

TABLE TENNIS

Topics

October, 1938

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PAINT

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•

PICCADILLY

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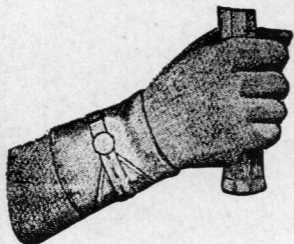
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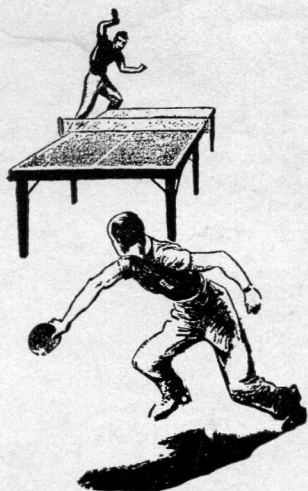
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EDITOR, GEORGE B. WHITE

Associate Editors: Carl Zeisberg, Joe McCarthy, D. P. MacKenzie

Art Editor: Jack Donovan

Business Manager: Joseph Berna

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TABLE TENNIS

By JOE MCCARTHY

IT was generally believed that Donald Budge, Gene Mako, Jack Bromwich, Hugo Quist, Bobby Riggs, Bitsy Grant, Sidney Wood and Joe Hunt came to Boston last summer for the purpose of participating in the national lawn tennis doubles championship at the Longwood Cricket Club but a lot of people had their doubts about it. They played tennis but most of it took place on the dance floors of the Ritz Roof and the Hotel Puritan where green grass is pretty hard to find, even after the fifth Scotch and soda, and they used solid wooden paddles with rubber surfaces instead of the conventional gut-strung racquets.

As a matter of fact, Budge and Mako did take enough time out from their table tennis to stay in the Longwood tournament and win the final match from Bromwich and Quist but the outdoor version of the game seemed to be strictly a side issue. There was hardly an evening when you couldn't find a gathering of seeded American or foreign tennis notables having it out across the table with Ruth Hughes Aarons at the Ritz, where she was appearing with Sandor Glancz that week. And they would keep it up at the Hotel Puritan the following morning, sneak in a few more games in the Longwood clubhouse before their quarter final match that afternoon and perhaps another at the Puritan before dinner in the evening. They were all very serious about it, too. The bets were high and Hunt and Riggs made secret appointments with Glancz for private lessons. Mako was so engrossed with top spin and block shots that he practically forgot Benny Goodman and Louis Armstrong. The portable phonograph, which is his big interest in life, was silent and uneasy in the unusual quiet of his hotel room.

THE situation grew tense and William

B. Rice, II, managing director of the Puritan, where the players were quartered, realized that unless something was done to clear the air everybody would be too concerned with the settlement of table



At top Don Budge. in the middle Gene Mako, left Bobby Riggs, in action.

LURES TENNIS TITLISTS

tennis disputes to bother with a little thing like the national doubles. Mr. Rice is a table tennis fiend himself but he is also a member of the Longwood Cricket Club which sponsored the championship tournament and he didn't want to see it go on the rocks. So he conferred with other Longwood officials and Mrs. George Wightman, the donor of the Wightman Cup and hostess to tennis players during their visits in Boston, and they decided that it would best to settle the table tennis issue once and for all with two prize tournaments for men and women. They were both played Wednesday evening, August 24, in order to give the participants a chance to recover before the semi-finals and finals of the doubles, which were scheduled for Friday and Saturday on the Brookline courts.

The table tennis tournament of these internationally famous tennis players was quite an event, to put it mildly. The men's seeded list began with Eric Filby, the Britisher who is the best paddle swinger in London, and it continued with Mako, Wood, Ernie Sutter, George Von Metaxa, and Riggs. Von Metaxa is the German Davis Cup star who was ordered to refrain from the tournament. Henner Henkel, the other German ace, was among the spectators but felt that the competition would be too exacting. Hugo Quist got his dates mixed up and went to the movies, thinking that the jamboree was to occur the following day, but everybody else was there. First round matches also saw Bromwich, Gilbert Hunt, Frank Kovacs, Elwood Cooke, Verne Hughes, Welby Van Horn, Fred Baggs, Dr. Rosy Rosenbaum, Joe Hunt, Hal Surface, Gene Anderson, Gardner Mulloy, George Toley, Bitsey Grant, Jack Kramer and Wayne Sabin in action. Henry McLemore, the United Press sportswriter who once described Jim Braddock as a fighter who couldn't punch his way out of a greenhouse with a brick in each hand, was kayoed in an opening match by Riggs, 21-14. Allison Danzig of the New York

Times, was defeated by Gilbert Hunt. Franklyn P. Adams, the columnist and radio expert, who was covering the doubles for the *New Yorker*, profited by their example and refused to leave his seat in the press box.

The women's tournament was harder to arrange. Most of the girls already had booked engagements for the evening and others were not available. The feminine field was therefore smaller but it contained Nancye Wynne and Thelma Coyne, the Australian stars; Dorothy Bundy, Eunice Dean, Cissy Madden, Dorothy Wightman, Pat Canning, Margaret Osborne and Dorothy Workman, among others.

Miss Workman came from behind to beat the able Miss Canning in the semi-final but she was trounced by Miss Osborne in the championship match, 21-7, 21-11. As you would naturally expect, Eric Filby emerged with the radio that was the first prize in the men's division, with Mako as the runner-up. But only after a hectic series of eliminations in both brackets of the tournament.

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At right Sidney Wood, blocking one back to Riggs on the opposite page.

Table Tennis Puts On Grease Paint

By RUTH HUGHES AARONS

WHEN I took up this game one rainy afternoon in my fourteenth summer, I never thought it was going to turn around and take me to places like the Rainbow Room, the Mayfair in London, the Empire Room of the Palmer House in Chicago and the stages of theatres in practically every American and European city. It just goes to show what can happen to you on a rainy afternoon in your fourteenth summer—or any rainy afternoon, for that matter.

It is quite an experience, touring swank night clubs and the moving picture palaces with Sandor Glancz, and others, playing the nervous volunteers from the audience and meeting more celebrities back stage than you could shake a stick at. Some day I might write a book about it. "Top Spinning Under the Big Top" or "The Confessions of a Table Tennis Troupier."

There were certainly enough incidents and anecdotes in our tours to fill at least three books. For instance, there was the exhibition match Sandor and I played in a Chicago night spot on election night in 1936. At eleven-all, the loudspeaker

boomed the news of Roosevelt's re-election and, to coin a phrase, the house came down. Bouquets were tossed in the air and people danced around the room waving American flags. We dodged confetti and even tried to continue the game until we discovered a few points later that we were playing with a balloon instead of a ball.

