TABLE TENNIS

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

* PHOTOS & NOTES
  JAPANESE & NEW STARS

* ENGLAND'S
  TOP 30 ON
  THE
  SPONGE BAT

* PROGRAMME OF
  PLAY—DAY BY DAY

21st WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY, 6–14 APRIL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
This Great Festival of the World

The spirit of Table Tennis is symbolised in the deep sense of "Playing The Game." It is symbolised in the Olympic Credo "The most important thing is not necessarily to have won, but to have taken part." It is symbolised in the International Table Tennis constitution which ordains that the Sport shall be played (for the game's sake) without discrimination between political or religious creeds or races or colours. Table Tennis has no distinctions between professionals or amateurs.

We, who "take part," can be jealously proud of this great world-wide sporting democracy, with its spirit of keeping to the rules, respecting every adversary, and its great virtue of "Playing The Game." Surely, this Spirit epitomises the highest reach of civilised minds, and evidences that Nation can Speak Peace unto—and live in harmony with—Nation.

England, which fathered the first of these 21 Championships warmly welcomes all the world to this great Sporting Festival. On the occasion of this, England's greatest—and the World's greatest—Show—We send Loyal Greetings and Homage to Our Gracious Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, wishing her a safe voyage Home, and with a keen regret that She and the Sporting Duke will be unable to grace our finest hour by their Royal Presence.

Let us also remember the absent ones. Those whose energies were dedicated that this might come to be. Our own Bill Pope, A. J. Wilmott, Bromfield, Morris Rose and such as Dr. Linde, Dr. Lehmann and Zoltan Mechlowitz...

Let Wisdom guide this Congress in their far-reaching decisions. Let reflection on the Past (see page 148) precede decision on the future. Let the torch-bearers hand on the light. Let the second great truth of the Spirit of the Game be distilled, "To love the game beyond the prize."

This is the cordial Message of Welcome which Table Tennis sends out to the World from the thousands of British enthusiasts. Good Luck to the deserving and Happy Memories of this memorable meeting to All.

Leslie Woollard, The Editor
“County Matches are Too Long” says A. R. (Tony) MILLER

Leach. If it is admitted that the first three are great players then so is the last. I for one would not be surprised to see him make his tally three before we are many years older.

FLISBERG’S SUCCESS

I UNDERSTAND that an important factor in Tage Flisberg’s successes and marked ascendency over Bergmann and Leach in the many matches they have played is due not only to sponge (or rather his use of it) but to the fact that he is now a full-time player. He achieved world ranking in the past on his part-time play.

I am told he hits very hard with his sponge bat, which means that sponge does not automatically ruin the game as a spectacle.

“STOP”—County Matches

THE more I play in County matches the more certain I become that although it was a good idea to enable sides to draw it was done at too heavy a cost by increasing the number of matches to ten.

Table Tennis warmly invites news items, opinions, suggestions, ideas, pictures, criticisms, etc., from everyone, everywhere. We invite your help in making Table Tennis the most lively, instructive and entertaining sports journal in the world. Keep it SHORT.

Post it EARLY.

Send DIRECT to The Editor—
LESLEY S. WOOLLARD,
12, CAMPBELL ROAD,
BEDFORD

SPECIAL EDITIONS

A Special Edition contains a COMPLETE full-size Table Tennis, PLUS the official journal of the particular area (which is edited and organised in that area and is complete with local details, news and notices). It is TWO magazines in one for little more than the price of one, and every player in such an area should certainly be a subscriber. Enquiries should be made DIRECT to the appropriate local officials.

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1954 CORBILLON

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SWAYTHLING CUP

TEAMS WITH

SHORTS AND SOCKS.
England's leading players, old and young, were invited to respond to the questions: "Should sponge be banned? If so, why? If not, why not?"

It is only possible to publish representative extracts from the replies. These are presented in the form of a debate.

**Chairman:** Hon. Ivor Montagu

**THE CHAIRMAN:** SPONGE is in the News, and will be in the eye, at Wembley.

On a Scandinavian tour Leach was beaten 9 times out of 15, and Bergmann 12 times out of 15, by the Swedish sponge bat player, Flisberg.

For the first time, sponge players have been seeded in World Championships. A Resolution is before the I.T.T.F. Congress to ban sponge.

Is Table Tennis in danger? At Wembly we may see. Meanwhile let English players walk in front, frankly. Their thoughts on the subject will be "Of course we know it is a passing phase - which would make for monotony and boredom; or (b) because it is a useful weapon to combat the less skilful player and the rubber bat, to adjust their timing and be able to cope with the new ball control they can only find by experience... then they will fade out."

**Joy Seaman:** To ban Sponge would make a precedent for stopping anything new or modern - which would make for monotony. I should like to play against one myself, though!

**Len Adams:** BANNING Sponge now would admit defeat before a major clash of sponge and rubber has taken place. Sponge is now new and different, but so (in their turn) were wood, cardboard, cork and rubber. Each had its peculiarity; each was first temporarily and then finally superseded. The reason was the same: lack of control against a different trajectory. Usually, the new surface had more control in itself, an advantage which sponge does not possess over rubber.

**Chairman:** Yes, that was a common experience of 30 years ago. Now many players are convinced that Sponge is a passing phase.

**Joy Seaman:** To ban Sponge is partly psychological. Add ability to this advantage and shock results are inevitable. But psychological factor is already present, expressed by "clash of styles" or "booby man."

**RICHARD BERGMANN:** SPONGE IS A CHALLENGE. If it makes alterations of strokes necessary, it is for the ultimate good of the game because it requires adaptability and initiative to combat it successfully.

**Joe Dore:** . . . and that goes not only for the stars!

**Ron Baker:** It provides a useful weapon to combat rubber players to adjust their timing and be able to cope with the new ball control they can only find by experience.

**Chairman:** Yes, that was a common experience of 30 years ago. Now many players are convinced that Sponge is a passing phase.

