STOP TIME LIMITS
Richard Bergmann

The CUP FINALS
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WHY AFFILIATE?
Leslie S. Woolard

Beware ‘Parrot’ Coaching
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of The Table Tennis World

BRIAN KENNEDY
(England and Yorkshire)

XXth WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS NUMBER
FULL RESULTS
THE GREAT TRIUMPH

England salutes Bergmann, Leach and Simons on their magnificent achievement. The echoes of lusty cheers still ring in 7,000 clubs. The years will lend the enchantment of the heroic to 1952-3 as the year in which the Swaythling Cup came home after 26 years.

Yes, England have won the Swaythling Cup for the first time. But NEVER let it be said "at LAST we have won." To do so belittles the past and makes a doubt of the future. There is nothing here to be belittled. The English team won—not by fortune—but by skill, tenacity, dogged determination and a grand team spirit. They beat, not only the holders, but teams from countries which have won 18 of the 19 previous Competitions. Note the records of the last 4 years:

- 1948-49: Group Runners-up, Lost Czechoslovakia 1-5.
- 1949-50: Group Runners-up, Lost Czechoslovakia 4-5.
- 1950-51: Finalists, Lost Yugoslavia 4-5.

This is no sudden emerging of new English stars, remember. In the last 7 Competitions, the appearances made by these players: Leach 7, Bergmann 5, and Simons 5. It is, therefore, a splendid circumstance and fitting that it be

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*SUSSEX EDITION. Edited by Mr. J. B. Birtwistle. Requests DIRECT to Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.*
ENGLAND WINS SWAYTHLING CUP—FINALISTS FOR CORBILLO

THE SWAYTHLING CUP

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The Final (Play-off):

ENGLAND (Group A) beat Hungary (Group B) 5-3

(F. Sido, J. Koczian, E. Gyettvai)

THE MARCEL CORBILLO CUP

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The Final (Play-off):

RUMANIA (Group B) beat England (Group A) 3-0

(A. Roseanu, S. Szasz, E. Zeller)  
D. and R. Rowe)
England's Fine Cup Performances

THE SWAYTHLING CUP

It was a grand, glorious, satisfying victory for England. It proved (if proof were needed) just how near we have been to success in the last few years. It wasn’t won through luck nor, thank heavens, because of absentees. It was won by the team spirit, technique and sheer dogged determination of Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach and Aubrey Simons.

The draw could not have been tougher, arraying all the most formidable of our rivals. Then, in the first tie against Sweden, Johnny Leach showed that he was (like Diane Rowe) somewhat below his peak form.

It was England’s No. 3, modest great-hearted sportsman, Aubrey Simons, that became the hero of the occasion. Aubrey, obviously of world class, always makes his great achievements for a team. Here was his finest hour. World ranking players or national champions fell like skittles before the determined fury unleashed from Aubrey’s “line of no retreat.”

In the key match against Czechoslovakia, Johnny Leach had fought desperately and splendidly to overcome his “bad patch.” He extended Vana fully, but despite all his superhuman efforts he lost all his 3 matches. At 4 sets all, Aubrey came out to win the decider—and he came out to win—and won he did, bringing England a glorious Group victory at 3 a.m. on a match that had started at 10.30 p.m. the previous night.

As last year, England faced Hungary in the final play-off. A Hungary which had been in training for weeks and had not yet been extended by any opposition. Aubrey Simons gave England a wonderful start by a 2-straight win over Koczian (finalist in last year’s singles). Johnny Leach was playing more like Johnny can and super confidence that had highlighted her early season play. The hope lay in that she would “play herself in” before the expected play-off against Rumania.

England followed her 3-0 win over China by similar victories over Germany and Hungary. In both, Diane lost her first games but in the deciding match Di won and Krejcova but was obviously fighting gallantly against the form bogey. In the decider with Krejcova, Di was leading at 20-11 but lost 7 points in a row before clinching at 18! Hungary, with Gizi Farkas (now Mrs. Gervais) and the dynamic junior Eve Koczian (sister of Josef) looked a serious obstacle as things stood. Rosalind met the challenge by rising to supremely brilliant heights with a sparkling 15—7, 13 win over Farkas, plus a straight-two over Koczian. The first game of the doubles worried England supporters until the twins finally won at 26-24, following with an easier 21-13 win to beat Hungary 3-1, and win Group A.

In Group B, Rumania (with the matchless Roseanu) were group winners, after conceding one game to each Austria, Wales and Sweden. For the England v. Rumania play-off, the odds, under the circumstances, were with the highly trained home team. Allowing for Roseanu to win her 2 singles, the Twins must win both their other singles and the doubles. On paper and all things equal they could do it. In actual fact they were outplayed. Rumania, spurred by their supporting thousands, were inspired, while the twins—despite all their heroic and gallant efforts—were not quite that decisive force that they normally are.

Honours and congratulations to Rumania’s fine team on their deserving 3-0 victory, and a warm-hearted cheer for our own gallant girls.

Details of Cups Competitions on Page 2

SWAYTHLING CUP COMPETITION

Summary of Sets Won and Lost by England players in Cup matches:

W. England v. Rumania play-off the odds

England v. Sweden the odds

England v. Switzerland the odds

England v. China the odds

England v. Czechoslovakia the odds

England v. Austria the odds

England v. Hungary the odds

WON 7 matches; Ties— Won 35; Inst 8.

NATIONAL INDEX

The following abbreviations are used to indicate a player’s country for the first time only that that player’s name occurs:

A.—Austria. B.—Belgium. BZ.—Brasil. CH.—China. CZ.—Czechoslovakia.


Scores for Time Limit Games are indicated by an oblique, i.e., 9/7. In the M.S. and W.S. events, the name of British players are printed in capitals.

Page Three
THE WORLD'S MAIN RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES
1st Round—R. BERGMANN (R) bt. G. Wassner (SZ) 15, 13, 22. 
2nd Round—R. BERGMANN (R) bt. V. Popescu 8, 8, 10.
1st Round—R. BERGMANN (R) bt. V. Popescu 8, 8, 10, 18.
2nd Round—R. BERGMANN (R) bt. V. Popescu 12, 14, 13.

WOMEN'S SINGLES
1st Round—D. ROWE (E) bt. A. Slavescu (R) 14, 11, 13.
1st Round—D. ROWE (E) bt. A. Slavescu (R) 12.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES
1st Round—D. ROWE (E) bt. A. Slavescu (R) 14, 11, 13.
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1st Round—R. BERGMANN (R) bt. G. Wassner (SZ) 15, 13, 22.
1st Round—R. BERGMANN (R) bt. V. Popescu 8, 8, 10.

FARKAS bt. K. Best 20, 19.
FARKAS bt. K. Best 20, 19.
FARKAS bt. K. Best 20, 19.
FARKAS bt. K. Best 20, 19.
THE FIRST RUBBER
By PERCY BROMFIELD

Thanks to some data given to us by that indomitable 75 year old veteran (and E.T.T.A Vice President), O. W. TARRANT of Swindon, we have been able to make up and present this entertaining historical record which Percy Bromfield wrote in 1931.

WHEN I set pen to paper to write about the start of my playing days, I felt very much like one who is about to enter the confessional box after a somewhat lively past—but here goes!

I was still at school when the Ping Pong boom was raging, and a few of us placed some boards over the school's 4-size billiard table and started playing with our hairbrushes. Later we bought half-a-dozen vellum bats, and then arranged inter-form matches, which led to a School Championship, which my brother Donald won just before he left school. The following term I also left and then took up the real game, practising really seriously with mahogany bats. We played ceaselessly every day, particularly on Sundays, when we started before breakfast and continued until after sundown, with breaks only for meals and refreshments. Our rivalry was doubtless accentuated because we staked a half-penny on each game, settling our accounts each week.

Eventually I dawned on me that on "settling" days my brother was usually on the receiving end. My conclusion was that he was playing a steadier game. I racked my brains despairingly and unsuccessfully until the sight of an old football bladder gave me an inspiration—and this is the true story of the origin of the rubber faced bat. I stuck a piece of this bladder on to my wooden bat, and found that it gave me infinitely more control over the ball, and my top spin drives took point after point. My brother was very soon converted to rubber!