AND then the time at the Rainbow Room, when Eddie Le Baron, the leader of the rhumba orchestra, challenged Viki Barna to a match after the show . . . Viki gave him a handicap of eighteen points, the bet being for one hundred dollars . . . The match was played about two o'clock one morning, on the sixty-third floor. Our gallery included musicians, waiters, members of the show and their friends. Oh, yes! Viki won 21-19, amid cheers from a small, but enthusiastic gallery . . . And I remember my own match with Dr. Sydney Ross, the magician at the Rainbow Room, in which the ball mysteriously changed from white to green and disappeared frequently—apparently into the air . . . All of which more than made up for Sydney's backhand, which I must admit, was slightly

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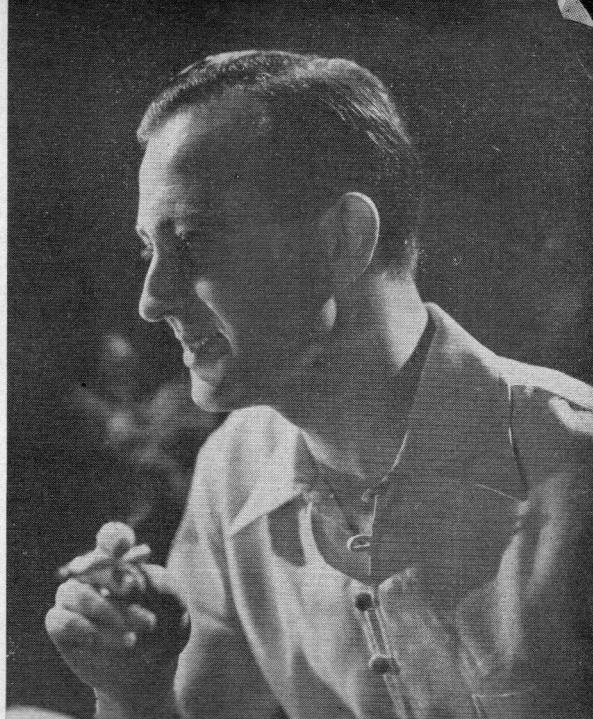


TABLE TENNIS TECHNIQUE

First in a series of table tennis lessons, by Mr. Glancz, who is considered one of the foremost teachers of the game.

By SANDOR GLANCZ

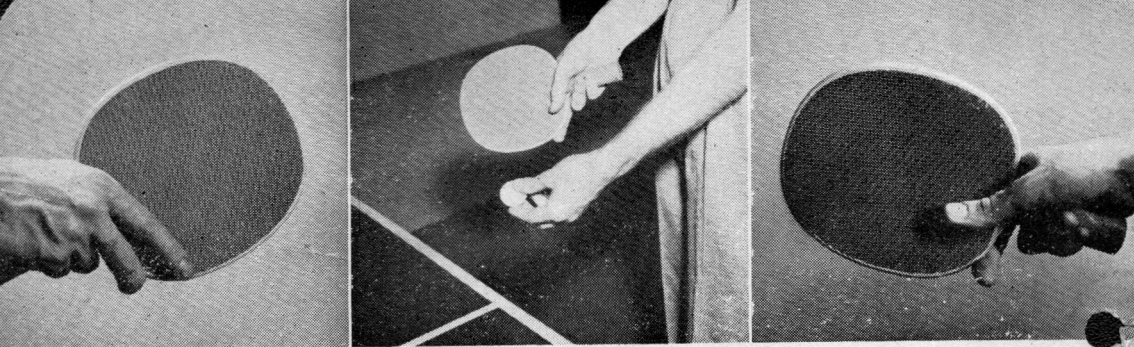
We might as well use the customary form of introduction in this first and elementary bit of table tennis instruction. I'll pass you a rubber-surfaced bat and you can shake hands with it, politely, and you will find that you are holding it properly. We can start from there and get better acquainted.

When you shake hands with the handle of the tennis table bat, it becomes a continuation of your forearm. You may lay either one or two fingers across the back surface of the paddle—the most comfortable way is the best way. I'd advise you to maintain this grip. The old penhold style has become obsolete in the present development of the game's technique.

Now that you have the bat in your hand, the first stroke to learn and master

is called the block shot. Blocking is really the fundamental move in table tennis. It is always made with the backhand surface of the racquet, even on the forehand side of the table. (In other words, the right side of the player, if he is right-handed.) When played on this right side, the shot is called the forehand backhand. The blocking shot should be made with the surface of the bat parallel with the surface of the net.

Keep your eye on the ball continually and don't rush at it. Try to return it by merely brushing it lightly with the back of your racquet and aim for the service line which runs down the center of the table on the other side of the net. Make the stroke from the elbow, with as little wrist motion as possible, and you will be surprised at how quickly timing and touch is acquired.



The Sandor Glancz grip left showing back view and extreme right the front view. In the center is the correct position for the start of the serve.

You can't spend too much time practicing this straight block return to the center of your opponent's table. Victor Barna, who was five times world's champion, rehearsed it diligently for two years when he was starting to learn the game.

This type of straight block stroke, with the surface of the bat parallel to the net, is meant for the returning of straight shots, without chop or top spin. A chop shot is made by cutting under the ball, causing it to land on the table revolving backward. It is difficult to return a chopped ball with accuracy unless you counteract this back spin.

The proper blocking stroke for a chop, therefore, is designed to remove the back spin. You do this by tilting the surface of the racquet back toward your body, getting slightly under the bouncing ball, and lifting as you make the stroke. The back spin is offset by the angle of the surface and the lifting motion and you will find it easier to make a return.

A top spin shot is just the opposite to the chop. Your opponent will make it by cutting over the top of the ball, instead of under it, and the shot lands before you with a heavy forward revolution. Naturally, you block it by tilting the surface of your racquet forward instead of

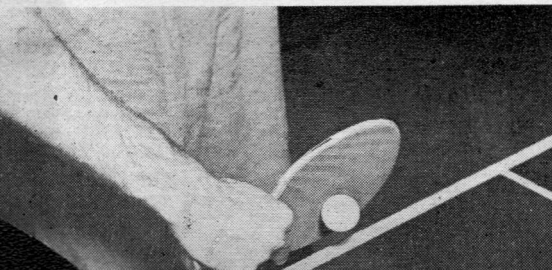
backward. The ball loses its top spin by coming up from the table and caroming off the leaning bat and it returns to the other side of the net with accuracy.

While you are practicing the straight block and these two blocking strokes for the chop and the top spin, you might also acquire the most simple and uniform mode of service. It is easy. Merely stand with your left side toward the table and drop the ball from your left hand and stroke it with the racquet in your right hand near your waist. The ball should bounce on your side of the net and across the net as low as possible. In the act of serving, simply take the ball in one hand and the racquet in the other and draw them together. As they meet, drop the ball and hit it with the racquet and as it crosses the net, your hands should be crossed.

But practice the blocking shots, above everything else. Remember to tilt the surface backward when you see me chop under the ball and tilt it forward if I swing up over the top of the celluloid sphere. And if I hit it squarely, keep the back surface straight.

Until the next issue of TOPICS, I'll keep sending the ball over the net at you and you keep blocking . . .

