Final at the Royal Albert Hall in 1938 and was booed by a crowd of 5,000. The score was 23-11, and most of the crowd, in the intense excitement, could not know that there had been a protest over wrong order of serving which fully justified his verdict of a “Let.”

Despite his serious mien, George has a pleasant sense of humour, which often peeps through at the most unexpected moments. Likes to hear all available sides of a question before deciding, a caution for which some have criticised him. Nevertheless, it is this quality of impartiality and full consideration which has increased his worth among diverse and more volatile spirits. It is significant that George White’s duties have increased each season and that he has introduced such major issues as the County Umpiring Scheme and other schemes for the better administration of the game.
Examining competitors are assured that none of the disasters mentioned are likely to occur in the East of England, which will be held in "luxury" conditions. The venue will be the big hall at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness, with all the facilities for a Table Tennis weekend holiday. There will be seven Jaques tables, each with a 14-foot runback, and play will start about 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 22, and finish by about 5 p.m. the next day. The closing date for entries is Friday, September 14.

Champions for 14 years

CHARLIE SEAMAN and Bert Fretwell retained their doubles title in the Sussex Closed by beating Peter Sheed and Stan Moore 15, 18, 17. They have been champions continuously since 1937 and, in top form, paid scant respect to their opponents' unbeaten record in county matches.

The singles titles were taken by P. Sheed and Miss D. Briggs; the W.D. by Mrs. Bromfield/Mrs. Farnell and the X.D. by P. Sheed/Miss P. Rind.

Leslie M. Bromfield

Edmonton, Canada (April 8, 1951)

ABE GOLDSTEIN won the Alberta TT Championship with a brilliant four-for-four victory, 21, 18, 22, 18, over last year's champion, Herman Marzaki, who had previously beaten Vic Tulinauskas. CLIFF LOWS was a two-way winner, taking the Novice and Junior Men's events with victories over Bert Patterson and Modestis Alkononas respectively.

THAMESIDE OPEN

(Plaistow, May 5)

M.S. K. CRAIGIE bt M. Thorpahll 17, 12, 18, 10, 18.
W.S. J. ROBERTS bt D. Rowe 18, 15, 17.
W.D. J. Carrington bt B. Brumwell 16, 14, 15, 9, 15.
X.D. K. Cronin bt D. Rowe bt D. Miller/R. Rowe 14, 12, 23.

Midland Counties League

NOTTINGHAM had an excellent season, winning both Men's and Junior Sections. They have now won the Junior Section four times in succession and their boys are easily the best in the Midlands. It was the first time Nottingham had won the Senior title, and they lost only to Birmingham, who had played their "B" team throughout the competition. Since the League commenced in 1935, only Coventry has hit them hard in taking the Senior title from Birmingham.

Birmingham won the title in the Ladies' Section without losing a single match. Nottingham were placed second.

M. Goldstein

Date(s) Details and Venue Extra Events Organising Secretary

14-24 Tour of Germany by English Team (3 men, 2 women.)
22-23 EAST OF ENGLAND OPEN Mrs. Bromfield/Mrs. Farnell at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness, Lincs.
20 PORT TALBOT OPEN G. S. L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Rusholme, Manchester 19. Closing Date: Oct 6th.
20 PORT TALBOT OPEN G. Heycock, 535 Talbot Road, Port Talbot. (3 men.)
10-11 Belgian Open Referee: C. T. Dean.
1951 THAMESIDE OPEN (Plaistow, May 5)

Printed and published by the Hendon Printing Works Ltd., 44 Victoria Road, N.W.4