After playing through the summer, we entered our first tournament in a church hall in Harwich, in those days the first two prizes. My award was two etchings in frames, while my brother's prize was—a live calf given by the church hall!
Once upon a time when Table Tennis was born, it was decided that each game should last until 21 points were scored by one of the players, except at ‘deuces’ when a clear 2-point margin was needed to win the game. Later on in the twenties, when international table tennis was organised and the first World Championships were held, it was agreed that the best method to find the better player is a match the best of five games. That is why every important and even unimportant championship, or ordinary tournament was played the best of five from the first round to the finals. By the year of 1927 the game of “Ping Pong” had developed into the highly skilful “Sport” of Table Tennis with hundreds of players in a number of countries.

By 1936 there were thousands of players in most countries and because of the improvement of many players in the art of attack, defence, tactics, points were not easily scored, and good nerves, excellent stamina, plus physical fitness, was necessary. Also by 1936 the number of players who played almost entirely on defence had greatly increased, and while a clash between a good class attacker versus a good class defender was always a spectacular match, it was the opposite when two defensive players met, namely, dull monotonous and long drawn out games.

These often unavoidable clashes between defensive players became the nightmare of the organisers of championships and other competitions. They held up events and also made the unsuspecting novice spectator believe that the so-called spectacular sport of Table Tennis, friends had been telling him about, was nothing but the usual game of “Ping Pong.” Being a novice he does not appreciate the finer points of such a game and the tactics used to score points by players who do not possess any decent attacking abilities.

I do not blame a player for trying to win to the best of his ability. If he finds it too risky to venture attacking strokes against a defender whose defence is much too strong for his own feeble attempts of attacking, he will bide his time and keep the ball going until he can see an opening to score a point with a sudden surprise attacking shot depending on his ability. That keeping the ball going, manoeuvring into a better position until the surprise shot is made can take a long time. Sometimes it never comes at all in a game. Well, too bad for the novice spectator and organiser, but you cannot blame the player for trying to win as best he can. Even just keeping the ball going is not always so simple; mistakes are made and the 21 points are reached just the same.

The percentages of these dull matches in a tournament were extremely small and the public were even more disappointed when real spectacular matches on most occasions. However, in the World Championships, Prague, 1935, Ehrlich (then of Poland), played Paneth of Rumania (both defensive players of World Class) and one single rally lasted for 2 hours and 10 minutes. And at the same World Championships Hagienauer of France played Marinu of Rumania for over 7 hours in the Singles Competition. (Again, both were defensive players).

The International T.T. Federation introduced a time limit of 2 hours for the best-of-five for the following season, and also advised that harder, quicker tables and harder balls were to be used in future championships to encourage attacking players. The first unsatisfactory result because of that new ruling was the ladies singles Finals of the World Championships held in Baden in 1937. Ruth Aarons, World Singles Champion, 1936, an excellent all-rounder of World Class met Trudi Pritzi of Austria — one of the best lady defensive players of that era (as she still is). In the Finals, Ruth Aarons soon found out, the hard way, that she could not hit through Pritzi unless she was prepared to lose. Consequently the game slowed down, with Ruth patiently waiting and manoeuvring for the wanted opening to score her point. She certainly had the correct tactics to win that match, but alas, it was not over in the permitted 2 hours, and both players were scratched. There was no ladies World Singles Champion for the season of 1936/37. Ruth Aarons resented that decision so much that she refused to compete in any more championships from that day, henceforth, remaining — incidentally — the only unbeaten World Champion in our sport’s history.

Although playing conditions in Baden were better from the attacking players point of view (harder tables), there was still the usual quota of slower, longer matches. That year in Baden I won my first World Singles Championship against Ehrlich of Poland. We were both, determined players with a negligible attack. Some of our matches to the Finals went dangerously close to the time limit.

The International T.T. Federation in the subsequent years then lowered the net from 63 inches to 6 inches to encourage attacking play. They also limited each game to 21 points up to 20 minutes as you all know. All

(please turn over)
Stop these Time Limits
(continued from previous page)

that to stamp out the so-called pushing matches and help the organisers to know the approximate direction of a match. Did those wise officials stop there, oh no! Still not satisfied they decreed that once the 20 minute limit has been evoked each subsequent game may last only 10 minutes. At some places they even introduced the so-called Expedite Rule during matches in which the umpire tells the players concerned that the server must finish the rally in a certain number of strokes, or lose the point. Incredibly, it is officialdom gone haywire. It is as if they all want to introduce new ways to hamper the players individually scoring points whenever they think it most favourable. Amongst these officials I am sorry to say are many former players who second these new rules. Unless we, the active players, take a stand and protest energetically against these measures God knows where it all will end! Where are we now?

Pushing has not been stopped entirely. Only the really good defensive players survived the lower net successfully. Where it still persisted we got some crazy results like the Farkas-Prizzi match of 1949 in Stockholm, when, after losing the first two sets with an attacking game, Farkas decided to push and pick her shots and won the next 3 sets, with I think, 3 : 1, 4 : 3 and 7 : 3.

There were quite a few other similar results where the point factor hovers threateningly over them, consequentially, in spite of fluent, fast and furious table tennis, games often get dangerously near the 20-minute limit. Some referees deduct the time spent on these interruptions from the 20 minutes allowed for the game. Others do not. All this while the player is helpless and is supposed to agree with the referee at all times.

I have tried to give readers and active players a fair picture of the present situation as regards the time limit as practised to-day. As long as Table Tennis performances are given there will always be very exciting matches, as well as not so exciting ones, as well as dull matches, whether there is a Time Limit or not. The paying public will have to chance that. They do in all Sports. My own recommendations, which I hope will find support wherever there are table tennis players, are given below:

1. Abolish all Time Limits.
2. Extend the Limit of 20 minutes per game to 30 minutes for all games, and abolish the 10-minute limit once the time limit of 30 minutes has been enforced.
3. Umpires must be issued with automatic and exact bell clocks, checked for accuracy. It should never be left to a human voice to halt the game.
4. Clock to be stopped when ball is not in play.
5. All open Singles Championships to be the best of five games from start to finish.

If my number 1 suggestion is not acceptable, then I suggest Nos. 2, 2a and 2b as an alternative.

Richard Bergmann

WINNING DRIVE

Although Richard Bergmann has figured in some spectacular Time Limit games, he has won many titles by attack (as his classic with Vana in 1947). R. Dutru has here caught the Bergmann drive which won the M.S. title in the Metropolitan Open.

Lincs. Closed

 Skegness, 15th Feb., 1953

PETER SKERRATT on leave from the Army in Germany retained his title in an exciting final against Bobby Stevens (Essex) now serving with R.A.F. in Lincs. F.

2a. Umpires must be issued with automatic and exact bell clocks, checked for accuracy. It should never be left to a human voice to halt the game.

Obituary

MR. T. G. BRANDRETH

Vice-President, E.T.T.A., Liverpool League Chairman, 1932-6, 1939-47

We regret to record the death in January, 1953, of Mr. T. G. Brandreth, a Vice-President of the English T.T. Association since 1933. He was a prominent worker in the Liverpool League where he worthily held executive office for 17 years, being one of the joint referees for every Closed and Merseyside Open tournament in this period. He had an exceptional virtue of extreme calmness and no one has ever seen him irritable or ill-tempered. He was a keen supporter of the New Brighton F.C. and the Wallasey cricket ground, until his slight, but unfortunate, stroke a year ago. All of his colleagues will remember him with warm affection, and sympathy is extended to his wife and daughter.
I WOULD remind readers that the purpose of this series of articles is not to advocate one or other system of training or coaching, but to encourage players to think and act for themselves, and also to remind Coaches of the risks of too-rigid application of popular coaching "slogans." Such slogans are responsible to-day for the frustration of many keen players. For example, it is an unfortunate fact that many pupils are misled by the first words of technical interpretation of the words. When your Coach tells you to grip your bat firmly he means—or should mean—that you should hold it confidently and wield it steadily, as an extension of your hand. He means "Don't dangle it like a Yo-Yo ... don't pinch it gingerly like a coffee spoon... don't flap it around like a fly-swatter."

He wants you to start off with a good steady arm-swing, free from errors due to erratic bat-movements.

The pupil, over-anxious to please, gives more than he is asked, and grips that bat as though it were a life-line and as though salvation depends upon never slackening his hold.