Left, the correct position of the bat to block a topspin drive. Right, the correction position for returning a chop shot.





LETTER FROM PICCADILLY

By ERIC FILBY

The table tennis cause in England has been pretty hale and healthy all along but it reached a new peak of rosy ruggedness this year after the world championship Swaythling and Corbillon Cup matches were held in London. The sight of players like Bohumil Vana of Czechoslovakia, Laszlo Bellak of Hungary and Jimmy McClure of the United States in action opened the eyes of the dining room table competitors and the table tennis clubs in the suburbs and outlying cities reported a resulting increase in interest.

It is ancient history by this date, of course, but the exciting triple tie between the United States, England and Austria in the Swaythling Cup shook Albert Hall to its foundations and produced some of the finest international play on record. The English team—which consisted of Ernest Bublely, Hyman Laurie and your correspondent—felt pretty good about it all, even though Austria did win the play-off and eventually lost to Hungary in the challenge final.

We attribute our success largely an adoption of that effective American playing technique, which the New Yorkers call the old college try. Bublely, Lurie and myself decided that bridge table etiquette and respectful silence was all right in its place but nervous and tense point-getting calls for an occasional out-let of feelings and a few timely exhortations from the

sidelines. In other words we talked it up—with gestures and feeling. We recommend the system wholeheartedly and we intend to make it a permanent part of our game from now on.

England has already started to prepare for the next world championship and the hunt has started through the highways and underbrush for new players of Corbillon and Swaythling Cup calibre. We have uncovered a new girl who is undoubtedly the most promising Corbillon Cup prospect in a very, very long while. She is an attractive blonde, only 15 years old, named Jean Nicholl and you may be sure that she will be famous in a few years. She is big for her age with the right temperament and a sound, forcing all-around game. She has already beaten three of our best women players and she is practically assured of a place on the 1939 cup team.

At this writing, no new star has arisen to push Bublely, Laurie or your correspondent into the background although the woods are said to be full of them. However, we feel that we can stand a few more Swaythling Cup rounds without becoming jittering invalids. The legs are still sound and all of us are young. Bublely, who works as a London dress designer when he isn't chopping and spinning, is 23, Laurie is only 19 and I am 21. The next two ranking players in England, Ken

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PROVINCETOWN — A TRADITION

By PAUL SMITH

WHEN people, as they usually do, ask me just what the Silver Cod Quiniela is, I find myself swamped with ideas. For this high point in the table tennis summer is more than a tournament. It is a Tradition, and traditions are trees with roots in the most unexpected places.

The Silver Cod is, for example, the expression on the face of a former star, who came sharp-shooting to the first tournament, and discovered a draw full of top-notch players. That was a grand tournament that first year, with plenty tough going, and it was three o'clock in the morning before Joe Blatt managed to gather the required five matches from a field that included Sammy Silberman, Jack Hartigan, Jimmy Jacobson, and Herbert Allen. And there was no chiseling that night, either.

The Silver Cod, again, is Jimmy Jacobson towing a six-foot shark around behind his Ford—towing it with legitimate fish-

erman's pride at first, and with growing consternation as he was faced with the problem of disposing of it. For as well as being an athletic contest, the Cod has become sort of general picnic and celebration for table tennists. All sorts of memories of dune hikes, beach parties, general celebrations, are tied up in the picture.

Still again, the Cod is a symbol of female beauty. I doubt if any other trophy with the possible exception of Atlantic City's Miss America Cup, has been pursued by as lovely a set of Dianas as have sought to add their names to the Bronze Dolphin (sister trophy to the Cod). I remember Anne Sigman, composed and lovely, the year she won. And Ovenden, determined and a bit ruffled. And Jane Stahl, flushed and happy at her first important win. And Mae Clouter, the only contestant in either tournament to win twice, with her remarkable metamorphosis from a charming woman to a merciless athlete at the table . . . If any tournament has a better looking set of winners, it must be held in Nirvana.

Or perhaps someone will maintain that the tournament is the dinner for the finalists, held Saturday evening, and the ragging that newcomers take as the intricacies of the Quiniela form and strategy are explained. Or the Farewell Party after the finals, with bacon and eggs and table tennis gossip.

As for myself, I think of it all as the tournament that refused to die, and I remember how, in 1937, when the word went round that the tournament would have to be abandoned, due to the dissolution of the Provincetown club and the lack of a place to play, the Provincetown Board of Trade was deluged with telegrams of protest, and swung into action to secure the Town Hall for a playing place. And I remember the fine work that Barbara Shields of West Roxbury, Mass., and Jack Hartigan, of Westchester, and Bill Holden of Somerville, to mention only a few names, have done in keeping this really splendid table tennis tradition alive.



Mae Clouter, fourth ranking player in the country and first contestant to win twice at Provincetown.

THE FEMININE ANGLE

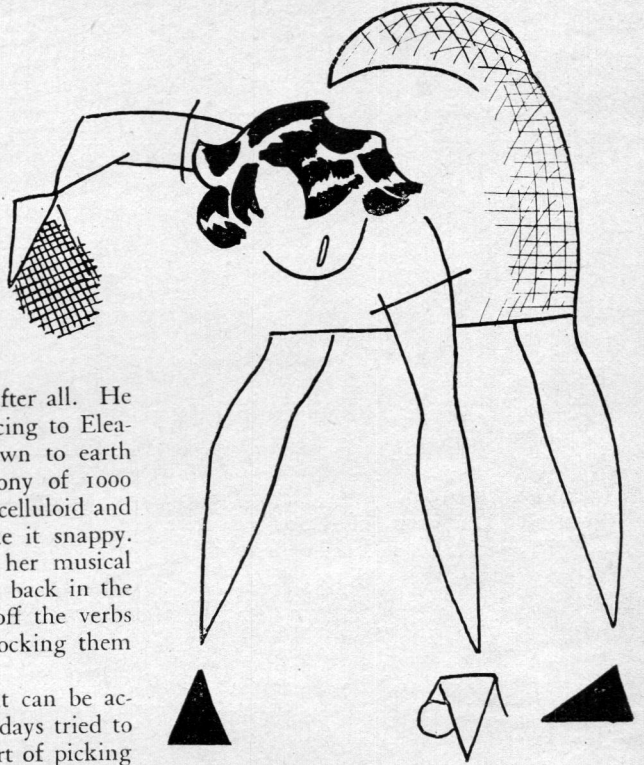
By REBA KIRSON

THE other morning the telephone rang and somebody told me that George White wanted to speak to me. My eyelids fluttered. I ran to the mirror to reassure myself and then answered the phone in the tricky contralto that I reserve for company and traffic cops. But the fellow at the other end of the wire didn't want me to a tap dance in the "Scandals" after all. He told me to leave the tap dancing to Eleanor Powell and to come down to earth and whip him up a symphony of 1000 words with a background of celluloid and five-ply splinters and to make it snappy. So here is little Reba, with her musical comedy ambitions smothered, back in the sweat shop again knocking off the verbs and adjectives and is she knocking them off.