**Di Rowe:** Yes, it is only at first, when it is new, that it is most difficult to return. The orthodox bat will come back in time.

**Johnny Leach:** Most definitely - sponge bats will die a natural death as they did before I ever played. It is almost impossible to obtain sound ball control with sponge, even Flisberg and Ehrlich readily admit this. It only needs the time for rubber bat players to adjust their timing and be able to cope with the new ball control they can only find by experience... then they will fade out.

**Jill Rook:** I would not think the sponge bat should be banned. Not for the time being anyway. There is nothing new in it - players have been using it for as long as I can remember. Secondly, it might also be a useful weapon to combat the pushing and chiselling types of play.

**Yvonne Baker:** The rule that a bat can be "of any size, shape or material" has surely now become out of date and impractical. I think the time has come for us to have standardised equipment as in other sports.

**Chairman:** I see that Yvonne has several supporters, but the point is based on page 145.
on a misconception. Consider the games most allied to Table Tennis—Tennis and Lawn Tennis; they do NOT legislate a standard racket. In Lawn Tennis you can use anything you like.

On the Centre Court at Wimbledon I have seen one of the most all-time stars (Andre Gobij) beaten by a player using a short-handled, surfaced racket. And I myself have actually played with a racket about twice normal size in the major tournament, reaching 3.6-against a Davis Cup player. Therefore, we must not admit an argument on a false alarm.

The question of whether Table Tennis should—or should not—have standardised equipment is one which must be decided on its own merits . . . Richard, what are your views?

Richard Bergmann: As I am not afraid of mixing up the table tennis players, I am neither for nor against banning it! (Laughter.)

Audrey Simons: Well, I have played against sponge machines many times, but I have rarely, if ever, lost to it . . . I think it would kill the game as a spectacle . . .

David Eagles: And I think so, too! (Laughter.)

Tony Miller: There is no conclusive case for banning it.

Clifford Booth: Table Tennis is an attractive game to watch and to play, and we must do everything in our power to keep it so. I don’t think the sponge ball has too good an effect on the game, and I think that a top level enquiry on the merits of sponge and otherwise—and its general effect—would be a very good thing.

Jack Carrington: I think it is a little too early to pronounce on this subject until AFTER the World’s. We shall see some good sponge players in action then and give good entertainment. It now only remains for me to sum up. Barbara Milbank’s sporting approach to the problem is one which has the sympathies of most. Len Adams follows this spirit and has most ably presented the case for tolerating the Sponge Bat. His reasoning cannot be gainsaid.

For the opposition (i.e., those who favour the banning of sponge) the case was presented by Victor Barna. He argued that sponge rubber has weakened because it was based on speculation (that is, not yet arisen). It has been suggested that sponge rubber would create a spectator-dis- taste, but this has not yet eventuated. In fact, for the contrary, the recent Bergmann-Leach-Flisberg tours in Sweden played before packed houses and were the first tours on which the Swedish Association came out without financial loss!

This does not prove that sponge is popular with the crowd (perhaps it was only Flisberg with the wins that were popular!) but it is, at least, some definite evidence that it does not—so far—keep spectators away.

It is the frequency of marathon matches by skilled defensive players engaged in interminable endurance tests who have, in this country, had an adverse effect on the crowds. If we ARE to speculate, might it not be that the sponge merchants (as Victor Barna has hinted) are responsible for this invincibility and re-open the way toward making Table Tennis even more attractive than before. I don’t pretend to KNOW. We should be most unwise, however, to ignore the opinions and warnings of experienced players such as Richard and Audrey or Johnny’s point about the younger generation.

Finally, remember the words of Cliff Booth as those of one of the generation to whom the Future belongs. The present generation has this responsibility. To bear the burden of the blame and we must do everything in our power to keep it so. I don’t think the sponge ball has too good an effect on the game, and I think that a top level enquiry on the merits of sponge and otherwise—and its general effect—would be a very good thing.

The SUMMING UP on SPONGE RUBBER

(from page 143)

KEN CRAIGIE: No, I contend that players who are uninteresting when using ordinary bats are equally uninteresting when using sponge. Or vice versa. And the player who plays an attractive game will do so and give good entertainment with either. Tage Flisberg is an example.

Johnny Leach: One really bad effect not yet mentioned is the young player who gets a "craze" on sponge. Because they get better results with much less effort (against players with no sponge experience) they get a completely false impression. Actually, THEY BECOME MUCH WORSE UNDERNEATH. But it is not enough to say that they think they are better.

Points are lost so quickly that footwork becomes very slow and they lose nearly all the ball control they ever acquired.

Audrey Simons: I certainly do agree, Johnny. Johnny Leach: . . . but that doesn’t mean I am in favour of banning. I agree with Victor Barna as a point. But reasonable officials, leading players and coaches should all do their part to discourage young players from using sponge.

Tony Miller: There is no conclusive case for banning it.

Clifford Booth: Table Tennis is an attractive game to watch and to play, and we must do everything in our power to keep it so. I don’t think the sponge ball has too good an effect on the game, and I think that a top level enquiry on the merits of sponge and otherwise—and its general effect—would be a very good thing.

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England's New Junior Internationals

Junior Spotlight focused by

PETER MADGE

RON JACKSON, 16, just misses the junior grade for next season by 17 days. Perhaps that is why he says he would like to see the rule changed to let in all those under 17 at the start of the season, not in midsummer. Ron lives in Hull and plays in the Yorkshire Seconds senior team. He has held the county junior singles for the last two seasons and at present holds the Yorkshire Open junior singles and youth's doubles. He has been playing for five years, quite an old hand. Mainly a determined forehand hitter but can produce a useful defence when the occasion calls for it.