The hypnotic effect of this first kindergarten slogan, reinforced by natural nervous tension, is responsible for the bogging-down of many club players after the first thrilling period of improvement. During a honeymoon many a fault passes unnoticed. But as the world knows, there follows a period of adjustment when sensible people build for a better future by examining their own habits and trying to improve their shortcomings. Others try to plod along as they are, resigned to a second best. Sooner or later ordinary excuses shock them with a blunt criticism of their obvious faults. (The weaker-willed then fall back upon another slogan phrase: "Too late to mend"—which we seem to have heard in table tennis too!).

Hundreds of keen club players reach this stage in their table tennis. If you think I exaggerate in referring to the "hypnotic" danger of the firm-grip slogan, take a close look at your non-improving classmates. Note the clenched knuckles, the taut forearm muscles, the locked shoulders. All these to handle a stationary tool, weighing perhaps 6 ounces, to deal with an object weighing one-twelfth of an ounce.

Clever short play, change of speed, change of direction, change of spin, are all more easily acquired, by most people, with a lightly-held bat, above all, a relaxed grip leads to a relaxed mind. If it makes you feel better, you can squeeze or press a little at the moment of contact of an aggressive shot, but mechanically speaking even this is not necessary.


Is this, too, going to turn out to be a dangerous double-edged sword? Indeed it is, often enough.

As a piece of advice on positioning the bat in your hand, it is sometimes helpful. But it is far from being an infallible guide, and certainly is not necessary. One need only watch the French internationals, Haguenauer, Rootoff, Amouretti, Ehrlich, with their "cricketer's" grip, to see that the traditional pointing forefinger is not essential to high-class play.

As a piece of advice on holding the bat, it is short-sighted unless accompanied by further explanation. To hold the bat between thumb and forefinger may give a certain feeling of confidence to a beginner, but it leads so often to an ingrained habit of applying pressure in the very part of the digits which should be free for sensitive touch.

A discussion on the Grip and all that springs from it might fill a book. I must be content here to say enough to encourage an open-minded approach to instruction.

As John Arlott says—there is more to modern Coaching than shouting "GET STUCK INTO IT, LADS!" No. 849

WILFRED RHODES, the greatest all-rounder that Cricket has ever known, is now 75 . . . In 1922, The Tatler recorded: "Now that some stalwart has revived ping-pong, you may get let in for a game with Rhodes. Better by far back a three-legged 'un for the Derby than yourself. Unless you can get him to ping with a bread knife while you pong with a short-handled badminton racket."

The recent celebration of the 70th birthday of JACK HOBBS (we wish it could be Sir Jack) reminds us that Jack was a Committee man of the famous All-England T.T. Club at St. Bridde's in 1922, and, as one of the best exponents of the day, made a film of an exhibition T.T. match with fellow Surrey cricketer, Andy Ducat.

When the All-England Club were to play Cambridge University in 1922, the players selected included Jack Hobbs, Andy Ducat (cricket and football international), B. I. C. Norton (South African Lawn Tennis Wimbledon finalist), G. R. Sherwell (Lawn Tennis international), Hamilton Price (famous L.T. Referee), the Bryan brothers (Kent amateur cricketers), S. and W. Joel, C. Ramaswami (double Blue, Davis Cup player and cricketer) and S. Hasid.

Jack Carrington

No. 850

A "real life" mixed double team, Surrey's Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Miller (international Joyce Roberts and international reserve Tony Miller). Taken in action.
EVE KOCZIAN – Hungarian Comet

Hungarian Despatch by FERENC GYORGY

WHEN Ferenc Soos read my report of his enforced retirement from table tennis his comment was similar to that of the late Bernard Shaw (after reading a newspaper account of his death): "The news of my death is a little exaggerated!"

To prove it, Soos entered the recent Budapest Championships. Naturally, he was not seeded and had to start from the beginning again, playing in a warm pullover and elegant trousers. His brilliant technique took him comfortably to the 3rd round where he met the international Joska Farkas at the top of his form. Soos took one game easily with all the dazzling brilliance of his best. Then the effects of his illness weakened him and he had to struggle. Soos is an artist and an artist cannot, must not, struggle; he is characterised (like that other artist Andreadis) by the easy perfection of his play.

Joska had an old score to settle with the old master, and quickly sensing his opponent's difficulty, brought his redoubtable backhand flick to hit Soos "off the table." Alas, poor gaunt Soos, it became difficult for him even to pick up the ball! Nevertheless, despite his terrific handicap, he showed much of his old glory and was given a very warm reception. Although Joska Farkas had not been seeded, he reached 3rd place.

In an exciting semi-final, bespectacled 17-year-old Foldi defeated Sido over 5 games. The boy has a reliable long defence and fights for every point, but no one thinks that he is yet ready enough to beat any but the "light-minded" Sido. Koczian had no difficulty in beating the younger in straight games in the final.

In the W.S. event, Ginci Simons beat the "hitting machine" Sagi 3-0! Easily, too. Ginci is a Gymnastics Instructor and probably the tallest women player in the world. She plays a defensive game generally, when her tenacity and long legs make her a difficult opponent. In beating Sagi, however, she attacked the attacker—and won!

The reliable, 17-year-old Mavag player, Almasi unfortunately seems to have lost his match nerves lately, but to make up—as it were—Josef Koczian’s little, 16-year-old sister, Eve has emerged like a comet. She is Hungary’s Big Hope for the future, already stylish and one of the most talented in Hungary, she was placed No. 3 after Gizi Farkas and the whirlwind Fantusz. •

Gizi Farkas battled against the men and played the women. She has reduced weight, increased her speed, and seems in excellent form. Against men, she beat the rather good Benzes and lost to the 1st Class player Hamori—although extending him to 5 games.

The X.D. Final was unusual; on one side was the tallest, largest man Sido (well over 6 ft) partnering the smallest girl—Eve Koczian (just over 4 ft.), and playing against her famous brother Josef and Gizi Farkas. The brother played a very hard game against his grand little sister. However, Eve did gain something: "My brother will very rarely give me the favour of playing with me," she confided shyly. So if Koczian I reads this article, I hope that it may encourage him to play OFTEN with Koczian II: It won’t cost much to give her the “favour”—and she deserves it.

WIESBADEN, 30th Nov., 1952—

GERMAN (Piffl, Vossebein, Freundorfer) bt. AUSTRIA (Schuech, Wegrath, Bednar) 5-4. Freundorfer won his 3 ties in straight games.

“TABLE TENNIS REVIEW”

THE MAGAZINE WHICH COVERS THE SPORT FROM EVERY ANGLE

“TABLE TENNIS REVIEW” IS WRITTEN

By PLAYERS For PLAYERS

★ REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL MATCHES
★ NEWS AND VIEWS FROM NEAR AND FAR
★ CRITICISMS AND HUMOROUS PARDS
★ OPEN TOURNAMENT RESULTS

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READ IN THE MANY PAGES OF “THE REVIEW”

OUR COPY TO-DAY

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Should any reader of “TABLE TENNIS” find difficulty in obtaining a regular "TABLE TENNIS REVIEW" (1/-), Send 5/8 to T.T. REVIEW, Old Hall Street, and secure the next five issues. This also includes the World Championships issue.
WHY AFFILIATE? And what does Affiliation mean? What does it cost and what happens to the money? Do you know? Have you ever thought about it?

It would be easier to explain colour to a person born blind than to attempt to cover all the aspects involved. How would you briefly explain the “benefits” of a religion? Or of civilised society? They all mean different things to different people. Easy to explain to a small group and related to local circumstances; difficult to explain coherently and briefly in wide generalisations without losing some force. That is probably why no one has attempted to set out in writing what every logical-thinking person KNOWS.

The following notes are incomplete, as “those folk in London who rule the roost” in a dictatorial way, they think of the E.T.T.A. as a kind of departmental store which ought to be able to hand out a sealed, packet of “Goods and Services” in exchange for the affiliation fee. This is comparable to a person who thinks he will get a single ticket to Heaven for putting something in the collection plate!

How much does it Cost?
The E.T.T.A. Affiliation fees work out at roughly 1 jd. per WEEK per CLUB, or 1d. per WEEK per YOUR CLUB.

Individually, it depends on how many members in the club. With only 10 members in the Club, the E.T.T.A. fee would be roughly equivalent to 8d. and 2jd. PER YEAR for a senior and junior respectively.