Grace is inborn, girls, or it can be acquired. The ladies of other days tried to acquire it by practicing the art of picking up a handkerchief. A perfect test of grace these evenings is the act of picking up a table tennis ball from its hiding place under the divan. There doesn't seem to be any happy medium. You either look lovely or you look anything else but.

The flat foot floogie bends forward from the waist over the poor little white ball, scaring it and all the other people in the room to death, and causing her derriere to protrude. (I use the word "protrude" advisedly.) The smooth gal, on the other hand, squats slightly with one knee remaining higher than the other knee. She places one hand casually on the upper knee and reaches downward for the ball with the other hand, keeping her back straight but remembering to lean forward just the least bit. This system is guaranteed to wow them. Carl Zeisberg endorses it.

It might be well to practice this method mornings in the garage until you get it perfect. Whatever you do, though, don't get down on the floor on your hands and



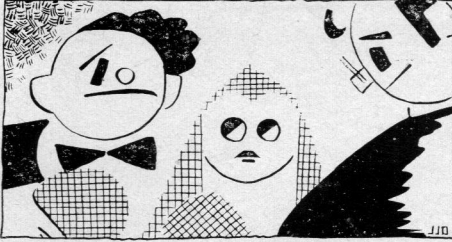
knees and stick your head under the divan like an ostrich. That position causes more protrusion than bending from the waist and you are also liable to come up with streaks of black dust on your nose.

Eric Filby, the British ranking player who is now visiting the United States, dons a glove while in action to protect his supersensitive fingers. . . . He is a virtuoso violinist. . . . Way down under in the Antipodean regions, Adrian Quist is the tops in table tennis. . . . Our game seems to be creeping in among the other sports. . . . Among the major league baseball players who play daily are Hammering Hank Greenberg, Jimmy Foxx, Tommy Bridges, Jimmy Dykes and Eldon Auker, the Detroit underhand pitcher who is the best of the lot. . . . Nat Holman and Gil Fitch, basketball luminaries, take time out to spin the ball over the net instead of through it. . . . In the realm of football, Franny Murray and Bert Bell prefer a compound of camphor and gun cotton to

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

• MISSOURI: Dorothy Joseph, hard-working Kansas City enthusiast, culminated a true t.t. romance by marrying Harry Benson (New York) at Brooklyn,

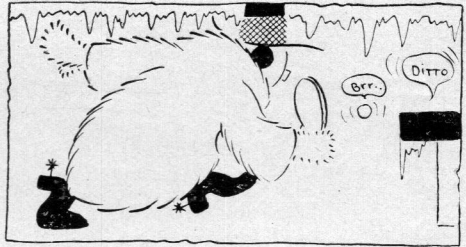


June 26. Dorothy held numerous offices and chairmanships in the Heart of America TTA and was Secretary of the U. S. Organization Committee . . . Donald Morest, young son of "Doc" Morest, USTTA 2nd V.P., suffered a neck injury, but is well on the way to recovery . . . Robert G. Blattner (St. Louis), former member of U. S. Swaythling Cup Team, was signed as a member of the Columbus (O.) baseball club of the American Association. Bud served as an infielder.

• MARYLAND: Vernon J. Boyd relinquished his position as President of the Maryland TTA to serve as Honorary President for the coming year. Max Israelson will take Mr. Boyd's place as active President. 1st V.P.: Donald Kahl; 2nd V.P.: William Bailey; Exec. Secty.: Max Graf; Record. Secty.: Edward Haer; Corr. Secty.: Gordon Barry; Treas.: George Campbell. The Board of Directors will be composed of J. G. Kines, B. Shamberg, Manny Moskowitz, Charles Euker, G. W. Sweeney, J. R. Gilbert (Cantonsville). All except Mr. Gilbert are from Baltimore . . . Mrs. W. A. Halliday (Baltimore) will head Maryland's Women's Division . . . The MTTA submitted a bid for the Eastern Championships.

• NEBRASKA: The Omaha Table Tennis Club's activities during the coming season will include 2 men's and 2 women's leagues; 2 ranking tournaments and ladder tournaments. The club will also sponsor a number of major tournaments possibly including the Western Open.

• TEXAS: Galveston will be host to the 1939 Texas State Tournament and Convention to be held in January or February . . . Reports David E. Koch: "Table Tennis has become recognized in Texas with a vengeance and is going strong. New commercial courts are opening up in almost every city of any size including Dallas (air-conditioned), Houston, Corpus Christi (air-conditioned) and Galveston. These places all have as many as ten to 25 tables. Harry Robbins, owner of the San Antonio TTC is now forming commercial table tennis leagues, with various merchants sponsoring the five-man teams."



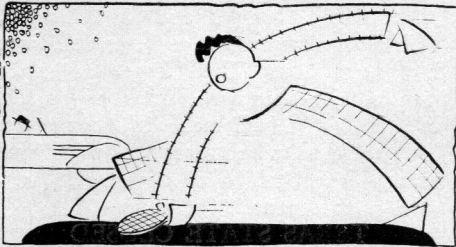
New officers for the coming season: Pres.: Howard Baumbaugh; V.P.: Henry A. Guerra; Exec. Secty.: David E. Koch; Treas.: John Patterson. Board of Directors: D. M. Adriance, Jack Lee, Curtis Clark, Bob Turner, Scott Hughes, Winchester Kelso, R. Paul Fowler.

• NEW YORK: A New York Table Tennis Association has been formed. The board of Governors of the new association are R. D. Ackerman, President; W. A. Conklin, 1st vice-pres.; Lewis Kleid, 2nd vice-pres.; Herbret W. Allen, secretary; Arthur Ayers, treasurer; Octavus Roy Cohen, chairman public relations comm.; Palmer Bevis, chairman ways and means comm.; Lawrence Kersta, chairman tournament comm.; Sandor Glancz, Frank L. Weil, Sidney Lenz, R. E. VomSaal, R. B. La Rue, James O'Connor, Sidney L. Goldberg, William Magan, C. Dante, Miss Emily Fuller, and J. J. Dickman. The president appointed the following committee to write the constitution to be presented at the next meeting; R. B. La Rue, chairman, Arthur Ayers and Herbert Allen.

• **ILLINOIS:** James J. Leahy (Chicago) has been reelected President of the Illinois TTA. V.P.: G. L. White (Chicago); Rec. Secty: Miss Betty Beutler (Chicago); Treas.: M.C. Jones (Evanston); Exec. Secty.: E. E. Kuhns (Chicago) . . . Chicago withdrew their bid for the 1939 Nationals, but plan to submit one for the 1940 Nationals . . . Illinois TTO plans an extensive campaign among High Schools to obtain members.