GORDON LUMSDEN, 17, apprentice draughtsman from Sunderland first made news when he won the Daily Mirror junior singles last year. If Ron Jackson is an old hand after playing for 5 years then Gordon must be almost a veteran . . . he has been at it for 7 years! Now he plays in the Durham county senior team and has held his league and county junior singles each for the last two years. Coach Edgar Reay has developed for Gordon a sound all-round game with perhaps a preference for attack. He also plays football and cricket for local teams. Asked if there were anything in T.T. which he disliked Gordon said “Silly mannerisms on the table during play and the chiselling matches indulged in between top-class players—that sort of negative attitude is bad for the game.”

TERRY DENSHAM, 15, is at last beginning to fulfil his promise of former seasons. He has been playing now for 5 years and has appeared in the Surrey junior team for 3 seasons. He has held the Metropolitan Open junior singles for the last two seasons and hopes to establish a post-war record for any Open by winning it for the third year running next season. He plays cricket and football for his school and has also made his mark in lawn tennis with successes in Evening News junior tournaments . . . L.T.A. coach, Captain F. D. Rodgers, names him as a decidedly good prospect. The volley rule comes in for some well-deserved criticism from Terry. He thinks this rule should apply only over the playing surface of the table as it is quite absurd that a player should be penalised because he is unable to move his bat in time to avoid its being struck by a hopelessly misjudged ball from his opponent.

DEREK BACKHOUSE, 16-year-old schoolboy from West Bromwich, has already made quite a name for himself in junior and senior circles in his county, Staffordshire. He plays for the senior and junior county teams, holds the county junior singles and the senior and junior singles of the West Bromwich League. He has been playing for three years and has developed a strong attacking game which should put him among the leading juniors next season. Also plays tennis and chess. In T.T. he dislikes the bad loser who can never admit that the other player was too good, and, to quote Derek's own words, "many of these people are responsible for the crime of forgetting that T.T. is played for enjoyment. As long as the game is good fun, it doesn't matter who wins."

Peter Madge

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British T.T. enthusiasts, all (in
varying degrees) "taking part"
in honorary services and illustrat­
ing the finest spirit of Amateur
Sport. Table Tennis satisfies the
known and the unknown; their
story is yet to be told. Today, we
acknowledge the unflagging, patient, persistent
work of E.T.T.A. Hon. Secretary/Treasurer A. K. VINT who, for 2
years, has carried the main load
of responsibility and will be the
last to acknowledge it. With him,
we coupe the work of our per­
manent staff under the unfailing
good humour of Mrs. Kathie Pegg.
It is their solid work of which
has been the foundation of
Success.

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In its constant search to find better
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recording Doubles. It is, so far, the
only commonsense way, and simplifies
every reference to both past and
future.

FINLAND'S SPORTING ENDEAVOUR
FINLAND's entry into the World
Championships is a wonderful
story of amateur sporting
endeavour. Table Tennis has only be­
come known in Finland during the
last few years. Tables, equipment,
conditions are very poor. There are
no coaches, exhibitions, etc. No one
who can tell them how to play.

A. K. VINT,
Hon. Secretary
and Treasurer,
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name is ALWAYS printed first. Note
this particularly, as—when the woman
is a "Miss", playing under her maiden
name, or her title is uncertain—No
title is given. When the woman is
definitely known and plays under the
title "Mrs," this is normally shown.

ABBREVIATIONS
The following abbreviations will be used
to indicate representative national
associations, in this and future issues:

FINLAND'S SPORTING ENDEAVOUR

THE NATIONAL PRESS AT WEMBLEY

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I. How It Started

In 1925 P. N. Nanda (India) returned from a Lawn Tennis tour of Europe with an invitation from Dr. Georg Lehmann for English T.T. players to enter an international T.T. tournament in Berlin in January, 1926. The data conflicted with the annual international with Wales, but English officials thought that a scratch team would be strong enough for the "green unknowns." George Ross and Bill Pope visited the Welsh match, and with Messrs. Vennell, Liggins, Haddon and Ivor Montagu went to Berlin at their own expense. Their rubber-faced rackets were new to the Continental players, caused a few surprises, but no British victories.

Representatives of Germany, Austria, England and Hungary discussed the formation of an International Federation. A Conference was arranged in London for December, 1926. Czechoslovakia and Wales subsequently subscribed. India and Sweden joined in time for the 1st Conference.

The first I.T.T.F. Committee met at the London Congress was: I. Montagu (Chairman), England. (Secretaries): C. H. Mattias (Wales) and J. M. Rose (Czechoslovakia). These were shortly after replaced by W. J. Pope (Czechoslovakia).


One of the requests made by Congress to each national association was: "To make a trial of Lawn Tennis scoring if it be not at present using that form."
Cristianne Watel, F No. 1, deceptively clever stylish top-ranker (1003); Alberto Dueso, Sp No. 1, mercurial all-rounder; Johnny Samsel, U.S. No. 3, steady top-notcher; Pauline Robinson’s friend; Claude Rougagnou, F Junior Champion, yet to rise high; Ivan Andreadis, C No. 1; World’s No. 2, one of the 3 world’s greatest who’s never won the world’s singles; perfection of style in attack or defence (1024). Left—Tage “Fhian” Flisberg, 38-y-o left-hander, 11 times Sn No. 1, always good but now, with almost perfect mastery of sponge bat, phenomenally successfully against the World’s top-rankers (1025). Vilim Harangozo, Y No. 1, clever patient defender with spectacular attack.

“Table Tennis” Pictorial

Presents

Stars and stylists of many kinds worth looking out for. The Official Programme should contain full notes and pictures of players. This is a brief “reminder” review.

Left—The Swiss Team (1032). L. to R.: Georges Wassmer, Hugo Urquetti, Sw No. 1 with excellent wins; Meyer de Radelhoffen, and A. Estoppey.