The Collective Benefit.
The greatest benefits of affiliation are (perhaps unfortunately) mostly of an intangible kind. That means you can’t see them, and YOU WOULD NOT KNOW.

ABOUT CREDITING THAT BENEFIT AGAINST THE AFFILIATION FEE, would you? This kind of thing is happening all the time.

EVERYONE who plays, does, of course, get some of these benefits, but the non-members are “hi-jackers” or “blacklegs” (although usually unconsciously so). Between us, we are paying THEIR fair share.

Collective benefits start accruing as soon as you put something in the collection plate. The ‘Collective Benefit’.

The invaluable good work of the Central Council of Physical Education, for instance, would not be possible without the existence of a standard E.T.T.A. Affiliation fee. Second, the E.T.T.A. is actually receiving LESS, proportionately, per club, than it was in 1945-6.

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Collective benefits start accruing whenever a powerful numerical and articulate force attains a status where it can agree within itself, make standards, and raise them, and make terms with manufacturers, government departments and similar groups. The more members and the wider the international representation of the sport, the more influence it can exert and the greater benefits and economies can be achieved.

Influence exerted on manufacturers, government departments, the press, the radio, films, local and educational authorities, sports organisations, etc., can all bring considerable values and services to even the most remote centre.

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First, note that despite all cost increases, the fee for senior clubs has NOT changed, yet in this period, 1945-6 to date, 231 ADDITIONAL leagues have affiliated. That is MORE than 2/3rds of present membership. The NEW leagues are in a majority; they could have reduced fees had they thought it desirable to do so.

Secondly, the E.T.T.A. actually receives LESS, proportionately, per club, than it was in 1945-6. With the reductions to Youth organisations, Clubs, etc., it would not be difficult to prove that financially the E.T.T.A. are out-of-pocket with this membership.

Then, of the fees which ALL clubs nominally pay to the E.T.T.A. 1/- goes BACK TO THE COUNTY ASSOCIATION. (In effect, the E.T.T.A. gets 6/6d. or 2/6d. per club). In 1946-7, the E.T.T.A. paid back £79 to counties in this way. In 1951-2, they paid back £445!

There is, of course, no record of those cases where counties have waived initial fees, or they or the E.T.T.A. have helped in some way. From my personal experience I have helped or founded and been associated with more leagues than I can remember (as well as several county and some national associations), and IN NO CASE where the matter was properly approached, have I found that affiliation fees were any handicap. Yet imagine a league founded in a rural area with one club in each of 6 or 7 neighbouring villages and having to pay for halls, new equipment, etc. Yet they found no “strangulating effect” in paying the combined E.T.T.A. and County Fees!

Incidentally, when the E.T.T.A. was formed as a full national association in 1926, the E.T.T.A. fee was 2/6d. per club. Then there was only 19 leagues. What an amazing difference in service and value nowadays!

Answer to a Critic

SUPPOSING someone said, of table tennis, that “the stranglehold of heavy affiliation fees” tends to “smother the hopes of some new and promising league.” Do you get mad? Or laugh? Or what? The comment I have quoted looks a bit fatuous against FACTS.

1945-6:—Total 110 leagues; ONE standard E.T.T.A. Affiliation fee of 7/6d. per club.

1947-8:—The Fee of 7/6d. was REDUCED to 4/- for Youth Clubs, etc.

1951-2:—The 4/- Fee for Youth Clubs was REDUCED to 3/-.

1952-3:—Total 341 leagues.

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Page Eleven
VICTOR BARNA, 41-year-old Grand Master of Table Tennis, has always been a confirmed believer in athletic training for Championship T.T. As friend-adviser-coach to the famous Rowe Twins, he kept them to a daily 4-hour training schedule during the 3 weeks preceding the World Championships, and as you see, both practices and enjoys what he "preaches." Victor (who is travelling to Bucharest at his own expense) is partnermg fellow veteran Adrian Haydon in the M.D. Victor holds the World's Jubilee Cup title. Adrian was runner-up, 1951-2.

AFFILIATION . . . By LESLIE WOOLLARD (from page 11)

Strong national association, with whose co-operation the benefits of coaching, training and exhibitions, etc., have been taken to the most humble and isolated places.

Standards.

Percy Bromfield's article on page 3 of this issue indicates how a variety of rules and equipment can sabotage a game, and history has proved this not only of Table Tennis, but of every human activity.

I have an old catalogue before me which lists "standard" sizes of tables: 6 x 4; 7 x 4; 8 x 4; 8 x 4½; and 9 x 5. In the 1920's nearly every centre (and often different clubs) had different varieties of the game. Wales barred rubber-surfaced bats. Bristol played 30 up; Sunderland: 100 up; the first international matches with Wales were single games of 31 up. Cambridge University used Lawn Tennis Scoring. St. Bride's All-England Club, 21-up. There were many kinds of doubles: Lawn Tennis, the Four-Handed; Manchester; Tennessee (which consisted of placing 2 tables side by side). No game could, of course, flourish with such a bewildering chaos of variety, and a major service of the national association (our national club, the E.T.T.A.) has been—and continues to be—a minimum standardisation and improvement of conditions, equipment, etc. Again, this is a benefit which you cannot see, but it could not be effective unless there was a large-membered national association.

The Tangible Benefits.

The tangible benefits (the things which you can see) are also numerous. As a democratic national club, it is a case of getting together in the Annual Handbook which cost £486 NET to produce last year;

(b) regular news bulletins and circulars;

(c) free advice, help, co-operation from the best and most experienced T.T. brains in the country;

(d) visits by officers;

(e) assisted coaching, training and exhibition services;

(f) provision of a "national club" magazine which gives YOU a monthly platform of opinion, ideas and news from H.Q. and everywhere else, and helpful articles by the tip-top stars of world T.T. on improving your game, etc.;

(g) you are able to take active part in the playing and social activities of T.T., from your own locality and anywhere in the world, (under protective international measures), and can find that you are a member of the greatest and friendliest "international club" in the world.

As the President of the U.S.T.T.A. said recently: "My association with table tennis is one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. If I live to be 100, I will always be a member of the U.S.T.T.A. and I will always try to work and help in accomplishing the many tasks that are always there to be done. I will do this because I will always be paid many times over in the warmth of my friendships for the hours and the energy that I expend... I will always get back from Table Tennis a great deal more than I put into it."

This is the TRUE spirit and essence of affiliation—a getting together for the common good in sporting friendship; a helping-each-other and a taking-part. Of being proud of being a Member and of trying to make them proud of us also; and it is a "club" to be proud of, is this "All-England Club," don't you think so? And it is all made up of folks like YOU and me; that's ALL the E.T.T.A. is—but whether you are in Land's End or Berwick, you are part of the E.T.T.A.—OUR club—and therefore WHAT the E.T.T.A. is doing is (or should be) very much your concern.

The list of services could be easily doubled and PLEASE remember that they are all performed by...
THE CUPS FINALS
South London's 4th Win of Wilmott Cup
Birmingham's First J. M. Rose Bowl

No. 866

P. Madge

BRAVO BIRMINGHAM

Three rousing cheers for Birmingham Ladies on their thoroughly deserved winning of the Women's Team Championship of England (the J. M. Rose Bowl) for the first time. The cheer for the new champions will be all the warmer because they have made themselves popular by their cheery team spirit and fine sportsmanship.

J. M. Rose Bowl Finals
Y.M.C.A., Wimbledon
28th Feb., 1953

By GEOFF. COULTHREAD

THE semi-finals were played simultaneously on adjoining tables, starting at 2.30 p.m. and the final was staged at 7 p.m. on a different table to either used for the semis, thus giving strict fairness to both teams.

WOOLWICH v. BIRMINGHAM

When the first doubles was decided on a match point, it looked as though this might be a close fight, but the only subsequent serious challenge came from Peggy Sims who took Jean Mackay to 23-21.

BIRMINGHAM v. MANCHESTER

Pam Mortimer won the first game against Adele Wood after a match point, with both girls hitting well and holding long rallies. Then Adele Wood won the next two games by heavy, angled chop and forehand winners well over on Pam's forehand. "Dale" Wood thus achieved a well-deserved 100% record through both matches.

The trophy was presented by Alderman Hamlin (Wimbledon). Among those present were George White, M. Goldstein, Coert Woodcock and Mr. Jones of the Sunday Freedom Association.