• **KANSAS:** Topeka TTA reports: "In 1935-36 we had one man at the head of our Association while last year we had two 'dictators' in Dean Patch and Cecil Woodworth. Many members were dissatisfied, so we met in June and elected five 'dictators' to the satisfaction of everybody present: Phil Humbert, Cecil Woodworth, Dean Patch, L. F. Baeder and Claire Warner. These five officers vote on all problems and the result of their vote counts as the last word."

• **NEW JERSEY:** Dan Kreer and Abbott Nelson (Princeton) competed in exhibitions. They travelled by trailer and competed at various eastern summer resort hotels. Their commentator was



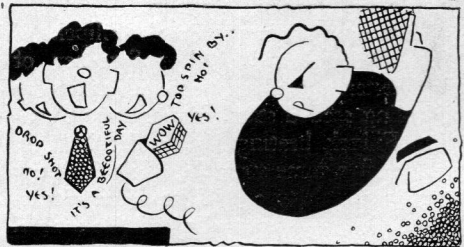
Joe Bourne, also of Princeton . . . Forrest Sweeney (Trenton) is still unable to play because of his right arm which was broken during the Spring . . . Table tennis facilities are numerous at Atlantic City. Tables are on both of the large amusement piers, Steel Pier and the Million Dollar Pier.

• **RHODE ISLAND:** Arthur Selley (Wickford) succeeds William B. Spencer (Providence) as President of the Rhode Island TTA. V.P.: Leroy Garland (Providence), Hugh Merk (Providence): Sec.-Treas.: Lisle T. Ware (Providence).

• **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** George H. Foster succeeds W. Cameron Burton as President of the DCTTA . . . Morris B. Bassford, USTTA Pres., purchased a new home in Silver Spring, Md., only to have Philadelphia added to his territory by his firm, thus making it necessary for him to spend every week in that city. Although this will work out swell for t.t., since headquarters are in Philly, it may prove a bit "rough" on the secretary.

Stella Bassford, 13-year-old daughter of USTTA president is detained at home with two broken bones in her left leg. The accident was the result of a bicycle spill. Stella is going to collect autographs on the plaster of paris cast. (An associate editor reading proof commented, "She can still probably beat her Dad at table tennis, even with a leg in a cast.")

• **PENNSYLVANIA:** Table Tennis interest was kept alive in Philadelphia during the summer months by three leagues ran by Eugene R. Smolens. Twelve teams of four players each, both men and women, entered the Spring League and played in two divisions. Five teams in one division and three teams in the other were tied for first place at the close of the league. The play-off was finally won by the team composed of Thomas E. Berna, Jerry Lowenthal, Al Nachsin and Sam Shatz. The second league, the Early Summer League, saw fourteen teams composed of three players each fighting for victory. James J. Berna, Thomas E. Berna and Carl Zeisberg emerged the victors . . . Geo. C. Smith, Harrisburg, has installed twenty-one concrete tables in Outdoor Courts in and around Harrisburg.



In the fall he plans to have Indoor Courts with facilities for broadcasting matches . . . PTTA President Robert G. Metcalf will also head the Financial and Industrial League for the coming season. Assisting him will be George Sauer and Frank Kohler . . .

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

MASSACHUSETTS OPEN

BERNIE Grimes of New York City, thrilled Boston fans with the best display of offensive table tennis yet seen in that town when he licked America's top-ranking Sol Schiff in four games in the final of the Massachusetts open championships, and thereby served notice to all the leading players of the nation that the number one spot in the 1938-39 national rankings is his goal.

The tournament finals were held in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Bradford. Despite a number of misfortunes preliminary to the event, chief of which was the devastating hurricane, the tournament was a signal success, and the best array of out-of-state talent ever to compete in a Boston table tennis tournament was on hand. Preliminary rounds were held in the Colonial Table Tennis Club, which sponsored the event, and were unusually well attended.

Ruthe Brewer of New York City, 17th ranking American girl, won the women's singles event over a small but classy field, upsetting second seeded Mae Clouther of Arlington, Mass., in the semi-final round, and top-seeded Dorothy Halliday of Baltimore in the final.

Grimes was a triple winner, pairing with Schiff to win the men's doubles, and with Miss Halliday to cop the mixed event. Massachusetts salvaged a share of the glory when Mrs. Clouther teamed with Barbara Shields of West Roxbury to win the women's doubles.

Massachusetts boys, Frank Filipek of New Bedford and Arthur Sweeney of Dorchester, scored early round upsets by defeating seeded stars, former state champion Filipek beating Jimmy Jacobson in a tense five-game struggle, while Sweeney raced through to a straight game victory over Manny Moskowitz of Baltimore. Sweeney is the exact opposite of his better known name-sake, Forrest, being considered the hardest-hitting and most aggressive player in New England.

CAPE COD TOURNAMENTS

MRS. Mae Clouther, Arlington, Mass., captured the Bronze Dolphin for the

second successive year, at the Cape Cod Tournaments held at Provincetown, Mass., August 5th and 6th. Sol Schiff, New York, rode rough-shod over the men's to win the Silver Cod Quiniela.

Schiff experienced no trouble whatever with his fellow finalists, defeating Les Lowry, Newton, Mass., 17-18; Al Beals, Cleveland, 14-18; Manny Moskowitz, Baltimore, 16-19; Jack Hartigan, defending champion, New Rochelle, N. Y., 12-14; and Lowry again 6-14 to be the first to win five matches and thus become champion.

In defeating Jane Stahl, Provincetown, 17, -20, 17-14, number one seeded Mae Clouther broke the so-called "Jinx" on these trophies. She is the first to win either of these trophies twice, and needs only one more win to obtain permanent possession of the Dolphin. In the semis Clouther defeated Barbara Shields, West Roxbury, Mass., in three straight games and Stahl defeated Ruthe Brewer, New York, in a hard fought five game match.

Schiff and Moskowitz won out over Lowry and George Mason, New Rochelle, in the Men's Doubles, and Schiff teamed with Ruth Brewer to take the mixed from Lowry and Stahl. The Women's Doubles went to Clouther and Shields with Stahl and Harriet MacDonald as runners-up.

In addition to being runner-up in three events, Jane Stahl also served as Chairman of the event.

TEXAS STATE CLOSED

JACK Lee, Ft. Worth, downed Bob Turner, Houston, at San Antonio, June 3rd and 4th, to become the first Texas State Champion. Lee dropped the first game at 18, but won the next three 17, 16, 17, to take the final match.

Bob Turner and Paul Snively, Houston, defeated Sam Kivlan and Bob Goldbeck in the finals of the Men's Doubles.

Mrs. Sylvion Kivlin, Houston, won the Women's Singles by defeating Mrs. Harriet Turner, Houston, and then the two of them teamed to take the Women's Doubles.

Don Goldbeck defeated Ed Goldbeck in the Boys' Singles and teamed to take the Boys' Doubles.

TOURNAMENTS TO BE PLAYED

THE Ninth National Table Tennis

Championships have been awarded to the Ohio Table Tennis Association to be held at Toledo, Ohio, under the auspices of the Toledo Table Tennis Club.