Below—First Australian Team, L. to R.: Geoff Jennings, No. 5 and Au Junior Ch. (beat Brumwell in Surrey Open); Lou Laza, Au No. 2, 28. Sydney cricketer; extremely unorthodox left-handed live-wire with aggressive half-volley and nimble footwork. Bill Hodges, improving ex-junior, nearly beat ex-World Champion Szabados recently.

Right—Some of the lively Italians (1058): From top—Marisa Guglielmetti, It J.G. Champion; Ganni Rendani, No. 1 and It Ch.; Lucio Sturani; Prediani Emiliana, It W.S. Ch. and No. 1; Giuseppe Molina.

Below—Dr. Zarko Dolinar, Y No. 2, huge and hectic, bat to match, penholder, now (with source) even harder to beat (1026). Josip Vojrnis, improved ascension K.O. or Rosewood in the English! Trudi Pritzi, unusually nervous and defensively heartbreaking rock on which so many hopes have foundered. Helmut Harsschmann, 20-y-o East German Ch., bright aggression and high potential.”
Japanese for "Table Tennis"

Exclusive to "Table Tennis"

THE 4 men and 4 women Japanese players (selected from 500,000) were selected on merit and their expected capacities to do well against other nationals. All are University students, 18 to 22; all are new to World Championships; all use the adapted penholder style.

LEFT (Women) (1004), from Top:

RIGHT (Men) (1005), from Top:

NEW ZEALANDERS

Most welcome visitors are the first official N.Z. team from that wonderfully enterprising country. Managed by N.Z. Treasurer Norm Ballinger, these youngsters have improved tremendously, like able sportsmen, worthy ambassadors. Bob Jackson, 23, N.Z. No. 1, Owen Jaine, 28 y-o, architect; several times High Diving Ch. of N.Z., placed 6th in Empire Games. Murray Dunn, 18 y-o ex-Junior Ch. and Garry Frew, 18 y-o, journalist—"surprise" selection too good to be left out.

Typical of their outlook is their special "World Championships" note heading: under the full names of each player is the name by which they are known, e.g., "Norm," "Garry," etc. 24,000 miles for experience for the future! Bravo, New Zealand. May the investment justify the effort 100% Jolly Good Luck!
**Team Championships of the World**

**THE DRAW**

**GROUP B**
- **GROUP A**
  - England 11
  - Hungary 12
  - Czechoslovakia 1
  - Sweden 21
  - Switzerland 21
  - Israel 26
- **GROUP B**
  - England 2
  - Hungary 2
  - Czechoslovakia 2
  - Sweden 11
  - Switzerland 21
  - Israel 26
- **GROUP C**
  - Austria 14
  - Brazil 20
  - U.S.A. 9
  - Austria 14
  - Brazil 20
  - U.S.A. 9

**THE SWAYTHLING CUP**

**GROUP A**
- England 3
- U.S.A. 4
- Switzerland 9
- Hungary 5
- Austria 14
- Brazil 20

**GROUP B**
- England 11
- Switzerland 26
- Czechoslovakia 25
- Scotland 9
- Ireland 27
- Yugoslavia 14

**GROUP C**
- England 11
- Switzerland 26
- Czechoslovakia 25
- Scotland 9
- Ireland 27
- Yugoslavia 14

**THE CORBILLON CUP**

**GROUP A**
- England 2
- U.S.A. 2
- Switzerland 8
- Hungary 5
- Austria 14
- Brazil 20

**GROUP B**
- England 2
- U.S.A. 8
- Switzerland 26
- Czechoslovakia 25
- Scotland 9
- Ireland 27

**GROUP C**
- England 2
- U.S.A. 2
- Switzerland 8
- Hungary 5
- Austria 14
- Brazil 20

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**21st WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS—EMPIRE POOL AND SPORTS ARENA, WEMBLEY**

**DATE**

- **MONDAY, 5th APRIL**
  - Qualifying rounds for Swaythling Cup.

- **TUESDAY, 6th APRIL**
  - Swaythling Cup and Corbillon Cup matches, including all star programme of 20 matches

- **WEDNESDAY, 7th APRIL**
  - Further Swaythling and Corbillon Cup matches, including another all-star programme.

- **THURSDAY, 8th APRIL**
  - Morning and afternoon, more cup matches.

- **FRIDAY, 9th APRIL**
  - Morning and afternoon, final group Cup matches.

- **SATURDAY, 10th APRIL**
  - Morning—Second finals of Swaythling and Corbillon Cups (11 a.m.). Evening—Last of finals in Swaythling and Corbillon Cups with Group C in men's playing winner from Friday night and Group A in women's playing winner from Friday night. During day

- **SUNDAY, 11th APRIL**
  - Men's singles and doubles, first round men's singles will be played in another hall.

- **MONDAY, 12th APRIL**
  - All-star one with third and fourth round men's singles and women's singles.

- **TUESDAY, 13th APRIL**
  - More matches in singles and doubles, including in the evening, the semi-final men's, doubles, women's singles and women's doubles.

- **WEDNESDAY, 14th APRIL**
  - Grand Finals night—All tickets sold.
GLORIOUS in English T.T. history was this day when 9 men and 9 women, in teams of 3, played out their hearts—not for themselves—but for their teams. It was a triumph in which all shared: the 500-600 players (representing the 170 odd leagues) which participated; for the final arrangements: Wilmott Cup by David Pigeon and the Y.M.C.A., Romford, and the J. M. Rose Bowl by Lena Ferguson and her colleagues at Southampton.

At Romford, South London bt. Birmingham 7-1 and Staines bt. Manchester 5-3 in semi-final matches of sustained interest and endeavour. But the final was magnificent: superlative, excitement, spectacle and thrilling, breath-holding uncertainties to the very last minute. Many lost the last train rather than miss it. It was fighting fury all the way. Each side winning in turn to 4-all. Each player rising to inspired heights capable of anything. Only the very last point of the very last match giving South London the title, and after such a performance it is difficult to say that Staines lost.