A final tribute to Maurice Brown, the President, South London League, who expressed the thanks of an concerned to Mr. M. Goldstein and the Birmingham Association who had staged the Finals at such very short notice.

Wilmott Cup Finals
Indoor Stadium, Birmingham
20th Feb., 1953

By R. C. DAWSON

(p.n.c. Cast. S. London, Ex-International)

HUDDERSFIELD v. FELLOWS CRANLEIGH T.T.C.

Birmingham, in excellent form, could not bear the sound attack and defensive play of Hinchliff. Dorking might have beaten Dyson but for three ill-judged backhand strokes at the end of the third game, but he impressed by his promise. Fellows Cranleigh are to be congratulated on an excellent performance.

FELLOWS CRANLEIGH 4
(Huddersfield names first in caps.)


SOUTH LONDON v. GLOUCESTER

Head and Merrett fought at a fast pace with long rallies. Gloucester have a wonderful team for the future with an average age of 17. M. Morgan was absent injured, and R. Morley has recently won distinction in the Daily Mirror tournament.

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The Writer's Postscript

I would like to put in a plea for a venue nearer London next year. Perhaps the competition could be re-organised on Davis Cup lines, so that the holders are exempted from earlier rounds and made responsible for staging an inter-zone final and the Challenge Round.

R. C. Dawson
PERSONALIA

South African JOHN HEWIE, Charlton F.A. fullback (valued at £20,000 transfer rate), is also a keen Table Tennis and baseball player. He plays T.T. several times a week in the Woolwich League. Mr. Weller, well-known Brighton player, has opened a T.T. School for Youngsters - youngest is 11. . . . pupils pay normal table hire charges, but there is no fee for coaching. Derbyshire introduced seeding into their Closed Championships for the first time this season (and then only in the M.S. event) . . . A W.D. event was also added for the first time. Miss AUDREY BATES, Welsh T.T. international is also an international in lawn tennis and squash rackets, as well as a prominent hockey player . . . For the last 2 years she has been selected to represent Great Britain against the U.S.A. in the Wolfe-Noel Cup Squash Rackets competition . . . she recently reached the 4th round of the English Women's Squash Championships. Nevertheless, at T.T., Audrey has been beaten 2-0 by teenage Welsh international Shirley Jones every time they have met this year.

BEDFORDSHIRE CLOSED

Luton, 25th Feb., 1953

M.S. C. Crowe bt. (1) P. Holland 10, 11; bt. (2) S. Lawson 20, 14, 16 bt. W. Phillips 17, 19, 14.
M.B. C. Crowe/D. Lawson bd. R. Batchford/E. Goodwin.

THE COACH'S DUTY

"A great responsibility rests on the coach. His duty is to instill the spirit of the game, its greatest glory, into all whom he is helping. That is even more important than the winning."

D. R. Gost
(referring to Rugby Football)

Page Fourteen

FIXTURE BOOK

Date(s) Details and Venue Extra Events Organising Secretary

April 7/11 ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley.

10 IRISH OPEN* Mr. W. E. Wood, 44, Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester 9.

16/18 LANCASHIRE OPEN (Apr. 4) B.S. Squire's Gate Holiday Camp, Blackpool.

24 SOUTH AMERICAN CH.* At Montevideo.

Bedfordshire Closed

M.S. CROWE bt. (1) P. Holland 10, 11; bt. (2) S. Lawson 20, 14, 16 bt. W. Phillips 17, 19, 14.
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Page Fourteen

OF ALL LEADING SPORTS OUTFITTERS

UMBRO

The choice of champions

MISS HELEN ELLIOT

winner of the following titles:

World's Women's Doubles 1949/50 Scottish Women's Singles 1945/51
Scottish Mixed Doubles 1949/51 Scottish Women's Doubles 1946/51
English Open Mixed 1950/51

Miss Elliot wears "UMBRO" table tennis wear
NETHERLANDS OPEN

The finals results were published in our March issue. Full details have now been received from Holland, and the following by the way singles results have been selected:


W.O. D. (2) G. ROLAND (Big.) bt. Molly Jones 17, 10, 9; lost Detournay (Big.) 13, 16. C. ROUGAGNO bt. V. S/F. EHRLICH bt. Dolinar 10, 14, 17.

ROOTHOIT bt. V. Harangozof 18, 16, 15.

W.S. (2) G. ROLAND (Big.) bt. Molly Jones 17, 10, 9; lost Detournay (Big.) 13, 16. C. ROUGAGNO bt. V. S/F. EHRLICH bt. Dolinar 10, 14, 17.

Roothoit bt. V. Harangozof 18, 16, 15.

PARAGUAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Asuncion, Oct., 1952


HONGKONG bt. ENGLAND 3—1

Hongkong, Sept., 1952

B. HOBBERMANN lost Shi Shi-Chung 19, 16, 13; Ist. Ng 15, 9; Ist. Koons Wai-Ning 7, 19, 16, 13; Ist. Leach lost Keong Wai-Shing 12, 15, 15. B. HOBBERMANN/J. LEACH lost Fou Chi-Fong/Shi Shi-Chung 16, 19, 13, 10.

THEY SHALL NOT PASS!

Mr. E. N. REED recently wrote an Open Letter to Staines Juniors in a spirit of friendly helpfulness: "... it seems to me that you have got all the strokes but will not use your framework to get into position to use them.

It always looks better to see a plane moving to make a difficult return (EVEN if he misses it) rather than let it go by as hopeless ..."
THE train was about to move off and I had stretched out my hand to close the carriage door when it was slammed by a hurrying porter.

"Gosh!" exclaimed a fellow passenger, "You moved your hand quickly! I'm sure it would have caught my fingers had I been in your place!"

That man was probably right. My mental reactions are probably faster than average because I play Table Tennis. In fact, I think mental reactions are more important in T.T. than even stroke production or tactics. It is useless to have all the shots unless your mental reactions are fast enough for you to get into the proper position to make them.

Aubrey Simons can stand right up to the table and take even Venner's fast forehand drives, not necessarily fast drives, but because he sees the ball twice as many times than a second before another player does. Richard Bergmann certainly has an uncanny anticipation, but there is a difference between the years go by, and there is nothing that can be done about it. Hence the best Doubles players, such as Barna and Carrington, are often the eldest, since there is a split second longer to cope with each stroke. So, although you may be past your best for Singles at 20, you can still play winning Doubles when you are 50.

**COSMOPOLITAN LEAGUES**

BRADFORD have among their league players Curt Skaj (Sweden), Vic Neimantas (Lithuania), N. Vella (Malta), T. Pomroy (Central Europe), H. Luts, F. Volta, K. Bierant, Kay-lanokas and Z. Piliponis (a Greek).
TABLE TENNIS IN THE SOVIET

Need of International Competition

TABLE TENNIS was first organised in Russia as long ago as 1926 and was quickly taken up. In its first year, the Moscow Association had more than 500 members registered. The game is now played in nearly every Republic of the Union.

Pre-war World Championship players will remember the Lithuanian Swathling Cup players: Dzundzilius, Nikolajus, Varakejus and Dukases (even if they cannot pronounce them!). They competed in the Cairo World's of 1938-9 as 2 English players have good cause to remember. It was natural that, with their international competitive experience, these players should dominate the post-war game in the Union, but, nevertheless, it is a healthy sign that they are now working under a young and vigorous challenge, and 9 titles changed hands in the 2nd All-Union Championships (results in February Table Tennis).

There was an exciting clash in the final of the team championships when the U.S. met the U.S.S.R. junior champion R. Varakejus, but with the wins going to the more recent opponents, it was genuine, not put on. Their entry into the Olympic Games was a success in every way. Table Tennis is sufficiently important to be recognised with the top sports in the Soviet, and this enables those players who attain eminence in the game to become honoured as a "Master of Sport." Most sport in the U.S.S.R. is organised by sports societies, of which there are two kinds. There is the general sports society such as "Dynamo" and Spartacus, and there is the sports society that is organised within an industry or profession, such as the Piaskevich (Food Industry), the Lokomotive (Railways) and the Wings of the Soviet. Both types of society cater for all sports, and organise competitions in their local branches in towns and regions as well as for an All-Union (i.e., open only to members of that society). This type of organisation is comparable to the Sports, Athletic and Social clubs organised by the Civil Service, British Railways, R.A.F., etc., in England.