This is the first time since 1935, when this tournament was held at Chicago, that the Nationals will be played in the West.

Toledo Table Tennis Club has time and again demonstrated its ability to successfully conduct a large tournament. In addition, they have the backing of practically all large civic organizations.

Mr. Ed C. Cannon, President of the Toledo TTC, has announced that the tournament will be held March 16, 17, 18.

The National Intercollegiate Team Championships will be held in Philadelphia sometime during December.

The National Intercity Team Championships have also been awarded to Philadelphia. This tournament is scheduled for February.

SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS 1938

Oct. 22: Southern New England Open, Y. M. C. A., Providence Rhode Island. Lisle T. Ware, Y. M. C. A., 160 Broad Street, Providence.

Oct. 22-23: Miami Valley Open, Hamilton, O. Calvin J. Fuhrman, Box 501, Hamilton.

Nov. 4-4: Kansas City Open. W. C. Hartman, 4338 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

Nov. 17-18-19: Pacific Coast Open at Portland, Ore. Telore W. Abendroth, 4425 S. E. 17th Ave., Portland

Dec. 10-11: Missouri State Open at Kansas City. W. C. Hartman, 4338 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

Dec. 10-11: Southern Open, Louisville, Ky. Wm. A. Moore, Department of Public Welfare, Louisville.

Dec. National Intercollegiate (Team) Championships, Philadelphia, Pa. Joseph D. Berna, 3424 N. 23rd St., Phila.

1939

Jan. (Tenative) Tri States Open, Burlington, Ia. Donald J. Pierr, 520 Jefferson St., Burlington, Ia.

Second Week in February: 13th World's (International Open) at Cairo, Egypt. W. J. Pope, Featherstone House, London, W. C. I, England.

Feb. 25-26: Kentucky State Open, Louisville, Ky. Wm. A. Moore, Department of Public Welfare, Louisville.

Feb. National Intercity (Team) Championships, Philadelphia, Pa. Joseph D. Berna,

3424 N. 23rd Street, Phila., Pa.

Feb. Western Open, Omaha, Neb. Jerrold M. Woodruff, 713 Telephone Bldg., Omaha.

March: 9th National Championships (International Open) at Toledo, O. Toledo Table Tennis Club, Mr. Ed. C. Cannon, c/o Crimson Coach Tobacco Co., 2224 Albion St., Toledo.

(Note: Open means open only to USTTA members from any State. Members competing in unsanctioned open tournaments are subject to suspension.)

NOTES BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Exhibition players will please note that any exhibition in a night club, sport show, department store, theatre, etc., is a "Show Class" exhibition and sanction must be obtained from the USTTA. Sanction for other exhibitions must be obtained from the State Association.

* * *

Bids to hold the Eastern, Western, Middle-Atlantic, etc., should be sent to the USTTA within the next two weeks. These bids should contain such information as to when the tournament would be held, where, size of hall, seating capacity, who are backing the bid, who are lined up to work on the tournament, etc.

* * *

Applications for sanction of open tournaments should be sent in as early as possible so as to avoid conflict with other important opens.

* * *

Remember, there is one sure way to build a strong organization. Make every player in your league's join the USTTA, and don't play in any league that is not 100% USTTA membership.

* * *

HONORARY PRESIDENT

H. N. Smith, London, has been elected Honorary President of the U. S. Table Tennis Association for the 1938-1939 season. Mr. Smith has long been a friend of the U. S. T. T. A. and the rest of the table tennis world.

* * *

Honorary Vice Presidents have also been elected for the season. They are: Octavus Roy Cohn, the famous author; Walter J. Buettner, Treasurer of Bendix Aviation Corporation; Major John L. Grin, Athletic Commissioner of the Western (Big Ten) Conference; U. S. Senator Rush D. Holt; H. Earl Hoover, President of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company; Sidney S. Lenz, famous bridge expert; and Lynn G. Waldorf, Head Coach at Northwestern University.

TENNIS TITALISTS

Continued from Page 5

FILBY waded through Van Horn, the young Californian junior tennis champion, and the energetic little Grant but he had a hard time with Riggs in the third round. Sidney Wood, in the meantime, was flashing winning shots against Sabin, the veteran champion Fred Baggs and Bromwich—who, incidentally, does not use that two-fisted racquet grip on his paddle. Mako employed terrific speed to hurdle Hal Surface, Don Hawley and Jack Kramer. George Toley was the fourth contestant to reach the semi-finals.

Mako ousted him at that point, 21-6, 21-16, in less time than it takes to beat out a chorus of "One O'Clock Jump." Wood gave Filby a battle but lost, 21-13, 21-18. The grand finale was what Mako might describe as a killer-diller.

Dave Niles, the Longwood official who umpires all the big tennis matches, assumed the rostrum and introduced the players in the approved Wimbledon and Forest Hills manner. "On my right, Eric J. Filby of England and on my left, C. Gene Mako of California and the United States Davis Cup team. Mr. Mako will serve. Ready, players?"

Then Niles settled back in his chair, watched Mako lose the first point and, from force of habit, said cheerfully, "Love-fifteen."

Mako straightened up and gazed at him patiently before turning to the audience.

"Get rid of this fellow," he said. "If we must have an umpire, please find somebody who knows the game."

The lawn tennis authority was removed abruptly and the match continued with Filby taking the first one, 21-10. Mako began to go and his shots acquired amazing speed and accuracy but Filby's Swaythling Cup experience stood by him and he managed to squeeze through again 21-19.

The last game was breath-taking, with the Briton playing defensively all the way. Mako was smashing every ball at the corners but Filby was returning them all from impossible positions far behind the table. England finally triumphed, 23-21.

In case you are interested, Mako used a sand-papered bat. Filby and every other contestant in the tournament strung along with the rubber surface.

A great deal of money changed hands after the final but everybody went upstairs to bed in a contented frame of mind. Mako received a handsome traveling bag for his second prize. He said it was just what he needed—tennis tours being as world wide as they are nowadays.

Edward J. Vinnecomb, resident manager of the Hotel Puritan, who directed the tournament says that it will be an annual fixture from now on. The event was informally arranged this year but next summer it will be sponsored and planned by the same Longwood officials who run the lawn tennis championships and played before a large audience.

Incidentally, the national doubles were also rather interesting.

MOVIE SHORT

"Table Manners," a full length Clem McCarthy movie short, which shows table tennis at its best, is being released nationally by Warner Brothers as we go to press. Six scintillating table tennis stars—Laszlo Bellak, Sandor Glancz, Louis Pagliaro, Ruth Hughes Aarons, Emily Fuller, Dorothy Halliday—along with Eddie Foy and Carol Manners, are involved in a clever plot that unrolls into about 12 minutes of excellent table tennis and 3 minutes of country club comedy. The film was produced with the cooperation of the Table Tennis Manufacturers Association and sanctioned by the USTTA. Dorothy Halliday, the pride of Baltimore, photographed so well she was given a screen test. No table tennis fan should miss this picture. USTTA clubs and associations are reminded that they can be sure of having it shown locally if they will only ask their movies to book it. Considerable publicity may be obtained by cooperating with the motion-picture theatre and linking the showing of "Table Manners" with a local table tennis event.