Meanwhile, at Southampton, South London ladies at last Wall their 15-year-old trail to win their President’s Cup, and give their League a wonderful double triumph.

**SPORTING SAM**

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Sponge, crepe or slow .... 1/6d. a piece

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The Alec Brook Quiz Book .... 1/6d.
Jill takes the “Crown”

SURREY OPEN

Epsom, 28th Feb., 1954

While most T.T. Cup Finalists had a “morning after” hangover, Jill Rook took a streamlined course via Penny Flack-John Wight-Viviane Baker to capture her first senior W.S. title with stylish confident aggression. A great crowd welcomed them. Johannesburg (Australia) to the semi-final against Ken Craigie. Brian Brumwell was “shaded” changing rooms, tiered seating, etc. 2-0 in the other entertaining semi-final. Joy Seaman took a stream-lined course via Peggy Piper-Jean Winn-the W.D. and it seemed almost unkind to see world-class W.D. power.


It is sometimes better to lose nine games out of ten than never to win, for it is not only winning that helps one to be a good sportsman. One can gain more, useful, practical wisdom in one defeat than is normally possible in nine victories. As long as it is honourable, respect Defeat as you respect the wise Teacher; but always learn from it ... Not only in technique or tactics, but in manliness, good temper, courage and persever- eance. Two minutes is the maximum time to be downhearted. Cheer the victors to their worth. It should make you feel good enough to go back and try again.

NORTHERN IRELAND OPEN

Belfast, 6th Feb., 1954

W.S. M. CALDREW bt. D. Smith 2-1.
X.D. R. ALLBROOK/D. CAMPBELL bt. H. Cooley/D. Smith 2-0.

GRIMSBY OPEN

Grimsby, 19th March, 1954

SURELY the first time in history that the guillotine of the Time Limit Rule has fallen after match point at 23/22, time limit!! The M.D. finalists, Albert Hall and N. Ingham, veterans with a combined age of 78 years (over 50 playing T.T.), came within one point of glory in their first meeting. Terry Densham and John Hunt was fight- ing for his first Open win (against A. L. Shepherd) and saved the second at 23/22, time limit!! The M.D. finalists, Albert Hall and N. Ingham, veterans with a combined age of 78 years (over 50 playing T.T.) came close to winning.

P.S.—An Open T.T. Tournament was played in Grimsby 53 years ago, and at least one contestant still remembers it.


SEAMAN/WINN beat ROWES

WEST MIDDLESEX OPEN

Ealing, 13th Mar., 1954

While the top W.D. pair, Diane and Rosalind Rowes were beaten (first time at home for 4 years) by Joy Seaman and Jean Winn. To report that the Twins played their best brilliant last is to indicate that wonderfully outstanding performance of their opponents. It was terrific, titanic, tempestuous, world-class stuff; match points in every game; nerve-shrugging, breath-taking finishes. Scores 21-23, 26-24 (and with the Twins leading 20-16) a flaming fury of a finish, 22-20.

West Ealing Club is the “giant’s playground.” T.T. See, an international Joyce-Manager is the A.U.T.T. Family Robinson. It is home club for the Rowe Twins and Len Adams (of a notable family). It was Fred Perry’s club ... and the tradition continues. A welcome for rabbits as well as for world-rankers.

Johnny Leach drove 200 miles from New- castle to meet with Double Double trouble. In the M.D. (with J. Carrington) lost to youngsters Terry Brencham and John Hulst 19, 17; in the X.D. (with D. Rowe) lost 19, 22 to Carrington/B. Milbanke.


Beds. County Closed

Bedford, 25th Feb., 1954

M.S. C. CROWE bt. (sf) P. Holroyd 9, 8; bt. D. IRONMONGER 10, 10 (bt. A. Barron 14, 13).
W.D. H. CARTER/Mrs. J. White 21, 17; bt. A. E. Blair/D. Smith 2-1.

Sussex closed chops, 1953-4

M.S. F. SHEARD bt. (sf) C. Seaman 15, 14; bt. F. GILLAM 17, 15.
W.S. A. DAVIES bt. (sf) W. Batton —19, 12, 14; bt. Mrs. D. BARON (nee D. Bignall) 18, 18.
G.S. W. BATES bt. K. Davis 7, 18.

CAMBERIDGE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cambridge, 9-12th February, 1954

W.S. P. INGLIS bt. M. Bruce —18, 18; (sf) J. CORNWELL 18, 15.
X.D. J. CORNWELL/M. BRUCE bt. A. BOUTON 19, 17; bt. L. EDWARDS 16, 16.
B.S. R. JACkSON bt. G. Smith 14, 11.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Caribbean Cup Final (Inter-College K.O.)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

KING’S COLLEGE

ABOLISH THE DOUBLES LINE !!!

The 40-plus table tennis nations gathered at Wembley this month will do more than merely PLAY table tennis together—they will also TALK table tennis.

Over the conference table there will be the official talk: the International Congress which decides the way our sport shall be carried on. And over the tea and dinner tables there will be the unofficial talk, the eager exchange of views between enthusiasts of many nationalities who can meet but rarely.

As the unofficial discussions of one World Championship gathering often become the official issues of a future Congress, I hope I am doing a service to our sport in offering this "slogan" for the Wembley 1954 congress-circles:—

ABOLISH DOUBLES LINE

What !—play doubles without a centre line for service? Yes indeed ... and enjoy it all the more. This silly little line has been "wished" upon us by our ancestors. If it ever had a useful purpose, it certainly has none to-day when its effect is simply to add to the burden of the Umpires and cramp the style of the doubles combinations.

ABOLISH DOUBLES LINE

When we first take up a new pursuit we are eager to accept what has been bequeathed to us. By the time we are mature enough to examine matters closely, we are inclined to resist a change of habit quite unthinkingly.