A more enterprising step is proposed for the All-Union Table Tennis Championships next year; instead of each of the sports societies entering the team competition, the event will be composed of representative teams from the different republics, thus making a Pan-Republic Championships.

The "Immortal" of T.T.

Star Sportswriter and T.T. player ALAN HOBY of the Sunday Express (and, incidentally, a very handy T.T. player) recently nominated his Immortals of Sport: "It's not so much ship and genius which qualifies them for a place in sport's Valhalla... achievement alone won't guarantee a place in sport's Hall of Fame. It is that elusive, indefinable 'something' which keeps the memory fresh when records fade."

VICTOR BARN is Alan Hoby's only "Immortal" for Table Tennis, despite many fears of political "incidents" due to international tension, there was put forth with the name. He particularly mentioned, in fact, that "Russian athletes, clearly, have not only learned sport; they have learned sportsmanship as well. Even in the most 'difficult' sports... the Russians were a model both in spirit and in behaviour. They were very friendly with other teams; and it was genuine, not put on. Their entry into the Olympic Games was a success in every way."

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IRELAND bt. SCOTLAND 6-3
Dundee, 27th Feb., 1953

A very good match with some good performances by the Scots youngsters, but with the wins going to the more experienced players.

(Results and scores first in caps.)

1. (R.PERRY bt. M. McMillan 14 - 10, 14
2. (M. McMillan bt. R. Kerr 19 - 10, 11
3. (E. MARTIN bt. J. Campbell 18 - 11, 15
4. (J. Campbell bt. E. Collins 12 - 13, 16
5. (M. McMillan bt. H. Elliot 11 - 14
6. (E. Collins bt. M. Josephson 19 - 8, 17
7. (M. McMillan bt. Mrs. M. Josephson 19 - 10
8. (J. Campbell bt. H. Elliot 14 - 11, 15
9. (E. Collins bt. M. McMillan 19 - 16
10. (M. McMillan bt. H. Elliot 19 - 10
11. (G. Josephson bt. H. Elliot 20 - 14

THE RT. HON.
LORD ABERDARE

THERE could hardly be a more suitable person to make the Presentation at the English Championships at Wembley on April 11th than the Rt. Hon. Lord Aberdare. Not only is he one of the greatest workers in the British and International world of amateur sport and himself a great amateur champion, but is also an authority on court games and has written or edited a number of works on Rackets, Squash, Tennis and Badminton.

He has won many honours in Tennis, Rackets, Lawn Tennis, Golf, Cricket and Shooting. His Rackets titles include: 2 Amateur and 1 Open of the British Isles; 10 U.S.A. Doubles; 1 Canadian Singles and 2 Doubles. In Tennis he has won the Amateur Championship of U.S.A. once and of the British Isles twice; won the Coupe de Paris 6 times; won 5 Gold and 9 Silver M.C.C. Prizes; won the Bailey Cup 3 times; and represented Great Britain no less than 18 times in Bathurst Cup competitions.

His Lordship serves on about 40 major committees, councils, etc. (usually as Chairman), and all connected with amateur sports, physical education and youth movements, etc.

***

No. 663

Doug. Shaw and May Thompson
(see below)

CUPID

Mr. EDWARD TRANTER, well-known Derby and County T.T. player and cricketer, was married on 7th Feb. to Miss Pamela Ann Kershaw, formerly a professional ballet dancer, at St. Giles' Church, Normanton. Congratulations to DOUG. SHAW and MAY THOMPSON (both of Manchester) on their recent engagement. picture of the popular and charming pair in this column. We hear that 3 Egham Utd. Services Club players are all engaged to wed within the Budget year... they are Johnny Mileham, Peter Goss and "Dixie" Dean. FRED CHANDLER (Staines League) follows suit.
TOURNAMENT TOPS DRAW CROWDS

THERE are some organisers who blame circumstances or the apathy of local players when an event is not so successful as it should be. Is this attitude comparable to that of a player who alibis when he loses? To a small extent perhaps it is. Nothing succeeds like Success—but it can recede, too, for Success goes to the deserving. Organisers must remember, in these days of swift changes, that what was a Highspot in the past is not necessarily one to-day. The Public always look for drama, excitement, novelty and spectacle; they want something to take their emotions "for a holiday" outside of everyday things, and despite the increased costs of taxation, etc., they will find the money to support those things which are made worth-while. Showmen, and all those who make their living by anticipating public reactions, know that they must look ahead; they must get a constant flow of new ideas, rise to new heights, show enterprise and boldness. We suggest that many T.T. organisers might capitalise on the policy of not relying on circumstances but MAKING them. Don't WAIT for things to fall off, but cudgel the grey matter to find some means of introducing a special feature in your show, that it will make folks sure NOT to miss it.

THREE examples of topnotch successes—all giving something out of the rut in different ways, make excellent illustrations.

NO. 1. THE METROPOLITAN OPEN at The Polytechnic in January. The queue was forming 2-hour before doors were open; several hundred were unlucky. The "Met." can afford to follow traditional lines because it offers what are probably the best playing conditions in the world and invariably attracts all the top players. This is a point for those who want topnotchers. The Poly., apart from perfect playing conditions, has admirable buffet facilities, a practice table, excellent dressing-room facilities (with lockers, hot-and-cold showers, etc.). Look after the Players and they will look after the Public is not such a bad thought. Then the event is so admirably organised and presented and in its elegant, comfortable surroundings that are, alas, less common than it could be wished.

NO. 2. THE SOUTH LONDON OPEN was in a Baths Hall, south of the river. It made its appeal in a different way—as, indeed, it had too. We suspect that Geoff. Coulthred's varied experience in stage and radio work was of considerable benefit here, and the League's President, Mr. E. A. W. Cast has always been a man of enterprise, ideas, and encouragement. The first impression the audience received on entering was from seeing the Box Office Manager (Geoff. Coulthred) in evening dress. And why not, indeed? Such little things elevate occasions into the worthwhile status. There was a licensed bar and buffet open until 11 p.m. The programme included, in addition to 9 final games involving topnotch players, a unique display of "Whiff-Waff," the 50-year-old ancestor of Table Tennis, illustrated on this page.

NO. 3. THE WATFORD LEAGUE TOURNAMENT Finals in the splendid, comfortable, modern Town Hall was a model of what can be done. They were as successful as they deserved to be. There was that subtle atmosphere of distinction which makes such an important contribution to the status accorded the sport. Watford leaders DO lead by setting high standards, by bold enterprise, and by recognising the sport as one worthy of the best conditions (and not merely a slap-happy get-together in a back street hall). Their initiative naturally arises enterprises play and keen competition in the finals, so that there is variety every year. (Is it so surprising that Watford have supplied the entire County Junior team this season when a few years ago they could not get one representative in?)

But Watford are not satisfied merely with a good finals—they always give plus value to the Public. The ever-popular Victor Barna is always a draw to make a Special Night, and is integrated into some Exhibition which is varied each year, and this year included Richard Bergmann, The Mayor and other distinguished visitors as well as the audience obviously enjoyed everything. They had something to advertise in their talk; they will come again. Secretary Miss Joy Cullingford made an admirable hostess to welcome all in the foyer; Chairman Mr. R. L. Hadd an admirable M.C., and the lively League Secretary, and kingpin of the juniors, Mr. Renshaw, was an ideal Referee—stara of a cast which presented a really topline production.

One of the lovely little finishing touches illustrating the thoughtful care, was the little buttonhole-bouquets presented to the lady guests.

ALTHOUGH we have starred 3 recent events of outstanding merit, we know that there are a number of others. The Sussex Open, for in-
TOURNAMENT TOPS
(continued from previous page)
stance, has always been outstanding, attracting the topnotchers, and arranging some happy get-together such as their extremely successful social and dance.

The SCARBOROUGH Association is another one which has recognised the value of injectioning New Ideas, and their enterprise has won them the backing of their local civic authorities in the staging of their EASTER HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT by the Sea—the North-East England Open. Last year, they ran a President's Challenge for the OVER 60's. Mr. George Hurlock won the Round Robin of the 3 challengers, but lost to Mr. Austin Harrison in the decider, and a suitably inscribed Silver Medal was presented to both winner and runner-up. It went over well last year, and the Challenge is repeated.