GREASE PAINT

Continued from Page 6

lacking in magic itself! . . .

I'll never forget our opening night at the Rainbow Room, when a scant hour before the show was to start, the table, supposed to come from out of town, had not yet arrived . . . A desperate phone call to Spauldings accomplished the impossible, and as all their trucks were out, a taxi was sent dashing up Fifth Avenue through red lights, with a tennis table reclining on top! . . . And during the week in Baltimore, in the same stage show with those grand and crazy comedians. The Three Stooges, Larry, Curly and Moe, dashing around in the wings madly retrieving the balls which rolled off-stage . . . They invariably had us laughing so hard by the middle of the game, that the audience out in front must have thought we were mildly eccentric, to say the least.

And at the Rainbow Room, when Al Donahue, the orchestra leader, and master of ceremonies, was giving us our introduction. He most graciously announced Sandor, finishing his speech with a very appropriate fanfare. The spot light shot dramatically to the stairs where Sandor was to make his entrance . . . all eyes were focused thereupon, but — no Sandor! It was definitely one of those moments that call for nonchalance. With a mild apology that Mr. Glancz was apparently late for work, Al introduced me, chatted about the weather, and other such timely subjects. until suddenly, a most repentant and flustered Mr. Glancz came dashing down the stairs onto the dance floor . . . After the show, Sandor explained that his watch was slow, and that he had been up in his dressing room, indulging in a heated game of solitaire! (It is only fair to state that since this historic event Mr. Glancz sets his watch ten minutes ahead of time, and has given up playing solitaire) . . .

. . . numerous notables from other fields have seen our theatrical demonstrations in the past two years . . . a few whose names come to mind are: Ginger Rogers, Luise Rainer, Robert Montgomery, Franklin Roosevelt, Jr., Joe Di Maggio, Ted Husing, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Martha Raye, Octavus Roy Cohen (who saw

his first championship game at the Rainbow Room, and now is an ardent fan), Jimmy Foxx (who batted quite a few home runs in an exciting, though losing battle for the tempting bottle of champagne), Francis Langford, Max Schmeling, Tommy Farr, Billy Rose (who is quite a table tennis player himself), and Eddie Duchin (who partnered with Sidney Wood, challenged Sandor and myself to a most hectic and amusing doubles match . . . I have a vague suspicion that Eddie still favors his piano over his table tennis) . . . and it will be a long time before I forget that day in London, when, ten minutes before the scheduled opening, we discovered that our bats and balls were all missing . . . How this problem was solved is another story . . .

BASSFORD'S RANKINGS

Morris B. Bassford, President of the U. S. T. A. and non-playing Captain of the U. S. Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams witnessed the last world championships in London. After seeing all the world's leading players in action, Mr. Bassford has compiled the following unofficial world rankings.

MEN'S SINGLES

1, Bohumil Vana, Czechoslovakia, World Champion; 2, Richard Bergmann, Austria; 3, Viktor Barna, Hungary; 4, Sol Schiff, New York City; 5, Laszlo Bellak, Hungary; 6 Alexander Ehrlich, Poland; 7, James McClure, Indianapolis; 8, Alfred Liebster, Austria; 9, V. Tereba, Czechoslovakia; 10, George Hendry, St. Louis.

WORLD'S CHAMP COMING

Bohumil Vana, of Prague, Czechoslovakia, present world's singles champion and number one ranking player in the world will join the annual tour of table tennis stars throughout the United States according to an announcement from Sandor Glancz.

• MASSACHUSETTS: The Greater Boston Table Tennis League inaugurated its 7th season by electing the following officers for the year; President, John Wright, Arlington, Secretary, Robert Delery, Somerville, Treasurer, Norman Aronson, Arlington, Executive Committee, John LaBelle, Arlington, James Musto, Somerville and Robert Hornsby, Cambridge.

PICCADILLY

Continued from Page 9

Hyde and Maurice Bergl, are both 22.

Getting away from the individuals and turning toward the more fundamental aspects of the game, during my visit to Longwood and Forest Hills for your national lawn tennis championships I noticed that America is still a little behind us when it comes to table tennis equipment. It took me quite a while to become accustomed to your tables. After awhile, I had no trouble but I think that the average bounce is less true than it is on our heavier surfaces across the water.

Sandor Glancz agreed with me when we talked about this but he said it affected him just the opposite way. He has been playing on American tables so long that an English table disturbs him. I suppose what seems like a defect to me is really six of one and a half dozen of another. Our British tables are said to have a 10 percent more accurate bounce but their underpinnings are more solid (more like a dining room table) and they do not fold as easily.

I noticed that your players are not impractical, though. You may not have the highly organized system of table tennis clubs that we have developed in England but you have the talent. I never saw so many inexperienced table tennis players with so much natural ability.

I had one experience in Boston, which was worth the whole trip. I could probably never beat Bobby Riggs or Gene Mako on grass but one day in Boston I trounced the two of them on a green table. It will be something to tell the people at home.

"Oh, yes, I had a very successful trip to America," I'll tell them modestly. "I defeated both Riggs and Mako."

As long as they don't inquire for details.

MEMBERSHIP RACE

ONCE again ladies and gentlemen, as the gold paddles are being mailed and the TOPICS cup engraved for the energetic winners of last season's race, TOPICS once again launches a membership race.

This year's race will be based on the ratio of USTTA members per population. As the season started on June 1, Nebraska was in the lead. Second, Rhode Island, third, District of Columbia and fourth, Maryland, who was last year's winner. Each month the state that has the greatest increase for that month will be awarded a gold paddle. The cup will be awarded for the greatest increase over June 1 for the season. Complete standings will be published next month.

Each association is urged to get an early start for this reason. There is at the present time a resolution before the Board of Governors to increase dues to \$1.00 including state dues. It seems almost certain that this amendment will pass and become effective December 1. In the meantime, it will be easy to sign up a great many members who will take advantage of the present low rate.

ENGLISH MAGAZINE

In future editions TOPICS will cover foreign table tennis by correspondence. For those desiring complete information the English magazine is recommended. Contact W. J. Pope, Featherstone House, London, W. C. I. England.



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THE FEMININE ANGLE

Continued from Page 11

pigskin. . . . Murray says that a smash through the Notre Dame line is simple compared to handling a backhand flick. . . . Jack Kelly, immortal oarsman, and Myles Anderson, the Olympic track star from Norway, both run their opponents ragged across a table.

The number of musicians who swing mean paddles until the wee hours of the morning would surprise you. . . . They were prominent in a recent Philadelphia tournament which wound up with Murray Arnold, radio station WIP's press agent, beating News Commentator Allan Scott for the championship. In a dignified fashion, Judge Spatola bowed to City Solicitor Sharpin in the first round. . . . Governor Earle flew in every few hours as an interested spectator while Mayor Wilson watched, undecided as to which party he wanted to win.