But this centre-line of Doubles is merely a "taboo" from the Stone Age of Table Tennis (way back even before the First Sponge Era of Montagu!). It springs from the conception that doubles partners are going to stand side-by-side at the baseline, in which case it would be fantastically un-sporting, Mr. Fotheringay, to whip your service over to the left-hand corner and cause a collision. In fact in Mixed Doubles it would be dashed ungentlemanly!

No, there is no logic to be found in that "explanation," because all remaining balls after the service, which are usually more difficult than the service itself, must be accepted by the striking partner wherever they may come, and yet collisions are remarkably rare! (We are not forgetting too, that in this Jet Age of Mixed Doubles, the weaker sex, those frail Rowe twins, Haydons, Winnns and Milbanks, are too often the more "striking" partners.)

Strangely enough, we are not even allowed the logic of alternating the services to the left-hand courts.

ABOLISH DOUBLES LINE

Perhaps this centre-line idea sprang from that other faulty conception; The Advantage of Service.

But why do we need to put blinkers on the Service in Doubles when we do not in Singles, and especially when our rule-makers have already done these things to remove all suspicion of a "sting" from the service:

1. Only one service attempt is allowed (unlike Lawn Tennis).
2. The ball must bounce twice on the table (so that the receiver can see it coming?).
3. The ball may not even be grasped in the natural way when it is thrown up (in case that nasty Mr. Fotheringay puts one of his mean little spins on it?).

In brief, we must enter the realms of facetiousness when we try to find a single justification for the Double centre-line.

A Lively Talk Topic for Wembley

offered by
Jack Carrington

ABOLISH DOUBLES LINE

Now consider the administrative advantages of ABOLISHING the centre-line.

i. We would either remove the distracting effect of a painted line down the table (which hinders both singles and doubles "sighting")

Or: End the time-wasting and inefficient ritual of the measuring, the chalking, the solemn climatic "twanging of the string," and the amateurish blowing away of the dust.

ii. We would relieve the Umpire of his need to concentrate on the centre-line. He need not fear being un-employed, as during the service he must still bear in mind the 22 separate requirements of Laws 10, 11, 12 and 21!

iii. We would reduce considerably the temptation to "cheat" in another way, i.e., by serving from outside the side-line. This occurs much more frequently than centre-line cheating, yet in 20 years I have only heard 2 such faults called by Umpires, compared with hundreds of centre-line faults. Many centre-faults are known by the players to be wrongly adjudged by the Umpires.

iv. We would simplify the learning of the rules, by deleting Laws 18 and 19; economise accordingly on printing in many thousands of publications.

ABOLISH DOUBLES LINE

Last, but far from being least, consider the effect of the centre-line service on DOUBLES PLAY AND TACTICS.

v. It has reduced the open exchanges of a doubles rally to a few well-worn gambits. The service goes down a narrow lane and is received at a well-anticipated angle.

This suits some servers and some receivers much better than others, often because of an accident of their natural skill. IN FACT THE ADVANTAGE GIVEN TO A LEFT-HANDED RECEIVER IS POSITIVELY UNFAIR.

vi. Here are some of the interesting opening services which are needlessly prohibited:

- CROSS-COURT, left-hand to left-hand corner.
- TRAM-LINE, left-hand to right-hand corner.
- TRAM-LINE, right-hand to left-hand corner.
- FAST CENTRAL at the receiver's blind spot.

in addition to which the clever variation of such openings is a skill in itself.

If these perfectly normal skills were allowed as they are in Singles, we should see less stereotyped Doubles play, AND WE WOULD OPEN UP CHANCES OF SUCCESS TO PLAYERS WHO ARE AT PRESENT FRUSTRATED IN DOUBLES COMBINATION BY THE MEANINGLESS RESTRICTION ON THEIR NATURAL ANGLES OF SKILL. New and brilliant pairings may emerge to thrill and interest us.

ABOLISH CENTRE LINE

Try it out. It makes a fine game, fewer hold-ups, fewer doubtful points. There is simply no adjustment problem at all. The partners fall into the rhythm as naturally as in Singles, but everybody becomes more alert.

Open up the play ... Cut out the petty "faults." Let's have "one more freedom"—

ABOLISH THE "CHALK CURTAIN."

Jack Carrington
With grateful acknowledgments to The Daily Express

NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN
Manchester, 27th Mar., 1954


ALL-GERMAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Berlin, Feb., 1954

M. S. K. FREUNDORF bt. (sf) BRENZER 14—17, 12; bt. V. NESTER 15, 12, 9, 18; bt. H. B AULI 16—13, 14, 13, 12; bt. H. B AULI—13, 12, 14, 10, 16.


X. O. VOSSHAK/KRANKA bt. H. HANSSON/THAUP 18—13, 12, 18, 20.

T.V. AND T.T.
In the 25th Birthday Number of the LISTENER, January 14th, 1954, illustrated by a photo of the Rose Twins v. Ann Haydon and Jill Rook from the Polytechnic, London.

"...As for the table tennis, the cameras have never yet succeeded in taking us viewers into the heart of the game, skilled as they have become in following the flashing arcs of the ball in play. It is not a kind of television that I personally look forward to and I have wondered how many viewers' interests really are served by televising these games."

Reginald Pound

"...the table tennis we saw from the Polytechnic...is almost vicious in its intensity and often astonishing. But does it make good viewing? Yes, for a little while, I think. After that you've got to be an enthusiast to watch it for almost an hour."


EDITOR'S NOTE

A TEAM OF SPONGE MEN

BRAZIL (whom England play in Group A of the Swaythling Cup) are ranked No. 20 in the world based on performances before their top players adopted Sponge Rubber. Sylvio Rangel, foremost Brazilian authority, claims that they will qualify for ranking in the first 12.

Their first 3 players, brothers Hugo and Ivan Severo and Dagoberto Midosi are all penholders and sponge users, and decisive wins over such cracks as Richard Miles and Michel Haguenauer make them a "dark horse" team for international honours.