Further afield, and in another part of the country, is another competition attracting the topnotchers, and arranged by the SURREY OPEN, which is still going strong with the support of their local civic authorities in the staging of their EASTER HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT by the Sea—the North-East England Open. Last year, they ran a President's Challenge for the OVER 60's. Mr. George Hurlock won the Round Robin of the 3 challengers, but lost to Mr. Austin Harrison in the decider, and a suitably inscribed Silver Medal was presented to both winner and runner-up. It went over well last year, and the Challenge is repeated.

Although this Tournament has many attractions as a holiday-seaside- and-T.T. week-end combination, it still shows the right idea in trying to think of something new. We particularly commend the particulars of accommodation and prices sent out with entry forms. Also—like other groups of enterprise—they advertise!

SURREY OPEN
Epsom, 27th Feb., 1953

By GEOFF. COULTHREAD

FINALS night was full of meat for the seasoned supporter and casual visitor alike. The semis were dramatic and full of interest. In the "tough" section of the draw, Leach bt. Sherwood 16, 14, and L. Adams 13, 15, while Ron Crayden accounted for Hurlock 16, 14 and Spychalski 18, 17, 9. "Spiky" had a touch-and-go with junior M. Maclaren and Hurlock bt. Head 16, 15. Craigie and Venner were the other semi-finalists.

Ron Crayden extended Johnny Leach with some astute over-the-table play and some good passing drives on Johnny's backhand. A good warming up match for Johnny which brought out some of his best. Venner and Craigie battled out the other semi. In the deciding game, Venner picked up from 4-10 down to a 16-14 lead, but Craigie finally won 22-20.

Last year Ken Craigie beat Johnny Leach with some astute over-the-table play and some good passing drives on Johnny's backhand. A good warming up match for Johnny which brought out some of his best. Venner and Craigie battled out the other semi. In the deciding game, Venner picked up from 4-10 down to a 16-14 lead, but Craigie finally won 22-20.

Introducing the improved "V A N A"

Table Tennis Bat

By the use of specially made five lamination plywood and a new type of very fast rubber this bat, designed by BOHUMIL VANA is even better than it was

The "ANDREADIS" Bat also has been greatly improved

Both are made solely by

J. ROSE & SON LTD.

and are obtainable from the best retailers at 9/6d. each

Table Tennis Tables with 3/8 in. to 1 in. tops at prices from £22 to £44 and all Table Tennis Equipment obtainable from the best retailers

269/270, Argyll Avenue, Trading Estate, Slough, Bucks.
Telephone: Slough 20420

LLOYD GEORGE: T.T. INTERNATIONAL?

"SOMEONE who has just returned to Paris from the Conference (at Genoa) solemnly declares that one of the dark secrets of Mr. Lloyd George's kit is the little game with bats, balls and net complete. And the 'ping pong' spectre, it is declared, haunts M. Barthou, the chief French delegate, night and day. For supposing the British Premier invited M. Barthou to a friendly game, and in such a manner that M. Barthou could hardly refuse, and supposing some ubiquitous photographer snapped M. Barthou with the little racquet in his hand!

M. Briand's fate after that game of golf would pale into insignificance beside M. Barthou's doom."

From the London Evening News of 30th April, 1922.

TABLE TENNIS QUIZ

By Alec Brook. 1/6d.

We have received a copy of this recent publication which is written and distributed by the author, the former England international. It is of a size that will go into pocket or handbag, and its 64 pages contains nearly 200 questions and answers relating to every Law of Play, General Knowledge, and a complete copy of the Laws of the Game. It is a handy book with which to brush up one's knowledge in the odd moments, and also one in which the more knowledgeable may find some entertainment in picking out some points on which to disagree with the author.
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

PREMIER DIVISION

Lincolnshire, making their final appearance in the Premier Division for at least one more season, put up a great fight to “break their” duck, but just failed to take a point from Yorkshire. Best performance was by Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Simpson, who beat Kathleen Best and Marjorie Lightfoot.

Middlesex thrashed Surrey and finished the length of a street ahead of their challengers. Surrey, who could do no better than draw with an Essex without Johnny Leach, finish the season fifth, their lowest ever position. In the preceding five seasons they had finished second four times.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Essex 6, 3 1 2 36 24 7
Surrey 7, 2 3 2 41 29 7
Lincolnsire 7, 0 1 5 23 37 1
Gloucs. 7, 0 1 6 12 58 2

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Lincolnshire 7, 0 1 5 23 37 1
Yorkshire 7, 3 2 0 27 25 7
Bedfordshire 7, 4 1 0 24 18 10
Durham 5, 0 1 4 13 17 1

EASTERN DIVISION

Bedfordshire, as expected, finished up easy winners of this section and returned to the Second Division after an absence of only one season, although they were given a hard fight by lowly Cambridgeshire.

The youngish Herts. team finished a clear second, and with another season’s experience may gain promotion.

JUNIOR “B” DIVISION

As I expected, Herts. made no mistake with two big wins over Cambs, and thus crept into second position at the expense of Notts., who would make no impression against Middlesex, although M. Leverton again did well, this time beating R. Seaman in straight games.

SUSSEX TRIUMPH—WORTHY JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

The play-off for the Junior trophy between Sussex and Middlesex was expected to produce a close result, and I don’t think even the most optimistic Sussex supporter would have expected to reach the interval leading 6-0, but that’s how it was!

Middlesex lost their chances in the opening three matches. Hancock, after easily winning the first game against Quilter, changed his winning game and lost 20-22 in the third, whilst Seaman always appeared to be winning against Levene, but at the end he just lost 18 in the third.

Sussex expected to lose the girls’ events, but that’s where they won most easily. June Bottrill had one of those days where the ball wouldn’t go on the table, whilst June Hodson was guilty of hitting the air instead of the ball, and the Misses Davis and Bates found themselves winning in straight games without much effort. Encouraged by this Miss Bates played the game of her life in the girls’ singles and outclassed Miss Hodson, and a victory in the boys’ doubles and the match was over.

The most interesting matches, however, were after the interval. Shopper beat Quilter, Middlesex won the mixed doubles and Hancock beat Levene, and when Seamen had a long lead over Gladwish in the final match it looked as though Middlesex would make a respectable score of it. Gladwish had other ideas, and hurling himself into the attack quickly made the Middlesex boy wilt. And so Gladwish added more victories to his string, and can look back at the 1952-53 season with nothing but pleasant memories. Well done, Sussex.
THE FLOOD DISASTER

THE E.T.T.A. sent a sympathetic message to those areas affected by the Great Flood disaster, and Table Tennis wishes most sincerely to be associated with these sentiments. Such events are forcibly brought home when they are personalities and related to our experience.

We are proud to publish the following letter as a tribute to a gallant sportsman. Those who know him, will say, "That's just like Bill McCave," Could there be a finer acknowledgement?

Dear Sirs—Please forgive me for writing to you, but this is, I feel, the only way in which I can express the great debt I owe a gentleman who belongs to your fraternity, namely, a Mr. W. McCave. I have known him for some years, mainly through his Table Tennis activities, but it was not until the night of the floods that I had the privilege to really know him. At great personal risk he rescued my family of four persons with a small boat with which he waded through icy cold water up to his waist and then went back for more people. It was not until he was forcibly restrained from carrying on that I had a chance to express my heartfelt thanks as, covered with blankets and drinking hot tea, he was taken to a rest centre.

I am thankful to say that I have seen him since and he seems to be suffering no ill-effects from that night.

18th Feb., 1953.

C. Peacock
Lincolnshire T.T.A. made room for 100 evacuees from Mablethorpe and Sutton to see their county match against Glamorgan without charge, and also donated £5 to the Distress Funds.

West MIDDLESEX OPEN

Ealing, 14th March, 1953

Table Tennis gratefully acknowledges the following contributions to its Flood disaster fund: £1 from top line U.S.T.T.A. Directors; £2 from top line U.S.T.T.A. personalities, sent with earnest messages of confidence and goodwill.

PETER W. ROBERTS, 75-year-old Historian of the U.S.T.T.A., and still an active player (see May issue)

REBA MONNESS, the glamorous U.S.A. Corbillion Star, now giving T.T. Exhibitions with former World Champion Heavyweight boxer, Joe Louis.

$10 - ($3 10s. 0d.)