People will sacrifice anything for table tennis. The other evening we witnessed a certain civillianly attired femme accept a challenge at a local night club. Irked at her inability to score, she removed her high-heeled slippers. Still, she didn't improve. She excused herself and left the floor to return in five minutes revealing much more pronounced contours—but winning the match. Moral: like the Czechoslovakians and the Germans, table tennis and girdles don't mix.

Weather-Be-Damned Note: Despite the perversity of nature, outdoor table tennis proved to be quite a success in Pennsylvania last summer. Descendents of the characters in "Gone With The Wind"

are welcome to make use of this suggestion below the Mason and Dixon line this winter.

Personal odds and ends: Pagliaro developed an excellent defense during the summer but lost control of his forehand drive. . . . We expect bigger things of Paggly and George Hendry this season. . . . Was Forrest Sweeney trying to chisel off that arm of his? . . . Izzy Bellis made the 1938 Junior Davis Cup squad. . . . Eleanor Roosevelt of the Hyde Park and Washington Roosevelts is an ardent enthusiast. . . . So is her grand-daughter, Sistic Dall. . . . On his way to Europe to raise funds to send the German Jewish refugees to Palestine, Eddie Cantor won the table tennis tournament aboard the *Queen Mary*.

INTERCITY LEAGUES

Two Intercity Leagues, the Eastern and the Chesapeake, have been formed through the efforts of Max Graf and Manny Moskowitz of Baltimore. Both leagues will be composed of teams from six different cities. Baltimore, Newark, Philadelphia and Washington will be among those represented in the Eastern League. Baltimore, Reading and York will be in the Chesapeake circuit.

The following officers of the "Eastern" Inter-City League for the 1938-39 season have been unanimously elected as follows: President, George H. Foster, Washington, D. C.; Secretary, Manny Moskowitz, Baltimore, Md.; Treasurer, Ivan Marks, Reading, Pa.

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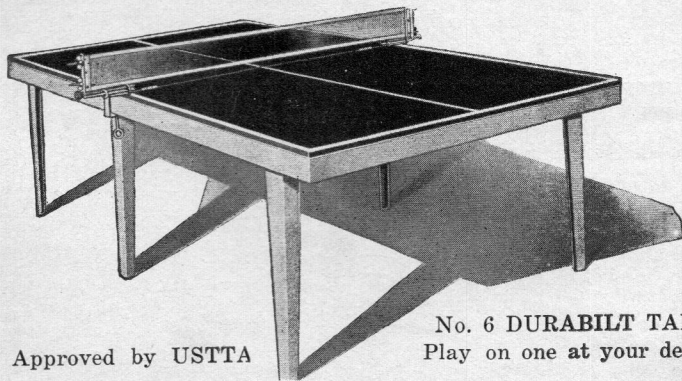
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BALTIMORE, MD.: "Paddle" Table Tennis Courts, 23 W. Baltimore Street; M.T.T.A. Headquarters; 8 U.S.T.T.A. approved tables; 15 feet run-back space; free instructions; reasonable rates; open daily 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; Sundays, 2:00 p. m. - 12:00 p.m.; Tel. Calvert 1325; Max Graf, Instructor.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.: Brooklyn, TTC, 848 Flatbush Ave., 8 official tables, 16 feet runback; spec. rates. Buckminster 4-8993.

CHICAGO, ILL.: Stay & Play Courts, 158 West Monroe St. "Where the Champions Gather." 12 Becker Championship tables. Helen Ovenden—Edward Dugan.

CLEVELAND, OHIO: Cleveland TTA, 4th Floor, Euclid-13th Recreation Bldg., 1901 E. 13th St. Semi-private club, 9 tables, special rates for USTTA members. Mark Sawyer, Instructor. Prospect 5093.

DETROIT, MICH.: Griswold Table Tennis Center, 1134 Griswold St. Regulation equipment, good lighting and runback. Downtown hdqrs. Michigan TTA.

DETROIT MICHIGAN—"THE NET," 11733 Linwood Ave., at Tuxedo. All official equipment, plenty of Swingroom, good lighting—open 'till midnight every night. We promise you a good game and a lot of fun.

GENEVA, N. Y.: Finger Lakes TTA private club. Eagles Hall opp. P. O., on Routes 5 & 20, Detroit AA tables, fine lighting, lots of room. No charge for outsiders. Tex B. Lloyd, Pres. Dial 5514.

HARRISBURG, PA.: Harrisburg Table Tennis Courts. Home of the Harrisburg T. T. Club. Ten Coleman Clark Official Championship Tables. Complete line of Table Tennis equipment. 15 ft. runback space behind each table. Free instructions by members of Harrisburg T.T. Club. Ernest Lehmer, Manager.

HOLLYWOOD, CAL. Wilshire Table Tennis Courts, 852-854 No. Vermont Ave. Championship equipment, ranking players of Pacific Coast. Russ and Spark Magnus.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.: Paddle Club, Teat Bldg., on the Circle. Official headquarters Indianapolis T.T.A. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday afternoons. Bob Greene, Manager. Li. 0606.

NEWARK, N. J.: Broad & Market TTC, Broad & Market Sts. Instruction by Morris Bernstein, U. S. veterans' singles champion, 1936-37, 1937-38.

NEW YORK CITY: Broadway TTC, 1721 Broadway. Metropolitan TTA hdqrs. Professional instruction. Meet and play nation's ranking players. Tel.: Columbus 5-9088. Bernard Joel, Instructor.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.: Philadelphia TTC, 1311-13 Arch St. Penna. TTA hdqrs. 16 feet runback, 10 USTTA approved tables. Open Sundays 2 to 5. Morton Lieberman. Tel.: Loc. 8823.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.: Play at the YMCA, 160 Broad St. Headquarters of Rhode Island TTA.

ST. LOUIS, MO.: St. Louis TTC, 4525a Olive St. Eight official tables. Open 7:30-10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Sunday 2-5 p.m.

SOMERVILLE, Mass.: Colonial TTC, Hobbs Bldg., Davis Square. 6 tables. Open afternoons and evenings except Sunday. John Holden, Manager

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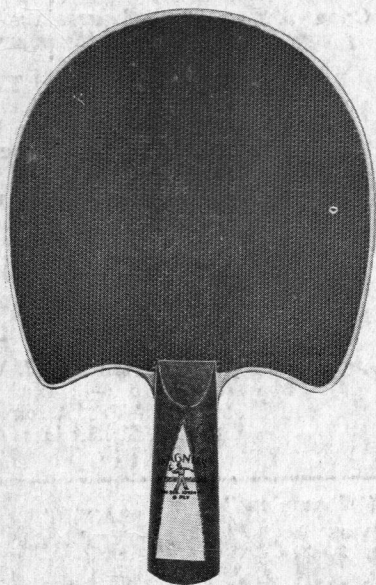
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