SURREY beat Australia 8–1 at Crowden on 17th March. Reimann Los Laza, first timed by Miller, was nervous against Hurlock, but rose to great heights to beat England's Swaythling Cup Player, Ken Craigie. (Surrey names first): K. CRAIGIE bt. G. JENKINS 11, 12; bt. W. HODGE 20; bt. J. Laza 9—9, 9, 9; bt. A. R. MILLER bt. J. Laza 11, 17; bt. J. Laza 10, 18; bt. HODGE 17, 14. K. Hurlock bt. J. Laza 16, 18, 14; bt. HODGE 18, 20; bt. J. Laza 16, 16.

ENGLAND 10—NEW ZEALAND 0
Winchester, 3rd Mar., 1954


ENGLAND 5—WALES 1
Bradford, 5th Mar., 1954


APOLOGIES AND THANKS

My overwhelming thanks for all the wonderful letters so many of you have written. Please, please go on writing. My very sincere apologies for all those as yet unanswered.

Table Tennis has no staff, no facilities, no equipment, etc., beyond those which any other voluntary enthusiast can gather to him. In addition to the multifarious work involved in magazine preparation, the work involves traveling several thousand miles, countless discussions, writing numerous programme notes and messages, advising and answering a fantastic assortment of questions, and trying desperately to keep abreast of several hundred letters a week. All, supposedly, in spare time.

The heart and the wish is more than willing but because human endurance is limited, I hope that you will not be too harsh when acknowledgment or response is tardy.

Table Tennis is dedicated to the service of the game. Its policy is to be fearless, frank and aggressive in preservation of all that is good in the game. It is recognised as the most authoritative, impartial, truthful, factual journal in the T.T. world. The best value for the smallest cost. But this is only the beginning of what can be done.

Every additional copy sold is one step to improving the service that Table Tennis can give in return. Every letter you write is a helping hand. See you at Wembley.

Leslie S. Woollard, The Editor, 12, CampEiLL ROAD, Bed ForeD

...AS for the table tennis, the cameras have never yet succeeded in taking us viewers into the heart of the game, skilled as they have become in following the flashing arcs of the ball in play. It is not a kind of television that I personally look forward to and I have wondered how many viewers' interests really are served by televising these games."

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Doubles Drives are Fun

Another Brevity for our Better Club Centres series

PROGRESSIVE Doubles Drives are the Paul Jones’ of Table Tennis. Good "mixers," really good fun and, if a small entry fee be made, quite beneficial to the kitty. Simple to run by anyone, but best to pick as the M.C. one of those folks who always shines in brightly keeping things moving. They can be staged in the small club or organised in a big and merry way for the whole league. You should just see the thriving industry the super-efficient Hastings League makes of them. Wally George (Sussex County Sec.) is a star in this sphere.

There are numerous variations. The fundamentals are the same. Here is the one for which Wally is so renowned.

It works like a Whist Drive. You have anything from one table up; 4 by permitting a TOTAL of ONLY 21 points to be played: this is very effective and is a function of the group that you have. Position two pairs to each table; you are all set for a "scratch" Mixed Doubles Match.

Wally George keeps things moving by permitting a TOTAL of ONLY 21 points to be played: this is very easily, arranged by letting the 4 players each have 5 services per round, with one player only having an extra serve. Each match score totals 21 points (e.g., 10-11, 18-3, 15-6, etc.) and corresponds to a "hand" of whist cards. The appropriate score is then marked to each player. Partners are changed every round.

The winning man moves up to the next table and partners the losing lady; he serves first to the losing man and woman with the highest scores are the winners when all rounds have been played.

Played and "emceed" in the shyness, cliques or diffidence at end of an evening’s play. These events are almost certain to be immensely popular SO DO NOT OVERDO IT. - Once monthly will be (naturally) quite enough to keep them popular.

Thameside Open

NOTE that the Organising Secretary for this Tournament is now Mr. R. Markwell, 61, East Avenue, Manor Park, London, E.12, to whom Entries should be sent. Closing date is 6th April. Single events will be played on the Group System, and several World Championships players will be entering.

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From America

By U.S.A. No. 3 
PAULINE ROBINSON
(English-born Pauline Robinson, ranked No. 3 in the U.S.A. Corbillon Cup team on merit performance, returns to home town Wembley, from whence her family emigrated in 1943. Outstanding of some notable wins was Pauline’s recent victory over Leah Neuberger in the Eastern. Laszlo Bellak selected Pauline for an exhibition partner—you'll know why when you see her—Editor).

The U.S.T.T.A. have been raising dollars by every available means for their Fighting Fund to enter teams for the 21st World Championships. The Selected teams are: Miles, Somael, Bukiet, Hazi and Neuberger, Shaihan and Robinson.

Dick Miles (who played in the World’s of 1949) is practising keenly and is in winning form. He has just won the Eastern over Pagliaro, Bernard Bukiet (Munich champion 2 years ago), makes his World debut, on merit performances in the U.S.A. Former U.S. Champion Johnny Somael lost to Sido in the 1951 World’s. Tibor Hazi needs little introduction; he was in Hungary’s world champion team with Barna in 1933 and other occasions. Leah Neuberger (nee Thall), outstanding U.S.A. Champion, lost to Farkas in the semi-final on her last World appearance in 1951. Mildred Shaihan was one of America’s winning Corbillon team of ’49, and won the English W.S. title in 1950. This is my first trip.

In the West, Bukiet beat Bill Holzrichter and Shaihan ousted Sally Green Prouty. Three youngsters will be coming to England with the team: Bill Guan, national “Esquire” Champion; Marianne Besinger, (Westchester Ch.) and Irwin Miller.

The recent Quebec Open at Montreal proved a surprise for some New Yorkers… it was won by Paul Belanger, the Canadian Champion, over Sol Schiff, first time any Canadian has won a big title over a U.S.A. player. Leah Neuberger won the women’s over Huquette Parent, Quebec Champion... Something like 600 entries in the tourney.