PARDON—for Slips that Show

On page 24, col. 1 of March Table Tennis, we inadvertently printed "February" instead of "March," Apologies and the hope that no one was misled.

WE omitted to credit Keith Watts for the authorship of "Balais Glide" on page 12, March issue.

Page 8, col. 3, March, Midland Closed. The M.S. title was won by M. KRiSS who bt. S. N. Osborne in the Final by 16, 8. (This was shown in reverse.)

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the English Table Tennis Association will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on 25th April, 1953.

No. 861

The E.T.T.A., 15-year-old captain of the Grosvenor "Pink" ladies' team (Winning 2nd in their division in Portsmouth League). Average team age 16. Sheila started to play T.T. last summer, helped by Mr. G. R. Cooper. Recently left school, now a clerk. Reached finals of W.S. in Hants. Open, and the Area Semi-finals of the G.S. in the Duraly Cup. Sheila is the first to admit she has a lot to learn, but her fighting spirit and tenacity is likely to take her a long way. (See page 24.)
Good Response for Club Competitions

The time of writing just 19 days have elapsed since the first notices were sent to clubs about the Special Competitions in players' own Clubs. Final mailings were not until less than a fortnight ago. Therefore it gives me particular pleasure to announce that already OVER 300 competitions have been promised. Whilst this is only a very small proportion of the total we hope to reach, nevertheless it is encouraging to get the early response for competitions which, after all, are still six months ahead.

To clubs who have not yet returned the Green card—please do so in the near future, it will help considerably with the planning and organisation. If you have mislaid the leaflet and/or card, or if perhaps yours went astray and you haven't got details, write to G. R. Harrower, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts., and a copy will be sent to you by return.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Right at the moment of going to press comes news of special importance to all clubs who have sent in donations to the Guarantee Fund, or who have promised to run Club Competitions.

It is understood that first opportunity to purchase tickets for the World Championships will be given to those leagues and clubs whose teams were given or promised their support.

Further details will be given in our next issue—in the meanwhile we look forward to hearing from a lot more clubs during the course of April.

FINE EFFORT BY SLOUGH SOCIAL CENTRE

One of the first clubs to promise their support for the Club Competitions was the Slough Social Centre, who asked for special permission to stage ten competitions during the Summer. This has readily been given.

Mr. Dunhill of Slough also wants to run a special competition on handicap lines for Veteran's, and donate all the proceeds to the Guarantee Fund. Permission is likely to be given by the Open Tournaments Committee.

Please let me have your news about what is being done in YOUR area—maybe you have an idea from which others can profit.

They GIVE as well!

Among donations received during March was one for £5 5s. 0d. being the proceeds of an appeal made on the 10th March at the finals of an Affiliated Organisation.

What was the name of the organisation, do I hear you saying? Well, it was the Sports and Social Club of the Special Commissioners of Inland Revenue! Spare a friendly thought in future for our friends when you think you are paying too much in taxes. More seriously, thanks a lot, Commissioners, and to other clubs who have also rallied round.

News of “The World’s” No. 4

Prepared by Geoff. Harrower

TO NEW READERS

THERE may be some new readers who purchase a copy of our Magazine at the English Open Championships—if so, welcome. We would mention that the 21st World Table Tennis Championships are being held at Wembley from the 6th/14th of April, 1953.

Due to the fact that we are responsible for the hospitality for all our overseas visitors, and we expect to welcome at least 40 other countries, maybe 50, we expect to lose some £4,000 on organising the World Championships.

We feel that the loss will be worth while if it helps to still further to promote our sport and attract fresh players and supporters. We have set up a special Guarantee Fund to cover the anticipated loss. The Special Club Competitions are designed to be run in member clubs all over the country, with the English Association giving as a prize a beautiful plaque with the English badge in full colour engraved thereon. We feel sure that you will have enjoyed the play at the English Championships if so, welcome. We would mention the special opportunity to purchase tickets for the World Championships will be given to those leagues and clubs whose teams were given or promised their support.

A lot more clubs during the course of April.

HOME COUNTIES TOURNAMENT

During March there were another 160 requests for entry forms for this tournament received by post, and 50 forms taken at the West Middlesex Championships were also quickly swallowed up.

Entries are not coming in at the same rate; please bear in mind that although the Championships are not being held until the period August 31st to September 5th, there is a very substantial reduction in entry fees if you enter before the 15th May.

I shall be pleased to take your entries at the English Open—don't delay. Once the season is over you will regret and lose the benefit of the reduction.

The Home Counties Championships are being held at the Polytechnic Extension, Little Titchfield Street, London, W1, all net proceeds to the World Championships Guarantee Fund. Tickets for the finals are priced at 11/6d., 5/6d., 2/6d., and 1/6d. Nearly every first-class player in England will be playing. Applications for tickets should be addressed to the Polytechnic Extension, Little Titchfield Street, W1, marked “Home Counties Tournament,” and enclosing remittance. Tickets will be ready in June.

Prepared by Geoff. Harrower
ROYAL ALBERT HALL - Thursday, 30th April, at 7 p.m.

16 Area Champions of Great Britain and
Victor Barna; Richard Bergmann; Johnny Leach; Aubrey Simons

All seats reserved at the following prices:
Boxes: 10/6; 9/-; 7/6; 6/6 per seat
Stalls: 7/6; 5/-; Balcony: 2/6; 1/6

Reduced prices to E.T.T.A. members
on Box Seats: 10/6 at 8/-; 7/6 at 6/-; 6/6 at 5/-.

Obtainable from English Table Tennis Association, 214, Grand Buildings,
Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.

BREVITIES

"Marriage based on sex alone is like establishing a lifelong association on a love of 'Ping-Pong,"' asserts American T.V. Bishop Fulton Sheen in a recent book. Raymond Hinchliff has taken over the secretariat of Huddersfield League from Miss McGowan, with 2 Open titles and wins over Leach, Brunwell, Head, Craigie, Kennedy, et cie. Raymond is certainly a Yorks. table-topper. High Town Youth Club provided 5 winners for 7 finals in the Crewe T.T. Championships. 17-year-old Ray Smith won the B.S., Y.S., and M.D. titles, was finalist in the M.S. Margaret Strong, watching hubby Ken in play (Lowestoft), was suddenly struck by Ken's watch and put much thought, work, energy and enterprise in deserving the out-triumph of the Grosvenor Sports Club last March, and put further, we find there are 5 men's and 2 ladies' teams in the League: Red, Blue, Orange, Buffs, Royals, Black and Pink, all doing well in their respective divisions. Last season the club had one struggling team in the 4th Division, and the amazing transformation intrigued us.

We found that Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cooper (keen T.T. fans) took over management of the club last March, and put much thought, work, energy and enterprise in despising the outstanding success the Grosvenor has become. It has 5 match tables with mouth title for the 5th successive year — this time from Eve Davis. . .

JOHN DALE (new Hants. County player) won the M.S. In their last inter-league match against Desborough, Peterborough included 2 players of 15 and 1 of 17. . . . Keith and Derek Wadley and George Andrews . . . Derek is reported to have a Billy Knight type of forehand. . . . Keith has recently won the League: Red, Blue, Orange, Buffs, and is a challenge ladder. On the M.S.: John Clayton (Manchester); Maurice Simons (Rotherham); William Pierce (Wallawey); William England (Nottingham). W.S.: C. J. Slimmer (New Brighton); Pauline Walker (Manchester).

AREA B:
M.S.: Frederick Kendash (Albrighton, Nr. Wolverhampton); Anthony Roars (Stevens-
W.S.: Anne Haydon (Birmingham); Shirley Jones (Llanelli). B.S.: Raymond' (Glooucestet)

AREA D:
M.S.: M. Close (Wemhoy): Ray Bassett (Wellingborough); Michael Hattstrom (High): Michael Hadac (Wallacoton). W.S.: Dorothy Blake (Shaftesbury); Pamela Bull (Lond-

Enterprise Pays

Table Tennis has recently mentioned the colour designations carried by teams of The Grosvenor Sports Club of Southsea, Portsmouth. Enquiring further, we find there are 5 men's and 2 ladies' teams in the League: Red, Blue, Orange, Buffs, Royals, Black and Pink, all doing well in their respective divisions. Last season the club had one struggling team in the 4th Division, and the amazing transformation intrigued us.

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