See you at Wembley.

Pauline Robinson

When you have to do your own self-praising, then, oh brother, your reputation must surely be at a low level.
THE COACH WENT INTO THE “NET”
Hungarian Review by FERENC GYORGY

A GOOD individual player is not always a good team player. Sometimes this is because the double responsibility has an unfavourable nervous reaction.

Kalman Szepesi likes to play his own “scientific” game and think out his own play against a particular opponent. Thus, he often loses. Elemer Gyevai has yet to learn that a first-class player must have an all-round game (in any sport). He is a “Hitting Machine,” but he must know that a machine that is to rival man must be faultless... or it is a damn fool machine!

It is not enough to know ALL. It is necessary to know enough—TO WIN on the occasion.

One of the best team players is Gyuiri Csillik. He does not shine, but he is always alert; reliable, shrewd, the completely dependable and filled with an immense fighting spirit. He has beaten every 1st class Hungarian player except Sido and Koczian. He has improved immensely since his England appearance in the 1947 World’s in London and is also a good coach. (Laszlo Foldi, 17-y-o victor of Sido, is a pupil).

Csillik’s team chances this year have been ousted by brilliant youngsters, outstanding of which is Miki Peterffi, 17-y-o winner of Sido (the 4th time) but since Gizi beat Almasi, she was placed 1st on a narrow points decision... Edit Sagi, just married, was absent on honeymoon... Intelligent sponge bat player Dr. Gaal knocked out Szepesi in the first round.

THE COACH WENT INTO THE “NET”

The Czechs are a Danger

Says FERENC SIDO

Triple Champion of the World

The “Championships of the Ten” in Prague were more difficult than the World Championships in Bucharest. In a World series I have only to win 5 or 6 matches and I am in the final. Here I had to win 13 matches—twice as many as in a World’s—and in 9 of them against players of world-class—to become the winner.

The top 10 Czechs are 100 years older than the top 10 Hungarians, but nevertheless, they have a team that can win the Swathyling Cup. They are always the most redoubtable of adversaries, and although I have here beaten Andreadis 3-0 (much easier than in Bucharest), I rank him as my most formidable opponent in all the world. Ivan had his revenge in Bratislava, but the tables were not good, and I had often to hit as much as 17 times to make a point. Notice that NOT ONE of these great Czech players uses Sponge!

I am happy to see our three young Titans—Szepesi, Gyevai and Peterffi—improving constantly, but I would like to see them not so anxious to hit and hit... but anxious to win and win. Gyevai, that one can hit every ball, but it is I that am World Champion, and not he.

I am partnering Andreadis in the M.D. in the London World’s, and Roseanu in the X.D. I hope to make good again. Andreadis is a very fine doubles player and we play well together. We trained together on 5 occasions at Ostrava at the end of February, and we hope he will come to Hungary again before the World’s. It is easy to play with him.

THE COACH WENT INTO THE “NET”

one of the oldest names in TABLE TENNIS

IVAN ANDREADIS in action. He will be playing in the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS with his autograph bat made solely by us. Another winning bat is the “VANA”, also the “ADELE WOOD”.

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Lincs. 2 - Yorks. 8
Cheshire 6 - Warwick 4

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Bucks. 5 - Oxford. 5
Hants. 2 - Berks. 8

**EASTERN DIVISION**

Norfolk 2 - Suffolk 8
Herts. 7 - Cambs. 3

**JUNIOR DIVISION**

Herts. 5 - Suffolk 5
Kent 1 - Sussex 9
Surrey 10 - Beds. 0
*Essex - Surrey

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**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Reviewed by GEOFF. HARROWER

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**FINAL TABLES**

**SECOND DIVISION NORTH**

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**OTHER TABLES**

(Not including results in summary marked with an asterisk(*))

**PREMIER DIVISION**

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**SECOND DIVISION SOUTH**

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**SUMMARY OF RESULTS - MARCH**

- Middlesex carried off the title for the seventh successive season, and again without dropping a point, although they were hard pressed by the young Lancashire team, for whom Pullar, Costello and Strulovitch all won a singles against Middlesex in order to tie for the title. You will see the result of this latter match in the Summary, but, in addition to this, they have to take their final match against Sussex to keep an outside chance of retaining their title.

- Derek Burridge won both his singles against Cambs. in good form, and Glyn Bebb playing for the title. You will see the result of this latter match in the Summary, but, in addition to this, they have to take their final match against Sussex to keep an outside chance of retaining their title.
Umpires! — Keep the Rules!

'A RULE must be kept. Otherwise it should be changed.' Again and again I see players (including England internationals and County players) who do NOT throw the ball straight up when serving. This takes an unfair advantage because a much greater speed and angle can be obtained from a ball thrown sideways. It is a bit hard when humble league players try to keep the rule and see umpires letting the star players 'get away with it.'

Frank M. Eagles, Sittingbourne.

* * *

LEAGUE TABLES — playing, not results! Staines, reporting that their Table Fund is over £38, is a reminder that every League should have its own match table. Why not? Did someone say PLYMOUTH has 6 League tables? • • AND WHERE, oh! where, are second-hand tables available? A number of thoughtful readers have suggested that it is high time some of the leading clubs replaced their older tables for new ones... the capital cost would be lessened by a good exchange-sale of the older table. Everyone would benefit by the increase in table circulation. • • •

REMINDER that any worthy club can purchase a first-class match table on Hire Purchase terms — a 'PAY-AS-YOU-PLAY' Scheme for better Table Tennis.

CROSSWORD

Solution to March Problem


OF ALL LEADING SPORTS OUTFITTERS

The choice of champions worn in the Table Tennis World Championships at BOMBAY and BUCHAREST by the SWAYTHLING & CORBILLON CUP TEAM

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